



### **President's report 2001**

Since the last AGM in June 2000, the committee members of the Polish Museum and Archives have been meeting regularly and have identified a number of key areas that need attention and projects to be undertaken in this the coming year. One key area identified was that the organisation needs a wider profile. This has been partially addressed through the production of a brochure in English / Polish about the organisation, an article to appear in the Tygodnik Polski and other planned promotional work.

It is hoped that through greater promotion of the organisation we will encourage more members to join the organisation and create a pool of interested individual who may wish to contribute to new projects.

Another important key area identified is to properly store, sort and catalogue the materials held by the Polish Museum and Archives. By widen the circle of interested people to include younger people who are studying history or librarianship we hope to find volunteers with cataloguing skills to assist with this. In return the volunteer gains valuable experience. By cataloguing the collection, researchers and historians will be able to access this resource.

#### **Existing and new projects for the coming year include:**

##### The collection project

The Polish Museum and Archives is always on the look out for objects, documents, photographs and other memorabilia that is significant to the Polish community's history in Australia. As part of this collection process Zdzislaw Derwinski on the Museum's behalf successful acquired a significant historical collection from Adelaide. This collection has important documents, minutes of meetings and other materials recording Polish organisational and community life as far back as the 1930s.

##### Oral History project

The Polish community has a significant number of people who are now elderly and have experienced the Second World War, displacement, and migration to a new land. The stories of these people are an important aspect of Polish history as well as Australian migration history. It is therefore, important to preserve this in a long lasting way. With the support of staff from 3ZZZ and the use of their equipment we hope to go out into the community and record people's stories. We are keen to encourage participants as well as interviewers – as this will be a fascinating and rewarding project to be involved in.

##### Funding opportunities

In order to carry out the various activities planned we are seeking funds. Currently we are waiting for the next funding round of Blum foundation, The

Victorian Multicultural Commission and other funding sources so we will be busy writing funding submissions in the coming months to gain resources to properly storage materials and to cataloguing the collection.

Collaboration with other organisations

As part of promoting our organisation and activities we also hope to collaborate with other similar organisations to assist us. Organisations such as the State Library of Victoria and the National Archives of Australia are possible sources in gaining advice on cataloguing or housing materials. Currently the Committee is pursuing possible co-operation with Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwow Panstwowych in Warsaw.

In this last year, on behalf of the Committee of the Polish Museum and Archives, I am pleased to report that as a group we have discussed and identified important areas of work and we have began to address theses. As with every voluntary organisation, time and efforts of members are critically important. I would like to thank very much all the Committee members for their efforts and contribution. I would also like to call on members of the organisation who have an interest in any of the projects outlined to become involved or if you know of young budding historians who could make a contribution please let us know

Many Thanks

Helen Evert

President, Polish Museum and Archives In Australia. 12 August 2001