

Sir Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski



Sir Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski

1813 – 1898



Born a member of a noble, Polish family, March 5, 1813. Died a distinguished Canadian, August 24, 1898.



Painting of Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski by A. J. Patterson, 1888. Displayed in the Reading Room of Wycliffe College. Used by permission of Wycliffe College, Toronto. Photograph by Kristof Filaber.

**“...one of the noblest and most successful
engineers on this Continent.”**

-Lord Marquess Dufferin, the Governor General of Canada, 1874.

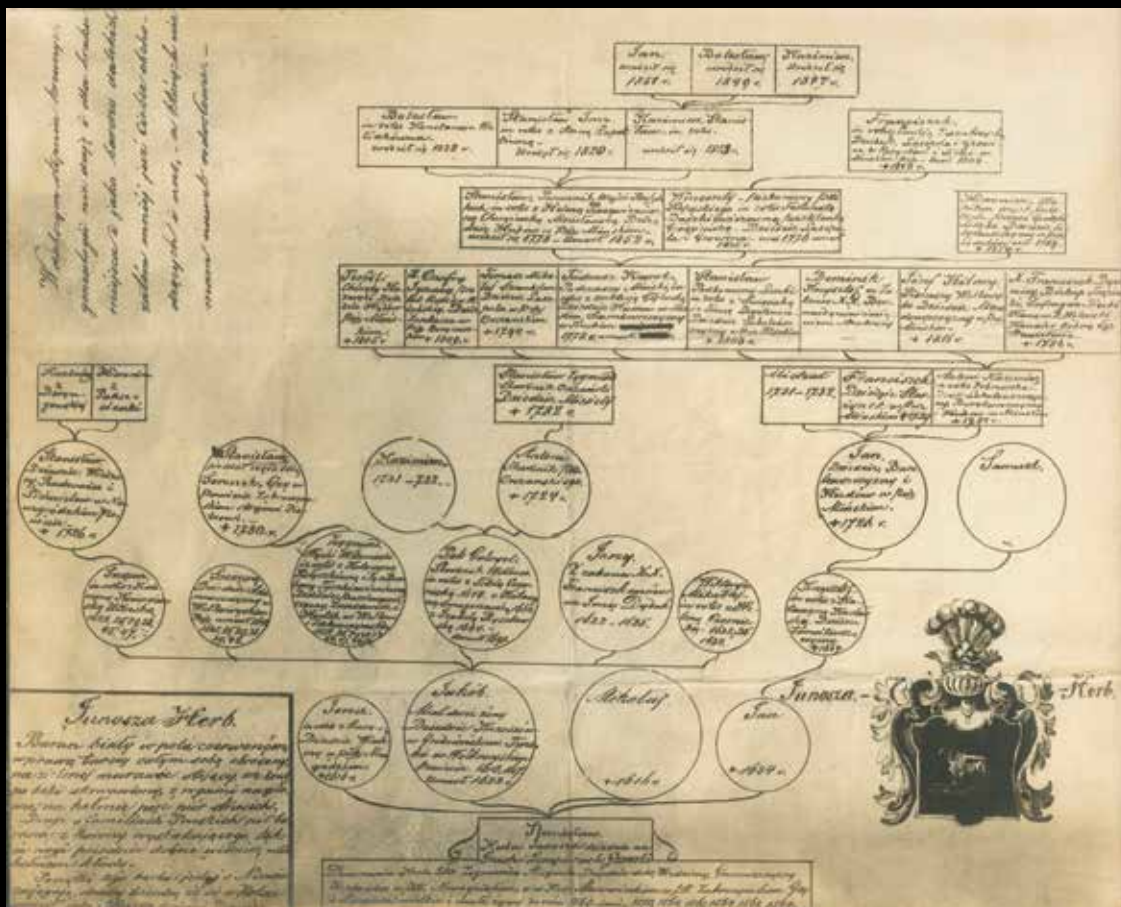
This display is dedicated to Sir Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski, a great, Polish patriot, an outstanding Canadian, a civil engineer, an educator, a military man, a statesman and a gentleman.

SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

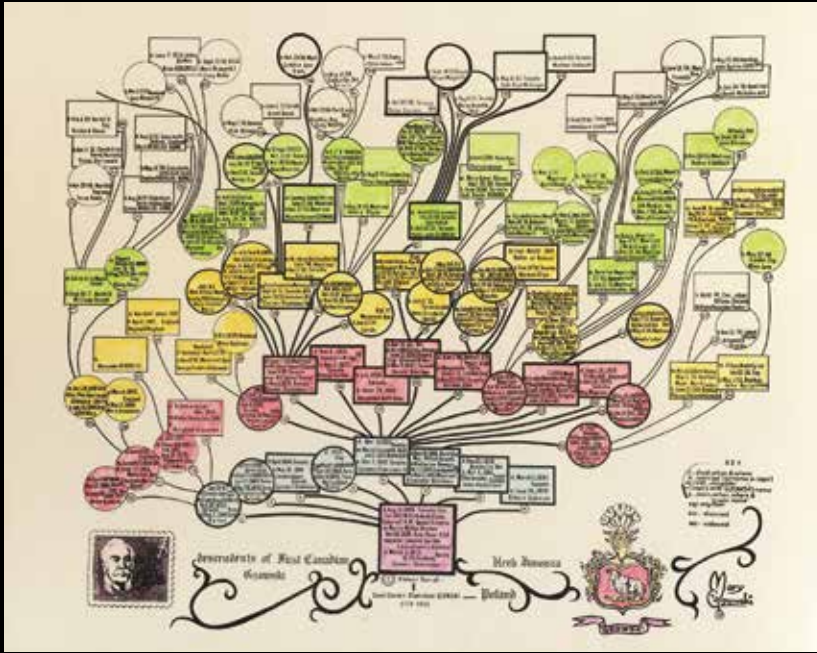
- Involved in the November Uprising of 1830-1831 in Poland
- Developed the Central Canadian transportation network
- Appointed first Chairman of the Niagara Falls Park Commission
- Founded the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association
- Named Aide-de-Camp to Queen Victoria
- Knighted by Queen Victoria
- Designed and built the International Railroad Bridge between Fort Erie, Ontario and Buffalo, New York
- Co-founded the Engineering Institute of Canada
- Named Administrator of the Province of Ontario
- Served as Warden of St. James Anglican Cathedral, Toronto
- Founded Wycliffe College, Toronto

Sir Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski is recognized as one of the greatest of Canadians. Immigrating to the Colonies of British North America in 1842, Gzowski, by the time of his death in 1898, at the age of 85, had succeeded in providing the newly established, Canadian nation with engineering marvels and the creation of professional engineering education. He became part of the highest social, political and religious elite. Sir Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski even succeeded in being named Administrator of the Province of Ontario, thus acting as Queen Victoria's representative. In essence, he was the idealized, successful Victorian.

GENEALOGY



The Gzowski Family - Polish Family Tree Beginning in 1560
 Photograph Courtesy of the Gzowski Family



The Gzowski Family - Canadian Family Tree Beginning in 1839
 Photograph Courtesy of the Gzowski Family



Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski II, 1847-1922 (6).
 Photograph courtesy of the Gzowski family.



Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski III, 1876-1940 (15).
 Photograph courtesy of the Gzowski family.



Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski IV, 1913-1999 (38).
 Photograph courtesy of the Gzowski family.



The Gzowski Family at the Hall, 1855
 Photograph Courtesy of the Gzowski Family

EUROPEAN BEGINNINGS

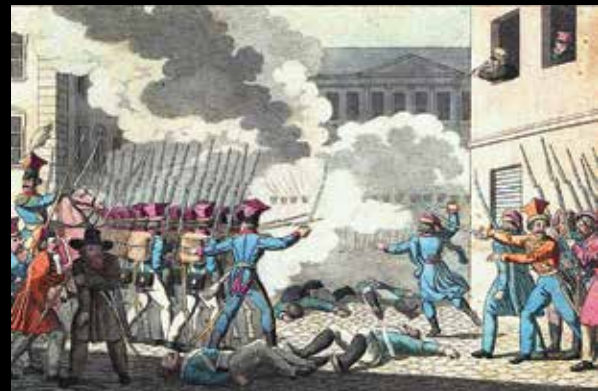
Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski was born 5 March, 1813, in St. Petersburg, Russia, the eldest son of Count Stanislaw Gzowski and Helena Pacewicz. At the time of the birth, the father was on a tour of duty, representing Poland. Born into Polish landed nobility, Count Gzowski had obtained a commission as Captain in the Imperial Guard.

In 1830, at the age of 17, Casimir Gzowski graduated from the Lyceum of Krzemieniec and then, through the support of his father, obtained a placement in the Imperial Corps of Engineers.

In 1830 and 1831, Casimir Gzowski participated in political insurgency in Warsaw, hoping to throw off Russian, political oppression. The Russians took charge of Warsaw. Later Gzowski was imprisoned in an Austrian jail.

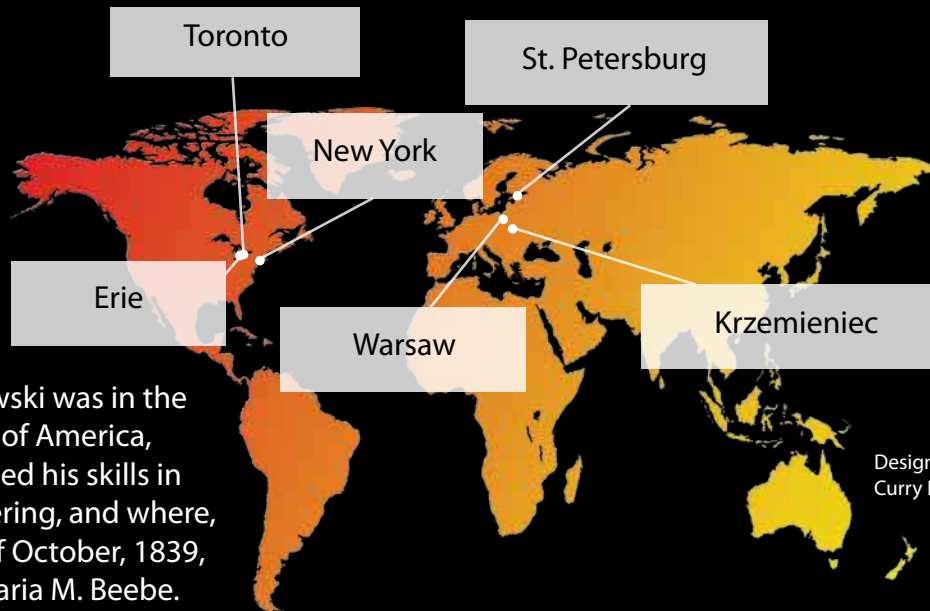


Lyceum, Krzemieniec. Photograph Courtesy of the Consulate General of Poland in Lviv (Ukraine). Photograph by Greszczuk Danuta.



November Uprising of 1830 - 1831, Photograph courtesy of Wikipedia Commons. Wunder, Georg Benedikt. *November Uprising in Warsaw, 1830*. <http://www.polona.pl/dlibra/document2?id=21618&from=latest>

ARRIVAL IN NORTH AMERICA



By 1834, Gzowski was in the United States of America, where he honed his skills in canal engineering, and where, on the 29th of October, 1839, he married Maria M. Beebe.

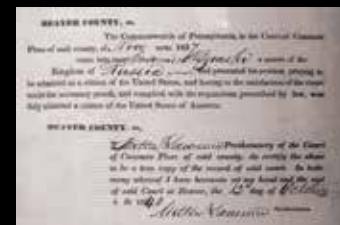
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Curry ReproGraphics



Maria M. Gzowski (1 m)
Photograph Courtesy of the
Gzowski Family.



Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski, 1872 (1)
Photograph Courtesy of the
Gzowski Family.



Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski Papers
of U. S. Citizenship, 12th October,
1840, Photograph courtesy of
Archives of Ontario, Reference
Number F 1044-1-0-3 (B294306).

Gzowski emigrated to British North America in 1842, first taking up residence in London, Canada West (now Ontario). He would spend the next several decades, engaged in canal, railroad and bridge construction. He would be an active participant in the transformation of the physical and spiritual make-up of the Colonies to a Canadian nation state. Gzowski is recognized as a prime individual, who assisted with the development of the transportation network, which was essential for Canadian nationhood.

By 1845, Gzowski and his family were established in Toronto. From the colonial and, later, provincial capital, Gzowski engaged in his engineering pursuits, where he was a participant in the educational, social and political activities of the evolving state of Canada.

THE HALL - THE GZOWSKI FAMILY HOME ON BATHURST STREET, TORONTO



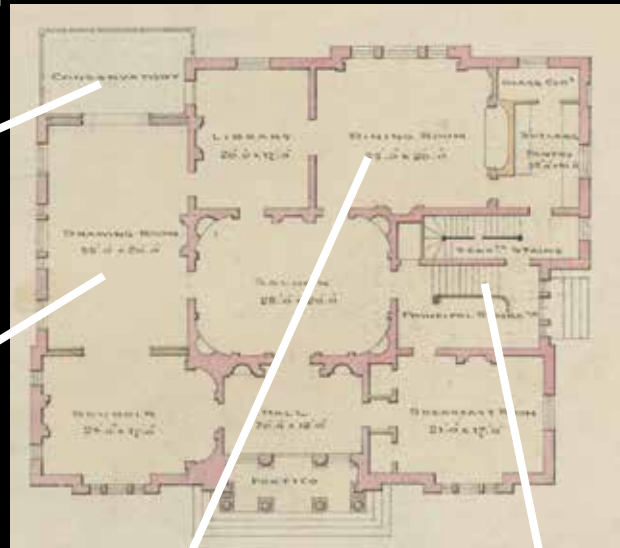
The Hall, front, 1896. Photograph courtesy of Archives of Ontario, Reference Number F1044-3-0-0-10 (B427196).



Alexandra Park, location of the former Gzowski family home on Bathurst Street, Toronto. Photograph by Kristof Filaber.



Conservatory at the Hall, 1897. Photograph courtesy of the Gzowski family.



The Hall plan, ca. 1855. Photograph courtesy of Archives of Ontario, Reference Number F003316 C11-672.



Drawing room at the Hall, 1897. Photograph courtesy of the Gzowski family.



Dining room at the Hall, 1897. Photograph courtesy of the Gzowski family.



Drawing room at the Hall, 1897 (looking into Library). Photograph courtesy of the Gzowski family.



Billiard room at the Hall 1897. Photograph courtesy of the Gzowski family.



Stairway at the Hall, 1897. Photograph courtesy of the Gzowski family.



Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski's candelabra.
 Photograph courtesy of the Gzowski family.



Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski's cup.
 Photograph courtesy of the Gzowski family.



Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski's clock.
 Photograph courtesy of the Gzowski family.



Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski's flag with coat of arms.
 Photograph courtesy of the Gzowski family.

CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING

Gzowski was a major force in the development of railways within the Canadian colonies, with international connections. He assisted in constructing a rail line, which was inaugurated between Montreal and Portland, Maine, in July 1853, with the completion of the St. Lawrence Atlantic Railway. He further worked on additions to this line, so that, by 1857, the railway extended westward, from Montreal to Toronto, to Guelph and finally to Sarnia, which was on the Canadian - American frontier.



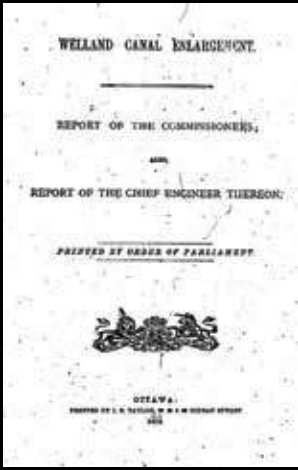
The Grand Trunk Railway, (blue lines) built under the direction of Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski, (from Montreal, St. Hyacinthe, Richmond, Sherbrooke to Island Pond and from Toronto, Guelph, Stratford, London, Sarnia to Detroit). Skelton, Oscar D. *The railway builders. A chronicle of overland builders. Chronicles of Canada.* Edited by George M. Wrong and H. H. Langton, Toronto: Glasgow, Brook & Co., 1916.



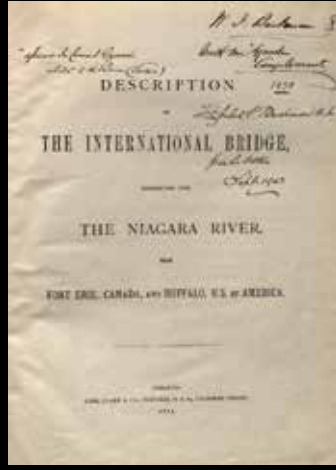
1927 Great Lakes Shipping and Canals. Burpee, Lawrence J., ed. *An historical atlas of Canada.* Toronto: Thomas Nelson and Sons, 1927. p. 25.



1865 Early Communications Eastern Canada. Burpee, Lawrence J., ed. *An historical atlas of Canada.* Toronto: Thomas Nelson and Sons, 1927. p. 25.



Canada. Department of Public Works. *Welland Canal enlargement. Report of the Commissioners, also, report of the chief engineer thereon.* [Ottawa?: s.n.], 1873.



Front page of the Report of the International Bridge from Fort Erie to Buffalo, 1873. Gzowski, C. S. *Description of the International Bridge, constructed over the Niagara River, near Fort Erie, Canada, and Buffalo, U.S. of America.* Toronto: Copp, Clark and Co., 1873. Photograph courtesy of the University of Waterloo Library.



Picture of Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski with description: President Canadian Society Civil Engineers, 1889. C.S. Gzowski Col. A.D.C., President CSCE 1889. Photograph courtesy of Archives of Ontario, Reference Number F1044-3-0-0-9 (B427196)

Gzowski recognized the need to transform engineering into a professionally recognized organization and, in realizing this, in 1887, he was a co-founder of the the Engineering Institute of Canada, with its headquarters in Montreal. Gzowski served as its President from 1889 to 1891.



Niagara Falls, view 1, from Canadian side. Photograph by Kristof Filaber.



Niagara Falls, view 2, from Canadian side. Photograph by Kristof Filaber.

Gzowski was appointed as the first Chairman of the Niagara Falls Park Commission. He worked on the design and layout of the park, and in so doing, worked jointly with the park developer, Frederick Law Olmsted.



Niagara Falls, view 3, from Canadian side. Photograph courtesy of Jerry Barycki.



Niagara Falls, view 4, from Canadian side. Photograph courtesy of Jerry Barycki.

MILITARY AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Gzowski was instrumental in the founding of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association, in 1869. The Association began to compete internationally in marksmanship, at Wimbledon, United Kingdom. International honours followed. In 1879, Gzowski was named Aide-de-Camp to Queen Victoria and, in 1890, he was knighted by the Queen, thus attaining the highest accolades in his adopted country and empire.



Wimbledon Camp. Photograph courtesy of Archives of Ontario, Reference Number F1044-3-0-0-3 (B427196).



Col. Gzowski A.D.C., 1879, in full dress uniform, standing in front of tent. Photograph courtesy of Archives of Ontario, Reference Number F1044-3-0-0-7 (B427196).



Sir Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski. Photograph courtesy of the Gzowski family.



Sir Casimir and Lady Gzowski with Lord and Lady Aberdeen. Photograph courtesy of Archives of Ontario, Reference Number F1044-3-0-0-14 (B427196).



Presenting the Colours. Photograph courtesy of Archives of Ontario, Reference Number F1044-3-0-0-13 (B427196).



Presentation of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association to Sir Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski, March 7, 1884. Photograph courtesy of the Archives of Ontario, Reference Number F1044-4-0-0-1 (B431823).



Cover letter from War Office (London) to S.C. Gzowski accompanying his Commission as Hon. Aide-de-Camp to the Queen – p. 1 and 2. Photograph courtesy of Archives of Ontario, Reference Number F1044-1-0-15 (B294306).



Gzowski's political contributions were realized in 1896 and 1897, when he served as Administrator of the Province of Ontario. In effect, he was fulfilling the duties of the present-day Lieutenant-Governor.



Illustration of Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski. from Dent, John Charles. *The Canadian portrait gallery*. Toronto: J. B. Magurn, 1880-1881.



Commission appointing C.S. Gzowski as Administrator of Govt. of Ontario, 1896. Photograph courtesy of Archives of Ontario, Reference Number F1044-4-0-7 (container F500000).



Ontario Provincial Parliament in Toronto. Photograph by Kristof Filaber.



Ontario Provincial Parliament, 3rd Floor, bust of Sir Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski. Photograph by Kristof Filaber.



Ontario Provincial Parliament, 3rd Floor, busts of distinguished citizens. Photograph by Kristof Filaber.



Monument to the Battle of Ridgeway. Photograph by Kristof Filaber.



Ontario Provincial Parliament in Toronto, stairway. Photograph by Kristof Filaber.



Ontario Provincial Parliament, the Lieutenant Governor's Suite with Sir Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski portrait. Photograph by Kristof Filaber.

SERVICE TO CHURCH AND EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY

Gzowski was a parishioner and Warden of St. James Anglican Cathedral, Toronto.



St. James Anglican Cathedral, Toronto.
Photograph by Kristof Filaber.



Inside St. James Anglican Cathedral,
Toronto.
Photograph by Kristof Filaber.

1864-66 GEORGE DUGGAN AND THOMAS GALT
1866-68 CLARKE GAMBLE AND GEORGE DUGGA
1868-69 G.W.ALLAN AND GEORGE DUGGAN
1869-72 F.H.RUTHERFORD AND CLARKE GAMBLE
1872-81 J.K.KERR AND CLARKE GAMBLE
1881-83 C.S.CZOWSKI AND J.K.KERR
1883-84 W.R.BROCK AND J.K.KERR
1884-90 W.R.BROCK AND O.A.HOWLAND
1890-92 H.J.GRASETT AND O.A.HOWLAND
1892-98 H.J.GRASETT AND R.N.GOOCH
1898-02 JAMES SCOTT AND A.S.IRVING
1902-04 A.S.IRVING AND A.H.CAMPBELL, JR

Commemorative plaque inside St. James
Anglican Cathedral, Toronto.
Photograph by Kristof Filaber.

His active involvement in the church community led him, along with other Anglicans, to found Wycliffe College, in 1878. Gzowski served on the Board of Management. Gzowski also served on the Senate of the University of Toronto, from 1873 to 1893.



Wycliffe College -1, Toronto.
Used by permission of Wycliffe College.
Photograph by Kristof Filaber.



Wycliffe College -2, Toronto.
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Wycliffe College -3, Toronto.
Used by permission of Wycliffe
College. Photograph by Kristof
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Wycliffe College, the Seward Reading Room, Toronto,
with Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski's portrait. Used by
permission of Wycliffe College. Photograph by Kristof
Filaber.



Wycliffe College Chapel, Toronto.
Used by permission of Wycliffe College. Photograph by
Kristof Filaber.



Commemorative plaque
inside Wycliffe College
Chapel, Toronto.
Used by permission
of Wycliffe College.
Photograph by Kristof
Filaber.

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Barycki, Jerry

Consulate General of Poland in Lviv (Ukraine)

Filaber, Kristof

The Gzowski Family

Simpson, Seán Adam

Toronto Public Library

Brian M. Owens



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This exhibition, depicting the enormous achievements of the most famous Canadian of Polish origin, Sir Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski, arose from the initiative of and was coordinated by the Polish-Canadian Business and Professional Association of Windsor, Ontario, in 2013, to mark the two-hundredth anniversary of his birth.

Work on the biography and preparation for the display was conducted by the Archives at the Leddy Library of the University of Windsor, Ontario, and our Association. The Gzowski family kindly made available many documents and photographs of great, historical significance. Many of the recent photographs are the work of Mr. Kristof Filaber and reflect his dedication and attention to detail.

The patron of the exhibition is the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Toronto. The project was funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, the Leddy Library of the University of Windsor and our Association.

We thank all those, involved in the creation of this exhibition and in spreading the word about this famous individual, linking Poland, Canada and Polonia. The exhibition may be borrowed, free of charge, from the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Toronto.

Jerry (Jerzy) Barycki
President
Polish-Canadian Business and
Professional Association of Windsor

Windsor, March 15, 2013

MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS OF THE 2013 EDITION



MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS OF THE 2017 EDITION



The project is co-financed by the Senate of the Republic of Poland within the framework of fulfillment of its support for Polonia and for Polish people abroad.



