



REPORT OF THE ACTIVITY

of the Foundation of Culture and Heritage of Polish Armenians in 2011

In 2011 the works which consisted in preparing the collection, making Polish objects connected with Armenia available, popularisation of knowledge about Polish Armenians and monument restoration were continued.

PREPARATION OF COLLECTIONS

A register of all documents available in the collection of the Foundation was prepared and the concept of division into archival units elaborated, which will allow for starting works on the collection organisation.

The catalogue of Armenian manuscripts available in the Foundation's collection was prepared.

MAKING THE COLLECTION AVAILABLE

The Virtual Archive of Polish Armenians (www.archiwum.ormianie.pl) makes the following unique materials available:

- indexed birth record from the Armenian Cathedral in Lvov, whose records date back to 1776–1837
- all issues of *Saint Gregor's Messenger*, including the hardly known ones dated 1935–1937
- visitors' book prepared for Archbishop Józef Teodorowicz in 1937, which includes signatures of Lvov Archdiocese parishioners of the Armenian rite
- Banns Record from the Armenian parish in Horodenka.

POPULARISATION OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT POLISH ARMENIANS

Four copies of the Armenian magazine *Awedis* were issued, initiating an action entitled "Policzmy się!", encouraging to take part in the national census and declare the Armenian nationality, and motivating all Armenian organisations in Poland to sign the common appeal concerning that matter.

The Website *The Virtual World of Polish Armenians* (www.ormianie.pl) maintained by the Foundation groups websites which used to be scattered in one place:

- The website of the Foundation of Culture and Heritage of Polish Armenians which maintains as many as five individual websites:
 - www.dziedzictwo.ormianie.pl publishes current information connected with Armenians in Poland; in 2011 it was enriched with English and Armenian language versions,
 - www.wiki.ormianie.pl gathers *wiki*-like biographical entries concerning Armenians who used to be connected with Poland,
 - www.archiwum.ormianie.pl, the Virtual Archive of Polish Armenians makes rich materials connected with Polish Armenians available in the Internet,
 - www.skarbnica.ormianie.pl, the Treasury of Information about Polish Armenians which gathered historical material it will be complemented with in 2012;
 - www.awedis.ormianie.pl presents other issues of *Awedis*;
- other Armenian organisations in Poland;
- Armenian parishes in Poland.

Two calendars were issued for years 2011 and 2012 – “Armenian families in Poland in old photographs” and “The Restoration of Armenian monuments in Lvov.”

In the course of two summer months the Polish Armenian Association presented an exhibition of the Foundation and the History Meeting House entitled *With a View of Ararat. The Lives of Armenians in Poland* in the Ethnographical Museum in Wrocław. The exhibition was accompanied by five Armenian events.

An exhibition entitled *The Great Unforgettable Armenian Archbishop Józef Teodorowicz (1864-1938). An Outstanding Polish Clergyman and Statesman* was presented three times:

- from June until September 2011 – at the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Cracow,
- in October 2011 – at Gliwice Higher School of Enterprise,
- at the turn of November and December 2011 – at Jarosław Centre of Culture and Promotion, via Rzeszów Department of the Institute of National Remembrance in Jarosław.

The Foundation co-organised the scientific conference on *Armenians in Lvov: History, Culture, Art* at Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University (December 9–10, 2011).

A traditional popularisation enterprise was the Armenian Day organised on December 3, 2011 in Warsaw jointly with the History Meeting House. The programme included lectures on Armenian souvenirs in Warsaw, illuminations in Armenian manuscripts, manuscript and old document preservation, a film about Archbishop Józef Teodorowicz on the day before his 73rd death anniversary, a Mass in the Armenian rite and workshops for children.

RESTORATION WORKS

The designing of the restoration of a wooden sculpture group called *Golgotha* located in the courtyard of the Armenian Cathedral in Lvov was carried on. In 2011 the disassembled elements of the sculpture underwent restoration works which are going to be finished in 2012.

COOPERATION

Closer relationship was established with Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora in the West. Our Foundation hosted specialists from Matenadaran – the Institute-Museum of Old Manuscripts from Yerevan, the State University and representatives of the Armenian Ministry of Culture as well as historians from the United States, France and Belgium.

In September the Foundation, on behalf of all Armenians residing in Poland, donated the facsimile of a precious manuscript known as the Gospel book from Skewra to Matenadaran.

NEW SEAT OF THE FOUNDATION

Since March 2011 the Foundation and its Archive of Polish Armenians have had their registered office in the centre of Warsaw at ul. Zgoda 4/16. On the occasion of the change of seat, a small meeting was organised to present unique exhibits from the Archive of Polish Armenians and give a report of five years of the Foundation’s work. The premises were consecrated by Cardinal Kazimierz Nycz, the originator of the Foundation and the ordinary of the congregation of the Armenian rite in Poland.