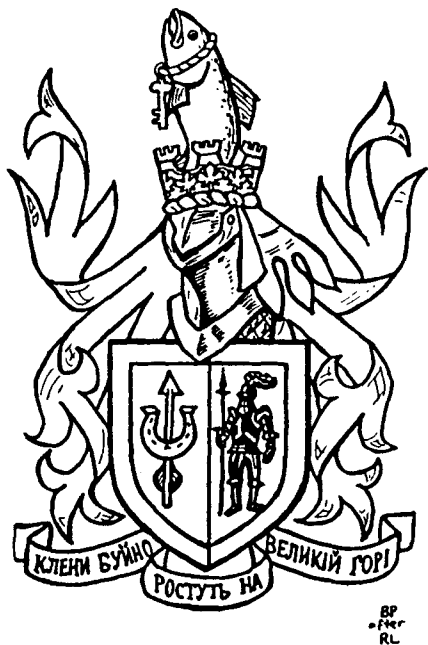


Myroslaw Ivan de Semyhorod-Welyhorskyj



The head of the family was made a Graf (Count) in 1787 by Emperor Franz II of Austria (ruler of the territory of Galicia), and the title was subsequently recognised in Poland, Lithuania, and Russia.

The arms, known as "Nieniwa," were granted to Bazyli Welyhorskyj and family, with "great commendations" by King Jan Sobieski of Poland in the seventeenth century. Colonel Yuriy Welyhorskyj was awarded the title Castellan of Volhynia by this king "for seldom seen valour" in the battle which lifted the Ottoman siege of Vienna in 1683. Succeeding family members would distinguish themselves in the fields of diplomacy, military service, music, and learning. Mykhailo Graf Welyhorskyj (1787-1858), a composer and Lord Chamberlain to the Empress Catherine II, was co-founder of the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow in 1825. He was instrumental, along with others, in buying out the freedom in 1838 for the young artist Taras Shevchenko, who would later be recognised as the greatest Ukrainian poet.

Mr Welyhorskyj, who has recently joined our branch, has kindly sent us documentation on his arms, an excellent example of a Canadian grant based on ancestral European arms. He traces his ancestry back to Prince Alizar Kierdej, a diplomat from the Ukrainian Crimea who helped mediate the borders between Lithuania and Poland in 1358. The Prince settled in the Western Ukraine in a place called Wielhora, which means Great Mountain, and this resulted in the family name Wielhorskiy, which has been altered several times until the present day. The family, while protecting the interests of the Ukrainian people, served in the

The Canadian grant of January 14, 1995 reads *Per pale Gules and Argent dexter an arrow point chiefward surmounted by a horseshoe heels chiefward Or sinister a knight affronty standing in full armour visor closed helmet plumed with three ostrich feathers grasping in the dexter hand a lance point chiefward all Sable embellished Or the whole within a bordure per pale counterchanged, with the crest On a helmet mantled Gules doubled Argent within a wreath of these colours issuant from a coronet rim Or charged with maple leaves Gules heightened with six towers Bleu Celeste three visible a leaping trout Argent speckled Sable its head circled with a cord Bleu Celeste pendant therefrom a key Or*. The motto is in Ukrainian (see illustration), and is translated as MAPLES FLOURISH ON THE GREAT MOUNTAIN, thus linking the armiger's ancestral Wielhora with his life in Canada.

The addition of the bordure indicates that it is a new grant. The crest is also new. It uses the national colours of the Ukraine, and the towers are from the Grzymala arms, the second branch of the Welyhorskyj family. The trout represents the armiger's achievements in natural conservation, with the key symbolic of his career in heritage conservation.

What was described as a Moor on the original arms has been made into a fully armoured knight in black armour, decorated with gold – a Moorish knight could have been so clad, and the dark colour is preserved. Depictions of the original arms show the Moor in silver armour, holding both a lance and a sword. Above the shield in the original arms was a silver, front-facing barred helm embellished in gold, surmounted by either a ducal coronet or a count's coronet (gold with nine long stems bearing silver balls) and three white plumes. The mantling was white and red.

Mr Welyhorskyj received his grant as a result of his efforts researching family history for his children, and he went to considerable effort to collect the necessary documentation from Eastern Europe. He was born in the Western Ukraine and was educated there and in Munich. He came to Canada in 1948 and has been very active in many areas of life in Espanola (near Sudbury), such as game and fish protection, skiing, woodland conservation, the Boy Scouts, hunting safety, sporting activities, Ukrainian heritage, and so forth. In 1990 the Governor General awarded him one of only five national awards for "outstanding contribution to Conservation and Enhancement of recreational fisheries in Canada." Now retired, he worked as a Laboratory Supervisor with the E.B. Eddy Forest Products Ltd. in Espanola, and in the Ukraine was a teacher of Ukrainian Language and Literature.

The original artwork of the grant is by Robert Latourneau.