

POLISH ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Report of the Secretary General
of the Polish Academy
of Arts and Sciences for the year 2020



KRAKÓW 2021

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Report of the Secretary General of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences (PAU¹) for the year 2020

As in previous years, the report of the Secretary General of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences (PAU) covers the calendar year, i.e. the period from 1 January to 31 December 2020. Complementary to the Secretary General's report, the report on the implementation of the financial plan was the subject of deliberations of the meeting of the PAU Management Board and the Audit Committee and was unanimously accepted by these bodies. It also received a positive opinion of the statutory auditor, prepared by the PROFIN office.

General information

The Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences corporation consists of 148 regular members, 168 corresponding members, and 185 foreign members. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the election took an atypical course. The final vote, which is customarily held during PAU's summer General Assembly, was conducted by correspondence. This election resulted in the selection of 9 regular members, 12 new corresponding members, and 12 foreign members. Diplomas to the newly elected PAU members will be presented at the next General Assembly, which will be held in the traditional form, i.e. after the epidemic threat has passed.

¹ Polska Akademia Umiejętności.

In the reporting year the Academy suffered particularly severe losses. The following persons passed away:

From Class I

Professor Franciszek Ziejka – regular member, passed away on 19 July 2020

Professor Maria Janion – regular member, passed away on 23 August 2020

Professor Julian Maślanka – regular member, passed away on 7 September 2020

Professor Marco Santagata – foreign member, passed away on 9 November 2020

From Class II

Professor Zofia Sokolewicz – corresponding member, passed away on 29 January 2020

Professor Göran Rystad – foreign member, passed away on 18 April 2020

Professor Stanisław Grodziski – regular member, Vice-President of the PAU (1994–2000), passed away on 30 May 2020

Professor Andrzej Półtawski – corresponding member, passed away on 29 October 2020

From Class III

Professor Adam Strzałkowski – regular member, passed away on 25 July 2020

Professor Zbigniew Ciesielski – regular member, passed away on 5 October 2020

Sir John Meurig Thomas – foreign member, passed away on 13 November 2020

From Class IV

Professor Czesław Jura – corresponding member, passed away on 10 February 2020

Professor Marian Truszczyński – regular member, passed away on 8 June 2020

Professor Adam Chrzanowski – foreign member, passed away on 12 June 2020

Professor Józef E. Mojski – regular member, passed away on 16 June 2020

Professor Vojen Ložek – foreign member, passed away on 15 August 2020

Professor Roman Ney – regular member, passed away on 25 August 2020

Professor Stefan Wierzbowski – regular member, passed away on 3 November 2020

Professor Kenneth Gregory – foreign member, passed away on 23 November 2020

Professor Wacław Szybalski – foreign member, passed away on 16 December 2020

From Class V

Professor Helmut F. Sinzinger – foreign member, passed away on 21 February 2020

Professor Horst Kleinkauf – foreign member, passed away on 3 May 2020

Professor François Chapeville – foreign member, passed away on 30 November 2020

From Class VI

Professor Krzysztof Penderecki – regular member, passed away on 29 March 2020

Professor Wojciech Zabłocki – regular member, passed away on 5 December 2020

Activity of Classes, Commissions, and Stations

The Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences consist of six Classes. The number of members of each Class and the number of scientific meetings held are shown in Table I. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ban on public meetings in effect for most of the year, scientific meetings were held by only 2 Classes – Classes I and IV.

Table I. Classes of the Academy of Arts and Sciences (PAU)

Class	Number of regular members	Number of corresponding members	Number of foreign members	Number of scientific meetings
Class I: Philology	24	35	38	3
Class II: History and Philosophy	25	31	32	–
Class III: Sciences and Technology	25	36	41	–
Class IV: Natural Sciences	23	33	35	2
Class V: Medicine	26	33	34	–
Class VI: Artistic Creativity	25	–	5	–
Total	148	168	185	5
Total number of members (31 December 2020)	501			

In the reporting year 39 Commissions were active in the PAU – 23 Class Commissions and 16 Inter-Class Commissions (cf. Tables II–VI). These tables also show the number of scientific meetings and sessions held. Unfortunately – due to the epidemic state – most of the Commission meetings were held on-line.

Table II. Class I Commissions

Commission	Scientific meetings	Scientific sessions
Commission on Classical Philology	4	–
Commission on Modern Languages	2	–
Commission on Slavonic Culture	5	–
Commission on Art History	5	–
Commission on Communication Ethics	–	1

Table III. Class II Commissions

Commission	Scientific meetings	Scientific sessions
Commission on Central Europe	3	1
Commission on Eastern Europe	–	–
Commission on Law	4	–
Commission on the History and Culture of Jews	3	–
Commission on the Prehistory of the Carpathians	3	–
Commission on Economic Sciences	2	–
Commission on Ethnography	4	–
Commission on the History of Wars and Military Science	3	–
Commission on Archaeology of Mediterranean Countries	5	–
Commission on Media Studies	5	–

Table IV. Class III Commissions

Commission	Scientific meetings	Scientific sessions
Commission on Astrophysics	1	–
Commission on Technical Sciences	6	–
Commission on Complex Systems	5	1

Table V. Class IV Commissions

Commission	Scientific meetings	Scientific sessions
Commission on Geoinformatics	3	–
Commission on Quaternary Palaeogeography	2	–
Commission on Development Biology	1	–
Commission on Agricultural, Forest, and Veterinary Sciences	4	–
Commission on Geography	6	–

Table VI. Inter-Class Commissions

Commission	Scientific meetings	Scientific sessions
Commission on the History of Science	9	2
Commission on European Matters	2	–
Commission on Threats to Civilization	1	–
Commission on the Philosophy of Sciences	5	–
Commission on the Evaluation of Textbooks	3	–
Commission for the Studies on the Polish Diaspora	1	–
Commission on Anthropology	2	–
Commission on Ergonomics	1	1
Commission on Culture and Media Management	2	–
Commission on Silesian History in Katowice	2	–
Commission on Mathematical Sciences in Katowice	–	–
Commission on Natural Sciences in Katowice	–	–
Commission on Law in Katowice	–	–
Commission on Natural Sciences and Medicine in Wrocław	4	–
Kashubian Commission in Gdańsk	–	–
Polish CIHEC Subcommittee Commission Internationale d'Histoire Ecclésiastique Comparée	–	–

Apart from the Departments and Commissions, there are two Scientific Stations within the structure of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences – the Scientific Station in Katowice and the Scientific Station in Gdańsk.

Conferences, sessions and regular projects

Conferences and scientific sessions are traditionally a very important part of PAU's activities. Unfortunately, the ban on public meetings in force for most of the year caused this element of the Academy's activities to suffer a serious setback. Only 10 scientific sessions and conferences were organised; 3 of them were international. It is worth noting that all conferences were held on-line.

At this point it is also necessary to mention regular meetings coordinated by the PAU and open to the wider public: Science Café, Science Tea Room and "Conversations About Man" meetings organised by Professor Dominika Dudek. All of the above meetings were held on-line. Moreover, in December 2020, a new bookmark was launched on the PAU's Scientific Exchange Platform, entitled "PAU for Schools". Short lectures intended for students and teachers of schools of all levels are presented on this bookmark. The first paper, entitled *COVID-19 News – Pandemic Waves in Europe and Hopes for Vaccines*, was prepared by Professor Barbara Płytycz – the initiator of the entire project.

Organisation of on-line meetings and the PAU Scientific Exchange Platform

As mentioned earlier, in the reporting year most meetings, sessions and scientific sessions were held on-line. These meetings were organised by the PAU Office with the help of ZOOM or TEAMS software. Lectures and papers presented during scientific meetings were recorded and then made available on the PAU Scientific Exchange Platform. This platform was launched in Q2 2020 and has become an extremely important element of the PAU's activities. The launch of this modern way of communication was possible thanks to the commitment and cooperation of the employees of the Chancellery, the Publishing House and PAU's IT specialists.

Scientific activities

In the reporting year a new PAU scientific unit was established – the Research Centre for Armenian Culture in Poland. The Centre is financed from a separate grant of the Ministry of Science and Higher

Education in the PAU budget. The PAU Council appointed Andrzej Zięba, PhD as the Director of the Centre and Professor Krzysztof Stopka as the Chairman of the Scientific Council. The Centre currently employs 4 full-time researchers.

Moreover, as in previous years, the PAU carried out research projects (grants) financed from external sources. In the reporting year 1 project was completed, 8 projects are in progress; 2 new applications have been submitted for evaluation. The projects are financed by: the Małopolska Operational Programme (1 project), National Programme for the Development of the Humanities (6 projects), National Science Centre (1 project) and National Institute for Polish Cultural Heritage Abroad “Polonika” (1 project).

Publishing activity

An important and integral part of the PAU’s research activity is its publishing activity. In the reporting year PAU became a co-editor (with the Faculty of Geography and Geology of the Jagiellonian University) of the “*Studia Geomorphologica Carpatho-Balcanica*” journal. A total of 23 journals were published or co-edited by PAU in 2020. On 12 February 2021, a new “Extended list of scientific journals and peer-reviewed materials from international conferences with assigned number of points” was announced. A week later (18 February) this list was modified again. Unfortunately, both versions of the “Extended list” were published without consultation with the Committee for the Evaluation of Science, i.e. not in accordance with the binding regulations. At the time of preparing materials for the “PAU Yearbook” the discussion on the final form (and content) of this document, so important for the academic community, had not been completed. For this reason, the table presenting the PAU journals included in the current “List” has been omitted in this year’s report. In addition to scientific journals, for over 20 years the PAU has been publishing the “PAUza Akademicka” on-line weekly. The popularity of this weekly continues to grow, which is undoubtedly due to its editor-in-chief, Professor Andrzej Białas.

In addition, 11 book titles were published in the reporting year. The total volume of all published volumes is over 1100 printing sheets (414 sheets of book publications + 687 sheets of periodicals). The level of our publications is ensured by the PAU Publishing Committee.

All submitted texts are reviewed by independent reviewers, and only works that have received unequivocally positive reviews are accepted for publication. The Committee is presently chaired by the Vice-President of PAU, Professor Andrzej Mączyński.

International cooperation

The Academy currently has cooperation agreements with 16 Academies of Sciences (listed below) and other scientific entities. In 2020, due to the epidemiological threat, personal exchanges were not possible. The implementation of most projects has been postponed until 2021.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- Ukrainian Academy of Sciences
- Slovak Academy of Sciences
- Czech Academy of Sciences
- Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- Slovenian Academy of Sciences
- Macedonian Academy of Sciences
- Romanian Academy of Sciences
- Institute of History of the Republic of Lithuania
- The ExtreMe Matter Institute
- Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences
- Polish Scientific Society in Zhytomyr
- The Royal Society of Edinburgh
- The Hungarian Academy of Arts
- Scientific Library of The Vasyl Stefanyk Ciscarpathian National University in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine
- Austrian Academy of Sciences
- Ivan Franko National University of Lviv

PAU is a member of two international organisations: International Union of Academies (**UIA**) and All European Academies (**ALLEA**). Cooperation with the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences (**PIASA**) in the United States and the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in Canada (**PIASC**) in Montreal should also be mentioned here. Both of these institutes formally have the status of PAU research stations. We publish a journal entitled “The Polish Review” together with the Institute in New York. Moreover, in the year under review the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences published a study entitled *Correspondence*

between Valery Goetel and Radim Kettner, together with the Masaryk Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences (Masarykův ústav a Archiv Akademie věd ČR).

Research support activity

Three units of the PAU are involved in such activities: 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 its kind in our city. Under the direction of Agnieszka Fluda-Krokos, PhD, the new director of the Library, numerous organisational changes have been initiated in this unit, which should lead to a better use of the valuable collections.

In the reporting year the Library's collections were presented at 9 exhibitions:

- *Ex Musicis. Musical Exlibris from the Collections of the Scientific Library of PAU and PAN in Kraków;*
- *Leonardiana in Polish Collections, The King John III Wilanów Palace Museum, Warsaw;*
- *The Miracle of Light. Medieval Stained Glass in Poland, National Museum, Kraków;*
- *Plants and Animals: Atlases of Natural History in the Age of Linnaeus, International Cultural Centre, Kraków;*
- *Genius of the Baroque. Szymon Czechowicz (1689–1775), National Museum, Kraków;*
- *The World of the Polish Vasa. Space – People – Art, Royal Castle in Warsaw – Museum;*
- *Zwierzyniec invites Garbary, Historical Museum of the City of Kraków;*
- *Hippiatrics and His Patients. Treatment of Horses in Warsaw, Royal Łazienki Museum, Warsaw;*
- *The Life of Józef Ignacy Kraszewski, J. I. Kraszewski Museum, Romanów.*

The Scientific Library of the PAU and PAN also carries out its own publishing activity. In 2020 four books were published (in-

² Polish Academy of Sciences.

cluding the 65th volume of the “Yearbook of the Scientific Library of PAU and PAN in Krakow”) and a calendar for 2021 (jointly with PAU).

In 2020 the Library participated for the first time in the Libraries Week (8–15 May 2020). The event was held on-line due to the COVID-19 outbreak. As part of the Week, the Library staff gave multimedia presentations showing the functioning of the various departments of the Library and the characteristics of the collections. In addition, on 19–20 November 2020, the Library organised an international academic conference entitled *Littera Scripta Manet. Manuscript Collections in the Resources of Libraries, Archives and Museums*. The conference was held on-line via the ZOOM platform. The sessions dealt with the problems of collecting, developing, storing, preserving, conserving and making available manuscript collections. The conference brought together a wide range of researchers from different fields and scientific disciplines – historians, archivists, museologists, linguists, literary scholars, editors, art historians, chemists, biologists, among others.

It is worth noting that 14 Library staff members carry out systematic scientific activity, publishing original articles and popular science texts. Source editions and catalogues are also developed.

A full report on the Library’s activities will be published in the 66th volume of the “Yearbook of 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. In the year under review, 1 permanent exhibition and 2 virtual exhibitions were organised in this unit:

- *Walery Goetel (1889–1972). I Was Born as One of Those who Have a Curiosity about the World...* (stationary exhibition);
- *On the Waves of the Nile. From the Voyage of Walery Goetel to Africa* (virtual exhibition);
- *Goetel Brothers’ Iceland* (virtual exhibition).

The Lanckoroński Phototeca has been owned by the PAU since 1929 and contains over 50,000 photograms. These collections are still being successively organised and digitalised. In 2020, within the framework of projects financed from external sources, 4992 photographic prints were processed and digitalised. Moreover, in the reporting year the Lanckoroński Phototeca participated in the recording of 6 episodes of the series “Works, masterpieces”, carried out in cooperation with the Bene Tibi Association and TVP Kraków.

Polish Library in Paris

The Polish Library in Paris co-owned by PAU and the Historical and 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, work to finally settle the legal and financial status of the Library, carried out at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, is still in progress. In the reporting year 3 research projects financed by the National Programme for the Development of the Humanities were carried out at the Paris Library, 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, also in the reporting year, the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences granted prizes and awards. Undoubtedly the most prestigious of them is the **Erazm and Anna Jerzmanowski Prize**. This prize is granted for cultural, scientific, and charitable activity. This year – the twelfth after the reactivation of the prize – the winner was Sister Małgorzata Chmielewska. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the prize ceremony could not take place on the traditional (May) date. It will be organised in 2021, after the COVID-19 outbreak has subsided.

At the same time, the Małopolska Marshall's Office withdrew funding for this important Academy prize in 2020. In this difficult and unexpected situation, in accordance with the decision of the PAU Management Board, the prize was paid from Academy funds. The Board is presently taking efforts to finance further editions of the prize from external sources.

The Tadeusz Browicz Award is given by PAU at the request of Class V Medicine. In the reporting year the award was given to Professor Michał Grą (Medical University of Warsaw) and to Tymoteusz Żera, PhD (Medical University of Warsaw).

The Adam Bielański Award is awarded at the request of Class III. In 2020 it was awarded to Professor Józef Adam Mąkosza (Institute of Organic Chemistry PAN, Warsaw).

In the reporting year the PAU also awarded the **Nicolaus Copernicus Science Awards of the City of Kraków Foundation**. These

awards are given in a five-year cycle, in 8 fields. This year awards were received by:

- in **astronomy** – the team: Dorota Skowron, PhD, Jan Skowron, PhD, and Przemysław Mróz, PhD;
- in the field of **economics** – Professor Jerzy Hausner;
- in **cosmology and astrophysics** – Anna Barnacka, PhD;
- in **classical philology** – the team: Elżbieta Starek, MA, and Grzegorz Kotłowski, PhD;
- in the field of **law** – Professor Marcin Matczak;
- in the field of **mathematics** – Professor Wojciech Kucharz;
- in **medicine** – the team: Professor Marek Ruchała, Martyna Borowczyk, PhD, Bartłomiej Budny, PhD, Rafał Czepczyński, PhD, Małgorzata Kałużna, PhD, Nadia Sawicka-Gutaj, PhD, Professor Ewelina Szczepanek-Parulska, Kosma Woliński, PhD, and Professor Katarzyna Ziemnicka;
- in the field of **earth sciences** – the team: Professor Piotr Ilnicki and Professor Lech Wojciech Szajdak.

This year the applications were considered by the Committee for the award chaired by the Vice-President of the PAU, Professor Andrzej Mączyński.

Lanckoroński Foundation and the **Lanckoroński of Brzezie Foundation Scholarships**. These scholarships are awarded by a committee chaired by Professor Andrzej Borowski. In addition to PAU representatives, it is composed of delegates from the Foundation, Jagiellonian University, Adam Mickiewicz University, Warsaw University, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń and University of Wrocław. In the reporting year, the committee awarded 64 scholarships. Due to the COVID-19 epidemic, only 17 of the scholarships awarded last year were used. Another 51 scholarships from 2020 were carried over to 2021.

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Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences' art collection

PAUart
www.pauart.pl

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