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The Activity of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in 1942–1989

1. ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITY OF THE PIASA IN 1942–1945

1.1. Establishment of the PIASA

In 1941, Professor Rafał Taubenschlag, one of the members of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAS) in Cracow who were in exile, presented to the Interior Ministry of the Polish Government in Exile a project to establish an AAS branch in exile. This branch under the auspices of the London government, was to be an autonomous cultural and scientific institution that would provide a “bridge” between Polish and American science.¹ The assumption for this project was that the AAS branch would coordinate scientific research conducted by Poles residing in the USA. It was also assumed that it would become the largest publishing center, archive, and library that will enable Polish scientific research during and after the war.²

¹ “The Origin and Work of the Organizing Committee,” *Bulletin of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America* (hereinafter: *PIASA Bulletin*) 1942, no. 1, pp. 9–11.

² *Polski Instytut Naukowy w Ameryce* [Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America], ed. S. Flis, Warsaw 2004, pp. 12–13; *50th Anniversary 1942–1992*, New York 1992, pp. 24–25.

In late 1941, the Organizing Committee, consisting of Oskar Halecki, Jan Kucharzewski, Waław Lednicki, Bronisław Malinowski, Wojciech Świątochowski, and Rafal Taubenschlag, with the cooperation of the Kościuszko Foundation, began preparations for the establishment of a Scientific Institute that would be a continuation of the AAS. Efforts were then made to reach out to the American scientific world, enlist the support of Polish diaspora organizations, prepare the legal basis for the Institute, and raise the money necessary for its activities.³ The aforementioned Polish scholars in exile felt a moral obligation to join efforts to preserve Polish science and culture, so viciously destroyed by the occupiers.⁴

In 1942, the Polish government in exile approved the Institute's by-laws and allocated subsidies for its activities.⁵ Bronisław Malinowski was nominated as the president, and a twenty-six-member Council of the Institute was appointed.⁶ On May 1, 1942, the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America (PIASA) was registered, also thanks to the intercession of the Polish government in exile, as a non-profit, scientific, and non-political association operating in the territory of the United States, with its headquarters in New York.⁷ The Institute had its headquarters in a Manhattan townhouse at 37 36th Street.⁸

The by-laws of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America (an autonomous branch of the AAS) specified that the role of the Institute was to sustain, develop, and promote Polish science and culture in the United States. The PIASA was intended as a platform for cooperation and mutual exchange between the Polish and American societies. According to its by-laws, the Institute was an independent research center supporting Polish

³ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folders 142–146; T. Gromada, "Rola i działalność PINu podczas Zimnej Wojny" [The role and activity of the PIASA during the Cold War], typescript, no data and page numbers; and correspondence on the establishment of the PIASA.

⁴ S. Strzetelski, *The Polish Institute of Arts*, p. 4; *50th Anniversary 1942–1992*, pp. 24–25.

⁵ Ibidem, *The Polish Institute of Arts*, p. 6; *50th Anniversary 1942–1992*, p. 24.

⁶ *Polski Instytut Naukowy w Ameryce* [Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America], p. 14; D. S. Wandycz, *Polski Instytut Naukowy w Ameryce: w trzydziestą rocznicę: 1942–1972* [Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America: on the thirtieth anniversary: 1942–1972], New York 1974, pp. 15–16.

⁷ S. Strzetelski, *The Polish Institute of Arts*, p. 5.

⁸ *The Origin and Work of the Organizing Committee*, p. 11.

researchers, scientists, and cultural creators. The headquarters of the Institute was New York, and the area of its activities was the entire United States of America.⁹ The PIASA was to achieve its goals by:

- organizing lectures, conferences, and readings;
- creating a research center in the form of an archive and a library;¹⁰
and
- conducting publishing activities.¹¹

The management of the Institute was carried out by the Council (officially with the Polish Ambassador in Washington) and a president chosen from among its members. The Institute's Board of Directors, on the other hand, consisted of a director and his deputy, as well as the heads of each section. The Institute's Council oversaw its statutory activities and budget, and its powers included approval of the Board of Directors' reports. The Board of Directors directed the work of the Institute and its sections (historical and political research, legal research, and economic and social problems sections), and prepared the budget.

The director of the Institute managed the archive, the library, and the popularization and publishing activities.¹² Once a year, conventions of the PIASA members were to be held to approve the reports of the Council, the Board of Directors, and the Audit Committee.

In subsequent years, with the development of the Institute, changes were made to its by-laws, the most important of which took place in 1965–

⁹ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folders 145, "Projekt Statutu Polskiego Instytutu Naukowego w Stanach Zjednoczonych" [Draft by-laws of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America].

¹⁰ The establishment of a library and archive at the Institute made it possible to gather a valuable book collection and archival materials. Numerous books and documents were preserved in this way; *Polski Instytut Naukowy w Ameryce* [Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America], p. 25.

¹¹ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folders 5, "Statute of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America."

¹² The Council members and the director, along with the deputy director, were elected by all members of the PIASA for a three-year term. In the event of the Institute's liquidation, its assets would pass to the AAS; PIASA Archives, collection 017, folders 145, "Projekt Statutu Polskiego Instytutu Naukowego w Stanach Zjednoczonych" [Draft by-laws of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America].

1974.¹³ At that time, the method of election of the chairman, the Board of Directors, and the Council changed, and their appointment was decided by the general assembly. The Board of Directors selected from among its members the director, a secretary, a general secretary, a treasurer, and an editor of *The Polish Review*, the quarterly magazine published by the Institute. The Board of Directors was given an overarching and supervisory role, and was also to meet at least four times a year. In the intervals between the sessions of the Board of Directors, its functions were performed by an Executive Committee consisting of a president, two vice presidents, a director, a secretary, and a treasurer.¹⁴

The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America originally brought together scientists from Poland who found themselves in exile in the USA as a result of World War II.¹⁵ In the 1960s, scholars of Polish descent born in the USA (including children and grandchildren of Polish emigrants from the early 20th century) also became members of the Institute, as well as Americans linked to Poland by their research interests.¹⁶ In the 1970s, the character of the Institute changed, as it moved away from the image of a Polish émigré association and began to function as an independent American institution – which significantly affected its position in American scientific and academic circles.¹⁷

¹³ “By-Laws of The Polish Institute of Arts and Science in America,” *The Polish Review* 1973, vol. 18, no. 4, pp. 123–192.

¹⁴ *Polski Instytut Naukowy w Ameryce* [Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America], p. 15.

¹⁵ The PIASA members included: Isaac Bashevis Singer, Zbigniew Brzeziński, Kazimierz Funk, Ludwik Gross, Oskar Halecki, Jan Karski, Jerzy Kosiński, Jan Lechoń, Bronisław Malinowski, Czesław Miłosz, Artur Rubinstein, Kazimierz Wierzyński, and Józef Wittlin; *The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America*, p. 11.

¹⁶ According to 1969 statistics, about 45% of the PIASA members were born in the USA and about 55% were born in Poland and Europe. Most of them (about 55%) were between 40 and 60 years old. The majority of the PIASA members (57%) resided in the eastern states, about 28% resided in the Midwest, and about 14% resided in the west and north of the USA; D. S. Wandycz, *Register of Polish American Scholars, Scientists, Writers & Artists*, New York 1969, pp. 5–9.

¹⁷ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folders 142–146, T. Gromada, “Rola i działalność PINu podczas Zimnej Wojny” [The role and activity of the PIASA during the Cold War], typescript.

1.2. The PIASA's activity in 1942–1945

During World War II, the Institute pursued two main goals: the first was to conduct scientific research and cultural activities that were impossible in occupied Poland, so that in the future this research could form the basis for further scientific work in a free Poland, and the second was to promote Polish science and culture in the American society and to strengthen the relations between Poland and the USA.¹⁸

The PIASA published books and scientific papers, as well as published the quarterly *Bulletin of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America*.¹⁹ The PIASA Bulletin was intended to replace, for the duration of the war, the international *Bulletin of the Polish Academy*, which reached major libraries and scientific centers abroad. The new bulletin was a chronicle of the PIASA and also included scientific papers by Polish researchers published in full or in excerpts, as well as lectures and presentations by people associated with the Institute. It was assumed that after the end of World War II, the role of the Institute, thus its bulletins, would be limited to promoting the Polish culture and science in the United States, and to maintaining Polish-American cooperation.²⁰ The Bulletin was published by the PIASA until 1946, and 12 issues (3,100 pages of text) were printed, containing 206 research papers.²¹

In addition to publications, in 1942–1945, the PIASA organized conferences and scientific sessions, which were largely devoted to the issue of rebuilding Poland after the war.²² The first archival and library collections also began to be acquired. The Institute's activities made it possible to preserve and enrich the scientific and cultural achievements of Polish

¹⁸ The institute endeavored to conduct as much scientific activity as possible in order to preserve any basis for the restoration of cultural and scientific life in Poland; S. Strzelski, *The Polish Institute of Arts*, p. 8.

¹⁹ See the list of the PIASA's publications and articles in the *PIASA Bulletin*; S. Strzelski, *The Polish Institute of Arts*, pp. 37–48.

²⁰ "The Founding of the Institute," *PIASA Bulletin* 1942, no. 1, pp. 7–8.

²¹ *50th Anniversary 1942–1992*, p. 27.

²² For more information, see: *PIASA Bulletin* for 1943–1946. In 1943–1944, the PIASA organized 93 lectures; PIASA Archives, collection 017, folders 1, "Proceedings of The Annual Meeting of the PIASA," pp. 2–3.

researchers, and contributed to publicizing the Polish cause among the American public.²³

The Institute was not limited to New York, and its branches were established in Canada (Montreal)²⁴ and in the Midwestern states (Chicago).²⁵ The Institute also worked with many Polish organizations in the USA, Great Britain, France, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Venezuela, Uruguay, and Lebanon, among others.²⁶

The PIASA's activities were significantly influenced by the decisions made at the Tehran, Yalta, and Potsdam conferences. Members of the Institute were not indifferent to the fate of post-war Poland, and they also realized that it would not be an independent and democratic country.²⁷ The withdrawal of recognition of the Polish Government in Exile threatened the Institute's existence, especially since the AAS, dependent on the communist government, was reactivated in Poland. The PIASA refused to start any cooperation or accept any assistance from the Polish communist authorities, and all contacts with their representatives were avoided. Despite these difficulties, the decision was made to continue working in exile.

The Institute expressed its opposition to the communist rule in Poland and refused to recognize the supremacy of the reconstituted AAS.²⁸

²³ A register of Polish publications in American libraries and universities has also been kept since 1944; *Polski Instytut Naukowy w Ameryce* [Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America], p. 26.

²⁴ "Appendix By-laws of the Canadian Branch of PIASA," *PIASA Bulletin* 1944, no. 4, pp. 911–912; "Organization of the Canadian Branch," *PIASA Bulletin* 1944, no. 3, pp. 605–607; PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 1, "Regulamin Oddziału Kanadyjskiego" [By-laws of the Canadian Branch].

²⁵ "Organization of the Midwest Branch," *PIASA Bulletin* 1944, no. 1, pp. 12–13.

²⁶ S. Strzetelski, *The Polish Institute of Arts*, p. 10; and "General Development of The Institute," *PIASA Bulletin* 1943, no. 1, pp. 5–6; PIASA Archives, collection 017, folders 1, "General Development of the Institute."

²⁷ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folders 142–146, T. Gromada, "Rola i działalność PINu podczas Zimnej Wojny" [The role and activities of the PIASA during the Cold War], typescript; *50th Anniversary 1942–1992*, New York 1992, pp. 27–28.

²⁸ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folders 142–146, T. Gromada, "Rola i działalność PINu podczas Zimnej Wojny" [The role and activity of the PIASA during the Cold War], typescript.

Maintaining the PIASA became a major problem, as membership fees and subsidies alone did not cover its financial needs and limited its ability to operate more widely. The withdrawal of Allied recognition of the Polish government in exile also resulted in the loss of government subsidies.²⁹ The Institute also lost its former headquarters, its offices were moved to rented premises at the 35th Street, and lectures were held at the Woodrow Wilson Foundation Library.³⁰ The institute started to look for new sources of funding for its activities, while reducing its expenses.³¹ Funds were raised from Polish diaspora foundations and institutions, through membership fees and donations, as well as donations from the supporters of the PIASA and Poland (including the American society).³²

2. THE PIASA'S ACTIVITY IN 1945–1989

2.1. The years 1946–1956

The difficult material situation and political changes brought about by the decisions made at the peace conferences ending World War II had a negative impact on the activities of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in New York. The post-war reality, especially in Poland, subjugated and cut off from the West, was very different from what was expected. Most of the émigré scholars and writers made the decision to stay in the USA and to continue their scientific and artistic work there, as well as to work with the PIASA.³³ The Institute could not sufficiently contribute to the help provided to the Polish culture and science. Fortunately, the PIASA had many friends

²⁹ "Report on the Activities of the Institute 1945–1946," *PIASA Bulletin* 1945–1946, vol. 4, pp. 7–8.

³⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 9.

³¹ "General Development of the Institute," *PIASA Bulletin* 1944, vol. 3, no. 3–4, pp. 425–426.

³² PIASA Archives, collection 017, folders 142–146, T. Gromada, "Rola i działalność PINu podczas Zimnej Wojny" [The role and activity of the PIASA during the Cold War], typescript. In the years 1942–1945, the person who had the greatest influence on the development and activities of the PIASA was Oskar Halecki.

³³ *50th Anniversary 1942–1992*, p. 28.

in Polish and American organizations, as well as individuals who supported its activities. The grants received from 1946 to 1951 from the Polish American Congress were a great help, but for the next four years the Institute had to rely solely on donations and membership fees.³⁴ The challenge was to help restore the cultural life that had been destroyed by the war, to support émigré science and art, as well as to help those considered “enemies” by the communist authorities in Poland.³⁵ The PIASA also assumed the role of a “free voice of science and art” that opposed the subjugated and indoctrinated activities of the Polish cultural and scientific centers.³⁶

Despite tremendous difficulties, the PIASA and its branches did not stop their activities, scientific research was conducted, books were published, various cultural and scientific events were organized (some were sponsored), and efforts were made to help researchers and artists in Poland. In 1946, the following works were published (or sponsored): B. Świtalski, *Neoplatonism and the Ethics of St. Augustine*, M. Haiman, *Kościuszko – Leader and Exile* (vol. 2),³⁷ L. Stenz, *The Climate of Afghanistan: Its Aridity, Dryness and Divisions*, and Z. Krzywobłocki, *Application of Double Fourier Series to the Calculation of Stresses Caused by Pure Bending in a Circular Monocoque Cylinder with a Cut-Out*.³⁸ Throughout the years of the Institute’s existence, each PIASA member continued their research, gave lectures, participated in conferences, and published scholarly papers. The PIASA had an active role in the American academic life, as well as contributed to the American music and art, education, laboratory and clinical research, etc. The scientists and artists who were the PIASA’s members became part of American culture and science.³⁹

³⁴ S. Strzetelski, *The Polish Institute of Arts*, p. 13.

³⁵ “Report on the Activities of the Institute 1945–1946,” p. 10.

³⁶ “The Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of The Polish Institute,” *The Polish Review* 1968, vol. 13, no. 2, p. 107.

³⁷ The first volume of the biography entitled *Kościuszko in the American Revolution* was published in 1943.

³⁸ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folders 3, letter from Oskar Halecki dated May 10, 1947.

³⁹ “Chronicles of the Polish Institute,” *The Polish Review* 1977, vol. 22, no. 1, p. 78.

In terms of supporting “forced” émigrés and Polish diaspora institutions operating in the USA, the Institute could only provide intermediation and substantive support.⁴⁰ The Institute sent to Polish academic centers and libraries, with partial assistance from the Smithsonian Institution, several crates of books and scientific periodicals containing the scientific output published during the war in Canada and the USA. In the summer of 1946, fundraising began for food and clothing parcels (C.A.R.E.) to be sent to Polish scientists.⁴¹ Despite its programmatic goals, the PIASA could not completely disassociate itself from political issues and human rights. Oskar Halecki spoke on behalf of the PIASA at three major conferences in 1947: *The Conference on the Declaration of Human Rights, The University and Its Word Responsibilities*, and *The Conference on International Educational Reconstruction*.⁴² The Institute participated in research on the European federalist movement, and also organized meetings with scholars from Ukraine, Bohemia, and Lithuania, and those of Jewish origin.⁴³

In 1949–1950, the PIASA issued 28 letters and memoranda on the situation in Poland, which reached the American media through the Polish American Congress. Materials on Poland’s history and literature were distributed to Polish diaspora organizations and American research centers. Six parcels containing clothes were also sent to Poland, as well as about a hundred books. More than a dozen lectures were also organized, and research work was conducted, including the notable research by J. Kucharczywski on US-Russia relations.⁴⁴

In 1951–1952, the PIASA’s financial situation became dire. The year 1952 was extremely difficult for the Institute, as the Polish American Congress had stopped its grants the year before.

⁴⁰ The meager financial resources were only enough for two hundred-dollar grants to a self-help organization of Polish students in Brussels and to Polish researchers building an ethnographic and anthropological collection in Northern Rhodesia.

⁴¹ The Federation of Newman Clubs provided the most support for this activity; “Report on the Activities of the Institute 1945–1946,” p. 11.

⁴² *50th Anniversary 1942–1992*, p. 29.

⁴³ S. Strzetelski, *The Polish Institute of Arts*, pp. 14, 22.

⁴⁴ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folders 4, letter from Oskar Halecki dated March 1, 1950.

An extensive campaign was launched to raise funds intended for the Institute's activity.⁴⁵ In an effort to find possibilities to provide the Institute with a steady income, the *Association of Friends of the Institute* was then established.⁴⁶ Readings and lectures were organized only twice a month, and publishing activities were conducted to a limited extent. Also, the PIASA's members took part in Columbia University's 200th anniversary celebration.⁴⁷

With the anniversary of Adam Mickiewicz's death slowly approaching, the PIASA's members, with a view to popularizing his work in the American society, established a special organizing committee in 1953. Meanwhile, in 1954, the PIASA organized three important literary evenings with famous Polish poets (PIASA's members): Jan Lechoń, Kazimierz Wierzyński, and Józef Wittlin.⁴⁸ The result of the work of the organizing committee for the celebration of the anniversary of Adam Mickiewicz's death was a series of symposia, lectures, and exhibitions in 1955, held in American academic centers. The most important event was a conference held on November 20, 1955, at the Hunter College in New York. It was attended by 2,500 people, and the papers from this conference were published in the collection titled *Adam Mickiewicz in World Literature*.⁴⁹ Also in that year the PIASA established a committee to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of US President Woodrow Wilson. In April, a scientific session on President Wilson was jointly organized with American scholars, and a scientific paper titled *Wilson and Poland* was published.⁵⁰

⁴⁵ *50th Anniversary 1942-1992*, p. 30.

⁴⁶ This was done with the cooperation of the Polish National Alliance of Brooklyn; S. Strzetelski, *The Polish Institute of Arts*, p. 15.

⁴⁷ *Polski Instytut Naukowy w Ameryce* [Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America], pp. 17-18; PIASA Archives, collection 017, folders 5, letter from Oskar Halecki dated May 1951.

⁴⁸ *50th Anniversary 1942-1992*, p. 31.

⁴⁹ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 5, "Report on the activities of PIASA from 15 May 1954 to 30 April 1955."

⁵⁰ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 8, letter from Stanisław Strzetelski dated May 28, 1955; PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 10, "Report of the Director of PIASA for the Period 1.05.1956-30.03.1957."

The events of October 1956 in Poland and the arrival of a wave of new émigrés to the United States closed the post-war period of the activities of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in New York. During that period, the Institute was actively involved in efforts to help Poland: libraries and academic centers were supplied with books and periodicals, financial support was provided, and contacts with the American science were facilitated.⁵¹ With the support of the Alfred Jurzykowski Foundation, the Institute managed to purchase a house that became the PIASA's new headquarters and to realize the dream of creating a specialized library.⁵²

2.2. The years 1956–1968

After 14 years of existence, the PIASA gained a reputation as a leading Polish cultural institution with a wide field of activity and many outstanding members. It enjoyed the support of the Polish diaspora and the American public. The biggest problem the Institute faced was the lack of consistent funding for regular activities.

The assistance it received from institutions, individuals, and members covered the expenses needed to maintain the Institute and to conduct the day-to-day (sometimes ad hoc) work. Of great importance for the PIASA was the recognition in the American scientific world and the favorable attitude of the American public (including the Polish diaspora). Therefore, the Institute actively participated in cultural and scientific life by publishing scientific works and popularizing activities in the form of exhibitions, lectures, and conferences.⁵³

In 1956–1957, the Institute continued its programmatic activities, including publishing work, informing the Polish diaspora and the American public about the situation in Poland, and organizing meetings and lectures

⁵¹ “The Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Polish Institute,” p. 108.

⁵² *50th Anniversary 1942–1992*, p. 32.

⁵³ By 1960, the PIASA had produced 18 publications, 11 issues of the *PIASA Bulletin*, and 12 issues of *The Polish Review*. There were scientific works in preparation; S. Strzetelski, *The Polish Institute of Arts*, pp. 16, 37.

for Polish scientists and writers.⁵⁴ Beginning in 1956, the organization and consolidation of the Institute's library scattered over many locations in New York, Trenton, and New Jersey also began.⁵⁵ It was not until 1959 that, thanks to the rental of additional premises, it was possible to consolidate the PIASA's collection. At the time, there was no specialized library in the USA that would enable research on Poland and its history, so the development of the PIASA's library was one of the most important projects for the future. The rapid growth of the library in 1956, associated with the exchange of publications with Poland and the influx of numerous archival collections and book collections, was a challenge for the Institute. It was necessary to give the PIASA's collection a specific profile and select the appropriate books. Work begun on creating a new layout for the library and on separating it from the archive.⁵⁶

The thaw following the events of October 1956 made it possible, for the first time since the end of the war, to have more contact with Polish scientific circles. This opportunity was used by sending books and periodicals to Poland. Scholarships were also funded for researchers and students, and ad hoc financial assistance was provided.⁵⁷ Beginning in 1956, the Institute also carried out "Operation: Books for Poland," which consisted of systematically sending scientific and fiction books to Polish libraries and academic centers.⁵⁸ The PIASA's activities, coordinated better and better over time, could not satisfy Polish scholars' and artists' "hunger for knowledge."⁵⁹ The scale of the need is evidenced by letters from Poland asking for books and periodicals – in 1957, the Institute has received more than 2,000 such letters. The institute also served as a center for scientific and

⁵⁴ The independent information campaign was particularly important during the events of 1956, and each issue of *The Polish Review* chronicled events taking place in Poland.

⁵⁵ *Polski Instytut Naukowy w Ameryce* [Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America], p. 27.

⁵⁶ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 10, "Report of the Director of PIASA for the Period 1.05.1956–30.03.1957."

⁵⁷ "Chronicles of the Polish Institute," *The Polish Review* 1975, vol. 20, no. 1, pp. 155–157.

⁵⁸ "Report on the activities of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America, for the period 1956/1957," *The Polish Review* 1957, vol. 2, no. 2–3, p. 177.

⁵⁹ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 10, "Report of the Director of PIASA for the Period 1.05.1956–30.03.1957."

bibliographic information.⁶⁰ In response to the PIASA's operation, books and periodicals published in Poland began to arrive. By 1960, about USD 200,000 had been allocated for the Polish aid program.⁶¹

In 1956, the PIASA began publishing a new quarterly magazine, *The Polish Review*, to replace the *Bulletin of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America*, which had been in circulation from 1942 to 1946.⁶² The resumption of the printed periodical in English gave the Institute the opportunity to have a wider impact in the US. The new quarterly was to be an objective source of information on Polish science and culture, and was to provide an opportunity for Polish scholars and writers to publish in the "free world."⁶³ It was also assumed to focus on analyzing the current situation in Poland.⁶⁴ *The Polish Review* provided an opportunity to speak on history and the current situation in Poland, and gave Polish researchers and writers an opportunity to appear in the American academic world.⁶⁵ The reputation of *The Polish Review* in the American world of science was demonstrated by the increasing number of American authors sending their texts to the editors. *The Polish Review* is published by the PIASA to this day, and despite its interdisciplinary nature it is entirely devoted to issues related to Poland, its culture, and its history.⁶⁶ An important event for *The Polish Review* at the time was its participation in the discussion concerning the Polish national border on the Odra and Nysa rivers (and fighting anti-Polish propaganda), which broke out after Elizabeth Wiskemann published her book *Germany's Eastern Neighbors*.⁶⁷

In 1958, the PIASA made further efforts to help the Polish science. Based on the information coming from Poland, it was possible to target efforts

⁶⁰ S. Strzetelski, *The Polish Institute of Arts*, p. 19.

⁶¹ 50th Anniversary 1942-1992, pp. 32-34.

⁶² S. Strzetelski, *The Polish Institute of Arts*, p. 17. The creation of *The Polish Review* was largely due to the efforts of Stanislaw Strzetelski, who played an important role in organizing the program of aid to Poland in 1956-1960.

⁶³ *Polski Instytut Naukowy w Ameryce* [Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America], p. 18.

⁶⁴ "Foreword," *The Polish Review* 1956, vol. 1, no. 1, p. 2.

⁶⁵ "The Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Polish Institute," p. 105.

⁶⁶ *Fifty Years of Polish Scholarship: The Polish Review 1956-2006*, New York 2006, pp. 1-5.

⁶⁷ "Notes," *The Polish Review* 1956, vol. 1, no. 4, pp. 107-118.

and respond to specific demands. It was possible to organize a campaign to help the Polish medicine by sending professional literature as well as medical and laboratory equipment.⁶⁸ Unfortunately, that campaign could not be carried out on a large scale due to lack of adequate funding. Many Polish scholars were able to present their research to the American scientific world thanks to the PIASA's assistance, and dozens of scholarships were also funded.⁶⁹ Support for Poland was made possible by the funds received from numerous organizations and individuals.⁷⁰

The year 1959 was a period of significant development for the PIASA and of its increased activity in many of fields. Beginning in October 1959, the Institute began preparations for the celebration of the 1000th anniversary of Poland's baptism. A scientific conference on the baptism of Poland was held at the Fordham University.⁷¹ In total, between 1956 and 1960, the PIASA organized 31 lectures and 22 discussion symposia.

Thanks to the kindness of the Alfred Jurzykowski Foundation (it retained the title to the building), it was possible in 1960 to purchase new premises for the PIASA at the 66th Street.⁷² The new headquarters opened on August 1, 1960, and included rooms for a library and archives, as well as a lecture hall.⁷³

In 1961–1962, books continued to arrive at the PIASA from Polish libraries and scientific institutions, and the Institute continued its campaign to

⁶⁸ By March 1958, more than 6,000 books had been sent to Poland; PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 11, "Program of Cultural Assistance to Poland."

⁶⁹ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 11, "Program of Cultural Assistance to Poland"; *ibidem*, "Medical Aid to Poland."

⁷⁰ Examples worth mentioning include: Charles E. Merrill Trust, Appleton-Century-Crofts, The Library of the Council on Foreign Relations, Hogram Merrill Foundation, as well as individuals: A. Jurzykowski, T. Sendzimir, Wanda Roehr, S. Nowak, and Ch. E. Merrill; S. Strzetelski, *The Polish Institute of Arts*, p. 20.

⁷¹ *Ibidem*.

⁷² PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 12, "Report of the Director of PIASA inc. for the year 1960."

⁷³ *Polski Instytut Naukowy w Ameryce* [Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America], p. 19.

help Polish science.⁷⁴ More and more collections were also acquired from scholars and artists in the USA. An English translation of *Pan Tadeusz* by Adam Mickiewicz and the first volume of the *Millenium Library – The Polish Millennium* were published. Lectures and scientific sessions were held at the PIASA as every year, and members of the Institute also prepared the celebration of the millennium of the baptism of Poland.⁷⁵ By 1961 (starting in 1955), the Institute had published the following works: J. Wespiec, *Polish Institutions of Higher Learning, Polish-Jewish Dialogue*; J. Conrad, *Centennial Essays*; J. Ursyn-Niemcewicz, *Essays*; K. Wierzyński, *Poems*; S. Strzetelski, *The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America, Early XIX Century American-Polish Music*; F. Gross, *Social Volumes Studies and Sketches, The Virginia University Conference on Poland since Gomulka*; J. Kosinski, *Sociology in the US*; A. Mickiewicz, *Pan Tadeusz*; and a work on Woodrow Wilson.⁷⁶

Starting in 1962, the activities of the Midwest Branch of the PIASA, based in Chicago, were reactivated. At that time, The Study of Polish Literature faculty was opened at the University of Chicago to intensify the study of the Polish language, literature, and culture.⁷⁷ The PIASA's members participated in those studies.⁷⁸ The following year, significant changes were made to the PIASA's by-laws, resulting in a significant increase in the number of Institute members. The division into permanent and correspondent members was introduced, and the criteria for admission to the PIASA

⁷⁴ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 90, "Minutes of the 2nd Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of PIASA."

⁷⁵ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 12, "Report of the Acting Director of PIASA for the Period 1.10.1961–03.1963."

⁷⁶ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 13, "Report of Director of the PIASA for the Period 01–09.1961."

⁷⁷ There was also an increased interest in Poland among researchers at the Universities of Colorado and Buffalo. What contributed to this was the concentration of Poles in Chicago, Colorado, Kansas City, and Buffalo; *The Polish Review* 1962, vol. 7, no. 1, pp. 89–92 and 1964, vol. 9, no. 1, pp. 115–116.

⁷⁸ In 1962–1963, classes in Polish literature were held at the New York University, under the direction of Dr. Halina Wittlin, and Polish Studies were organized at the University of British Columbia in 1963–1964. Lectures on the Polish and Russian literature were also given at the Department of Slavic Languages at the Duke University in 1971.

were also changed.⁷⁹ In 1963, the PIASA's library, with more than 15,000 volumes, was named after Alfred Jurzykowski – a longtime benefactor of the Institute. Work on the organization and arrangement of the Institute's book collection was led by a librarian from the New York Public Library.⁸⁰

In 1964, the PIASA once again spoke out in defense of freedom in communist Poland.

It expressed its public support to the 34 Polish intellectuals who criticized Władysław Gomułka's rule in Poland in an open letter.⁸¹ An important publication titled *John F. Kennedy and Poland* was also issued, which contained a selection of writings and speeches by the US president.⁸² At that time, a committee was established within the PIASA to do organizational and clerical work.

The role of the Institute was highlighted by its appointment for the selection in 1964–1965 of the winners and for the organization of the Alfred Jurzykowski Awards. They were intended for Poles in recognition of their outstanding achievements in science and art. Over the following years, the Institute continued to participate in the awarding and organization of the Alfred Jurzykowski Foundation Awards. The award ceremonies were often held at the PIASA's headquarters, and its members sat on the jury.⁸³

In 1966, on the 1,000th anniversary of Poland's baptism, the PIASA organized a three-day congress of Polish scholars from the USA and Can-

⁷⁹ From that time on, the PIASA's members could be professors and teachers, scholars, writers, and artists. The candidates had to represent a high level of skills and have two letters of recommendation; PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 16, "By-laws of PIASA as approved by the Annual Meeting of Members on 24.03.1962."

⁸⁰ *50th Anniversary 1942–1992*, p. 37.

⁸¹ *Ibidem*, p. 34.

⁸² PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 19, "Report of the Director of PIASA for the year 1964."

⁸³ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 20, T. Gromada, "Rola i działalność PINu podczas Zimnej Wojny" [The role and activities of the PIASA during the Cold War], typescript; *ibidem*, "General Report on the Institute activities during the period 24.04.1965–30.04.1966." The inclusion of the PIASA in the process of awarding and organizing the Alfred Jurzykowski Awards was largely made possible by the efforts of Damian Wandycz.

ada at the Columbia University.⁸⁴ The congress was attended by about 500 people, and 135 papers were presented. The papers were published in the volume titled *Studies in Polish Civilization*.⁸⁵ Another major conference was held a year later on the PIASA's 25th anniversary at the New York Public Library in 1967. A register of scientists of Polish origin from the USA and Canada was also being prepared for publication.⁸⁶ In that year, a Medical Section was also established within the Institute.

2.3. The years 1968–1989

In 1968, through American media, the PIASA sought to counteract the negative responses generated by the anti-Semitic campaign in Poland.⁸⁷ At the time, the Institute collaborated on the English translation of the book by W. Bartoszewski and Z. Lewin *The Samaritans: Heroes of the Holocaust*.⁸⁸ There were also public appearances in defense of freedom and human rights in Poland.⁸⁹

In the late 1960s, attempts were made to reform the Institute's library, and the most valuable book collections and archives were catalogues based on the system of the Library of Congress in Washington. The problem was raising the funds needed to elaborate and promote them.⁹⁰

⁸⁴ Preparations for the ceremony had been underway since 1959; *50th Anniversary 1942–1992*, New York 1992, p. 38. Oskar Halecki and Damian Wandycz played a major role in the organization of the celebration of the 1,000th anniversary of Poland's baptism and the First PIASA Congress in 1966.

⁸⁵ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 20, T. Gromada, "Rola i działalność PINu podczas Zimnej Wojny" [The role and activities of the PIASA during the Cold War], typescript; *ibidem*, correspondence regarding the preparation of the convention of scholars of Polish descent from the USA and Canada.

⁸⁶ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 23, "General Report for the period 05.1967–04.1968."

⁸⁷ *50th Anniversary 1942–1992*, p. 39.

⁸⁸ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 24, "General Report for the period 05.1968–05.1969."

⁸⁹ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folders 142–146, T. Gromada, "Rola i działalność PINu podczas Zimnej Wojny" [The role and activity of the PIASA during the Cold War], typescript.

⁹⁰ Researchers did not have sufficient knowledge of the PIASA's resources, so the collections were not properly used; PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 22, "Notatka

The year 1970 brought an improvement in the financial situation; from then on the PIASA received a permanent grant from the Jurzykowski Foundation (starting in 1968, permanent grants came from the Sendzimir Fund).⁹¹ Starting in the 1970s, the PIASA began organizing book fairs, where duplicates from the Institute's collection were given out and émigré publications were sold. This was an important activity, as there was no Polish bookstore in Manhattan at the time.⁹² Eight lectures were organized, and six others were held at the PIASA. Also, the 2nd Congress of Scientists of Polish Origin from the USA and Canada was also prepared.⁹³ An important element of the Institute's activities, especially in the 1970s and 1980s, was annual conventions with numerous lectures and symposia.

In 1971, the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in New York took part in the "Polish Microfilm" project organized by the Center for Immigration Studies at the University of Minnesota, in cooperation with the Alfred Jurzykowski Foundation and the Kościuszko Foundation. The project aimed to preserve in the form of microfilms the achievements of the Polish American community.⁹⁴ In that year, the 2nd Congress of Scientists, Writers, and Artists of Polish Origin from the USA and Canada, held on April 23–25, was also organized.⁹⁵ More than 500 people from 76 American academic centers and 20 research institutions attended the congress.⁹⁶ At the end of 1971, the PIASA held a two-day conference to prepare a plan for the study of the Polish diaspora in the United States as an ethnic group.⁹⁷ In that year, the

w sprawie Biblioteki PIN imienia Alfreda Jurzykowskiego z 30.09.1968 r." [Note on the Alfred Jurzykowski PIASA Library of September 30, 1968].

⁹¹ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 25, "General Report."

⁹² PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 27, "Polski Instytut Naukowy w Ameryce" [Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America], p. 21; *ibidem*, "General Report for 1970."

⁹³ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 94, "General Report of Executive Director for 1970."

⁹⁴ "Polish Microfilm Project," *The Polish Review* 1971, vol. 16, no. 4, pp. 93–94.

⁹⁵ For more information, see: *Second Congress of Polish American Scholars & Scientists*, New York 1971.

⁹⁶ *Polski Instytut Naukowy w Ameryce* [Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America], p. 20.

⁹⁷ "Plans for Research on Polish American Ethnic Group," *The Polish Review* 1972, vol. 17, no. 1, pp. 102–103; *50th Anniversary 1942–1992*, p. 41.

Historical Section was established within the Institute. By 1972 (the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the PIASA), the Institute had organized about 350 lectures, symposia, conferences, and readings.⁹⁸ In 1972, the PIASA also began working closely with the American Association for the Advancement Slavic Studies.

Once again, in 1973, the PIASA received a USD 32,000 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation for 1974. The grant was to be used for a sociological and historical publication describing the ethnic group of Americans of Polish descent. The award of that grant testified to the high status of the Institute and its perception by American institutions as a major research center of the Polish diaspora.⁹⁹ In that year, three members of the PIASA were honored by The American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies for their contributions to Slavic studies.

The PIASA's History Section organized a meeting with Piotr Wandycz (on research in Poland and Czechoslovakia) and a symposium on the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Commission on National Education and the 500th anniversary of the birth of Nicolaus Copernicus.¹⁰⁰

In 1974, efforts were made to integrate the Institute's members scattered across the United States. Recordings of lectures and meetings organized by the PIASA started to be made to create an audio library available by correspondence to members. Books were also lent out, on a weekly basis. There were also plans to create a film library. Thanks to these activities, scientists and artists of Polish descent throughout the United States had access to publications and scientific information. Within the Institute, a Literature Section, an Earth Sciences and Technology Section, and a Sociology Section were created at that time. The PIASA's units in Arizona, Detroit, and Philadelphia were also established.¹⁰¹

⁹⁸ *Polski Instytut Naukowy w Ameryce* [Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America], p. 19.

⁹⁹ "News about the Polish Institute," *The Polish Review* 1973, vol. 18, no. 4, p. 118.

¹⁰⁰ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 29, "Annual Report of The Acting Director and Secretary General April 1972–April 1973."

¹⁰¹ *Polski Instytut Naukowy w Ameryce* [Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America], pp. 20–21.

In that year, the Financial Committee began raising funds for research on the Polish diaspora in the United States. The plan was to raise about USD 1 million over five years. Work on the grant from the Rockefeller Foundation (from 1973 for a project on Americans of Polish descent) also started at the time, with 35 researchers involved. The project was to result in 15 research reports, a special issue of the journal *International Migration Review*, and a collective work *The Polish-Americans*.¹⁰²

At a meeting of the PIASA's Board of Directors in April 1974, it was decided to significantly change the scope and direction of the Institute's activities. The limited financial resources and the small number of executive personnel required a specialization and coordination of the PIASA's efforts.¹⁰³ The Institute was unable to deal with politics, economics, art, sociology, education, publishing, and popularization activities, etc. on its own. The PIASA's subsequent fields of activity were gradually reduced in favor of more specialized institutions. The PIASA became a research center, its main goal was to gain knowledge about the Polish American community (there had not been such extensive research on this ethnic group before), conduct scientific and cultural exchanges with the USA, and conduct research on the history, culture, and science of Poland. The name of the Institute was also changed to The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America.¹⁰⁴

Starting in 1974, the Polish language began to be taught at the Institute's headquarters, with courses continuing until 1990.¹⁰⁵ The 3rd Congress of Polish Scientists from the USA and Canada was also prepared. It

¹⁰² The research project consisted of six parts, of which it is worth mentioning the research on "The Polish Americans," "The Polish Experience in Migration," and "Community Studies. News About The Polish Institute," *The Polish Review* 1974, vol. 19, no. 1, pp. 128–129.

¹⁰³ Savings were achieved by reducing the salaries and expenses, and by raising the membership fee. The Institute's Finance Committee intensively searched for new sources of funding for its activities; a similar initiative was taken by Jan Gronouski, the new PIASA's president elected in 1974; "Chronicles of the Polish Institute," *The Polish Review* 1974, vol. 19, no. 3–4, p. 237.

¹⁰⁴ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 31, "New Directions for The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America."

¹⁰⁵ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 31, "Annual Report of the Executive Director April 1973–April 1974"; *50th Anniversary 1942–1992*, p. 44.

was held on May 16–18, 1975, in Montreal, with about 400 participants, including about 10 percent from outside the USA and Canada.¹⁰⁶ In its activities, the PIASA increasingly focused on the Polish and American public.

An important event for the Institute was the award of a grant from the Kościuszko Foundation for annual scholarships and the PIASA's research projects.¹⁰⁷

In 1975, the PIASA issued a resolution in defense of the 59 Polish intellectuals who demanded guarantees of rights and freedoms in the new constitution of the People's Republic of Poland. The resolution, in English, was distributed to the media. The Kościuszko Foundation supported the Institute with USD 5,000 to invite researchers from Poland to the USA, and three USD 1,000 stipends for librarians at the Institute.¹⁰⁸ In that year, the PIASA Canadian Branch separated from its parent organization and formed a separate Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in Canada. It was also at that time that efforts were launched to apply for grants for the "Oral History" and "History of Ideas" projects, which would enable the elaboration and reorganization of the Institute's collections. A Biographical Section was also established to collect materials on scientists and artists of Polish origin.¹⁰⁹

In the following year, the PIASA made every effort, despite annual financial problems, to continue its mission in the US, and to be more visible in the American academic community. The Institute organized 11 lectures and meetings in 1976, made its collections available to numerous scholars, and provided substantive assistance in scientific research. The PIASA's members attended the eighth national convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in October 1976. In that year, a very momentous event for the PIASA was the visit of Cardinal Karol Wojtyła. Efforts were made to involve the Institute in the problems of the American

¹⁰⁶ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 47, "PIASA Annual Report 1975–1976."

¹⁰⁷ "Chronicles of the Polish Institute," *The Polish Review* 1975, vol. 20, no. 1, p. 163.

¹⁰⁸ "Chronicles of the Polish Institute," *The Polish Review* 1976, vol. 21, no. 1–2, pp. 179–180.

¹⁰⁹ *Polski Instytut Naukowy w Ameryce* [Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America], p. 29.

society. For this purpose the “Strategies, Policies for Multi-Ethnic Cities: Focus on New York City” was prepared.¹¹⁰

In 1977, the PIASA funded two scholarships for Polish researchers, supported Slavic studies in various academic centers, and continued the years-long campaign to send books and periodicals to Poland. A PIASA unit was also established at that time in Texas. The profile of the library was changed; starting from that year, it was to contain a limited and specialized book collection on Poland and the Polish community, as well as on issues of ethnic groups in the USA.¹¹¹ At that time, the Institute also began collecting recordings (from television, radio, as well as interviews and scientific and cultural events) on the image of Poland and Poles in the USA as part of the “Oral History Project.” That project, funded by The Rockefeller Foundation, was conducted by Prof. Feliks Gross. The Institute had a special section to coordinate those projects. The work associated with the grant for research on the ethnic group of Polish Americans was also completed, resulting in publications in *The Polish Review* and a book *Polish-American Community Life: a Survey of Research*. A decision was made to continue that project together with the Brooklyn College in the form of the seminar titled “Policies, Strategies for Multi-Ethnic Cities: Focus on New York City.”¹¹² In the fall of 1977, the format of the PIASA’s annual conventions also changed, with less time devoted to organizational matters and more to scientific sessions and panel discussions.¹¹³

In 1978, research interest in ethnic issues in the USA significantly declined. Many factors, including unemployment, inflation, and the international situation, reduced the interest in this branch of scientific research. The PIASA finally completed its research on Polish diaspora communities, carried out under the grant received from The Rockefeller Foundation. Another research program on oral history and the history of ideas was

¹¹⁰ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 34, “Report of the Secretary General.”

¹¹¹ “Chronicles of the Polish Institute,” *The Polish Review* 1977, vol. 22, no. 1, pp. 80–81; PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 35, “Unowocześnieńie Biblioteki PIN” [Upgrade of the PIASA Library].

¹¹² “Chronicles of the Polish Institute,” *The Polish Review* 1977, vol. 22, no. 1, pp. 86–89.

¹¹³ 50th Anniversary 1942–1992, p. 49.

launched with the support of the same foundation. The Rockefeller Foundation also allocated money for cataloging and organizing the Institute's collections. Support from the Alfred Jurzykowski Foundation helped maintain the building and the Institute's collections, while assistance from the Kościuszko Foundation and the Sendzimir Fund provided funds for its activities. The PIASA received from the Kościuszko Foundation a ten-year grant for research on cultural exchange.¹¹⁴

The PIASA also established close cooperation with the Historical and Literary Society of Paris and the Polish Library. A joint fundraising effort was launched among European foundations for the operation of these institutions. The Polish Library also made its collections available to researchers recommended by the PIASA, and similar cooperation was established with the Gen. W. Sikorski Institute in London. That cooperation resulted in the transfer and exchange of archival and library collections.¹¹⁵

The year 1979 was a time of significant expansion in the Institute's activities; publishing, scientific and research, and popularization work intensified (as many as 19 lectures and conferences were organized).¹¹⁶ Support from the Alfred Jurzykowski Foundation (as well as the Sendzimir Fund) allowed the reorganization and adequate equipment for the growing library. Its extensive book collection allowed numerous specialists to conduct independent scientific research. In the 1970s, the PIASA became one of the largest library and archival centers in the United States. The Kościuszko Foundation provided three five-hundred-dollar scholarships for students working at the PIASA. The Rockefeller Foundation provided money for work on the Institute's archives and the project involving research on oral history and history of ideas. The Rosenstiel Foundation and the Kościuszko Foundation provided ten-year grants to support the PIASA's budget.¹¹⁷ In 1979, two PIASA members, Isaac Bashevis Singer and Andrew

¹¹⁴ "Chronicles of the Polish Institute," *The Polish Review* 1978, vol. 23, no. 2, pp. 93–94, 97; PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 38, "Report of the Secretary General April 1978–March 1979."

¹¹⁵ "Chronicles of the Polish Institute," *The Polish Review* 1978, vol. 23, no. 2, p. 95.

¹¹⁶ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 40, "Annual Report of Secretary General April 1979–1980."

¹¹⁷ "Chronicles of the Polish Institute," *The Polish Review* 1979, vol. 24, no. 2, pp. 107–112.

Shally, received the Nobel Prize, while Ludwig Gross received awards from the French government and the Federal Republic of Germany for his research on leukemia.

In 1980, grants from the Kościuszko Foundation and The Rockefeller Foundation allowed further research into the cultural exchanges of emigration. The PIASA also maintained intensive contacts with research centers in Europe, Canada, South America, and Australia. Thanks to the employment of Witold Sulimirski as treasurer, the Institute's finances were properly managed. The PIASA also received legal support from Ludwik Seidenman. The continued operation of the PIASA (including work on the "Oral History Project"), the scholarships, and the maintenance of the archival and library collections were made possible thanks to the funds provided by The Rockefeller Foundation, the Rosenstiel Foundation, the Kościuszko Foundation, and the Sendzimir Fund.

In that year, work was completed on the book *Polish Civilisation: Essays and Studies*, published by the New York University Press.¹¹⁸

The events taking place in Poland in 1980–1989 had a significant impact on the PIASA's activities. At the end of 1980, the Committee for the Assistance to Scientists from Poland was established. Following the imposition of martial law in Poland on December 13, 1981, the PIASA publicly condemned the actions of Gen. W. Jaruzelski, and the Institute's Secretary General, Prof. T. Gromada, sent his statement on the matter to the US President, the Secretary of State, the Security Council, and the US media. The statement was broadcast by Radio Free Europe and Voice of America.¹¹⁹ In such a difficult moment for Poland, a very important role of the Institute became apparent, as many representatives of the American media turned to the PIASA for information and comments on the situation in the Poland.¹²⁰

¹¹⁸ "Chronicles of the Polish Institute," *The Polish Review* 1980, vol. 25, no. 3–4, pp. 150–153, 161.

¹¹⁹ *50th Anniversary 1942–1992*, pp. 50–51. Also thanks to the efforts of Thaddeus Gromada, the Institute managed to establish closer cooperation with American academic circles, and to change the form of the PIASA's annual conventions.

¹²⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 54.

During the martial law, the Institute sought to support Polish scholars who were prevented from returning to Poland by the events in their homeland and sought asylum in the USA.¹²¹ This was made possible by the funding received from The Rockefeller Foundation and the IREX organization.¹²² The Institute's headquarters became a place where many people sought financial and moral support. With the PIASA's support, the Special Counseling and Academic Assistance Committee was established to provide legal assistance and information about scholarships and employment opportunities in the USA.¹²³ Forced emigrants were given small grants, and some received recommendations for studies. Starting in 1981, the PIASA worked with the National Endowment for Democracy to provide assistance to members of the Solidarity movement.¹²⁴ Funds were also raised intensively for the purchase of books and periodicals for Polish universities and libraries. In the 1970s and 1980s, the PIASA's members were frequent guests at so-called briefings at the White House and the State Department, where they offered their advice. Also at that time, successive US diplomatic representatives sent to Poland visited the PIASA for consultations related to their mission before their departure.¹²⁵

In 1981, the PIASA's efforts focused on working on cultural and scientific issues and serving as a Polish-American research center. With its work for the American public, the Institute supported the democratic opposition in Poland. As in previous years, the operation of the PIASA, the scholarships, and the maintenance of the archival and library collections were made possible by the funds provided by The Rockefeller Foundation, the Rosenthal Foundation, the Kościuszko Foundation, and the Sendzimir Fund. The

¹²¹ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 105, "Minutes of the Board of Directors 1981."

¹²² *50th Anniversary 1942-1992*, p. 54. IREX – a non-profit organization established in the USA in 1968, which supported scientific research and cultural activities.

¹²³ *Ibidem*.

¹²⁴ Feliks Gross played a leading role in the PIASA's establishment of cooperation with the National Endowment for Democracy.

¹²⁵ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folders 142-146, T. Gromada, "Rola i działalność PINu podczas Zimnej Wojny" [The role and activity of the PIASA during the Cold War], typescript.

Institute once again received money from The Rockefeller Foundation for research on ethnic issues and the democratic opposition in Poland as part of the “Oral History” project.

A grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities was a huge help (the collection was damaged by water) to maintain the archival collection.¹²⁶ It was also possible to develop, with the support of an archive consultant from the City University of New York, criteria for elaborating archival materials, and to prepare an inventory of the fonds. Employees and volunteers responsible for elaborating archival collections were designated.¹²⁷

In 1982, in view of the situation in Poland, the number of books and periodicals sent to Poland was increased, the Institute hosted more researchers from Poland, and a promising dialogue was established between émigré and domestic science. All this was nullified the imposition of martial law in Poland, which was met with a sharp reaction from the PIASA’s members. A declaration by the Institute’s Board of Directors, expressing opposition to restrictions on the freedoms of Poles, was published in the US media. Since the interest in the events in Poland increased in the American society, the PIASA had the opportunity to speak out once again in defense of a free Poland. New annual grants from The Rockefeller Foundation, the Rosenstiel Foundation, the Kościuszko Foundation, and the Sendzimir Fund enabled the Institute to continue its prominent work. The martial law prevented many researchers staying in the USA from returning to their homeland. The PIASA took immediate action to provide material assistance to the “forced” émigrés.¹²⁸

In 1983, after 40 years of existence, the Institute became part of American culture and science, while representing free Poland and its achievements in many areas of life. The PIASA’s activities were aimed at defending human rights in Poland; protest was voiced in the American media, and

¹²⁶ “Chronicles of the Polish Institute,” *The Polish Review* 1981, vol. 26, no. 2, pp. 88–91, 94.

¹²⁷ *Polski Instytut Naukowy w Ameryce* [Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America], p. 34.

¹²⁸ “Chronicles of the Polish Institute,” *The Polish Review* 1982, vol. 27, no. 1–2, pp. 187–191; *50th Anniversary 1942–1992*, p. 55.

proclamations were addressed to the American public.¹²⁹ Also, American academic centers were asked to support the demand for scientific freedom and to defend scholars in Poland. A special Committee on Human Rights was also established, and the issue of human rights violations in Poland was presented by the PIASA to The International League for Human Rights. Thanks to donations, the Institute was able to purchase and send books worth USD 2,000 to Warsaw. The PIASA's director initiated a fund for Polish libraries. Permanent financial support was provided by The Rockefeller Foundation, the Rosenstiel Foundation, the Kościuszko Foundation, and the Sendzimir Fund. Numerous scientific studies were conducted, including two major projects on Bronisław Malinowski and the history of ideology. The first guide to the PIASA's collections was also completed and published in 1984.¹³⁰

In the following year, the PIASA's main field of activity continued to be the defense of human rights in Poland. Events in Poland were closely watched and commented on by the PIASA's members, and a memorandum on the situation in Poland was presented before the Human Rights Committee in Geneva. Many protests were also issued against the arrests and imprisonment of Polish scientists and artists, and were published in the American press and broadcast on Radio Free Europe. The PIASA has also asked US President Ronald Reagan to make it easier for forced immigrants from Poland to obtain visas and legalize their stay. The institute also worked on Polish-Ukrainian and Polish-Jewish relations, striving to overcome prejudices and improve mutual relations.

A great effort was made to develop and secure the Institute's archival and library collections.¹³¹

In 1985, as part of the New York Nonprofits, the Institute came out with other nonprofits to defend American cultural and scientific institutions. The issue of exempting these institutions from property taxes was crucial

¹²⁹ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 106, "Minutes of the Board of Directors year 1983."

¹³⁰ "Chronicles of the Polish Institute," *The Polish Review* 1983, vol. 28, no. 2, pp. 129-137.

¹³¹ "Chronicles of the Polish Institute," *The Polish Review* 1984, vol. 29, no. 3, pp. 125-135.

to their survival.¹³² The need to vacate the PIASA's headquarters on the 66th Street resulted in the closure of the archive and the library; the collections were packed up and transferred to rented storage facilities. Preparations for the publication of the Institute's second resource guide began.¹³³

The following year was a tough one for the PIASA, as the Alfred Jurzykowski Foundation decided to sell the house on the 66th Street that had been the Institute's headquarters. All of the PIASA's activities focused on securing and transporting the Institute's collection to its temporary premises at the Kościuszko Foundation, as well as searching for new headquarters. Fundraising began for the purchase of a new building in New York. Despite such a difficult situation, the PIASA continued its activities, albeit to a limited extent. The publication of *The Polish Review* was maintained, lectures were continued, and even the conference "Transition of Medieval and Early Modern Polish Elites" was held in November 1985.¹³⁴ In 1985–1986, the Institute also managed to organize 11 lectures and meetings.¹³⁵ The first part of the research on the history of ideas was completed, and the result was the publication of the book *Political Ideas of the Democratic Left of the Polish Emigration, 1939–1968*. The Institute's Board of Directors also issued a letter of protest in defense of the autonomy of universities in Poland; it was broadcast on American radio.¹³⁶ Virtually all of 1986 was spent on tasks related to the purchase of new headquarters and moving and securing the PIASA's collection.¹³⁷

In 1987, thanks to the support of the Kościuszko Foundation, the Institute was able to carry out, in addition to moving and securing its archives and library, some of its work in temporary premises at the 65th Street.¹³⁸

¹³² *Polski Instytut Naukowy w Ameryce* [Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America], p. 22.

¹³³ *50th Anniversary 1942–1992*, p. 55.

¹³⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 56.

¹³⁵ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 43, "Annual Report of the Secretary General May 1985–May 1986."

¹³⁶ "Chronicles of the Polish Institute," *The Polish Review* 1986, vol. 31, no. 2–3, pp. 227–236; PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 43, "PIASA Annual Report 1985–1986."

¹³⁷ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 43, "PIASA Annual Report 1985–1986."

¹³⁸ *50th Anniversary 1942–1992*, p. 56.

A new headquarters was purchased for the PIASA on the 30th Street, where some of the collections were transported (they were inaccessible to researchers from 1985 to 1987). From that year on, funds were intensively sought to repay the loan taken out for the purchase of the building and its furnishings.¹³⁹ Two papers resulting from previous research were published: *Polish Democratic Left 1940–1968* and *Christian Democratic Groups, 1940–1968*. A third volume of *Letters From the Underground* was also prepared.¹⁴⁰ Funds from the organizations that had supported the PIASA over the years were used to finance the move and the furnishings for the new headquarters, as well as for scholarships and the PIASA's ongoing activities.¹⁴¹

After a two-year crisis, the Institute's activities reached their previous level and scope in 1988. Support for the Institute was broader in the American public, and its financial situation improved thanks to the repayment of loans and better fundraising. Special committees were established to streamline the PIASA's activities: a Fund-Raising Committee, a Committee on By-laws, a Special Events Committee, and a Self-Study Committee. The PIASA's internal organization and day-to-day work were reviewed and reorganized, with the involvement of new members. Efforts were made to improve the material situation and the work efficiency, and to raise the scientific level of research. As an association of independent scientists and artists, the Institute was to serve as a bridge between the Polish and American worlds of science and culture, as well as an educational center. In order to achieve similar respect and standing as American organizations, the PIASA had to increase the number of its members and maintain the highest level of scientific research. At that time, Professor Felix Gross gave six interviews to Radio Free Europe on the topic of research on the history of ideas in Poland. Thanks to a USD 6,000 grant from the Alfred Jurzykowski Foundation, numerous books were purchased for the Jagiellonian University. Thanks to the money received from the Kościuszko Foundation,

¹³⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 57.

¹⁴⁰ PIASA Archives, collection 017, folder 43, "PIASA Annual Report 1985–1986."

¹⁴¹ "Chronicles of the Polish Institute," *The Polish Review* 1987, vol. 32, no. 3, pp. 330–337.

more grantees were able to work on cataloging and organizing the PIASA's collections.¹⁴²

In the following year, the PIASA's material situation improved further. A special Committee on Publication of Books was established, and a very important publication, *The Polish Renaissance in Its European Context*, was published. The institute gradually transformed from a scientific institution bringing together selected scholars into a cultural and educational organization with permanent members and friends. The purpose of the Institute was not changed. The most important fields of the Institute's activity were publishing *The Polish Review*, organizing lectures and seminars, acquiring book collections and archives, and securing funds for the continued operation of the PIASA.¹⁴³

In 1989, the transformation that began in Poland had a significant impact on the Institute's work. The PIASA, established 47 years earlier, was a symbol and center of free and independent Polish culture and science in exile, and in time became an American institution (although established by Polish émigrés). With the collapse of the People's Republic of Poland, research and cultural centers became free from the influence of communist ideology and censorship. As a result, the PIASA's primary goal of representing and developing independent science and the arts in the USA had been achieved. The question remained as to further activities, since the Institute's educational and cultural goals were still valid.¹⁴⁴ From that time on, the PIASA's main task was cultural and scientific exchange between Poland and the USA, as well as supporting research on issues related to Poland and popularizing knowledge about Poland.

At that time, the PIASA became involved in the publication of the speeches of Abraham Lincoln in Poland, and Prof. Felix Gross presented a series of lectures on the US Constitution on Radio Free Europe. The money received from the Sendzimir Fund, the Kościuszko Foundation, the National Endowment for Democracy, and the Alfred Jurzykowski Foundation was mostly earmarked for scholarships for Polish researchers. The PIASA's

¹⁴² "Chronicles of the Polish Institute," *The Polish Review* 1988, vol. 33, no. 3, pp. 379–383.

¹⁴³ "Chronicles of the Polish Institute," *The Polish Review* 1989, vol. 34, no. 3, pp. 276–282.

¹⁴⁴ "Chronicles of the Polish Institute," *The Polish Review* 1989, vol. 35, no. 3, pp. 303–304.

members attended the Third Congress of Scientists of Polish Origin in July 1989. A “Salute to Poland” campaign was organized on the anniversary of the start of the 1939 September campaign.

Samuel Fiszman’s work (introduction by Czesław Miłosz) *The Polish Renaissance in Its European Context* was published. Closer relations were established with academic centers in Poland. Polish language courses continued to be conducted; from 1982 they were organized jointly with the Kościuszko Foundation and the Hunter College.¹⁴⁵

The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America was founded by Polish scientists who found themselves in exile in the USA, having escaped death and persecution at the hands of the occupying forces. At the time of its inception, it was a continuation of the Polish Academy of Sciences and a symbol of free culture and scientific thought. It underwent many transformations between 1942 and 1989, starting out as an émigré scientific and cultural society and becoming an all-American organization by 1989. Emigré organizations did not enjoy an excellent reputation in the American academic world, so it was important to change the PIASA’s image. From the 1960s, its new members were US-born Poles and Americans with links with Poland through their scientific research.¹⁴⁶

In the short time since its establishment, the Institute became a scientific and cultural center recognized among American and European researchers. During World War II, the PIASA was a center of free scientific and cultural life under the conditions of Western democracy. The year 1945 brought great disappointment with the post-war reality, and Poland became in fact a colony of the USSR. In the face of the postwar changes, the purpose of the Institute’s existence was the continuation of free scientific and cultural life in exile and work for the future of Poland (through the defense of freedom and human rights, and public protests against the actions of the communist authorities in Poland). During the Cold War period (for Poland we can assume the years 1946–1989), the PIASA played the role of an information and scientific center independent of the communist authorities. It also sought to show the American public that Poland was

¹⁴⁵ *Ibidem*, pp. 305–328.

¹⁴⁶ *50th Anniversary Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America*, New York 1992, p. 18.

not a communist state hostile to the United States. The institute promoted knowledge about Poland and its scientific and cultural heritage, and took an active part in supporting Polish-American cooperation. This was especially important at crucial moments, when interest in Polish affairs was growing in the American public and media. Over the years, the institute received financial support that enabled its operation from, among others, the Kościuszko Foundation, the Alfred Jurzykowski Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Alfred Sloane Foundation, the Sendzimir Found, the National Endowment for Humanities, the National Endowment for Democracy, and private individuals.¹⁴⁷

However, the Institute always stood up for free science and art, and for human rights in Poland. Over the years, the PIASA supported Polish scientific and research centers by sending books and periodicals, as well as medical and laboratory equipment. Scholarships and grants were funded for Polish scholars and artists. Interviews were given and lectures were delivered via Radio Free Europe, which provided moral support for the subjugated Poland. The Institute was a forum for the free exchange of ideas that was open to scientists, artists, and students. It was also visited by many prominent Poles, for whom meetings, lectures, and other events were organized.¹⁴⁸

Faced with the changes in Poland in 1989, the PIASA once again had to adapt to the new political situation. New opportunities arose for the PIASA's development and the expansion of its field of activity. Only from 1989, was the PIASA able to establish proper relations with the Polish scientific and cultural world. After the restitution of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Poland in 1989, the PIASA established close ties with the reconstituted

¹⁴⁷ *Ibidem*, pp. 19–21.

¹⁴⁸ Including Cardinal Karol Wojtyła, Waclaw Sierpiński, Julian Krzyżanowski, Irena Sławińska, Jacek Woźniakowski, Władysław Tatarkiewicz, Sławomir Mrożek, Aleksander Gieysztor, Antoni Słonimski, Jerzy Turowicz, Tadeusz Konwicki, Leopold Tyrmand, Józef Gierowski, Aleksander Koj, Rev. Józef Tischner, Jan Błoński, Stanisław Waltoś, Władysław Bartoszewski, Tadeusz Kantor, Tadeusz Różewicz, Ryszard Kapuściński, Stanisław Barańczak, Rafał Olbiński, Andrzej Ajnenkiel, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, and others; PIASA Archives, collection 017, folders 142–146, T. Gromada, “Rola i działalność PINu podczas Zimnej Wojny” [The role and activity of the PIASA during the Cold War], typescript.

academy. The Institute became a symbolic seat and branch of the PAS in New York. Fruitful relations were also established with many institutions in Poland, including the Polish Academy of Sciences, the General Directorate of State Archives, the National Library, etc. After 1989, a new period of activity began in the history of the Institute, in which all efforts focused on Polish-American cooperation in many areas of scientific and cultural life. The PIASA served as a cultural and research center for Poland and the USA, and provided a bridge to connect and enrich the two societies. Thanks to the PIASA's work, it was possible to mark Poland's presence in the democratic Western world.¹⁴⁹

APPENDIX

LIST OF THE PIASA'S EMPLOYEES FROM 1942 TO 2011

PIASA Presidents:

Prof. Bronisław Malinowski, 1942;
Prof. Jan Kucharzewski, 1942–1952;
Prof. Oskar Halecki, 1952–1964;
Zygmunt Nagórski, Senior 1964–1965;
Prof. Stanisław Mrozowski, 1965–1974;
Prof. John A. Gronouski, 1974–1987;
Prof. Feliks Gross, 1988–1999;
Prof. Piotr S. Wandycz, 1999–2008;
Prof. Thaddeus V. Gromada, 2008–2011.

Executive Directors:

Prof. Oskar Halecki, 1942–1952;
Zygmunt Nagórski, Senior, 1952–1955;
Stanisław Strzetelski, 1955–1961;
Zygmunt Nagórski, 1961–1962;
Dr. Jan Wszelaki, 1962–1965;
Damian Wandycz, 1966–1969;

¹⁴⁹ *50th Anniversary Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences*, p. 22.

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Dr. Jan Librach, 1969–1973;
Prof. Eugene Kleban, 1973–1975;
Prof. Feliks Gross, 1975–1988;
Bolesław Laszewski, 1989–1990;
Prof. Thaddeus V. Gromada, 1991–2011.

Secretaries General:

Zygmunt Nagórski, Senior, 1957–1964;
Damian Wandycz, 1965;
Dr. Ludwik Krzyżanowski, 1966–1970;
Prof. Thaddeus V. Gromada, 1971–1990.

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