

with the sacraments— But now—who knows?—perhaps I have sinned again! Perhaps I exceeded orders in fomenting the uprising so soon? Yet the thought that the house of the Soplicas should be the first to take up arms, that my kinsmen should be the first to plant our heraldic Charger on Lithuanian soil—that thought—surely—was pure enough—

“You wanted revenge, Gerwazy? Well, you have it! For you have been the tool of God’s punishment. With your sword God cut my scheme to ribbons. You snarled the thread I had spun for so many years! My great goal of a lifetime, my last worldly passion, which I nursed and fondled as though it were my dearest child—this you have slain before its father’s eyes; and yet I forgive you! You—!”

“Even so may God forgive you too,” broke in Gerwazy. “Father Jacek, if you must take the house, then I am no Lutheran or schismatic. He sins who grieves a dying man; this I know. Now I shall tell you something; no doubt you will find it a consolation. When my late lord fell mortally wounded to the ground and I knelt over his breast, smearing my blade with his blood and vowing vengeance, he shook his head at me and, stretching his hand toward the gate where you stood, traced a cross in the air. He could not speak, but it was a clear sign he had forgiven his slayer. I understood what he meant, but so great was my rage that I never breathed a word of that sign of the cross to anyone.”

The dying man’s agonies broke off all further talk. There followed a long hour of silence. They waited for the village priest. At last they heard the clatter of hooves. There was a rap on the door. It was the tavern-keeper, breathless after his hard ride. He carried an important letter addressed to Jacek. Jacek passed it to his brother and had him read it aloud. The letter was from Fiszer, then Chief-of-Staff of the Polish Army under Prince Joseph. It brought news that a state of war had been declared in the Emperor’s Privy Council; that the Emperor was even now proclaiming it to the world; that a General Assembly had been summoned in Warsaw; and that the federated Mazovian States were about to make a solemn declaration of union with Lithuania.

Hearing this news, Jacek muttered a silent prayer; then holding the blessed candle to his bosom, he raised his eyes, now ablaze with hope, and lavishly spent his remaining reserve of tears,

“Now, O Lord,” he prayed, “let thy servant depart in peace.” They knelt down. A bell rang at the door, a sign that the parish priest had arrived with the Body of Our Lord. Night was just departing. The first roseate sunbeams traversed the milky sky. Like diamond darts, they pierced the lattice panes and, glancing off the dying man’s head on the pillow, wreathed his face and temples in gold, so that he shone like a saint crowned with a fiery glory. Δ

## LETTERS

In the September 2013 issue of *Sarmatian Review*, the reviewer of Richard Lukas’s book states on p. 1789 that the book under review is the only English-language work detailing the situation of Poles under German occupation. This is not true. In 1979 Jan T. Gross published *Polish Society Under German Occupation, 1939-1944* (Princeton University Press). On the same page, in the short review of Adam Zamoyski’s *Poland*, the reviewer mentioning Norman Davies’s *The Heart of Europe: The Past in Poland’s Present* fails to note that a second and updated edition of this book came out in 2001 from Oxford University Press.

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## Announcements and Notes

### UWM ANNOUNCES SUMMER STUDY IN POLAND

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee announces its 2014 annual Summer Study program in Poland at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. The five-week Polish language course (July 7–August 9) includes 100 hours of instruction at beginning, intermediate or advanced levels, plus lectures on Polish culture and sightseeing. Cost estimate: \$3,425 including tuition, room, and board, and five UWM credits, plus round-air trip transportation Chicago-Warsaw-Chicago. The program is open to students and the general public.

Also offered are intensive and highly intensive courses on Polish language in July and August, ranging from two to eight weeks.

For information and application materials contact Professor Michael J. Mikoś, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures,