

Report of the Secretary General of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences (PAU¹) for the period from June 2016 to April 2017

This report covers the period from June 2016 to April 2017. Apart from general information, it will include materials provided by particular Classes, Scientific Stations, and Commissions of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences.

General information

The Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences corporation consists of 138 regular members, 166 corresponding members, and 182 foreign members. Since the death of Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, there have been no honorary members. This year's elections, closed with the vote during the PAU General Assembly, resulted with the election of 11 regular members, 11 new corresponding members, and 7 foreign members. Traditionally, they will be awarded with the diplomas during the autumn Formal Scientific Meeting of the Academy in November.

In the reporting year, the following members passed away:

Cardinal Franciszek Macharski – honorary member, passed away on 2 August 2016.

From Class II

Professor Andrzej Żaki – foreign member, passed away on 4 January 2017.

Professor Józef Modrzejewski-Mélèze – foreign member, passed away on 29 January 2017.

Professor Andrzej Tomczak — regular member, passed away on 8 February 2017.

¹ Polska Akademia Umiejętności.

Professor Zbigniew Brzeziński – foreign member, passed away on 26 May 2017.

Professor Jan Małecki – regular member, passed away on 12 June 2017.

From Class III

Professor Siegmund Brandt – foreign member, passed away on 28 August 2016.

Professor Adam Bielański – regular member, passed away on 4 September 2016.

Professor Andrzej Hrynkiewicz – regular member, passed away on 13 October 2016.

Professor Bolesław Szafirski – corresponding member, passed away on 6 November 2016.

Professor Roman Pampuch – regular member, passed away on 13 February 2017.

Professor Wiesław Czyż – regular member, passed away on 8 April 2017.

From Class IV

Professor Krzysztof Bieniarz – corresponding member, passed away on 25 July 2016.

Professor Andrzej Tarkowski – regular member, passed away on 23 September 2016.

Professor Aleksander Koj – regular member, passed away on 29 December 2016.

Professor Jerzy Znosko – regular member, passed away on 11 January 2017.

Professor Jerzy Vetulani – regular member, passed away on 6 April 2017.

Professor Stanisław Przystalski – regular member, passed away on 22 April 2017.

From Class V

Professor Krzysztof Wędzony – corresponding member, passed away on 19 November 2016.

Professor Mariusz Żydowo – regular member, passed away on 30 April 2017.

From Class VI

Andrzej Wajda – regular member, passed away on 9 October 2016.

Stanisław Skrowaczewski – foreign member, passed away on 21 February 2017.

Activity of Classes, Commissions, and Stations

The Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences consists of six Classes. The number of members of particular Classes and scientific meetings is shown in the Table I on p. 46–47.

The presented numbers demonstrate that, as in previous years, the activity of PAU Classes was diversified. The meetings of the “humanities” Classes, i.e. Class I and II take place frequently and regularly. The meetings of the remaining classes are irregular or are not convened at all. I believe these differences are justified and due to the specificity of particular Classes. The activity of natural and science Classes manifests in different ways. These Classes organise conferences, sessions, and even schools, often on an international level. During these meetings, numerous lectures are given and poster reports prepared by young researchers are presented. In my opinion, this last activity element is particularly important for the Academy.

There are 37 Commissions within PAU. They are divided into Class Commissions and inter-Class Commissions. Class I: Philology coordinates the works of 4 Commissions, and Class II: History and Philosophy – of 10. Class III: Sciences and Technology has 3 Commissions, and Class IV: Natural Sciences – 5. The remaining Classes have not appointed any Commission so far. In the reporting period, 2 new Commissions of Class II were created: the Commission on Archaeology of Mediterranean Countries, the chairperson of which is Professor Ewdoksia Papuci-Władyka, and the Commission on Media Studies, the chairperson of which is Professor Maciej Kawka.

Inter-Class Commissions fall under the PAU Council; there is currently 16 of them, including 4 in Katowice, 1 in Wrocław, and 1 in Gdańsk. The activity of the Commissions, similarly to the activity of the Classes, is highly varied and related with the discipline represented by a given Commission. For the complete data on the Commissions’ activity containing information about the Commission authorities as well as a list of presented lectures, organised sessions and conferences see Tables II–VI on p. 48–51.

Apart from the Classes and Commissions, the PAU structure includes two Scientific Stations in Katowice and Gdańsk.

Conferences, sessions, and regular projects

Conferences and scientific sessions are an important element of PAU's activity. In the reporting period, PAU organised or co-organised 24 scientific sessions and conferences, including 10 on an international level. The list of all PAU scientific sessions and conferences, see Registers on p. 52–55. The sessions are grouped as follows: conferences organised by PAU, co-organised by PAU, organised by PAU Classes, and finally organised by PAU Commissions and Stations. International conferences were marked with an asterisk.

Regular meetings open to the wider public are also worth mentioning: the Seminar of the PAU “Patriotism yesterday and today” and Science Café organised by Marian Nowy, editor, and the late Professor Jerzy Vetulani. Finally, it is worth emphasising that in the reporting year, the fourth PAU Debate, this time on scientific research financing, took place.

Scientific activity

The PAU research activity focuses mostly on different types of research projects (grants). In the reporting year, 4 projects were successfully completed, 13 are in progress, and 4 were granted. The list of projects financed by the National Programme for the Development of Humanities (5 projects), National Centre of Science (4 projects), Ministry of Culture and National Heritage (6 projects), and the Polish Senate (2 projects) can be found in the Tables VII–X on p. 56–58.

Apart from the aforementioned “classic” grants, PAU is carrying out a project financed by the Lanckoroński Foundation. Within the project, reports and documents of apostolic nuncios in Poland from 1519 until the present day are studied. Each year — in accordance with the agreement concluded with the Foundation — a volume of the *Acta Nuntiaturae Polonae* series is published. In 2016, we finished the digitalisation of all the volumes of *Nuntiaturae* published so far. As a result, all 38 volumes are available in the internet. In the middle of 2016, we started digitalising the *Elementa ad Fontium Editiones* source series (76 volumes) and the “Antemurale” journal (28 volumes). Almost half of the volumes has already been digitalised and made available.

Publishing activity

Publishing activity is an important and integral part of the activity of the PAU. In the reporting year, the following were published: 24 journal

issues, 13 volumes of periodicals, 4 monographs and books (over 750 publisher sheets in total). It is worth mentioning that 11 PAU journals were made available on PAU websites (among others “Rocznik PAU”), and on the Scientific Journals Portal of the UJ Publishin House (full list of all PAU publications can be found on p. 136–137).

Apart from its own publishing activity, in the reporting year, the Academy participated in publication of 3 international journals: “Acta Physica Polonica B”, “The Polish Review”, “Studia Politologica Ucraino-Polona”, and a popular scientific journal “Wszechświat”. Our internet weekly “PAUza Akademicka” is becoming increasingly prestigious.

It is worth noting that among the journals published or co-published by PAU one (“Acta Physica Polonica B”) is on the so-called A list of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, two on C list, and 14 on B list. The following journals have the highest scores: “Studia Geomorphologica Carpatho-Balcanica” – 12 points, “Studia Historiae Scientiarum” – 9 points, and “Kwartalnik Prawa Prywatnego” – 8 points (see Table XI on p. 60).

International cooperation

Each year, the international cooperation of PAU is becoming more important. At present, the Academy has concluded cooperation agreements with 16 Academies and other research units. The most active personal exchange takes place with the Czech Academy of Sciences, the Slovak Academy of Sciences, and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Two new cooperation agreements were concluded with the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Ivan Franko National University in Lviv. Extensions of the agreements with the Slovak Academy of Sciences and Hungarian Academy of Sciences are being prepared, see compilation on p. 61.

Moreover, PAU is a member of two international organisations: the International Academic Union (UAI) and the All European Academies (ALLEA). In 2016, we began close cooperation within two programmes coordinated by ALLEA, i.e. The SAPEA and AGATE programmes. It is worth mentioning the cooperation with the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America (PIASA) in the US and the Polish Institute of Sciences in Canada (PINK) in Montreal. Both institutes have the formal status of PAU Scientific Stations. Together with the New York Institute, we publish the “The Polish Review” journal and together with the Montreal Institute, we organise scientific sessions in Canada. The last one was devoted to the work of Witold Gombrowicz.

Research support activity

Three PAU units are involved in this activity: The Scientific Library of PAU and PAN² in Kraków, The Archives of the Science of PAN and PAU in Kraków, and the Lanckoroński Phototeca.

The Scientific Library is the second largest facility of that kind in our city. Its collections and achievements in the reporting period are shown in Tables XII–XIV on p. 62–64.

It is worth mentioning that in the reporting year, two storage floors and the stairwell between them were renovated. The third floor will be renovated this year. At the same time, the PAU Management Board decided to use another room (located in the cellar of the building on Sławkowska 17 Street) as a storage space for the Scientific Library of PAU and PAN in Kraków.

The Archives of the Science are a common unit of the PAN branch in Kraków and PAU. I am glad to inform that in June last year the new, long-awaited statute of the Archives of the Science of PAN and PAU signed by the President of PAN, Professor Jerzy Duszyński and the President of PAU, Professor Andrzej Białas, entered into force. In the reporting period, the unit organised 5 exhibitions: 4 in the Archives facilities and one in the seat of PAN in Warsaw (list of exhibitions can be found on p. 64–65).

The Lanckoroński Phototeca has belonged to PAU since 1929. Initially, it was located in PAU Station in Rome. After the war, it was taken over by PAN. It was returned to PAU in 2005. It contains over 50,000 photograms, which are still successively organised, compiled, and digitalised. Until the end of 2016, 800 written records and photo digitalisations were prepared. In relation with the upcoming 90th anniversary of the donation of the Phototeca to the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, the preparations of the jubilee exhibition and publication on the photo collection of Karol Lanckoroński have started.

Polish Library in Paris

The Polish Library in Paris co-owned by PAU and the Historical-Literary Society in Paris requires special attention. Each financial year, the Academy transfers PLN 1,500,000 from the subsidy of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education to the Library. This is surely not enough. Unfortunately, the works on final regulation of the legal and financial status of the Library, conducted in the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage have not yet finished. In the reporting year, PAU carried out three research projects

² Polish Academy of Sciences.

financed by the National Programme for the Development of Humanities, aiming at inventorying historical materials, prints, sculpture, painting, and miniatures collection kept by the Polish Library in Paris.

Prizes, awards, and scholarships

As every year, in the reporting year PAU granted prizes and awards. The most prestigious is the Erazm and Anna Jerzmanowski Prize. The prize, founded by the Małopolska Province Authorities, is granted for cultural, scientific, and charitable activity. This year, for the eighth time after the reactivation of the prize, it was awarded to Professor Krzysztof Penderecki. The ceremony took place on 22 May 2017 in the Wawel Royal Castle in Kraków.

The Tadeusz Browicz Prize is awarded by PAU at the request of Class V. This year, two such prizes were given.

– Professor Krzysztof Książek and Justyna Mięka-Pietrasik, PhD from the Karol Marcinkowski Poznań Medical University were awarded for their series of 5 papers on the role of peritoneum mesothelial cells in the development of intraperitoneal metastases of cancer cells,

– Katarzyna Nazimek MD, PhD (UJ CM) was awarded a prize for young scholars for a series of papers on the mechanisms of the effects of antidepressants on immune responses.

The Marian Mięśowicz Prize is awarded at the request of Class III. This year, it was given to Professor Krzysztof Sacha (Institute of Physics, Jagiellonian University) for the paper *Modelling the Spontaneous Breaking of Time-Translation Symmetry* published in the “Physical Review A” journal.

Each year, a ten-person Commission chaired by Professor Jerzy Wyrozumski grants scholarships of the Lanckoroński Foundation and the Lanckoroński of Brzezie Foundation. Apart from PAU representatives, the Commission includes the delegates of five universities (Jagiellonian University, Adam Mickiewicz University, University of Warsaw, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, and Wrocław University), and of both Foundations. The scholarships are granted in five disciplines (Mediterranean archaeology, classical philology, history, history of philosophy, history of art); in the reporting year, 66 persons obtained them. The number of persons who were granted scholarships in 2016 (to be executed in the current year) and the information of the use of funds from the previous edition can be found on p. 147–153. The Commission considered further scholarship applications on 12 June 2017 (see p. 154–157).

The PAU Management Board approved this report on 5 June 2017. The annexes in the form of tables and compilations are its integral part. The financial report was subject to the meeting of the PAU Management Board, PAU Council, and Audit Committee. It was unanimously accepted by these bodies. It also obtained a positive statutory auditor opinion prepared by the PROFIN Tax Auditor's Office.

PAU Secretary General
Professor Szczepan Biliński