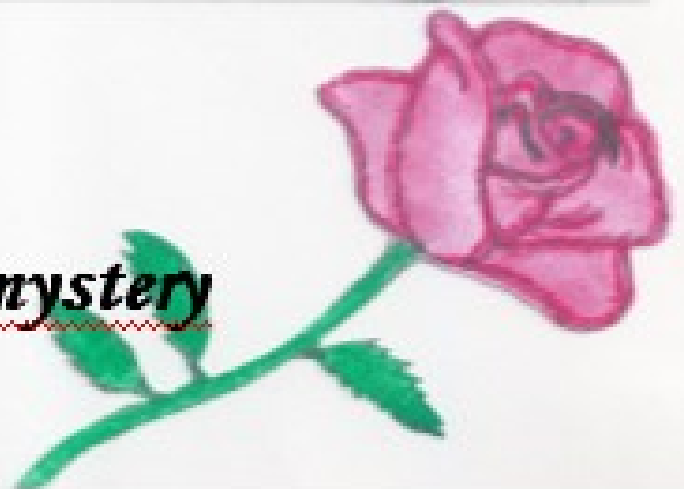




Ema
and an endless mystery



Authors:

The Czech team A:

Daniel Ihracký

Kamila Soudková

Denisa Nguyenová

The Polish team A:

Klaudia Mularonek

Ada Borowik

Maria Dudek

The French team A:

Laurie Schweitzer

Anais Varnier

Caroline Lefebvre

Kimberley Rugani

Clélia Samek

The main characters



<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Augustina.jpg>

Emma is a twelve-year old girl with dark hair; she is thin and short and likes cats. She is fond of her family. She hates darkness and ghost stories. She is clever but quite shy. She lives with her family in a village near the capital of Poland.



Mr. Sharp likes dark clothes, he is 42 years old. He is intelligent, courageous and talkative. He works as a private investigator. He gives the impression of a reliable man. He never speaks about his family and has got only one friend, his name is Mr. Nobody.



Mr. Nobody is in his forties. He is a mysterious man, who knows a lot of secrets.



The hitch-hiker is really a strange and quiet guy.

The French team

It was a really sad day for Ema, one of the worst days of her life. Indeed, it was her loving grandmother's burial. It had rained all day long, the sky was grey and the atmosphere was as gloomy as in a horror movie. Ema was felling nothing but sadness. She had this empty feeling in her chest, the kind of feeling which totally tore you down. But she had to stay strong for her grandma who had made her promise it just before dying. Everything seemed to be so strange and out of time for Ema who had to deal with all those new feelings.

A few days after the burial, she decided to go back on her grandmother's grave but this time alone. She needed it to feel a bit better. But as she entered the cemetery everything became darker and she heard weird sounds coming from nowhere. She turned her face, looked around. There was no one. She was now scared and frozen by all of that. She couldn't control her feelings anymore. She just wanted to leave this cemetery as fast as she could but as she began to run, she noticed a strange light in the distance which caught her attention. She couldn't stop looking at that light, she was just fascinated and followed it unconsciously.

As she came closer, several spirits, ghosts and some kinds of vampires appeared all around her. But Ema, still fascinated by the brightness of that light wasn't even scared anymore. When she finally reached the light, her grandma's spirit appeared right in front of her eyes. She was so astonished and glad to be able to see her grandmother's face one more time but as she made a step to touch her, the old lady disappeared in the dark night telling Ema to run far away. Ema was now alone in the middle of the cemetery surrounded by ghosts and vampires.

She tried to escape them but they kept following her trough the wood. One of the vampires caught her and bit her neck violent. They all suddenly disappeared in the darkness of the night.

The Czech team

Ema was surprised, she looked around, but nobody was there. She could see just grave stones. She felt cold and frightened. So she ran home, in the distance she saw her mother. "Mum! Mum help me!" She started running, but her mum was constantly receding from her. She didn't know, how long she had been running, but she couldn't breathe any more and had to stop. She stopped in the middle of a street, she didn't know where she was, and she was lost in the town. She felt desperate. She wanted to cry, but after a few minutes, she started to think: "Vampires and ghosts don't exist, do they? I have to be dreaming and I will wake up!" Then she touched her neck, her fingers were bloody. "So it wasn't a dream!"

Suddenly a big black car stopped next to her. She looked into the cabin, but nobody was in the car. So she got in, took the keys and stole the car. She was scared; she wanted to drive as far as possible.

When she was driving along the cemetery, she saw a hitch-hiker waving on her. "Should I stop or not? But what if he has some problems, what if he is so scared like me?" She decided quickly and stopped the car! She looked at the hitch-hicker, he was a tall, big native African wearing a long black leather coat. The coat seemed to be from the film Matrix. She watched his face; he was smiling and wearing circle glasses like John Lennon. She decided to trust him. "Hey, can I give you a lift? Get in my car!" She noticed that he was holding a bag. What could possibly be in the bag?! She hesitated and then told him: "Put the bag into the trunk". He did it, got in the car next to her and said:"

The Polish team

"Welcome. I've been waiting for you".

A few days had passed since Ema had disappeared. Everybody was in pain, especially her parents. They had called the police and spoken to all the people in their neighbourhood.

"We can't tell you anything right now. We need more time to gather information. First, please give us her picture and describe her," the policeman said.

"We'll do anything for our beloved daughter!" Her parents were in despair.

"I must find her! The police aren't doing anything! I need to do this by myself!" Ema's father was really frustrated.

"Don't do anything rash!" His wife tried to calm him down. "We need to call a private detective."

"Yes! That's it!" Suddenly his face lit up.

The following day, Ema's parents went to meet a private detective. They presented the problem to him. He asked about the last place Ema had been to, about her appearance and character.

"I need some peace. Please leave me alone and let me work properly," the detective said. He was extremely tall. His face was very unpleasant and rather discouraging. His curly hair was dark and reminded one of a black raven. "It'll be a really interesting case," the detective said. He smiled dangerously.

The Czech team

Emma's parents left the detective's office then. They felt confused and weren't calm at all. When they closed the door behind them, they looked at the small sign fixed at the door and read the words - The private investigators "Horace Walpole Sharp" and "Edgar Allan Sinister".



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MA7VGZLlprY>

The second name was crossed out and under it was written "deceased". Emma's parents looked at each other. Do they trust the right person?! They didn't know, is this man a friend or an enemy?

After the parents left, Mr.Sharp stood up, closed all curtains and lit a red candle. He sat down and looked into the flames. He concentrated, his eyes were almost closed and his face without any expression. In front of his eyes he could see a dark small room with only one narrow window. Perhaps a cellar. The walls of the room were black with red and white graffiti. He could see only shapes of the pictures but wasn't able to read any of the words written on the walls.

There was no furniture in the room, only a paper box under the window. Then he shivered, he noticed something! On the floor laid a body of a teen girl covered with a blanket. He couldn't see if the girl is dead or alive. Now! It seemed to him, that the girl took a deep breath or was it a mistake? And is she dead?

Suddenly somebody or something touched his shoulder and the picture of the room disappeared. He turned round slowly to look at his visitor and then he smiled. He knew very well the person standing in front of him.

"There is a job to be done." he said quietly.

"Yes, I know!" said the second person with an angry voice and then continued "What are we waiting for!?"

"You are right" replied Mr.Sharp. "We can't waste our time!"

He stood up, blew out the candle, put on his coat and set off. They were heading to the centre of Warsaw. At 2 p.m. they were walking along [the street Nowy swiat.](#)

Ema didn't know anything about Mr. Sharp, when she opened her eyes she saw a dark room. She was scared. She couldn't remember what

happened. When she recovered a little bit, she tried to get out from the narrow window but she got stuck. Suddenly a man with covered face entered the room, when he saw Ema, he ran to her and pull her out from the window. He brought an old chair, sat her on it and he tied her. She started to cry. The man looked at her, but said nothing. Then he left. Ema felt awful, she didn't believe that she will return to her parents again. Suddenly she started to remember what happened when the strange hitch-hiker got in her car.

The Polish team

She was driving a car. The hitch-hiker didn't say anything. He was just sitting calmly without any expression on his face. "Why were you waiting for me? What do you mean?" she asked. Then he just smiled mysteriously.

"Okay, just tell me when want me to drop you off".

She drove for about an hour. The sky became darker, the road became empty. Then, suddenly, she saw red lights so she stopped the car immediately.

"You don't need to get out here? It's been a long way," Ema asked.

But the man just sighed and said: "No".

It was a weird feeling. She suddenly felt sleepy and exhausted. The mysterious hitch-hiker had poisoned her by putting a tissue of chemicals onto her face. She found herself just seeing particular pictures of situations. Some man was driving a car. Then some people came and put a bag on her head. Ema listened to words they were saying. The words were difficult to understand but she knew one - Prague. Everything was in a language that she didn't know. Her body was tied with a rope. She was in huge pain.

"She'll be a vampire! I know it! It's a scene from Dracula!" Mr. Sharp was walking around the room and thinking.

"We need to find her before her parents do," said his partner.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TWCEoxTy5A>

"Mr. Nobody, are you insane? We have to help them find the girl!"

"I don't understand. You wanted to kill her, right? So why do you want to help her parents now?"

"If we cooperate with them, we'll find Ema faster. Then we'll kidnap her and tell the police that we don't know what's going on. We'll have an alibi because we helped the parents." Mr. Sharp smiled dangerously.

"You're pretty good at making plans"

The French team

When Ema woke up, it was like a blackout. She remembered that hitch-hiker, but she didn't remember how she got into the cellar. What happened to her? Where was she? She was beyond confused. Why was she tied this way on a chair in the middle of a dark empty cellar which literally scared her? She first tried to break the rope she was tied with but she was way too weak and she couldn't feel her hands anymore. She screamed as loud as she could so the neighbours might hear her, but the house in which she was held was in the middle of nowhere. She was wondering what she was doing here and why she had forgotten everything. But she had to face it. If she wanted to get out of this nightmare, she had to try to escape this room as fast as possible.

She noticed a sharp stone in the corner of the room so she began to rock her chair in order to reach it but as she came closer she heard

footsteps coming from the stairs. She was so frightened; her heart began to beat so loudly when finally she perceived his kidnapper's face. So many flashbacks crossed her mind. She could now remember almost everything. "This man is the hitch-hiker who poisoned me" she thought.

The mysterious man came closer and whispered in Ema's ear: "You can scream as much as you want, nobody will hear you anyway. We're alone here." These words literally upset the teenage girl, who was now in tears.

Ema had been missing for 3 days now. Her parents were so worried, they couldn't sleep at night and they were still wondering if they didn't make a mistake to trust this man called Sharp. He seemed so weird and Ema's mother knew there was something wrong with him. They both decided to go back to the detective's office and tell Mr. Sharp to stop investigating on this case. They will investigate by their own now with the help of the policemen. But Mr. Sharp knew how to get them trust him again. He told them he had found so many clues the past days and he will find their daughter in such a short space of time.

The Czech team

The parents hesitated, they didn't know, what to do. They were now in the Warsaw Old Town. They were going along the main street towards the Royal Castle. When they were passing the St. Anne's Church, they run into a priest. He looked at them and said in a quiet voice: "I feel that you will need my help! Please come into the church and tell me about your sorrow. "

The parents told him everything about Ema and the strange detective. The priest nodded and said: "There was a similar mysterious affair two years ago.

A small boy was missing for more than one week, and then was his body discovered in the park near the Lazienki Palace. I suggest going there and trying to find out if somebody didn't see Ema or anything suspicious in the park or near the palace.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFoN7LL-yx0>

The parents agreed and set off. In an hour they were walking in the narrow paths of the park. They showed Ema's photo to passers-by and asked if they hadn't seen the girl. Unfortunately, they weren't able to find out anything.

It was getting dark, when suddenly the priest noticed something red in a bush. The mother recognized Ema's scarf! Was it possible? Could Ema be hidden somewhere in the park or the palace?

The Polish team

Ema's parents were looking for her all night but they couldn't find anything more. Her mum was in tears and she kept asking people about her daughter but with no success.

"Maybe we need a dog?" she said.

"What dog? What are you saying?" Ema's Dad was puzzled.

"You know. A dog which can sniff out our daughter!"

"Don't say stupid things! It's a really serious situation!" No dogs, for Christ's sake!"

"Oh, maybe we need to call a witch then?"

"Please, don't go insane!" he screamed.

"I just want to do something to find Ema! We must try everything! If the police can't help us, we must do it ourselves!"

"In France, there is a different way to kill vampires." said Mr. Nobody profoundly.

"What could be better than my way of killing?" Mr. Sharp was astonished.

"We take all the caught vampires to [Le Mont Saint Michel](#) and at first we try to restore them into people by ancient rituals. If we can't because they don't want to or something, we need to kill them by a special spell." Mr. Nobody seemed satisfied.

"Really interesting. Well, there may be another way to rescue this teenage girl... Do you know this spell?" Mr. Sharp asked.

"No... Just the monk knows it, but... there's a way to find out!"

The Czech team

"The monk has got a friend in [the Monastery of Jasna Góra in Częstochowa](#)."

"Częstochowa? I have never heard about this place!"

„Haven't you?", Mr. Nobody wondered.

„In Częstochowa there is the third-largest Catholic pilgrimage site in the world! The name of the polish monk we are looking for is Stanisław. He is well known and I am sure when we will find him, we will find the answer how to change vampires to normal people. It is vital to go to Częstochowa."

After a few hours both men in dark coats were sitting in a small room and speaking to the monk Stanislaw. He was a short fatter man with fair hair and calm blue eyes.

"Yes", he said. "My French friend Pierre trusts me and told me about the ancient ritual, that will help the girl. Listen to me carefully!

The ritual is that you put garlic to the mouth of the person who is going to become a vampire. But the garlic is special; this kind of garlic grows only in the monastery garden of my friend Pierre in Le Mont Saint Michel. He takes care of his plants and they have big power to cure.

There is no other choice. You must go to Pierre to France to the monastery and say your story about Ema and he will think it over and will decide. Perhaps he will give you the garlic and a piece of advice.

When Pierre gives you the garlic, you must go to the place where this person who is going to be a vampire is and at midnight you have to put the garlic to his mouth and you have to read a few rows from the Bible. This ritual is very effective but you must do it properly. You have to be very careful. Don't lose any time and fly to France to get the garlic!"

Mr.Nobody nodded, he understood. He thanked the monk. When both men were standing in front of the church, Mr.Nobody thought it over and decided.

"You Mr.Sharp will leave for France and get the garlic and the words we have to read from the Bible. I will return to Warsaw and try to find the girl."

The French team

Ema's parents found a real clue which could help them to find their daughter back. They started to feel more hopeful and confident but they realized they couldn't do it by their own anymore. That would have been a waste of time and they wanted to find their daughter alive. So they decided to get back to the detective office in order to inform Mr. Sharp they had found their daughter's scarf somewhere around Lazienki Palace.

As they got into the room, Ema's mother looked confused. "Where is Mr. Sharp?" she asked Mr. Nobody who was standing by the window.

"He is not here for the moment; he had business to do in France. I can't tell you when he will be back. Do you have news about Ema's affair?"

"I only trust Mr. Sharp" said Ema's mum. "I want to talk to him, no one but him."

She added. "I'm in charge of this case until Mr. Sharp comes back from France. But don't be scared. He didn't let you down. Both of us are currently working on it remotely. So you'd better tell me now what you learnt about Ema. If you want us to find your daughter back, we need your help and especially your trust!" he added smiling strangely.

Ema's father agreed but Ema's mother hesitated two seconds before telling the detective that she thought her daughter was held in the Lazienki Palace as they had found Ema's scarf around this place. The detective wrote down the new piece of information and thanked Ema's parents for their collaboration.

Right afterwards, Ema's parents left the office, Mr. Nobody called his collaborator, Mr. Sharp to tell him he will bring him the teenage girl in a short time.

The following night, Mr. Nobody went to the Lazienki Palace. He knew this place well; it was indeed pretty easy for him to enter the building. As he got into the Palace, he immediately went downstairs to reach the cellar. The atmosphere was so gloomy. He crossed a dark corridor and finally reached one of the rooms of the cellar. He could barely see in the darkness of the room but he managed to notice someone lying on the floor in the distance. He came closer and realized it was a girl.

"Oh my god ! I've found her, I've finally found her!" he thought. He put his right hand on the girl's mouth and injected her some drugs to make her keep silent. Then he carried her and put her in the boot of his car. He

rode all night long through Europe to join Mr. Sharp and the priest in France.

On arriving at the Mont St Michel, Mr. Nobody opened his boot to bring Ema to Mr. Sharp. He hadn't seen the girl's face properly yet. He turned the body, removed the blanket which was hiding her face when suddenly he realized this girl wasn't Ema, it wasn't the girl in the picture, it wasn't Ema! But who was this girl? What had he done? He was so devastated. What will Mr. Sharp say when he realizes he brought the wrong girl?

The Czech team

Mr. Sharp shook with the girl's shoulders and she woke up. She opened her eyes and suddenly she started to scream. Mr. Sharp and Mr. Nobody didn't know what they would do next. The girl spoke Spanish and they stood there with opened mouths totally confused.

Then they went with the girl to a hotel and checked in. They had to call their friend Rafael - a Spanish immigrant. They spoke with him; he was working for a team of journalist as an interpreter in Prague. They made an interview with the new president about [crown jewels](#).

On the second day Rafael arrived from the Czech Republic and jointed them in the hotel. He talked to the Spanish girl and translated her words to Mr.Sharp and Nobody. She told them her story how she got into the Lazienki Palace. Rafael said them that her name is Olivia. Actually her story was very similar to Ema's story; somebody kidnapped her when she went from a cemetery.

Mr. Sharp looked at her neck, no, she wasn't a vampire. He was surprised about appearance of the girl and he wanted to find real Ema. The interpreter Rafael told Olivia Ema's story and he described how Ema looks like. Olivia said that she knew her. Both girls were closed in the same house

but in the different rooms and the day before yesterday a man took Ema on another place and closed Olivia in the cellar instead of her.

Mr. Nobody was thinking, yes, they are near. The kidnapper knew that they had information about Ema and where she was. Mr. Nobody nodded thoughtfully. The kidnapper seems to be clever; he wanted the detectives to think that they found Ema. But where is Ema?!

The Polish team

At first Mr. Sharp talked to the French monk. He needed garlic. He told him everything he knew. The monk understood and gave him the garlic. It was the only way to change Ema back.

Mr. Nobody was thinking all night. There was nothing which was logical in the story. He started to write down everything that had happened. He was really exhausted but he worked as hard as he could. Suddenly he found a solution.

"Look, where can she be?" Mr. Nobody was really excited.

"I don't know. Maybe in the Czech Republic? Slovakia? I don't have any ideas." Mr. Sharp sighed.

"They knew we'd look for her in Lazienki. They knew we'd found Olivia, but they didn't know that I'd crack this riddle."

"What are you talking about right now? I really don't understand you!"

"She can be in just one place. Here in Mont St. Michel!"

Yes! That was the solution. Finally everything was logical and easy. The two men stood up and quickly ran to the main building. They were really excited. They could finally help the poor girl.

Mr. Sharp and Mr. Nobody carefully entered the building. It was a dark place. It seemed to be abandoned, but something was wrong. Suddenly another man came from the darkness. He was smiling and carrying the knife in his hand.

"Mr. Nobody, you know what to do," said Mr. Sharp.

"Of course," he laughed.

In front of everyone was the flash of a gun. Mr. Nobody was really fast. He shot the strange man who started to scream and cry.

"Good job," said Mr. Sharp "We need to find the girl."

"Quick! In a few minutes it'll be midnight! We need to find her quickly!" Mr. Nobody was anxious.

They searched and opened all the doors and screamed Ema's name. Just as they were losing all hope, they heard the low voice of a girl.

"Help!" they heard.

"It's Ema!" Mr. Sharp started to run towards the voice. They found a strange door. It was really huge. The detectives tried to open it and finally succeeded!

The little, weak girl was sitting there. Her hands were tied with a rope.

"Give me the garlic!" Mr. Sharp shouted.

When he got it, he carefully started to move towards the girl. She didn't want to do anything bad to him. He opened her mouth and put the garlic in. Mr. Nobody started to read a passage from the Bible.

Something strange happened. The girl started to scream and bend. After 15 minutes she finally opened her eyes and said:

"I'm safe. Thank you." Then she fainted.

T * H * E E * N * D

Glossary

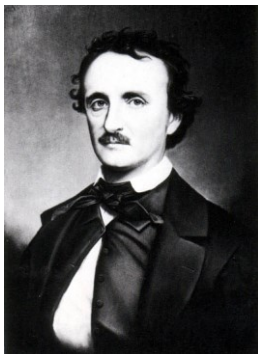
1. Horace Walpole,



(24 September 1717 – 2 March 1797) was an English art historian, antiquarian and Whig politician. He is now remembered for Strawberry Hill, the home he built in Twickenham, southwest London where he revived the Gothic style some decades before his Victorian successors, and for his Gothic novel, *The Castle of Otranto*.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horace_Walpole

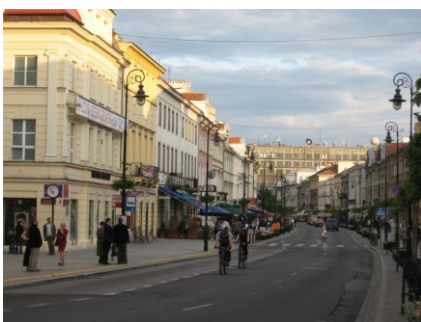
2. Edgar Allan Poe



(January 19, 1809 – October 7, 1849) was an American author, poet, editor, and literary critic, considered part of the American Romantic Movement. Best known for his „Tales of mystery and the macabre“, Poe is generally considered the inventor of the detective fiction genre. Poe's literary career began in 1827 with the release of 50 copies of *Tamerlane and Other Poems*. One of his most important works, "The Murders in the Rue Morgue", was published in 1841 and is today considered the first modern detective story ". Poe became a household name with the publication of "The Raven" in 1845. He died at age 40 in Baltimore.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edgar_Allan_Poe

3. The Nowy Świat Street



is one of the most popular streets in Warsaw for shopping, eating out and enjoying a few drinks. The Street Nowy Świat forms a part of the Royal Route running from the Royal Castle and Old Town to King Jan III Sobieski's royal residence at Wilanów.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nowy_%C5%9Awiat_Street

4. Dracula



is an 1897 Gothic horror novel by Irish author Bram Stoker.

Famous for introducing the character of the vampire Count Dracula, the novel tells the story of Dracula's attempt to move from Transylvania to England, and the battle between Dracula and a small group of men and women led by Professor Abraham Van Helsing. Dracula has been assigned to many literary genres including vampire literature, horror fiction, the gothic novel and invasion literature.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dracula>

5. The Royal Castle in Warsaw



is a castle residency and was the official residence of the Polish monarchs. It is located in the Castle Square, at the entrance to the Warsaw Old Town. The personal offices of the king and the administrative offices of the Royal Court of Poland were

located there from the 16th century until the Partitions of Poland. The Constitution of 3 May 1791 was drafted here by the Four-Year Sejm. In the 19th century, after the collapse of the November Uprising, it was used as an administrative centre by the Tsar. Between 1926 and World War II the palace was the seat of the Polish president, Ignacy Mościcki. After the devastation done by Nazis during the Warsaw Uprising, the Castle was rebuilt and reconstructed. In 1980, Royal Castle, together with the Old Town was registry in UNESCO World Heritage Site.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Castle,_Warsaw

6. St. Anne's church in Warsaw



is a church in the historic centre of Warsaw, Poland, adjacent to the Castle Square, at Krakowskie Przedmieście 68. It is one of Poland's most notable churches with a neoclassical facade. The church ranks among Warsaw's oldest buildings. Over time, it has seen many reconstructions, resulting in its present-day appearance, unchanged since 1788.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Anne%27s_Church,_Warsaw

7. The Łazienki Palace



is also called the Palace on the Water, or Water Palace. Its building began as a bathhouse for Stanisław Herakliusz Lubomirski, owner of adjacent Ujazdów Castle. The marble building was constructed before 1683 according to design by Tylman Gamerski. Finished in 1689, it was intended to serve as a bathhouse, habitable pavilion and a garden grotto. Interiors of the newly built structure were embellished with profuse stucco decorations, also designed by Gamerski. Among the decorations were water

deities (like Nereus), surrounding the main decorative feature of the pavilion – the fountain.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%81azienki_Palace

8. Mont Saint Michel



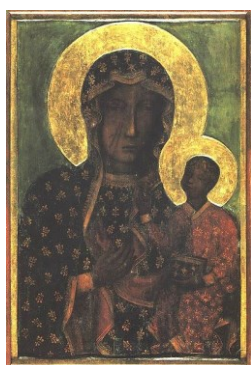
is a rocky tidal island 247 acres (100 ha) in size, and is a commune in Normandy, France. The island has held strategic fortifications since ancient times, and since the eighth century AD has been the seat of the monastery from which it draws its name. The structural composition of the town exemplifies the feudal society that constructed it. On top there is the God, the abbey and monastery, below this the Great halls, then stores and housing, and at the bottom, outside the

walls, fishermen and farmers housing.

One of France's most recognisable landmarks, Mont Saint-Michel and its bay are part of the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites and more than 3 million people visit it each year.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mont_Saint-Michel

9. The Jasna Góra Monastery



in Częstochowa, Poland is the most famous shrine to the Virgin Mary in Poland and the country's greatest place of pilgrimage – for many its spiritual capital. The image of Black Madonna of Częstochowa, to which miraculous powers are attributed, is Jasna Góra's most precious treasure.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jasna_G%C3%B3ra_Monastery

10. The Czech crown jewels



include the Crown of Saint Wenceslas (Svatováclavská koruna), the royal orb and sceptre, the coronation vestments of the kings of Bohemia, the gold reliquary cross, and St. Wenceslas' sword. They were originally held in Prague and Karlštejn Castle, designed in the 14th century by Matthias of Arras. Since 1791 they have been stored in St. Vitus Cathedral at Prague Castle. Reproductions of the jewels are permanently exhibited in the historical exposition at the former royal palace in the castle. The crown was made for the coronation of Charles IV in 1347, making it the fourth oldest in Europe.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bohemian_Crown_Jewels