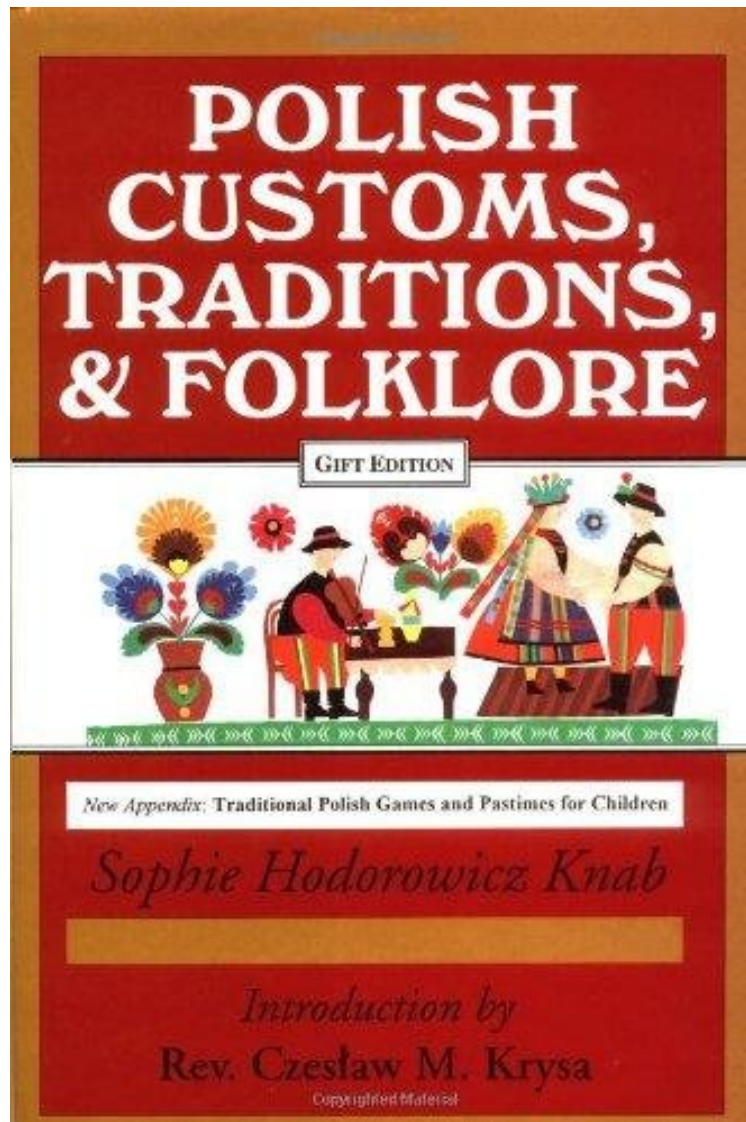


## Polish Customs, Traditions, and Folklore

*Sophie Hodorowicz Knab*

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**Sophie Hodorowicz Knab : Polish Customs, Traditions, and Folklore** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Polish Customs, Traditions, and Folklore:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An excellent resource that brought back to mind many of the ...By Thomas J. Novak An excellent resource that brought back to mind many of the long-lost Polish traditions that my large ethnic maternal family practiced during my early years. I actually bought two copies...one for me and one for my oldest daughter Amanda, because she wanted to begin exploring her Polish roots (from which she gained, among other things, her beautiful looks and her gorgeous red hair!!!). Highly recommended book!!! 7 of 7 people found the

following review helpful. Really informativeBy M L HillA great book for people doing genealogical research on Polish ancestry, or anyone who simply wants to understand Polish culture. This really sheds light on the traditions of Polish people, by connecting those traditions with the cycle of the year. Very readable.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy bobbi cz.Love it. In reading it I relived many memories from my childhood.

Polish Customs, Traditions, Folklore is organized by months beginning with December and Advent, St. Nicholas Day, the Wigilia (Christmas Eve) nativity plays, caroling and then New Year celebrations. It proceeds from the Shrovetide period to Ash Wednesday, Lent, the celebration of spring, Holy Week customs then superstitions, beliefs and rituals associated with farming, Pentecost, Corpus Christi, midsummer celebrations, harvest festivities, wedding rites, nameday celebrations, birth and death rituals. Line illustrations enhance this rich and varied treasury of folklore. Many of the customs and traditions found herein are extinct even in today's Poland. World wars, massive immigration, the loss of the oral tradition, urbanization and politics have changed the face of a once agrarian people and their accompanying life style. In the U.S., the desire for membership within the "melting pot", marriages outside one's ethnic group, movement to the suburbs away from the "old" communities where customs and traditions were once strong, further weakened the link. Although the purpose and meaning may have been lost and forgotten, the oczepiny ceremony (the unveiling) is still the mainstay of almost every wedding where the bride declares Polish heritage. Many Polish American communities still reenact the harvest celebrations, reminding themselves of their ancestors' reverence for the grains and gifts of bread. Eight million Americans still claim their ancestry as Polish, many still diligently practicing that which they learned at their parents' and grandparents' knees.

From the Back CoverPolish Customs, Traditions, Folklore is organized by months beginning with December and Advent, St. Nicholas Day, the Wigilia (Christmas Eve) nativity plays, caroling and then New Year celebrations. It proceeds from the Shrovetide period to Ash Wednesday, Lent, the celebration of spring, Holy Week customs then superstitions, beliefs and rituals associated with farming, Pentecost, Corpus Christi, midsummer celebrations, harvest festivities, wedding rites, nameday celebrations, birth and death rituals. Line illustrations enhance this rich and varied treasury of folklore. Many of the customs and traditions found herein are extinct even in today's Poland. World wars, massive immigration, the loss of the oral tradition, urbanization and politics have changed the face of a once agrarian people and their accompanying life style. In the U.S., the desire for membership within the "melting pot", marriages outside one's ethnic group, movement to the suburbs away from the "old" communities where customs and traditions were once strong, further weakened the link. Although the purpose and meaning may have been lost and forgotten, the oczepiny ceremony (the unveiling) is still the mainstay of almost every wedding where the bride declares Polish heritage. Many Polish American communities still reenact the harvest celebrations, reminding themselves of their ancestors' reverence for the grains and gifts of bread. Eight million Americans still claim their ancestry as Polish, many still diligently practicing that which they learned at their parents' and grandparents' knees. Much has also been neglected or completely forgotten.