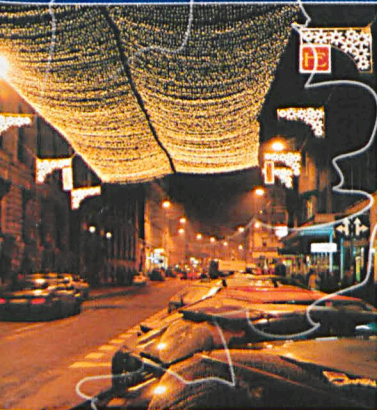


# MONITOR WIELKOPOLSKI

SPECIAL EDITION - SEPTEMBER 2001





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It gives me a great pleasure to present you the Province of Wielkopolska - the region which was the cradle of the Polish State one thousand years ago. Our province lies in the central-western part of Poland and occupies an area which is approximately the same as the area of Belgium.

In addition to its manufacturing potential Wielkopolska has many other strengths which are beneficial to its development. These are the enterprising and hardworking character, professional activity and the knowledge of its inhabitants. The rate of development is reflected by the scope of the business projects carried out, in many of which internationally renowned companies are participating. Their presence is the proof of high attractiveness of Wielkopolska. This position is also supported by the policy of the local government, which develops cooperation with twin regions in uniting Europe.

I will be very happy if you would like to enter into cooperation with the Province of Wielkopolska.

*Stefan Mikołajczak*  
Speaker of the Province of Wielkopolska



For years, The Wielkopolska Chamber of Industry and Commerce has been launching and carrying out different projects which aim at the promotion of our region. Together we can do more. Some of our projects, like „A Train to Berlin” or the brochure „On a Motorway into the 21st Century” were able to be

accomplished thanks to the cooperation of the Marshall's Office, the Voivode of the Province of Wielkopolska and the Mayor of Poznań with business circles. We are going to Brussels in September and to Hamburg in November but not on a trip. We are going there to show Wielkopolska as the leading region in our country, a developing region which gives a chance of doing good business. We need investments, new jobs, new technologies, everything that makes our life better. This is the aim of our activities. We cannot escape from politics, but for the benefit of our region we must be able to act ignoring party differences, not confusing politics with economics. That is why let us also appreciate managers of companies employing thousands of people who have proved that they can create economic development. Sometimes, it is also worth to listen to such people.

*Wojciech Kruk*  
President of the Wielkopolska Chamber of Industry and Commerce



The political turnover in 1989 started a very intensive process of modernization of the Polish state. We are trying to make up for lost time and join the group of developed European countries as soon as possible.

We have been a member of NATO since 1999 and at present we are negotiating the conditions of accession to the European Union. This is our priority objective, which we would like to attain also by means of effecting systemic changes.

The new administrative division of the country and widening the competences of local governments is a step towards a modern regional policy of the state. Strong regions, with the unitary character of the state being preserved, will be decisive of the position of our country and its role in the European Union.

The Province of Wielkopolska is at the top of Polish regions due to its potential: advantageous geographic situation, strong and dynamically developing economy, modern education system and hard-working inhabitants.

I am sure you will find Wielkopolska an interesting and reliable partner.

*Stanisław Tamm*  
Voivode of the Province of Wielkopolska



Let me to give me you some basic information about my city.

Poznań, the capital of the region of Wielkopolska, is undoubtedly one of the most interesting cities in Poland. It is both a city with an eventful over one thousand years' history and a vibrant with activity, modern metropolis. It is a city of open,

hard-working and enterprising people.

Poznań, which has a population of nearly 600,000, is a dynamic, important academic and cultural centre as well as a centre of international trade and banking. The city is the seat of the Poznań International Fair, which has been held for eighty years and is now the leader among fair organizers in Poland.

Thus it is not an exaggeration to claim that Poznań is the economic capital of Poland, a city with a friendly climate for everybody who wants to contribute to its development.

I cordially invite you to Poznań.

*Ryszard Grobelny*  
Mayor of the City of Poznań



## New Legal Solutions For Enterprises

On 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2001, three significant acts from the point of view of entrepreneurs came into force:

- act of 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1999, Business Law,
- act of 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2000, Company Code,
- act of 20<sup>th</sup> August, 1997, National Court Register.

It is also expected that on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2002, the regulations of the amended act on accounting and new regulations of the civil code on procurement will come into force. Profound changes are planned in the act on public trade in securities.

These acts, and the ones under development in the Parliament, have created a background for the new system of business law, adopted in its assumptions to the European Union directives, and introduced according to the Association Treaty with the European Union that is binding for Poland.

Besides the adaptation of the Polish law to the EU standards, the basic objective of the changes was to develop modern regulations of the 21<sup>st</sup> century that could enable the entrepreneurs operating on the Polish market to function effectively. The assumption was to make the law entrepreneur-friendly.

Parallel, the new regulations, and the abolishment of the regulations of the act on companies with foreign capital, liberalize the position of foreign entities operating on the Polish market.

In light of the Business Law, foreign entities may operate in Poland on the same conditions as domestic entrepreneurs, according to the reciprocity rule. Simultaneously, by the time of introduction of the reciprocity rule, in order to operate in Poland foreign entities may establish limited partnerships (so far unacceptable), limited liability companies, and joint stock companies. Foreign entities may also accede the aforementioned companies, or acquire their shares or stocks. The status and mode of operating have been regulated with respect to divisions (operating within the scope of activities of the foreign entrepreneur) and agencies (operating in the area of promotion and advertising of the foreign entrepreneur).

The introduction of the institution of the National Court Register (KRS) was aimed at the creation of a national and publicly accessible register of entrepreneurs. At present, the registration obligation refers to commercial law companies, associations, funds and public healthcare units and, starting with the year 2002, also individual persons running the so-called registered businesses, including the partners of civil companies. Insolvent debtors are also subjects to the registration obligation. The National Court Register is public and generally accessible (there is no requirement of legal interest) through the Central KRS Information.

The regulations of the Company Code is assumed to comprise the issues of funding, organization, operating, dissolving, division and transformations of six types of commercial entities (four personal, and two capital ones). The new law constitutes the so far unknown two types of personal companies: partnership and limited partnership joint stock company. With regard to capital companies, the minimum value of initial capital was raised (PLN 50,000 for limited liability company, and 500,000 for joint stock company), slight modifications were introduced in the company organs functioning, the operating of a single person limited liability company was regulated (the requirement of one of the EU's directives), and a general possibility of funding single person joint stock companies was introduced. Generally, the most significant changes concern the joint stock company.

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## President of the Polish Chamber of Commerce

Andrzej Arendarski



### Polish Chamber of Commerce

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The idea of self-regulation lies at the foundation of our activity. In its drive to become a reliable partner for the developed European countries, Poland has to adopt the institutional solutions which are currently in force in most of those countries and which will soon become the standard in the whole European Union.

We are taking part in the negotiations in the belief that joining the EU is the most advantageous choice from the point of view of the country's security, the stability of the democratic order, and consolidating the foundations for rapid and balanced economic development. After Poland's accession to the EU, Polish people will become fully-fledged EU citizens participating in the free flow of capital, people, goods and services. We must take advantage of this opportunity.

It is the obligation of the self-regulation movement to provide firm support for our negotiators. The main issue here is to define the position of the Polish business community, expressed on the one hand by acceptance of the rules and standards in force in the EU, and on the other, by supporting everything that serves to increase the competitiveness of the Polish economy.



PAIZ (Polish Agency for Foreign Investment) was established in 1992 to promote Poland's investment opportunities and to encourage foreign companies to choose Poland as their preferred investment location. At the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of Investment Promotion Agencies in Chicago in September 1997 PAIZ received the title of the European Investment Promotion Agency of the Year.

PAIZ helps businesses considering investment in Poland by:

- providing information, advice and guidance to foreign investors
- facilitating the initial stages of their investment process
- providing legal, technical and

financial information

- assisting foreign investors in identifying potential business partners
- maintaining a link between foreign investors and appropriate government and local authorities

The Agency is a joint stock company, wholly owned by the State Treasury. PAIZ's role is that of an intermediary serving individual and corporate foreign investors.

Through maintaining an ongoing dialogue with the Polish Authorities we constantly strive to improve the local environment for foreign investment, and ensure that potential investors have access to key players in the Polish market.



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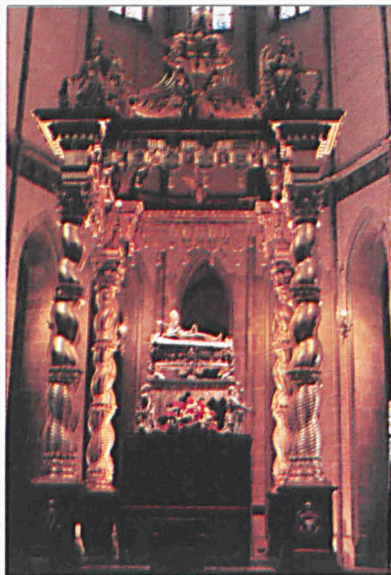


# Where Our Roots Are...

„Gniezno is not an oasis”, says Mr Bogdan Trepieński, the mayor of the first capital of Poland. „We have to solve the same problems here as elsewhere”.

Yet the town with a population of 100,000, which became fashionable in the second half of the 1990s, is an animated, powerful organism, a must of all trips to Wielkopolska. A nice, colourful town, on which history left its impress.

Historians discovered that there was a market settlement here already in the fourth century. Its continuous development resulted in building a medieval castle in the eighth century on today's Lech's Hill, where the Gothic cathedral stands. At the end of the tenth century Prince Mieszko I built a church here, in which his son Bolesław Chrobry had St Adalbert's body buried in 999 after the missionary had been murdered two years before in far Prussia.



St Adalbert's grave in Gniezno Cathedral.

In the memorable year 1000, Otto III, the German Emperor, made a pilgrimage to the martyr's grave. The synod that took place then brought independence to the Polish Church - a metropolis and archbishopric were established in Gniez-

no, and bishoprics were founded in Cracow, Wrocław and Kołobrzeg. The meeting of the German Emperor and the Polish Prince in Gniezno was of paramount importance for the Polish nation. Bolesław Chrobry strengthened his state and a quarter of a century later he was crowned first king of Poland in Gniezno.

The first capital was granted municipal rights in 1239. Polish monarchs came to St Adalbert's grave. One of the visitors was also Napoleon Bonaparte, the Emperor of the French, in 1807 and Wilhelm II, the German Emperor, one hundred years later.

In the 1990s Gniezno effectively began attracting Polish and foreign capital. It develops particularly thanks to Japanese, Belgian, Dutch and French investments.

## The capital of Europe

Recently, the town was at the height of its fame for over five years. The year 1990 was the beginning of the preparations for the great millenium anniversaries - St Adalbert's death in 997 and Otto III's pilgrimage. Technical infrastructure and roads were put in order, the town looked after the environment. In 1994 Gniezno was awarded the title of St Adalbert's town, and two years later the President of the Republic of Poland presented here St Adalbert's award to the former Prime Minister of Hungary, Mr József Antall.

On 12 March 2000, exactly on the anniversary of the pilgrimage of Otto III, who had visited Gniezno

PHOTO: JACEK KAJA



Gniezno Cathedral from the 14th century.

with a legate to Pope Silvester II, the presidents of five states of central and eastern Europe arrived in the first capital of Poland. From this town they called on the nations neighbouring on Poland for cohabitation in a spirit of reconciliation, cooperation and good neighbourhood. They issued a millenium manifesto to the youth. On 28 April 2000 a meeting of prime ministers took place. The PMs of the five states signed the Gniezno Declaration, in which they pledged themselves to solve international conflicts peacefully, defend human rights, create Europe of free societies living in peace, safety and prosperity. On the following day Gniezno was the meeting place of the Sejm (Polish Parliament). It was the first session of the Parliament outside Warsaw from two hundred years.

„In the millenium year, the eyes of Europe, and even of the world, were set on Poland, on Gniezno, more often than in previous years”.





says Mr Bogdan Trepieński. „The first capital of Poland was the scene of events that were important to our nation and the future of the continent. The interest that the public opinion of the world showed in the 2nd Gniezno Meeting and the conference of the prime ministers was so great that Gniezno was called the capital of central and eastern Europe then. Planting trees in the Valley of Reconciliation became the symbol of common roots of the peoples of this region”.

### After the anniversary

The institution which should commemorate the millenium anniversary is the Collegium Europeum, a branch of Adam Mickiewicz University from Poznań, which will carry out research, among others, in the area of widely understood European cultural heritage. Although the construction works have not finished yet, the first students will enroll in 2001.

### Framework

We can say that Polish history lies within a framework limited with two meetings, the first from the

PHOTO: JACEK KAJA



Mayor of Gniezno, Mr Bogdan Trepieński.

year 1000, whose participants were Emperor Otto III and his host Prince Bolesław Chrobry, and the second from the year 2000, during which presidents of European states and the Vatican State Secretary met at St Adalbert's grave.

Each of these meetings was a significant event in its times. The first took place at the beginning of the efforts of European to fulfil the idea of a common home of the peoples of the Old Continent. And

although that idea of a was soon abandoned after the young emperor's death, the 2nd Gniezno Meeting reminded Europe's nations of it, and Gniezno regained its high rank which Poland's first capital deserves.

The efforts of Europeans to fulfil the idea of a common home of the peoples of the Old Continent. And although that idea was soon abandoned after the young emperor's death, the 2nd Gniezno Meeting



Cafes in the pedestrian precinct in Chrobry Street are a place where tired tourists can have a rest.

PHOTO: JACEK KAJA

PHOTO: JACEK KAJA



King Bolesław Chrobry's monument in front of Gniezno Cathedral.

reminded Europe's nations of it, and Gniezno regained its high rank which Poland's first capital deserves.

ZYGMUNT ROLA





# Poznań's Festivals



PHOTO: ANDRZEJ SZOZDA

Malta is the popular name of the recreation grounds in the immediate vicinity of Lake Malta. It is sometimes called the cultural and sports centre of the city because of many open-air events which take place by the lake. Foreigners often wonder where the name „Malta” came from here - so far in the north of Europe. The name originates from the order of Maltese Knights, who were invited to Poznań in the 12th century.

Malta is also the name of the International Theatre Festival, which is, apart from the Boys' Choirs World Festival, the Henryk Wieniawski Violin Makers Competition and the International Violin Competition, Poznań's cultural pride.

## Choral singing

There are 120 choirs and singers' societies in Poznań and the region of Wielkopolska. Poznań is famous for the Jerzy Kurczewski Boys' Choir (today the Polish Nightingales directed by Wojciech A. Krolopp), Stefan Stuligrosz's Poznań Nightingales and the Poznań Cathedral Choir founded by Rev. Zdzisław Bernat and now directed by Rev. Szymon Daszkiewicz. It is no wonder that Poznań is the place where the Boys' Choirs World Festival is organized. 17 choirs from 12 countries participated in it in February 2001. Dozens of concerts in the assembly hall of Adam Mickiewicz University and in churches in Poznań and Wielkopolska bear witness to the size of the event. Three Litanies to St Mary-of-Ostra-Brama by Stanisław Moniuszko were sung in Poznań Cathedral by 700 choristers directed by Wojciech A. Krolopp, who had also come up with the idea of the festival (the first took place in 1976).



PHOTO: ANDRZEJ SZOZDA

## Street theatre

On Lake Malta, in small rooms, in the streets of the city and on a classical theatrical stage, but also among blocks of flats of a residential area or under a circus tent - every place is good for sets of players and troupes who take part in the MALTA International Theatre Festival for several days every year. This year's eleventh festival was organized in the last days of June. The whole city gets mad about theatre during the MALTA festival. No suits or evening dresses were necessary, local dignitaries from the Town Hall and sponsors put on festival T-shirts, the impressive Castle was covered with blood-red fabric (installations by Jan Berdyszak), angels and devils walked in the historical Market Square in Poznań accosting passers-by.

Excellent (sometimes controversial) performances, happenings, pageants - that is MALTA, the festival that allows spectators to experience theatre plays directly, participate in the play actively, become its part. Presentations of classical plays during the festival are sometimes shocking.



PHOTO: ANDRZEJ SZOZDA





Shakespeare's „A Midsummer Night's Dream”, staged by a French troupe led by Jo Bithume, was a fantasy spectacle with elves that were gliding through the air. „The Wedding”, a symbolical tragedy by the Polish poet Wyspiański, was transformed by a theatre from Częstochowa into a merry open-air feast with stewed sauerkraut and vodka. The Fotsbarn Travelling Theatre staged Gogol's „Revisor” as a tawdry show in a circus tent. What about the turnout? It was excellent! 12,000 people listened to the concert by the Macedonian singer Esma Redzepowa. It is estimated that as many as 120,000 spectators watched 140 spectacles presented this year. A special prize - Offeusz - is traditionally awarded by journalists during the festival for off-performances. This year's Offeusz went to a group of high school students from Wolsztyn, members of the Informal Theatrical Group, for the performance „It tears softly”.

## Musical salon

Every five years Poznań becomes a great musical salon - owing to the Henryk Wieniawski International Violin Makers Competition and the Henryk Wieniawski International Violin Competition. Wieniawski, who was a 19th century Polish violinist and composer, well-known in Europe and the United States, gave several concerts in Poznań in his life.

The first competition was held on Wieniawski's 100th birthday anniversary (in 1935) in Warsaw. After World War II it was revived in 1952 in Poznań.

The 10th Violin Makers Competition is organized from 16 to 22 September 2001. 119 violin constructors will be participating in the competition, in which the construction and sound of this noble instrument are assessed.

PHOTO: ANTONI HOFMAN



They sent 160 violins from 25 countries for assessment, among others from Argentina, Japan, Cuba and even China.

55 performers from 19 countries were qualified for the 12th Henryk Wieniawski International Violin Competition. The 15-year-old violinist from Japan is the youngest. Some of these budding musicians may make a career similar to Igor Oystach, Vadim Brodski or Bartłomiej Nizioł. The jury is headed by Shlomo Mintz - an excellent violinist and music director, „a citizen of the world”.

The auditions start on 13 October. The prize winners' concert is planned for 28 October, and a supplementary concert for the following day.

Both competitions are organized by the Henryk Wieniawski Musical Society.

EWA KŁODZIŃSKA



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# St Martin And Croissants

Is there a city in the world whose main street celebrates a nameday every year? In Poznań, St Martin Street celebrates it on 11 November. This date is as important as 29 June when the whole city celebrates the nameday of its patron saints Peter and Paul. The nameday has for the Poles the same significance as the birthday for the Belgians, Germans or English. No wonder that everybody has a good time then.

Independence Day, an important Polish festival, also falls on 11 November, so we have a double opportunity to enjoy ourselves. Only in Poznań, St Martin in the attire of a Roman legionary on a white horse leaves St Martin's Church leading a colourful pageant and sets off for the Emperor's Castle where a great festival starts. On this day, people gormandize St Martin's croissants. They can buy them from the Mayor himself, who hands in the token keys to the city to St Martin and then helps to collect money for a charity.

St Martin enjoys great popularity in Poznań. Next to St Peter and St Paul, he is the most revered saint by the population of the city. He lived in the 4th century. The cult of St Martin, who was famous for many miracles, spread like wildfire



PHOTO: ANDRZEJ SZOZDA

all over Europe. St Martin's Church in Poznań was founded as early as in the 11th or 12th century. Near the church, a settlement grew quickly, which was inhabited by craftsmen. It was named after the church - Święty Marcin (St Martin). Thus, when a street was built in the place of an old roadway, the old name was preserved.

The climax of the nameday is the above mentioned colourful pageant led by Saint Martin. He rides along the whole street on horseback and stops in front of the Castle. This starts a revelry with many concerts, theatricals and a fair. Knightly tournaments and dramatic competitions take place, and the whole is crowned by a display of fireworks. In the meantime, the people eat... croissants.

According to a Poznań legend, St Martin's croissants, which are

so popular today, occurred first at a church fair in St Martin's parish. And where did the idea come from? They say the vicar of the parish appealed to his parishioners for gifts for the poor. Then, one of the pastry-cooks in Poznań baked as many as three pans of croissants and brought them to the church where they were quickly given away. Other craftsmen followed his example. Before World War II, they even brought meat and bread so that everybody could eat to his heart's content.



PHOTO: WALDEMAR WYLĘGAŁSKI

The shape of the croissants symbolizes St Martin's lost horseshoe. They are baked of raised dough with a poppy seed and almond filling. They are delicious.

MONIKA KRZYWOSZYŃSKA



PHOTO: ANDRZEJ SZOZDA





# Let Me Be Brave In The Attempt

„Let me win but if I cannot win let me be brave in the attempt” - you can hear these words of the oath taken by participants in the Special Olympics also in Wielkopolska. Sportsmen and sportswomen have been taking part in these games for over ten years, but first they had to break down many prejudices and fossilized opinions about sports activities of mentally-handicapped people.

Like in other countries, the Special Olympics are also supported by celebrities. Dr Bernard Wieczorek, the animator of this movement in the region, invited only ladies to the Patronage Committee: female Members of Parliament, mayors, manageresses, journalists, all with kind hearts. None of them refused the invitation, despite their responsible and demanding posts. They are helpful in the matters of organization and raising funds. As volunteers, they also help competitors during the games. The happiness of the children (because even adults are like children) gives them the greatest satisfaction.

There are already 54 sections of the Special Olympics in Wielkopolska with a dozen or so summer and four winter sports. However, no

team positions are registered, and special sportsmen and sportswomen present their courage and fitness individually. Great importance is attached to the setting of the competitions and the olympic ceremonial. The rule is that every competitor is awarded a medal and the same prize. Their parents and family members are also happy and proud that their dependants participate in a sport competition.

Recently, The START Sports Association of the Disabled, the biggest of this kind in Wielkopolska, which was established on Edward Niemczyk's initiative and disseminated the idea of the sport activity of the handicapped, celebrated its 40th anniversary. Thousands of handicapped people saw in this time that sport is a way to a better and fuller life. The association provides training in nine sports, the competitors have also taken part in the Paraolympic Games and in 1994 they swam a relay across the English Channel. They were the first contenders in Eastern Europe to go skiing in the category for people with

back injuries and the first to go waterskiing.

The START association organizes rehabilitation camps in summer. Their participants can forget about their limitations. For example, 11-year-old Joanna puts aside her crutches and puts on a special harness which allows her to climb a tree safely. In a moment she jumps down from the tree. Others go on a hike in the countryside. Only sometimes, in a more difficult area, their friends help them push their wheelchairs.

BERNADETA IGNASIAK



## Building Your Future Is Our Profession

Democo Poland as a subsidiary of the Belgian building group Democo NV was founded in 1994 and has its seat in Poznań. Our company specializes in general contracting and execution of turnkey building projects such as industrial complexes, apartments and office facilities. Also in the range of our activity we offer design services according to Polish building regulations, project management and supervision of building sites.

**Our main goal** is to satisfy the needs of our clients by combining West European know-how in building techniques and building management with competitive prices on the Polish construction market. During its relatively short life Democo Poland can already count some well known clients in its reference list, such as Philips, Panasonic, Viessmann, Hormann, Scala Plastics, Deceuninck, Dyka Plastics ...

If you would like to receive more information about our company please do not hesitate to contact us, we will be delighted to answer all your questions, and do not forget:

**WE SPEAK YOUR LANGUAGE**



PHOTO: ARCH.





# Extravagance Or Business?

PHOTO: ADEK KOPFER



The inhabitants of Wielkopolska are reliable and sober people, especially as far as business is concerned. So when a businessman from a small town in Wielkopolska decided to found and manage a professional cycling club, everybody wondered if that was traditional Polish fancy or a marketing trick.

Borek Wielkopolski is a small town. Probably not many people would know it if it were not for Mr Wojciech Mróz, his meat-processing plant and the best cycling team in Poland. Today everybody knows where Borek lies and who Wojciech Mróz is. In the list of the richest people in Poland, published by the weekly „Wprost” recently, he took the 50th place.

Mr Mróz's company employs 950 people and is one of the biggest producers of meat and sausages in Poland. The family holding also includes a slaughterhouse, Fiat's showroom, a car rental and a former state-owned farming and industrial plant in Manieczki, which was bought last year. The company has 5500 ha of land. In addition to this, it has shares in several companies in Poland and Belorussia, concrete-mixing works, a distillery, an agricultural department store and of course a professional cycling team, the first and definitely the best in Poland.

In 1981 Mr Mróz followed his uncle's example and opened his own business - a small butcher's shop in Gostyń. This coincided with a sudden boom on the market: the Polish government gave permission for free trade in meat products. The experiment was successful - hungry customers quickly bought up every article in stock, without heeding higher prices. Later Mr Mróz concluded some advantageous contracts, started to

cooperate with a French business partner and built a meat-processing plant in his home town Borek.

Mr Wojciech Mróz is 48 years old. He is not only very open, friendly and sensitive but also very modest. He feels responsible for his employees. He arranges package holidays for them (for example in Spain), and summer camps for their children (90 children have been to the mountains this year). He likes helping other people. For example he financed the construction of the pavement on the Market Square in Borek and the back-up facilities in the stadium of the local football club.

How did it come about that he decided to combine business with cycling?

„It was partly an accident and partly interestedness”, laughs Mr Mróz. „Everything started in 1994, when a street cycling race was organized in nearby Gostyń. I was fascinated by the competing cyclists, their effort and engagement. I invited the cyclists and their coach, who was Ryszard Szurkowski, a famous Polish cyclist from the 1970s, to my place. That was the start”.

Later, famous cyclists and club managers often visited Borek. In the following year an amateur cycling team was established in the meat-processing plant. Wojciech Mróz was the more enthusiastic about cycling as his French business partner, Jean Hoch from Brittany, also manages and looks after a similar team, besides he is a friend of Bernard Hinault, probably the biggest celebrity of French cycling. In 1996 the owner of the company from Borek took another step. He founded the first fully professional cycling club, which is organized after the example of similar western teams. Its members are top cyclists from Poland and a few outstanding





foreign competitors. Each signed an individual contract which specifies the terms and conditions of his membership in the club as well the obligations of the owner.

„The beginning was really difficult. They imposed strict conditions on me. One of them was that I should gather a warranty sum of one million zlotys. The cycling club is certainly not a whim. I work with people. Each one of the competitors is different, each one has his own habits, individual needs, different problems”.

The professional cycling club consists of about thirty people, including 14-18 competitors, the rest are service workers. At present there are ten Poles, two Lithuanians, one Kirghiz and one Ukrainian in the team. They ride all over the world and are known on all continents. Since 1999 some other professional clubs have been founded in Poland, but no-one can compare with the team from this small town in Wielkopolska. At present, Mr Mróz's cyclists are rated among thirty best clubs in the world (when I was writing this article, they were on the 22nd place in the official ratings).

„My dream is that my dependants might perform in

the Tour de France, the most important and the most difficult race in the world. But the criteria of selection are very sharp. Only 20 best teams in the world are qualified for it. Besides, several can apply for the so-called wild card. We haven't been successful yet although this year three competitors who used to be in our club have performed in the Great Loop. They were Tomasz Brożyna, Piotr Wadecki and the Lithuanian Raimundas Rumcas.

There is no doubt that the cycling club is a strong support for Wojciech Mróz's company. Thanks to it, he does not have to bear the high costs of advertising campaigns. „Cyclists' sausage”, named so for advertising effect, has become a hit on the market recently. It was awarded a gold medal in the last POLAGRA food fair in Poznań.

So is it extravagance? Certainly not! The owner's interest? It isn't either. The apparently strange and untypical symbiosis of business and sport in small Borek Wielkopolski turned out to be a successful solution.

TADEUSZ JĄDER

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# A Barge That Sails In The World

In the favelas of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Rodrigo, a young computer scientist founded a school for homeless children. He teaches them how to use the computer. In Wisconsin in the United States, Mary, a successful lawyer, defends children from violence-stricken families. She does not charge any fees for her work. In Wielkopolska, Tomasz and Barbara Sadowski, established „BARKA” (which means „barge” in English) - a haven for down-and-outs.

Rodrigo and Mary have never met Tomasz and Barbara but they have one thing in common - work in citizen's organizations. And TV viewers all over the world saw the value and sense of their work when their activities were presented in the series of reports „Heroes of the 21st Century” prepared by CNN journalists.

Michael MacKenzie, who made the series, said during his visit to Poznań: „Before we arrived here, CNN reporters had visited places in many different parts of the world. For months researchers had been looking for topics and events on the Internet that would be of interest to us. They put 50 suggestions. We found the story about Tomasz, Barbara and „Barka” the most interesting of all. The people from the community were shown in a report under a title that explained everything”.

However, Tomasz and Barbara do not want to hear any pompous words.

„Heroes? No, this is not us. Heroes are people who moulded our conscience and characters: Barbara's parents, my granny Irena”, says Tomasz Sadowski, a psychologist (like his wife) by education, a welfare activist by temperament and a talented manager.

„Barka” means years of work, individual and collective experiences, highs and lows and activities thanks to which shelters for the homeless in different parts of Wielkopolska and a „survival school” in Poznań were established.

It does not take long to read the chronicles of Barka. The processes and facts which precede their writing take years. The return to democracy, local government and free market started in Poland only 12 years ago. Suddenly, the Poles went over from communism to capitalism. In the time of transition, the weakest and uneducated people pay the heaviest price. In conflict with their everyday lives, they are not adapted to face challenges of continuously changing conditions. In Poland, they were also thrown outside the pale of society by the clear but ruthless rules of free market economy, to which the vast majority of the enterprising and full of initiative inhabitants of Wielkopolska have been able to adapt.

Before headlines like „Poland - Europe's Tiger” started to appear in European quality newspapers in the middle of the 1990s, there had been a revival of citizen's organization in Wielkopolska. Foundations started to appear,

and „Barka” was one of them. Tomasz and Barbara, who took care of the poorest, learnt that in the small village of Władysławowo there is a building of a former school. It was dilapidated but it was to let. The foundation let it, and Mr and Mrs Sadowski moved there with their children and the first group of homeless people. They put a lot of strain on converting the ruin into a normal home.

„And it was really a home”, says Barbara Sadowska after these years. „It was a difficult attempt to adapt to new life for many people who were under our charge and who had prison, homelessness, years of coping with bad habits and family tragedies behind them. Everyone becomes an outcast in a different way and everyone must come back to society in his or her own way. But it is easier to rescue people at home, among his nearest and dearest. You talk to a doctor or a counsellor in their surgery, at „Barka” counselling is given at home”.

It is difficult to be one of the elite group of „heroes”... Do Mr and Mrs Sadowski not have any doubts, temptations to abandon everything, start living more comfortably?

„There are different moments in life”, says Mr Tomasz Sadowski. „In our work, and „Barka” has already existed for over ten years, there are periods of great engagement, but it does not last for ever. People, at least a lot of them, get their act together. They find jobs, homes, study, live together, their children grow. Tension eases...”

„Tomasz believes there will come such a time he will be able to go fishing”, adds his wife, and her husband answers: „Yes, next year...”

„From the very beginning, in the hardest times, we found allies”, says Barbara. „Among ordinary people, who share what they can with „Barka”, and among local politicians and businessmen. A lot of volunteers also come to Poland from different parts of the world. They confirmed that we did the right thing. They worked with us. Thanks to them a Dutchwoman, who cooperated with many charities, visited us and later bought a ruined farm in Marszewo for us. French volunteers taught us how to breed goats. They took our people to a cheese dairy to train them. Today they produce excellent cheese. They have also a flock of pedigree sheep, and the first sheep came from France”.

Chudobczyce - the next stage of „Barka's” development. Hard work, little money, but the farm revived. „I'm from the country myself”, says Barbara and mentions an expert of the United States who came to the Poznań Academy of Agriculture in the middle of the 1990s. He was responsible for the programme of protection of biodiversity in the world. The scientists from Poznań worked on saving pedigree pigs of the so-called Złotniki breed from extinction. This is a noble breed but it does not tolerate breeding in industrial farms. Only 40 sows of this breed were kept on the Academy's farms.





„Who can we entrust with the attempt to rescue Złotniki pigs?” wondered the scientists. People from „Barka” declared to be willing to help. The scientists trusted them. In Chudobczyce the buildings were converted into pigsties. Sows, boars and piglets appeared on the farm. Today it is a prosperous organic farm. Pork from the Złotniki breed is a noble product, with a low fat content and a unique taste.

In the orchards of the farm, there are young trees of vanishing varieties of apple trees: russets, kosztelas and antonówkas. The development of the breeding and the orchards is supervised by scientists from agricultural colleges, and the enterprise is patronized by one of the departments of the United Nations.

Groups of volunteers from all over the world come to the houses run by „Barka”. They live and work together. Later they use the experiences gathered in Wielkopolska in their own countries.

„The unemployed, the homeless, people ill with AIDS, alcoholics, drug addicts are everywhere. We must rescue them”, says Emanuel from France. „I've learnt here that everybody can help, you must only discover this ability in yourself”. Valentina from Ukraine points out that her country is entering the path to democracy now. „In this postcommunist state people must live in new conditions. Many do not understand what is happening around them. The experiences I am gathering in „Barka” let me see better and function in a new world, among people in my country.”

When Michael MacKenzie, the author of the series „Heroes of the 21st century”, was interviewing one of the residents of the house in Chudobczyce, Ziuta said without a shadow of stagefright: „It's good that CNN has visited us. The barge („Barka”) is sailing in the world. Once, someone created a home for us. Now, we must go this way and give up this place to the weaker ones. Thanks to „Barka” we are happy again. We are needed. Some are cooks, some are drivers or builders. We are also a family.

OLGA KUNZE

In 2001 the Foundation for Mutual Help „Barka” launched the Available Housing Programme aimed at people and families who lost their flats and houses in recent years for legal reasons, owing to the economic transformation and personal disasters. The foundation plans to build a settlement with 70 cheap flats in the next two years. Mr Stefan Mikołajczak, the Marshal of the Province of Wielkopolska, and Mr Ryszard Grobelny, the Mayor of Poznań, are among allies of „Barka” who support the realization of this goal.

[www.barka.org.pl](http://www.barka.org.pl)

PHOTO: ARCH.







# Wielkopolska's Tastes

Tastes and aromas of Wielkopolska's cuisine can satisfy every gourmet. They tempt to discover original soups, like parzybroda and czernina with dumplings. One should not necessarily know how these soups are prepared, but tasting them is a must! And meat, venison, fowl, vegetables? Delicious! Restaurants buy ingredients first of all from organic farms, and chefs can change them into first-class roast. Joint and hand of pork, goose and roast duck are traditional Wielkopolska dishes, served with vegetables, both in the poshest restaurants and in private homes, where ordinary people receive guests. People in Wielkopolska love sweets. Their consumption is the highest in our region. Sweet Sunday tea in a family circle is a tradition which has been cherished for generations. The taste of light Poznań cake or croissants made of half-French dough with an almond and poppy seed filling is unique.

The strong team of chefs and pastry-chefs from Wielkopolska enters international competitions. They are also successful when preparing dishes of regional cuisine. The best chefs reveal the secrets of their work:

Wojciech Kandulski runs a family business - a chain of pastry-cook's shops with his own products. His march-pane-nuts-chocolate cake with apricot jam became such a hit in Wielkopolska that the company decided to put it up for a competition in which the prize is the right to use the prestigious logo „Teraz Polska” („Now Poland”). The certificate „Teraz Polska” was handed to the prizewinner by the President of Poland, a gourmet himself. At this meeting Mr Kandulski came up with an idea of cake which he called „President”.

This cake already exists. You can taste it in Poznań in many confectionaries. How is a new cake composed? At first, the chef is not willing to reveal his secret but he

PHOTO: BARBARA TAJL



Ryszard Kędziora, the chef in the Merkur Hotel, gathered professional experience working in renowned Polish hotels as well as Russia, Hungary and Germany.

gives in at last:

„I don't have to taste different ingredients. Already when I was a child, I liked to imagine the taste of different good things. In my trade I practise the art of 'composing'. However, the President cake was not only the matter of taste of its ingredients - chocolate, whipped cream, caramelized pears, combined with a note of alcohol. It was also the matter of form - the shape of the cake. I don't want to explain much. I invite you to Poznań to taste my cakes.”

Marlena Szymaś from Mr Kandulski's confectioner's shop earned a gold medal at the Confectioners' World Championship in Lisbon. Marlena and her assistant Paweł Mieszkała with their leader and boss are going to defend the title in the Confectioner's World Competition held next year in Poznań.

The Park Hotel submerged in green is an oasis of peace and quiet. There is a view of Lake Malta from the widows of the hotel restaurant. An ideal place to enjoy good food. The chefs from the hotel often win medals at international competitions and enrich the menu with the ideas they observed abroad. Dariusz Dudziak, the prize-winner of the Bonduelle Green Cap and the Professional of the Year 2001 in the Polish Prestige Hotels Competition, says that what attracts him most in the kitchen is the possibility to combine different ingredients and check their taste. He also likes to compose dishes from different cuisines, which brought him prizes in many competitions. For example the collar from pork sirloin with foie gras and truffles, wrapped up with Parma ham.

Guests often come to the kitchen to thank for the excellent dishes. He felt the greatest satisfaction when a foreigner praised him for onion soup saying that he had not eaten a more delicious one even in Paris. Some of his customers ask him to prepare something special, which is not on the menu. Then he puts everything aside and practises - as he puts it - art.

PHOTO: BARBARA TAJL



Dariusz Brodziak recommends beef rashers (collars) with buckwheat porridge and mushrooms, sauce from fresh boletuses and blue cabbages.





In Wielkopolska's cuisine he appreciates duck most. One can prepare dishes of this meat in many tastes, with different sauces and additives.

The Merkur Hotel is in the very centre of the city. It is modern although it was built 40 years ago. Guests say they feel good here because the hotel has a soul and its own taste. The visitors succumb to different culinary temptations with pleasure. When they ask about traditional dishes, the waiters recommend them a regional delicacy - roast duck with blue cabbages and sorts of dumplings (pyzas or kopytkas). Pyzas are a speciality of the region - it is a kind of steamed noodles.

„Almost everybody can make roast duck. Why should this one from the Merkur Hotel be exceptional?” I ask the chef Ryszard Kędziora, who answers:

„Actually, in European shops you can't buy fresh duck, and we prefer unfrozen fowl. When buying duck, you should choose one that doesn't weigh more than 1.6 kg.

It is the best carcass for a dish for two people. This carcass is dressed, washed, dried with paper towels and stuffed with quarters of sour apples with a few twigs of marjoram. Now we sprinkle some salt on the duck, paint it with a brush soaked in good oil and put aside into a cool place so that it can „rest”. Preferably until the following day. One hour before the arranged dinner or supper, we put the duck into the oven and bake it for 45-60 minutes in a temperature suitable for fowl (usually 180-200 degrees C). As soon as the duck starts browning, we pour a cup of broth (of cube), and already at the beginning of roasting we cover the carcass in the ovenpan with foil, which is removed 20 minutes before the end of roasting so that the skin is crisp and golden. The duck should be poured with gravy sauce all the time when it is in the oven. The aroma of roast meat, apples and herbs floating in the kitchen will be the reward of our patience. At the same time we shred a small head of blue cabbage, pour boiling water on it, put it into the pot - dietitians do not see or hear anything - add a tablespoon of lard or butter, a handful of scalded raisins, season everything with salt, pepper and sugar and fry for a short time. I recommend gourmets to add a tablespoon of plum jam, blueberries or cranberries instead of sugar. One must also watch out that the cabbages maintain their firmness. And

this is almost the end of our preparations for the feast. Now you must only pour off the gravy, remove the apples from the duck, rub everything through a strainer, heat up, pour into the gravy-boat and serve with the hot roast-duck and cabbages. A glass of red wine at your discretion and a cheerful mood will make the dish perfect.

I will not say anything about the pyzas because this is more complicated. Anyway, a little secrecy also enhances the taste of a dish. I invite you for duck - it's delicious!

BERNADETA IGNASIAK  
OLGA KUNZE

PHOTO: BARBARA TAJL



The Novotel Poznań Centrum Hotel, the biggest congress hotel in Poznań, offers its guests traditional Polish hospitality, at the same being comfortable and modern (business centre, direct Internet connections). In its restaurants, guests are invited to culinary journeys. In addition to European dishes, food from different regions of Poland is served here. Wielkopolska's hand of pork, however, has the greatest renown, and gourmets prefer it to its Bavarian counterpart.

Jacek Skitek, the chef in the Poznań hotel, explains that in fact hand of pork is the rear leg of a pedigree-pig. After dressing the meat is rubbed with spices and roasted with vegetables. Juicy pork creates a harmonious combination with marjoram, onions, leeks, parsleys, carrots; and Polish hot horse-radish, fried cabbages and indigenous varieties of potatoes with dill leaves are a perfect complement to the dish. In the picture, this delicacy from Wielkopolska is presented by the chef Jacek Skitek and one of the cooks Michał Stężalski, a prizewinner in the competition 'Riva del Garda 2001', just before serving to the guests.



## The Most Powerful European Environmental Protector Has Reached Poland

Several Polish companies operating in the field of widely understood environmental protection services have since recently been associated with the powerful SITA GROUP the European leader in the area of the removal, storage and utilisation of all sorts of waste.

At the end of the year 2000 the merger of EdS Group (Europeenne de Services) with SITA Group took place. EdS Group had already operated on the Polish market for a couple of years via EdS Polska. The company had become the main or the only shareholder of numerous companies from, among other cities, Warsaw, Radom or Poznań (Lewar), dealing in tidiness maintenance services. In consequence, the above companies obtained financial means for the purchase of modern equipment for urban and industrial waste disposal, tidying up industrial areas, public and residential roads as well as for greens nurturing. Simultaneously, they gained access to modern management systems and the newest technologies.

Since EdS joined SITA Group this access has been expanded even further. SITA Group currently owns or operates on 277 urban and industrial waste dumps in Europe. It is also the owner of 71 incinerating plants, 220 waste sorting plants and 85 composting plants. SITA Group's clients are offered a wide range of services, in each of the abovementioned areas, including consultancy, arranging services and carrying out investments. SITA particularly specialises in urban waste disposal, waste storage, sorting and recycling, building and managing urban cleaning plants and incinerating plants, industrial system waste removal as well as neutralisation and utilisation of industrial waste, including the waste posing extreme environmental hazard. The companies assembled in SITA take part in managing urban and



industrial waste, including special and harmful waste (both liquid and solid). They also offer services concerning the purification and disinfecting of buildings as well as of water supply, sewage, air-conditioning and ventilation systems. Additionally, they neutralise liquid and half-liquid waste such as the muddy build-ups occurring in places where petrochemical and tanning industry waste is stored.

SITA possesses the most advanced knowledge and the richest experience in the field of protecting the environment from all sorts of harmful processes being the consequence of production and consumption activities. It should also be outlined that the company has considerable capital resources at its disposal. **The activities performed by the companies associated in SITA Group meet all the environmental and sanitary requirements binding within the European Union.**

In Poland SITA Group managed its subordinate companies via EdS Polska Company. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2001 the Register Department of the National Court Register, following the request of EdS Polska, changed the name of that company for SITA Polska Ltd. Range of activity: **holding of dependent companies**, initial capital: 85 700 000zł. The chairman of the Board of SITA Polska Ltd: **dr Michel Annez de Taboada**, vice-chairman: **Andre Lemlyn**.

Written by: Leszek Łuczak



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# Flax Is In!

Flax has been known for 10,000 years. It was thought to be so noble that it was the only plant used in Ancient Egypt for production of clothes put on directly on the body by priests. Today flax is treated as an alternative to consumption crops and is under special protection of the European Union, which subsidizes its cultivation.

## NIKE, ALBA, VIKO and ARTEMIDA

If the interest in flax in Poland were presented in a form of a diagram, it would resemble a sinusoid. About 10 years ago the area in which the plant was grown was on the increase, and it seemed Poland would be a flax power again. Once the area of its cultivation was the second largest in Europe; and foreigners associated Poland with flax, which was our superb export commodity. Latter unfortunately, Polish agriculture went into a recession, which also resulted in liquidation of state farms. Today, there appear large, already privatized

farms with an area of even 1000 ha which want to grow flax again in Poland. There are also more and more individual farmers who are interested in this plant.

These fluctuations of the economic situation are well-known to The Natural Fibres Institute in Poznań. This is the only interdisciplinary research institution of this kind in Poland, of international renown, which carries out a project in cooperation with foreign research institutes (members of the FAO Union), participates in the projects EUREKA, COST, JENIKA and the 5th Framework Project of the European Union as well as the projects financed by the Maria Skłodowska-Curie Foundation. The Institute possesses numerous research laboratories and pilot plants. Being an interdisciplinary institution, it is also engaged in testing modern technologies and agricultural machines and even in the production of... clothes made of flax.

The Institute does research on four varieties of flax. They are NIKE (registered also in Austria and Germany), ALBA, VIKO and ARTEMIDA.

## Promotion of flax

„Showing fibres or yarn, even of the best quality, does not make such an impression as the presentation of ready products”, says Ms Małgorzata Muzyczek, the manageress of the Marketing Department of the Natural Fibres Institute. „So we set up a design section in the Institute and employed designers. The outstanding Polish designer Jola Zalecka has been creating unique flaxen collections for four years. We showed them, among other countries, in Brazil, at the world



PHOTO: ARCH.

scientific conference on fibre materials. Another collection of hers will be presented in China soon. People also admired Jola's creations in Russia and London.

Flax has an intransient charm. Ms Jola Zalecka proved this in her special presentation during the Poznań Fashion Week where she showed flax used in fashion from Ancient Greece to the present day. Her flax-viscose collection (flax can be combined with other natural and man-made fibres, for example lycra or copper threads) was granted the Fashion Excellence statuette for the year 1999, awarded by the influential monthly „Twój Styl”.

In the past, flax was mainly associated with table cloths, curtains and bedding. Now it is accepted by fashion designers and customers, both women and men. It is healthy and comfortable for the body. The Natural Fibres Institute sells flaxen clothes and fabrics in its own shop, which is also known abroad and which is frequented by many regular customers.

And even if it is true that flax crumples easily, it crumples „nobly” because it is a very noble plant.

EWA KŁODZIŃSKA



PHOTO: ARCH.





# Like Birds To Their Nests

Mrs Janina Tyszkiewicz-Łącka-Chedeau was woken up by a telephone when she was fast asleep. It was in 1995. A cousin of hers from London, who is a regular reader of one of Warsaw dailies, found an advertisement of the Agricultural Ownership Agency of the Polish State for the lease of the palace in Konin near Posadowo in the district of Lwówek. The same palace where she was born and grew up until 1939! Then, just before the outbreak of World War II, she left it and emigrated with her family to France. She settled in Paris, got married, found a job but never stopped dreaming about returning to her far family home in Konin. After that night call from London she did not hesitate long and left for Poland on the

houses of well-known Wielkopolska's families: the Tyszkiewicz, the Chłapowskis, the Łąckis, the Żółtowskis, the Mańkowskis, the Mycielskis and others.

Mr Jerzy Mańkowski, who was born in Brodnica, bought his ancestor's palace in this village from the Agricultural Ownership Agency of the Polish State in 1999, thanks to the savings set aside during all his life (which he spent, among other countries, in Cameroon) and business which he conducts up till now in France. He also decided to return to his homeland when he heard the Agency was going to invite offers for the purchase of his forefathers' palace. Mr Wojciech and Roman Żółtowski and Mrs Krystyna Bilińska (née Żółtowska), siblings who

don based step brother provides her financial assistance. Officials from the Agricultural Ownership Agency of the Polish State say that a notary deed will be signed with him at the beginning of September 2001 at the latest.

## The countess is back!

The first meetings of the villagers with the descendants of the former owners abound with funny incidents. At first Janina Tyszkiewicz was not admitted to the palace which was bolted-fast after the last tenant had left it in Communist Poland (he did not want to spend any money on redecoration). Then she heard behind her back: „Oh, the countess is back!” Well, she's back ... She brought some family heirlooms from France, among other things ... Honore Balzac's portrait. The French writer had been corresponding with Adam Rzewuski's (her great grandfather's) sister for years before he married famous Ewelina, married to Tański in her previous marriage.

Mrs Janina Chedeau, like other people who made this decision, was greatly shocked when she returned from exile to her homeland. She lived in free Poland, but this country was completely different from modern France she left after over fifty years (her son, daughter-in-law and grandchild still live there). But Countess Tyszkiewicz, hardened to struggle when she worked in France, did not give in. After all, she had had to work in exile since she was fourteen. She had managed companies, run a forged iron workshop with her mother and had also been an interpreter for UNESCO after graduation from a special college.

Ms Anna Mycielska was not so lucky. She cannot afford to buy Gałowo, which is successfully managed by Mr Zenon Jerzykiewicz. He has been the chairman of a state-owned farming and bree-



PHOTO: JACEK KAJA

following day. She applied for the lease practically at the last moment and she got it! She became the leaseholder of her family palace and the surrounding park. And although she was formally only a tenant, she said: „For a start it's enough. This is only the beginning ...”

## The beginning of the 1990s

The interest of prewar owners and their descendants in palaces, mansions and manor houses dates from the turn of the 1980s and the beginning of the 1990s. Some wanted to return after tens of years spent in exile to settle again in the

settled in London after World War II, tried to regain their family estate in Wargowo as soon as at the beginning of the 1990s, exercising their right of pre-emption of the palace and the park. Ms Anna Mycielska, a daughter of the prewar owner of Gałowo, later living in London, started coming here at the beginning of the 1990s and would also like to regain her family home.

The Żółtowski family were almost entirely successful in Wargowo. They had the palace renovated, which is now the seat of the three siblings. Janina née Tyszkiewicz is still struggling for the restitution of her family palace in Konin; her Lon-





ding enterprise in the village for twenty-five years. Anna Mycielska, who comes to Gałowo every year, is happy that the estate is not devastated but has even increased in value. A new building was erected, fields and meadows were ameliorated. The daughter of the prewar owner would like to regain everything - the palace, the farm and about 1000 ha of land and woods. So she filed an application with the Province Council at the beginning of the 1990s and is still waiting for the Reprivatization Act.

Mr Jerzy Mańkowski, who has a well-paid job abroad, simply bought the estate in Brodnica. He had the palace redecorated and organized a hotel in it. Some of the rooms are his private apartments. The participants in congresses and conferences have free access to all other lounges and rooms.

### Not all fell to ruin

Ms Maria Strzałko, who is responsible for the protection of listed buildings in Wielkopolska, informs that there are two thousand manor-houses and palaces with surrounding parks which were left by their owners in 1939, during the German occupation or as a result of nationalization after the war. Many residences of the prewar gentry were taken over by state farms, others were converted into schools, boarding-schools or lodgings for the villagers. Not all estates were taken over by the state according to the law adopted by the Communists.

Palaces and manor-houses were best looked after by managers of state farms (PGR) and chairmen of production cooperatives. Some of them, like already mentioned Zenon Jerzykiewicz, were awarded prizes by the Minister of Culture and Art in recognition of their care for these historical buildings. However, many estates are in a bad or very bad condition. At the beginning, the Agricultural Ownership Agency of the Polish State, which managed these objects, did not have enough money to redecorate or at least rescue them from further dilapidation. Only 45 buildings were sold, of which 10 were bought by heirs on a priority basis. However, the descendants of former owners settled only in five palaces. Others sold their family homes as soon as they regained them.

Ms Anna Mycielska realizes how much the state farm in Gałowo had to pay for the redecoration and restoration of her family palace. She herself does not have enough money for running repairs. Mrs Janina Chedeau knows the cost of the renovation of the facade, the roof and the garret: 400,000 zlotys, and that is not all. The Żółtowski family assigned a huge amount of money for the restoration of the palace in Wargowo. They have already decided: They will return from exile and live here, like their ancestors. They are integrating in the local community, participating in the cost of repair of other buildings built by their forefathers, but - they are still waiting for the restitution of the

PHOTO: JACEK KAJA



farm and land. Janina née Tyszkiewicz would like to run a small hotel in Konin like Mr Jerzy Mańkowski. She is also trying to encourage her French friends to invest in Poland. Ms Anna Mycielska can only dream about her home. If she succeeded in recovering Gałowo thanks to the Reprivatization Act, she would probably lease it out (her sister, who also lives in London, is not interested in it). Mr Zenon Jerzykiewicz does not object to it, the owner has her rights, on one condition though: The farm he is managing now should be further run in the real Wielkopolska manner - cleverly and efficiently. The most important thing is that it should not collapse and the workers should not lose their jobs.

Many friends from abroad visit the Żółtowskis and Mrs Janina Tyszkiewicz in their palaces. They are a bit surprised at their decision to return to Poland after spending so much time in exile. But they also admire the determination of these descendants of old families, who now, when it is possible, want to bring back life into the walls of their houses, cooled in years of their absence.

PHOTO: JACEK KAJA



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# Wings Of Europe By Jędrzej Stępak

He is an exceptional artist, who experiences his works of art as if from the very basics. The material of his work is wicker, which he himself plants, nurtures and then cuts in order to give it artistic expression. He talks with the nature and, as a result, the nature gives in to his influence.

The space around us is continually decreasing and it may be considered an advantage that, as years go by, these sculptures can perfectly match the scenery. They are inoffensive and they don't remind us of the ruthless passage of time. Wicker gets old just as man does. Yet, it's possible to experience this process in a bright and gentle manner. The passage of time may also be perceived as the course of collecting experience, knowledge and thoughts. As for Jędrzej Stępak, it must definitely be admitted that he's a past master in turning rough matter into the tool of artistic, sculptural expression:

„These sculptures are the fabric on

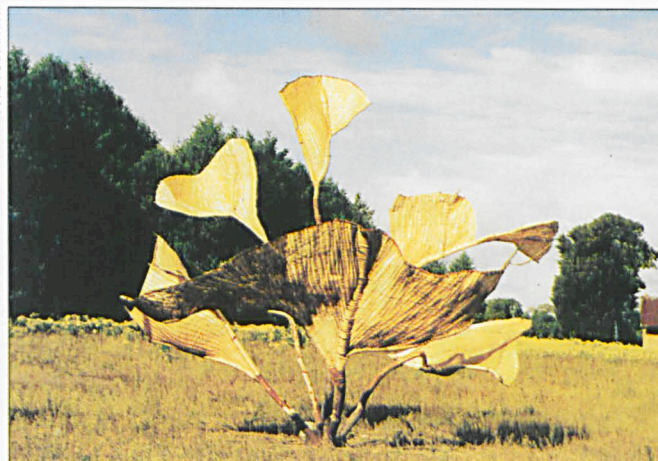
which my whole life is described”.

He has made that material „fashionable”. And although there are more and more followers of Jędrzej Stępak's art, a real connoisseur will immediately recognise the difference. He is described as the creator of panorama and living landscapes.

His newest project, which was created for Europalia in Brussels, also blended well with the scenery of a city park. The sculptures gave the impression as if they had been the essential part of that space from time immemorial. It's a pity that “Wings of Europe”, which came into being in an atelier in a village in Wielkopolska, will be stretched in Brussels for only a few days.

ZOFIA CZERNIEJEWICZ-  
SCHROTEN

PHOTO: ARCH



*Jędrzej Stępak graduated from The Academy of Fine Arts in Poznań. His sculptures, fabrics, installations, furniture and the entire space adaptation designs have been presented in many places all over the world. The most important ones are: Seville EXPO '92, Japan and the U.S.A - Jędrzej Stępak has contributed a lot to promoting Poland abroad and Europalia '2001 in Brussels are a perfect example of his activity.*

## Bussines Opportunities In Green Wielkopolska

*„A new attitude may be noticed among entrepreneurs coming to Wielkopolska says the manager of Interregional Trade & Co-operation Centre „Wielkopolska”, Anna Łuszczewska. More and more of them tend to come or settle here for reasons which might be called sentimental but I call them reasonable. These people declare that they like our region very much and they simply have to do business here.”*

There is much reason behind that. Wielkopolska's natural environment is clean due to lack of harmful industry. Although there are really few exceptions, like brown coal mining area in the south-eastern

Wielkopolska, the region as a whole is impeccably clean with plenty of amazing spots.

There are many opportunities for business in the tourist branch and that is the field in which growth is expected in the coming years. In November, companies are invited to visit a seminar at the INVESTCITY Fair in Poznań focusing on the development of the tourist industry and investments in the tourist branch in Wielkopolska. Interested investors will also be able to participate in a study trip to get a view of the opportunities for development.

Together with INVESTCITY, POL-EKO International Ecological Fair is to be held at the renown International

Poznań Fair grounds (20-23 November 2001). The two fairs are more than wanted neighbours.

With its very good communication, educational and business environment infrastructure, Wielkopolska is also a very good location for business or investments into other fields like IT branch, food processing, trade or logistics. Regional authorities have set up a taskforce for matching foreign and Wielkopolska businesses as well as promoting investments the Interregional Trade & Co-operation Centre „Wielkopolska” (contact by e-mail: itcc@wp.pl or by fax/tel: +48 61 8520 866).





PHOTO: ROMUALD ŚWIĄTKOWSKI

Five students from Poznań Polytechnic have beaten 76 teams from all over the world in the Computer System International Design Competition held in Washington. The competition was organized by the IEEE Computer Society.

Bluetooth is the name of a technology and equipment for short-range wireless transmission. Every participant in the competition received two such devices, an internet camera, a laptop and software. Their task was to design and build something useful. The students Piotr Kowalik, Piotr Kubiaczyk, Krystian Nowak, Stanisław Osiński and Tomasz Płużak came up with an idea after they had talked with Prof. Jan Ober, who works on sensors of eyeball movements of people whose work demands a great deal of concentration, for example navigators and drivers. They decided to design a device which would enable distant reading of signals from the sensors. With this device they beat the Americans, Germans and Canadians.

(BI)



PHOTO: ANDRZEJ SZOZDA

The bagpipes are the most original instrument used in folk music in Wielkopolska. For their construction we need leather from a not very aged goat, wood from a peartree or plumtree and a sheet metal plate. The goat leather is used for an air-container, wood for pipes. The bagpipes sound good if both the constructor and the musician are masterhands.

The concerts of bagpipers from Wielkopolska have a long tradition and enjoy great popularity even though the bagpipes are not a fashionable instrument.

Ten bagpipes bands play in Wielkopolska, and another three will appear soon. Playing the bagpipes often becomes a family tradition.

(EKA)



PHOTO: ARCH.

Wolves arouse feelings of both fascination and fright. Once they were very common in woods, now they are in danger of extinction. Five years ago, scientists from the Poznań Academy of Agriculture led by Prof. Andrzej Berezzyński opened the first wolf farm in Poland and whole Eastern Europe in Stobnica near Obrzycko. It is inhabited by 13 wolves. Each one has its own story. All were taken from their nests by people when they were welps. Their present disposition depends on how they were treated. Some are tame and friendly, but there are also distrustful animals. They have already reared offspring. Researchers also breed wood and black grouses in Stobnica. These species of birds are already extinct in Wielkopolska's nature. You can also see beavers and Polish ponies - tarpans. The experimental station is an attraction for tourist parties, which come here every day. The wolves, however, make the strongest impression.

(BI)





You could hear the sound of this famous Stradivarius, which was once owned by the famous Polish composer Henryk Wieniawski, at this year's Violin Makers' Competition at the Museum of Musical Instruments in Poznań. It has now over 3,000 exhibits in its collection. Monuments from different epochs and all continents have been gathered here. The Museum has departments: European professional instruments, European folk instruments, instruments from other continents and the musicology department, where you can see manuscripts, old prints, remembrances of outstanding musicians etc. A Celtic karnyx from the turn of the 2nd and 1st century BC and a ceramic clapper from the period of the Lausitz culture are the most valuable and the oldest instruments in the collection.

(MK)

PHOTO: ADAM CIEŚLAWSKI



Lettuce, a common vegetable, can become a modern medicine thanks to scientists from Poznań. Since 1995 a team of young scientists led by Dr Józef Kapusta in the Bioorganic Chemistry Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences have been working on obtaining a hepatitis B (jaundice) vaccine from plants. Researchers use genetically modified lettuce in their work on a new vaccine. This transgenic lettuce produces albumen of the hepatitis B virus. This is the first biotechnological product in the world that is known to produce antibodies in humans when two portions of it are eaten.

'We are carrying out research on a big group of patients. Our aim is to produce from genetically modified lettuce a vaccine in a form of a tablet' says Dr Józef Kapusta.

(OKA)

PHOTO: BARBARA TAIL



The Royal Victoria (Victoria regia) is one of many unusual plants you can see in the Poznań palm house. It was named after the British Queen Victoria. It comes from the tropics of South America. In nature it grows in slowly flowing or even still stretches of the Amazon River. Its flowers are opened only for two nights. They change their colour then - they are white at first, later pink, and in the end they turn red. The diameter of round, floating leaves of the Victoria can even reach 2 metres. As there are many air spaces in the tissue of vascular bundles, the leaves have a big displacement and can bear a weight of even 25 kg on its surface! So little Aleksander has no reason for crying.

(MK)

PHOTO: ANDRZEJ SZOZDA





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The State Motor Transport Enterprise - Passenger Branch in Poznań has been rendering public bus services since 1945.

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- ☞ Bus station in Śrem in Powstańców Wielkopolskich Street
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- ☞ Bus station in Szamotuły in Nowowiejskiego Street
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The enterprise employs 340 people.

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# The Leading Role Of Privatisation

The most important objective in the economic transformation that began in Poland after the changes in 1989 was the creation of competitive market economy in a relatively short time. The first stage of creating the market economy was the privatisation of the state sector embracing (except agriculture) immensely large majority of enterprises.

The privatisation processes realised in Poland on the basis of the legal acts from 1990 and 1996 included more than 6 thousand state-owned companies decreasing their number from about 8.5 thousand in 1990 to little more than 2 thousand ten years later. The majority of them is now small and medium companies are doing well on the market.

After the creation of the Wielkopolska Voivodship, at the beginning of the year 1999, the Voivode supervised 207 companies. In the result of intensive privatisation process the number of the state-owned companies decreased almost twice till the half of the year 2000. The Wielkopolska Voivode has still at his disposal 116 companies, the big part of which could be subject to privatisation, also with the foreign investors' participation. These are the enterprises e.g. specialised in construction, food-processing, and machinery industry. The optimal solution for the majority of the state-owned companies is the direct privatisation, in the frame of which the investor purchases the entire enterprise, or, in return for his financial input, receives shares in the newly-created company.

According to the law there are three possible ways of direct privatisation:

- sale of the whole company
- contribution of the enterprise's assets into a new company
- employee buyout of the enterprise.

The detailed information about

the legal aspects of privatisation and the companies in Wielkopolska offered for privatisation can be received in the Ministry of the Treasury, Polish Agency for Foreign Investment in Warsaw and in the Department of Economy and European Integration in Wielkopolska Voivodship Office.

## They have already invested

Foreign capital plays a special role in privatisation process because it ensures the transfer of modern technologies and management methods as well as the access to attractive markets through its own channels and distribution networks.

Due to its convenient location and economic resilience, the Voivodship of Wielkopolska is one of the most attractive regions for investors from abroad.

The largest investors include the following: **Reemtsma Cigaretten**, **GlaxoSmithKline**, **Allied Irish Bank Plc**, **Bayerische Hypo und Vereinsbank AG**, **Beiersdorf**, **Nordisk Wavin**, **Exide**, **Bridgestone/Firestone Europe**, **Alcatel**; in automotive branch there are: **Volkswagen** as well as **MAN** and **Neoplan**; in food processing branch: **Nestlé**, **Bestfoods**, **Stollwerck**, **Wrigley Jr.**, **Kraft Jacobs Suchard**, **Pernod Ricard**; and in distribution **Jeronimo Martins**, **Metro AG**, **Intermarché**, **IKEA**, **Auchan**. Apart from Poznań and its surroundings, the Wielkopolska region was the place of investment for **Philips**, **Matsushita**, **Dossche** from Belgium, **Pratt** and **Whitney**.

Apart from about 230 large and medium foreign investors (investments over USD 1 mln.), it is estimated that there are also about 2 to 3 thousand small investments, which makes Wielkopolska the third biggest region in the country, after Mazovia and Silesia, regarding the number of foreign investments, which responds to the demographic and economic potential of the region.

## Why Wielkopolska?

- For centuries Wielkopolska has been perceived not only as the cradle of the Polish state, but also as an important economic region of the country. Thanks to its location at the intersection of important trade routes, it has for a long time played a significant role in the economic development of Poland.
- Within a radius of 300 km from the capital of the region there are large Polish agglomerations and local metropolitan centres: Silesia, Warsaw, The Tri-City, Łódź, Wrocław, as well as the capital of the united Germany, Berlin.
- An important role in strengthening the economic position of



REEMTSMA - one of the largest investors.





Wielkopolska, throughout its history, has played the traditional work ethic of the residents of the Wielkopolska region: solidarity, consistency, responsibility and acting in accordance with the previously defined objectives as well as the ability to organise work. The residents of this region have always been open to co-operation and favourable commercial contacts.

- Located in the western part of Poland, near the present-day border with European Union, Wielkopolska is a place where important domestic and international transportation routes intersect.
- The road network of the Wielkopolska Province is relatively well developed, and the planned opening of the A-2 highway section as well as the modernisation of the remaining network of roads will create the combined system with the main transportation artery of the region.
- The recently modernised passenger check-in terminal has significantly improved the comfort of its service and allows for the application for more international connections. Presently there are regular, direct flights to Brussels, Copenhagen, Düsseldorf, Hanover and Nuremberg.
- The high level of farm production is matched by a similar range and importance in the processing industry.
- About 10% of GNP is produced in the Wielkopolska Voivodship, which ranks the region third in the country (after the Voivodship of Mazovia and Silesia).
- There is a well developed banking network in the Wielkopolska Voi-

PHOTO: BARBARA TAIL



Allied Irish Bank Plc has been the investor of Wielkopolski Bank Kredytowy.

vodship. The vast majority of significant Polish insurance companies have established their branches in there.

- The Poznań International Fair, the oldest and decidedly the largest exhibition fair enterprise in Poland, plays an important role in the expansion of the commercial exchange between Poland and the rest of the world.

European Integration  
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