

Report June 2011

ANNUAL REPORT OF PIASA'S PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada

June 2010- June 2011

INTRODUCTION

The major issue and concern faced by PIASA's Board of Directors during this past year was to select a new PIASA leadership, since I had made it clear in 2008 that I would not accept the Presidency and the Executive Directorship once my term of office expires at the end of June 2011. My main objective during this past year was to help arrange for a smooth and responsible transition to assure the Institute's future. I believe that this was accomplished. In June 2009 I appointed a transition committee chaired by Vice President Susanne S. Lotarski charged with the task of finding a suitable candidate for the key position of Executive Director. After nearly two years of searching the committee recommended Dr. Bozena Leven, Professor of Economics, at the College of New Jersey who was elected Executive Director for a term of three years effective June 30, 2011. She will be receiving a modest monthly stipend plus reimbursement of travel expenses. I have had several briefing meetings with her at the Institute and I have confidence that she will administer the Institute competently and will focus on two top priorities recruitment of new members and fund raising.

A separate Nominations committee was appointed chaired by Dr. Paul Knoll that had the task of nominating a candidate for the position of President and candidates for four positions on the Board of Directors. The nominations were submitted to the regular membership and the following were elected by mail ballot on June 11, 2011 for a term of three years: President, Dr. M.B.B. Biskupski, Central Connecticut State University; Members of the Board of Directors, Dr. Patrice Dabrowski, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Dr. Richard J. Hunter, Seton Hall University, Dr. Jan Napoleon Saykiewicz, Duquesne University and Dr. Teresa Wojcik, Villanova University. At its meeting on June the Board co-opted Dr. Bozena Leven to the PIASA Board of Directors for a three year term. In addition, the Board elected the following to PIASA's Advisory Council to fill five openings for a term of three years: Zbigniew Kantorosinski, Library of Congress, Dr. Zofia Doktorowicz-Klopotowska, Editor of Kurier Plus, Rev. Dr. John T. Pawlikowski, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, Thaddeus Sendzimir, T. Sendzimir, Inc. and Henry Walentowicz, Esq. My congratulations to all of the above!

Janina Gromada Kedron, Deputy Executive Director, has also decided to retire effective June 30, 2011. Since 1987 she has been my closest partner. Her services to PIASA during this period have been "above and beyond the call of duty" and she deserves the highest recognition and gratitude.

FINANCIAL POSITION OF PIASA

The Financial Statements for the year that ended on December 31, 2010 prepared by Sadowski and Associates, Certified Public Accountants in Clifton N.J. that were distributed at the Business Meeting of the 69th Annual Meeting on June 10, 2011, ended on a positive note in spite of the continued dismal economic situation in our country. SUPPORT AND REVENUE amounted to \$206,852; EXPENSES \$144,472; with an EXCESS REVENUE of \$62,380 before depreciation and with depreciation of \$18,371, EXCESS REVENUE of \$44,009. This positive picture was made possible by two factors; a \$50,000. Bequest from the Estate of Halina Krzeminski in New Jersey received in December 2010 and the incredibly low expenses of only \$144,000.. A lot of penny pinching was done and PIASA received pro bono services from the Deputy Executive Director and Executive Director and volunteers which in effect subsidized the Institute. Our modest portfolio with UBS had a value of \$465,719 at the end of 2010. Our total unrestricted assets which includes the building amounted to \$1,598,181. However, the market value of our townhouse is closer to \$3 million. The 2011 budget (based on the calendar year) is projected at \$188,000. Public Support and Revenue, while Expenses are projected at \$191,000. Thus a small deficit is expected. There is no doubt that the Institute will need stronger support from its members, friends and other constituents. Very encouraging has been a recent grant of \$8,531.23 (23,100 PLN) which we received in June 2011 from the Semper Polonia Foundation in Warsaw for the support of our academic journal, "The Polish Review". This is the second time that we received financial support from the Semper Polonia Foundation. Earlier in 2010 we received almost \$15,000. for the support of our library. Also, the Institute is remembered every so often by its members in their wills. New creative fund raisers are needed to help PIASA fulfill its mission

PIASA'S WEBSITE

Since PIASA's website www.piasa.org needed to be redesigned and upgraded we hired Marcin Witruszynski CEO of CinDesign of Ellington, CT to do the job. It took almost three months to get this accomplished with my active cooperation. The project was finished on March 29, 2011 and now the website is not only much more attractive but now includes credit card payment capability via PayPal for such items as membership dues, subscriptions, purchase of books, registrations fees, etc. This was done at a cost of \$6,850. Members and friends are invited to visit the website frequently. To further improve our communication capability, we have arranged through "Constant Contact" a mass e mail delivery system, to send important announcements directly to members and friends. It is important to get as many e mail addresses possible for this swift instant communication.

CHANGE OF INSURANCE PROVIDERS

In order to get a better price and better service for the same insurance protection, the Institute now has "The commercial Package and Worker's Compensation " insurance with The Hartford Insurance Company (RBL Associates of 205 Lexington Ave. New York

City are the producers) at a cost of \$7,095 per annum. The cost with the Tower Group was \$8721. In addition the Institute as of March 30, 2011 provides "Directors and Officers Liability Policy" at an annual cost of \$956.

PIASA'S LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Our Library and particularly our Archives continue to attract researchers not only from this country but also from Europe particularly from Poland. Thus PIASA maintains itself a center for research on Poland and Polish America in New York, the capital city of the world. The Library suffered a great loss with the death of our long time librarian, Krystyna Baron in late summer 2010. Fortunately, a new librarian, Anna Ciepiela Ioannides, was hired in January 2011 on a part time basis. She has just completed a Master's program in Library Science at Queens College CUNY. We are pleased with the progress that is being made by the new librarian. The main task is to finish the electronic cataloging of the library collection via the MAK (Biblioteka Narodowa system) and enable remote access to the collection. The librarian is in constant contact with the Biblioteka Narodowa in Warsaw through Skype and e mail. New acquisitions of books were received from university, academic publishers in Poland also from IPN (Instytut Pamieci Narodowej). A generous gift of books, brochures, etc. (131 items) were received from Rebecca Kaufman, widow of the prominent New York Times journalist, Michael T. Kaufman. On May 9, 2011 Dr. Tomasz Makowski, Director of the Biblioteka Narodowa in Warsaw visited the Institute's library and met with President Gromada and the librarian Anna Ciepiela. They discussed further mutually beneficial cooperation especially the renewal of the PIASA Visiting Librarian Program which was discontinued a few years ago for the lack of scholarship funds.

Once again PIASA was fortunate to have the services of a Visiting Research Archivist from Poland between October 2010 to April 5, 2011. Bartosz Nowozycki, archivist from the Archiwum Akt Nowych in Warsaw has done a splendid job in our archives. He not only organized newly acquired collections and those that needed closer attention but he also helped visiting scholars and students with their research. Among the scholars from Poland who did important research in our archives was Prof. Rafal Stobieki, University of Lodz (Polish Historiography in the U.S.) and Prof. Malgorzata Dabrowska, University of Lodz (Oskar Halecki). All the work that has been done by Polish archivists in PIASA's Archives can be found on the data base SEZAM of the NDAP (Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwow Panstowych). You can find this information on www.piasa.org. President Gromada has already made arrangements for the next Visiting Research Archivist, Dorota Kotowicz, from NDAP in Warsaw who is scheduled to arrive in early October 2011 for a five months. This Visiting Archivist program has been made possible by grants from the Kosciuszko Foundation and cooperation with the NDAP who nominates candidates. Unfortunately, Dr. Slawomir Radon, our good friend who was Director General of the NDAP died early in 2011; his successor Dr. Andrzej Biernat has indicated his readiness to continue close collaboration with PIASA. Dr. Bozena Leven, Executive Director-elect has met with Dr. Biernat in Warsaw on April 12, 2011 to assure the continuance of this important program.

PIASA PUBLICATIONS; THE POLISH REVIEW AND PIASA BOOKS

Dr. Charles Kraszewski, Kings College, PA, was re-elected Editor-in-chief of “The Polish Review” by the Board of Directors on December 10, 2010 for a term of three years while Dr. Paul Milliman, University of Arizona, was elected Book Review Editor for the same period. The Pilsudski issue Vol. LVI 2011 no.1-2 was guest edited by Dr. Patrice Dabrowski, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. The Polish Review continues to have the highest priority; its success is vital to PIASA. The Review has an electronic presence on Amazon.com and is available for download at Amazon.com Kindle store. Recently the Review has entered into a formal agreement with the JSTOR data base of scholarly journals. The “anthology” of humanities journal with which The Polish Review will be associated at the JSTOR site is due in 2013 at the latest. At that point scholars around the world will have immediate access to all texts published in the The Polish Review from 1956 to the present.

Dr. Kathleen Cioffi, an editor at the Princeton University Press, continues to serve as Series Editor of PIASA BOOKS, the publishing arm of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America. In December 2010 PIASA BOOKS released its latest book, ***A Polish Book of Monsters: Five Dark Tales from Contemporary Poland***, edited and translated by Michael Kandel. Books currently being considered for publication are ***New Perspectives on Polish Culture: Personal Encounters, Public Affairs***, edited by Tamara Trojanowska, Artur Placzekiewicz, Agnieszka Polakowska and Olga Ponichtera, all affiliated with the Slavic Department at the University of Toronto and ***Higher Education in Poland: Perspectives, Opportunities, New Ideas***, edited by Zbigniew Kruszewski. The latter book contains essays written by faculty members at the Pawel Wlodkowic University College at Plock.

CONTACTS WITH POLAND

Our contacts with Polish authorities in the United States are both cordial and fruitful especially with the Consul General in New York, Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka and Professor Marek Konarzewski, Minister Counselor for Science and Technology, at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland. In my meeting with Consul General Junczyk-Ziomecka in October 2010 we discussed cooperation on joint projects like a Conference celebrating the 100th anniversary of Marie Sklodowska-Curie’s Nobel Prize in Chemistry received in 1911. The projected conference would also focus on “Great Polish Women” in various fields. It is being planned for the fall of 2011. Prof. Marek Konarzewski cooperated very closely with the organizers of PIASA’s 69th Annual Meeting held on June 10-11, 2011 in Arlington, VA. He was the person who arranged a Reception at the Polish Embassy in Washington, DC for PIASA members who participated in the Annual Meeting. But in addition Konarzewski took part in the sessions as well as his embassy colleague, Minister Grzegorz Kozlowski. Charge d’affaires Maciej Pisarski spoke during the banquet.

The Polish Institute is always delighted to welcome visitors from Poland who come to do research or simply to make courtesy stops. Among those who came to the Institute this

past academic year included : Dr. Tomasz Makowski, Director of the Biblioteka Narodowa, Prof. Rafal Stobiecki, University of Lodz, Prof. Malgorzata Dabrowksa, University of Lodz, Dr. Robert Kostro, Director of Muzeum Historii Polskiej, Warsaw, Joanna Long, Muzeum Powstania Warszawskiego, Warsaw, Dr. Agata Hrebenda, Biblioteka Narodowa, Acquisitions; Dr. Agata Dawidowicz and Dr. Malgorzata Tuskowska, IPN (Instytut Pamieci Narodowej) Warsaw; Witold Sygocki, Centre for Scientific Information and Documentation, Warsaw; Cesary Lusinski, Minister-Counselor, Permanent Mission of Poland, Switzerland; Dr. Piotr Dlugolecki, Polish Institute of International Affairs, etc.

As indicated above PIASA is actively cooperating with NDAP (Naczelną Dyrekcję Archiwów Państwowych) and the Biblioteka Narodowa. In 2010 Poland's National Library published a booklet listing Polish museums, archives, and libraries in the "West" in which two pages are devoted to our Institute with photos and text provided by me. Contacts are continued with PAU (Polska Akademia Umiejętności) in Krakow our parent organization as well as with PAN (Polska Akademia Nauk) and the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. Special note should be made about our close contacts with the Semper Polonia Foundation, in Warsaw led by its President, Marek Hauszyl, which have resulted in grants supporting our library and our journal "The Polish Review" this year.

The Polish Institute gave Poland's foreign Ministry (MSZ) permission to reprint essays from our books on Polish Émigré Political and Social Thought, in an anthology ***Toward a United Europe: An Anthology of 20th Century Thought on Europe***, funded by the European Union. A two day conference devoted to Oskar Halecki, first Executive Director of PIASA, was held at the University of Lodz on November 19-20, 2010. Since I was unable to attend in person, I prepared a paper "Oskar Halecki, Moj Mistrz" (Oskar Halecki, My Great Mentor) which was read by Prof. Rafal Stobiecki. A second Halecki conference is scheduled in November 2011. In November 2010 a photographic exhibit by Czeslaw Czaplinski "***Polacy w Ameryce- 400 Lat***" opened at the Museum of Polish Diaspora at the Lazienki Palace in Warsaw. Among the 100 photos on exhibit were photos of Professors Feliks Gross and Thaddeus V. Gromada. In February 2011 on the invitation of Consul General Junczyk-Ziomecka I served on a jury to select "Wybitny Polak w Ameryce –Kultura, Nauka, Biznes Osobowosc, Mlody Polak" in a contest sponsored by the Polish Consulate General in New York with the "Fundacja Polskiego Godla Promocyjnego".

CONTACTS AND COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Our Institute has always been interested in contacts and cooperation with organizations and groups in America who are interested in advancing knowledge about Poland's intellectual and cultural heritage. A special relationship has always existed between PIASA and the Kosciuszko Foundation that started in 1942 with Oskar Halecki, first Director of our Institute and Stefan Mierzwa (Mizwa) founder and Executive Director of the Foundation. It is my hope that this close and cordial relationship will continue with the new leadership at PIASA and the new President of the Kosciuszko Foundation, Alex Storozynski. PIASA is particularly grateful to the Foundation for providing a scholarship

which makes possible the "Visiting Research Archivist" program . Hopefully, we will be able to get support to renew the "Visiting Research Librarian" program and cooperate more closely on joint projects to our mutual benefit. The Institute is very grateful for the generous support received from the Polish Veterans Association Circle 2 (SWAP) in New York led by Commander Antoni Chroscielewski. This organization has already provided substantial funds for the publications of two issues of "The Polish Review". This should be an example to other Polonia organizations that have the funds and are interested in improving the Polish image in America. It has been encouraging to receive this year \$2,500 from Frank Spula, President of the Polish National Alliance in Chicago, for a "PIASA Affiliate Membership". Polonia Technica which this year celebrated its 70th anniversary, maintains its headquarters in PIASA's townhouse . I was pleased to serve on the honorary committee of Polonia Technica's 70th Anniversary Celebration held on May 13-15, 2011 at the Polish Consulate General as well as on the Honorary Committee of the Polish Assistance, Inc. (Bratnia Pomoc) "Bal Polonaise" held on February 26, 2011 at Hotel Plaza in New York.

PIASA continues to be associated with the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (formerly known as American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies –AAASS) as an Institutional Member now based at the University of Pittsburgh. This is a major professional organization that PIASA has been connected with since 1972. The 42nd National Convention of the ASEES was held in Los Angeles, on November 19-21, 2010 ; during that convention PIASA co-sponsored with the Shevchenko Society a session on "Ukrainian-Polish Relations During World War II". Prof. Piotr Wrobel, University of Toronto, and Dr. Wojciech Zalewski, Stanford University represented PIASA at this session. Dr. M.B.B. Biskupski chaired PIASA's informational meeting on November 18.

I was pleased to establish contact with the newly organized Hungarian Scientific Society of New York, which organized its first conference on "Hungarian Scientists in the U.S. : Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" at Columbia University on April 25, 2011. As President of PIASA I sent a note with best wishes and congratulations to Professor Janos Bergou, President of the Society , who read it at the opening of the conference. My proposal for close cooperation on joint projects, was accepted with enthusiasm.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND 69th ANNUAL MEETING

During the course of the academic year the following events took place at the Institute:
September 10, 2010- Lecture "Polish Historiography in the United States" by Professor Rafal Stobiecki, University of Lodz. (Introduction Prof. Thaddeus V. Gromada)

October 8, 2010- All Chopin Recital on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Chopin's birth – Yoon Jung Han, pianist held at the National Arts Club in New York.

November 5, 2010- Opening of Janusz Skowron's Exhibit of Miniatures- Paintings and Graphic Arts with music by Krzysztof Medina. Exhibit ran to November 23.

November 12, 2010- Lecture "Polish Biology and the Cold War" by Willian de Jong-Lambert, Bronx Community College, CUNY. (Introduction Dr. Hanna Kelker).

December 4, 2010- Christmas Bazaar (Books, paintings and more.)

April 8, 2011- "Two Person Show of Tapestry, Textile, and Book Arts" by Susan Martin Maffel and Bojana Leznicki.

May 13, 2011- "Faces" Sculpture Exhibit by Lubomir Tomaszewski.

June 10-11, 2011- PIASA's 69th Annual Meeting held at Hyatt Arlington Hotel, in Arlington, Virginia in cooperation of George Washington University's Institute for European, Russian and East European Studies. Intensive work on the preparations for this meeting began in the late fall of 2010. The Conference Chairman, Dr. M.B.B. Biskupski, was assisted by his committee composed of Dr. Paul Knoll, Dr. Hanna Kelker, Dr. Bozena Leven and Leonard Baldyga. Dr. Susanne S. Lotarski was the chair of the Local Arrangements Committee. President Gromada and Deputy Executive Director assisted the committees in every way possible to assure a successful conference. A handsome Souvenir Program Journal was edited and published by Deputy Janina Kedron and staff member Mariusz Bargielski. The entire program will be published separately. The 69th Annual Meeting was undoubtedly one of our most successful meetings. There were twenty sessions in various disciplines: history, economics, politics, literature, music, history of science, etc. with over 200 participants in attendance. They came from seventeen states from New York to California and from Canada, Poland, Germany and the Netherlands. The Banquet speakers included Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, former National Security Advisor, and Counselor and Trustee of the Center for Strategic and International Studies who made the Keynote address and Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada who gave his farewell address. Congratulations are in order for all who contributed to the success of the Annual Meeting

CONCLUSION

This is the last Annual Report that I will be writing, since on June 30, 2011 I will be stepping down as Executive Director. I have already stepped down officially as President on June 12, 2011. After serving as Secretary General from 1971 to 1988, Vice President from 1988 to 2008, Executive Director from 1991 to 2011, and President from 2008 to 2011, I decided it was time for me to leave. As I said in my farewell remarks on June 11, "I leave the Polish Institute with a feeling of reverence that I experienced when I first became a member in 1961, that venerable institution in the service of knowledge and science "w sluzbie nauki". I thank all of you who have given me and PIASA your support. I urge you to give your full support to the incoming President Dr. M.B.B. Biskupski and the incoming Executive Director, Dr. Bozena Leven.

Respectfully submitted,

Thaddeus V. Gromada June 18, 2011