



Jacek Gołębiowski

**Association
of Polish
Teachers
Abroad
1990-2016**

THE LEARNED SOCIETY
OF THE JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF LUBLIN

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SINCE 1934

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INTRODUCTION

In 2016, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad celebrated its diamond jubilee – 75 years of activity. The main celebrations took place on 16 October, on the occasion of the Teachers' Day. The organization was founded on 6 March 1941 in Perth, Scotland. The need for its creation was expressed by the Supreme Commander of the Polish Armed Forces and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland, General Władysław Sikorski, and the Minister of Education, General Józef Haller.

APTA was founded by teacher-soldiers with experience in pedagogical and social work gained in the Second Republic of Poland. Unable to return to the homeland subjugated by the communists, they stayed in Great Britain to serve the Polish community of political emigrants. The Association, together with the Polish Ex-Combatants' Association, focused on the creation of a network of Polish Schools of Native Subjects (also referred to as Polish Saturday schools) in the United Kingdom and achieved a great success in this field. In 1952, there were 111 Polish schools in the UK, with 300 teachers educating about 5,000 students.

The activity of the Association in the years 1941-1991 was described by professor Tadeusz Radzik in his monograph. The author stressed in it that there are few organizations continuously operating in exile, which exist in spite of the changing circumstances and are faithful to their ideals, testifying to the need for their existence and a servile role for the Homeland and Poles abroad. The subsequent years of activity (1991-2016), recorded on the pages of this monograph, confirm the validity of the above statement. The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad belongs to the unique few organizations which, after Poland regained its independence, sought and established close cooperation with the Homeland and marked out new fields of activity, adapting to the completely new conditions and needs. This proves the extraordinary intuition and foresight of the Association's Main Board, because, with the systematically decreasing number of Polish Schools of Native Subjects, at the end of the twentieth century no one expected that after 2004 there would be a massive increase in the number of Polish emigrants in Great Britain.

The Association has a special place in the post-war history of the "Polish London." Outstanding and well-educated members of this organization have

repeatedly held important positions in the Government of the Republic of Poland in Exile (e.g. Czesław Czapliński – Minister of Education and Culture), in the Federation of Poles in Great Britain and in the National Council. 75 years of activity, with impressive achievements in many fields of education and culture, testify best to the fact that the Association has been an organization extremely needed by the Polish national community residing in the United Kingdom. The author of this monograph used in his work the documents from the Association's incredibly rich archive, comprising of protocols, reports, letters, speeches, correspondence, information bulletins, surveys, etc., as well as the Polish diaspora press and photographs. The content of these sources allowed to distinguish the following main fields of the organization's activity:

- concern for the preservation of Polish identity,
- teaching Polish and developing language skills of students,
- educating teachers,
- expanding and consolidating knowledge about the Polish contribution to the victory of the Allies during World War II and to the history of Europe,
- upholding the most beautiful Polish customs and traditions,
- motivating students to maintain Polishness and to gain knowledge about Poland, its history and culture.

In over seventy-five years of its activity, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, in accordance with the Statute, has promoted Polishness in exile, and cared for preserving both the mother tongue and Polish culture. The Board has performed its duties socially, thus serving God and the homeland. A slogan “I nic nad Boga” [And nothing above God] was placed on the banner of the organization, which was solemnly consecrated on 13 October 2002. This short inscription, which is extremely rich in content, fully reflects the values that the subsequent generations of teachers of Polish Schools of Native Subjects in Great Britain have been faithful to over the years.

CHAPTER I

THE ASSOCIATION OF POLISH TEACHERS ABROAD – HISTORICAL OUTLINE

The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad (APTA) (*Zrzeszenie Nauczycielstwa Polskiego za Granicą*) was established on 6 March 1941 in Perth, Scotland, during a Congress of teachers and education officers. Its aim was to enable soldiers to continue their education interrupted by the outbreak of war and to provide teachers who would work together in the United Kingdom. General Władysław Sikorski, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland in exile and the Supreme Commander of the Polish Armed Forces, saw the need to establish such organisation and supported the initiative. The speech inaugurating the founding congress of the Association was made by the Minister of Education, Lieutenant General Józef Haller, who appealed to the teachers for help in shaping Polish education system in Great Britain and described work in education as particularly honourable and as important for regaining independent Poland as armed struggle. General Juraj Slavik, a representative of Czechoslovakian government in exile, was the guest of honour.¹

During the Congress, papers were also presented by Assistant Professor Marian Jedlicki, who described the state of Polish education in exile, and Zygmunt Kukulski, professor of Catholic University of Lublin, a well-known pedagogue and historian of education, who talked about the education system in Great Britain in the historical context. In particular, Professor Kukulski wanted to familiarise Polish teachers with the achievements of British education system so that they could use the acquired knowledge to reform the education system in Poland.

305 teachers took part in the Congress whose venue was the Station Hotel in Perth. After the inaugurating mass, the participants of the Founding Congress commemorated the fallen teachers who gave their lives for the country and fought in the defense of independent Poland. Then they paid tribute to Polish teachers in occupied Poland who, with their heroic attitude, gave the

¹ APTA's Archive in London, Book of proceedings of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, 1941-1950. Minutes no. 1/1941.

young generation an example of bravery and loyalty to the beloved country. According to father Bolesław Szuberlak, a participant of the Congress,

[...] having spent the day in a wonderful fraternal atmosphere, teachers traveled back to their divisions spiritually strengthened. The future showed that the zeal with which they resumed their job, gave excellent results.²

In accordance with the provisions of the Congress, the statutory objectives of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad included:

1. Exchange of ideas between the members on the matters of upbringing and teaching.
2. Teachers' vocational development by means of discussion meetings, demonstration lessons and publication of articles in professional pedagogical journals.
3. Studies on British education.
4. Cooperation with teachers from Czechoslovakia.
5. Cooperation with teachers from other allied countries.
6. Publishing a journal for teachers.
7. Friendly self-help.

On 2 April 1941, by the decision of Tadeusz Ullman, the Head of the Political Department of the Ministry of the Interior Affairs of Polish government in exile, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad was officially registered as an association. This fact was announced in the Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland.³

The first president of the Association was Franciszek Lenczkowski, and his successors during the war were Wilhelm Nowicki (1941-1943) and Antoni Wójcicki (1943-1945).

During the first year, the Association concentrated on organisational work, developed a program of activities focused on maintaining Polish pedagogical culture and repairing Polish education damaged by war. The purpose of the teachers' stay in Great Britain was to gain qualifications by means of self-education and the use of British teachers' experience. Therefore, the Association's authorities initiated visitation classes in British schools, organised demonstration classes and encouraged teachers to learn English as it was the condition for learning British pedagogical thought. In addition, cooperation with teacher education centres in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth, Aberdeen and Dundee was established, which resulted in the participation of Polish teachers in specialist courses organised by the centres.

² "Spojrzenie wstecz," *Gazeta Niedzielną*, 1 September 1996 [all translations mine DBN].

³ Dziennik Ustaw Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej [Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland] no 3. London 1941, Zarządzenie Ministra Spraw wewnętrznych L.dz. 10/41.

A characteristic feature of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad was its totally apolitical nature, which was constantly repeated and underlined both in the adopted program and during formal meetings. In the opinion of Professor Tadeusz Radzik, the author of a monograph on the Association, it was the right solution that ensured the stabilisation of work regardless of the changing balance of political forces in the subsequent cabinets.⁴

The Association's own publishing body was organised in accordance with the adopted program of activities. The journal's title was *Przegląd Pedagogiczny* (Pedagogical Review) with the English subtitle "The Teachers Review." It was edited by the Head of APTA Publishing Section, Mieczysław Pawłowski, PhD. Unfortunately, the journal did not gain readers' acceptance. Hence, "Poradnik dla Pracowników Świetlic Żołnierskich" (A Handbook for the Workers of Soldiers' Clubs) was distributed among the teachers in 1943-1949. In 1949, the Handbook contained a supplement called "Wiadomości Nauczycielskie" (Teachers' News). With time, the supplement was transformed into the Association's main publication, maintaining its original name.

Growing at a satisfactory rate, the Association's structure was the foundation of its development. Between March 1941 and December 1942, seven new divisions were created at major military units and at school in Castlemains. The Association had 169 members.⁵ Uniformed members of APTA were involved in educational activities among the soldiers. They organised different forms of education, including courses for secondary school final examinations, primary school education, lectures and talks. These activities were very important for the participants as most of them had to leave their education due to the war.

In addition to the current work in Great Britain, the Association focused on preparing a reform of the school system in Poland. The topic was particularly visible during the debates and discussions of the subsequent General Meetings of APTA. The future reform was to be based on the following assumptions:

- free education in all types of schools and for all people,
- access to secondary education dependent only on one's abilities and progress in learning, not on one's financial condition,
- increasing the number of students,
- increasing the number of highly qualified teachers,
- totally apolitical character of the school (as an institution),
- the use of British solutions to create a model of Polish education system.

⁴ T. Radzik, *Historia Zrzeszenia Nauczycielstwa Polskiego Za Granicą 1941-1991*, Londyn 1999, p. 12.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 13.

Another General Meeting, organised in London on 1-3 October 1943, testified to the constantly growing significance of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad in the United Kingdom. It was attended by the most important representatives of state authorities in exile, including the President of the Republic of Poland, Władysław Raczkiewicz, Prime Minister Stanisław Mikołajczyk and the minister of religious denominations and public education, father Zygmunt Kaczyński.

During the Meeting, a decision was made to move the headquarters of the Association's Main Board to London, due to the necessity of a close cooperation with Polish and British ministries and offices whose headquarters were in London.⁶ An additional reason was the fact that APTA provided formal care for Polish education abroad – not only in Great Britain, but also in the Middle East, India, Africa, and later also in New Zealand and Mexico. The Association tried to be in touch with Polish teachers' organisations in those regions, and then to establish affiliate divisions there. Foreign divisions of the Association became an important factor stimulating the development of the organisation. The division in Iran had about 200 members, in India – 120, and in Palestine – 54. A resilient division also functioned in African Tanganyika.

The Main Board of the Association recognised as its priority task the need to formulate the principles of the education system for post-war Poland. Hence, the basic tasks leading to the implementation of the education reform in Poland included:

- education of young people who could not receive regular education because of war,
- recruiting necessary teachers and educators during the transition period,
- development of teacher training plans for a later period,
- preparation of recovery action,
- obtaining means or materials necessary to run schools of all types,
- popularisation of a wide international action which would provide help in the reconstruction of Polish cultural life,
- providing Polish children with specialist medical care,
- cataloging pedagogical achievements of Anglo-Saxon countries,
- preparation of Polish translations of the latest pedagogical literature from Anglo-Saxon countries,
- establishing cooperation with international cultural and educational organisations and institutions.⁷

⁶ Report from the meeting of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad. 1-3 October 1943, London, Glasgow 1944.

⁷ "Uchwały Zarządu ZNP w Londynie wobec expose Ministra Oświaty," *Wiadomości Nauczycielskie* 11-12(1944): 1-4.

Stipulations regarding the reform of the education system in the post-war Poland made by the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad during World War II concentrated mainly on the democratisation of the system by means of free access to education on all levels. Attention was also paid to the need to obtain international help for Poland, a country devastated by war and which was first to stand alone against the Nazi invaders. International help was intended to rebuild the damaged educational infrastructure, provide medical care for students and support teachers in gaining the highest teaching qualifications. Using Anglo-Saxon standards and professional literature was totally natural to APTA members and the main board. The Association worked closely with British and American teachers' organisations and education centres. The most important institutions in this field included:

- New Education Fellowship, Training College for Teachers in Edinburgh, Educational Institute of Scotland, etc. in Great Britain,
- National Education Association, National Council of Education, and National Adult Education Association in the USA.

In addition to its educational and research activities, the Association, from the very beginning of its activity, supported financially teachers and children staying in Great Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, and the Middle East. At the same time, members of the Association were attended to with constant care, especially the soldiers who were granted loans, grants and subsidies for treatment.

The end of the Association's activity in Great Britain during the war was not only connected with the formal announcement of the end of World War II but also with the withdrawal of the recognition for the Polish Government in exile by the great powers on 5 July 1945.

The official stance of the Polish Government in exile on the return to the country and on the new authorities in Poland was a very important factor determining the further fate of the Association. Legal power structures of the Republic of Poland decided to stay in exile in Great Britain. The reason for stating that there is no possibility of returning to Poland was the taking over of the Polish government in the country by the communists and the introduction of the Soviet political system with all its negative consequences. The first goal of these activities was the destruction of the Polish underground state and the paralysis of the social will to resist, realised by means of omnipresent terror. The second goal was to establish own institutions and to take control over those that existed during the occupation. The entire process of sovietization of Poland took place under the custody of the Red Army and the direct supervision of the Soviet intelligence and NKVD.⁸

⁸ J. Gołębiowski, *Europa w hiszpańskiej myśli politycznej oraz myśli politycznej polskiego wychodźstwa w latach 1945-1995*, Lublin 2010, p. 63.

As a result of World War II, Poland appeared on the map of Europe as a completely new country, with borders different than before the war. The area of the country was reduced by 20%. Poland lost eastern lands – almost half of the former territory – and was moved westwards along the Oder line. Compared with 1939, the number of Polish citizens decreased by 30% as a result of German and Soviet extermination and forced emigration. Poland became an ethnically homogeneous nation-state and lost its multicultural character typical of the inter-war period. Many Poles remained abroad, especially in the USSR (about 1.5 million people) and in Western Europe where the fear of communism was stronger than homesickness. Apart from civilian emigration, also the vast majority of Polish Armed Forces decided to stay in the West. Thus, Polish emigration increased significantly, by over 500,000 people, as a result of World War II.

The majority of Polish intelligentsia, including intellectual, cultural and political elites, so cruelly decimated by the Germans and the Soviets, remained abroad. What is more, legal authorities of the Republic of Poland with their insignia, banners, etc. also remained in exile. In this way, the largest political diaspora in the then world was created.⁹

On 5 July 1945, Western countries allied with Poland during World War II withdrew their official support for the Polish government in London and recognised the Provisional Government of National Unity with the Prime Minister Edward Osóbka-Morawski as legal authorities.¹⁰

The event was very painful for Polish emigration and led to a split in their midst. The majority rejected Yalta decisions as they could not imagine participating in the fiction created by Józef Stalin on Polish soil. However, a small group of Stanisław Mikołajczyk's supporters backed the idea of the return to Poland and the participation in building new people's republic. Before Stanisław Mikołajczyk and his supporters personally learned that the dictatorship of one party is the foundation of communism, Polish People's Party was destroyed by communist security services which used false accusations, direct repression and falsification of the election results in January 1947 to that end. The leaders of Polish People's Party, including Stanisław Mikołajczyk and Stefan Korboński, were forced to leave the country again.

The withdrawal of recognition by the majority of states did not change the constitutional foundations of Polish authorities' activity in any way. The gov-

⁹ A. Paczkowski, *Pół wieku dziejów Polski*, Warszawa 1998, p. 152.

¹⁰ Edward Osóbka-Morawski – Polish socialist activist, head of the so-called Polish Committee of National Liberation founded in Moscow by the order of Joseph Stalin. Prime minister of the Provisional Government of National Unity which was an organ completely subordinated to the Soviet Union. Under the protection of the Red Army and security apparatus he imposed Soviet political system and the totalitarian model of the state on Poland after World War II.

ernment of Prime Minister Tomasz Arciszewski was still recognised by the Vatican, Spain, Ireland, Cuba and Lebanon. The President of the Republic of Poland in exile,¹¹ who stayed in London, still provided the government with a legal basis for its functioning.

NEW SITUATION AFTER 5 JULY 1945

The situation of Poles living in Great Britain immediately after the end of World War II changed fundamentally as a result of the British government's withdrawal of support for the Polish government in exile. This concerned all institutions and agencies subject to the government of the Republic of Poland in exile, including the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad in Great Britain. Like the government, the Association decided to remain in exile in order to take care of a large group of Polish political exiles, including thousands of children. It was decided that the members of APTA should work for the benefit of Poland and Polishness abroad, bearing in mind that only under the civil liberties of the "Free World" it is possible to preserve the most valuable ideals developed in the independent Republic of Poland and cultivated carefully in exile.

After the end of World War II the number of Poles in Great Britain grew systematically, along with the migration from the continent, mainly from Italy and Germany, but also from the Middle East, India and Africa.

At the end of the war, the number of Poles living in the UK amounted to 95,000 (including 21,000 civilians). Out of 249,000 soldiers of the Polish Armed Forces in the West, 200,000 soldiers arrived in Great Britain, 95,000 of which then returned to Poland. Until February 1949, 114,000 soldiers joined Polish Resettlement Corps, 20,000 of which returned to Poland or emigrated overseas (to the USA, Canada, Argentina, Australia etc.). In total, in October 1949 there were around 160,000 Poles in Great Britain.¹²

The recognition of Polish government in exile's legality by the Main Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad was a significant event impinging on the further post-war activity of the Association. It was acknowledged that both the government and its agencies, including the Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Education, still exist and perform their functions as legal authorities of the Republic of Poland.¹³ A loyal attitude towards the gov-

¹¹ A. Fiszke, *Życie polityczne emigracji*, Warszawa 1999, p. 32.

¹² T. Radzik, "Polska diaspora w Wielkiej Brytanii," in *Polska Diaspora*, ed. A. Walaszek, Kraków 2001, p. 155.

¹³ APTA's Archive in London, Minutes of the meeting of the ZNP Main Board Presidium, 10 July 1945.

ernment in exile did not mean an ultimate separation or break with the teachers in Poland.

The first Extraordinary Meeting of APTA after the war took place on 1 October 1945 in Glasgow. 350 delegate teachers took part in the discussion of the main issue which was the official response to the situation in Poland and the possibility of cooperation with the Polish Teachers' Union in Warsaw. The desire to help Polish education system resulted from the tradition of APTA's totally apolitical character and from faith in the declarations of cooperation coming from Poland. The Association's stance stemmed from loyalty to the principle of open-mindedness, respect for human rights and democracy, and the primacy of education over political issues. At the same time, it should be noted that expectations related to the cooperation with Polish Teachers' Union were based on unrealistic premises and empty declarations from Warsaw. With the inflow of new confirmed information to London about the socio-political situation and the progressing process of stalinization in Poland, it was acknowledged that teaching community in Poland continued to be repressed by the communist apparatus of terror for whom Polish elites were the greatest public enemy.

The structure of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad stabilised after the processes of re-emigration and further migration within the countries of the "Free World," and in 1946 the Association was organised in the following way:

1. Great Britain – 427 members
2. India – 120 members
3. Lebanon – 56 members
4. Uganda – 4 divisions (no data on the number of members)
5. Palestine
6. Mexico
7. Belgium
8. France
9. Germany.

As can be seen above, the Association was still an organisation functioning far beyond the borders of the United Kingdom. It continued its activity in the structures formed during World War II.

The current activity of the Association focused on adjusting the statute to the new situation in post-war Europe, providing teachers with legal and material help, and participating in the initiatives preventing Polish education in the UK from liquidation. One of the most important activities of the Association in this respect was the participation in the establishment of Fundusz Szkolnictwa i Oświaty Polskiej Zagranicą (Polish Education Abroad Fund) in the spring of 1946. The Fund was established during the general meeting of the

representatives of the main boards of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad in Great Britain, Zrzeszenie Profesorów i Docentów Polskich Szkół Akademickich (The Association of Professors and Assistant Professors of Polish Academic Schools) and Światowy Związek Polaków z Zagranicy (World Union of Poles Abroad). The fund was initiated with money from a collection on 3 May 1946 which soon became a tradition cultivated for decades in Polish community abroad. In 1959, the organisation of collections was taken over by Polska Macierz Szkolna (Polish Educational Society).¹⁴

In January 1948, the Main Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad developed guidelines for the plan of activities for the following years. To a large extent, the tasks undertaken in the first years of the Association's existence were to be continued. The most important tasks included the organisation of training courses which strongly emphasised significant achievements of Anglo-Saxon pedagogy. Solid knowledge of English language and culture was to be the basis of the future existence of a Polish teacher in British society. Subsequently, the issue of helping teachers, both ad hoc and to find a job in British education system, was emphasised.

The most important partner of the Association at that time was Stowarzyszenie Polskich Kombatantów (Polish Ex-Combatants' Association). The cooperation of both organisations resulted in the establishment of many Saturday schools with native subjects and in numerous initiatives related to teacher training, funding scholarships for educational staff, etc.

According to the data of APTA's Main Board from 1951, there were 30 Saturday schools in Great Britain run independently by the Association or in cooperation with Polish Ex-Combatants' Association. Seeing in the developing Polish schools a solid foundation for preserving Polish national identity, the Association created a curriculum of native subjects (Polish language, history, geography and religious education) in order to support and methodically strengthen Polish education.

In February 1951, the Association's cooperation with Polish Ex-Combatants' Association resulted in the opening of five Polish Saturday schools in London for Polish children attending English schools. Similar initiative was undertaken by the representatives of Polish communities in Bradford, Leeds and Halifax. The Association was involved in intense activity to organise Saturday schools in all districts of London inhabited by Polish community.

School in Ealing has been the first Polish Saturday school in London. The next school with a rich history is Saturday school at Polish parish on Devonia Road, where Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales is located.

¹⁴ T. Radzik, *Historia Zrzeszenia Nauczycielstwa Polskiego za Granicą*, p. 54.

From the analysis of APTA's budget we can learn that government subsidies provided by the Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Education, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Information were the main source of the Association's income. Hence, the Association received general subsidies and restricted grants which financed, among others, Pedagogical Library, publishing houses and publications, or international activity.¹⁵

The Association ended the first decade of its existence as a large organisation (485 members), with divisions in the largest centres of Polish emigration in Great Britain and in other countries. Great commitment to Polish education and dedication led to the perception of the Association by Polish community as a piece of free Homeland abroad.

THE ASSOCIATION OF POLISH TEACHERS ABROAD IN THE 1950s

According to British general census of December 1951, there were 162,371 people born in Poland and living in the UK, 135,770 of which were Polish citizens, while the rest were national minorities, mainly Ukrainians, Belorussians, Jews and Poles who acquired British citizenship. The last group amounted to 10,256 people in the period between 1946 and 1951. The general number of Poles should be increased by at least 6,000 Polish children and youth under 16 years of age who were not included in the census.¹⁶

Had it not been for the activities of Polish patriotic organisations, parishes and media, consciously working towards the preservation of national identity through the preservation of Polish language and culture, the process of assimilation and naturalisation of Polish emigrants would certainly have been faster. The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad played a major role in promoting Polish education, which was confirmed on 6 April 1951, when President of the Republic of Poland in exile, August Zaleski, granted the Golden Cross of Merit to the Association for "ten years of persistent work and in recognition of the glorious efforts of all teachers in all Polish communities outside Poland."¹⁷

The 9th General Meeting of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, which took place in London on 7 and 8 April 1951, dealt with developing a program of Association's activities for the following decade. The role of the

¹⁵ APTA's Archive in London, Financial reports of APTA's Main Board in Great Britain for the years 1945-1948.

¹⁶ T. Radzik, "Społeczność polska w Wielkiej Brytanii 1945-1990," in *Polonia w Europie*, ed. B. Szydłowska-Ceglowska, Poznań 1992, p. 438.

¹⁷ APTA's Archive in London, Zarządzenie Prezydenta Rzeczypospolitej on 6 April.

President was again entrusted to Władysław Donigiewicz, who was supported in organisational matters by vice-president Ludwik Bojczuk, and in matters of curricula by vice-president Feliks Jaworski. Stanisław Maj became the head of Scottish Division. The board was obliged to prepare a list of Polish teachers staying abroad in order to use their qualifications and professional competences in a more efficient way. With regard to curricular issues, building a network of Saturday schools and providing them with appropriate curricula and textbooks were considered the problems of the utmost importance.

It was also postulated to continue fruitful cooperation with Polish Ex-Combatants' Association which had greater material resources and organisational network throughout the Great Britain. The cooperation's aim was to obtain the necessary help to carry out the tasks set by the Association.¹⁸ Polish Ex-Combatants' Association was also interested in cooperating with the Association and supporting Polish education because it was the only way Polish students could acquire the minimum knowledge about the contribution of Polish Armed Forces in the West to the victory of the Allies in World War II, which was not taught in British schools.

The Association attended to Polish Saturday schools with methodological and substantive care, thanks to which the Association had extensive knowledge of their functioning and current needs. According to APTA, in 1952 there were 68 Saturday schools, with 140 teachers and 1,225 students. The Association ran 14 schools independently.

At the beginning of 1951, the Association's Main Board expressed confidence in the need to reconstruct Polska Macierz Szkolna (Polish Educational Society) in exile as a universal educational organisation bringing together Poles of all social strata and political views, for the common goal of preserving Polish culture in exile by means of school and educational activities. It was hoped that the Society would provide a social infrastructure for educational campaign and would help collecting funds for the campaign.¹⁹

At the beginning of 1950s financial matters related to the lack of funds for elementary tasks were an essential problem of the Association's activity. Financial problems appeared along with the suspension of the government subsidies from the Education Committee. The only source of income, apart from membership fees, were funds obtained from Fundacja Oświaty Polskiej Zagranicą (Polish Education Abroad Foundation), which financed Saturday schools.

It was hoped that new divisions and consequently, the inflow of new members, would help in further development of the Association and in the imple-

¹⁸ T. Radzik, *Zrzeszenie Nauczycielstwa Polskiego za Granicą*, p. 76.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 77.

mentation of the tasks set before it. New divisions in Bradford, Marsworth and Huddersfield were established in 1951 and 1952.

Acceptance and approval of the Association's of Polish Teachers Abroad new statute was a significant event influencing the further development of the organisation. It took place during the 10th Jubilee General Meeting in London on 28 and 29 June 1952. The new statute emphasised the fact that the Association's activity includes countries with Polish emigrant communities, thus maintains international, even global reach. The new goals in the changed socio-political situation were defined in the following way:

1. Promoting, maintaining and developing Polish culture among the Poles abroad.
2. Cultivating Polish educational ideas, enriching methods of upbringing and teaching.
3. Providing schools, teachers and education officers with the necessary legal and material conditions.
4. Improving authority and prestige of teaching profession.
5. Striving to provide the members of the Association and their families with moral and financial care.
6. Establishment and management of schools and educational facilities.
7. Pedagogical help for Polish institutions and organisations which undertake school and educational activities.
8. Collection and storage of educational aids, equipment and other materials for school and educational purposes.²⁰

The fundamental change in the statute's provisions was based on the recognition of the fact that the Association was no longer a teachers' labor union, but an educational organisation focused on organising activities in the field of education. People with teaching qualifications, people working as teachers and qualified education officers could become ordinary members of the Association. Formal requirements meant that the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad was still an elite organisation which did not count on the mass inflow of new members.

The 11th General Meeting of the Association, which took place in London on 15-17 May 1953, elected Feliks Jaworski as new President of the Association's Board. Previous president, Władysław Donigiewicz, did not run for the post because he had been elected the President of Zjednoczenie Polskie (Federation of Poles) in Great Britain, which confirmed the recognition for the Association in the eyes of Polish society in the United Kingdom.

In 1950s, APTA was one of the most influential and most active Polish organisations in Great Britain. The best-known ventures initiated by the Association include:

²⁰ APTA's statute, London 1952, p.1-3.

- Fundusz Oświaty Polskiej Zagranicą (Polish Education Abroad Fund, 1946)
- Komisja Nauczania Przedmiotów Ojczystych (Native Subjects Teaching Committee, 1950)
- Polska Macierz Szkolna (Polish Educational Society, 1953).

Members of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad were elected to perform executive functions in all of these organisations as well as in the Federation of Poles.

The organisation of pedagogical training conferences was an extremely important form of the Association's activity for the development of Polish education abroad. The conferences took place both in London and other centres gathering Polish communities.

According to the official data, in the middle of 1954 the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad had 20 divisions (including one in Buffalo in the USA). Dynamic development of the Association was also evidenced by the establishment of new divisions in Lilford, Hiltingbury, Marsworth, Stover and Shephalbury Manison. Divisions in Checkendon and Husbands Bosworth were in the organisational stage. East African division and French division were established outside the UK. In June 1954, the Association had a total of 397 members. London division was the largest, with 106 members, then Lilford (28 members) and Edinburgh (26 members).²¹

The increasing number of Polish Saturday schools (of native subjects) established by the Association passed into the care of other organisations, which was in line with the Association's activity guidelines. In the opinion of the Main Board,

the task of the associated teachers is to stimulate and encourage other social organisations, parents' and parish committees, etc. to work on the development of education system and to take proper care of schools. We want to do the tough work, not to save various educational achievements on our own account.²²

As a result of thus defined line of work, the Association run only a few schools on its own behalf, helping the majority of other schools. This tendency continued in the following years.

On 22 and 23 June 1957, Konferencja Wolnej Kultury Polskiej (the Free Polish Culture Conference) was held in London, in lieu of the canceled Kongres Wolnej Kultury Polskiej (Congress of Free Polish Culture). APTA leaders actively participated in the works of individual sections and presented papers. Władysław Donigiewicz, who again took the position of the President

²¹ Organisational Announcement no. 15, 16 and 17, 1954.

²² "Kilka słów o pracy Zrzeszenia," Organisational Announcement no. 14 and 15, 1953, p. 3.

of APTA's Main Board, was the head of the section on education and upbringing. Feliks Jaworski, Michał Goławski, Bronisław Łokaj and Zygmunt Szadkowski delivered program talks, presenting papers on ideological and educational issues, textbooks, curricula and problems concerning youth remaining in Poland.

At the turn of 1959, the Association had 200 members in Great Britain and 27 members in the United States. In addition, there were 97 members who did not belong to divisions, increasing the overall number to 317 members.

The Association continued the good practice of close cooperation with other organisations and institutions of "Polish London." Cooperation with Polish Educational Society, with which a special contract was concluded, was particularly successful. Feliks Jaworski, vice-president of the Association, was at the same time the vice-president of Polish Educational Society, and several other APTA members were in the Society's Board or Council. Cooperation with the Federation of Poles in Great Britain was also successful. Władysław Donigiewicz was the chairman of the Federation's Cultural and Educational Council, and Feliks Jaworski was the chairman of Native Subjects Teaching Committee.²³

The Association was in touch with individual teachers in Poland, but categorically refused to cooperate with Polish Teachers' Union in Warsaw, despite attempts to establish formal cooperation. Aggressive attacks of Polish Teachers' Union on the Primate Stefan Wyszyński which appeared in "Głos Nauczycielski" (Teachers' Voice) were the reason for refusal.

Organising specialist courses for teachers which would enable them to work in Polish Saturday schools was a significant part of APTA's activity. In accordance with the resolution of the 15th General Meeting (3-4 January 1959), the first such course was organised by Huddersfield division and was called Studium Pedagogiczne (Pedagogical College). The course lasted two years and ended with examinations supervised by Wydział Humanistyczny Polskiego Uniwersytetu Na Obczyźnie (the Faculty of Humanities at Polish University Abroad) in London. Considering the growing needs in the field of acquiring teaching qualifications, the Association took over Ośrodek Nauczania Korespondencyjnego (Centre for Correspondence Learning), thus increasing the Association's capacity to organise teacher education throughout the United Kingdom.

²³ T. Radzik, *Zrzeszenie Nauczycielstwa Polskiego za Granicą*, p. 88.

THE ASSOCIATION OF POLISH TEACHERS ABROAD IN THE 1960s

On 18 and 19 November there was the 16th General Meeting of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad. The particularly solemn character of the event was connected with the 20th anniversary of APTA's existence. The venue of the Meeting was Sala Sztandarowa of Instytut Historyczny im. gen. Sikorskiego (the Banner Hall of the General Sikorski Historical Institute) in London. New authorities were elected with Feliks Jaworski as the President. At the beginning of the 1960s, the Association consisted of 8 divisions functioning in larger gatherings of Polish emigrants in the United Kingdom. These divisions included:

1. Birmingham division.
2. Edinburgh division (15 members).
3. Huddersfield division (17 members).
4. Leeds division (9 members).
5. London division (177 members).
6. Manchester division (9 members).
7. Nottingham division (19 members).
8. Croydon division (20 members).

The only APTA division functioning outside Great Britain was American division in Buffalo.

The close cooperation with Związek Polskich Klubów Sportowych (The Association of Polish Sports Clubs) was a novelty in the organisational work of the Association. The result of this cooperation comprised of numerous sports tournaments (mainly football) for teams from Polish Saturday schools.²⁴

A very important event concerning teaching native subjects in Polish Saturday schools took place in June 1964 when the first secondary school final examinations were carried out in the pre-war form.

During the 17th General Meeting which took place on 23 February 1964, a resolution was passed for the Association to join, together with other Polish organisations in the UK, Polski Ośrodek Społeczno-Kulturalny (Polish Social and Cultural Association) which was being established in London. APTA formally became member of Polish Social and Cultural Association on 13 January 1965.

Training courses for teachers in exile were an extremely important part the work continued by the Association from the very beginning of its activity. In addition to two-year Pedagogical College in Huddersfield and nine-month courses in London, three-month teacher training courses were introduced in

²⁴ Ibid., p. 96.

Leeds. The success of APTA's educational initiatives and great interest of potential teachers led to the organisation of similar courses in London. Apart from obtaining teaching qualifications, the courses provided background for the work of a Polish teacher and catechist.

Cooperation with Polish Ex-Combatants' Association and Polish Educational Society was still a successful one. Polish organisations in Great Britain recognised Association's primary role in the field of education and schooling, which was manifested by accepting the document prepared by the Association's Main Board, entitled "Requirements concerning the work of teachers in Saturday schools." The document defined in detail the substantive principles of Saturday schools' functioning, including the competences and qualifications of headmasters, fields of cooperation between the body running a school and teachers, parishes, etc. It also confirmed that all Saturday schools in Great Britain worked on the basis of a curriculum prepared by the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad (edited by Celina Mikołajczyk), and published by Polish Educational Society.²⁵

According to the data included in the organisation's documents, the Association had 438 members in 1966, 355 of which lived in Great Britain and 83 in other countries.

On 20 March 1966, the 18th General Meeting of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad took place in London. Its ceremonial character stemmed from celebrating two anniversaries: the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Association's founding and the millennium of Christianity in Poland. Presenting the report on the Association's activity, president Czesław Czapliński emphasised the organisation's great involvement in developing curricula for Polish Saturday schools. Caring for the preservation of Polish identity, the Association showed the unbreakable bond between Polishness and Christianity. In their daily work teachers drew their strength and inspiration from the teaching of the Church, and the celebration of Catholic holidays became an important unifying factor for Polish community in the United Kingdom. Christmas wafer meetings, held by almost all Polish organisations in Great Britain, were celebrated with particular reverence. Polish parishes were a place of celebration of patriotic and religious events. Association's traditional approach to morality and ethics was confirmed by the key role of religion in teaching and upbringing the young generation.

The Association still continued to work on improving teachers' skills and qualifications by both organising full-time courses and improving the Centre for Correspondence Learning.

²⁵ APTA's Archive in London, Postulaty dotyczące pracy nauczycieli w szkołach przedmiotów ojczystrych.

The General Meeting, at the request of president Czesław Czapliński, appointed Association's council which consisted of 7 members, 2 deputies and 2 delegates (one from each division). The Council's main purpose was to engage outstanding activists in educational work for Polish emigrants. APTA was aware that negligence in the education of the new generation born and raised outside Poland could result in accelerated assimilation. It was believed that without fluent knowledge of Polish language in speech and writing the access to the great heritage of Polish culture would only be illusory. The millennium of Christianity in Poland, solemnly celebrated abroad, was a good occasion to become aware of the many centuries of Polish nation's presence in the culture of Europe.

In accordance with the ruling of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, all Polish Saturday schools joined the celebration of the millennium of the Baptism of Poland. In addition to festive symposiums, ceremonies and evenings, an art competition was organised in cooperation with the YMCA. The themes included:

1. Millennium of the baptism of Poland,
2. Poetry and prose of Polish writers,
3. Freestyle/random topic.

There was a great interest in the competition – 456 works were received from Polish children in nine countries. The best works were exhibited at the exhibition which could be seen by the residents of Great Britain, France, Canada and the United States.

In October 1966, APTA was the organiser of the annual teachers' conference which took place in the parish hall on Devonia Road. About 150 teachers attended the conference, including all headmasters of Saturday schools. The event was the evidence confirming APTA's leading role in maintaining Polishness through education. It is worth mentioning the distinguished conference speakers, including general professor Marian Kukiel, who presented a paper on teaching history in exile.²⁶

Cooperation with Polish organisations in the United Kingdom was still very successful, especially with Polish Ex-Combatants' Association, Polish Educational Society and Polish Scouting and Guiding Association.

In July 1968, Centre for Correspondence Learning, run by APTA since 1958, was closed. The reason for closing was the exhaustion of educational aids and decreasing number of candidates willing to obtain qualifications by correspondence.

The Association initiated the edition of a publishing series called "Poradnik Pedagogiczny" (Pedagogical Handbook). The first issue consisted of "Począt-

²⁶ T. Radzik, *Historia Zrzeszenia Nauczycielstwa Polskiego za Granicą*, p. 102.

kowa nauka czytania” (The First Phase of Learning How to Read) by Anna Bogusławska.

APTA’s conference activity was very dynamic. Theme conferences were organised. They were attended by over one hundred teachers who wanted to improve their professional qualifications. The lectures took place in a prestigious venue, namely on the premises of Instytut Polski i Muzeum im. gen. Sikorskiego (Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum) in London. The lecturers were the professors of the Polish University Abroad.

Methodical courses were organised outside London. Thanks to the Association’s activity, Polish Saturday schools in Great Britain had no problems with the teaching staff who worked with Polish youth.

THE ASSOCIATION OF POLISH TEACHERS ABROAD IN THE 1970s

The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad entered the 1970s in a very good condition. Despite the growing number of deaths in the oldest part of the war-emigration generation, the number of APTA members stabilised at the level of over 400 people, 410 to be precise, which was an excellent result in the absence of new immigrants from Poland. There were ten divisions operating in the following urban centres gathering Polish community:

1. London
2. Edinburgh
3. Huddersfield
4. Leeds
5. Nottingham
6. Birmingham
7. Leicester
8. Croydon – Crystal Palace (London)
9. Manchester
10. Buffalo (the USA).²⁷

On 5 April 1970, the 20th Jubilee General Meeting of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad took place. Seriously thinking about the future, the organisation faced a difficult task of defining new fields of its activity. President Czesław Czapliński understood the challenges and hence said in his program speech:

²⁷ APTA’s Archive in London, Report of APTA’s Main board for the years 1968/1969.

[...] The time has come in our life to take up a positively creative activity, which means setting new goals and moving towards those goals stage by stage in our collective work. The stages do not consist of teaching only, but also include self-development and self-help, writing and publishing work, socio-ideological and cultural activities, as well as economic enterprise. [...]

After thirty years of uninterrupted organisational continuity, the Association is on the threshold of the second phase and it is time for us to direct all our energy to this forward movement.[...] We must refer to the best traditions of the Polish teachers' movement from the pre-war period and to the first years of our activity abroad. It will not be a path paved with roses, because we still have to fight social opportunism and old superstitions. The future and the fate of our emigrant community depends, to a large extent, on our ideological and organisational flexibility, and it is worth devoting our strength to this goal [...].²⁸

Excellent speech stimulated members to continue their hard work in the areas outlined by the President. Czesław Czapliński was elected for the next term, accepting in addition the function of the editor-in-chief of "Wiadomości Nauczycielskie" (Teachers' News).

In the passed resolutions, the Meeting appealed to the members of the organisation to support the idea of Kongres Współczesnej Kultury i Nauki Polskiej (the Congress of Contemporary Polish Culture and Science) and appealed against NATO's plans to use nuclear weapons in Poland in the event of armed conflict between Western countries and the Soviet Union.²⁹

In accordance with the Meeting's guidelines, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad took an active part in the work of the Congress of Contemporary Polish Culture and Science Abroad which took place in London in September 1970. APTA was a member of the organising committee. 40 APTA members took part in the Congress and 9 presented papers. The most active were those who participated in the Pedagogical Committee. The following papers were delivered there:

1. A new man on the border between two cultures: English and Polish (sister Bożena)
2. Polish teacher in an English secondary school (Z. Ciętak)
3. Religious education in exile (father J. Gołąb)
4. Polish education abroad (M. Gołowski)
5. Bilingualism or foreign culture (J. Płoska).³⁰

In daily activities APTA continued the organisation of teachers' conferences at Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum in London and methodical con-

²⁸ APTA's Archive in London, President's speech during the General Meeting on 5 April 1970.

²⁹ T. Radzik, *Historia Zrzeszenia Nauczycielstwa Polskiego za Granicą*, p. 108.

³⁰ *Wiadomości Nauczycielskie* 46(1970): 7-8.

ferences in Swindon. London conferences still gathered more than a hundred teachers and Saturday school headmasters.

At the beginning of 1971, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad donated 250 pounds to Polish Social and Cultural Association, thus becoming the founder of the institution which expected to obtain a seat for itself.

In the 1970s, daily work of the Association consisted of organising conferences and training courses for the teachers. At that time, APTA divisions were established in the elite intellectual centres of the United Kingdom, namely in Cambridge and Oxford.

On 14 October 1973, a large conference commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Commission of National Education was held in London.

The 1970s saw the end of the political division of the Polish community in Great Britain. The two centres of power existing so far and fighting each other, hindered integration of Polish people in Great Britain and negatively influenced initiatives aimed at integrated activities for the benefit of the entire Polish community. After political unification and the election of Stanisław Ostrowski as the President of the Republic of Poland in exile recognised by all political forces, Czesław Czapliński became the Minister of Education, which was a considerable success of the Association and a confirmation of APTA's significance as a leader in the field of emigrant education. The new Minister of Education remained the President of APTA.

Organisational stabilisation and the prestige enjoyed by the Association had a positive impact on new initiatives. In October 1975, the Association initiated Studium Pedagogiczne (Pedagogical College) at the Polish University Abroad. It was the implementation of an idea that had its roots in the initiatives from the 1950s. Thanks to the study at Pedagogical College teachers and candidates for teachers could acquire all teaching qualifications. The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad was the executive and managing body of the College, while Polish University Abroad (its Faculty of Humanities) was in charge of scientific supervision. The costs of running the College were entirely covered from the funds of the Ministry of Education of the Polish government in exile.³¹

In 1975, the Association moved to the new headquarters at Polish Social and Cultural Association at King Street in London, where it still resides today. The location in the centre of the so-called Polish districts (Hammersmith, Ealing, Chiswick, etc) and near St. Andrzej Bobola parish contributed to the further development of the organisation and activities in cooperation with the most active Polish organisations in Great Britain. These included, above all, Polish Ex-Combatants' Association and Polish Educational Society, with

³¹ I. Płonka. "Studium Nauczycielskie," *Wiadomości Nauczycielskie* 54(1975): 2.

whom conferences and courses were organised jointly, and Polish Scouting and Guiding Association. Relations between the Association and Polish teachers' organisations in France, Germany, Austria, Argentina, Canada, the United States and New Zealand were also strengthened.

On 22 October 1976, the 22nd General Meeting of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad took place in London on the 35th anniversary of the organisation. State authorities were represented by the Prime Minister Kazimierz Sabbat.

Reading the resolutions passed during the Meeting, one can notice a keen interest in Polish affairs both in the sphere of education (like the protest against the creation of collective schools and the introduction of the Soviet model of education which is in isolation from religion and native culture) and socio-political changes in Poland, including the resistance of the Polish nation against systemic sovietisation. Association members emphasised that it is the duty of global Polish community to inform the nations of the Free World about the real situation of Poles oppressed by the communist security services³² and to organise help for communities fighting for human rights in Poland.

From the beginning of 1975, the Association was gradually getting ready for the organisation of the world Congress of Polish community planned to take place in Toronto in 1978 under the title „Polonia 78 – Polonia Jutra” (Polish community ‘78 – community of tomorrow). The aim of the Congress was to create a communication forum for the centres of Polish emigration in the world.

Three commissions preparing the Congress were appointed, including Komisja dla Spraw Oświaty i Wychowania (Commission for Education and Upbringing) based in London, which was to function at Federacja Światowa Stowarzyszenia Kombatanów Polskich (World Federation of Polish Ex-Combatants' Associations). The work of the Commission was chaired by the President of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad and the Minister of Education in the government of the Republic of Poland in exile, Czesław Czapliński.³³

Great involvement of the Association members in the affairs of Polish community in exile was noticed and appreciated by Polish authorities in exile. One of the forms of acknowledgement and honouring was the awarding of state decorations. In February 1977, the President of the Republic of Poland in exile, Stanisław Ostrowski, awarded Wiesław Lasocki and Bolesław Klepacki with Krzyż Orderu Polonia Restituta (The Order of Polonia Restituta). Irena

³² “Naród i emigracja,” *Wiadomości Nauczycielskie* 57(1972): 11.

³³ T. Radzik, *Historia Zrzeszenia Nauczycielstwa Polskiego za Granicą*, p. 117.

Grocholewska and Janina Witkowska were awarded with Złoty Krzyż Zasługi (The Gold Cross of Merit), and R. Fuglewicz, L. Golińska, W. Motyka, D. Mrozek, S. Oprawska, Z. Ostoja-Ostaszewska, I. Pluskowska, M. Różańska, A. Synowiec, T. Welz and A. Borczyk with Srebrny Krzyż Zasługi (The Silver Cross of Merit).³⁴

Towards the end of the 1970s, the Association intensified its activity in the field of organising teachers' conferences, training courses and methodical conferences. Among others, school inspectors' conferences were organised. In terms of organisation, London division dominated as London was the location of the Main Board's headquarters. Nevertheless, organisation of numerous conferences outside the capital city was an undoubted success in those years. The so-called district conferences were held then in:

1. Preston.
2. Leicester.
3. Cambridge.
4. Reading.
5. Nottingham.
6. Bedford.
7. Huddersfield.
8. Great Missenden.
9. Leeds.
10. Coventry.

Teacher training was successfully continued in Pedagogical College managed by Czesław Czapliński.

The Association undertook new initiatives aimed at providing financial support to APTA's Publishing Fund. The screening of films *Pan Wołodyjowski* and *Quo vadis* was a particularly successful idea. Attendance exceeded organisers' expectations and produced a considerable financial result.

In its broad activity the Association never forgot about the compatriots in the country oppressed by communism. Every media opportunity was used to remind Polish emigrants about their duties towards the homeland.

Election of Cardinal Karol Wojtyła to the highest office of the Catholic Church was a great impulse, though unexplored to this day, of the revival of patriotic feelings in exile. The newly elected Pope John Paul II became the reason for being proud of being a Pole in all countries of Polish diaspora. Polish community in Great Britain also experienced a creative renaissance, as evidenced by the increased organisational activity and new initiatives addressed to the Poles in the country.

³⁴ "Dekoracja Nauczycieli," *Wiadomości Nauczycielskie* 57(1977): 25.

At the beginning of the fourth decade of the Association's activity, President Czesław Czapliński traveled to Scandinavia, visiting Copenhagen, Stockholm and Malmo. The travel resulted in London's support for Polish education in Scandinavia and in maintaining direct relations.

THE ASSOCIATION OF POLISH TEACHERS ABROAD IN THE 1980s

The year 1981 was announced by Rada Koordynacyjna Polonii Wolnego Świata [the Coordination Council of Polish Community in the Free World] as "Rok Młodzieży Polskiej" [The Year of Polish Youth]. A commission was established in London, with the participation of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, to coordinate the work on the organisation of the events and celebrations.

In the interests of Polish youth in exile, tasks were planned whose implementation was to serve the younger generation. The most important tasks included:

- increasing the number of Saturday schools,
- increasing the expenditure on textbooks and publications for young people,
- increasing the number of students attending Saturday schools,
- encouraging young people to participate actively in the work for Polish organisations.

In addition, a series of cultural and educational events was planned in all urban centres gathering Polish community in the United Kingdom. As part of this action, the Association organised festivals, competitions, exhibitions of children's works, etc. on the premises of Saturday schools. In the decades-long tradition of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad May became the month of particular intensity of such activities and events.³⁵

On 20 June 1982, the 25th Jubilee General Meeting of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad took place in London. The Meeting was honoured by the presence of the Prime Minister of the Republic Of Poland in exile, Kazimierz Sabbat, Minister Zbigniew Scholtz and President of World Federation of Polish Ex-Combatants' Associations, Stefan Soboniewski. Czesław Czapliński, an activist most merited in the field of education, was entrusted with the post of APTA's president for the next term.

In September 1982, a group of Polish students from Wyższa Szkoła Nauczycielska [Teachers' College] in Malmo, Sweden, attended a pedagogical course organised by the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad. The purpose

³⁵ "Rok Młodzieży Polskiej," *Razem młodzi przyjaciele*, March 1981, p. 5-6.

of their stay was to obtain qualifications necessary to teach Polish in Swedish schools. Apart from theoretical classes, the participants of the course took internships in Polish schools in Fawley Court, and in Clapham and Wimbledon in London.³⁶

Like in the previous period, in the 1980s the Association continued to regularly organise conferences which were one of the most important form of teachers' supplementary education and vocational development. Outside London, conferences were organised in Nottingham (March 1983), for teachers from Leicester, Derby, Mansfield and Nottingham.³⁷

The cooperation with Polish Educational Society and Polish Ex-Combatants' Association continued to function well. Thanks to that cooperation the system of regional education inspectors, appointed by these three organisations to supervise the quality of education in Polish Saturday schools, also functioned well.

In February 1983, the conference of education inspectors assessed the condition of Polish education in Great Britain. According to the data gathered by inspectors, there were 71 Saturday schools in the United Kingdom with 3,312 students and 383 teachers.³⁸

Two years later, data presented at the conference of regional education inspectors stated that there were 64 Saturday schools attended by 3,121 students who were taught by 379 teachers.³⁹

In 1985, the Congress of Polish Culture in Exile took place in London and gathered over 500 participants from all over the world. The government of the Republic of Poland in exile was the initiator of the Congress, and Polskie Towarzystwo Naukowe na Obczyźnie [Polish Society of Arts and Sciences Abroad], managed by professor Edward Szczepanik, was the organiser.

Several sessions of the Congress included a thematic session on "Education, book and Polish press in exile" which was chaired by the President of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, Czesław Czapliński, PhD. It was a great distinction and at the same time confirmation of the role that the Association continued to play in Polish community in Great Britain.

Special signs of respect and recognition for the Association and its 46 years of activity were manifested during the 26th General Meeting of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, which took place in London on 14 and 15 March 1985. Although it was not a jubilee meeting, the invited guests included the following distinguished representatives of Polish community in the United Kingdom:

³⁶ "Seminarium Pedagogiczne," *Wiadomości Nauczycielskie* 69(1983): 38.

³⁷ *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 4 April 1983.

³⁸ APTA's Archive in London, Minutes of APTA's Main Board meetin on 7 November 1983.

³⁹ "Konferencja inspektorów szkolnych," *Wiadomości Nauczycielskie* 73(1985): 22-23.

1. Prof. Edward Szczepanik – Prime Minister of the Polish Government in Exile.
2. Prof. Mieczysław Sas-Skowroński – Rector of the Polish University Abroad.
3. Prof. Józef Bujnowski – Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Polish University Abroad.
4. Artur Rynkiewicz – President of the Federation of Poles in Great Britain.
5. Stefan Soboniewski – Chairman of the Council of World Federation of Polish Ex-Combatants' Associations.
6. Szymon Zaremba – President of Polish Social and Cultural Centre.
7. B.T. Lesiecki – Director of Polish YMCA.
8. Representatives of Polish Educational Society.
9. Delegates of Polish Scouting and Guiding Association.
10. Representatives of Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales.

During the Meeting new authorities of the Association were elected and again the function of the president was entrusted to Czesław Czapliński, who had already held it for over 20 years. APTA's organisational activity continued to focus on organising conferences improving teachers' qualifications and specialist conferences for the headmasters of Saturday schools. The topics that aroused the greatest interest included the reform of curricula and secondary school final examinations.⁴⁰

In June 1989, the Main Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad organised the first reading competition for children attending Saturday schools. These competitions, organised to this day in London, are a great inspiration to improve the ability to read in Polish.

In July 1989, the annual Association Ball took place in the Raspberry Hall of Polish Social and Cultural Association. It was an event which perfectly integrated Polish community focused on issues related to education.

Year 1988 brought with it the 70th anniversary of Poland regaining its independence after over a century of captivity. The Association showed its great involvement in organising anniversary celebrations, lectures, thematic lessons and contests for students of Saturday schools. In addition, special issues of "Teachers' News" (no. 78 and 79) were published, which included articles on events related to the anniversary written by scholars from Great Britain and Poland.

On 2 July 1989, the 27th General Meeting of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad took place in London. The Meeting ended the decade of the 1980s for the Association. New authorities were elected with Wanda Dziedzic

⁴⁰ T. Radzik, *Historia Zrzeszenia Nauczycielstwa Polskiego za Granicą*, p. 130.

as the President. The new President succeeded Czesław Czapliński, a well-merited activist who refused to run in the election. In recognition of his outstanding merit, the Meeting gave him the title of President of Honour.⁴¹

In the debates held during the Meeting, delegates focused their attention on issues connected with program changes in English education system, GCSE and A LEVEL examinations in Polish language, and discussed the need to create an examination centre for students from London.

The parliamentary elections in Poland on 4 June 1989 and the establishment of the government of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki led to a conviction that cooperation with Poland after many years finally became real, which created completely new possibilities. The condition for good cooperation was to continue the process of de-communisation in Poland and to return to national values. It is to these values that Polish community in Great Britain with a legal Government in exile was constantly loyal.

⁴¹ "XXVII Zjazd ZNPZG," *Wiadomości Nauczycielskie* 91(1990): 4-5.

CHAPTER II

THE ASSOCIATION OF POLISH TEACHERS ABROAD IN THE YEARS 1991-1998

1991 was the year of the Association's Grand Jubilee. At that time the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad celebrated the 50th anniversary of its activity for Polish community living in the United Kingdom. The 28th General Meeting of the organisation held that year in London had a particularly solemn character.

The jubilee celebrations were preceded by a Holy Mass in St. Andrzej Bobola's church near Polish Social and Cultural Association in London. Occasional sermon was preached by an excellent preacher, father Ryszard Juszczak. Next, in the Conference Room of Polish Ex-Combatants' Association at Polish Social and Cultural Association, sessions were held, chaired by Ludwik Maik, vice-president of Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Dzieci i Młodzieży (The Society of Friends of Children and Youth) and the headmaster of Saturday school in Balham, London. A report on the activities of the Main Board was delivered by Wanda Dziedzic, APTA's President since 1989. She discussed teachers' participation in methodical courses organised by the Ministry of National Education, Catholic University of Lublin and Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin. She also demonstrated the effects of reading competition organised by the Association, and indicated the Association's active part in organising two conferences of regional education inspectors and participation in festivals organised by Saturday schools.¹

Then, APTA's new authorities were elected. The function of the Main Board President was again entrusted to Wanda Dziedzic. The new Board, Council and Auditing Committee were approved unanimously. At the request of Irena Grocholewska, the Meeting accepted the proposal to increase the membership fee to 4 pounds a year for working members, 2 pounds for retired ones and 1 pound for "Wiadomości Nauczycielskie" [Teachers' News].²

¹ T. Radzik, *Historia Zrzeszenia Nauczycielstwa Polskiego za Granicą*, p. 133.

² "Jubileusz 50-lecia Zrzeszenia Nauczycielstwa Polskiego za Granicą," *Dziennik Polski*, 31 October 1991, p. 5.

After a break, further celebrations of the jubilee began in the Raspberry Hall of Polish Social and Cultural Association. Just like half a century before, the celebrations were attended by the highest Polish authorities in exile and the representatives of the most significant Polish organisations and institutions in Great Britain. The distinguished guests of the Meeting included:

- Ryszard Kaczorowski – the last President of the Republic of Poland in exile,
- Zygmunt Szadkowski – chairman of the National Council of the Republic of Poland,
- Bogdan Grzeloński and Jerzy Tarajkowski – representatives of Polish Embassy in London,
- Stefan Soboniewski – chairman of the Council of World Federation of Polish Ex-Combatants' Associations,
- Czesław Zychowicz – president of Polish Ex-Combatants' Association in Great Britain,
- Zygmunt Szkopiak – president of the Federation of Poles in Great Britain,
- prof. Mieczysław Sas-Skowroński – rector of the Polish University Abroad,
- prof. Józef Bujnowski – a long-time dean of the Faculty of Humanities at the Polish University Abroad,
- Wojciech Ziemiński – chairman of Stronnictwo Wierności Rzeczypospolitej [Loyalty to Polish Republic Party] from Warsaw.³

After welcoming honorary guests, two papers were presented on the history of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad. Irena Grocholewska delivered a lecture prepared by professor Tadeusz Radzik from Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin entitled "From the history of Polish teachers in Great Britain," while Teresa Czochowa read the paper by Stanisław Wąsik entitled "The cooperation of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad with Polish Ex-Combatants' Association."

The following speakers participated in the discussion that took place after the lectures: Jerzy Tarajkowski, Zygmunt Szadkowski, Czesław Zychowicz, Zygmunt Szkopiak and Mieczysław Sas-Skowroński. All speakers emphasised the Association's particularly important role in shaping Polish education in exile, wishing the Association subsequent decades of fruitful activity for the benefit of Polish community in the United Kingdom.

Summarising the past 50 years, the participants of the General Meeting expressed the hope that the new half-century of work they were entering would be easier for the Association because of the return of independent Poland to

³ "Jubileusz 50-lecia Zrzeszenia Nauczycielstwa Polskiego za Granicą," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 31 October 1991, p. 5.

Europe. They believed that in the new reality Polish government would certainly look after Polish teachers and children in Great Britain. They hoped that close contact with Poland, which was dreamed of by thousands of Polish emigrants, would cover many levels of cooperation.

In the artistic part of the Meeting, Stanisława Horwat (soprano) performed songs and arias from the repertoire of F. Chopin, S. Moniuszko, Z. Noskowski, M. Karłowicz, F. Nowowiejski and W. Żeleński. Then, Danuta Michniewicz moved the audience to tears with her recitation of poems by R. Kierśnowski and F. Konarskie – Ref-Ren.

At the end of the Jubilee General Meeting all participants and invited guests sang the song “Żeby Polska była Polską” [Let Poland be Poland] and, as reported by Celina Tarnawska-Busza, the correspondent of “Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza” [Polish Daily and Soldier’s Daily], left with the hope for a better tomorrow.⁴

The Association’s Jubilee General Meeting was one of the largest events in “Polish London” as the political and educational elite of Polish emigration met in Polish Social and Cultural Association to summarise the half-century effort whose main goal was to preserve Polishness and maintain national values of independent Republic of Poland. A great role in this huge effort was played by the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad which provided Polish youth born in exile with the opportunity to learn in a Polish school under a watchful eye of well-prepared teachers.

PRESS RESPONSE TO THE GENERAL MEETING

The Golden Jubilee of the Association’s activity provided an opportunity for the press to discuss the condition of Polish education in Great Britain. In the statements published in a widely-read “Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza” [Polish Daily and Soldier’s Daily] attention was drawn to the fact that there are broad areas of problems with Polish education in the United Kingdom which require immediate intervention. The most important problems are too little organisational and financial support received by the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad from numerous Polish organisations, and the general under-appreciation of teaching work in Saturday schools. In the article “A gdzie nauczyciele?” [And where are the teachers?] it can be read, among others, that

⁴ Ibid., p. 5.

[...] the profession most needed for our civilisation, namely the teaching profession, has been pushed into the shadow of silence. And yet our Polish teachers burn all their vital forces for the good of our children. Being constantly in financial troubles, they work for free in conditions that ruin their health. They love our children, bring them up, teach, provide them with greater life opportunities and are the best friends of our families. Raising funds for education twice a year does not compensate for the expenses which they patiently and heroically bear in order to maintain a good level of our education. Nobody asks them about their difficulties and problems, nobody offers financial help. [...] In every society teachers are the most responsible group. What are other organisations apart from Teachers' Union? Teachers are a neglected, unnoticed group of enlightened people who laboriously sculpt the future shape of our Polish life and who have direct influence on the future of our children and their future families. Frequently, they are the only teachers of the fathers' language, the only people who give their strength to ensure the development and enrichment of the language, and who lead to the joy of passing an exam.

Turbulent course of history calls soldiers to fight only to release them from their duty afterwards. Teachers, once called, are released neither during the war nor peace. They are not absolved from titanic work which fills almost every moment of every day, because of exhaustion or lack of money. Teachers have not secured financially their old age, because they have invested everything they've had in the best community bank – the education bank. Let us help them now.⁵

The difficult situation of teachers in Saturday schools presented in the article was completely true. Sadly, the article contained information which was not distorted. Teachers worked for free, without charging any fees. It was a kind of volunteer work requiring their availability and readiness on most Saturdays of the year. That is why work with Polish youth was undertaken by ideologists aware of the work's importance.

Difficult working conditions and difficult financial situation made the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad constantly struggle with staff shortages among the teachers. Analysing the most important fields of Association's activity throughout its history, one can notice that educating teachers and improving teaching skills have always been organisation's priority. Dramatic situation on education market was saved only by the inflow of emigrants from Poland (especially visible in the 1980s and after 2004).

Going back to the press comments related to the Jubilee of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, it must be emphasised that the tone of these statements emanated with great respect for the Association and for a small group of Polish teachers working in the United Kingdom. Showing the effort and its meaning for Polish community, the press appealed for help and ongoing support for education which protected Polish community from denationalisation

⁵ "A gdzie nauczyciele?" *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 17 October 1991, p. 5.

and quick assimilation. In connection with the above, it was appealed to the authorities of the Federation of Poles in Great Britain to consider and recognise the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad as an organisation of special significance in the structure of Polish organisations and associations in the United Kingdom.

It was regretted that the number of Saturday schools was decreasing, and that they were unevenly located, which resulted in the creation of large areas deprived of the possibility to use Polish education. Scotland and Wales were recognised as such areas.⁶

According to the documentation kept by the Association, the list of Saturday schools teaching native subjects at the beginning of the 1990s included the following schools (in alphabetical order):

- Bedford – headmaster H. Newman
- Birmingham – headmaster W. Wyszynska
- Blackburn – headmaster K. Katolik
- Bolton – headmaster L. H. Kuzemko
- Bournemouth – headmaster W. Szarzyńska
- Bradford – headmaster K. Trybuła
- Bristol – headmaster Wiola Hula
- Cambrige – headmaster T. Kubiakowski
- Cardiff – headmaster J. Teisar
- Coventry – headmaster W. Rutkowski
- Derby – headmaster F. G. Cejer
- Doncaster – headmaster K. Weber
- Dursley – headmaster B. Skał
- Edinburgh – headmaster Stefan Boroń
- Falkirk – headmaster M. Rolińska
- Glasgow – headmaster father M. Łękawa
- Great Missenden – headmaster father B. Szykulski
- High Wycombe – headmaster father J. Wypart
- Huddersfield – headmaster I. Borzyskowska
- Kidderminster – headmaster D. Parks
- Kirkcaldy – 50th division of Polish Ex-Combatants' Association
- Lancaster – headmaster B. Barski
- Leeds – headmaster Teresa Hough
- Leicester – headmaster T. Przybylska
- Lemington SPA – headmaster E. Jakobs
- London (Brockley/Lewisham) – headmaster father A. Dębski
- London(Chiswick) – headmaster K. Olliffe

⁶ Ibid., p. 5.

- London(Clapham/Balham) – headmaster Ludwik Maik
- London(Croydon/Crystal Palace) – headmaster father W. Gajecki
- London(Devonia) – headmaster B. O’Driscoll
- London(Ealing) – headmaster A. Harasimów
- London(Forest Gate/Ilford) – headmaster E. Michura
- London(Putney/Wimbledon) – headmaster M. Lasocka
- London(Willesden Green) – headmaster I. Honowska
- Loughborough – headmaster M. Tyler
- Luton – headmaster father K. Tyliśczak
- Manchester – headmaster L. Basiurski
- Mansfield – headmaster Irena Kantor
- Melton–Mowbray – headmaster H. Gliwa
- Milford – headmaster Z. Lukińska
- Northampton – headmaster sister Bogumiła
- Northwich – Polish Educational Society
- Nottingham – headmaster H. Flannery
- Oldham – headmaster sister C. Piekniejska
- Oxford – headmaster A. Newsome
- Peterborough – headmaster M. Rojek
- Reading – headmaster A. Zyms
- Redditch – headmaster J. Kusiak
- Rochdale – headmaster father E. Soska
- Scunthorpe – headmaster F. Wiśłocka
- Sheffield – headmaster B. Szablewska
- Slough – headmaster E. Wojciechowicz
- Southampton – headmaster E. Sykulska
- Stafford – headmaster Z. Luszowicz
- Stoke-on-Trent – headmaster J. Armata
- Swindon – headmaster A. Konończuk
- Trowbridge – headmaster father T. Bartnik
- Wolverhampton – headmaster B. Rudewicz
- York – headmaster J. Terlecka.

As can be seen above, the distribution of Saturday schools in Great Britain corresponded to the places where Polish emigrants after World War II decided to settle. Apart from the Greater London, they chose large industrial centres in England, but also Scotland (Glasgow, Edinburgh) and Wales (Cardiff).

Unfortunately, with the subsequent years of the 1990s the number of Polish Saturday schools decreased, an evidence of which can be the closing of schools in Bournemouth, Cardiff and Lemington Spa.⁷

⁷ Data based on the documentation of the Main Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad in London.

In the mid-1990s the number of Polish Saturday schools dropped to 64 and was far from the number of schools in the first half of the 1950s, when there were 111 schools with over 5 000 students taught by 300 teachers.⁸

THE ASSOCIATION OF POLISH TEACHERS ABROAD AND THE NEW CHALLENGES OF THE 1990s

The beginning of the 1990s was an extremely important time of setting new directions of the Association's activity. The regaining of independence by Poland ended the post-war period of isolation of Polish community in Great Britain from the homeland and created new possibilities for action. In the years 1989-1996, Wanda Dziedzic was the President of the Main Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad. She was trying to implement the organisation's program set out by her great predecessor, Czesław Czapliński (1964-1989). Directed by the President, the Main Board still organised training courses for teachers and meetings of Saturday school headmasters. There were numerous attempts to maintain the interest of young people, teachers and parents in reading competitions and occasional meetings connected with historical events such as celebrations of national holidays on November 11 and May 3.

READING COMPETITIONS

Reading competitions were organised with special care because they displayed the level of students' language skills acquired in Saturday schools. They were also a natural form of promoting Polish education in Great Britain. For these reasons the Association, as the organiser of the competitions, conducted a wide information campaign among Saturday schools, and published a short report on the event in the most read Polish press which included "Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza" [Polish Daily and Soldier's Daily] with the weekend supplement Tydzień Polski [Polish Week], and "Gazeta Niedzielną" [Sunday News].

Reliable and up-to-date information on the Association's activity was particularly provided by Irena Grocholewska, initially the Main Board secretary, then in 1996-1998 the acting president and since 1998 the Association's president. Ms. Grocholewska's idea was to include information about reading

⁸ I. Grocholewska, "Zrzeszenie Nauczycielstwa Polskiego Za Granicą," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 12 March 1996, p. 4.

competitions both in professional press and in local parish newspapers of Polish communities in London.

According to the tradition developed continually since 1977, reading competitions took place in June, their subject was diversified and chosen every year by the Association's Main Board. Texts selected for the competitions were divided into 4 different age groups.

In the 1990s, the themes of the reading competitions concerned important historical anniversaries (e.g. the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Monte Cassino) or were connected with the work of outstanding Polish poets and writers (Adam Mickiewicz, Bolesław Prus, Maria Konopnicka, Father. Jan Twardowski). In accordance with the organisers' intention, the competition was a tribute to famous Polish authors or heroes of historical events. In the introductory part of each competition's edition, there was a lecture dedicated to the topic of the competition right after the official opening and welcoming guests and participants. Biographies and works of prominent Polish writers and poets were presented by Polish teachers from Saturday schools or by invited guests specialising in the given field.

Reading competitions have become part of the official calendar of events at Polish Social and Cultural Association. Not only were they a demonstration of the ability to read fluently and correctly in Polish, but also were an encouragement to learn the mother tongue. Competitions gave teachers of Saturday schools the opportunity to meet other school communities, to establish cooperation with them, to share professional experience and to improve teaching methods.⁹

According to Teresa Czochowa, vice-president of the Association's Main Board, reading competition could be considered as an exam in Polish language.¹⁰

All contestants of the competitions received Honorary Diplomas for their participation, while the winners received attractive book prizes. The competitions were co-financed by Polish Ex-Combatants' Association, and the awards were sponsored by Instytut Kultury Polskiej [Polish Cultural Institute] and Polish Educational Society.

The jury, appointed by the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, rated the level of competitions very highly. This proved that both teachers and parents were particularly concerned about teaching Polish in Saturday schools. In its annual reports published in "Wiadomości POSK" [POSK News], the Association's Board emphasised that reading competitions are a very important form of encouraging children and youth to learn about Polish literature.¹¹

⁹ T. Czochowa, "Konkurs czytania," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 3 July 1996, p. 5.

¹⁰ T. Czochowa, "Konkurs czytania," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 7 August 1995, p. 4.

¹¹ *Wiadomości POSK* 46(1998): 36.

On 18 June 1995, a reading competition devoted to the works of Maria Konopnicka, a great writer and poetess, took place. The Association's Board found the competition particularly successful because of the increased number of participants and the interest in this form of promoting learning Polish in Great Britain during two subsequent editions.

And so on 16 June 1996, a reading competition promoting Bolesław Prus' literary works took place in the Sapphire Room of Polish Social and Cultural Association in London. The large number of young people taking part in the competition represented Saturday schools from London and students of the A-level course at Thames Valley University.

The competition jury consisted of:

- T. Czochowa – vice-president of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad,
- I. Honowska – headmaster of Saturday school in Willesden Green,
- E. Kasprzycka – A-level course teacher from Thames Valley University,
- Z. Walanta – Board member of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad.

Choosing the eminent author, the Board stressed that in this way they wanted to honour not only the great writer of positivism, but also a highly merited friend of children and youth, for Bolesław Prus dedicated most of his work to the youngest inhabitants of the Polish soil.¹²

On 27 April 1997, in turn, a competition was held which was a tribute to Adam Mickiewicz on the eve of the 200th anniversary of the national poet's birthday. A numerous group of young people from London Saturday schools and A-level course at Ealing Tertiary College could hardly fit in the hall of the Polish Social and Cultural Association. The organisers chose the most suitable fragments of Adam Mickiewicz's literary output for Polish children born abroad. The participants were traditionally divided into 4 age groups: 8-9, 10-11, 12-13 and 14-15. The introductory lecture on the life and work of Adam Mickiewicz was given by Teresa Czochowa, vice-president of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad and a teacher merited in teaching and upbringing Polish youth in Great Britain.¹³

Large attendance of youth was the result of a massive information campaign, excellently conducted by Irena Grocholewska, the acting president of the Association. As mentioned above, the participants of reading competitions comprised of students from Polish Saturday schools in London. Saturday schools in Balham, Chiswick, Croydon, Devonian, Ealing, Forest Gate, Lewi-

¹² *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 3 July 1996, p. 5.

¹³ *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 2 June 1997, p. 5.

sham, Putney and Wilsden Green¹⁴ belonged to the group of permanent participants.

On 26 April 1998, another reading competition devoted to the works of Adam Mickiewicz took place. It was organised on the 200th birthday of Polish national poet. Students from all London Saturday schools and the A-Level course at Ealing Tertiary College took part in the competition. Despite the traditional 4 age groups, a nice surprise was provided by 6-year-olds who presented mature interpretation of Mickiewicz's works in beautiful Polish language. The competition jury consisted of:

- A. Krężel – Consul of the Republic of Poland in London
- I. Grocholewska – acting president of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad
- T. Czochowa – vice-president of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad
- I. Chonowska – headmaster of Saturday school in Wilsden Green
- E. Adamiak-Pawelec, E. Kasprzycka – teachers
- A. Taczalski – Chairman of the Parental Committee in Croydon Saturday school.

Readings from Adam Mickiewicz's works were carefully selected for each age group and included:

1. Age group 8-9: "Pani Twardowska," "Powrót Taty," "Zając i Żaba," "Diabeł i Zboże."
2. Age group 10-11: "Do Niemna," "Przyjaciele," "Golono, Strzyżono," "Lis i Koźiel," "Koza, Kózka i Wilk."
3. Age group 12-13: "Trzech Budrysów," "Mazur," "Pies i Wilk," "Komar," "Niewielkie Licho."
4. Age group 14-15: "Oda do Młodości," fragments of "Pan Tadeusz," Koncert Jankiela, Dyplomacja i Łowy, Kochajmy się, Inwokacja.

"All contestants received the works of the great Poet according to their age and for the permanent commemoration of his 200th birthday."¹⁵

The high level of the competition and great interest of teachers, parents and students of Saturday schools proved that this traditional form of cultivating Polish language is still an effective tool for promoting Polishness abroad. The Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad emphasised the need to continue reading competitions in its plans for future activities.

In addition to the aforementioned area of activity, the Association was involved in the organisation of competitions prepared by other Polish organisa-

¹⁴ APTA's Archive in London, Księga Protokołów ZNPZ lata 1996-1999. Minutes of 13 April 1999, p. 34.

¹⁵ "Konkurs czytania w hołdzie A. Mickiewiczowi," *Gazeta Niedzielną*, 16 August 1998, p. 7.

tions. The first such event joined by the Association was “Poloniada – 96” – an international Olympiad.¹⁶ The contest was organised every two years by Fundacja Młodej Polonii [Young Polonia Foundation] in Poland. Patrons of “Poloniada – 96” included, among others, the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Culture and Art, TV Polonia, and Rector of the University of Warsaw. Semi-finals were held at Polish embassies and finals took place in Warsaw. 48 participants from 12 countries took part in the previous edition of “Poloniada” in 1994. In 1996 this noble group was joined by youth from Saturday schools in Great Britain.¹⁷

The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad took on the task of organising “Poloniada” in the United Kingdom. Information campaign about the competition was launched under the slogan “Młodzieży na start” [Youth to begin with]. The response was satisfactory and on 21 April 1996 semi-finals took place at the Polish Cultural Institute in London.

The finalists were selected by a jury composed of:

- Marek Pędzich – Polish Consul in Great Britain,
- Irena Grocholewska, Teresa Czochowa and Janina Klauzner – representatives of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad.

The jury selected three students to participate in the final which took place in Warsaw:

- Luiza Brown – from Headington School for Girls in Oxford,
- Małgorzata Kędracka and Anita Olton – from A-level course at Thames Valley University.¹⁸

Apart from reciting a poem by Polish emigrant poet, the main theme of “Poloniada – 96” was a 10-minute speech on one of the following topics:

1. Polish contribution to the culture of the country where you live.
2. What values for democracy were brought in by the Poles in the country where you live?
3. The concept of tolerance in the country where you live.

The final of „Poloniada – 96” took place in June at the Polonia House in Krakowskie Przedmieście in Warsaw. The jury, chaired by Marcin Zamoyski, included Elwira Majewska, Mariusz Affek (historian), Danuta Brodowska (poet) and Barbara Walicka (editor). Polish youth from 13 countries competed in the final. The first place went to Aleksandra Kulas from Oslo, who achieved the maximum score of 124 points. Representatives of Polish com-

¹⁶ According to the ideological assumptions published by Fundacja Młodej Polonii [Young Polonia Foundation], the main goal of the competition was to integrate Polish youth living abroad, to increase cultural and social activity of young Poles and to arouse pride in cultural and social achievements of Poles.

¹⁷ *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 8 March 1996, p. 4.

¹⁸ *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 17 May 1996, p. 5.

munity in Great Britain performed very well. Their results were: Małgorzata Kędracka – 100 points, Anita Olton – 99 points.

Warsaw finals were combined with meetings with prominent scientists and academics, as well as cultural events.¹⁹

Apart from „Poloniada”, the Main Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad also promoted Światowy Festiwal Marii Konopnickiej [Maria Konopnicka World Festival] and helped in qualifications for the competition. It was decided that the competition is worth recommending and informing about in Great Britain, due to the number of participants, program and promotion of Maria Konopnicka. The festival took place in Góry Mokre and Przedbórze, towns located in the then province of Piotrków.

Guests from over a dozen countries took part in the festival. The competition was divided into two categories: recitation and sung poetry. The condition for participation in the recitation competition was the performance in Polish of a selected work by Maria Konopnicka (no longer than 15 minutes), while the condition for the sung poetry competition was to perform a song based on the poet's works. The contestants were divided into 3 age categories: under 15, over 15 and adults.²⁰ As part of the festival the participants recited and sang Maria Konopnicka's songs, and took part in authors' evenings, recitals, concerts, meetings and trips related to the life and work of the poetess. A trip to Jasna Góra was also organised.

In 1998, the Main Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad undertook promotion of other two competitions among the teachers and students of Polish Saturday schools. The first competition, „Ja i mój przyjaciel” [Me and my friend] was organised by Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Dzieci [The Society of Friends of Children]. Its aim was to select students with literary talent from Polish youth and to promote their work in a book with their works.

The second competition, „Mickiewiczowskie inspiracje” [Inspired by Mickiewicz] was organised by Stowarzyszenie „Wspólnota Polska” [Polish Community Association] on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Adam Mickiewicz's birth. The competition's goal was to select the best educational scenarios for school lessons, museum lessons, or a trip, intended for implementation by Polish teachers abroad.

¹⁹ *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 29 July 1996, p. 8.

²⁰ Informator i Regulamin Światowego Festiwalu Marii Konopnickiej, 14-18 sierpnia 1997 Góry Mokre.

COOPERATION WITH POLISH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND FOUNDATIONS

The promotion of competitions organised by Polish institutions, associations and foundations was one of the elements of the APTA Board's ever-wider opening to the cooperation with Poland.

First Polish institution to start regular cooperation with the Association since 1995 was Fundacja Pomocy Szkołom Polskim na Wschodzie im. T. Goniewicza [T. Goniewicz Aid to Polish Schools in the East Foundation] from Lublin.²¹ Ideological compatibility of both entities and realisation of the same goal were the reasons for establishing close contact. Both organisations had fidelity to Christian values and Polish tradition, history and culture in common.

The Association's Board particularly valued textbooks, educational and cultural publications issued by the Foundation, especially the patriotic quarterly "Rota". Textbooks "Czytam po polsku" [I read in Polish], "Pokochaj polską mowę" [Love Polish Language] and "Strzeż polskiej mowy" [Protect Polish Language] aroused APTA's great interest in the foundation's publications and encouraged British teaching community to use them as an aid in work with youth. The Association's recommendation was crucial in this respect, for Polish Educational Society was critical about publications from Poland.

Thanks to the Association's involvement, Saturday schools in Great Britain started to use textbooks, methodical guides, songbooks, collections of poetry, and monographs on values of Polish culture, and thus enriched teachers' methodical workshop. Józef Adamski, president of T. Goniewicz Aid to Polish Schools in the East Foundation and a long-time employee of publishing houses of the Catholic University of Lublin, appreciated the cooperation with Irena Grocholewska, the acting president of the Association, stating that "[...] it [cooperation] works perfectly."²²

It should be emphasised that the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad not only introduced foundation's textbooks and monographs to Saturday schools but also promoted the subscription of "Rota" and made financial contributions to help Poles in the East.

²¹ Aid to Polish Schools in the East Foundation was registered on 9 June 1989. Its primary statutory goal was to help Polish schools and cultural and educational institutions in the East. The Foundation does not run business activity. It obtains funds for its activity from social contributions, public subsidies, donations, as well as work and social activity. It is focused primarily on publishing, recreation activities, creative workshops for children, concerts, competitions, lecture sessions, etc. It works for education and Polish culture in the East.

²² *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 23 September 1997, p. 6.

Another important institution with which the Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad undertook regular cooperation in the second half of the 1990s was Polonijne Centrum Nauczycielskie (PCN, Polonia Teachers' Centre) in Lublin managed by Joanna Wójtowicz, PhD, Polish teacher and a graduate from the Catholic University of Lublin. Like in the case of T. Goniiewicz Foundation, great erudition, patriotism and care for Polishness abroad of the director of Polonia Teachers' Centre made the Association cooperate with this institution with great enthusiasm. APTA promoted summer courses for Polish teachers organised by Polonia Teachers' Centre. Classes were held in Cracow, Lublin, Gdańsk and Warsaw. The following thematic courses were organised:

- Polish language and culture,
- Polish culture and language with the elements of theatre,
- methodology of teaching Polish language,
- using fun pedagogy methods in teaching Polish,
- Polish culture and tradition with the elements of folk and national dance.

Apart from the extensive information campaign, the Association decided to help recruit teachers interested in taking part in these courses. It helped completing the application documentation.²³

In the addition to the above-mentioned institutions from Lublin, the Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad worked also with Stowarzyszenie "Wspólnota Polska" ["Polish Community" Association] from Warsaw, managed by Andrzej Stelmachowski. Irena Grocholewska, acting president of the Association, took part in I Forum Polonijnym [1st Polonia Forum] organised by Polish Community in Pułtusk. The Association was also invited to conferences, symposiums, and Forum Oświaty Polonijnej organised by Polish Community.

The Association's Board traditionally maintained good contacts with Polish institutions in the United Kingdom, especially with Polish Ex-Combatants' Association, Polish University Abroad, Polish Educational Society and Polish Cultural Institute.

In 1998, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad became involved in the promotion of two competitions initiated and organised by Polish associations and foundations. The competitions were promoted among the students and teachers of Saturday schools in Great Britain. The first competition, "Moniuszce w hołdzie – talentom z pomocą" [Tribute to Moniuszko, help to talents], was an international art competition for children and youth, organised by "Polish Community" Association, Europejska Fundacja Pomocy Dzieciom i Młodzieży [European Foundation for Assistance to Children and Youth],

²³ APTA's Archive in London, Księga Protokołów ZG ZNPZ, years 1996-1999.

Związek Polskich Artystów Plastyków [Association of Polish Artists] and Białostockie Towarzystwo Śpiewacze im. Stanisława Moniuszki [Stanisław Moniuszko Society of Singers in Białystok].

The theme of the competition included national tradition in the work of Stanisław Moniuszko, and competition's goals were to celebrate the 180th anniversary of the birth of the great Polish composer and to increase the awareness of his merits in maintaining spiritual condition of Polish nation in times of captivity and fight for independence.²⁴ The patriotic character of the competition made the Association carry out a wide information campaign promoting the above-mentioned competition.

The second competition promoted by APTA was "Konkurs wiedzy o Krakowie dla młodzieży polonijnej z Europy Zachodniej i Ameryki" [Cracow trivia quiz for Polonia youth from West Europe and America]. It was organised by the City Council of Cracow and the Provincial Office in Cracow as part of "Kraków 2000" Festival. The competition was addressed to youth between 14 and 19 years of age. Its subject area included the following fields of knowledge:

1. The history of Cracow against the background of Polish and European history.
2. Cracow's history from 965 to 1945.
3. The most important sacred and secular monuments of Cracow.
4. Famous Cracovians throughout history (from scientific, social, political, artistic life, etc.).
5. Museums of Cracow.
6. Universities of Cracow and the oldest secondary schools.
7. Important streets and places commemorating historical events.²⁵

The involvement of the Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad in promoting the competition among the Polish youth was the proof of an authentic conviction that real contact with Poland and Polish national and cultural heritage was a very important element of preserving Polishness abroad.

PATRIOTIC AND RELIGIOUS EVENTS

From the very beginning of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad (1941), the tradition of the January wafer meetings was carefully cultivated. Faithful reconstruction of customs from family homes was considered the

²⁴ APTA's Archive in London, Regulamin Konkursu *Moniuszko w hołdzie – talentom z pomocą*.

²⁵ APTA's Archive in London, Regulamin Konkursu wiedzy o Krakowie.

foundation of national identity in exile. In the 1990s, Christmas wafer meetings took place in Klub Orła Białego [White Eagle Club] in Balham, which belonged to Christ the King's parish. This beautiful and unique custom was an important element of the community, integrating teachers and sympathisers of the Association. Permanent elements of Christmas wafer meetings included:

- reading of many Christmas and New Year wishes sent,
- staging of nativity play prepared by students of Saturday schools or occasional recitation of poetry,
- sharing the wafer and giving New Year wishes,
- tasting of traditional Christmas dishes,
- carol singing,
- prize draw.²⁶

Apart from teachers from Polish Saturday schools, regular guests invited to wafer meetings by the Association's Board included the representatives of the Polish Consulate, Federation of Poles in Great Britain, Polish Educational Society, The Society of Friends of Children and Youth, and Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales.²⁷ Occasionally there were also representatives of Polish University Abroad, Polish Ex-Combatants' Association, John Paul II Foundation, and presidents of Koło Oficerów Rezerwy [Military reserve officers], etc.

Since 1998, Christmas wafer meetings organised by the Association were moved from Balham to the Banquet Hall at "Łowiczanka" restaurant in Polish Social and Cultural Association in London. The traditional scenario of the meeting was preserved. It was additionally enriched by the presence of special guest, father Józef Bem, a missionary from Zambia. The artistic part of the meeting consisted of nativity play prepared by students from Polish Saturday school in Chiswick, and recitation of father Jan Twardowski's poem "Dawna wigilia" and Kazimierz Wierzyński's "Kolęda."²⁸

Christmas wafer meetings of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad were open. Invitation published in Polish press was addressed to teachers of Saturday schools, students' parents, representatives of Polish organisations and sympathisers. Apart from the press announcement, the president of the Association, Irena Grocholewska, sent personal invitations to the headmasters of Saturday schools, authorities of Polish organisations and diplomatic representations of the Republic of Poland in the United Kingdom.

In addition to Christmas wafer meetings, the Association organised lectures related to celebrations of national patriotic celebrations, such as the Independ-

²⁶ *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 5 February 1997, p. 4.

²⁷ *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 1 February 1994, p. 4.

²⁸ *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 16 February 1998, p. 5.

ence Day, the 3 May Constitution Day, the anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, the anniversaries of great battles with the participation of the Polish army (especially the battle of England, Monte Cassino, Falaise, etc.), Katyn Day, the anniversary of the outbreak of Warsaw Uprising, Papal Day, or anniversary of NSZZ "Solidarność."

Lectures were addressed to students of Polish Saturday schools. Frequently, the lecturers included participants of these important events or historians specialising in a given topic. An example of such organised lecture was a meeting with an outstanding emigre historian Zbigniew Siemaszko, which took place on 24 October 1998 in Polish Social and Cultural Association in London as part of the celebration of Katyn Day.²⁹

The event had a great impact on the development of new forms of the Association's activity among the students and teachers of Saturday schools. An analogous form of educating Polish youth realised by the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad was the organisation of Literary Meetings, that is authors' evenings and poetry readings.

GENESIS OF THE ASSOCIATION'S NEW PROGRAM OF ACTIVITY

In the mid-1990s, apart from traditional form of activity, one can notice clear crystallisation of ideas connected with the necessity to define new forms of the Association's work. The first impulses to encourage the intellectual environment of "Polish London" to rethink new tasks regarding Polish community in Great Britain, were articulated in "Wiadomości Nauczycielskie" [Teachers' News]. In her article "Najpilniejszy problem" [The most urgent problem] K. Biegańska put forward the thesis that the most important issue for Polish diaspora as a whole is teaching Polish language.³⁰ In the author's opinion, clear indication of priorities in the work of Polish organisations would simplify arrangement of activities, allowing for the separation of unimportant issues that are a waste of time from the matters of great importance. Recognition of teaching Polish as the absolute priority would focus discussions about the future of Polish diaspora on searching for the most effective methods of teaching and popularising Polish language learning.

²⁹ Zbigniew Siemaszko – Polish historian, writer and journalist in exile. Author of many books and articles published in "Kultura" and "Zeszyty Historyczne." His most important works include *Narodowe Siły Zbrojne* (1982), *Powstanie Warszawskie – kontakty z ZSRR [Związkiem Socjalistycznych Republik Radzieckich] i PKWN [Polskim Komitetem Wyzwolenia Narodowego]* (1987), *Wojско od podszewki (sylwetki i sytuacje)* (1984), *Generał Anders w latach 1892-1942* (2012).

³⁰ K. Biegańska, "Najpilniejszy problem," *Wiadomości Nauczycielskie* 83(1991): 11.

According to K. Biegańska, language education should be adjusted not only to the age level (children, youth, adults), but also to the changing technological and sociological conditions of the modern world. In her opinion, it is necessary to focus on two issues at the same time. First issue is providing the highest and the most professional level of education in Polish Saturday schools in the United Kingdom (referring to the most beautiful Polish traditions, such as *Colegium Nobilium* and the Commission of National Education), while the second problem is the necessity to promote Polish language learning among the growing Polish community. In the author's opinion, showing parents a wide range of advantages brought by knowing second language creates opportunity for the development of Polish education in Great Britain. Thanks to stimulated intelligence, bilingual children learn better at school and develop intellectually faster. "[...] By teaching European language to a child, we add a university faculty to education and give a chance to gain additional qualifications."³¹

Recognition by the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad of the above tasks as priorities would allow to stop the process of the disappearance of Saturday schools and would become an impulse for the development of the organisation. Certainly, permanent contact with educational and scientific institutions in Poland would be an important element stimulating this direction of development.

The above line of thinking gained more and more supporters interested in the development of educational institutions in Great Britain. Most importantly, interest in this topic reached the members of APTA's Main Board. On 12 March 1996, "*Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*" [Polish Daily and Soldier's Daily] published an article by Irena Grocholewska, the acting president of the Association, which concerned the future of the organisation. In the article it can be read that:

[...] In 1991 the Association celebrated its golden jubilee, 50 years of existence. The first difficult chapter of teaching work was concluded creditably. In new conditions, after regaining independence, we entered a new phase of work. Today, the ranks of those who founded the construction of Polish education abroad are painfully thinning out. Fortunately, in place of those who left the Association, there are new teachers coming, already brought up abroad or coming from Poland. In the changing didactic and educational conditions, instructional help is needed for everyone. That is why we need our own professional organisation, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad. APTA's past enriches the organisation and its members. Unlike many other social organisations, the Association of Polish Teachers does not see the need to end its activity with the departure

³¹ Ibid., p. 13.

of war generation. We are obliged to continue our educational tasks, preparing our successors for further persistent and fruitful work.³²

This short statement by APTA's Main Board member showed that the organisation is preparing itself for new tasks in the changed geopolitical and social situation. The Association is thinking about the consolidation of its structures based on teachers who arrived from Poland and about taking up new tasks based on the intellectual potential hidden in Poland.

Such determined statement by Irena Grocholewska on behalf of the Association's Board was an evident extension of the entry contained in the APTA's Ideological Declaration, in which it can be read:

[...] The educational terms we proclaim come from our vocation and are in harmony with our teachers' conscience and our sense of duty towards the Polish nation and its thousand-year-long historical continuity. The participants of the Meeting express their filial attachment and deepest reverence for the person of the Holy Father John Paul II, to whose holiness and spiritual authority the world appeals, and in whom our nation has its trust and hope. With our thought and heart we bond with our nation in the country in its struggles for full freedom and independence, for a bright and happy future. We send best regards to our Colleagues in Poland who, living in difficult material and psychological conditions, remain faithful to their own vocation and bring up the youth entrusted to them in the spirit of national ideals.

Our ideological credo and nearly half-century practice leave no doubt that the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad in its social and educational activity has always been for independence, and has followed the principle of maintaining the legal continuity of Polish state institutions outside Polish borders, which is symbolised by the President of the Republic of Poland in exile.

The fundamental idea of APTA's educational activity is to bring up Polish children and youth in the faith and language of their fathers, and in the spirit of Polish culture and democracy. Emphasising Polish culture in our teaching practice, we do not forget about our historical relationship with Western and Christian civilisation. Polish ideal of independence, along with the universal human ideals, constitutes the didactic dimension of our curricula.³³

³² I. Grocholewska, "Zrzeszenie Nauczycielstwa Polskiego Za Granicą," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 12 March 1996, p. 4.

³³ *Wiadomości Nauczycielskie* 80-81(1989-1990): 3. APTA's Ideological Declaration was passed during the 27th General Meeting of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, which took place in London on 2 July 1989, on the 48th anniversary of founding the Association.

CHANGES IN THE ASSOCIATION'S MAIN BOARD IN 1996-1998

On 15 April 1996, the Main Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad received an official letter from Wanda Dziedzic informing about her resignation from the function of the president of the Main Board. Deteriorating health was the main reason of her resignation. In accordance with the will of the retiring President, Teresa Czochowa, vice-president of the Main Board, was to become the acting President until APTA's General Meeting.

In response, vice-president of the Association's Main Board issued an official letter dated 11 June 1996, in which she informed Board members that due to the change of address and move to Beckenham Kent, she cannot become acting President and forwards the function to Irena Grocholewska, the Board's Secretary.³⁴ In the justification of her decision, Teresa Czochowa stated that "[...] Ms. Irena Grocholewska has been running the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad for a long time".

From that moment Irena Grocholewska was the acting president of APTA's Board until the retiring Board convened the General Meeting of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad. The Meeting took place on 17 May 1998 in the Lecture Hall of the Polish University Abroad. During the Meeting, Teresa Czochowa, vice-president of the Board, summarised the Association's work since the previous General Meeting. Assessing the Board's work, she responded positively to the introduced direction of changes. She said,

[...] I am grateful to my colleague, Irena Grocholewska, who took over the work of the Board in June 1996 and has been leading it until now. [...] The Association's work and life are visible outside and all our actions arouse interest and appreciation of other organisations, which facilitates our activity. Today, at this meeting, we see new colleagues. They are new members of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, who are proposed by Irena Grocholewska for new APTA Board. They are younger people with a new vision of the future, as required by current education and the teachers. I ask you to support the new Board and thank my colleague, Irena Grocholewska, for the huge contribution to the current state of the Association, which is something fruitful and to be proud of. I ask Ms. Grocholewska warmly to continue managing the Association and to achieve with the new Board further success in the field of education. I want our General Meeting to continue in a friendly atmosphere and to put the good of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad in the first place; the Association which for many years has been well-seen, respected and needed to maintain Polishness outside the country: among us teachers and by emigrant organisations.³⁵

³⁴ APTA's Archive in London, Księga Protokołów Zarządu Głównego ZNPZ, years 1996-1999, p. 1.

³⁵ APTA's Archive in London, The speech of vice-president Teresa Czochowa during APTA's General Meeting on 17 May 1998, manuscript.

Next, following the agenda, Krystyna Dereszewska was elected the chairman of the Meeting, T. Czochowa and S. Wąsik were elected the assessors and Joanna Klauzner the Meeting's secretary. After the discharge was granted to the Board, a new Board was elected with the following members:

1. Irena Grocholewska –President of the Main Board
2. I. Honowska and K. Olliffe – Vice-presidents
3. E. Adamiak-Pawelec – Secretary
4. K. Dereszewska – Treasurer
5. A. Biniek-Lungano, U. Wahab, J. Nawolska, J. Klauzner, B. Howe, M. Ciechalska – Bahardian, A. Taczalski –Board Members.

The following people were elected to the Auditing Committee:

1. M. Czauderna – Chairwoman
2. T. Czochowa, J. Mieczkowska, L. Pailmel, I. Bagińska – Members.³⁶

Like in the previous years, the activity of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad was based on the dedicated work of the members of the Board. During the General Meeting, the new Main Board managed by the new president, Irena Grocholewska, presented a new plan of work for the following term. The plan consisted of the following 15 tasks:

1. Contact with schools to strengthen cooperation – substantive help to teachers in the field of methodology, didactics, etc.
2. Further training of teaching staff, according to the needs and proposals of school headmasters and teachers.
3. Resumption of Komisja Oceny Podręczników [Textbook Assessment Committee].
4. Cooperation with institutions and foundations in Poland which publish patriotic textbooks with an attractive editorial setting (T. Goniewicz Aid to Polish Schools in the East Foundation).
5. Verification of the Association members and issuing new ID cards.
6. Enlarging the organisation's ranks through the cooperation with school headmasters.
7. Publishing of APTA's jubilee history.
8. Continuing reading competitions.
9. Continuing the tradition of annual Christmas wafer meetings.
10. Organising methodical seminars and other forms of further education for teachers.
11. Organising a conference for teachers of early elementary education (classes 1-4) with demonstration lessons.
12. Undertaking all initiatives submitted by the members of the Association which might prove beneficial and fruitful in the educational work abroad.

³⁶ APTA's Archive in London, Księga Protokołów ZNPZ, years 1996-1999.

13. Issuing of an information bulletin summarising the annual activity of the Board.

14. Organising a book fare to raise funds for the Association's activity.

15. Verification of the Statute of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad and its adaptation to the new conditions and activity.³⁷

The work plan of the Association's Main Board for the next term, adopted and approved by the General Meeting, was clearly divided into two parts. On the one hand, it focused on the continuation of the proven activities, which included:

- organisation of pedagogical courses, methodical seminar, teacher conferences and other forms of further education,
- continuation of further editions of reading competition for students of Saturday schools and A-level courses,
- maintaining the beautiful tradition of Christmas wafer meetings and meetings on Teachers' Day,
- information campaign concerning APTA activity – bulletins, etc.

On the other hand, there were tasks related to the new situation in Europe after the fall of the communist system and regaining independence by Poland. These tasks included:

- cooperation with Polish institutions, educational and scientific organisations,
- encouraging the teaching community to take up new initiatives for educational work abroad,
- direct contact with Saturday schools and Polish teachers in Great Britain,
- Verification of APTA's Statute and its adjustment to the changed reality,
- searching for new opportunities to raise funds for the Association's activity.

The Board took seriously the tasks set before it, believing that acquiring new active members would be an important element of the organisation's development. Financial situation of the Association was difficult. According to the reports for the 1990s, the organisation's income consisted of membership fees (398 pounds in 1998), subsidy from Polonia Aid Foundation Trust (PAFT, 500 pounds in 1998), fund-raising aid for flood victims "Szkoła – Szkole" [School for school] (1601 pounds in 1998), prize draw (25 pounds in 1998), and other income (25 pounds in 1998).

³⁷ APTA's Archive in London, APTA's General Meeting – 17 May 1998, Work plan for the term 1998/2000, manuscript.

Subsidies from PAFT and Polish Ex-Combatants' Association were restricted grants providing financial support for particular initiatives, such as reading competition, methodical seminar, exhibition of educational aids, etc. Fund-raising aid for flood victims, in turn, was not burdened with any administrative costs, so the entire amount of money collected for the purpose was transferred to the victims. In addition to PAFT and Polish Ex-Combatants Association, subsidies for restricted tasks were donated by Karolina Lanckorońska foundation in Rome and Grabowski foundation in Great Britain.³⁸

Considering the above data, it should be stated that social work of both president Irena Grocholewska and Board members deserves special respect and recognition.

TEACHER TRAININGS AND OTHER FORMS OF FURTHER EDUCATION

Educating teachers and improving their methodical skills have been the fundamental tasks for the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad since the first years of its activity. Many years of involvement in the process of developing and strengthening teaching staff resulted in a high level of education in Saturday schools of native subjects and A-level courses taught by Polish specialists. Stable situation in Polish emigrant education staff was another result of this work.

In the second half of the 1990s, the Association's Main Board managed by Irena Grocholewska initiated new forms of didactic and educational activity. The cooperation with Poland became the driving force behind the organisation's development. Cooperation with Polish foundations and education centres mentioned in the previous chapter was continued. Polish textbooks and methodical guides were used. Polish teachers from Great Britain participated in workshops organised in Poland. The dynamically developing cooperation between the Association and Poland went to the next stage. APTA started to

³⁸ Karolina Lanckorońska Foundation – established in 1960 by Antoni Lanckoroński as Fundacja im. Karola Lanckorońskiego [Karol Lanckoroński Foundation]. The present name was adopted in 1967. The foundation is located in London and Fribourg (Switzerland). It supports Polish institutions in exile and in the country, and grants scholarships to scientists involved in archeology, history, history of art, classical philology and history of philosophy.

Grabowski Foundation – established in 1975 by Mateusz Bronisław Grabowski. Its aim is to disseminate knowledge about Poland among British people and about Great Britain among the Poles. The Foundation grants scholarships to students and scholars at School of Slavonic and East European Studies, and allows extremely talented Polish students to study in Great Britain.

Polonia Aide Foundation Trust (PAFT) offers financial help to support Polish education, culture and historical research.

organise pedagogical courses, seminars and conferences held the United Kingdom in cooperation with Polish universities and scientific and educational institutions.

Pedagogical Course for teachers and people who want to acquire qualifications for teaching in Saturday schools was APTA's new initiative. The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad organised the first Pedagogical Course together with the Polish University Abroad in 1996. The Association also started cooperation with the University of Warsaw which took care of education of the future teachers and issued relevant certificates to those who completed it.³⁹

The lecturers included scientists from the Pedagogical Faculty of the University of Warsaw: professor Tylikowska, professor Barbara Mazur, Piotrowska, PhD, Sochaczewska, PhD and Sobolewska, MA. The purpose of this one-year course was both to provide its participants with knowledge and to develop competences and practical skills necessary for the work of a Saturday school teacher. The program consisted of 120 hours of classes in pedagogy, didactics, psychology and practical classes based on lesson plans. After consultations with the Association's Board the following topics were approved:

1. Basic concepts and didactic problems.
2. Planning didactic work and planning didactic material.
3. Teaching rules.
4. Teaching methods.
5. Didactic aids.
6. Forms of organising students' work.
7. Lesson scenarios.
8. Problems with managing the class.
9. Controlling and evaluating students' work.⁴⁰

Thanks to a wide information campaign, recruitment for the course was successful. Classes began in October 1996 and lasted throughout the academic year. The course was a response to the urgent needs of Polish education market in Great Britain. President of the Association received letters with a request to organise a similar course in extramural mode. The Association decided to take up this challenge and planned such a course for the winter semester of 1999.

Pedagogical Course in its full-time form was continued in the academic year 1997/1998. At the same time, in response to a written request of the par-

³⁹ APTA's Archive in London, Documentation of the Pedagogical Course 1996.

⁴⁰ APTA's Archive in London, Syllabus of the Pedagogical Course for teachers of Polish Saturday schools in Great Britain organised by Polish University Abroad and the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad and conducted by Pedagogical Faculty of the University of Warsaw in London in the academic year 1996-1997.

ticipants of the first edition of this course the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad decided to organise methodical seminars “[...] for further learning and thoroughly studying new methods of teaching Polish as a foreign language in Saturday school of native subjects.” The seminars started in October 1997 and lasted till June 1998.⁴¹

By organising Pedagogical Course the Association received financial support (750 pounds) from Polonia Aid Foundation Trust, which proved that the initiative was important to the Polish community in Great Britain and helped reduce personal costs paid by each participant.⁴²

Pedagogical Course organised by the Association was noticed and appreciated by Polish media in Great Britain. The press not only provided basic information about the initiative, but also in-depth articles by specialists in the field of education. An example of a media statement of this type was an article by Zofia Wilk entitled “Znaczenie kursu pedagogicznego dla nauczycieli” [The Meaning of Pedagogical Course for teachers], published in “Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza” [Polish Daily and Soldier’s Daily] on 13 June 1996. The author was perfectly familiar with the part of the Association’s activity which consisted of providing pedagogical help, organising training courses and giving didactic advice to the teachers of Polish Saturday schools. However, in her opinion, the main aim of the Association is to care for the preservation and cultivation of Polish language among young people born in a foreign country. Therefore, modern education, which is a challenge for APTA, should include changes in educational system regarding teaching Polish abroad. According to Zofia Wilk, necessity to reach every child, get to know them and adjust the whole process of education to their abilities and expectations have become a challenge of the time. Cooperation with specialists from Poland has given teachers in Great Britain an opportunity to acquire competences and modern knowledge in the work with an emigrant student for whom Polish is the second language.

The author of the article very positively assessed the program of the Pedagogical Course. She wrote:

[...] Pedagogical Course will include pedagogical subjects and psychological content of education focused on psychological concepts of a growing child. Teachers will obtain knowledge of who a child is and how to deal with the difficulty of teaching Polish language. The current course plan includes, among others, methodology of teaching and educational work. The syllabus includes the so-

⁴¹ APTA’s Archive in London, Irena Grocholewska’s letter to the participants of Pedagogical Course in London dated 23 May 1997.

⁴² APTA’s Archive in London, Decision of Polonia Aid Foundation Trust dated 11 December 1996.

called general issues and methodology of teaching Polish as a foreign language, as well as history and geography of Poland.⁴³

According to Zofia Wilk, the use of knowledge acquired during the Pedagogical Course will result in a richer educational offer for candidates and will increase their interest in learning in Polish Saturday schools.

Irena Grocholewska, the president of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, with great commitment sought to provide teachers with constant forms of education, using Poland's intellectual potential. Apart for Pedagogical Course, she decided to resume the activity of the Pedagogical College within Polish University Abroad. In a letter to professor Jan Drewnowski, rector of Polish University Abroad, she stressed the fact that the good of emigrant education requires teachers who are professionally prepared to work in Polish Saturday schools. Presenting arguments for the reactivation of Pedagogical College, Irena Grocholewska recalled the effects of education from previous years:

[...] Pedagogical College at the Polish University Abroad exerted a specific educational effect. After three-year studies teachers expanded their knowledge of pedagogy, didactics, psychology and general knowledge of Polish history, literature, cultural history, etc. After passing the exams, the participants were awarded a diploma which allowed them to continue pedagogical studies and to obtain master's degree or even a doctorate.⁴⁴

In many of her statements, the president of the Association stressed the importance of the qualified teaching staff as the elementary condition for the survival and the development of Polish Saturday schools of native subjects. On the pages of "Wspólnota Polska" [Polish Community] quarterly she wrote:

[...] In order to pass knowledge, and instill Polishness in young people, as well as patriotism and national pride, one has to have broad knowledge that must be constantly supplemented. To have Cracow's costume is not enough. We need well-educated teachers who will show children and young people our cultural heritage and achievements at all levels of national life. Polish Saturday schools need teachers aware of their duties which are honest teaching and upbringing.⁴⁵

⁴³ Z. Wilk, "Znaczenie kursu pedagogicznego," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 13 June 1996, p. 4.

⁴⁴ APTA's Archive in London, Letter of APTA's Secretary to the Rector of Polish University Abroad dated 25 Nov. 1995, re garding the reopening of Pedagogical College.

⁴⁵ I. Grocholewska, "Uwagi na temat szkolnictwa w Wielkiej Brytanii," *Wspólnota Polska* 2(2002): 51.

In addition to the organisation of courses and methodical seminars for teachers, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad organised a large exhibition of educational aids. It was a very important event in the history of Polish education in Great Britain and at the same time a great logistic and organisational venture. A set of state-of-the-art research and teaching aids was brought by the Association from Ośrodek Badawczo-Rozwojowy Pomocy Naukowych i Sprzętu Szkolnego [Research and Development Centre of School Aid and Equipment] in Warsaw. These were aids approved for the school use by the Ministry of Education in Poland, and selected from a wide list by the Association's Board.

The first exhibition organised for Polish Saturday schools and Polish emigrant community took place in Polish Social and Cultural Association in London in September 1995. Organisationally, the project received support from Jan Mokrzycki, vice-president of the Federation of Poles in Great Britain. The exhibition was opened by the Consul of the Republic of Poland in London, Hanna Zawisza, who in her speech underlined the great importance of educational aids in the process of teaching both Polish language and history. A large number of visitors confirmed the idea's relevance. The items which aroused great interest included chronological boards with political, social and cultural events in Poland placed on a time-line, and educational aids for the youngest pupils of Polish Saturday schools, emanating with colours and texts encouraging them to learn.⁴⁶

Thanks to the financial support of PAFT, the exhibits went to Manchester, Leicester, Swindon and Huddersfield. The exhibition was attended and given attention not only by teachers, students and their parents but also by Polish community in Great Britain not related to education. APTA members, who presented the educational aids and pointed out their meaning in the process of teaching, met with great admiration of the visitors, as evidenced by the entries in the visitors' books. Each entry expressed appreciation for such an original idea and words of gratitude for the exhibition that is useful and significant for Polish education. The great success of the event was evidenced by numerous orders for the aids presented placed by Polish Saturday schools.⁴⁷

The final result of this outstanding event convinced APTA's Main Board that the inclusion of Polish institutions in the education of young Poles in exile was an extremely accurate decision as it boosted the organisation's development and expanded its field of activity.

⁴⁶ C. Tarnawska-Busza, "Wystawa pomocy naukowych," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 2 September 1995, p. 5.

⁴⁷ J. Klauzner, "Wystawa pomocy szkolnych," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 23 October 1996, p. 6.

In June 1998, the Association's Board prepared another initiative aimed at raising the qualifications of the teaching staff from Polish Saturday schools by extending their knowledge in the field of pedagogy, psychology and didactics. Bearing in mind the success of Pedagogical Course, organised at the Polish University Abroad in cooperation with the University of Warsaw, APTA prepared Extramural Pedagogical Course. Like previously, specialist classes were prepared by scientists from the Pedagogical Faculty at the University of Warsaw. The course began in October 1998 and lasted two semestres. Participants received the materials and reading prepared by the University of Warsaw as well as practical tasks and tests by post. The done material was sent back to the Association's headquarters at King Street 238-246, London W6 ORF.

The second semestre of the Extramural Pedagogical Course ended for its participants with a week of classes at the Polish University Abroad. They participated in lectures, exercises and consultations. The course syllabus covered the following issues:

1. Motivation for learning vs. Learning goals. The ability to formulate goals by teachers.
2. Methods of teaching and learning which develop children's positive attitude to learning. Didactic games and activities.
3. Organisation of teaching as the factor supporting the formation of students' motivation. The importance of learning in peer teams.
4. Communication in class. Types of communication. Role of discussion in the process of communication and language education.
5. Managing the learning process. Teacher's control activities in the didactic process. Ways to regulate the process of learning.
6. Regulatory and motivational function of school grades.
7. The results of empirical research on the relationship between the teacher and the student.
8. Main models of contemporary school. The concept of Polish school abroad.⁴⁸

Promoting the course in Polish press abroad, the Association's Main Board emphasised the fact that the teacher who uses specialised forms of further education feels more confident at work and strengthens his or her professional status.⁴⁹

While analysing the activities of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad aimed at providing substantive and methodical help to teachers working in

⁴⁸ APTA's Archive in London, Outline of Pedagogical Course for teachers from Polish Saturday schools in Great Britain.

⁴⁹ "Bogatsza wiedza – lepsze wyniki nauczania," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 12 June 1998, p. 6.

Polish Saturday schools in the United Kingdom, it is impossible not to mention the work of the Association's Komisja Oceny Podręczników [Textbook Assessment Committee]. It was thanks to the Committee's in-depth analysis that many valuable textbooks published in Poland could reach Polish students in Great Britain. Textbooks, methodical guides and other educational aids published by T. Goniewicz Aid to Polish Schools in the East Foundation from Lublin were particularly highly evaluated.

HELP TO POLISH ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

In the second half of 1990s, well-arranged cooperation of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad with Poland triggered internal integration of the Association and created conditions for undertaking activities thanks to which Polish Saturday school community involved in these activities identified with Polish society in the country.

First such action for the homeland, initiated by APTA, comprised of collecting money for Centrum Zdrowia Dziecka [Children's Health Centre] in Międzylesie near Warsaw to buy special laser for cancer and other eye surgeries in children. The value of this specialist equipment exceeded 60,000 USD, so the hospital board sought help among Polish communities abroad. Children's Health Centre (Warsaw) Fund, managed by the Honorary President Ewek Świtek, was the institution authorised to collect money for Children's Health Centre in Great Britain.

The Association's Board not only transferred money obtained from Jumble sale (200 British pounds) to help in the purchase of the equipment, but also encouraged teachers and students of Polish Saturday schools to take active part in this charity action. In the appeal addressed to the Polish community in Great Britain, which was published in "Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza" [Polish Daily and Soldier's daily] on 9 May 1995, APTA's Board wrote the following words to encourage people to help Polish children: "[...] Teachers are never indifferent to a child's fate and always hurry to help them."⁵⁰

The response of school community exceeded the expectations of the organisers. The students raised the sum of 541 British pounds already in the first money collection. Students of Saturday schools in Northampton, Great Missenden, Ealing (London), Melton Mowbray, Huddersfield, Balham (London), Swindon, Thames Valley University – A-Level Course, as well as The Society of Friends of Children and Youth] in London were involved in the charity action. During the subsequent money collections, youth from Leeds and Croy-

⁵⁰ *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 9 May 1995, p. 8.

don –Crystal Palace in London (135 pounds) and from schools in Derby and Devon-London (280 pounds) joined the action.⁵¹

On behalf of the Association's Board the charity action was managed by W. Dziedzicowa, T. Czochowa, I. Grocholewska and Z. Walanta. Polish and British companies, Bank Handlowy S. A. [Commercial Bank] and hundreds of individual donors joined the beautiful and very useful initiative. As usual, the Board could count on the support of the Federation of Poles in Great Britain, Polish Ex-Combatants' Association, Polish parishes and other social organisations functioning in London. "Dziennik Polski" [Polish Daily] not only took the media patronage over the event, but also supported it financially.

Thus, the charity action ended with a great success, not only in financial terms but also educational. In a letter sent by Children's Health Center (Warsaw) Fund to the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad it can be read, among others, that:

[...] We would like to thank the members of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad for all the money we have received so far. The organisation of the money collection in Polish schools in response to our last appeal is particularly moving, and the money collected has an immeasurable value. As the Polish proverb says, "Czym skorupka za młodu nasiąknie, tym na starość trąci" [What youth is used to, age remembers]. Therefore, we can be sure that our successors are growing among this youth and that help to suffering children will be continued. In December last year, a diode laser was delivered to the Children's Health Centre in Warsaw, and 30 young patients already used it until July. [...] Once again we would like to thank schools, teachers and children in particular for the gift of the heart and the transfer of funds for the purchase of this necessary equipment.⁵²

As promised by Ewek Świtek, the Honorary President of Children's Health Centre (Warsaw) Fund, the ophthalmology ward of Children's Health Centre in Warsaw received a modern diode laser for eye surgeries. The laser was handed over before Christmas 1996 and was a wonderful present for the hospital's little patients. Every year over 400 surgeries were performed with the device: retinal surgeries, surgeries in the treatment of glaucoma, cataracts, retinopathy in premature children and eye cancers. Professor Marek Prost, head of ophthalmology department at Children's Health Centre expressed his gratitude in "Dziennik Polski" [Polish Daily], saying that "handing over this equipment is the proof of the British Poles' bond with the homeland and of the willingness to help Polish children which comes from the heart."⁵³

⁵¹ *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 1 February 1996 and 27 March 1996.

⁵² APTA's Archive in London, Letter from Children's Health Centre (Warsaw) Fund to APTA's Board dated 7 October 1996.

⁵³ *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 23 January 1996, p. 5.

The involvement of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad in permanent help to the Children's Health Centre manifested the strong relationship between the two and testified to reasonable shaping of students' personalities through sensitizing them to the needs of other people and the need to help them. Fund-raising activities for the Children's Health Centre were organised under the slogan "Dzieci – dzieciom" [Children for children].

Apart from constant cooperation with Children's Health Center Fund, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad also established cooperation with Polish Women's Benevolent Association Ltd.⁵⁴ This charity organisation initiated actions to help Poland in the event of natural disasters, and also helped children in various ways. APTA promoted the initiatives of Polish Women's Benevolent Association in Polish Saturday schools.

APTA was also engaged in the activities initiated by the London Komitet Pomocy Polakom Na Wschodzie [Aid to the Poles in the East Committee],⁵⁵ which took care of Polish schools in Drohobych in Ukraine and of teachers working there. The purpose of the project was particularly meaningful for the Association's Board as it concerned providing those schools with didactic and methodical materials as well as textbooks for teaching Polish language, history and culture. By the decision of APTA's Main Board, Polish teachers in Drohobych were given lesson plans and curricula for teaching Polish language and history. In addition, a large number of "Wiadomości Nauczycielskie" [Teachers' News] was sent. The magazine edited by the Association contained articles and information extremely useful in teaching Polish students abroad. What is more, textbooks and methodical guides published by T. Goniewicz Aid to Polish Schools in the East Foundation were sent. They were given professional recommendation as reliable and valuable materials to work on with students in Polish schools. The official letter addressed to Polish teachers in Drohobych was signed on behalf of the Association by Irena Grocholewska. The letter ended with very kind words:

[...] We appreciate and respect Colleagues who undertake such a hard, but honourable and patriotic work to instill love of the country, i.e. father's land, and to affirm faith in a better tomorrow.⁵⁶

⁵⁴ Polish Women's Benevolent Association was established in London in 1946. Its main goal was to combine the activities of all women abroad to defend the Polish cause and return to independent country. The Association took care of Polish children and organised vocational courses for women. During martial law in Poland, it organised help, delivering food, medicines and clothes.

⁵⁵ APTA's Archive in London, Activity was initiated by Andrzej Polmiaszek. Information from the official letter from Irena Grocholewska to the teachers in Drohobych dated 6 February 1996.

⁵⁶ Ibid., p. 2.

Apart from cooperation with Polish organisations, institutions and foundations abroad, the Association initiated charity work in response to appeals and letters from the homeland. One of the most original actions of the second half of 1990s was help to Zespół Szkół Włókienniczych [Textile School Complex] from Lublin. The headmaster of the School Complex asked the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad to send information and materials concerning the activity of Polish teachers during World War II. The idea to come to the Association with this unusual proposition was born when the school decided to take the name of Nauczyciele Tajnego Nauczania [Teachers of Underground Education]. Preparing for the ceremonial name giving to the school complex, the headmaster and teaching staff decided to conduct a source query on this form of struggle for free Poland taken up by Polish teachers. It was also decided that the collected materials would be exhibited in the Memorial Hall commemorating the efforts of teachers who provided underground education during World War II.

The Association's Board represented by Irena Grocholewska, the then acting president, sent the school the requested information about the outstanding representatives of Polish teaching staff (including, among others, Jadwiga Feist-Boberowa) and students' memoirs published in "Wiadomości Nauczycielskie" [Teachers' News]. Submitting the materials for the Memorial Hall, Irena Grocholewska sent an official letter to the headmaster, teachers and students of the Textile School Complex in Lublin, in which it can be read, among others, that:

[...] The Main Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad is proud of and moved by your patriotic attitude and maturity, respect for and homage to those teachers and patriots who, with great dedication and risking their lives, passed on knowledge, faith and national pride to the generation that was forbidden to be Poles.

Your school named after Teachers of Underground Education will be commemorated in the history of Polish education. Under the supervision of teachers and educators learn a well-understood patriotism, love for the homeland and the readiness to make sacrifice for it. Be faithful to your homeland so that Poland will remain its true self.⁵⁷

These authentically patriotic words addressed to a school community building their identity on such a beautiful chapter in the history of Polish education, confirmed that the Association's decision to cooperate with the homeland had a great value for the future of the organisation. Finally, a deposit of the most immense values of independent Poland stored and preserved in exile

⁵⁷ APTA's Archive in London, Irena Grocholewska's letter to the headmaster of Textile School Complex in Lublin, dated 20 April 1997.

could be passed on to young generation of Poles seeking their own identity after years of communist subjugation. In addition, cooperation with the homeland resulted in the fact that in the awareness of Polish teaching circles the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad based in London existed as an independence organisation with more than half-a-century of tradition. This way, the information barrier built by the communists between the country and emigration finally collapsed.

The year 1997 was marked in the history of Poland as the year of a major natural disaster. The flood caused the greatest devastation in the cities and towns by the Oder. Upon the news of the tragedy, the Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad immediately joined the campaign to help the victims. In response to the appeal of the Federation of Poles and through Caritas in Częstochowa the Association donated funds as well as 10 boxes of clothing and shoes for children and adults from the areas struck by the disaster.

Subsequently, the Association's Board proceeded to a large-scale action to help flood victims by involving Polish Saturday schools and the organisation's supporters. "Dziennik Polski" [Polish Daily] published an appeal with a request to purchase and hand over the most necessary everyday items, books, notebooks and other school materials to the flooded children. The project was carried out under the slogan „Dzieci – Dzieciom powodzią” [Children for children of flood victims]. Letters were sent to the headmasters of Polish Saturday schools in Great Britain. The response to the appeal was strong and testified to the sensitivity of Polish students in the United Kingdom to Polish affairs.

The Board collected a total of 1 601 British pounds which were transferred to School Commission at the Polish Episcopate to reach the most needy children affected by the natural disaster. During the charity action, the following Saturday schools showed special dedication:

- Adam Mickiewicz Polish Saturday School in Huddersfield
- Polish Saturday School in Leicester
- Polish Saturday School in Cambridge
- Mikołaj Rej Polish Saturday School in Chiswick (London)
- Maria Konopnicka Polish Saturday School in Willesden Green (London)
- Maria Curie-Skłodowska Polish Saturday School in Putney (London)
- Towarzystwo Dzieci i Młodzieży [the Association of Children and Youth] (Balham, London)
- John Paul II Polish Saturday School in Bristol
- Polish Saturday School in Northampton
- A-Level Course at Ealing Tertiary College (London)
- A-Level Course at Polish Social and Cultural Association in London

– Supporters of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad in Southampton.⁵⁸

The help organised by the Association, in accordance with the will of the donors, went to the flood victims from orphanages.⁵⁹

Irena Grocholewska, president of the Association, summarising the results of the “Children for children of flood victims” action in the letter to the Board of Caritas Polska dated 7 February 1998 emphasised the fact that it is the teachers’ duty to sensitize students to the needs of others by helping children affected by the flood in Poland. She wrote, among others, that

[...] it is a very important element of upbringing children and teaching them kindness, gratitude and sensitivity to the needs of those who need help and those who help.⁶⁰

As part of this action, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad sent over a dozen books in response to the request of the management of the Main Library of the Opole University to help in completing the library destroyed by the flood. Books published in exile were sent directly to Opole. The Association wished the students to benefit from them in their scientific work.

⁵⁸ *Gazeta Niedzielną*, 14 January 1998, p. 8.

⁵⁹ Among others to Dom Dziecka im. Stefana Starzyńskiego [Stefan Starzyński Orphanage] in Kłodzko and Orphanage run by Zgromadzenie Sióstr Szkolnych de Notre Dame [School Sisters of Notre Dame] in Krzydlina Mała.

⁶⁰ APTA’s Archive in London, Irena Grocholewska’s letter to the Board of Caritas Polska dated 7 February 1998.

CHAPTER III

THE ASSOCIATION OF POLISH TEACHERS ABROAD IN THE YEARS 1999-2007

SUPPORT FOR POLISH EDUCATION, TEACHER TRAININGS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE DAY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION

According to the work plan adopted for the following years by the General Meeting of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad on 17 May 1998, the organisation's priority task was to provide substantive help in the field of teaching methodology and didactics to the teachers. In connection with the above, cooperation with Polish Saturday schools was strengthened and teachers' education was continued at pedagogical courses, methodical seminars, conferences and meetings with scholars or textbook authors. Thanks to the extensive cooperation with Poland, educational offer addressed to teachers was systematically expanded and was more and more attractive.

Cooperation with Polonijne Centrum Nauczycielskie [Polonia Teachers' Centre] and T. Goniewicz Aid to Polish Schools in the East turned out to be particularly valuable. Apart from these institutions from Lublin, the Association worked with "Polish Community" Association and directly with the Ministries of the Polish government in Warsaw. In matters related to teacher training the Association worked with the University of Warsaw and partly with the University of Łódź. For the implementation of statutory tasks the Association used financial support from Polonia Aid Foundation Trust and Polish Ex-Combatants' Association. Cooperation with the Polish University Abroad and Polish Cultural Institute was extremely valuable too.

One of the Association's new initiatives was Extramural Pedagogical Course organised in February 1999. It lasted one year (two semesters) and was addressed to Polish teachers at Saturday schools in outside London and to candidates for teachers. Course participants gained or improved their competences in the field of pedagogy, didactics and psychology, and learned how to skillfully develop students' motivation to actively participate in classes at Polish Saturday schools which were for them the second additional school after the English one. The course organised by the Association of Polish Teach-

ers Abroad was sponsored by the Pedagogical Faculty at the University of Warsaw and the Polish University Abroad. Professor Barbara Mazur and doctor Aleksandra Piotrowska were the authors of the program realised during the classes.

The course focused primarily on teachers' acquisition of knowledge and practical skills for raising and maintaining children's motivation to learn Polish and on methods of shaping attitude towards Polish language, history and culture. It covered eight basic pedagogical issues:

1. Motivation for learning vs. Learning goals. The ability to formulate goals by teachers. Students' attitude towards the goals and the process of learning.

2. Methods of teaching and learning which develop children's positive attitude to learning. Didactic games and activities.

3. Organisation of teaching as the factor supporting the formation of students' motivation. The importance of learning in peer teams. Student tutoring.

4. Communication in class. The role of discussion in the process of communication and language education.

5. Managing the learning process. Ways to regulate the process of learning. Teacher's control activities in the didactic process.

6. Regulatory and motivational function of school grades. Assessment criteria. Assessment of knowledge and skill growth.

7. The results of empirical research on the relationship between the teacher and the student. Stereotypes of behaviour.

8. Main models of contemporary Polish school abroad.

In July 1999, participants of the extramural course took part in a week-long workshops which included lectures, classes and consultations. The workshops took place in lecture rooms of the University of Warsaw and were a summary of the first term of educational classes. The course ended in January 2000 with the handing of the diplomas at the Polish University Abroad in London.

Realisation of this educational venture undertaken by the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad was possible thanks to the financial support from the Ministry of National Education provided through Polonia Teachers' Centre in Lublin, managed by Joanna Wójtowicz, an outstanding specialist on educating teachers abroad, and thanks to the support of Biuro Kształcenia Nauczycieli Zagranicznych [Foreign Teachers Training Office] in Warsaw.¹

¹ APTA's Archive in London, Irena Grocholewska. „Report on Extramural Pedagogical Course for the teachers,” 26 May 1999.

In 2000, parallel to the classes of the Extramural Pedagogical Course, Polonia Teachers' Centre in Lublin organised summer courses and workshops for Polish teachers abroad. Both the location of the classes and their subject made the teachers participate willingly in the events. The timetable of the courses was as follows:

City	Date	Subject
Lublin	4-18 July	Polish culture and tradition with the elements of national dance
Lublin	15-29 July	Methodology of teaching Polish language
Lublin	25 July-7 August	Activating methods in teaching Polish language
Lublin	5-24 July	Contemporary Polish culture and history
Cracow	5-24 July	Methodology of teaching Polish language
Gdańsk	18-31 July	Drama in teaching and upbringing
Zielona Góra	21-30 July	Spoken/oral forms in teaching Polish

In 2001, Polonia Teachers' Centre in Lublin proposed another series of workshops for teachers of Polish schools. The workshops were arranged in 6 thematic blocks:

1. Methodology of teaching Polish in primary and lower secondary schools (Lublin).
2. Course in contemporary Polish history and literature (Warsaw).
3. Course in methodology of teaching Polish language (Cracow).
4. Education through theatre (Poznań).
5. Course in Polish culture and tradition with the elements of national dance (Lublin).
6. Activating methods in teaching Polish language (Lublin).

The Association conducted an information campaign, and was also involved in the recruitment of teachers interested in taking part in the above-mentioned workshops. Cooperation with Polonia Teachers' Centre in Lublin in this respect became an important element of educational offer of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad addressed to Polish teachers in the United Kingdom.

The second Polish institution to cooperate closely with the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad was "Polish Community" Association from Warsaw. "Polish Community" Association organised interesting summer camps for children and youth of Polish origin living permanently abroad. The camps were organised in Poland, in places extremely attractive in terms of tourism, landscape and health: in Wisła, Rymanów, Polanica Zdrój, Krynica Górská,

Zakopane, Bukowina Tatrzańska and Kołobrzeg. Apart from relax, participants of the camp visited important and attractive places in Poland, and took part in classes expanding their knowledge about the history and culture of Poland.

From the academic year 2003-2004, the list of Polish language and culture courses promoted by the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad included the offer of Szkoła Języka i Kultury Polskiej Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego [The School of Polish Language and Culture at the Catholic University of Lublin]. The School offered summer courses (in July and August), lasting from 2 to 5 weeks, or one year courses. Summer course consisted of 4 to 7 hours of Polish language every day, depending on the intensity level, and 1 hour of lecture on Polish history, culture and other significant contemporary issues. The lectures were given first in English and then in Polish. In addition, an attractive cultural and tourist program was proposed, which included trips around Lublin and to charming places of the Lublin region, visiting Warsaw and getting to know the treasures of nature and architecture in the vicinity of the eastern border.

At that time the School of Polish Language and Culture at KUL had almost 30 years of experience in working with students and teachers of Polish origin from Western Europe, the USA, Canada and Australia. The School worked as a partner with the University of Wisconsin, the University of New Hampshire, Chicago Public Schools, Tadeusz Kościuszko Foundation and many others. It was part of the Faculty of Humanities at Catholic University of Lublin founded in 1918.

In the 2002/2003 school year, the Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad returned to the organisation of the Pedagogical Course for teachers from Polish schools and for candidates for teachers. The Board offered a one-year course in extramural mode. The program of the course included classes in child psychology, pedagogy, didactics, methodology and the basics of ethics in teaching profession. In the letter informing about the beginning of the recruitment for the course, Irena Grocholewska, the president of the Association, stressed the fact that being a teacher requires constant training on the highest level. In her opinion, only reliable knowledge and high competences strengthen the professional and social position of a teacher. The letter sent to Polish Saturday schools and A-Level courses in Great Britain also contained information about the resumption of methodical seminars. They were to take place once a month in London at Polish Social and Cultural Association.²

² APTA's Archive in London, Letter of APTA's President to the headmasters and teachers of Polish Saturday schools in Great Britain dated 4 October 2002.

Apart from regular courses improving teachers' competences and skills, the Association organised single workshops, meetings and lectures. In this way, Polish culture and science were promoted, and teachers' knowledge in this field broadened. Polish Cultural Institute, managed by Elżbieta Łyszkowska joined the organisation of such events.

The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad has played a very important role in integrating Polish teaching community in Great Britain. National Education Day (14 October) has had a special place in the calendar of the Association's work. It is celebrated very solemnly and organised on the Sunday nearest to this date. The standard program of the event in the last years of the 20th century included the following elements:

1. Greeting the guests and a short historical outline of the achievements of the Commission of National Education in reference to the importance of teaching profession.
2. Reading of occasional wishes and congratulations.
3. Guest lecture (in 1999 given by Stanisław Wąsik who spoke about the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad in the years 1941-1991).
4. Piano concert – pieces from the repertoire of Fryderyk Chopin and Stanisław Moniuszko.
5. Recital of invited artists, among others, Teresa Bennett.
6. Mini recital performed by students of Saturday schools.
7. Address by the General Consul of the Republic of Poland in London.
8. Acknowledgements of APTA's President and singing of *Rota*.
9. Refreshments.

Wishes on the occasion, full of recognition and appreciation for the Association's involvement in the matters of Polish education in Great Britain, were sent not only by headmasters of Polish Saturday schools, but also by the representatives of many Polish institutions, associations and organisations, including:

- Polish Educational Society,
- Polish Scouting and Guiding Association Abroad (Bogdan Szwagrzak),
- Polish University Abroad (professor Jan Drewnowski),
- “Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza” [Polish Daily and Soldier's Daily] (editor Tomasz Walkiewicz),
- Federation of Poles in Great Britain (president Jan Mokrzycki),
- Polish Social and Cultural Association (president Artur Rynkiewicz),
- Aid to Poles in the East Association (Andrzej Polniaszek),
- Towarzystwo Przyjaźni Dzieci Polskich Za Granicą [The Society of Friends of Polish Children Abroad],
- Polish Ex-Combatants' Association (Z. Luszowicz),

- General Consulate of the Republic of Poland in London (Consul Hanna Zawisza),
- Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales (Rector Stanisław Świerczyński),
- Polska Fundacja Kulturalna [Polish Cultural Foundation],
- Office of the former President of the Republic of Poland, Ryszard Kaczorowski (Director Jan Tarczyński),
- Towarzystwo Wspierania Uniwersytetu Wileńskiego [Vilnius University Support Society] (Walery Choroszewski).

Representatives of all the above-mentioned institutions and organisations emphasised in their wishes the immeasurable value of the work of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad and of the teachers devoted to preserving Polishness in exile. The rector of Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales, father Stanisław Świerczyński, beautifully summarised all wishes by writing:

To the hands of dear Madame President I extend my heartfelt congratulations and warm wishes to the entire Association of Polish Teachers Abroad so that in Great Britain there is the greatest number of children and youth brought up to love Polish language, culture and life based on Polish Christian traditions.³

Apart from the aforementioned Polish institutions in Great Britain, an increasing number of wishes came from Poland. It was the result of the Association's opening to the cooperation with the homeland in terms of preserving Polish identity abroad. At the turn of the 21st century, wishes were sent to the hands of APTA's president by the following institutions:

1. Ministry of National Education (ministers Mirosław Handke and Krystyna Łybacka)
2. "Polish Community" Association (professor Andrzej Stelmachowski)
3. Polonia Teachers' Centre (Joanna Wójtowicz, PhD)
4. Pedagogical Faculty at the University of Warsaw
5. T. Goniewicz Aid to Polish Schools in the East Foundation
6. Editors of the monthly "Rota".

In 1999, the Teachers' Day celebrations were particularly festive for two reasons. Firstly, there was a consecration of a plaque commemorating teachers whose dedicated work contributed to the preservation of Polishness among the students of Saturday schools. Secondly, there was a presentation of professor Tadeusz Radzik's book presenting the 50-year history of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad (1941-1991).

³ APTA's Archive in London, Letter of the rector of Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales, father Stanisław Świerczyński to APTA's President, dated 28 September 1999.

According to Irena Grocholewska, the president of the Association, laying the plaque was a significant event because it “preserved the memory of noble teachers, who are no longer among us, but who devoted their lives on foreign soil to the idea of preserving Polishness and national culture.”⁴

It is also worth recalling the celebration of the National Education Day organised by the Association on 22 October 2000 due to its original form. Two occasions were combined that day: Teachers’ Day and the 50th anniversary of the Polish Saturday school in Croydon Cristal Palace. The celebrations took place in the parish of Miłosierdzie Boże [the Divine Mercy] in Croydon and at school located next to the church. The Holy Mass was celebrated by father mitrate Stanisław Świerczyński, rector of Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales, assisted by father prelate Walerian Gajecki and parish priest Aleksander Ożóg who was at the same time the school’s headmaster. Numerous students of the school, along with their parents, parishioners and local community attended this unusual ceremony. Among the invited guests there were representatives of state authorities: Hanna Zawisza and Andrzej Krężel, Consuls of the Republic of Poland; the Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, the president of Polish Educational Society, the president of the Institute of Polish Catholic Action, and representatives of other Polish organisations and associations.

In his homily, father Świerczyński indicated the enormous role that teachers play in the life of every Polish community. He recalled their mission to teach and raise Polish children and youth in a religious and patriotic spirit. In the artistic part, students from Hetman Karol Chodkiewicz Polish Saturday School performed a play in which they shared their knowledge of Polish history and culture with the gathered audience. The beautiful show was prepared by the famous folk group “Karolinka,” founded and run by Maura and Bronisław Kutereba, teachers and parishioners from Croydon. The school’s golden jubilee was a great opportunity to present Medal Komisji Edukacji Narodowej [The Medal of the Commission of National Education] to:

1. father prelate Walerian Gajecki –the founder of the school
2. father Aleksander Ożóg – school headmaster
3. Bolesława Oleszczuk, Bożena Parfit, Jadwiga Staniszevska and Edward Card – teachers.

Other members of the teaching staff received commemorative medals of general Anders from the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad.

In her speech, madame Consul Hanna Zawisza expressed great appreciation for teachers’ efforts and dedication in passing on Polish national traditions.

⁴ APTA’s Archive in London, Documentation from the organisation of the Teachers’ Day celebration, 10 October 1999.

Congratulating the jubilates and all teachers gathered, she wished them further fruitful achievements, spreading noble ideals and love for the country among the students.⁵

The celebrations of National Education Day combined with the 60th anniversary of the Association's activity and planned for 30 September 2001 had a particularly festive character. The celebrations began with the Holy Mass in the church of St. Andrzej Bobola in the intention of living and deceased teachers. The guest list included, among others, Andrzej Krężel, Consul of the Republic of Poland; Andrzej Morawicz, the president of Federation of Poles; Artur Rynkiewicz, representative of Polish Social and Cultural Association; father Aleksander Ożóg; father Włodzimierz from St. Andrzej Bobola parish; Teresa Szadkowska-Łakomy from Polish Ex-Combatants' Association; Adam Gaś, the former president of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad; and headmasters of Polish Saturday schools. The ceremony was also attended by members and supporters of the Association from outside London, among others, from Nottingham, Derby and Bedford.

All jubilee wishes received shared the motif of gratitude to a large group of teachers who, thanks to their dedication and persistent work, did not let the Polish language disappear among Polish emigrants and thus, did not let Poland disappear, a country now free and independent. The authorities of the Republic of Poland expressed their appreciation for the teachers of Polish Saturday schools by awarding the most merited members of the Association with the Gold Medals of the Commission of National Education. Medals were presented by Andrzej Krężel, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in London. While congratulating the awarded, he expressed great appreciation for their work, emphasising that they work conscientiously and with great dedication to fulfill the mission for which they were called and which contributes to the preservation of Polishness among children and youth remaining outside Poland. The Consul remarked that wherever they were cast by fate to settle, the awarded carried a torch of education, teaching their mother tongue and instilling love for Poland.

Joining the congratulation, the president of the Association, Irena Grocholewska, added that the awarded are "strong-women" who love being teachers and will remain a example for contemporary people, and will teach them patriotic attitude and love for the homeland whose name is Poland. The artistic part included recitals of the school choir from Ealing, a performance by folk group "Karolinka" from Croydon, violin concert by Piotr Kopeć and

⁵ I. Grocholewska, "Dzień Nauczyciela i 50-lecie szkoły," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 11 December 2000, p. 6.

poetry recitations by students of Saturday schools. The event ended with singing *Rota*.⁶

Celebrations of the National Education Day on 13 October 2002 also had a touching and solemn character. This time they were connected with the consecration of the banner for the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad. The embroidered slogan "I nic nad Boga" [And nothing above God] reminded the participants of the meeting about the ideas inherited by APTA from the teachers-soldiers who created the Association with a view to educate Polish children and youth in difficult war circumstances. The banner was consecrated by Father Tadeusz Kukla, rector of Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales. Banner corps included members of the Association: Alan Maćkowiak, a Board member, Joanna Mechelewska, a teacher from Polish Saturday school in Bedford and Maria Budzyńska, a teacher from London. The honor of the Association's banner's first godfather went to the president Ryszard Kaczorowski.

It can be confidently said that it became a tradition to celebrate Teachers' Day organised by the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad in the first years of the 21st century together with another anniversary or jubilee important for Polish community. This was also the case in 2003 when National Education Day was combined with the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Gibraltar catastrophe in which General Władysław Sikorski died and the 25th anniversary of John Paul II's pontificate. The combination of events important for Polish community meant that they were celebrated solemnly. The event began with a Holy Mass in St. Andrzej Bobola's church. Then everybody went to the Polish Social and Cultural Association to continue the celebration of the important anniversaries. Among the numerous guests there was:

- bishop Ryszard Karpiński – Delegate of the Polish Episcopal Conference for Polish diaspora,
- father Tadeusz Kukla – Rector of Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales,
- father Bronisław Gostomski – founder of Polish Saturday school in Croydon,
- father Aleksander Ożóg – headmaster of K. Chodkiewicz Polish Saturday school,
- Tomasz Trafas – Consul General in London,
- Ireneusz Truszkowski – Consul for Polish diaspora.

They were accompanied by numerous representatives of Polish organisations, combatants, headmasters of Polish Saturday schools, teachers and local community.

⁶ APTA's Archive in London, Report on the celebrations of APTA's 60th anniversary.

Inaugurating the celebrations of such important anniversaries, the president of the Association, Irena Grocholewska, said among others, that

[o]ur meeting has a special character for it takes place on the 25th anniversary of the pontificate of John Paul II, our beloved Pope. For the quarter of a century he has been serving the Church and the world, emanating with his wisdom, goodness and loving youth for he himself is young at heart and spirit, and as such will remain in our hearts. We, teachers in exile, pay homage to him and pray to God that he would be with us for many years, serving all mankind. The second circumstance is the year of general Władysław Sikorski, the Prime Minister of the Polish Government and the Supreme Commander of the Polish Armed Forces in 1939-1943, a patriot, a statesman, and a politician who died tragically 60 years ago.⁷

Focusing on the celebrations of the National Education Day combined with other important historical anniversaries, one cannot forget about the everyday, arduous and difficult work of the Association's Board which consists of supporting teachers and students of Polish Saturday schools.

On 10 October 2001, a conference organised by the Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research (CILT) in Birmingham took place as part of the European Year of Languages 2001. The conference was attended by over 200 delegates from Great Britain and other European countries. CILT issued a special invitation to the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad in which they proposed that the Association, which had over 60 years of experience in preserving mother tongue among Polish emigration community, take part in the thematic debate on "Preserving language and culture over generations."

Participation in this prestigious conference required the presence of a representative of a younger generation but with considerable experience in working on the preservation of Polish language and culture. For this reason, APTA's Board appointed Maria Budzyńska, who represented the second generation of Poles living in Great Britain, as its delegate. The delegate was a member of the Association and the editor of the "Tygiel" magazine whose main purpose was dissemination of Polish language and culture among the youth. In her conference speech, Maria Budzyńska talked about her experience connected with participation in classes at Polish Saturday school, GCSE and A-Level exams, bi-nationality and benefits from preserving Polish language and culture in exile. She stressed the activity of Polish parishes, associations and organisations in the collective effort to be different but at the same time fully integrated with British society.

⁷ I. Grocholewska, "Dzień Nauczyciela," *Gazeta Niedzielną*, 7 November 2003, p. 7.

Thematic debate was chaired by Stephen Jones – the president of the Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research. The debate was preceded by a brief presentation of the history of post-war Polish emigration in Great Britain. For many conference participants it was the first encounter with the information about the functioning of the Polish community in the United Kingdom. The presentation aroused great interest, especially the fact that for many years Poles who lived in exile could achieve so much and keep their identity. Beata Howe, the vice-president of the Association, wrote in her conference report published in “*Dziennik Polski*” [Polish Daily] that

We have become a model for others of how to live in a multicultural and multilingual society without being bound to ostracism and denationalisation. The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad was proud to be able to present the activity of Polish education in exile to the British and European audience, and to emphasise the contribution of families and organisations to the preservation of Polish language and culture in exile.⁸

The participation of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad in such a prestigious conference and the possibility of a wide presentation of Polish education in Great Britain against the background of religious and social organisations confirmed the Association’s high position not only in Polish but also in British educational environment in the United Kingdom.

In addition to the organisation of teacher training and education as well as lessons of ‘living history’, the Association also initiated other forms of support for Polish Saturday schools. In 2002, the Board decided to support students’ education by promoting and publishing valuable school books. In the first publishing series, young people were invited to familiarise themselves with the works of Wiesław Lasocki.⁹ In the opinion of APTA, the works of this emigrant writer for children and youth deserved particular promotion due to their value in many respects. In the article propagating the works of Wiesław Lasocki published in “*Dziennik Polski*” [Polish Daily], it can be read that

[...] Lasocki teaches and educates, provides a lot of genuine impressions and feelings, and gives a lot of pleasure. He brings children closer to nature and discovers its beauty. He indicates love for animals and friendship with them. In every book there is a moral, goodness, peace and nobility.¹⁰

⁸ B. Howe, “Język polski i szkolnictwo w Wielkiej Brytanii,” *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 16 October 2001, p. 6.

⁹ Wiesław Lasocki – born in 1913 in Ciechanów, died in London in 1996. Cavalry Major of the Polish Army, participant of the Battle of Monte Cassino, emigrant writer. Author of many books and articles in Polish and English on travel, nature and military issues.

¹⁰ I. Grocholewska, “Lektura szkolna dla dzieci,” *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 30 September 2002, p. 7.

Thanks to the sponsors found by the Association, Polish schools received the following books by Wiesław Lasocki:

1. *Wojtek spod Monte Cassino.*
2. *Lubek herbu Obrączka.*
3. *Ali Baba: malajski niedźwiedź.*
4. *Z ojczystej ziemi.*
5. *Żubr turysta.*
6. *Kajakiem przez ziemie wschodnie Rzeczypospolitej.*
7. *O koniu bojowym. Z zapisków kawalerzysty.*

The books could be purchased from the publisher, Księgarnia Wydawnictwa Veritas [Veritas Publishing House] and in the bookshop of the Polish Social and Cultural Association.

Another venture to help Polish schools undertaken by the Association was to publish Polish grammar textbooks written by Helena Metera, PhD. In this respect, the Association started cooperation with T. Goniewicz Aid to Polish Schools in the East Foundation, the publisher of these textbooks.

In January 2002, the Main Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad also sent Polish Calendar 2002 to all headmasters of Polish Saturday schools. The calendar was at the same time a valuable educational aid for it contained a very well-written history of Poland from the Christian beginning of the country and the nation to the present moment. Maps and archival images of Polish eagles were great advantage of the calendar. The cover was decorated with the image of Matka Boża Królowa Korony Polskiej [Our Lady Queen of the Polish Crown], made available for the calendar by Pauline Fathers from Jasna Góra.

Year 2004 was particularly important in the life of Polish community in the United Kingdom, due to the anniversaries commemorating the deeds of Polish army during World War II (Monte Cassino, Ancona, Bolongna, Falaise, Tobruk and Warsaw Uprising) and also due to Poland accessing the European Union. The anniversaries were celebrated very solemnly.

Every year, the president of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad sent a letter concerning the beginning of another school year in Polish Saturday schools. The letter was addressed to "Headmasters, teachers, Parental Committees and Saturday schools' Welfare Organisations in Great Britain." The letter dated 1 September 2004 was particularly important because of the form and the issues raised, which concerned the work of Polish Saturday schools in the entire school year:

With the beginning of the school year 2004/2005, the Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad wishes you fruitful work in Saturday schools of native subjects and a lot of satisfaction with the teaching profession. At the same time, APTA's Board includes useful, current information on teaching and teachers.

2004 is a HISTORICAL YEAR for the Poles. Wherever we are, it is the YEAR OF ANNIVERSARIES and GREAT changes connected with Poland's accession to the EUROPEAN UNION, which, in turn, are connected with the adaptation of our COUNTRY and Poles to the new reality in all areas, including education. The changes also concern teachers teaching outside the COUNTRY in Saturday schools of native subjects.

Changes and progress cannot affect our POLISH IDENTITY. It depends on us, teachers, and on the proper message about Poland and our cultural achievements, how to shape and educate the children and youth entrusted to us in the European Union.

NEW generation MUST know better the COUNTRY of their parents and grandparents, and mother tongue. They have to know where they come from.

A EUROPEAN, as some people describe themselves, without ROOTS does not MEAN ANYTHING. The question "WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?" will be a very common one. And to answer this question with PRIDE, a child or a young person should answer „I AM A POLE FROM POLAND". This is what one must learn and drill, and let the words of the Primate of the Millennium, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, be a message for us and let those words remind us of teacher's duty: „NARODY TRACĄ PAMIĘĆ – TRACĄ ŻYCIE" [By losing memory nations lose life].

The 60th anniversary of Warsaw Uprising, Monte Cassino, Narvik, Falaise, Tobruk and other battles of World War II, in which Polish soldiers fought with a view of free POLAND, must be known to our youth, for the history of Poland is the history of our NATION. This subject belongs to Polish Saturday schools of native subjects and Polish teachers.¹¹

In the subsequent part the letter contained practical information concerning qualifications necessary to teach Polish as a foreign language and information about the next edition of the Pedagogical Course organised by the Association. The planned course included classes in pedagogy, psychology, teaching methodology and ethics of the teaching profession. The Board also encouraged teachers to take part in the celebration of National Education Day.

The Teachers' Day meeting organised on 17 October 2004 had a particularly festive character and setting. Poznański Chór Nauczycieli im. Ignacego Jana Paderewskiego [Ignacy Jan Paderewski Poznań Teachers' Choir] was a special guest. The ceremony traditionally began with the Holy Mass celebrated by father Bronisław Gostomski in St. Andrzej Bobola's church, and the rest of the ceremony was held in the Theatre Hall of Polish Social and Cultural Association.

Among the guests who attended the ceremony and honoured the work of the Association and the entire community of teachers at Polish Saturday schools there were:

¹¹ APTA's Archive in London, APTA President's letter to headmasters and teachers of Polish Saturday schools of native subjects in Great Britain, dated 1 September 2004.

1. Ireneusz Truszkowski – Polish Consul in London,
2. Jerzy Ostoja-Koźniewski – honorary secretary of Polonia Aid Foundation Trust and the former minister of the Polish government in exile,
3. Andrzej Szkuta – director of Polish Cultural Foundation,
4. Walery Choroszewski – the former minister of Polish government and Polish diaspora activist,
5. colonel Stanisław Berkiet – president of the Soldiers of the II Corps Union,
6. Stefania Brewkowa – delegate of the Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad in Great Britain,
7. father Aleksander Ożóg – parish priest of the Divine Mercy Church/parish and the headmaster of Polish Saturday school in Croydon (London).

The ceremony was also attended by headmasters of Polish Saturday schools from London, Bedford, Derby, Oxford and Manchester, and by a large group of teachers and Association's supporters.

As usual, Beata Howe, vice-president of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, read numerous wishes sent by organisations and institutions from Poland and Great Britain. Among them, there was a congratulatory card from Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales in which the rector, father Tadeusz Kukla, thanked all teachers for their great dedication in passing Polish language, culture and history of Poland to children and youth in exile. Next, on behalf of the Minister of National Education, the Consul of the Republic of Poland, Ireneusz Truszkowski, honoured with the highest award the most merited teachers of emigrant education. The medals were awarded to Irena Grocholewska, Stanisława Łoś and Ryszard Trojanowski.

After the official part, the Poznań Teachers' Choir under the baton of Ryszard Łuczak, began a concert dedicated to teachers-soldiers and insurgents. Choir consisting of 55 people and soloists from Teatr Wielki in Poznań performed the most beautiful Polish patriotic and folk songs, as well as opera and operetta arias, thus, creating a unique and unforgettable spectacle.

The organisation such a large event was possible thanks to the support from the Polish Consulate in London, Polonia Aid Foundation Trust, Assistance Fund of 5-Kresowa Dywizja Piechoty [5th Infantry Division] and Koło Oficerów Artylerii na Obczyźnie [Circle of Artillery Officers in Exile]. In their speeches, the invited guests expressed great appreciation for the Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad for all their initiatives which have integrated teaching community in Great Britain and have supported everyday work of teachers in Polish Saturday schools.¹²

¹² "Nauczyciele – nauczycielom," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 2 December 2004, p. 8.

Undertaking a wide range of activities, the Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad was constantly struggling with the lack of funds for the implementation of statutory objectives. Financial support from PAFT or Polish Ex-Combatants' Association was restricted to particular events or tasks. It financed competitions organised by the Association, like reading competition, or lessons of "living history", but did not solve financial problems of the organisation. The Association's Main Board performed its functions for free, but its statutory activity required securing at least minimum funds to cover the rent and other office maintenance costs. Therefore, various ways to solve the problem were sought.

Actions were taken to collect necessary funds for the Association's activity. One of them was Polish book fair held under the banner "Dobry zakup – dobry cel" [Good purchase, good purpose], first organised on the last Sunday of May 2004 at Polish Social and Cultural Association in London. The Association received free books from institutions, such as Biblioteka Polska [Polish Library] or "Veritas" Publishing House, and from private donors. The books were sold during the fair. Among numerous titles there were historical, social and moral books, fiction, albums, atlases and literature for children. The funds collected during the fair supported the Association, while buyers of many valuable books contributed to the saving of precious and previously unused book collections. Frequently, parents of Polish Saturday schools' students bought books at the fair.¹³

In the 2004/2005 school year, the Association's Board, apart from courses and competitions it organised, also promoted different forms of teachers' further education organised in Poland or other countries. The Association focused on those initiatives which were significant for the development of Polish teachers' competences. Among these initiatives, the Association highly rated the offer of holiday courses organised by Polonia Teachers' Centre in Lublin and the Catholic University of Lublin. Polonia Teachers' Centre still offered topics related to teaching Polish, activating methods in teaching and Polish culture and traditions; while the Catholic University of Lublin, cooperating with John Paul II Foundation in Rome, organised an interesting summer course of Polish culture, entitled "Związki Polski z kulturą europejską i światową" [Poland's links with European and world culture]. The detailed program of the classes included lectures and seminars on the following topics:

- old and modern history of Poland,
- religious and moral teachings of John Paul II,
- socio-economic situation of Poland,
- Polish literature,

¹³ "Dobry zakup – dobry cel," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 8 June 2004, p. 9.

- Polish art,
- Polish film, theatre and music,
- Polish culture in exile,
- the Church in exile,
- the contribution of Polish emigration to the world culture.¹⁴

The topics of the course organised in Rome were up to date in the context of the discussion on Poland's relations with Europe after its accession to the European Union.

The Association's Board did not forget about "Poloniada" and organised the qualifications to the finals of "Poloniada 2004". Representatives of Polish diaspora in 14 countries took part in the next edition of the competition. They came from Austria, Belgium, Belarus, Bulgaria, Egypt, Italy, Canada, Latvia, Macedonia, Moldova, Russia, Tunisia, Ukraine and Great Britain. Polish community in Great Britain was represented by students from Nottingham and Willesden Green (London). The finals took place in the House of the Polish Community in Warsaw. The patrons of "Poloniada 2004" included: Marshal of the Senate, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Culture, Rector of the Jagiellonian University, Rector of the University of Warsaw and Ryszard Kaczorowski, the former President of the Republic of Poland in exile. Irena Grocholewska, the president of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad was among the invited guests.

"Poloniada 2004" was organised by Fundacja Młodej Polonii [the Young Polonia Foundation], which planned a very attractive itinerary accompanying the competition for all its participants. There were concerts and meetings with the representatives of Polish science and art.

In 2005, the celebration of National Education Day coincided with the Papal Day. The ceremony was traditionally attended by teachers from Polish Saturday schools in London and other cities (including Oxford, Reading, Bournemouth, Stratford, Derby), the representatives of Polish organisations cooperating with the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad and Polish consular authorities. The celebration was an opportunity to thank the teachers for their work on preserving Polishness among the subsequent generations of students, and an expression of tribute to the Holy Father John Paul II. In the artistic part, works of Juliusz Słowacki (among others, *Pośród niesnasków Pan Bóg uderza*) were recited and *Barka*, the Pope's favourite song, was sung.

In the years 2005 – 2008, public debate of the "Polish London" was dominated by the issue of the future of Polish education in Great Britain in the light of the growing number of Polish emigrants in the United Kingdom. The celebration of Teachers' Day in the Raspberry Hall of Polish Social and Cultural

¹⁴ APTA's Archive in London, Offers of Polish culture summer courses, 2004 and 2005.

Association on 15 October 2006 can be an example here. The lecture inaugurating another year of teachers' work in Polish Saturday schools concerned the history of Polish education in Great Britain in the context of its future and the development in exile.

Among the invited guests representing Polish diaspora institutions and organisations as well as consular authorities, there were also the following representatives of Polish media:

- Jarosław Koźmiński – editor-in-chief of “Dziennik Polski” [Polish Daily],
- Cezary Olszewski – director of the weekly “Goniec” [The Messenger],
- Krzysztof Ruszczyński – director of the Radio “Hey now.”

The presence of the above-mentioned people confirmed the growing interest of the Polish community in the problem of Polish education in Great Britain. The ceremony was honoured by the presentation of the Medal of the Commission of National Education by Janusz Wach, Consul General, to Maura and Bronisław Kutereba, greatly merited teachers and founders of the folk group “Karolinka”.

In 2007, the solemn celebration of Teachers' Day was attended by Tomasz Merta, a representative of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.¹⁵ In her speech prepared for the occasion, Irena Grocholewska, the president of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, drew attention to the completely new situation of Polish community in Great Britain. She noticed that Polish education in the UK, preserved by 65 years of tradition, has to face the challenges posed by million Polish emigrants, most of whom are young families with school-age children. Grocholewska defined the most urgent needs of Polish education in exile in the following way:

- gaining new qualified teaching staff who would be ready for a dedicated work with students,
- modernisation of old schools and opening new ones, especially in the districts inhabited by Poles,
- introduction of new curricula in accordance with the standards of the Ministry of National Education,
- raising the level of education,
- solving the problem of school certificates and student ID cards.¹⁶

¹⁵ Tomasz Merta – born on 7 November 1965 in Legnica. Polish public servant, historian of political thought and publicist. From 2005 to 2010 Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, and general monument conservator. Died in the Smolensk plane crash on 10 April 2010.

¹⁶ “Podwyższyć standardy naszej oświaty,” *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 9 October 2007, p. 6.

In the opinion of the Association's Main Board, the introduction of modern curricula was the key issue in the matter of raising teaching standards and modernising Polish Saturday schools. In the article published on 18 September 2006 in "Dziennik Polski" [Polish Daily], president Irena Grocholewska reminded the readers that the first curriculum for schools in exile was prepared in 1951 by Jan Płatos, president of the London division of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad. Subsequent curricula for Polish schools were issued by Wydział Oświaty i Wychowania [Department of Education and Upbringing] appointed by the decision of Rada Ministrów Rządu Polskiego na Uchodźstwie [Council of Ministers of the Polish Government in exile]. They were modifications of the 1951 curriculum without any didactic changes. Therefore, in Grocholewska's opinion, the most reasonable solution would be to use curricula prepared by specialists from Poland. Sharing her experience gained during V Forum Oświaty Polonijnej [the 5th Forum of Polish Education] in Cracow, she particularly recommended the curriculum prepared by Joanna Wójtowicz, PhD, and Małgorzata Małyńska, MA, from Polonia Teachers' Centre in Lublin.¹⁷

In the interests of maintaining high level of Polish Saturday school teachers' knowledge and competences, the Association's Main Board promoted seminars and workshops for Polish diaspora activists, headmasters and teachers, organised by Polonia Teachers' Centre in Lublin. Between 30 November and 5 December 2007, a seminar entitled "Elementy kulturowe w nauczaniu języka polskiego jako obcego" [Elements of culture in teaching Polish as a foreign language] took place in the conference rooms of the "Huzar" hotel in Lublin. The following issues were discussed:

- culture inscribed in language,
- sociocultural content in teaching and learning Polish as a foreign language,
- methodology of teaching Polish as a foreign language.

E-learning courses and workshops were a novelty in the educational offer of Polonia Teachers' Centre in Lublin. In 2006-2007, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad promoted 4 such on-line training courses:

1. Methodology of teaching Polish as a foreign language.
2. Reading comprehension. Training for teachers working with students over 12 years of age.
3. Great figures from the history of Poland – teaching Polish history with the elements of geography.
4. Polish music over the centuries.

¹⁷ "Szkolny program nauczania," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 18 September 2006, p. 10.

The training courses were conducted in a ten-week cycle, an equivalent of 30 didactic hours.

In addition to the above-mentioned forms of further education for Polish diaspora teachers, Polonia Teachers' Centre in Lublin provided classes within summer courses organised in Lublin, Cracow, Warsaw and Cieszyn. The topics of the classes included the following issues:

- creative ways of working with a student,
- teacher in the face of the need to constantly improve one's own and student's skills,
- Polish culture and tradition,
- effective methods in teaching Polish language,
- teaching Polish as a foreign language.

As usual, the Association promoted holiday courses and collected application documents.

In the years 2004-2007, the Association's Main Board showed a remarkable determination in activities aimed at reforming education in Polish Saturday schools by improving teachers' qualifications and changing curricula.

As a teachers' organisation, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad took special care of the teachers at Polish Saturday schools and always tried to provide them with professional help. The aim of the organisation's activity in the discussed period was to maintain the highest level of education at schools, use the latest teaching methods and modern educational aids. In order to meet that goal the Association organised professional training and development courses for the teachers.

In the academic year 2006-2007, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, in cooperation with Polish University Abroad and Jagiellonian University, organised course entitled "Europejskie Studium Języka Polskiego Jako Obcego" [European study of Polish as a foreign language]. The lecture inaugurating the course at the Polish University Abroad was given by professor Władysław Miodunka, vice-rector of the Jagiellonian University. The speaker emphasised the role of teachers' self-development and self-improvement, and included a synthesis of contemporary didactics, encouraging to maintain traditional Christian values and faithfulness to the teaching of the Church.¹⁸

The Association's Board made sure that the realisation of tasks related to improving the level of education in Polish Saturday schools was continuous and dynamic. Innovative curricula were still promoted and implemented. Apart from Polonia Teachers' Centre in Lublin, cooperation with the Jagiellonian University was also established in this field.

¹⁸ APTA's Archive in London, Władysław Miodunka. Lecture inaugurating teachers' course at Polish University Abroad, 19 October 2006.

Justifying the Association's involvement in the propagation of innovative curricula in Polish Saturday schools, vice-president of the Association, Beata Howe, wrote in "Dziennik Polski" [Polish Daily]:

The upcoming school year 2006-2007 is a new challenge to the teachers of Polish Saturday schools. It is a challenge in the most positive sense, because there is currently a large number of students in these schools. They are children from families that have just arrived in Great Britain. In the new European reality, education cannot close a student in a hermetic school reality or in cultural loneliness.

Students should not only gain extensive knowledge about the native country and its culture, but also be aware of common European cultural heritage, so that when one day they decide to go back to Poland, they will not feel strange in the country of their ancestors.¹⁹

Vice-president of the Association promoted the integrated curriculum for classes 1-3 written by Elżbieta Mach (in cooperation with Ewa Czarska and Maria Pabiańczyk) from the Jagiellonian University. In her opinion, the content of the curriculum was carefully selected and gave the teacher the opportunity to choose attractive topics. In addition, it was based on teaching Polish language, history and culture, which are the basis for shaping and sustaining emotional bond with Poland and for strengthening national identity of Polish children. The great advantage of the curriculum was the structure based on five modules:

1. Language and literature education.
2. History education.
3. Cultural education.
4. Education concerning natural and geographical environment.
5. Social education.

APTA's Textbook and Curriculum Assessment Committee gave recommendation to this curriculum, and encouraged Polish Saturday schools in Great Britain to follow it.

Another form of improving Polish education abroad, initiated by the Association and concerning innovative teaching methods in Saturday schools, was learning and implementing the latest methods of teaching Polish developed on the basis of European Language Portfolio "Language Passport." This novelty was presented by Krystyna Staroń at V Forum Oświaty Polonijnej [the 5th Forum of Polish Education] in Cracow, which was attended by Irena Grocholewska, the president of the Association. Portfolio is the work of Centralny Ośrodek Doskonalenia Nauczycieli [Central Teacher Training Centre] in Warsaw. It was created in order to facilitate the process of learning new

¹⁹ B. Howe, "Okno na świat i drzwi do Polski," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 10 August 2006, p. 6.

languages, with respect to other cultures, but caring for one's own mother tongue, its purity and correctness. Teresa Piekelnik, a member of APTA's Board, was responsible for the promotion of these teaching methods on behalf of the Association.

COOPERATION WITH POLISH ORGANISATIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN

The presence of representatives of many Polish organisations, associations, and institutions at the solemn celebration of National Education Day confirmed the active work of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad among the Polish community in the UK. Certainly, care for the upbringing and education of the young generation and providing Polish education in the United Kingdom with professional teaching staff brought together those for whom preserving Polish culture and identity was really important.

In its work, the Association could always count on organisations and institutions involved in patriotic and social activity. For half a century the special bond linked APTA and Polish Ex-Combatants' Association. Their common goal was to care for Polish Saturday schools. The second pillar of the bond, beside common history, was the vision of the organisations' future after Poland regained independence and abandoned communism. Unlike many Polish organisations and associations, both the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad and Polish Ex-Combatants' Association decided to continue and develop its activity on the basis of their own potential and other patriotic organisations operating in Poland. APTA made this decision during the General Meeting which took place on 17 May 1998 and during which the function of the president was entrusted to Irena Grocholewska, a great advocate of close cooperation with the homeland.

Polish Ex-Combatants' Association, in turn, decided about its future during the meeting of Rada Federacji Światowej Stowarzyszenia Kombatantów Polskich [the Council of World Federation of Polish Ex-Combatants' Associations] which took place at the Polish Social and Cultural Association in London on 23-24 October 1999. The following countries sent their representatives to the meeting: Australia, Belgium, France, Canada, the United Kingdom and Great Britain. The council made an important decision to establish the Foundation of the World Federation of Polish Ex-Combatants' Associations. The appointing resolution states the following:

[...] Considering the fact that the Association's authorities are responsible for the future, special attention should be paid to securing the Association's history, i.e. the archive, memorabilia from World War II and the fifty years of activity to regain freedom and independence of the homeland.

Believing that in the future the existing organisations will change, it has been decided to begin at present the work leading to the establishment of the Foundation of World Federation of Polish Ex-Combatants' Associations based on the Federation's property. The Foundation thus established will be the perpetual guardian of the Museum of World Federation of Polish Ex-Combatants' Associations, preserving the aforementioned memorabilia of the Association. The Foundation of World Federation of Polish Ex-Combatants' Associations will also aim at continuing all the goals of the Association, except for the realised ones and with the special focus on maintaining Polishness in every member country of the Federation. Federation's Foundation will pursue these goals through scholarships for students studying issues related to Polishness. It will care for the so-called Saturday schools, acquainting children with Polish history, geography, culture and traditions.

Recognising the preservation of Polish language in the member countries as the main goal, the Foundation will care for Polish libraries and publishing houses, as well as Instytut Józefa Piłsudskiego [The Józef Piłsudski Institute], Instytut Polski i Muzeum imienia gen. W. Sikorskiego [Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum] together with Fundacja Sztandarów PSZ z okresu drugiej wojny światowej [the Foundation for Banners of the Polish Royal Army during World War II], Instytut Naukowy [Science Institute] and similar institutions. The Foundation will continue the relationships with the relevant organisations in Poland, remaining part of the great nation in the second millennium of its statehood.²⁰

Defining the Foundation's priority tasks confirmed the desire for further work of the Association to preserve Polishness and cooperate with institutions and organisations in Poland. Such declaration also promised a close cooperation with the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad.

In the following years the cooperation between the two organisations developed outstandingly, which is evidenced by rich correspondence concerning the cooperation in organising subsequent reading competitions, history lectures, etc. Representatives of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad and Polish Ex-Combatants' Association took part in jubilee celebrations and national evening commemorating Polish contribution to the victory of the Allies in World War II.

Letters of congratulations from APTA to Polish Ex-Combatants' Association confirm the particularly friendly relations. In those letters, APTA always underlined the huge contribution of Polish Ex-Combatants' Association to the establishment of Polish Saturday schools in Great Britain. According to APTA, soldiers of Polish Armed Forces in the West who formed Polish Ex-Combat-

²⁰ C. Zychowicz, M.S. Jarkowski, "Spojrzenie w przyszłość SPK – relacja z zebrania Rady Światowej Federacji Stowarzyszenia Polskich Kombatantów w Londynie 23-24 października 1999 r." *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 1 November 1999, p. 6.

ants' Association, built permanent foundations of Polish education in the United Kingdom.²¹

At the turn of the 21st century, the cooperation of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad with the Federation of Poles in Great Britain was also very good. Federation was the binder of several dozen Polish organisations and organised fetes, meetings and lectures. "Polish Festival" at Bletchley Park organised on 24-25 July 1999 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of handing over Enigma is particularly noteworthy. Reminding British society about the great achievement of Polish cryptographers, i.e. breaking the codes of the Third Reich encryption machine, Federation of Poles organised a large two-day festival attended by Polish and British Ministers of National Defense, representatives of both countries' general staffs, Polish Ambassador in Great Britain and British Ambassador in Poland. The purpose of the festival was to remind the world about the invaluable contribution of Poles to the victory of the Allies in World War II, and to correct the knowledge on this subject in the Anglo-Saxon media. The attractive program of the event included, among others:

- John Gallehawk's lecture *Wkład Polski w II wojnie światowej* [Poland's contribution to World War II],
- professor J. Garliński's lecture *Enigma*,
- exhibition organised by Federation of Poles *Od Enigmy do Unii Europejskiej* [From Enigma to the European Union],
- exhibition of "Enigma", an encryption machine from the collection of Sikorski Museum,
- art exhibition of Polish painters working in Great Britain,
- and many other attractions promoting Polish culture.²² APTA took part in the promotion of this event among the parents and students of Polish Saturday schools.

Another Polish organisation with which the Association maintained close cooperation was Polish Educational Society. Considering the fact that three organisations: Polish Ex-Combatants' Association, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad and Polish Educational Society, held patronage over Polish education in Great Britain, APTA's cooperation with Polish Educational Society was a natural consequence of this organisational model. The basic role assignment for these organisations had the following structure:

1. The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad – teacher education, curricula, organising reading competitions and patriotic celebrations for students.
2. Polish Ex-Combatants' Association – financial support for schools.

²¹ APTA's Archive in London, Letter of APTA president to the president and board of Polish Ex-Combatants' Association in London on the occasion of the 39th general meeting, dated 16 October 2002.

²² APTA's Archive in London, Polish Festival at Bletchley Park.

3. Polish Educational Society – publishing activities, organising conferences and exams.

As an example of jointly organised conferences one could mention regular autumn meetings at the University of London on the premises of Polish School of Slavonic and East European Studies, devoted to the curricula and examination requirements of GCE AL, GCSE and A-Level. The conferences were accompanied by lectures given by the invited guests of honour (e.g. on 30 October 1999 there was a lecture given by Andrzej Wajda on Polish cinematography).²³ Conferences for headmasters of Polish Saturday schools at Polish Social and Cultural Association in London were also organised under the supervision of the three organisations.

Good relations of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad with Polish Educational Society testify to the great culture and unusual tact of people managing the Association: from Czesław Czapliński, through Wanda Dziedzicowa to Irena Grocholewska, for there was a reason for a serious dispute and confrontation, namely the unregulated finances to cover educational activity. The issue was described in detail by professor Tadeusz Radzik in the monograph on APTA's history.²⁴

The problem concerned the 3rd May money collections initiated by the Association to cover the needs of Polish education in Great Britain. The first such collection took place in the spring of 1946 and was used to create Fundusz Szkolnictwa i Oświaty Polskiej Za Granicą [Polish Education Abroad Fund]. The decision to establish the fund was made during a general meeting of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, Zrzeszenie Profesorów i Docentów Szkół Akademickich [The Association of Academic School Professors and Assistant Professors] and Światowy Związek Polaków z Zagranicy [World Union of Poles Abroad]. In 1959, the 3rd May collection was handed over to Polish Educational Society on the condition that the money is divided. Irena Grocholewska, the president of the Association, tried to solve the problem by way of settlement and compromise, but Aleksandra Podhorodecka, the president of Polish Educational Society, found the Association's claim unjustified, without, however, supporting her stance with substantive arguments.²⁵

Despite the failure to regulate the division of money from the collection for the development of education, the two organisations have cooperated with each other and participated together in the most important events.

²³ APTA's Archive in London, Letter of the president of Polish Educational Society, A. Podhorodecka to APTA's president, I. Grocholewska, dated 13 October 1999 concerning organisation of teachers' conference.

²⁴ T. Radzik, *Historia Zrzeszenia Nauczycielstwa Polskiego za Granicą*, p. 53-54.

²⁵ APTA's Archive in London, Letter of the president of Polish Educational Society to APTA's president, dated 3 March 2001 concerning 3rd May collection.

On 17 May 2003, Polish Educational Society celebrated the 50th anniversary of its existence. The president of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, Irena Grocholewska, sent a warm and respectful letter to the jubilants in which she wrote:

I congratulate you for the tireless 50-year activity of such an excellent publishing and educational organisation that works for the benefit of education in exile. Polish textbooks written by eminent authors and teachers were published by Polish Educational Society thanks to the generous financial donations from emigrant community. We have survived difficult but fruitful years and we have obtained results we enjoy and take pride in.

I would like to mention that at the beginning of 1951, the Main Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad expressed the conviction of the need to reconstruct Polish Educational Society in exile as a universal educational organisation associating Poles of all social strata and political convictions for the common goal of preserving Polish culture in exile. It was hoped that the Society would be the backup for education, and would help raise funds for schooling system. The idea was good and did not disappoint.

The sister educational organisation, Polish Educational Society, was founded in 1953 and, together with the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, it has guarded Polish language among the children and youth of Polish Saturday schools of native subjects.²⁶

Board of Trustees of Polonia Aid Foundation Trust, managed by Jerzy Zaleski was a very important institution that has supported the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad for years. PAFT granted subsidies for educational activity or designated subsidies for particular tasks, including conference organisation, the organisation of teacher trainings, methodical seminars, educational aids exhibitions or lectures within "living Polish history lessons," i.e. meetings with the witnesses of the events related to World War II and Poles' fight for independence in the country and abroad.

In addition to regular donations from PAFT, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad received occasional subsidies from The Holy Family of Nazareth Educational Trust and other foundations, including:

1. Fundacja Stowarzyszenia Lotników Polskich [The Foundation of the Polish Aviators' Association] (sponsored, among others, the lecture for the youth from Saturday schools entitled *Bitwa o Wielką Brytanię – Battle of Britain*).

2. Fundusz 5 Kresowej Dywizji Piechoty [5th Infantry Division Fund] from London. The president of the Fund, Colonel W.J. Wolwicz, donated 300 British pounds for the organisation's statutory goals.

²⁶ APTA's Archive in London, APTA president's letter to the president and board of Polish Educational Society, dated 17 May 2003.

The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad was actively involved in actions and events organised by Polish organisations, associations and institutions operating in the United Kingdom. Any initiative, participation in which was considered of great benefit to the teachers and students of Polish Saturday schools, met not only with the Association's approval, but also with organisational support. The analysis of documents in the archives of the Association shows a wide range of its cooperation with many organisations, some of which are described below.

Polska Fundacja Kulturalna [Polish Cultural Foundation] was founded in 1950 in London by means of Polish Daily and Soldier's Daily Trust. It was initiated by Juliusz Sakowski, the director of the company "Dziennik Polski" [Polish Daily]. General Władysław Anders became the president of Polish Cultural Foundation. Board members included Stanisław Baliński, Witold Czerwiński and general Stanisław Kopański. Edward Raczyński was the chairman of the organisation. The Foundation was famous for its publishing activity. In the first 25 years it published books by 164 Polish emigrant authors. Their works had a diversified character: from novel, poetry and memoirs, to the outstanding works on contemporary history. Polish Cultural Foundation had its divisions in South Africa, Argentina, Brazil, Australia, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Israel and Canada. APTA participated in the events organised by the Foundation. The best-known projects in the discussed period include:

- the organisation of meetings, lectures and film screenings concerning the most outstanding Polish scientists and their role in the development of global science (e.g. Maria Skłodowska-Curie)
- the organisation of „Meet the Author” events (e.g. Andrzej Wajda, Tomek Tryzna – authors of the short story and film *Panna Nikt* [Miss Nobody]).

Polish University Abroad was founded in Paris at the end of 1939 on the initiative of Oskar Halecki, a prominent Polish historian. Its aim was to ensure the continuity of Polish higher education, because the Germans banned scientific and cultural institutions in the occupied Poland. After French surrender, many Polish scientists moved to Great Britain. Polish Government in exile in London founded Polish University Abroad in 1949. In 1952 the university acquired full academic rights. APTA's cooperation with Polish University Abroad concerned, above all, the areas of teachers' education (pedagogical courses, methodical seminars, conferences). However, the University organised events addressed not only to teachers and scholars, but the entire Polish community in the United Kingdom. These events were also promoted by the Association. To provide an example, the 20th anniversary of John Paul II's pontificate included a great scientific symposium devoted to the Polish Pope which was attended by many eminent experts on the life and teaching of John

Paul II. The speakers were professor Zdzisław Wałaszewski, rector of Polish University Abroad, father Andrzej Szostek – rector of KUL, professor Józef Gierowski from the Jagiellonian University, professor Mieczysław Gogacz from ATK Warszawa [Academy of Christian Theology in Warsaw], father Zygmunt Zieliński from KUL (representing Wyższa Szkoła Języków Obcych [College of Foreign Languages] in Częstochowa), father Józef Gula and professor Zofia Butrym from Polish University Abroad. The conference was closed with the screening of Krzysztof Zanussi's film *Brat naszego Boga* [Brother of Our God].

Teatr Małych Form [Small Forms Theatre] was founded in 1990 by Anna Maria Grabania, a former employee of Polish television in Cracow and Katowice (since 1984 on emigration in Great Britain). The theatre has prepared over 50 premieres in Polish and English. The theatre's greatest success was English play *Maria* about Maria Pawlikowska-Jasnorzewska and the performance *Zbigniew Herbert* from the series *Z życia sławnych ludzi* [From the life of Famous People]. The Association's Board disseminated theatre's offer, promoting the achievements of the most outstanding contributors to the Polish culture, such as:

- The premiere of *Pan Tadeusz* and the selected scenes from *Dziady* on the occasion of the solemn ending of the Year of Mickiewicz (31 October 1998).

- The performance *Mr Chopin, ktoś Pana uwielbia* [Mr Chopin, somebody loves you] based on Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz's play *Lato w Nohant* [Summer in Nohant] and Fryderyk Chopin's correspondence with George Sand, staged on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Chopin's death.

- An evening with the works of Adam Mickiewicz (14 February 1999), including recitations of the selected works of Polish national poet performed by T. Makak from Cracow and a scientific session concerning the selected issues in the works of Adam Mickiewicz, attended by professors of Polish Philology at the Catholic University of Lublin (e.g. father Marian Lewko).

- Performance of *Balladyna*, staged as part of the Year of Juliusz Słowacki (27 January 1999).

- Musical concert as part of the Year of Chopin (27 March 1999).

- Performance of *Toruńskie pierniki* (16-17 March 2002).

- Performance of *Dary czterech wrózek* by Ewa Szelburg-Zarembina (1-2 June 2002).

- *Zbigniew Herbert* – a verbal and musical spectacle in two language versions (26-27 October 2002).

- *O stale obecnych*, a spectacle based on the poetry of father Jan Twardowski (2-3 November 2002).

- *Wesele sieradzkie* in the "Past Times in Europe" series (28-29 September 2002).

Teatrzyk Wyobraźni [Imagination Theatre], Polish theatre for children founded by Maria Grabania in 1994 was a Travelling Theatre of Doll and Actor. Its idea was to reach Polish children in the furthest parts of Great Britain. The theatre works closely with Polish Saturday schools, for which it prepares performances and organises Children's Day celebrations and nativity plays. The theatre's offer was directed to children and youth, which is why the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad arranged the participation of Saturday school students in the performances. Examples of the shows include:

1. Edmund Wojnarowski's spectacle *Biegnijcie do szopki* [Run to the crib] directed by Krystian Kobyłka.

2. *Pasja. Historia o męce Chrystusa Pana* [Passion. A story about the Passion of Christ the Lord] based on Marcin Paszkowski's text from 1612.

3. *Mały Książę* [Little Prince] by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry.

The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad sponsored book awards given on Theatre Day to the students of Polish Saturday schools and Polish courses for the cooperation with Small Forms Theatre and Imagination Theatre in 1999 as part of children and youth education in Great Britain in the field of Polish language learning, history of Poland, history of Polish literature and culture, and Polish customs.

Teatr dla Dzieci i Młodzieży "Syrena" [Syrena Theatre for Children and Youth] was founded in 1959 by the efforts of 17 Polish social organisations. To this day it has been performing plays from the canon of children literature in Polish, and with the involvement of children. It has staged several dozen performances in Polish Social and Cultural Association's Theatre. What was specific of the theatre was the participation of children and youth from Polish Saturday schools in the performances as actors and extras, forming one team with the adult theatre group. This fact influenced the Association's decision to cooperate with the theatre. The list of performances included a music spectacle *Niežnośne słoniątko* written by Barbara Kościuszko and directed by Ewa Marcinkówna.

The magazine "Tygiel Młodzieżowy" [Youth Melting Pot], edited by Beata Howe, was established in 1999 at Polish Social and Cultural Association in London. APTA's president, Irena Grocholewska, praised the initiative and published articles in the magazine. In her official letter to the magazine's editors Grocholewska wrote:

I congratulate you on a very successful and necessary initiative to edit the youth magazine "Tygiel" in an attractive graphic design and with interesting content, which contribute to the magazine's success. At the end of the millennium I wish "Tygiel" further development and popularity. The magazine must be and is attractive, but also should constantly remind us, in a very elaborate form, about our ORIGIN [original spelling] and our COUNTRY.

Patriotism is the NATIONAL PRIDE. It is our NATIONAL HERITAGE. It includes our great explorers, inventors, scholars, writers, poets, composers and athletes. It means art as well as our Christian rules which have always been a model for POLISH NATION and help in the survival through difficult periods.

Our youth living outside Polish borders must be sure and proud that it comes from the COUNTRY with great traditions and glorious past, and let that find its place in "Tygiel".²⁷

The Association of Polish Technicians in Great Britain was established in 1940 in London by Polish engineers who after the outbreak of World War II were in Great Britain. The organisation brings together engineers, technicians and scholars living in the United Kingdom. According to the statute, the Association is involved in maintaining bonds between Polish and British scientists, engineers and technicians, and conducts consulting activities on scientific, technical and economic issues aimed at Polish market. APTA's relations with the Association of Technicians consisted of mutual invitations to the jubilee and Christmas wafer celebrations, and of assistance in organising various meetings and events. Both organisations resided in Polish Social and Cultural Association, in the immediate vicinity. It was a good vicinity for both parties could count on each other.

The Association of Polish Writers Abroad was an organisation bringing together Polish writers in exile. It was founded in 1945 in London and has been conducting cultural and publishing activities. Since 1976 it has been publishing the magazine "Pamiętnik Literacki" [Literary Dairy]. The first chairmen of the Association were Stanisław Stroński, Antoni Bogusławski and Tymon Terlecki. The Association of Polish Writers Abroad has been granting the prestigious Literary Award since 1951. The winners, among others, include: Jan Lechoń, Kazimierz Wierzyński, Marian Hemar, Gustaw Herling-Grudziński, Czesław Miłosz, and Sławomir Mrożek. The cooperation between APTA and the Association of Polish Writers Abroad consisted of mutual participation in the organised events, celebrations, literary evenings, fairs and book promotions.

The Institute of Polish Catholic Action in Great Britain was established on 2 October 1947 in London. It is an association of lay Catholics who want to cooperate with the Church hierarchy in an organised form in order to realise the apostolic goals of the Church. The Institute is situated at 4 Devonia Road in London. Representatives of Polish Catholic Action occasionally appeared at the ceremonies organised by the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, especially at religious ceremonies. Knowing about the national Catholic ideals that

²⁷ APTA's Archive in London, APTA President's letter to the editorial board of "Tygiel", dated 24 November 1999.

guided APTA's Board in their educational work, the representatives of the Institute of Polish Catholic Action invited the representatives of the Association to important congresses and conventions organised by them. Examples of such events include the Catholic Convention organised in 2002 and Konferencja Apostolstwa Świeckich [Secular Apostolate Conference]. The topic of the conference, *Czy można mówić o duchowości polskiej* [Is it possible to talk about Polish spirituality?], aroused great interest among the participants. The lecture that inaugurated the conference was given by bishop Szczepan Wesoły. The participants, including APTA representatives, worked in 5 discussion teams. The venue of the conference was Polish Catholic Mission in Devon.

The Institute of Polish Catholic Action organised annual Secular Apostolate Conference, to which the president of the Association, Irena Grocholewska, was invited. In 2006, the conference was attended by bishop Józef Michalik who represented Polish Episcopal Conference.

Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales began its activity with taking care of Poles who arrived in Great Britain after national uprisings in 1831, 1844 and 1863. Formally, it began its activity in 1894. It exercises pastoral care over a large Polish community in the United Kingdom. It initiates many activities integrating Polish community around traditional Catholic values and Polish culture. The relations of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad with Polish Catholic Mission had a completely different character than relations with other Polish institutions. Polish Mission has provided spiritual support for the Association's activity. It has been a partner in the upbringing of young people. Emphasising apolitical character, the Association's Board stressed the attachment to Catholic faith and tradition. Representatives of Polish Catholic Mission, led by the rector, have always been present at the celebrations organised by the Association. National Education Day, APTA's main festive occasion, has always been inaugurated by a solemn Holy Mass celebrated at St. Andrzej Bobola's Church near Polish Social and Cultural Association. Similar scenario was enacted during Christmas wafer meetings or celebrations of 3 May and 11 November. Faithfulness to God and Homeland was considered the pillar of Polishness and patriotism. At the same time, rectors of Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales invited APTA's president to important celebrations and meetings, e.g. with bishop Ryszard Karpiński, Delegate of the Polish Episcopal Conference for Polish diaspora.

The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad also cooperated with Polish diaspora organisations outside Great Britain, for instance, with the Union of Poles in Romania. In agreement with the Union, the Association organised the stay of Polish youth in Polish homes in Bukovina. Apart from Polish village, whose inhabitants have preserved the dialect and customs in unchanged form, one of the attractions of the trip was "archipelago of Orthodox monasteries,"

15th-century unique Orthodox monasteries listed as a heritage of world culture on the Unesco list due to their unique architecture and fresco decorations.

Another Polish diaspora institution from outside Great Britain, with which the Association cooperated, was Instytut Badań Nad Kulturą Polonijną [Institute for Research on Polonia Culture] in Munich. The Institute organised Światowe Polonijne Spotkania Intelktualistów [Global Polonia Meetings of Intellectuals], attended by the representatives of Polish diaspora around the world. In 2003, participants included the representatives of Canada, the United States, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, France, Sweden, Germany, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria, Russia and Ukraine.

MEETINGS AT SATURDAY SCHOOLS

Visits at Polish Saturday schools were a very important part of the work schedule of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad's Board. Schools in London were mainly visited, but also attempts were made to visit schools in other cities. The most common reason for visits were jubilee celebrations, the beginning or end of the school year, or competitions, lectures, etc. organised by the school. To provide an example of such visit, on 17 November 2001, representatives of APTA's Board participated in the 50th anniversary of Polish Saturday school in Brighton. In turn, the following schools celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2004:

- Mikołaj Rej Saturday school in Chiswick, London
- Maria Konopnicka Saturday School in Willesden Green, London.²⁸

Members of the Association's Board participated in the celebrations, giving special speeches.

In 2006, the jubilee of the 50th anniversary of foundation was celebrated by Queen Jadwiga Saturday school in Forest Gate, Ilford, London. The ceremony was an opportunity to remind the history of the institution and to honour the teachers and school's friends involved in the school's activity. The Association was represented by the president, Irena Grocholewska, who presented the headmaster and management board with commemorative albums and wishes of further efforts in working on preserving Polishness among the students from Polish families in Great Britain.

In addition to grand jubilee celebrations, the members of APTA's Board took part in numerous musical and verbal performances, appeals, evening

²⁸ APTA's Archive in London, Jubilee documents of Mikołaj Rej Polish Saturday school of native subjects (Chiswick) and Maria Konopnicka Polish Saturday school of native subjects (Willesden Green) in London.

meetings or the beginnings and endings of school years in many Polish Saturday schools. On 27 June 2004, the unveiling and consecration of the November Insurrection Monument [also known as Polish Memorial] in Portsmouth took place. The Association was represented by the president, Irena Grocholewska, who was invited to read the story "Męczeństwo Powstańców Listopadowych po upadku powstania" [The martyrdom of the November insurgents after the fall of the uprising].

In the letter addressed to the Chairman of the Committee for the Reconstruction of the November Insurgents' Statue, Otton Hulacki, APTA president emphasised that she is honoured to participate and represent teachers' organisation which has always guarded independence, promoted historical truth and strengthened patriotism and national pride among Polish youth of Saturday schools.²⁹

The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad was seriously involved in the support of the Committee for the Reconstruction of the November Insurgents' Statue [Polish Memorial Fund?] in Portsmouth. Polish community in Great Britain collected about 20,000 British pound for this purpose. In addition, the initiative was supported by the Secretary General of the Council for the Remembrance of Struggle and Martyrdom, Andrzej Przewoźnik, with the amount of 5,000 pounds.³⁰

In 2004, there was a number of celebrations connected with the 60th anniversaries of battles at Monte Cassino, Bologna, Ancona, etc., and commemorating the contribution of Polish Armed Forces in the West to the victory of the Allies over the Nazi aggressor. The Main Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad was invited to the majority of the celebrations which took place both in London and other cities in the United Kingdom. As an example of such meeting outside London attended by the Association's Board, one can mention the celebrations of the anniversary of Monte Cassino battle organised by Zarząd Koła Karpatczyków III Dywizji Strzelców Karpackich [The Board of the Carpathian Circle of the Third Carpathian Infantry Division] in Amersham.

The Board of the Association continued to maintain a lively cooperation with the Institute of Polish Catholic Action in London. On 11-12 June 2005, the members of the Association's Board participated in another congress of the Catholic Action organised by the Institute in Manchester under the patronage of Archbishop Szczepan Wesoły from Rome. The congress took place at the Parish of the Divine Mercy at Lloyd Street North.

²⁹ APTA's Archive in London, APTA president's letter to Otton Hulicki, dated 10 June 2004.

³⁰ "Pomnik Powstańców w Portsmouth," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 30 March 2004, p. 9.

APTA's Board has always been present at jubilee celebrations of the most important institutions, organisations, associations and Polish diaspora media. In May 2006, the 65th anniversary of existence was celebrated very solemnly by "Dziennik Polski" [Polish Daily] and the 45th anniversary by "Tydzień Polski" [Polish Week].³¹ The Association's president, Irena Grocholewska, took part in the celebrations, and she published jubilee wishes in Polish diaspora press. In addition to the jubilee celebrations of institutions, press or Polish Saturday schools, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad participated in regular cultural events and celebrations organised by numerous Polish organisations. The most important events include:

1. Soldier's Day – organised in August by Polish Ex-Combatants' Association in Great Britain.

2. Happy Polish Children's Day – organised at the beginning of June by Polish Educational Society and Polish Catholic Mission.

3. Katyn Day – organised in April by Stowarzyszenie Rodzin Katyńskich na Zachodzie [The Association of Katyn Families in the West] and Polish Ex-Combatants' Association.

4. Wieczory Hemarowskie [Hemar Evenings] – organised in November by Ognisko Polskie [Polish Centre] in London.

5. Papal Day – organised in October by Polish Catholic Mission and the John Paul II Foundation in Great Britain.

6. Open lectures organised by Polish Library at Polish Social and Cultural Association.

7. Celebrations on the occasion of the 3 May holiday organised by Polish Educational Society.

8. Celebrations on the occasion of Independence Day on 11 November organised by Federation of Poles in Great Britain.

READING COMPETITIONS AND OTHER FORMS OF PRESENTING SKILLS FOR STUDENTS OF SATURDAY SCHOOLS

On 18 April 1999, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad organised the 20th jubilee reading competition devoted to the works of father Jan Twar-

³¹ "Dziennik Polski" – newspaper created in July 1940 as a daily of Polish emigration in Great Britain. It was the official press body of the Polish government in exile. The first editors were Jerzy Szapito and Jan Tabaczyński. The paper was directly subordinated to the Minister of Information, Stanisław Stroński, and later Stanisław Kot. On 1 January 1944, it merged with "Dziennik Żołnierza" published in Scotland since the end of 1940 which was press body of the 1st Polish Corps in Glasgow. Since then it has been known under the official name as "Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza."

dowski.³² Like in the previous years, the competition took place in the Theatre Hall of Polish Social and Cultural Association in London. As usual, students of Polish Saturday schools and A-Level courses participated in the competition whose aim was to “develop readership, love, attachment and respect for Polish book as well as acquainting participants with the works of Polish literature.”³³

The Board stressed the educational qualities of the competition, therefore, both the topic and the selected works contained content shaping patriotic attitude and showing heroes worth imitating. The jubilee competition was judged by a jury composed of:

1. A. Krężel – Polish Consul in London.
2. A.M. Grabania – director of Small Forms Theatre in London.
3. T. Walkiewicz – editor of “Dziennika Polskiego” [Polish Daily].
4. B. Howe – editor of the magazine “Tygiel”.
5. K. Dereszewska – Board member of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad.

6. Sara Lowson – translator of father Jan Twardowski’s works into English.

Irena Grocholewska, the Association’s president, presented the figure of father Jan Twardowski to the gathered participants of the competition and guests. In her speech, Grocholewska said, among others, that

[...] Father Jan Twardowski is known and loved by everybody in Poland, from children to adults. Even politicians quote him. Father Twardowski loves everyone and everything that surrounds us. He is a walking Goodness which emanates and gets to us. It soothes, arouses love and gives a good example.³⁴

Finishing her speech, Grocholewska shared the information provided by “Dziennik Polski” [Polish Daily] that the Senate of the Catholic University of Lublin gave father Jan Twardowski the title of Doctor Honoris Causa. The Senate’s decision was justified by the fact that father Twardowski

by his literary activity and life spreads faith, hope and love, and his presence in the academic circle adds a glow to the intellectual work and intensifies joy that comes from knowing and experiencing beauty, good and truth.³⁵

³² Father Jan Twardowski (1915-2006), Polish Roman Catholic priest and poet, representative of contemporary religious poetry. Author of many volumes of poetry imbued with love of God, people and nature. One of the best-known Polish poets of the 20th century.

³³ APTA’s Archive in London, Letter to the headmasters of Polish schools of native subjects and teachers of A-Level courses signed by APTA president, Irena Grocholewska, dated 28 January 1999.

³⁴ APTA’s Archive in London, Report from the 20th reading competition devoted to father Jan Twardowski’s works, dated 24 May 1999.

³⁵ Ibid.

The competition was divided into four age groups. The participants received works of diversified difficulty:

1. Group of 8-9-year olds: *Ojciec Święty, Obiecanki cacanki, O jednym ziarnie, Mamusia, Rozmyślania wujka.*

2. Group of 10-11-year olds: *Mrówko, ważko, Biedronko, Jest czas, Odszukany w cieniu, Co to znaczy kochać, Wyznanie.*

3. Group of 12-13-year olds: *Dawna Wigilia, Nie mogą trafić, Kogo zobaczył ten który nie widział, Sługa i przyjaciel, Powitanie.*

4. Group of 14-15-year olds: *List do Matki Boskiej, Stara fotografia, Śpieszmy się, Modlitwa, Bliscy i oddaleni.*

Awards for the participants and winners were founded by the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad. The competition was financially supported by Polish Ex-Combatants' Association.³⁶

In 2000, the reading competition was scheduled for 2 April. As usual, it was held in the Raspberry Hall of Polish Social and Cultural Association in London. By the decision of the Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, the year introducing the world to a new millennium was devoted to the outstanding Poles who contributed to the development of science and culture in the previous millennium through their work and global achievements. The texts selected for reading recalled scientific achievements and works of Mikołaj Kopernik, Maria Skłodowska-Curie and Fryderyk Chopin. The jury of the millennial competition included:

1. Artur Rynkiewicz – President of Polish Social and Cultural Association.

2. Andrzej Krężel – Polish Consul.

3. Krzysztof de Berg – from Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum.

4. Anna Mickiewicz – journalist.

5. Irena Grocholewska – APTA's president.

The presence of numerous students from Polish Saturday schools confirmed the fact that the competition with over a 20-year-long tradition was still an important cultural event for Polish community in Great Britain.

Apart from a prestigious reading competition, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad also promoted competitions organised by other Polish diaspora organisations and associations for children and youth living in Great Britain. In January 1999, APTA encouraged students to take part in "Międzynarodowy Otwarty Konkurs Literacki dla Polonii o medal Złotego Szerszenia"

³⁶ The list of winners. Group of 8-9-year olds: Sylwia Kruk, Michalina Szustak, Apolonia Mendel from Balham and Michał Knap from Putney. Group of 10-11-year olds: Staś Kuśmierkiewicz from Ealing, Maya Shiekiel from Putney and Sabina Kujawa from Croydon. Group of 12-13-year olds: Anna Bilińska from Willesden Green, Ewelina Andrzejewska, Krzysztof Rygielski and Adam Lewis from Putney. Group of 14-15-year olds: Grzegorz Oleszkiewicz, Joanna Jaworska and Pola Bukaty from Chiswick and Oliwia Cegielska from Putney.

[International Open Literary Competition for Polish diaspora for the Golden Hornet Medal]. The competition was organised by Fundacja Młodej Polonii [Young Polonia Foundation] and Wspólnota Młodej Polonii [Young Polonia Community] in Warsaw. The patrons of the competition included:

1. Ryszard Kaczorowski – the former President of Poland in Exile.
2. father Józef Glemp – Primate of Poland.
3. Alicja Grześkowiak – Marshal of the Senate.
4. Maciej Płażyński – Marshal of the Sejm [Polish Parliament].
5. Bronisław Geremek – Minister of Foreign Affairs.
6. Mirosław Handke – Minister of National Education.
7. Andrzej Stelmachowski – President of Polish Community in Warsaw.

The competition jury, which included the representatives of the Main Board of Stowarzyszenie Pisarzy Polskich [The Association of Polish Writers], evaluated works written in Polish in the following categories: own poems/original poetry, literary or philosophical essay, humoresque.

In her letter to the headmasters of Polish Saturday schools and teachers of A-Level courses, Irena Grocholewska hoped that by participating in the competition Polish youth from Great Britain would become known in Polish diaspora community of young artists.³⁷

The second competition promoted by the Association was entitled “Jak widzę siebie w roli inżyniera, gdy dorosnę” [How I see myself as an engineer when I grow up]. The event was organised by Stowarzyszenie Polskich Inżynierów i Techników [The Association of Polish Engineers and Technicians] in Austria. It included 3 age groups ranging from 7 to 15 years of age. The form of the evaluated works included:

- written essay,
- text recorded on a cassette,
- drawings and projects,
- audiovisual message.

APTA's Board believed that such type of competition broadens the knowledge and abilities of students, demonstrating their predispositions to exact sciences as well as humanities.

Another competition was Światowy Festiwal Poezji Marii Konopnickiej [the World Festival of Maria Konopnicka's Poetry] in Góry Mokre. Students of Polish Saturday schools in Great Britain took part in it for the second time.

Year 2001 was the first year of the new millennium, so the competitions organised by the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad had a special charac-

³⁷ APTA's Archive in London, Letter to the headmasters of Polish Saturday schools of native subjects dated 11 January 1999, regarding Międzynarodowy Konkurs Literacki o medal Złotego Szerszenia.

ter. On 1 April, the best known reading competition took place at Polish Social and Cultural Association. As usual it, was popular among the students: 137 participants from 10 Saturday schools in London were registered. They attended the competition with their parents and teachers. The jury of the competition included:

1. Andrzej Krężel – Consul of the Republic of Poland.
2. Teresa Szadkowska-Łakomy – from Polish Ex-Combatants' Association.
3. Krzysztof de Berg –from Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum.
4. Artur Rynkiewicz – from Polish Social and Cultural Association.

In accordance with the tradition, the introduction and welcoming the guests and participants was the responsibility of the Association's president, Irena Grocholewska. In her speech, Grocholewska recalled the objectives of the competition, which include propagating reading among Polish students, attachment and respect for Polish books, and familiarising with the works of Polish literature. She noted that

[...] 2001 is a special year, for we want to enter the 21st century solemnly, underlining the richness of national literature. We also want to introduce youth to Polish Literary Nobel Prize Winners, known and valued by the intellectual world, who are national pride for us Poles.³⁸

The texts for the competition were selected from the works of two eminent Nobel Prize winners:

- Henryk Sienkiewicz – Nobel Prize in 1905 for the novel *Quo vadis*, and
- Władysław Reymont – Nobel Prize in 1924 for the novel *Chłopi* [Peasants].

Participants divided into age groups read selected fragments of the awarded novels. In jury's opinion, the competitions organised for 25 years by the Association were characterised by the growing level, students' engagement and teachers' involvement, which promised well for the future.

Apart from the reading competition, APTA lent its name to a competition co-organised with the Federation of Poles in Great Britain. The topic of the competition was Poles' participation in the Battle of Britain, and its aim was to show history to young people through the prism of their grandparents' experience. The event took place at Bletchley Park, where the 3rd Polish Festival took place, an event that gathered several thousand of members of Polish and English society.

³⁸ I. Grocholewska, "Konkurs Czytania 2001," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 1 May 2001, p. 8.

The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad promoted the participation of Polish Saturday school students in competitions it considered valuable and worth recommending. In 2001, it encouraged students to participate in Międzynarodowy Konkurs Otwarty [International Open Competition] in the categories of art, literature and photography. The organiser of the competition was Young Polonia Foundation from Warsaw. The topic of the competition was *Skarby kultury polskiej w tysiącleciu – wspólnym dziedzictwem kultur-owym* [Treasures of Polish culture over the millennium as common cultural heritage]. The aim was to develop an emotional bond with the country of the ancestors, as well as learning about Polish monuments and Polish cultural heritage. The awarded works were exhibited at the “Polonia House” in Warsaw and published in post-competition publications.

In 2002, the annual reading competition took place on 14 April in the Raspberry Hall of Polish Social and Cultural Association. Its organisation, selection of texts and promotion among Polish students was an implementation of one on the main statutory stipulations: “[...] Promoting, maintaining and fostering Polish culture among children and youth abroad.”³⁹

Participants of the competition represented seven Saturday schools from London: Chiswick, Croydon, Ealing, Forest Gate, Lewisham, Putney and Willesden Green. Out of 111 registered participants, 74 students of different ages attended the qualifications. The topic of the competition was *Obraz Ojczyzny w poezji polskiej, wybitnych poetów narodowych, klasyków i współczesnych, krajowych i emigracyjnych* [The image of homeland in Polish poetry by eminent classical national poets and contemporary poets in Poland and abroad]. The participants read poems by A. Asnyk, T. Lenartowicz, A. Mickiewicz, J. Lechoń, K. Wierzyński, M. Pozowska, M. Reszczyńska-Stypińska and others. Awards in this edition were sponsored by Urszula Maryszczak from London, a great lover of Polish poetry. For the fifth time the jury was chaired by Polish Consul, Andrzej Krężel, who congratulated teachers and students for nurturing their mother tongue and developing impressive skill of beautiful reading Polish literature. He also sent a word of praise to the Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad for the perseverance and effort put into organising competitions whose level raised each year.

In the next reading competition, held at Polish Social and Cultural Association on 6 April 2003, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad decided to promote the works of Wiesław Lasocki, an emigrant author of the books for children and youth. The following books were read in four age groups:

1. Group of 8-9-year olds – *Lubek herbu Obrączka*.
2. Group of 10-11-year olds – *Wojtek spod Monte Cassino*.

³⁹ APTA's Archive in London, Report on Reading Competition 2002.

3. Group of 12-13-year olds – *Kajakiem przez ziemie wschodnie RP*.
4. Group of 14-15-year olds – *O koniu bojowym*.

Book awards were presented to the winners and participants of the competition by the Honorary Secretary of Polonia Aid Foundation Trust, Jerzy Ostojko-Koźniewski. The jury of the competition included:

- Ireneusz Truszkowski – Consul of the Republic of Poland for Polish diaspora.
- Teresa Szadkowska-Łakomy – from Polish Ex-Combatants' Association.
- Tadeusz Filipowicz – director of Polish Cultural Foundation.
- Martyna Mazurek – editor of "Gazeta Niedzielną" [Sunday News] in London.
- Artur Rynkiewicz – representative of Polish Social and Cultural Association.

The numerous participants were accompanied by school headmasters (among others, from Willesden Green, Putney and Ealing), parents and siblings. In the report from the competition published in "Gazeta Niedzielną" [Sunday News], Martyna Mazurek, who was the member of the jury, wrote, among others, that

it was a great spiritual feast. [...] The competition is liked by teachers; a child who reads, especially a child who reads Polish literature in the original language, is still a rarity and invaluable treasure that guarantees a successful passing of all language exams in the future. The competition is also liked by parents who are aware that healthy competition motivates a child to read, and their child, who starts to read early, will avoid addiction to television and the Internet more easily, will be more intelligent, will have richer vocabulary and, in general, will learn language more easily. [...]

Big applause for the organisers and all participants. Let us hope that the latter will become experts and lovers of Polish literature and tradition, frequent visitors to libraries and bookshops, participants and authors of spectacles and performances, authors of press articles and excellent new books.⁴⁰

The extended article with attached photographs showed a wide spectrum of benefits from the participation in the reading competition organised by the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad. It was a great encouragement to continue work aiming at the preservation of Polish culture abroad.

In 2002, another edition of "Poloniada" organised every two years by the Young Polonia Foundation from Warsaw took place. Polish Consulate in London again asked the Association to organise qualifications among the youth form Polish Saturday schools, and AS and A-Level courses in Great Britain. The patrons of "Poloniada 2002" included:

⁴⁰ M. Mazurek, "Poczytaj mi po polsku," *Gazeta Niedzielną*, 27 April 2003, p. 7.

- Primate Józef Glemp
- Marshal of the Senate
- Marshal of the Sejm
- Ministry of National Education
- rectors of the Jagiellonian University and the University of Warsaw
- “Polish Community” Association
- “Semper Fidelis” Foundation from New York.

APTA’s Board was happy to take on the role of the qualifications’ organiser. Being convinced that the goal set by the Foundation, i.e. “strengthening national pride by means of Polish contribution to the global culture, by searching among outstanding Poles for models worth following, and by extending knowledge about the ancestors’ country,” is in line with the main idea of Association’s work.⁴¹

As a result of the qualifications, the Association’s Board selected two students from Polish Saturday school in Willesden Green in London, Bianca Swalen and Zofia Walczak, to participate in Warsaw finals along with other students from 11 countries. The finalists manifested a great commitment to maintaining Polishness abroad, extensive knowledge of Polish contribution to global science and culture, and knowledge of outstanding Poles working in exile. Zofia Walczak, representing British Polonia, took the second place in her age group. The topic prepared for this age group required extensive knowledge and analytical thinking skills. It was formulated in the following way: *Czego oczekujesz po nowym tysiącleciu – wizje, przypuszczenia, nadzieje i obawy odnoszące się do przyszłości świata* [What do you expect from the new millennium? Visions, conjectures, hopes and fears related to the future of the world]. Discussing the topic, the contestants referred to the statements of scientists, writers, poets and economists. Zofia Walczak received her award in the company of the president of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, Irena Grocholewska.

In 2004, Poland became a full member of the European Union. This fact met with an enthusiastic reception of the Polish community in Great Britain. It was believed that it was the fall of yet another wall separating Poland from Western European societies. To celebrate this historical event, Senacka Komisja Kultury [The Senate Committee on Culture] announced year 2004 the year of Jan Kochanowski, the most eminent representative of Polish renaissance. In reference to the decision of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, the Main Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad chose the works of Jan Kochanowski as the main theme of the reading competition planned for 28

⁴¹ APTA’s Archive in London, Letter to “Dziennik Polski” dated 14 January 2002 regarding the organisation of “Poloniada2002.”

March 2004. The competition was traditionally held at the Raspberry Hall of Polish Social and Cultural Association. Polish Ex-Combatants' Association was the patron of the competition and the sponsor of the awards. Over a hundred students from Polish Saturday schools in Croydon, Ealing, Devon, Forest Gate, Putney, Willesden Green and Derby participated in the competition, which testified to the ongoing huge interest in the competition, despite the continuing decline in the number of children in those schools. Older youth read the works of Jan Kochanowski, while the youngest children read fragments of literature for children: *Winnie the Pooh* and *Przygody Koziołka Matołka*. The jury consisted of:

1. Polish Consul – Ireneusz Truszkowski.
2. Representative of Polish Ex-Combatants' Association – Teresa Szadkowska-Łakomy.
3. Director of "Syrena" Theatre – Krystyna Bell.
4. Representative of Polish Social and Cultural Association – Monika Skowrońska.
5. President of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad – Irena Grocholewska.

Summing up another edition of the reading competition, Consul Ireneusz Truszkowski, expressed his satisfaction that it was an event combining education with upbringing. He congratulated the Association's Board on professional organisation and spreading love for Polish book and literature among new generations of Polish students.⁴² Not only were Consul's words a courtesy statement of a diplomat, but they also expressed Polish consular authorities' objective assessment of the Association's work.

The Association did not have to wait long for the results of the Consul's assessment. Already during the next edition of the reading competition organised by the Board on 24 April 2005, "Polish Community" Association sponsored Grand Prix in recognition of strengthening Polishness abroad. The winners were awarded a few days stay in Warsaw with a very attractive educational and tourist program. The topic of the competition was: *Hołd Powstańcom w 60 rocznicę walk sierpniowych – Powstanie Warszawskie opiewane przez poetów* [Homage to the Insurgents on the 60th anniversary of the August battles – the Warsaw Uprising praised by the poets]. The works of Krzysztof Kamil Baczyński and Zbigniew Chałko were used during the competition. Book awards were sponsored by Koło Armii Krajowej [Home Army Club] in London.

13 winners were awarded the Grand Prix. The trip was scheduled for the last days of October 2005. Young people were accommodated in a high standard hotel, where they tasted specialties of the Polish cuisine. The stay in War-

⁴² "Konkurs Czytania," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 17 May 2004, p. 6.

saw turned out to be particularly attractive. Students visited the most important monuments and museums in Warsaw: they admired the Old Town, visited the Royal Castle and the Royal Łazienki Park, as well as the Warsaw Uprising Museum. They were also impressed by the spectacle they saw in Polish Theatre.

Thanks to the Grand Prix Award, the reading competition organised for over 25 years by the Association was finally appreciated in Polish media in the country and abroad, and was considered a very important element of language education in Polish schools abroad.

The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad has made a lot of effort to encourage youth from Polish families living in Great Britain to learn Polish and attend Polish Saturday schools. An important role in these activities was played by competitions with prizes, whose regulations and results were obligatorily published in the Polish diaspora press. To provide an example of such form of encouragement to improve competences and skills in using Polish language, in August 2004, competition *Młodzi tłumacze* [Young Translators] was promoted and coordinated by the Association's Board. The competition was organised by Polski Ośrodek Międzynarodowego Stowarzyszenia Teatrów Dla Dzieci i Młodzieży ASSITEJ [The Polish Centre of ASSITEJ – International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People] in Warsaw, which co-operated with Polish Cultural Institute in London. The new initiative was supported by Polish ministries of education, culture and foreign affairs, and was aimed at establishing at the Polish Centre of International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People a group of translators of Polish literature living abroad who in the future would become translators of contemporary poetry and Polish literature. The competition met with great interest of all Polish diaspora youth, including Poles living in the United Kingdom. The competition jury awarded 10 prizes and 16 honourable mentions. The winners included:

1. Wiktoria Szewc – student of Polish Saturday school in Derby for translating the selected fragments of Bolesław Zagała's *Złoty arbuz* and J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter the Philosopher's Stone*.

2. Jaś Rola-Różycki – graduate of A-Level Course at Polish Social and Cultural Association in London for translating fragments of Wisława Szymborska's *Nulla e in regalo – nic darowane* and J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*. Apart from the award, Jaś Różycki was qualified for drama and theatre workshops at the training centre of Council of Ministers' Office in Mała Wieś near Warsaw. Workshop participants had the opportunity to broaden their knowledge and improve their competences in the theory of translating drama and building dramatic structures.⁴³

⁴³ "Młodzi tłumacze," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 13 August 2004, p. 8.

On 2 April 2006, another reading competition took place in the Raspberry Hall of the Polish Social and Cultural Association, organised by the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad. This time the main theme of the competition included the poetry of John Paul II. The competition was held exactly on the first anniversary of the Pope's death. This way, the Association's Board decided to commemorate and preserve the legacy of the most famous Polish person in the world. As usual, the competition met with the interest of many students of Polish Saturday schools. Over 100 participants were registered, mainly from London schools in Brockley/Lewisham, Chiswick, Croydon, Ealing, Forest Gate, Putney, Willesden Green, and from Polish Saturday school in Derby.

Due to the unique circumstances and the theme of the competition, the literary and musical setting had a special character – patriotic and religious poetry and classical music dominated. Recitation of poems written in tribute to John Paul II by the grandparents of Polish Saturday schools' student was a great attraction of the event. The person, teaching and creative work of John Paul II united Poles around the world in a unique way. It was a bridge connecting generations. For the first time 7-year-olds took part in the competition, reading the fairytales of Aleksander Fredro. They performed excellently.

Beautiful awards for the winners and participants were sponsored by "Oficina Poetów i Malarzy" publishing house whose director, Krystyna Bednarczyk, joined the competition jury. Awarding the prizes, the jury proudly emphasised the fact that beautiful recitation of Polish literature and the works of John Paul II was performed by children from Polish families who were already born in the United Kingdom. The Consul General of the Republic of Poland, Janusz Wach, who participated in the competition for the first time, considered this initiative as highly educational and encouraging to read and ambitiously compete.⁴⁴

In 2007, during the next edition of the reading competition, a return to the works of Polish national poets took place. On 18 March 2007, in the Raspberry Hall of Polish Social and Cultural Association in London, the participants, divided into four age groups, read the works of Adam Mickiewicz:

- 8-9-year olds – poems and ballads,
- 10-11-year olds – selected poems,
- 12-13-year olds – various poems,
- 14-15-year olds – excerpts from *Pan Tadeusz*.

The awards were sponsored by Stanisław Wyneczenko, director of TV Polonia electronic company in Great Britain. Wyneczenko was member of the jury along with Polish Vice-Consul Justyna Januszevska, professor Alicja

⁴⁴ "Konkurs czytania," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 25 April 2006, p. 9.

Moskal, Teresa Szadkowska-Łakomy and APTA's president Irena Grocholewska.

In 2006, another edition of "Poloniada," an international competition organised by Young Polonia Foundation from Warsaw, took place. Once again, the Association's Board served as the competition's coordinator, organising qualifications for the final. The contestants of "Poloniada 2006" could choose between two topics prepared by the organisers from Warsaw:

1. Prepare a documented presentation on the contribution of a particular Pole to the art, science, culture, economy, technology or sport of the country where you live.

2. Describe a historical figure of Polish origin whose actions positively influenced Polish history or the history of the world and who could be a model for the youth.

Students of Polish Saturday schools in Great Britain, who participated in the qualifying round, mostly chose the second topic. Special interest and respect was given to historical figures, including Mikołaj Kopernik, Stanisław Moniuszko, Fryderyk Chopin, Jan Matejko, and, from contemporary times, Pope John Paul II and Ryszard Kaczorowski, the President of the Republic of Poland in exile. Participants' choices showed that education in Polish Saturday schools was based on Polish history and culture.

Book fair was the event permanently placed in the calendar of the Polish Social and Cultural Association in London and organised by the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad. Thanks to this event, the Association could gain additional funds for statutory activity and at the same time promote reading among the Polish community in London. The valuable books obtained from the donors included the subjects of history, culture and literature, and made the fair popular as well as achieving the expected financial results. The fair took place twice a year in the main hall of Polish Social and Cultural Association.

COOPERATION WITH POLAND

Cooperation with Polish institutions, associations and foundations was the key element of the work program adopted by the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad for the years 1998-2000, with the assumption of the continuation in subsequent terms. The main partners of the Association included entities whose statutory activity concerned Polish diaspora. The most important of them were:

1. "Polish Community" Association.
2. T. Goniewicz Aid to Polish Schools in the East Foundation.

3. Polonia Teachers' Centre.
4. University of Warsaw.
5. Maria Curie Skłodowska University.
6. Young Polonia Foundation.
7. Catholic University of Lublin.
8. Ministry of National Education.
9. Polonia University in Częstochowa.

Occasionally, the Association cooperated also with other entities in Poland, such as the Katyn Museum in Warsaw, from which didactic materials and medals were obtained as educational aids for Polish Saturday schools. The Association obtained similar didactic and educational help from the Department of Education of Polish Diaspora at the Ministry of National Education. The aids included a set of *Portrety Pisarzy Polskich* [Portraits of Polish Writers] to display in the classrooms of Polish Saturday schools

Cooperation with "Polish Community" Association concerned mainly APTA's participation in the events organised by the "Polish Community," such as: Forum Oświaty Polonijnej [Forum for the Polish Diaspora Education], Kongres Towarzystw Naukowych Na Obczyźnie [Congress of Scientific Societies Abroad], competitions, festivals and Olympiads of Polish diaspora.

APTA's President, Irena Grocholewska, participated in IV Forum Oświaty Polonijnej [the 4th Forum for the Polish Diaspora Education], which took place in Cracow on 4 September 2002. She presented a paper entitled *Uwagi na temat szkolnictwa w Wielkiej Brytanii* [Remarks on education in Great Britain] which was published in the quarterly "Współnota Polska" 2(2002).

President Grocholewska participated several times in the meetings with Andrzej Stelmachowski, the president of "Polish Community" Association, thanks to which the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad became present not only in the awareness of people dealing with Polish diaspora matters in the country, but it was also included as a partner for information exchange and coordination of activities in various ventures of the Polish diaspora. An example of such collaboration was the International Literary Olympiad "Poloniada," already mentioned earlier. As the coordinator, the Association carried out the qualifications for the finals among the students of Polish Saturday schools and A-Level courses in Great Britain.

"Poloniada" competitions were organised since 1993 in European and non-European countries with large Polish communities. The patrons of "Poloniada" were the Marshal of the Senate and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland. Employees of Polish diplomatic missions and members of Polish diaspora organisations were involved in the project.

Apart from this type of ventures, "Polish Community" Association organised summer workshops and camps for Polish students living abroad. The of-

fer including registration forms was forwarded by the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad to Polish Saturday schools in Great Britain. In 2002, "Polish Community" offered:

1. Art workshops in Lesko – the program included theatre, dance and art classes; accommodation in a 17th-century castle adapted for a high standard guest-house.

2. Horse camp in Pieniny – program *Jesteśmy ambasadorami swojego kraju* [We are the ambassadors of our country] was filled with the presentation of monuments of architecture, culture, folklore and tradition; accommodation in the "Trzy Korony" hostel with a view of the Dunajec River.

3. Language camp in Wiktorów near Biskupin – program *Początki państwa polskiego* [The beginnings of the Polish state]; accommodation in Ośrodek Wypoczynkowo-Konferencyjny "Wiktorowo" ["Wiktorowo" Leisure and Conference Centre] by Jezioro Ostrowieckie [Lake Ostrowiec].

4. Journalism and photography workshops in Gdańsk – program included specialist classes preparing for the profession of a reporter, screenwriter and cinematographer.

5. Sports camp in Poronin.

6. Sailing camp at Lake Krasieńskie (Bory Tucholskie).

The Association promoted the above offer not only because the proposed locations and programs were attractive. The Association was also convinced that students' direct contact with Poland motivates them to learn the language, history and culture of their parents' or grandparents' country.

The President of the Association, Irena Grocholewska, also initiated the direct cooperation of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad with Polish ministries of foreign affairs, national education and science and higher education. The first contact concerned their support for the Teaching Course organised together with the Polish University Abroad. Another exchange of correspondence between the Association's Board and the Ministry of National Education took place in February 2000 through the Chancellery of the Council of Ministers. It concerned the Board's request to send 60 copies of *Golgota Wschodu – Materiały pomocnicze dla nauczycieli w 60 rocznicę zbrodni katyńskiej* [Golgotha of the East – teaching aids for teachers on the 6th anniversary of the Katyn massacre]. Planning the distribution of these materials for teachers, the Ministry completely omitted Polish education abroad, which, in the opinion of the Association, was a serious mistake. Due to the intervention of the Association's president, Irena Grocholewska, the materials on the "Golgotha of the East" reached Polish Saturday schools in Great Britain.⁴⁵

⁴⁵ APTA's Archive in London, Korespondencja Prezesa ZNPZ I. Grocholewskiej z Dyrektorem Gabinetu Politycznego Prezesa Rady Ministrów, February 2000.

Cooperation between the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad and T. Goniewicz Aid to Polish Schools in the East Foundation developed dynamically. The Association put an increasing number of textbooks, methodical handbooks and other publications published by the Foundation into circulation in Polish Saturday schools in Great Britain. Not only did APTA organise meetings with the authors of the books (e.g. with Helena Meterowa, the author of grammar book *Od mianownika do wołacza*), but also sponsorship support for the publication of the subsequent textbooks and educational aids. Thanks to this cooperation, articles written by the members of the Association were published in the magazine "Rota" and reached Polish communities.

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of T. Goniewicz Aid to Polish Schools in the East Foundation's activity, the Association's president, Irena Grocholewska, appealed to the Polish authorities, in a letter expressing appreciation for the Foundation, to honour this extraordinary initiative undertaken by the academic milieu of Lublin. In the letter dated 20 April 1999, the following words can be read:

The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad in Great Britain expresses great appreciation for T. Goniewicz Foundation in Lublin for the devoted work that shows understanding of Polish schools abroad. Textbooks written by high-class teachers and psychologists include all aspects of correct teaching our children and youth who are away from the homeland. The content of the textbooks, which should be passed to the entrusted children, is important to every Polish teacher. Carefully selected material brings our children closer to Poland, a country otherwise unknown to them, and arouses interest in the country of their parents and grandparents. It also arouses national pride by means of the glorious deeds of characters in our history, literature, music, painting and many other areas of our national achievements. After 10 years of fruitful, creative work of the entire group of devoted people, T. Goniewicz Foundation deserves the honourable recognition as the PROPAGATOR OF POLISH WORD, which reaches every place where where Polish hearts beat.⁴⁶

The above words of the President of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad prove that the two institutions have been brought together by the work for the benefit of Polish education abroad based on the same values and ideals. The growing demand for textbooks made it necessary to improve their distribution. Irena Grocholewska solved the problem by persuading London "Veritas" bookshop to distribute Foundation's publications.

The Association also cooperated with other publishing houses in Poland, from which they obtained equally valuable books (Polish language textbooks

⁴⁶ APTA's Archive in London, Letter of congratulation for T. Goniewicz Foundation addressed to ministries of Polish government.

from Wydawnictwo Kurii Prowincjonalnej Zakonu Pijarów; albums and books about John Paul II from Oficyna Księgarska in Piaseczno, etc.).

In addition to the above-mentioned forms of cooperation with institutions in Poland, the Association also supported Catholic initiatives realised in Poland. For instance, it donated funds for the construction of the Sanctuary in Licheń, or supported charity campaigns carried out by Caritas Polska. Another noteworthy action carried out by the Association for the benefit of Polish institutions was the financial support given to the Warsaw Uprising Museum in Warsaw.

Cooperation with Polish institutions, universities and associations was constantly growing. Interest in the activities of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad was aroused in Poland by the prevalence of professor Tadeusz Radzik's monograph on the history of the Association in the years 1941-1991.

In 2002, the rector of Polonia University in Częstochowa sent the President of the Association, Irena Grocholewska, an official invitation to the solemn inauguration of the academic year 2002-2003. At the same time, the university presented its educational offer addressed to the Polish diaspora youth. Among over a dozen fields of study, translation studies, neophilologies and diplomacy and foreign service were particularly recommended.

Also in 2002, the University of Szczecin organised I Międzynarodowa Konferencja Polonijna *Polska – Polonia – wzajemne oczekiwania* [1st International Polish Diaspora Conference "Poland – Polonia – mutual expectations"]. The Association of Polish Teachers abroad received an invitation to participate in the conference and present a paper. The Board decided to take part in the event and chose Beata Howe, vice-president of the Association, as the speaker. The conference, which took place on 19-21 September, was attended by scholars from Poland and abroad, Polish diaspora activists, and representatives of Polish associations, institutions and foundations.

The Association also cooperated with Ośrodek Badań i Studiów Polonijnych Uniwersytetu Szczecińskiego [the Centre for Research and Studies of Polish Diaspora at the University of Szczecin], which took the initiative to prepare an atlas of Polish diaspora in the world entitled *Z Polski my ród* [We are people from Poland]. The Association's Board gave consent to use the materials from Tadeusz Radzik's monograph in the atlas.

Another Polish institution, with which the Association established cooperation, was Centralna Biblioteka Wojskowa [The Central Military Library] in Warsaw, which gathers in its collection materials and sources concerning the activity of the soldiers of the Polish Armed Forces in the West and veteran organisations. The Association sent the Library materials and studies concerning teacher-soldiers who formed the foundations of Polish education in the United Kingdom.

The cooperation established with Polish institutions and organisations resulted in the establishment of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad as an important organisation merited in preserving Polishness in the awareness of Polish diaspora activists and scholars studying Polish emigration. An important manifestation of the above fact was the invitation of APTA Board Members and President to significant conferences and events related to the integration of Polish diaspora (Forum Oświaty Polonijnej [Polish Diaspora Education Forum], "Poloniada," Kongres Towarzystw Naukowych Na Obczyźnie [Congress of Scientific Societies Abroad], etc.). On 15 May 2004 in Gorzów Wielkopolski, a conference was held. It was devoted to the following two topics:

1. From the perspective of 15 years of the 3rd Polish Republic.
2. Diaries/journals as a source for research into the history of Poland and Poles abroad.

The conference was organised by Stowarzyszenie Naukowe "Polska w Świecie" ["Poland in the World" Scientific Association], Stowarzyszenie "Wspólnota Polska" ["Polish Community" Association] and Polskie Towarzystwo Historyczne [Polish Historical Association]. Polish diaspora in Great Britain was represented at the conference by APTA's President Irena Grocholewska, and Walery Choroszewski, a member of the Polish Government in Exile.

In her speech, the president of the Association presented the concept of patriotic education for teachers at all levels, so that by appreciating its significance they would instill patriotism, self-esteem and pride in Polish contribution to the European and global culture in their students. The concept met with approval and understanding of the conference participants. Many of them represented Polish academic circles.⁴⁷ President Grocholewska also suggested that the teacher education system include the following three factors:

1. Civic Education.
 2. Ethics of the teaching profession.
 3. Restoration of the teachers' oath which functioned in pre-war Poland.
- Justifying her stance, Grocholewska said:

The implementation of these three elements will strengthen Polish teachers after Poland's accession to the European Union, both in the country and abroad. For these are highly educative and mobilising issues. They will be helpful in educating and forming teachers with IDEOLOGICAL and PATRIOTIC approach, and good personal and professional manners.

⁴⁷ W. Choroszewski, "Emigracja a kraj w Gorzowie Wielkopolskim," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 2 June 2004, p. 8.

In the general process of change, a teacher at all levels of education, from kindergarten to university, who is professionally well-educated and has versatile social skills, will undeniably be respected.

Education and knowledge are acquired gradually. Education and knowledge “grow” with us, their accumulation is gradual and the final effect is shaped by the teacher who provides their students with reliable knowledge passed in an interesting way with full conviction, responsibility and commitment.

Today, in the era of highly developed civilisation and technology in all fields, there must be something or someone alive beside the computer or the Internet. Such a person is a TEACHER or LECTURER who, with an innate passion, will arouse interest in the listeners and confirm rightness.

In the united Europe it is necessary to develop and preserve NATIONAL PRIDE, to promote Polish affairs properly and strengthen the ROOTS, for a European without roots means nothing.⁴⁸

With a speech full of concern for the reconstruction of the elites, President Irena Grocholewska won the recognition of the representatives of academic circles in Poland and activists of “Polish Community” Association.

In 2005, “Polish Community” Association, in cooperation with Akademia Techniczno-Humanistyczną [University of Technology and Humanities] in Bielsko-Biała, organised IV Forum Oświaty Polonijnej [4th Polish Diaspora Education Forum] which was held on 27-30 May. The main topic was *Rola oświaty w procesie integracji i polaryzacji współczesnego świata: wartości, wyzwania i zagrożenia* [The role of education in the process of integration and polarisation of the contemporary world: values, challenges and dangers]. Organisers invited the President of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad to participate in the conference and in the discussion forum devoted to teaching Polish language in Polish diaspora schools. Irena Grocholewska accepted the invitation and, as promised, actively participated the panel discussion on teaching Polish in Saturday schools and on the mechanisms of supporting Polish education abroad.

V Forum Oświaty Polonijnej [5th Polish Diaspora Education Forum] organised by “Polish Community” Association took place in Cracow on 22-25 June 2006. It was attended by over 130 participants from 20 countries. The topic of this extremely important conference concerning Polish education in different parts of the world where there are Polish people and schools was *Oświata polonijna na początku XXI wieku* [Polish diaspora education at the beginning of the 21st century].⁴⁹ Great Britain was represented by the President of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, Irena Grocholewska, and

⁴⁸ APTA’s Archive in London, Irena Grocholewska’s paper presented during the conference in Gorzów Wielkopolski, on 15 May 2004.

⁴⁹ “V Forum Oświaty Polonijnej,” *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 9 August 2006, p. 9.

the President of Polish Educational Society, Aleksandra Podhorodecka. Grocholewska presented a paper entitled *Szkolnictwo Polskie w Wielkiej Brytanii po wstąpieniu do Unii Europejskiej 1 maja 2004 roku* [Polish education in Great Britain after Poland's accession to the European Union on 1 May 2004]. Apart from her paper, Grocholewska actively participated in workshops and discussion panels. The experience gained during the educational forum resulted in setting new goals and tasks for the Association for the subsequent decade.

Most of the comments made by the representatives of Polish diaspora in Great Britain were included in the final conclusions of the 5th Polish Diaspora Education Forum addressed to the state authorities of the Republic of Poland. The conclusions had the following wording:

Developing a strategy for the prospective development of Polish education abroad that would be a coherent element of the global strategy for the state's policy toward Polish community outside Poland, including:

- special consideration of the “New Polonia's” needs,
- intensifying activities promoting the preservation of Polish language and culture in Polish communities abroad – in this regard:

- a) promoting state certified exams in Polish language among school and university students and teachers in different countries around the world, by organising and subsidising courses and certificates,

- b) founding Polish schools in the countries of the European Union,

- c) preparing a new curriculum for Polish education abroad, and the dissemination of European language portfolio,

- d) continuation of training workshops for teachers and school headmasters,

- e) determining the status of Polish diaspora teacher,

- f) supporting Polish diaspora students studying Polish philologies and participating in Polish language courses at foreign universities,

- g) financing an on-line Polish language course for Polish diaspora,

- h) considering the possibility to organise extramural post-graduate studies of the Polish language for teachers,

- i) making the authors of Polish history textbooks include the history of emigration and Polish diaspora in the world.

The participants of the 5th Polish Diaspora Education Forum pay special attention to the need to promote Polishness among the students with Polish origin, not only in the east, but also in the west of Europe, in the USA, in South America, Australia and South Africa (awards, stays in Poland, etc.).⁵⁰

Active presence of the Association's President in such a prestigious congress for Polish diaspora education testified to the fact that the development path chosen by the Board and based on Polish institutions was the right path, as it created new fields of the organisation's development. Continuing the co-

⁵⁰ APTA's Archive in London, Documents from V Forum Oświaty Polonijnej in Cracow.

operation with Polish institutions, associations and foundations, the Association maintained close contact with T. Goniewicz Aid to Polish Schools in the East Foundation in Lublin. It constantly promoted educational publications of the Foundation among the students and teachers of Polish schools in Great Britain, and supported the publishing fund of the magazines "Rota" and "Echa Polesia."

ORGANISATION OF PATRIOTIC AND RELIGIOUS EVENTS. HISTORY EDUCATION

The Main Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad led by the president Irena Grocholewska considered strengthening the cooperation with Saturday schools of native subjects as the priority task in the organisation's work. The idea was to better integrate teachers around the Association's initiatives. At the same time, the idea created a possibility of the Association's educational work with youth, especially in the activities raising the level of knowledge of Polish history, and arousing national pride in beautiful national history and Polish contribution to the development of western civilisation in Europe. With time, these activities acquired the form of a professionally organised educational block which could be called history education for the students of Polish Saturday schools of native subjects.

In her public speeches and press articles, president Grocholewska demanded the unification of the names of Polish schools outside Poland. She rightly questioned the simplification of these institutions to the so-called Saturday schools. According to APTA's president, such name does not say much; it creates the appearance of something less important, just for the weekend, and does not contain the essence of this significant form of education. She called for the adoption of the name *Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych* [School of Native Subjects]. In her opinion, the name "clearly defines the aim, the direction of education and the spirit of each school. The name also motivates the teacher and evokes students' respect."⁵¹

The first important initiative that set up the foundation for the entire "history education" block was the organisation of the Katyn Day for the students of the last classes of primary schools and the youth from secondary schools. The syllabus included a lecture by an outstanding historian of emigration and journalist, Zbigniew Siemaszko,⁵² followed by the screening of a documentary

⁵¹ "Uwagi na temat szkolnictwa w Wielkiej Brytanii," *Wspólnota Polska* 2(2002): 51.

⁵² Zbigniew Siemaszko was born in Lachowszczyzna estate in the Duniłowicze parish, in which his ancestors lived since 1618. He graduated from the Jesuit Gymnasium in Vilnius, in 1939 he

about the Katyn massacre. Intending to consolidate this knowledge among the students of Polish schools of native subjects, the Association's Board gave history teachers lesson plans concerning the fate of Polish citizens in the Soviet Union during World War II, supplemented with a rich time-line of events. The materials were prepared by Zbigniew Siemaszko.

The organisation of the Katyn Day as a history lesson was a successful and necessary undertaking. Obviously, Polish diaspora institutions in Great Britain organised the celebration of the anniversary of the Katyn massacre; celebrations which ended with the laying of flowers at the monument of its victims. With time, however, the knowledge of this crime and its historical background became more and more limited. Therefore, the new generation of Poles needed to learn about the historical events to participate with understanding in these celebrations. Planning the organisation of the history education block, the Association's Board took into account these changing conditions and decided to support the teachers in the work with Polish students. In the letter of the President of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad to the editorial board of "Dziennik Polski" [Polish Daily] the following words can be read:

The Katyn Celebrations are organised annually with great respect, dignity and due experience. We are not certain, however, if our youth understands these celebrations and if asked why they come on this day to the Katyn Memorial at the cemetery they would give a sufficient answer. And Katyn is our national mourning. It is the loss of the best sons of Poland: Polish officers, perhaps our students' grandfathers, uncles or some other close family members. This fact, however sad and tragic, should be known to our students, as it is part of the history of World War II. Lesson about Katyn must find a proper place in our Schools of Native Subjects which forge Polishness. Our schools have a great task – to teach Polish language, to present the history of our nation over the centuries, to arouse national pride and to repeat, consolidating the passed knowledge, so that children and youth remember about their parents' and grandparents' COUNTRY and, if need be, can adopt a stance.⁵³

passed secondary education exams. In 1940, he was deported by the Soviets to Siemijarsk by Irtysh. In March 1942, he joined the Polish Army in the USSR. He served in Persia, Palestine, South Africa, Scotland and England. After the war he graduated from electronic studies at the University of London. After graduation, he worked for over 30 years in electronics industry. He specialised in the reliability of electronic equipment in military application. As a military historian and publicist, he published in Paris "Kultura" and "Zeszyty Historyczne" and London "Wiadomości," "Dziennik Polski," "Tydzień Polski" and "Przegląd Powszechny." He gave lectures in London, New York, Rome, Warsaw and Lublin. In 1983, his book *Narodowe Siły Zbrojne* was published, and year later another, *Wojsko od podszewki (sylwetki i sytuacje)*. In 1991, he received prestigious award of the Association of Polish Writers Abroad for *W sowieckim osaczeniu 1939-1942*.

⁵³ Letter of APTA president, Irena Grocholewska to "Dziennik Polski" dated 20 August 1988, regarding the organisation of a lesson on Katyn.

The Katyn lesson ended with a great success. Numerous young people with their teachers from schools of native subjects gathered at Polish Social and Cultural Association in London were impressed by the lecture given by Zbigniew Siemaszko who is a great Polish patriot and witness of dramatic events. This lesson of "living history" aroused great interest in the topic among the young people who asked the lecturer many questions. Very mature statements of lower secondary school students participating in the history lesson confirmed that the Association's idea of such form of history lesson was excellent and worth repeating.⁵⁴

The subject of Katyn was permanently inscribed in the activities undertaken by the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad. Each year the Association actively participated in the organisation of "Dzień Katyński – Katyn Memorial." The celebrations took place in April at the Gunnersbury Cemetery in London. The Association's Board made sure that every event important for Polish community was attended by students' delegations from Polish Schools of Native Subjects. The homage paid to Polish officers along with the representatives of different Polish organisations and associations in Great Britain was an important element in shaping the awareness and identity of students who, in the future, would take on the customs and duties forming Polish national group in exile.

Taking care of the attractive and interesting character of history lessons, the President of the Association, Irena Grocholewska, established direct cooperation with Andrzej Przewoźnik, the Secretary General of Rada Ochrony Pamięci Walk i Męczeństwa [the Council for the Protection of Struggle and Martyrdom Sites]. As a result, she received from Poland numerous multimedia, i.e. historical and documentary films, necessary to illustrate historical events discussed during the history lessons organised by the Association.

Thanks to the financial support from Polonia Aid Foundation Trust (PAFT), the Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad sent to all Polish Schools of Native Subjects in Great Britain lesson plans discussing the 60th anniversary of the Katyn massacre. Attached to them were thematic brochures from the Ministry of National Education (Zdzisław Peszkowski's booklet *Golgota Wschodu* [Golgotha of the East]).

The success of the first stage of the implementation of history education block organised by the Association's Board resulted in the decision to continue this important educational venture. And so on 2 October 1999 in the Raspberry Hall of Polish Social Cultural Association, the second history lesson took place. It was organised for older students of Polish Schools of Native

⁵⁴ Some of students' mature statements were published in "Dziennik Polski" on 1 December 1998, p. 6.

Subjects and A-Level courses, and concerned the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II. In the opinion of the President of the Board, Irena Grocholewska, Polish youth discusses this topic in English schools; however, both Polish participation in the war and Polish contribution to the victory of the Allies are marginalised. For this reason there is an urgent need to supplement the basic knowledge on this subject.⁵⁵

An excellent lecture was again given by Zbigniew Siemaszko, a well-known and highly respected historian and publicist. He illustrated the presented topic with a time-line of events and graphs. Thanks to this presentation, Polish youth learned about Polish history in the context of the global history and about the fights of Polish soldiers on many fronts of World War II. The ovation after the lecture confirmed that the form of Polish history lesson proposed by the Association is not indifferent to Polish youth. Summarising the lecture, the President of the Association stated that

[...] it was a sad September for us, Poles. But the world on all fronts saw the heroism, patriotism and honor of Polish soldiers, and the hearts of our soldiers beat to the rhythm of one thought "Forward to a free Poland." No foreigner will tell us this.⁵⁶

Continuing the theme of World War II during history lessons for students of Polish Schools of Native Subjects, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad organised on 14 October 2001 a lecture called *Battle of Britain*. The lecture was held in the Raspberry Hall at Polish Social and Cultural Association in London. The lecture was attended by over 150 students from Polish Schools of Native Subjects with teachers, parents and school headmasters. The lecture was introduced by Irena Grocholewska, the Board's President, who recalled the time and meaning of the battle as well as great merits of Polish airmen and their heroic struggles. Colonel Tadeusz Andersz, a certified pilot, commander of 315 and 317 Polish Fighter Squadron, was the speaker in this next stage of history education block. The speaker enriched historical facts about the Battle of Britain with his own experience as a fighter pilot involved in air combat in the British sky. A very interesting narrative was illustrated with the documentaries *Polish Bombers Holiday* and *Dziennik Lotnika* [Aviator's Dairy] borrowed from Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum in London. Original uniform of Tadeusz Andersz decorated with medals and authentic emblems was an additional attraction. At the end of the meeting, the youth re-

⁵⁵ I. Grocholewska, "60 rocznica wybuchu wojny," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 27 October 1999, p. 8.

⁵⁶ PTA's Archive in London, I. Grocholewska, report from the conference regarding the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II.

ceived brochure published by Polish Ex-Combatants' Association entitled *Poland's Contribution to the Allied Victory in the Second War World*, which Colonel Andersz signed for the youth as a token of remembrance of this remarkable event. Summarising the event, Irena Grocholewska stated that "the participation of Polish airmen in this historic battle is our national pride, and the memory of them should be refreshed and last forever."⁵⁷

In addition to history lessons, thanks to which history education block was becoming more and more serious element of the Association's activity, the Board also undertook other actions supporting the education of youth in Polish schools. One of them included the distribution of brochures entitled *Polityka niepodległościowa władz RP na uchodźstwie w latach 1945-1990* [Independence policy of the Polish authorities in exile in the years 1945-1990]. Professor Edward Szczepanik, the last Polish Prime Minister in exile, was the author of this work. The brochure presented historical continuity of Polish country during World War II, through the years of communist subjugation to the regaining of independence. Students of Polish Schools of Native Subjects found out about the existence and functioning of the Polish Government in Exile, and its efforts to regain independence.

The President of the Main Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, Irena Grocholewska, published an article in "Dziennik Polski" [Polish Daily] entitled *Pomoc szkołom – uczmy i wychowujmy* [Help for schools – let us teach and bring up]. The article contained the quintessence of the Association's idea to organise various forms of further education for Polish youth in the United Kingdom in the field of Polish history. In the article it can be read, among others, that

Knowledge gained by the students will be helpful not only in passing exams. This generation of our students should, in the future, defend Poland's good name and our heroic participation in World War II on all fronts till the end of the war, when in 1945 the Polish flag was stuck on Monte Cassino. It is our students from Schools of Native Subjects who should explain during the discussion classes in English schools, now and in the future, the slanderous accusations against the Poles of Katyn, Auschwitz, Jedwabne and many others. Such accusations are unjust and prejudicial slander, and underestimate our contribution to the general good, like the Enigma. Disseminating knowledge in this field and objective facts from the history of Poland is the task of Schools of Native Subjects and will be a well-fulfilled obligation of A-Level courses. Let us teach and educate, because Polish matters belong to us.⁵⁸

⁵⁷ APTA's Archive in London, Report on the lecture *Bitwa o Wielką Brytanię*, 14 October 2000.

⁵⁸ I. Grocholewska, "Pomoc szkołom – uczmy i wychowujmy," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 18 October 2001, p. 6.

The above statement proves that the Association not only took care of the teachers and their professional qualifications in the work with Polish students abroad, but, above all, was aware of the mission whose aim was the preservation of Polish identity among the students and strengthening their sense of national pride. A great idea in this respect was the organisation of the so-called “lessons of living history” with the participants of events related to World War II, Warsaw Uprising, the resistance of the “Cursed Soldiers,” independence activities in exile, etc. London, as the centre of Polish emigration after World War II, was a place particularly predisposed to host the lessons.

Another example of such organised lesson was the lecture of Commander Lieutenant Tadeusz Lesisz, a participant of the naval battles of the Polish fleet, entitled *Polska marynarka wojenna w czasie drugiej wojny światowej* [Polish Navy during World War II]. The lecture was traditionally held at the Raspberry Hall of Polish Social and Cultural Association in London for over 120 students and teachers of Polish Schools of Native Subjects in London and its vicinity. In a very interesting and accessible way, the speaker presented the historical outline of the Polish fleet, also in the context of Polish Kingdom’s struggle to maintain the rule over the Baltic Sea. After the historical part, the Commander described the process of rebirth of modern Polish navy in the 20th century, which started already on 28 November 1918 with the order of the Head of State, Józef Piłsudski, to establish the Polish Navy. Then, the speaker discussed the process of expanding Polish fleet in the Second Republic of Poland and the construction of the Port in Gdynia. The main part of the lecture was devoted to the unequal struggle of Polish sailors in the defense war in September 1939 and the action of saving Polish ships by sending them to British or Swedish ports. The three destroyers: “Grom,” “Burza” and “Błyskawica,” and 2 submarines: “Orzeł” and “Wilk,” were the basis of Polish fleet fighting along the Allies during the naval battles of World War II. With time, the fleet was expanded to 2 cruisers, 9 destroyers, 5 submarines and 7 chasers.

Commander Lesisz emphasised that Polish ships took part in all major sea operations, from September 1939 to May 1945, on the seas from the coast of Canada to eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea, and from the North Pole to the Equator. In the opinion of the speaker, it was the reason why Polish navy had many supporters and gained recognition, respect and admiration among the Allies. Listing the most important operations, the lecturer discussed the activities of Polish fleet at Narvik and Dunkirk, the convoys to Murmansk, participation in the Battle of the Atlantic, the pursuit of “Bismarck,” as well as participation in the Sicily invasion, Landing in Normandy and campaigns in the Mediterranean. Summarising his lecture, Commander Lieutenant Tadeusz

Lesisz stated that Polish Navy during World War II fulfilled its soldier's duty towards the nation and the homeland.⁵⁹

The Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, aware of the importance of the "lessons of living history" and their meaning for shaping sensitivity and character of students from Schools of Native Subjects, decided to continue the lectures related to World War II. On 19 October 2002, APTA organised another lesson entitled *Dywizja Pancerna gen. Stanisława Maczka* [1st Polish Armoured Division commanded by General Maczek]. The lecture was given by captain Zbigniew Mieczkowski, the participant in the fighting and witness to the heroic struggles of the division.

The 1st Polish Armoured Division was a legendary armoured unit of the Polish Armed Forces in the West during the World War II. It became famous for its heroic battles in France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany. The battles with the participation of the 1st Polish Armoured Division at Falaise and Chambois, fights for Flanders, the capture of Ghent and Breda as well as German naval base in Wilhelmshaven have passed into the history of World War II. Thanks to Captain Mieczkowski, a large group of youth gathered in the Raspberry Hall at Polish Social and Cultural Association learned directly from the combat participant about the course of above battles and operations, about the bravery of Polish soldiers and their motivation to fight the German invaders.

The lecture was accompanied by the screening of a documentary and reading of a fragment of Wanda Lesisz's book "*OBERLANGEN*" – *Pamiętnik AKaczki*. The author of the diary was a prisoner of a concentration camp and witness of its liberation by the 1st Polish Armoured Division. Another meeting with history organised in an attractive way ended with a success, which was demonstrated by students' statements and media comments.

By the decision of the Sejm (the Parliament) of the Republic of Poland, 2003 was the year of general Władysław Sikorski. This way, the 60th anniversary of the Gibraltar catastrophe, which happened on 5 July, was commemorated. The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad was actively involved in the organisation of the anniversary celebrations which included:

- scientific conferences,
- exhibitions devoted to general Sikorski as a soldier, politician, and statesman,
- sports competitions for students of schools bearing general Sikorski's name,
- competitions concerning knowledge of Polish Armed Forces in the West and their commander.

⁵⁹ APTA's Archive in London, Text of the lecture by Tadeusz Lesisz entitled *Polska marynarka wojenna podczas drugiej wojny światowej*, given on 24 November 2001, manuscript, 5 pages.

On 25 October 2003 as part of the series “lessons of living history”, the Association organised a lecture entitled *Generał Sikorski – Naczelny Wódz Polskich Sił Zbrojnych na Zachodzie w czasie II wojny światowej – Spadochroniarze i Cichociemni* [General Sikorski – Supreme Commander of the Polish Armed Forces in the West during World War II – Paratroopers and Cichociemni]. The lecture was given by Colonel A. Maćkowiak, participant of the Allied air operation at Arnhem, soldier of I Polska Samodzielna Brygada Spadochronowa [1st Polish Independent Parachute Brigade] commanded by general Stanisław Sosabowski.⁶⁰

Colonel Maćkowiak presented to the gathered youth the origin and the significance of “Cichociemni” formation, as well as the methods and techniques of training Polish commandos. As a member of the management supervising training at Audley End House, he talked about comprehensive trainings including language learning, techniques of hand-to-hand struggle, using various weapons and explosives, and the ability to change identity. In the second part of his lecture, Maćkowiak discussed the ways of carrying out the “Market – Garden” landing operation and the participation in the operation of Polish paratroopers from the 1st Parachute Brigade. Meeting with the combat participant representing the elite army unit was a great and unforgettable experience for the gathered youth from Polish Schools of Native Subjects. The meeting was accompanied by the screening of a documentary obtained from the resources of Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum in London. An exhibition about General Sikorski organised by the Federation of Poles in Great Britain was also a complement to the lecture. The exhibition contained many valuable archival photos. The event ended with a heated discussion, which showed that the theme of the lecture was particularly interesting for the students of Polish Schools of native subjects. Summarising the meeting, Colonel Maćkowiak said that “Cichociemni” were an invaluable strengthening of the Home Army fighting against the Nazi invaders in Poland.⁶¹ Participants of the meeting received materials concerning general Sikorski’s biography, “Cichociemni” and the 1st Polish Parachute Brigade. They were to help students expand and consolidate their knowledge of the Polish contribution to the victory of the Allies in World War II.

⁶⁰ The Independent Parachute Brigade commanded by general Stanisław Sosabowski – a legendary airborne unit of the Polish Armed Forces in the West formed in Great Britain during World War II. It was supposed to be used as an aid to the Warsaw Uprising. The Brigade took part in the largest airborne operation of World War II, code-named “Market-Garden.” Numbers for 1944 – 2200 soldiers.

⁶¹ APTA’s Archive in London, Lecture given on 25 October 2003.

POLISH MEMORIAL – THE NOVEMBER INSURRECTION MONUMENT IN PORTSMOUTH

The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad has always been involved in actions preserving the memory of Polish national heroes. According to the Board, it was a proven form of teaching young generation to be responsible for their homeland and to preserve Polishness abroad. An example of such action was the appeal published in “*Dziennik Polski*” [Polish Daily] on 10 July 2003. Its form and content tell us a lot about the patriotic feelings which members of the Association wanted to convey to young people:

With regard to the APPEAL of the Committee for the Reconstruction of the NOVEMBER INSURGENTS’ STATUE in Portsmouth, the Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad sent to all Polish Schools of Native Subjects in Great Britain a LETTER – APPEAL addressed to headmasters, teachers and care organisations with the request to pass this information to older children, youth and parents, and to support the rebuilding of a monument commemorating our history on the foreign soil. It is an important history lesson, which we should remember in Schools of Native Subjects and pass to our students, along with other significant events in the history of our nation. It is also civic education, which is closely related to teaching and shapes the attitude of young people with Polish roots and tradition outside the country. Information learned at school will be a good guidance and will bind our pupils with their fathers’ country and the history written by them.

Well-prepared conscious youth will take care of the traces of Polishness in the countries of residence and will preserve memory and national pride. For the time being, it is up to us, teachers and educators, to carry out this duty, with the support of parents and care organisations.

I am pleased to inform that the first donations have already been submitted by Schools of Native Subjects in Brighton and Reading. We look forward to more, so that we can name all the schools which will have contributed to this worthy cause.

APTA’s Board asks for money collections at schools, because the smallest donation made consciously by our pupils will be a great contribution to the memory of those who fought for Poland but did not manage to return to the beloved homeland. Let them live in our memory.⁶²

In 2004, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad decided to accentuate the 60th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising in the history education block. This dramatic event of the ending phase of World War II claimed thousands of civilian victims of Warsaw population, including a large percentage of youth, children and scouts engaged in the fight for an independent Poland. The Association’s Board decided that it is the duty of teachers at Schools of Native Subjects to provide young people with reliable knowledge about the origin and the significance of the Warsaw Uprising.

⁶² “Wychowanie Obywatelskie,” *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 10 July 2003, p. 8.

On 20 November 2004 in the Eagles' Hall of Polish Social and Cultural Association in London, a lecture entitled *Powstanie Warszawskie* [the Warsaw Uprising] took place as part of the series "lessons of living history." The speakers were soldiers and eyewitnesses of the uprising from the London Home Army Club:

1. Wanda Lesiszowa, code name "Irena"
2. Maria Schejbal, code name "Marzena"
3. Maria Jaszczolt, code name "Lidka".

The lecture was diversified with Home Army songs, fragments of documentary films from struggling Warsaw and personal memories of the guests. The honorary guest of the meeting was the director of Polish Underground Studies in London, Krzysztof Stoliński.⁶³ This particular meeting with history was attended by young people from Polish Schools of Native Subjects and A-Level courses in London and the surrounding area, as well as teachers and parents. The participants of the meeting received a commemorative bulletin dedicated to the Warsaw Uprising, published by Światowy Związek Żołnierzy Armii Krajowej [World Association of Home Army Soldiers].

In addition to thematic lectures, the Association co-organised the celebration of the "Katyn Day" as part of the history education process. The celebrations took place at the Gunnersbury Cemetery by the Katyn memorial. Students laid flowers and displayed honorary guards. The celebrations were preceded by the Holy Mass for the victims and the homeland, celebrated in St. Andrzej Bobola's church.

One of very interesting topics realised by the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad as part of the series "lessons of living history" was *Stowarzyszenie Polskich Kombatantów – SPK* [Polish Ex-Combatants Association]. Such an innovative approach to the topic allowed to combine historical events connected with the Polish soldiers' combat on all fronts of World War II with the history of an exceptionally merited veteran organisation in exile. The lecture took place on 19 November 2005 in the Eagles' Hall of Polish Social and Cultural Association. It was given by a merited Polish soldier and veteran, and the president of Polish Ex-Combatants' Association in Great Britain, Major Mieczysław Jarkowski. The Main Board of Polish Ex-Combatants' Association was also represented by Teresa Szadkowska-Łakomy, school officer at the Association.

Not hiding his emotions, Major Jarkowski shared with the gathered youth his experiences from World War II. He talked about the heroic deeds of young

⁶³ Polish Underground Studies is a scientific and archiving institution that possesses historical materials about the Polish Underground State from the period of World War II. It was established in London in 1947. Its initiators include T. Bór-Komorowski, S. Juszczakiewicz and T. Pełczyński. In 1988, it merged with Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum in London.

soldiers of the Polish Armed Forces in the West, who, born and raised in free Republic of Poland, did not hesitate to give their lives fighting for free Poland. Polish cemeteries scattered around the places of the heaviest battles are a visible trace of this dedication. Despite the victory of the Allies in World War II, the majority of soldiers of the Polish Armed Forces in the West could not return to their homeland. Some of them lost their homes irretrievably as they were incorporated in Belarusian, Ukrainian or Lithuanian Soviet Republic territory. Others faced the view of communist jails in Poland subjugated by Moscow. Despite being let down by the Allies, these soldiers founded Polish Ex-Combatants' Association and with their families and chaplains started to create organisational structures, the Association's Circles (Divisions) in order to build a new life in exile. The speaker showed the youth with what extraordinary determination the veterans built Polish churches, chapels, Polish schools, Veterans' Houses and other facilities in which Poles could meet and form structures of a free homeland on the Thames. Thanks to their efforts institutions were established in which Polish community in Great Britain could cultivate their own culture and maintain their national identity.

In the report from the meeting published by "Dziennik Polski" [Polish Daily], Irena Grocholewska wrote the following words:

We owe what we have today, and what we gladly use, to those who by word and deed did this great work for generations. We must pay tribute to the veterans for their persistence and visible results of well-organised Polish activity, which facilitates a new beginning for the newly arrived Poles from our country.

Every lecture expands knowledge, strengthens national pride and boosts self-esteem of the Polish youth. It depends on us, teachers, and Schools of Native Subjects, what students will learn, what end results they will achieve and how they will express their opinions on Polish matters in general, especially now after Poland's accession to the European Union.⁶⁴

The beautiful tradition of organising the "lessons of living history" was upheld by the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad in the following years. The conviction of APTA's Board that there was a need to familiarise young people with Polish history during and after World War II, and to fill in the "blank spaces" which were still common in teaching the newest history, was the source of the initiative.

On 18 November 2006, another extremely interesting lecture on the Polish struggle for independent country after the end of World War II took place. The topic of the meeting was *Prezydenci Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej na Uchodźstwie – dalszy ciąg historii naszego narodu* [Presidents of the Republic of Poland in

⁶⁴ I. Grocholewska, "Prelekcja dla młodzieży klas starszych," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 29 November 2005, p. 9.

exile – a continuation of our nation's history] and aroused the interest of students and teachers of Polish Schools of Native Subjects in London and its vicinity. Ryszard Kaczorowski, President of the Republic of Poland in exile, was invited to give the lecture; however, due to the duties he was performing at that time, he could not come. Substituting for the President, history lesson was carried out by Walery Choroszewski, the former Minister of Information in the government in exile. President Kaczorowski sent a letter to the participants of the lesson in which he explained his absence and tasked the Association for an extremely important work on shaping patriotic awareness of the young generation of Poles.⁶⁵

In an accessible way and using a beautiful language, Minister Choroszewski presented the profiles and achievements of all Presidents of the Republic of Poland in exile: from Władysław Raczkiewicz to Ryszard Kaczorowski. Thanks to the support of Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum, the lecture was illustrated with the photographs of the presidents and documentaries from the collection of the institution. The youth participating in this historical meeting received books on topics related to the activities of Polish Government in Exile in Great Britain after World War II. These precious souvenirs were founded by Scientific Society Abroad. The great impression made by Minister Choroszewski's lecture made the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad continue in 2007 the meetings with this great witness of history. On 17 November at Polish Social and Cultural Association, APTA organised another lecture for the students of Polish Schools of Native Subjects. This time Minister Choroszewski presented the figure of general Władysław Anders. The choice of topic, *General Anders – żołnierz i przywódca Wolnych Polaków na uchodźstwie* [General Anders – soldier and leader of Free Poles in exile] resulted from the resolution of the Senate of the Republic of Poland on 20 December 2006 on the establishment of 2007 "the year of general Władysław Anders."

In his carefully prepared speech, Walery Choroszewski presented the figure of general Władysław Anders, his military service and merit, his passion for horse-riding, the creation of the Polish Army (as ordered by general W. Sikorski), training the army to continue the fight for free Poland, and organising transfer of civilians and children by the army from the inhuman land. The speaker emphasised that although the victorious battle of Monte Cassino did not bring Poland freedom, it nevertheless made the bravery of the soldiers of the 2nd Polish Corps and their commander, general Anders, famous. War fame and legend made general Anders the leader of Free Poles in exile until his

⁶⁵ B. Howe, "Niezapomniana lekcja historii," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 11 December 2006, p. 10.

death on 12 May 1970, exactly the 26th anniversary of the Battle of Monte Cassino. At the end of the meeting the participants received copies of *Umowa Sikorski – Majski* [Sikorski-Majski Agreement] under which Poles in exile were released from the Soviet camps and prisons. Among them was also general Anders imprisoned in the Moscow “Lubianka.”⁶⁶ Numerous questions and thunderous applause confirmed that this innovative form of education became important to the students and teachers of Polish Schools of Native Subjects in Great Britain.

Apart from organising “lessons of living history,” the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad also actively participated in other celebrations connected with the Year of General Anders, like the conference *General Władysław Anders: soldier and leader of the Free Poles in exile*. Its originator and main organiser was Polish University Abroad which invited the following entities to cooperate:

- Senate of the Republic of Poland,
- Ministry of National Defense of the Republic of Poland,
- Central Military Archives of Great Britain,
- Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum,
- Polish Social and Cultural Association in London,
- Federation of Poles in Great Britain,
- Polish Ex-Combatants’ Association,
- Polish-British Historical Commission,
- University College London,
- Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales,
- Representatives of the Marche Region (Italy).

The Honorary Patron was bishop Szczepan Wesoły – former Delegate of the Primate of Poland for the Emigration’s Pastoral Ministry.

RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

The Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad with great attention cared for nurturing national religious traditions among the teachers, students and families in exile. They tried to preserve Polish character of church holidays (Christmas, Easter) and national holidays. Lecture halls and other places where celebrations were organised, were always decorated with the state emblem of the Republic of Poland and the cross, the inseparable symbols of Polishness. Christmas wafer meetings were organised with particular care. Their family character additionally united the community of Polish teachers living in exile in Great Britain.

⁶⁶ “Prelekcja o Generale,” *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 20 December 2007, p. 8.

President of the Association, Irena Grocholewska, in an official invitation addressed to the headmasters and teachers of Polish Schools of Native Subjects wrote, among others, that

Wafer meeting is a traditional social meeting of teachers during the Christmas season to maintain friendly and kind bonds, so that every teacher feels that they are part of a family, Teachers' Family, which is close, friendly and kind. Human kindness is a Christmas mission. Let us live Christmas together, it will bring us closer and strengthen us in our lives and work for the whole year of the new millennium.⁶⁷

As usual, the venue of these wafer meetings held in January was "Łowiczanka" restaurant at Polih Social and Cultural Association in London. The program of "teachers' wafers" had its fixed points worked out by the organisers. The meeting began with greeting the guests and short speech by the Association's President. Then, there was a prayer, usually said by the invited priest; wafer sharing and wishes exchanged. In the following part wishes sent to the Association were read, poems recited and Nativity play performed by the students of Polish Schools of Native Subjects. Carol singing emphasised the festive character of the meeting. Prize draw and tasting traditional Polish dishes were compulsory elements of each meeting.

The President of the Association received Christmas wishes for the whole organisation from organisations and institutions cooperating closely with the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad. They were sent, among others, by:

- "Polish Community" Association,
- Polish University Abroad,
- Polish Ex-Combatants' Association,
- Polish Social and Cultural Association,
- Federation of Poles,
- Polish Cultural Institute,
- Association of Polish Pilots,
- Editing board of "Tygiel",
- Dean of the Pedagogical Faculty at the University of Warsaw,
- Ministry of National Education, the Department of Communication with Polish Diaspora,
- Rector of Polonia University in Częstochowa,
- T. Goniewicz Foundation,
- editing board of "Rota" quarterly.

⁶⁷ APTA's Archive in London, Letter of APTA president to the headmasters and teachers of Polish Schools of Native Subjects, dated 4 January 2001, regarding Christmas wafer meeting.

The wishes from the Holy Father John Paul II and bishop Szczepan Wesoły from Rome were read with joy and deep emotion. The representatives of Polish Educational Society, the Polish Consulate and Polish Catholic Mission were always present at Christmas wafer meetings of the Association. Participation of the youngest students of Polish schools of native subjects in the nativity play was a perfect example of maintaining Polish customs and Christmas traditions in Polish community in the United Kingdom.

For many years, the Association continued the tradition of Christmas wafer meetings. In the report from one such wafer meeting in 2005 published in "Dziennik Polski" [Polish Daily], Irena Grocholewska wrote:

The 64th teachers' wafer meeting, which took place in the banquet hall of "Łowiczanka" restaurant, was a traditional, joyful and family celebration. It was attended by teachers and supporters of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad with their families. These meetings have been taking place for over 60 years and the Board believes that this beautiful Polish tradition will be upheld by the new teachers from Poland. [...] And tradition in the life of Polish nation is a great force and attachment. It is respect for the past which has models for the future in all aspects of our life, wherever it sends us.⁶⁸

At that time, the pastoral care over the Association was exercised by father Bronisław Gostomski, parish priest at St. Andrzej Bobola's church.⁶⁹ Leading the prayer and consecrating the wafers, father Gostomski always underlined the significance of Polish teachers' work on shaping souls of the students born in exile while maintaining faith, patriotism and national pride.

The growing number of teachers who arrived from Poland after 2004 was a very important phenomenon, positively influencing the dynamics of the organisation's development.

In 2005, the organisation of patriotic and religious events was dominated by the illness and death of Pope John Paul II. The Holy Father, already considered the greatest Pole during his lifetime, was particularly important to Polish diaspora scattered all over the world. They considered him an undisputed authority. Already in the first years of his pontificate, John Paul II gained the nickname "Father of Emigrants and Father of Polonia." Hardly anyone could understand emigrants' needs and problems. Through his charismatic personality, attitude, activity and teaching, he influenced the empower-

⁶⁸ I. Grocholewska, "Tradycja to wielka siła," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 15 February 2005, p. 8.

⁶⁹ Father Bronisław Gostomski – born on 9 November 1955 in Sierpc, died in the Smolensk plane crash on 10 April 2010. Polish Roman Catholic priest, MA in history at KUL. Since 2003 he was the chaplain of President Ryszard Kaczorowski and the minister (priest) of the London society of the Katyn families.

ment of Poland and Polish diaspora on the international arena. The election of a Pole, the Archbishop of Cracow, for the Holy See, and then his multi-dimensional activity, immensely animated national awareness of Polish communities around the world. Poles, often considering themselves as second-class citizens in the countries of settlement, felt proud of their history and national heritage. John Paul II, who personified the greatest qualities of Polish soul, made Poles in exile rediscover the beauty and value of Polish culture. Thanks to Polish Pope, Polish diaspora in many countries started to be noticed and appreciated for the creative contribution to the development of civilisation. The official entry of the Association's President, Irena Grocholewska, placed in the Book of Condolence at the Apostolic Nunciature in London proved the extraordinary attachment of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad to the person and teaching of John Paul II:

Most Venerable, Beloved Father, Great Teacher and Caring Shepherd of the Polish nation and the nations of the world. Today we mourn you, the Holy Father, the Polish Pope, John Paul II, who were for us, teachers, hope, an example of strong faith, inspiration, and eternal spiritual authority.

The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad in Great Britain has always held Your Holiness in the deepest reverence and will continue to do so, and your teachings will be carried out in accordance with your thought and our teachers' duty to the nation and its religious and historical continuity.

Your great wisdom will be our guiding light so that the entrusted children and youth growing up in exile are brought up in faith and language of their fathers and in the spirit of native culture, not forgetting about our historical relationships with the Western civilisation and Christianity.

In sorrow, grief and tears, we pray for you and thank you, Benevolent Holy Father, for all goodness you gave us during your 27-year pontificate.⁷⁰

In 2006 and 2007, Christmas wafer meetings followed the traditional formula. The group of participants was joined by Walery Choroszewski, the former Minister of Information of the Polish Government in exile, who became popular among Polish Schools of Native Subjects as an excellent speaker. The Christmas and New Year's wishes were still received by the the President of APTA's Main Board from, among others:

- Primate Józef Glemp,
- Ryszard Kaczorowski – President of the Republic of Poland in Exile,
- Bishop Szczepan Wesoły from Rome,
- Polish Ambassador in Great Britain,
- Rector of Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales,
- Rector of Polonia University in Częstochowa,

⁷⁰ "Jego Świątobliwości Ojcu Świętemu," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 12 April 2005, p. 5.

- Consul General of the Republic of Poland,
- the Board of Polish Ex-Combatants' Association,
- Rector of Polish University Abroad,
- President of Polish Cultural Foundation,
- President of Polish Educational Society,
- Editorial board of "Dziennik Polski" [Polish Daily],
- Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Warsaw,
- President of "Polish Community" Association,
- Teachers' Choir from Poznań

and many directors of foundations, associations and schools in the United Kingdom and in Poland.⁷¹

The growing number of wishes sent each year from Poland confirmed that knowledge in Poland about the oldest Polish educational organisation in Great Britain was becoming more and more common.

Christmas wafer meetings still performed the function of events integrating the educational environment of "Polish London," and were a manifestation of the clinging of the teaching community to the most beautiful Polish Christian customs and values. In the article *Oplątek u nauczycieli* [Teachers' wafer meeting] published in "Dziennik Polski" [Polish Daily] on 21 January 2003 the following words can be read:

The purpose of these commonly organised "wafer meetings" is not only to share wishes. It is primarily to meet in one's own group, to experience that one belongs to a group, which is extremely important for every generation of emigrants. Those for whom Christmas wafer meetings are a tradition try to attract younger generations to them.⁷²

In her press comment on Christmas wafer meetings published in "Dziennik Polski" [Polish Daily] and "Gazeta Niedzielną" [Sunday News], the President of the Association emphasised that regular presence of young teachers at these meetings testifies to their importance for the integration of Polish teachers in Great Britain.

DOCUMENTARY ACTIVITY

As the oldest continuously existing educational organisation in Great Britain, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad took care of the ongoing doc-

⁷¹ "Nauczycielskie spotkanie opłatkowe," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 14 February 2006, p. 9.

⁷² "Oplątek u nauczycieli," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 21 January 2003, p. 8.

umentation of its activity and preserving the impressive work. Since the beginning of the 1990s the Association's board discussed the need to write down and publish the history of the Association between 1941 and 1991, in order to commemorate the 50th anniversary of its activity. The publishing project was implemented in 1999, thanks to the financial support of the Polonia Aid Foundation Trust. The monograph about the history of the Association was written by a historian from Lublin, professor Tadeusz Radzik from the Maria Curie Skłodowska University.⁷³ The book was published by well-known London publishing house, Caldra House Ltd. In his work, professor Radzik used the resources of APTA's Archive, Polish Educational Society, Polish Ex-Combatants' Association, documents of Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum in London and the private archive of the Association's President, Czesław Czapliński with a rich collection of photographs. Thanks to the author's personal involvement, a very valuable book was written, which played an important role in saving the memory of those wonderful people who, for years, fought so zealously to preserve Polishness among the Polish diaspora in Great Britain.

In addition to documenting activities of the organisation, the Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad also collected information and documents proving the merits and achievements of teachers teaching youth in Polish Schools of Native Subjects, completely engaged in their work. Very often such documentation was needed to submit applications for the granting of important state decorations, such as the Medal of the Commission of National Education for merits in education and science, or Krzyż Kawalerski Orderu Odrodzenia Polski [Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta]. In this respect, the Association's Board cooperated with the General Consulate of the Republic of Poland in London.

Another extremely valuable initiative of the Association, including the collection of documentation regarding the achievements of eminent Polish diaspora activists, was the cooperation with Polska Agencja Informacyjna [Polish Information Agency] while preparing the dictionary *Polak w świecie. Leksykon Polaków i Polonii za granicą* [Poles in the world – Lexicon of Poles and Polonia abroad]. The honorary patronage over the dictionary was taken by professor Alicja Grześkowiak, the Marshal of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, and spiritual support was provided by Cardinal Józef Glemp, Primate of Poland. The aim of the work was to present the outstanding figures of Poles who, through their professional achievements, artistic and social activity, etc. deserved particularly well of the country where they lived or came from.

⁷³ Tadeusz Radzik (1953-2009). Polish historian and political scientist, professor of MCSU in Lublin. He specialised in the study of Polish emigration in the USA and the UK. Author of many books and articles on Polish diaspora. Member of Komisja do Badań Diaspory Polskiej [Commission for the Polish Diaspora Research] at Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cracow.

The second parallel undertaking requiring the documentation of activities and works of eminent Poles living in exile, was the Association's cooperation with Instytut Badań Biograficznych Zbigniewa Judyckiego [Zbigniew Judycki Institute for Biographical Research] while editing entries for the dictionary *Polacy w świecie* [Poles in the world].

The involvement of the Association's Board in these initiatives indicates how wide the fields of activity of this teachers' organisation were. It can be said that it accepted all challenges aimed at preserving Polishness abroad.

The basic form of documenting the activities of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad was maintaining the continuity in keeping the Archive and collecting and securing basic sources on the organisation's work (reports, protocols, surveys, newspaper clippings, publications, letters, photos, etc.). Thanks to this documentation, historians writing monographs or papers on the Association's work or on Polish education in Great Britain, had access to the most important sources and documents.

The Board of the Association, aware that years of communist isolation cut off Polonia organisations from the society in Poland, was determined to maintain constant contact with the homeland and disseminate information about itself. For this reason, among others, the Association sent monograph written by professor Tadeusz Radzik, about the history of the Association in the years 1941-1991, to many institutions, organisations and libraries in Poland.

APTA's Archives, which store documents concerning its members and particularly important protocols, preserved since 1941, also served the families of teachers working in Polish Schools of Native Subjects searching for information about their relatives. No letter with such request was neglected. The President of the Association, Irena Grocholewska, personally responded to all queries and provided the interested parties with information. Such letters, sent from Poland, Ukraine, the United States and Great Britain, have been preserved to this day in APTA's Archive.

CHAPTER IV

THE ASSOCIATION OF POLISH TEACHERS ABROAD IN THE YEARS 1998-2016

TRAINING AND INTEGRATION OF THE TEACHERS. SUPPORTING POLISH EDUCATION

According to the statute, the basic goal of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, founded in 1941 was to cultivate Polish pedagogical thought, enrich the methods of education and teaching, and care for the level of teachers' qualifications.¹ Therefore, particular emphasis was put on the organization of various forms of teacher education and training. The most important and effective forms were:

1. Pedagogical courses.
2. Methodical conferences and seminars.
3. Conferences for the headmasters of the schools of native subjects.
4. Holiday courses.
5. E-learning courses on-line.

The Association initiated most of the ventures and organised them together with other entities specializing in education, such as:

- the Polish University Abroad,
- the University of Warsaw,
- the Jagiellonian University,
- the Catholic University of Lublin,
- Polonia Teachers' Centre,
- Maria Curie-Skłodowska University.

Developing the work program of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad for the years 2008-2016, i.e. until the jubilee of the 75th anniversary of its existence, the Main Board summarized the achievements so far and outlined the directions of the organization's activities in the future. The foundations of the program were formulated in a paper entitled *Szkolnictwo Polskie w Wielkiej Brytanii po wstąpieniu Polski do Unii Europejskiej, 1 maja 2004 roku* [Polish Education in Great Britain after Poland's accession to the European

¹ APTA's Archive in London, Statute of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, point 2.

Union on 1 May 2004]. The paper was presented by the President of the Board, Irena Grocholewska, in Cracow during the aforementioned V Forum Oświaty Polonijnej [the 5th Forum of Polish Education].

While analysing the sources of the success of Polish education in the United Kingdom in the environment of post-war political emigration, it was noticed that the entire Polish community of that period was convinced of the education's unique role in maintaining Polishness abroad. The attitude of teachers in uniforms, associated in APTA and full of dedication and ideology, was not forgotten as well as the support of military authorities, transformed into Polish Ex-Combatants' Association. Thanks to the enormous involvement, Polish community in Great Britain had 111 Polish Schools of Native subjects at its disposal, in which about 5,000 students were taught by about 300 teachers.

At the end of the first decade of the 21st century, the Association faced completely new challenges and problems connected with the arrival of a ten times greater wave of emigration in the British Isles. The most important issues included:

- the lack of the sufficient place in Polish Schools of Native Subjects, to provide education to all children emigrating from Poland and to stop the process of their full assimilation, forced by the lack of contact with the Polish school,
- lack of modern curricula, textbooks and educational aids,
- too few highly qualified teachers who are able to work in Polish schools of native subjects,
- the necessity to introduce certified examinations on the knowledge of the Polish language at an appropriate level,
- the development of modern teaching methods that promote bilingualism and biculturalism (every European must be aware of the history and cultural heritage of the country he or she comes from).

In the conclusion of the aforementioned paper containing the program of the APTA's activity the following words can be read:

In this new reality, in order to introduce curricula, new examinations, and new methods of information transfer, we must have professional, qualified and dutiful teachers responsible for the consciously undertaken work and its results. In order to normalize the work in emigrant education, APTA passes the necessary remarks about teachers:

1. Concluding at least two-year employment contracts in writing.
2. Introduction of a teacher's oath, modelled on the 2nd Republic of Poland.
3. Introduction of the obligation to train teachers on methodical courses and seminars in the country of residence and in Poland.
4. Restoring School Visits by School Inspectors.
5. Employing only school headmasters with full qualifications.

6. Official involvement of teachers from Poland as contract employees with full responsibility of the profession.
7. Prizes for teachers for their achievements in school work from the educational authorities of the country of residence and Poland.
8. Unification of the latest curriculum - Socrates for Polish diaspora schools.
9. Approval of permanent textbooks for at least 5 years.
10. Adherence to the APTA teacher's organization.²

The comments made were dictated by the concern for the new emigration of Poles who came to Great Britain after 2004, for whom the education organized by post-war political emigration should be attractive. As part of the tasks assigned, the Association tried to implement its own postulates regarding Polish education in Great Britain.

In the academic year 2007-2008, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad started recruitment for a training course for teachers who intended to prepare students for the exam in Polish as a foreign language. The course ended with obtaining the Certificate. The program of this course was developed by a team led by professor W. Miodunka, vice-rector of the Jagiellonian University in Cracow and aimed to improve the qualifications of teachers by introducing innovative teaching methods.

The first teachers of Polish schools of native subjects and A-Level courses in the United Kingdom were trained in Cracow, while the subsequent groups, thanks to the support provided by the "Polish Community" Association and the General Consul of the Republic of Poland in Great Britain, had the opportunity to attend trainings in London.³

The second proven form of improving teachers' qualifications were the seminars organized by the Polonia Teachers' Centre in Lublin, promoted by the Association's Board among the headmasters and teachers of schools of native subjects. On 19-25 October, a seminar entitled *Tendencje rozwojowe współczesnej polszczyzny* [Development tendencies of contemporary Polish] was held. Among the wide range of the discussed problems there were the following issues:

- media influence on the transformations in contemporary Polish,
- names of values in contemporary Polish language,
- transformations in language politeness,
- cultural stereotypes in the past and today,
- development trends of contemporary linguistics.

² The full text of Irena Grocholewska's speech at V Forum Oświaty Polonijnej w Krakowie can be found in APTA's Archive in London.

³ APTA's Archive in London, Letter of APTA vice-president, Beata Howe, to Consul General Robert Rusiecki dated 1 April 2008, regarding financing the course.

The classes were held at Lubelski Dom Kultury [the Lublin Center of Culture]. An additional attractions, planned for the participants of the seminar, included a visit to the Ministry of National Education in Warsaw, a theater performance and film screening.

Cooperation with the Ministry of National Education resulted in obtaining, through the Central Teacher Training Center in Warsaw, textbooks and didactic aids for Polish schools of native subjects in Great Britain. The Ministry has commissioned the Centre to implement the task *Wypożyczenie polonijnych ośrodków nauczania języka polskiego w podręczniki i pomoce szkolne* [Providing Polish diaspora language centers for teaching Polish with textbooks and school aids]. The condition for receiving the support from the Central Teacher Training Center was the acceptance of the order by the Consular Office. Thus, Polish schools of native subjects, applying for teaching aids through the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad had an easier task. The General Consulate of the Republic of Poland in London, regardless of personnel changes, remained in close relations with the Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad. The cooperation of the Association with the Consulate made it possible for numerous attractive educational offers from Poland to reach many Polish schools.

Another area of the Association's activity, particularly visible at the end of the first decade of the 21st century, was the concern for a reliable curriculum for students attending Polish Schools of Native Subjects. The Association's Board used every opportunity (seminars, conferences, education forums, press debates) to pay attention to this important problem. In the Board's opinion, the innovative curriculum for teaching Polish at schools of native subjects at all levels should include modules on the history of Poland, Polish literature, geography and culture, bound by teaching children love and attachment to the Homeland. In the opinion of the Vice-president of the Board, Beata Howe,

Children learn the love for their homeland, its culture and tradition, both at home and at school. This is active upbringing and teaching. Children acquire language competence, which is the first, very important element of national identity and of attachment to the mother country. Inclusion of traditional songs, poems and legends related to history in the school program creates a solid foundation for further educational work.

Traditions of church holidays are usually cultivated at home, but the school should make sure that every curriculum includes lessons about these holidays and related traditions. They are part of the tissue that connects all Poles and it often happens that by teaching these traditions, a bond of attachment to Polish community is formed by other ethnic groups or national minorities. The traditions of church holidays are associated with the spiritual wealth and emotional bond, which is the basic element in building love for the homeland.

In the program addressed to older youth, there should be a Polish point of view of facts and events. Attitudes should be strengthened by involving young

people in inter-school projects, competitions, debates, etc. Acquiring thorough knowledge of the facts and reading literary texts as a whole develop in young people a sense of accomplishment and their own nations' contribution to the development of European or world ideas. They allow to appreciate the sacrifice and persevering work of Poles for the Homeland. A young Pole equipped with reliable knowledge, a wide range of historical facts and strong patriotic feelings, will be well equipped for the future and to consolidate the good name of the homeland, act for its benefit and defend it.⁴

The aforementioned assumptions of the curriculum were to combine the experience gained by the teachers of the Association during the decades of work to preserve the Polish students' identity, with the challenges of the media dominance era and the creation of the nations' historical policy.

Since 2009, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad has been involved in promoting historical courses organized by Biuro Edukacji Publicznej Instytutu Pamięci Narodowej [the Public Education Office of the Institute of National Remembrance] as part of the Polonijne Spotkania z Historią Najnowszą [Polonia Meetings with Recent History]. The course was addressed to teachers and people teaching history and language in Polish schools and educational institutions abroad. Its program was divided into two parts. The first part took place in Warsaw, where the participants were acquainted with the activities of the Institute of National Remembrance and took part in the workshops proposed by the Public Education Office, concerning the methods of teaching the newest history. The result of these workshops was the preparation of educational materials profiled specifically for Polish schools operating outside the country. The discussed anniversaries of the outbreak of World War II and the overthrow of communism provided additional opportunities to construct an interesting subject for history lectures. In the second part of the course, field conservatory was held in various places in Poland related to the recent history.

In the opinion of the Association's Main Board, knowledge and experience gained during this type of classes allowed teachers to teach lessons in a more interesting way and positively influenced the development of their passion for history, which they could and should also inspire in students.

Another example of the Association's great activity was the participation of the Board's Vice-President, Beata Howe, in the international conference *Pol-skość poza granicami Rzeczypospolitej* [Polishness outside the Republic of Poland], which took place on 25-28 March 2010 in Olsztyn and Ostróda. The conference was organized by:

– Ministry of Education,

⁴ B. Howe, "Patriotyzm i przywiązanie do ojczyzny w nauczaniu poza granicami kraju," *Dziennik Polski*, 30 June 2009, p. 9.

- “Polish Community” Association,
- Polonia Teachers’ Center for in Lublin,
- Department of Didactics of Literature and Polish Language at the Catholic University of Lublin,
- KLANZA Association of Pedagogues and Animators.

The conference was attended by teachers and education activists involved in the promotion and preservation of Polishness abroad, from over a dozen countries of the Polish diaspora. Topics of the meeting included curricula, integration program, promotion of Polish culture abroad as well as teachers’ education and improvement.

The vice-president of the Association, Beata Howe, gave a talk *Nowe programy wyzwaniem dla szkół i nauczycieli* [New curricula as a challenge for schools and teachers], in which, like many teachers of Polish schools abroad, she critically assessed the Polish language teaching program for students abroad prepared by the Ministry of National Education. In her commentary she wrote:

It is difficult to find the value system necessary to preserve the national identity in the core curriculum. What strikes the most is the lack of the idea of patriotism as a link that connects and motivates the actions of Poles.⁵

The Association proposed that the curricula include names of writers, historians, independence activists and creators of culture who worked abroad and without whom it is impossible to present the unity of the achievements of Polish culture.

In the subsequent years of the second decade of the 21st century, the Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad continued to actively participate in educational conferences. It became involved in the organization of an international conference *Sytuacja dzieci i młodzieży polskiej w Wielkiej Brytanii po 2004 roku* [The situation of Polish children and youth in the United Kingdom after 2004], which took place on 25 February 2012 at the Polish University Abroad. The main organizers were the Federation of Poles in Great Britain and the Institute for Research on Emigration at the Polish University Abroad. The following organisations were also invited to cooperate:

- Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales,
- Polish Consulate in London,
- Middlesex University,
- Cardiff University,
- Communications with the Polish Diaspora Committee of the Sejm.

⁵ B. Howe, “Polskość poza granicami Rzeczypospolitej,” *Dziennik Polski*, 13 May 2010, p. 6.

The information which particularly excited the participants of the conference concerned the number of Polish children staying in Great Britain provided by the Consulate. According to the data at that moment, the number of Polish children significantly exceeded 200,000, and, according to estimates, it would exceed 300,000 in 2014. This forecast set a number of new tasks before the Polish community in the United Kingdom, the most important of which, according to the Board of the Association, was to devise a plan organizing the principles and conditions for the development of Polish education outside the country.

Summarising the event at the Board meeting, the President of the Board, Irena Grocholewska, who represented the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad at the conference, emphasized that:

[a]n elementary duty of the Polish state is to constantly care about every Polish child's access to learning native subjects while living outside Poland. [...] The speeches of the conference participants confirmed the fact that there is an urgent need for systematic ordering of the principles and conditions of the Polish diaspora's educational system, including the statutory status of a Polish teacher abroad and the rules of financing schools of native subjects outside the country.⁶

This topic was also included in the correspondence exchanged between the Association and the Ministry of National Education.

Participation in international conferences and symposiums devoted to Polish education abroad was an opportunity not only to promote the Association and to establish new contacts with Polish diaspora institutions, but also to help the Board acquire knowledge necessary to identify the tasks most suited to the needs of Polish students in the United Kingdom.

In addition to the constant concern for the high level of education in Polish schools of native subjects and activities undertaken to improve the qualifications of the teaching staff, the Association traditionally cared for the integration of the Polish teaching community in Great Britain. Invariably for many years, with great commitment it organized meetings on the occasion of National Education Day, the most important holiday gathering headmasters of Polish schools, teachers and supporters of the Association.

The celebration of the National Education Day organized on 26 October 2008 had a special character. The climax of the meeting was the presentation by the Polish Consul General, Robert Rusiecki, of the Pro Memoria medal, awarded to the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad by Janusz Krupski, the head of the Office for Veterans and Victims of Oppression. This medal is

⁶ APTA's Archive in London, I. Grocholewska, "Podsumowanie konferencji: Sytuacja dzieci i młodzieży polskiej w Wielkiej Brytanii po 2004 roku," a report.

awarded for outstanding services in preserving the memory of people and their deeds in the fight for Polish independence during World War II and after its end.

Thanking for this great distinction, the President of the Board, Irena Grocholewska, stated that it is a reference to the soldiers' traditions of the founders of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad. Ideas from the past inspire successive generations of Polish teachers to work and at the same time to commit to the preservation of the memory of those who shed blood for free Poland on all fronts of World War II.

Awarding the Association with such a prestigious medal showed that its broad activity is known and appreciated in Poland. Certainly, the history education cycles conducted over the years, during which lecturers – witnesses of the events – passed on to the students the knowledge about the heroic attitude of Poles during World War II, deserved recognition and respect of the independent Republic of Poland.

In the subsequent years, during the solemn celebration of the Teachers' Day, the President of the Board, Irena Grocholewska, indicated in her speeches the great importance of the teachers' work, especially that carried out voluntarily in exile, which deserved special recognition. She noted that thanks to the ideology of the independence emigration, the foundations of cultural and educational institutions were created in Great Britain, foundations which after many years serve a new wave of newcomers from Poland. She also stressed that "the most important goal of teachers gathered under the banner of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad is to protect Polishness and thus serve the Homeland."⁷

JUBILEE OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF POLISH TEACHERS ABROAD

The 70th anniversary of the of the Association's of Polish Teachers Abroad activity was celebrated on 16 October 2011 on the occasion of the National Education Day. The 33rd anniversary of the election of Cardinal Karol Wojtyła to the papal throne coincided with this beautiful event. In the speech opening the jubilee meeting, the President of the Association, Irena Grocholewska, said:

Being a teacher is an honor – an honor to carry proudly the torch of education. To live one day on a foreign land is an art for some, and we have been carrying this torch of education since 1941. The activity of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad continues. It is appreciated and visible. We will be stand guard, we will

⁷ APTA's Archive in London, I. Grocholewska, Speech for the Teachers' Day, 17 October 2010.

serve Polishness. We have a duty to convey the historical truth in the Polish Schools of Native Subjects and that is what we do. These words provoked strong emotion among the numerous teachers, parents and guests of honor who gathered on the occasion.⁸

Then, occasional congratulations sent by Polish organizations, associations and institutions operating in the country and in the United Kingdom were read. Wishes on the occasion of such a beautiful jubilee were sent, among others, by:

- Archbishop Szczepan Wesoły (Rome)
- President of the Republic of Poland, Bronisław Komorowski
- President of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences (Cracow)
- Rector of the Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales
- President of the “Polish Community” Association
- Ministry of Education
- Polish Ex-Combatants’ Association
- Federation of Poles in Great Britain
- Polish Educational Society
- Polish University Abroad.

Afterwards, teachers – members of the Association – were honored with the “Pro Memoria” medal, for outstanding services in preserving the memory of people and their deeds in the fight for Polish independence during World War II and after its end. Among the honored teachers were: Danuta Trojanowska, Ryszard Trojanowski, Janina Klauzner, Jadwiga Dee, Bolesława Oleszczuk, father Aleksander Ożóg, Stefania Wolańska, Beata Howe, Janina Bytniewska, Ryszard Jemielity, Maura and Bronisław Kutereba, Irena Godyń and Irena Grocholewska. Medals were presented by Consul of the Republic of Poland in London, Ireneusz Truszkowski.

The guest of honor of the jubilee was an outstanding Polish teacher and linguist, professor Jerzy Bralczyk from Warsaw, who gave a lecture *Sztuka komunikowania się* [The art of communication]. Bralczyk pointed to the essence and manner of speaking, as well as receiving messages and speaking and listening as a way of being with people. Both the content of the presentation and the method of communication aroused huge interest and recognition among the participants. The jubilee meeting ended with a concert performed by students from the Shepherds Bush and Stamford Hill schools and the performance of the well-known folk group “Karolinka,” founded by Maura and Bronisław Kutereba.

The program of National Education Day celebrations has always had fixed points implemented in the subsequent years. One of the points obliged by the

⁸ M. Bugaj-Martynowska, “70 lecie ZNPZG,” *Tydzień*, London 23 October 2011, p. 7.

Board to invite an honorable guest to every ceremony (e.g. in 2012 it was Archbishop Szczepean Wesoły from Rome). The second point was to organize a special lecture for Polish teachers of native subjects, which was given, among others, by:

- professor Arkady Rzegocki – *Doskonalenie zawodu nauczycielskiego* [Improvement of the teaching profession] (2013).

- Sławomir Broniarz, MA – *Dlaczego przynależność do nauczycielskich związków zawodowych jest dziś tak ważna* [Why membership in the teachers' unions is so important today] (2014).

- professor Jacek Gołębiowski – *Polska – Ojczyzna Jana Pawła II. Projekt edukacyjny* [Poland – homeland of John Paul II. Educational project] (2015).

The celebrations of National Education Day were also a great opportunity to present the highest decorations to merited teachers working with Polish youth. The Consul of Poland presented medals awarded by the Minister of National Education. In the years 2008-2016, the Medals of the Commission of National Education were presented, among others, to:

- Janina Bytniewska – headmaster and founder of the Polish School of Native Subjects in Stamford Hill, as well as the Vice-president of the Association.

- Grażyna Ross – headmaster of the Polish School of Native Subjects at Willesden Green,

- Iwona Siemaszko – headmaster of the Polish School of Native Subjects in High Wycombe.

EDUCATIONAL PROJECT “POLAND – THE HOMELAND OF JOHN PAUL II.” ASSUMPTIONS AND EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

In July 2014, the meeting of the President of the Board, Irena Grocholewska, with professor Jacek Gołębiowski, Director of the Center for Research on the Polish Diaspora and Polonia Pastoral Ministry at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin took place at the Association's headquarters. The meeting was preceded by a telephone recommendation made by a representative of KUL from the Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum.⁹

The talks focused on establishing cooperation on students' history education at Polish Schools of Native Subjects, the organization of workshops and seminars for teachers, and joint research on the Polish cultural heritage in Great Britain. During the few hours of discussion, ideological and program as-

⁹ Spotkanie umówiła mgr Jadwiga Kowalska – Zastępca Dyrektora Archiwum Instytutu Polskiego i Muzeum im. W. Sikorskiego.

assumptions of the project “Poland – the Homeland of John Paul II” were developed. Then, the President of the Board sent out information about the undertaken activities to the Polish Schools of Native Subjects in Great Britain.

In the school year 2014-2015, the first group of students intending to take part in the project was recruited and formal procedures were started. These included the permission given by the Ministry of National Education for the implementation, in the home schooling system, of the Polish school program for Polish students living in Great Britain. Those pupils, obliged to fulfill their schooling duties in the United Kingdom, assumed an additional obligation to master the core curriculum in force in the Polish education system. A very important element, mobilizing students to learn, was the possibility of obtaining a Polish certificate and receiving a Polish school ID. St. Dominik Guzman Lower- and Upper-secondary Schools in Lublin were the partners of the project, supervising the education of students, organizing the qualification exams and keeping school documentation. The schools were founded in 2006 by professors of the Catholic University of Lublin, and had excellent and very well educated teaching staff. Their location in Lublin’s Old Town was additionally a great asset for international exchanges.

Teachers of Polish Schools of Native Subjects helped students in the preparation for final examinations and in the current implementation of the Polish school program. They were a great support to the students. An important role was also played by the parents, who consciously took care not only of improving the language competences of their children, but also to maintain their ties with the Homeland and to preserve their identity. Many parents emphasized that participation in the project would allow them in the future to make a decision to re-emigrate (i.e. go back to Poland), as their children, having the certificate of a Polish school, would be able to continue their education in Polish education system without any problems.

In the school year 2014-2015, two Polish schools of native subjects, from Accrington and Londonderry, joined the pilot program, thus commencing the project’s implementation. On 8 October 2015, during the celebrations of the National Education Day at the Raspberry Hall of the Polish Social and Cultural Association in London, professor Jacek Gołębiowski gave a lecture in which he discussed in detail the assumptions of the project “Poland – the Homeland of John Paul II”. In the speech presenting the program and the idea to the teachers of Polish schools of native subjects, he stated:

The project focuses mainly on the education of Polish youth in exile, in the area of native subjects, which include Polish language, history, knowledge about contemporary Poland, religion, geography and native nature as well as the heritage of Polish culture. Its aim is to consolidate knowledge of the Polish language, history and culture. The assumed result of the project is to maintain the

sense of Polish identity and national pride by showing the greatest pages of Polish history and its cultural heritage.

In the lectures given, we discuss the most important events shaping Polish identity in the Piast or Jagiellonian period, or the time of elective kings. We show more than a century of struggles of the Polish nation to regain independence, plundered by the partition treaties. In the multimedia presentation *Droga do niepodległości Polski, jedną z najpiękniejszych kart w dziejach Europy* [The Road to Polish Independence, one of the most beautiful pages in the history of Europe], we show an extraordinary love for the homeland that our ancestors possessed. They longed for and consistently pursued freedom not only in an armed way but also in the fields of economy, culture and science.

Lectures on the recent history of Poland address the topics such as:

- the Second Republic of Poland and its social, economic and political achievements.
- Poles' defense war with the German invader in September 1939 (Westerplatte, Hel, Wizna, Kock, etc.).
- The struggle of the Polish nation with the German and Soviet occupiers.
- Polish Armed Forces in the West during World War II (Battle of Britain, 1st and 2nd Polish Corps, 1st Armored Division commanded by General Maczek, Independent Parachute Brigade commanded by General Sosabowski, efforts of intelligence, seamen, etc.).
- The fight of the Polish independence underground for a free homeland in the years 1944-1956.
- Polishness versus communism.
- The Polish Church in defense of the Polish spirit and Polish family.

A very important goal of our project is to show Polish young people living in exile, the fundamental features and the essence of Polishness against the background of other nations creating a common European heritage. Poland, the Polish nation, the Polish Kingdom, and the Republic of Poland constitute more than a thousand years of reality and the community of people, the land, the spirit, the history of culture, thought and ideas. Poland is a unique part of the world's history. It is the cradle of the body and soul that surrounds us from birth and which we co-create throughout our lives. The essence of Polishness is beauty, goodness, love of freedom and land, respect for bread, women and the elderly – all spirituality steeped in Christianity and created in the course of history.

Polishness is our common subjectivity. It is the identity of great ideas, wonderful minds, and heroic attitudes. It is a sense of pride in the past, care for the present and shaping the future. The entire history of Poland is an inexhaustible treasury of attitudes, people and heroic events that should shape contemporary generations of young Poles both in Poland and abroad.¹⁰

The project met with great interest on the part of teachers teaching at Polish Schools of Native Subjects in London. Its implementation was initiated by:

¹⁰ J. Gołębiowski, "Polska – Ojczyzna Jana Pawła II" – projekt edukacyjny, lecture given on Teachers' Day 18 October 2015 in London. APTA's Archive.

1. John Paul II School of Native Subjects – Stamford Hill.
2. Queen Jadwiga Polish Saturday School – Ilford.
3. Karol Chodkiewicz School of Native Subjects – Croydon.
4. Julian Tuwim School of Native Subjects – Harlow.

In the announcements sent to the headmasters of Polish schools of native subjects, the President of APTA's Board, Irena Grocholewska, stressed the fact that participation in the above-mentioned project will make the students of their schools appreciate more the benefits that Polish education abroad offers them in addition to expanding knowledge of Polish history and its cultural heritage.¹¹

DIAMOND JUBILEE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF POLISH TEACHERS ABROAD

In 2016, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad celebrated its diamond jubilee – 75 years of activity. The main celebrations took place on 16 October together with the Teacher's Day celebrations. In the article published on this occasion in the "Tydzień Polski" [Polish Week] one can read:

The celebrations were solemn, because it is the only teaching organization that was created and has survived for 75 years on foreign soil. The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad has undergone a difficult "emigrant's" way, carrying the torch of education with hope and faith in survival, achieving lofty educational goals set at the first organizational meeting on 6 March 1941 in Perth, in a cold but friendly Scotland. The Association celebrated its anniversary with pride and due honor, and the words on APTA's banner "I nic nad Boga" [And nothing above God] will continue to motivate and strengthen its members to continue work for the benefit of Poland and Poles abroad.¹²

In the ceremony, initiated with the Holy Mass celebrated by father Marek Reczka, the following guests took part (among others):

- Adam Rzegocki – Polish Ambassador in Great Britain,
- Adam Kwiatkowski – Minister at the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland,
- Michał Mazurek – Polish Consul in London,
- Monika Kusztełak – Polish Consulate in London,
- Anna Radecka – Director of the Center for the Development of Polish Education Abroad.

¹¹ APTA's Archive in London, I. Grocholewska, *Pismo do Dyrektorów i Nauczycieli Szkół Polskich Przedmiotów Ojczystych w Wielkiej Brytanii*, letter dated 15 August 2015.

¹² "Diamantowy Jubileusz ZNPZG," *Tydzień Polski*, 18 November 2016, s. 17.

The ceremony was also attended by a large group of teachers and headmasters of Polish schools of native subjects as well as the representatives of Polish diaspora institutions which cooperate with the Association. Special wishes, full of warm words of appreciation, were sent to the President of APTA's Board by the President of the Republic of Poland, Andrzej Duda, and Minister of National Education, Anna Zalewska.

Jadwiga Kowalska, a representative of the Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum, gave a lecture entitled *75 lat Zrzeszenia Nauczycielstwa Polskiego Za Granicą i chlubnej działalności na rzecz szkolnictwa polskiego* [75 years of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad and of glorious activities for the benefit of Polish education]. Verbal and musical performance, full of patriotic content, was prepared by the students from Helena Modrzejewska School of Native Subjects in Hanwell-Ealing.

In his speech, ambassador Arkady Rzegocki expressed admiration for the determination and persistence that have characterized the members of the Association in pursuing the goal. In his opinion, the basis of these activities consists of adopted ideals, pursued values and true love for the Homeland. Minister Adam Kwiatkowski congratulated the Association on surviving abroad in particularly unfavorable conditions, when one could not count on the support from the homeland enslaved by communism. He promised that today's Poland would always remember its compatriots abroad. Numerous presence and participation in the ceremony of the representatives of the highest state authorities of the Republic of Poland, confirmed that the Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad did the right thing, deciding on close cooperation with the Homeland for the benefit of Polish immigrants in the United Kingdom.

COOPERATION WITH POLISH DIASPORA ORGANISATIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

In the years 2008-2016, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad continued to maintain close contacts with the most important Polish organisations in Great Britain.

Name of the organisation	Cooperation
Polish Ex-Combatants' Association	Financial support for reading competitions, coorganisation of patriotic events, such as Katyn Day, Polish Soldier's Day, etc.
Federation of Poles in Great Britain	Organisation of conferences and Polish diaspora jubilee celebrations.

Polish Educational Society	Participation in celebrations and conferences for teachers of Schools of native subjects, joint application to Polish and British authorities on important school matters, including school ID cards, Polish A-Level exams, etc., participation in the celebration of 3 May (major event for the Society combined with money collection).
Polish University Abroad	Cooperation in organising conferences, seminars and lectures, and participation in inaugurations of academic year.
Polish Cultural Foundation	Participation in meetings promoting new books, meet the author evenings, etc.
Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum	Support for history education by providing original chronicles, documentaries and exhibits from the period of World War II.
Association of Polish Writers Abroad	Participation in Literary Awards ceremonies, meet the author evenings, book promotions, meetings with writers.
Institute of Polish Catholic Action	The Association participated in annual Catholic Congresses, Secular Apostolate Conferences and religious celebrations organized by the Institute ("Papal Day", meetings with Delegates of the Polish Episcopate Conference for Polish diaspora, pilgrimages to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Scapular in Aylesford, etc.)
Polish Library	Lectures of invited guests, access to its collection.
Small Forms Theatre	Spectacles for students of Polish schools of native subjects, promoting the canon of national literature.
Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales	Organisation of religious and national celebrations, particularly important to Polish community in Great Britain, e.g. Papal Day, Independence Day, etc.
Polonia Aid Foundation Trust	Financial support for the Association's statutory activity, especially that concerning teachers and students of schools of native subjects.
Fundusz 5-Kresowej Dywizji Piechoty [the 5th Infantry Division Fund]	Support for the Association's statutory activity,
Fundacja Stowarzyszenia Lotników Polskich [The Foundation of the Polish Aviators' Association]	Financial support.
Polish Scouting and Guiding Association	Collaboration and exchange of experience in educational work with young people, compliance of ideological assumptions in terms of patriotism, helping others and national identity, participation in the conventions of the

	Great Britain Division and discussion forums, conferences, rallies and festivities.
Polish Social and Cultural Association	APTA was a member and founder of this most significant Polish diaspora centre, had its headquarters in it, participated in conferences, meetings and jubilee celebrations.
Polish Women's Benevolent Association	Cooperation in documenting the activity of Polish organizations and institutions in the United Kingdom.
Polish Cultural Foundation	Cooperation in documenting the activity of Polish organizations and associations in Great Britain through PCF media – "Dziennik Polski" and "Polish Week", and mutual participation in jubilee celebrations.
Józef Piłsudski Institute in London	Popularisation of the Józef Piłsudski Institute and Museum in Sulejówek among the students of Polish schools of native subjects.
Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Fundacji Jana Pawła II w Wielkiej Brytanii [Society of Friends of the John Paul II Foundation in Great Britain]	Mutual participation in Christmas wafer meetings and jubilee celebrations as well as in the solemn celebration of the Papal Day.
Embassy of the Republic of Poland in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Participation in the celebrations organized by the Embassy on the occasion of state anniversaries, national holidays and official visits of Polish authorities in Great Britain. President I. Grocholewska was appointed by Ambassador Arkady Rzegocki a member of the Polonia Consultative Council at the Polish Ambassador in London.

Occasionally, APTA collaborated also with Polish diaspora organizations outside Great Britain. The most important organisations were:

- Towarzystwo Krzewienia Oświaty Polskiej [The Association for Preserving Polish Education] in Denmark, with the headquarters in Copenhagen.
- Institute of Polish Biography in Paris.
- Polish Teachers' Union in the USA.
- Nordic Union for Education of the Polish Community (Vanlose – Denmark).

JUBILEES OF POLISH SCHOOLS OF NATIVE SUBJECTS

Members of the Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad have always participated in the jubilees of Polish schools of native subjects in Great Britain.

In 2010, the 60th anniversary of the founding of Our Lady of Czestochowa School of Native Subjects in London was celebrated very solemnly, as well as the 50th anniversary of the founding of Maria Curie-Skłodowska School of Native Subjects in Putney. The Board of the Association participated in the ceremonies organized in the schools on this occasion, as well as in historical sessions showing the history of these schools over the years and in occasional exhibitions. In 2013, one of the oldest Polish schools of native subjects in the United Kingdom, the Polish Saturday School in Edinburgh, celebrated its 65th anniversary. Its activity was initiated by training courses in native subjects, organized in 1948 by Polish Ex-Combatants' Association and the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad in a school dormitory for Polish boys. Teachers, school graduates, Polish consular authorities, veterans and representatives of the city authorities of Edinburgh took part in the jubilee celebrations.

In the following year, the 75th anniversary was celebrated by Maria Konopnicka Polish Saturday School in Willesden Green (London). The Jubilee celebrations were attended by the President of the Association's Board, Irena Grocholewska, who has been cooperating with this school for many years. The Jubilee was inaugurated by the Holy Mass celebrated in the church of St. Francis of Assisi at Cullingworth Street, followed by the opening of the jubilee exhibition and the 60th Anniversary Ceremony at Queens Park Community College. The guest of honor of this beautiful jubilee was Joanna Modrzejewska, a great-granddaughter of Maria Konopnicka.

The second school, which in the same year celebrated its 60th anniversary, was Mikołaj Rej Polish Saturday School in Chiswick, a district of London inhabited by Poles. Jubilee celebrations were scheduled for 18 and 25 May. An occasional exhibition accompanied them, and among the numerous gathered guests there were teachers who built the school's foundations in the difficult period of the 1950s and the 1960s. A performance of national dances in costumes from the era prepared by students of the school was a great attraction.

President of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, Irena Grocholewska, took part not only in the jubilee celebrations, but also in the inauguration of the school year in the newly established schools (Janusz Korczak Polish Saturday School in Wembley, School of Native Subjects in Morden), concerts organized by schools on the occasion of the 1050th anniversary of the Baptism of Poland (gen. S. Sosabowski School Native Subjects in Southampton) and in recitation competitions (e.g. "Tumowisko" at the School of Native Subjects in Harlow).

Close cooperation and constant contact with Polish schools of native subjects resulted in the admission of new members to the APTA, both from schools with long tradition (Croydon, Putney, Ilford) and newly established ones (Stamford Hill, Harlow, Wembley, High Wycombe).

READING COMPETITIONS OF AND OTHER FORMS
OF PRESENTING SKILLS FOR STUDENTS
OF SCHOOLS OF NATIVE SUBJECTS

The priority statutory task of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, carried out with great commitment from the beginning of its activity, was the concern for the mother tongue, which was considered the main tool of access to Poland's cultural heritage.

One of the forms of the task's implementation was Reading Competition organized annually in spring at the Polish Social and Cultural Association in London. The Board of the Association wanted thus to encourage students from Polish schools of native subjects and A-Level Courses to learn about the most beautiful works of Polish poetry and prose, written by national and émigré writers. The Board also underlined the fact that reading develops imagination, stimulates sensitivity, and provides a lot of experiences, while participation in the competition helps in shaping presentation skills.

In 2008, the Board of the Association organised a competition entitled *Przyroda i zwierzęta w książkach Wiesława A. Lasockiego* [Nature and animals in the books of Wiesław A. Lasocki]. From among many attractive titles, the most popular ones were chosen for the competition: *Wojtek spod Monte Cassino: opowieść o niezwykłym niedźwiedziu*, *Kajakiem przez ziemie wschodnie Rzeczypospolitej*, *Lubek herbu Obrączka* and *O koniu bojowym. Z zapisków kawalerzysty*.

The competition was very popular. It was attended by students from Polish schools of native subjects in Balham, Chiswick, Croydon, Devon, Ealing, Fulham, Forest Gate, Lewisham, Putney, Shepherdshush and Willesden Green, and from A-Level courses. Announcing the results, the jury said that Polish children born in Great Britain presented themselves during the competition as well as the students who had just arrived from Poland.¹³

In 2009, the theme of the competition organised by APTA was *Polscy lotnicy dumą narodu polskiego – na podstawie antologii poezji i prozy lotniczej, pod redakcją znakomitych autorów – Pawła Moskwy, Alicji Kalinieckiej, Stanisława Mioduchowskiego i Mieczysława Sawickiego* [Polish airmen are pride of the Polish nation – based on the anthology of poetry and air prose, edited by eminent authors – Paweł Moskwa, Alicja Kaliniecka, Stanisław Mioduchowski and Mieczysław Sawicki].

In this way, the Board of the Association wanted to draw the attention of young people to the heroic deeds of Polish aviation in the defensive battles with the German invaders during World War II. The selected topic aimed not

¹³ J. Koźmiński, "Konkurs czytania 2008," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 24 April 2008, p. 7.

only at improving language skills of the students, but also at expanding their knowledge of Polish literature and history.

Reading the poetry and prose about aviation, the contestants had the opportunity to learn the details of the sky-high combat and sources of heroic attitudes of our pilots: from upbringing at home and school, to specialized training.

The topic aroused great interest among the students and teachers of Polish schools of native subject. Over 300 people gathered in the Raspberry Hall of Polish Social and Cultural Association.

The founder of the awards was the The Foundation of the Polish Aviators' Association in London. The awards were presented personally by Colonel Eugeniusz Borysiuk, the Foundation's Chairman.¹⁴

The success of the 2009 competition meant that in 2010 it was also decided on a historical topic – *Polscy Harcerze w służbie Ojczyźnie* [Polish Scouts in the service of the Homeland]. The choice was also justified by the 100th anniversary of the founding of Polish scouts by Andrzej and Olga Małkowski, celebrated that year. Explaining the choice of the subject, President Irena Grocholewska emphasised that

Małkowsky devoted their whole life to a beautiful idea for the youth – to civic upbringing, helping the neighbor and serving the homeland. These were their goals, which they achieved by bringing up several fulfilled generations for righteous citizens and Polish patriots.¹⁵

The combination of reading competition with the celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the formation of the scouts echoed widely in the Polish media. The competition jury consisted of:

- Polish Consul – Jakub Zaborowski,
 - Chairwoman of Polish Scouting and Guiding Association (ZHP) Abroad – scoutmaster Teresa Ciecierska,
 - Chairman of the Board of the ZHP District United Kingdom – Wacław Mańkowski,
 - Foreign Commissioner ZHP – Teresa Szadkowska-Łakomy,
 - Representative of the ZHP District United Kingdom – Ryszard Trojanowski,
- and it was impressive to see them in scout uniforms (apart from the Polish Consul), which created a sublime atmosphere in the Raspberry Hall of Polish Social and Cultural Association beautifully decorated with national and scouting symbols.

¹⁴ APTA's Archive in London, Report on Reading Competition 2009.

¹⁵ "Konkurs czytania z gratulacjami na 100-lecie harcerstwa," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 31 May 2010, p. 7.

Polish schools of native subjects in Balham, Brockley – Lewisham, Croydon, Forest Gate, Putney, Stretham, Shepherds Bush, Willesden Green and Brighton registered for the competition. During the competition, scout poems and ballads were read as well as the prose about the history of “Szare Szeregi” (Grey Ranks).¹⁶ The Polish Scouting Association of the District Great Britain was the founder of valuable prizes.

In subsequent years, the organisation of reading competitions was successfully continued and the competition did not lose its attractiveness. In 2011, the Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad organised a competition entitled *Chopin w poezji polskiej* [Chopin in Polish poetry], in which 115 pupils from 9 schools of native subjects took part. Students read, among others, the works by Maria Konopnicka, Cyprian Kamil Norwid, Kazimierz Wierzyński and Kazimierz Przerwa-Tetmajer. In her letter encouraging to participate in the competition, the President of the Association, Irena Grocholewska, wrote:

The Grand Chopin is our national pride: by birth from Warsaw, with the heart of the Pole, and the talent of a citizen of the world. Chopin is ours and the whole world admires him, and our Polish children must know, remember and, through Chopin’s music, love their homeland as he did. By acquainting our students with the poetry about Chopin and for Chopin, we will extend the knowledge of this outstanding pianist and composer, as well as strengthen our national pride and consolidate our roots.¹⁷

The patron of the competition organized on the 200th anniversary of Fryderyk Chopin’s birth was Prince Jan Żeliński, the founder of the awards, and his wife.

In 2012, the Board of the Association again proposed reading texts from the rich legacy of Adam Mickiewicz. Students from 10 London schools, depending on the age group, read texts from fairy tales to fragments of *Pan Tadeusz*. Encouraging students to stay in touch with beautiful literature, Monika Panasiuk, Polish Consul and a member of the jury, said: “Reading is the ability to express feelings and paint pictures using words, intonation and punctuation.”¹⁸

The next reading competition took place on 17 March 2013, under the slogan *Wielki patron praw dziecka – Janusz Korczak* [the Great Patron of Chil-

¹⁶ “Szare Szeregi” is the code-name of the Polish Scouting and Guiding Association during the German and Soviet occupation during World War II. Numbers for 1944 – 8359 members. Scouting youth took part in many subversive and sabotage actions during World War II. They became famous for their heroism during the Warsaw Uprising.

¹⁷ APTA’s Archive in London, Letter from APTA President to the headmasters of Polish schools regarding reading competition 2011, London 15 March 2011.

¹⁸ M. Bugaj-Martynowska, “38 Konkurs Czytania rozstrzygnięty,” *Tydzień*, 1 April 2012, p. 6.

dren's Rights – Janusz Korczak]. The Board of the Association wanted to honour the memory of a man who was an outstanding teacher fighting for the dignity of children, protecting them from evil, harm and poverty. Korczak was both their teacher and a great friend, as well as a model of goodness and nobility.

The founder of the awards and the guest of honor, also sitting in the jury, was Lili Pohlmann who as a child she met Janusz Korczak in pre-war Cracow. She said to the students present in the hall:

I am touched that Polish children away from Poland, here in England, read the books of doctor Korczak, I bow my head to the teachers and to these children [...] I think Dr. Korczak is looking down on us today and is thanking you for your memory of him and for reading his books, which he wrote with such love for you. I congratulate the teaching staff for instilling his ideals and messages in school youth, and I congratulate you, dear young people, for reading his books, because no Internet, but the book is the most faithful, the best friend.¹⁹

In 2014, the Board of the Polish Teacher Abroad Association, while choosing the subject of the competition, returned to the classics of children's and youth literature, offering participants the work of Kornel Makuszyński. Justifying the choice, the APTA's President stated that Kornel Makuszyński is an unforgettable author of books for children and young people, full of humor and joyful experiences, containing moral values like goodness, respect, honesty and many other positive human traits.²⁰ 10 schools of native subjects took part in the competition. The jury consisted of:

- Jolanta Srebrakowska – Consul of the Republic of Poland in London
- Barbara Orłowska – Member of the Board of the Polish Ex-Combatants' Association's Foundation
- Paweł Mes – sponsor and founder of book awards
- Wojciech Piekarski – Polish diaspora actor
- Artur Rynkiewicz – vice-president of Polish Social and Cultural Association.

Reading the selected fragments of Makuszyński's work, participants of the competition learned, entertained and educated, because each piece, apart from excellent humor, contained examples of attitudes full of goodness, help to one's neighbor, honesty and true friendship.

The Sejm of the Republic of Poland established 2015 the Year of Saint John Paul II, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of his death and the first anniversary of canonization. With a sense of duty and deep respect for the "Great Man, Teacher of the Polish Nation and the Nations of the World – John

¹⁹ "Konkurs czytania – kształci, uzupełnia wiedzę i zachęca," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 2 May 2013, p. 9.

²⁰ "Konkurs Czytania 2014," *Dziennik Polski*, 9 May 2014, p. 14.

Paul II,” the Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad decided to preserve his life and work by organizing the Reading Competition under the slogan *Życie i poezje świętego Jana Pawła II* [Life and poetry of Saint John Paul II].²¹ To justify the election, the President of the Association stressed that the intention of the Board was to bring Polish poetry to the Polish students, so that the wisdom contained in the poetry would be a guideline in their further lives.

The competition took place on 27 April 2015 in the Raspberry Hall at Polish Social and Cultural Association. Ten schools of native subjects took part in it, including two from outside London (Harlow and High Wycombe). The patron of the competition and the founder of the awards was the Consulate General at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Great Britain. The Jury consisted of:

- Renata Wasilewska-Mazur – Consul of the Republic of Poland
- father Marek Gałuszka – catechist of Warsaw schools, Court Auditor at the Polish Catholic Mission
- Ewa Szymańska – President of the John Paul II Foundation in Great Britain
- Artur Rynkiewicz – vice president of Polish Social and Cultural Association
- Paula Jadwiga Wojtacka – publicist.

Uniquely, the competition had an artistic setting prepared by the students of the John Paul II School of native subjects in Stamford Hill, who presented the favorite songs of John Paul II with the accompaniment of the piano and violin. The children performed in highlanders’ attire, which added a unique charm to their concert.

In her speech at the end of the competition, Consul of the Republic of Poland expressed her appreciation for the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad for a constant concern for mother tongue in exile and encouraging students to read valuable books and constantly interact with the beauty of Polish literature. A representative of the Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales, father Gałuszka, in turn, thanked the teachers and parents for maintaining Polishness and wisely raising children in the spirit of the most beautiful values of Polish culture.²²

In 2016, the Board of the Association, choosing the theme of the reading contest, once again took into account the decision of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, which announced that year “The Year of Henryk Sienkiewicz.” Thanks to this decision, young people could get to know the rich literary

²¹ APTA’s Archive in London, Quote from the instructions for Headmasters and teachers of Polish Schools of Native Subjects dated 5 January 2015.

²² “Konkurs czytania w hołdzie świętemu Janowi Pawłowi II,” *Dziennik Polski*, 16 April 2015, p. 17.

output of the Polish Nobel prize winner which possesses special educational values.

The competition was attended by over 100 students from 9 schools of native subjects from Balham, Croydon, Devon, Forest Gate, Harlow, High Wycombe, Putney, Stamford Hill and Willsden Green.

The founder and patron of the competition was the Polish Embassy and the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in London, which raised the importance of the event and was a proof of recognition for the educational work of the Association.

“POLONIADA 2008”

In 2008, the Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad once again served as the coordinator of the “Poloniada” in Great Britain. The Association organised the qualifications at the Polish Embassy in London to the finals at the Polonia House in Warsaw. This time youth from thirteen countries: Belgium, Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Greece, Canada, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Tunisia, Ukraine and Great Britain, participated in the competition qualifications. The qualifications consisted of 3 parts:

1. Defense of the paper - competition work before the Jury.
2. Answering test questions in the field of elementary knowledge about the culture and history of Poland.
3. Reciting a poem, epigram or anecdotes on any topic.

The President of APTA, Irena Grocholewska, was a member of the jury of “Poloniada 2008”, which was a proof that the popularity of the Association in the Polish community in the country is still growing. In the report on the final of “Poloniada 2008”, published in *Dziennik Polski* [Polish Daily], the President of the Association emphasized that this competition is a great way to encourage young people to extend their knowledge of great, merited and eminent compatriots. In addition, it broadens knowledge about Polish history and culture, strengthens ties with the country of ancestors and strengthens the sense of national pride.²³

APTA was also involved in promoting, among Polish students and teachers of Polish schools of native subjects, the Maria Konopnicka National Poetry Festival, held every August in Przedbórze. It is worth mentioning the 2008 edition of the Festival, which, due to the 100th anniversary of the *Rota* creation, had an exceptionally solemn setting and gathered over 400 participants, who came from different parts of the world, recited and sang songs of the

²³ I. Grocholewska, “Poloniada,” *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 27 August 2008, p. 7.

well-known poetess. The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad also continued the tradition of organising a book fair twice a year at the Polish Social and Cultural Association in London. The book fair enjoyed great interest. Buyers often had the opportunity to purchase the rare books among the emigrant publications, donated to this noble goal by private persons or institutions. Among the real treasures there were such unique items as the classic of Polish literature published in Jerusalem in 1943, encyclopedias published in the inter-war period, albums about the culture of the "Borderlands of the Republic" and publications related to the printing house of the Second Polish Army Corps.

With the funds raised at fairs the association intended to finance the current statutory activity, the representatives' trips to international conferences, and to support valuable initiatives, for example:

- Renovation of the St. Andrzej Bobola's church,
- Monument of November Insurgents in Portsmouth,
- Support for the construction of the Monument of the Polish Armed Forces in the Arboretum,
- Donations to the Basilica in Licheń,
- Museum of the Warsaw Uprising.

In 2010, APTA joined the celebrations of 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Independent Self-Governing Trade Union "Solidarity" – one of the most important events in the recent history of Poland. The Board encouraged students of Polish schools of native subjects to take part in the competition "Wspomnienie Solidarności w mojej rodzinie" [The Reminiscence of Solidarity in my family]. The competition work should have been done in one of the following forms:

- short story,
- report from an important event regarding the history of Solidarity,
- an interview with a witness of history,
- multimedia presentation,
- recording of a documentary film.

The competition was organized by:

- "Polish Community" Association,
- European Union of Polish Diaspora Communities,
- "Świat na tak" Foundation.

The patronage over the competition was taken by presidents Ryszard Kaczorowski and Lech Wałęsa. In 2011 – the year of Poland's presidency in the European Union – the Foundation "Polish Education Abroad" organized a competition "Mam talent – prowadzę lekcje o Polsce" [I have talent – I teach lessons about Poland], aimed at promoting our country. The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad promoted it among the students of Polish schools of native subjects in Great Britain.

The competition task consisted of preparing, under the teacher's supervision, a presentation about Poland – its history, culture, language, economy and pace of development, in Polish and in the language of the country of residence. Then the presentation would be presented both in schools of a given country and in Polish schools. The competition involved 300 Polish schools abroad, including over 100 in Great Britain.

In 2014-2016, the Board of the Association also promoted the annual poetry contest “Tuwimowisko,” initiated by the Headmaster of the Julian Tuwim Polish Saturday School, Iwona Schulz-Nalepka. The competition was addressed to all students of schools of native subjects, from the youngest primary school classes to the oldest lower-secondary school classes. Youth recited poems of Julian Tuwim, the patron of the school in Harlow. The aim of the competition was to train students' language skills by learning by heart the most beautiful works of an outstanding poet and writer of children's literature.

COOPERATION WITH POLAND

Since the mid-1990s, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad has established close cooperation with institutions, universities and Polish diaspora organizations in the country. Together with them, APTA carried out educational tasks addressed both to students and to teachers. The most important partners were:

1. The Senate of the Republic of Poland.
2. The Sejm of the Republic of Poland - Commission for Communications with Poles Abroad.
3. “Polish Community” Association, together with its regional branches in the country.
4. Ministry of National Education.
5. Polonia Teachers' Center in Lublin.
6. The Young Polonia Foundation in Warsaw.
7. The Summer School of Polish Language and Culture of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin.
8. T. Goniewicz Aid to Polish Schools in the East Foundation
9. University of Warsaw.
10. Polonia University in Częstochowa.
11. Center for the Education of the Polish Diaspora at Maria Curie Skłodowska University in Lublin.
12. Jagiellonian University.

Over time, the following entities have been invited to cooperate:

1. Institute of National Remembrance.

2. Center for Research on the Polish Diaspora and Polonia Pastoral Ministry at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin.

3. "Semper Polonia" Foundation.

4. Foundation "Polish Education Abroad."

On 19-23 September 2008, the Podlasie Branch of the "Polish Community" Association in Białystok organized the 6th Forum of Polish Education under the slogan *Polskość – Tożsamość – Współczesność* [Polishness – Identity – Present]. The APTA's Board was invited to participate in the forum and its discussion panels. The organizers stressed in the invitation that the presence of organizations from Great Britain, especially ones with such a great experience of educational work in a multicultural environment, is particularly valuable and expected.

The Warsaw branch of the "Polish Community" Association, in turn, invited the President of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad to the Charitable Evenings organized at the Polish Theater. The purpose of these events, combined with the concerts of Polish diaspora groups from Vilnius, was to collect funds to help the parish of St. Antoni of Padua in Korc, Ukraine.

Personal participation of the APTA Board members in all ceremonies and conferences organized in the country was not possible, but in the case of important fund-raising, the Management always sent a special letter, attaching checks with funds allocated for support.

In 2006, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad established the John Paul II Polish School as a Consultation Point at the Consulate of the Republic of Poland in London. From that moment, the Association's Board also received invitations to the Meetings of John Paul II Polish Schools and Polish Diaspora schools, organized by the Łódź branch of the "Polish Community" Association.

The Association deemed the Congresses of Polish Scientific Associations Abroad organised in Cracow as particularly important. They were organised by Polska Akademia Umiejętności [Polish Academy of Learning] and the Cracow branch of the "Polish Community" Association, and concerned the broadly understood Polish diaspora education. On 7-11 September 2011, the third edition of the Congress took place, entitled *Młodzież polska na obczyźnie – zadania edukacyjne* [Polish youth in exile – educational tasks]. Representatives of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad actively participated in the work of the congress and its panel discussions. Knowledge and experience gained during Cracow meetings influenced the new directions of the Association's activities. The President of the Board, Irena Grocholewska, belonged to the group of signatories of the Third Congress Declaration – *Młodzież polska na obczyźnie – zadania edukacyjne* [Polish Youth in Exile – Educational

Tasks] – a document adopted at Congress's conclusion, which was the quintessence of problems raised during the five-day meeting. Due to the Declaration's great importance in shaping the concept of the development of Polish education abroad, it will be quoted in its entirety (original wording and spelling):

Those gathered at the Third Congress of Polish Scientific Associations Abroad declare the following:

Many millions of Poles and people of Polish origin live and work abroad. The young generation moves away from the country of origin, its language and tradition. This may be counteracted by a system of coherent education that will **introduce youth to the richness of Polish culture, help build self-esteem and make young people open to the world. Polishness should be an opportunity and an asset in a changing world.**

The most important task of the authorities of the Third Republic in this area is to provide significant assistance to the existing and new institutions of Polish education. This should be done **while maintaining various forms of education and autonomy of schools, in the spirit of respect for the rich tradition of the Polish community education.** The main direction of supporting Polish education abroad should be defined as: sustaining and developing the knowledge of Polish language and culture, which are the material in the process of constructing a multicultural identity, open both to the country of origin and the country of settlement.

The means to achieve the above goal are:

1. Continuation of work on building a coherent education system for Polish children abroad;
2. Guaranteeing increased financial outlays for Polish education outside the country and the introduction of a separate item to the state budget;
3. Continuation of the existing forms of supporting the Polish-language education abroad and Polish language teaching institutions in the educational systems of the countries of residence, as well as developing intergovernmental cooperation in this matter;
4. Preparation and implementation of research projects on the state of Polish education outside the country;
5. Further work on modern curricula, use of the latest audiovisual and Internet techniques. Emphasis on the development of education and improvement on-line;
6. Providing teacher education for Polish schools abroad by means of specialized undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate studies at domestic and foreign universities. Further professional development of teachers through courses and workshops organized in Poland and abroad;
7. Adapting to the needs of the young generation of the TVP Polonia's program and radio programs addressed to Polonia and Poles abroad, as well as providing free access to them;

8. Continuing the program of the summer school of leaders, educating future animators of the Polish diaspora youth in the country of settlement;

9. Making parents aware of the need to maintain children's knowledge of Polish and native subjects and to join the educational process;

10. Stimulating interests and supporting the development of professional careers of young Poles in the countries and environments of their residence.

From the perspective of a free and democratic state, supporting education for Polish children in exile will require the mobilization of significant financial resources. This should be treated as an investment in human capital.²⁴

The declaration summarized the demands made by Polish diaspora institutions, associations and educational organizations from around the world. Its most important points, regarding the creation of a coherent educational system, teacher education, updating the core curriculum and creating new schools, were the main subject of the activities of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad since its beginning. This undeniable fact allows to put forward the thesis that APTA is a very important institution with a huge impact on the final shape of Polish education abroad.

As a result of APTA Board's participation in conferences and conferences organized in Poland on Polish diaspora education, APTA had a direct contact and kept an ongoing correspondence with the representatives of the Ministry of National Education.

The Association's Board paid special attention to the problems related to the introduction of the new core curriculum, as well as the reorganization of schools at embassies and consulates. According to the president, Irena Grocholewska, the Ministry of National Education should abolish the privileges granted to schools at the embassies which given to them by the communist authorities. The Ministry should not divide Polish diaspora education into public and non-public, i.e. free and paid, with certificates honored and not honored, as it introduces chaos among the parents and contradicts the constitutional principle of equality.²⁵

The Association also called for the protection of students who came to Great Britain after 2004 with a huge wave of emigrants. It appealed to the ministry to find solutions which would enable students to maintain contact with the Polish education system through schools of native subjects. In the letters addressed to the Minister of National Education, there were also strong statements supported by strong arguments. In a letter dated 9 March 2009, ad-

²⁴ APTA's Archive in London, Declaration of III Kongres Towarzystw Naukowych na Obczyźnie *Młodzież polska na obczyźnie-zadania edukacyjne*, Polska Akademia Umiejętności, Kraków, 7-11 September 2011.

²⁵ APTA's Archive in London, Letter of APTA president to the Undersecretary in the Ministry of National Education dated 28 July 2011.

dressed to Minister Katarzyna Hall, the President of the Association, Irena Grocholewska, wrote:

It is important and understandable that times, needs and people have changed, as well as teaching and education methods in the whole world and in our country, and also in exile, where millions of Poles have come for “bread” because they have been deprived of work in the Homeland, what can be heard and seen by the whole world. These are not vacation leaves, but heavy, often humiliating work, with a view to return to the homeland, which they miss.

In these difficult conditions, they do not forget and want their children to learn Polish in foreign countries and not to denationalise, but to remain Poles. As a teaching organization, we live on this subject, we have our observations and we analyze all the activities of the Ministry of National Education. We often have completely different views on the organization of education. We are amazed, instead, by the favor and help of the State, by stiff, dry, soulless articles and orders of officials who completely do not get into the existing, very difficult reality of those Poles who left the country “for bread.” There is no interest in them.

I would like to remind you that over two million Poles who came to the United Kingdom send their funds to Poland, help families, relieve the state of care for the citizen, and fuel the economy of the country with their financial contribution. In return, the state should fulfill its duties, and the government should carry out the tasks to which it was appointed – to serve its citizens, no matter where they live, and their homeland – take care of the new generation, provide them with a place and appropriate conditions at schools after they return to the country, remembering that their trip was a great renunciation and separation from the family.²⁶

Thanks to its determination, the Association contributed to the introduction of solutions used by Polish students living temporarily abroad.

Polish institutions and organizations were interested in the activities of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, appreciated and supported it. For example, in the autumn of 2010, the Semper Polonia Foundation from Warsaw provided the Association with a laptop, a printer and a projector – tools necessary to conduct ongoing activities. Funds allocated for their purchase came from the resources of the Senate of the Republic of Poland for tasks supporting Polish diaspora organizations. This is the proof that the activities of APTA to preserve Polishness and develop Polish schools abroad were appreciated.²⁷

In turn, in 2011, APTA received school readings for the John Paul II School of Native Subjects, founded by the Board. The books were donated through the “Polish Education Abroad” Foundation in Warsaw.

²⁶ APTA’s Archive in London, Letter of APTA president to Minister of National Education Katarzyna Hall dated 9 March 2009.

²⁷ APTA’s Archive in London, Foundation “Semper Polonia,” Protokół przekazania nr 20/Ex/2010.

The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad was still in close contact with the T. Goniewicz Aid to Polish Schools in the East Foundation. It regularly distributed the quarterly "Rota" and supported the edition of the magazine "Echa Polesia". The President of the Foundation, Józef Adamski, exchanged views with the Association's Board regarding the activities of the state authorities in Poland in the matter of educational policy, especially that concerning the support of Polish education abroad. Often these were critical remarks, as both organizations saw the government's untapped opportunities and omissions that really affected the preservation of Polish national identity among the Poles abroad.

In 2014, the President of the Association, Irena Grocholewska, returned to the former idea of cooperation with the Polish Teachers' Union in Warsaw. The first attempt was made immediately after the Second World War. The Association's authorities wanted to support the reconstruction of education in post-war Poland, but its sovietization and the loss of independence made that contact impossible.

The return to the old idea was caused not only by the regaining of independence by Poland and the change of its system, but also by the huge wave of emigration of young Poles to the British Isles. The APTA Board was convinced that cooperation between the two teachers' organizations, would help solve the key problem of Polish education in Great Britain, which appeared with the influx of new emigration. It concerned the lack of qualified teaching staff, with the constantly increasing number of Polish students of schools of native subjects. In an attempt to cooperate, the Association's Board invited the President of the Polish Teachers' Union, Sławomir Broniarz, to the celebrations of the National Education Day traditionally organised at Polish Social and Cultural Association in October 2014. This gave the President of the Union a unique opportunity to establish cooperation, however, no concrete arrangements or actions were taken.

Co-operation with the Catholic University of Lublin was completely different. Conversations of President of the Board, Irena Grocholewska with the Director of the Center for Research on the Polish Diaspora and Polonia Pastoral Ministry at Catholic University of Lublin, Jacek Gołębiowski, ended with specific arrangements. An extremely intense cooperation concerned the participation of KUL in the education of teachers and students of schools of native subjects, as well as securing the most valuable archival collections concerning Polish education in Great Britain and organizing scientific conferences.

As part of this cooperation, on 16 April 2016, at the White Eagle Club in Balham, a conference *Polacy w kulturze Wielkiej Brytanii* [Poles in the culture of Great Britain] was organized, during which a number of aspects of the functioning of the Polish community in the UK was discussed.

The project “Poland – the Homeland of John Paul II,” which started in 2014 (its assumptions and objectives are presented in the first subsection), was also continued. As part of the project, dozens of lectures on Polish history, Polish language, geography, native nature, art history and religion were delivered. Permanent participants of these lectures were students from Polish schools of native subjects in Accrington, Londoderry, Harlow, Croydon, Stamford Hill, Forest Gate Ilford. Occasionally, school in Balham, Putney, Wembley and Dublin also benefited from the project lectures.

For a large part of the proposed activities, students taking part in the project came to Lublin - to St. Dominik Guzman Lower- and Upper-secondary Schools, where they participated in the lessons prepared for them. During their stay, together with students of these schools, they also got to know the city, its beautiful Old Town, monuments, universities, took part in theater performances, workshops and recreational activities such as: trips (Zamość, Warsaw, Krakow, Dęblin – Museum of Polish Air Force, etc.), kayaks, aqua-park, etc. The offer was also used by teachers and students from Polish schools in Kamieniec Podolski, Gródek and Vinnica (Ukraine).

The implementation of this large-scale undertaking was possible thanks to the involvement of many people from the Catholic University of Lublin, the Lublin Branch of “Polish Community” Association, Pedagogical University in Cracow, St. Dominik Guzman Lower- and Upper-secondary Schools in Lublin, and teachers – members of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad in Great Britain and headmasters of Polish schools of native subjects included in the project. Lectures for students were given by:

1. professor Jacek Gołębiowski (KUL) – history
2. professor Barbara Obtulowicz (Pedagogical University in Cracow) – history of art
3. dr Paweł Sieradzki (KUL) – history
4. dr Witalij Rosowski (KUL) – history
5. dr Dariusz Śladecki (“Polish Community” Association”) – history of art and teachers of St. Dominik Guzman Lower- and Upper-secondary Schools in Lublin:
6. Łukasz Czuba – 3D printer
7. dr Agata Gniecka-Caban – IT technologies, linguistics
8. dr Ewa Iwaszko – physics
9. Piotr Kalwiński – Polish language
10. Paweł Kotuła – geography
11. father Mirosław Matuszny – religion
12. Henryk Polak – music
13. Iwona Rodak – Polish language

14. mgr Robert Sędziewski (headmaster) – economy and natural environment of Poland

15. Sylwester Śmiech – history, knowledge about society

16. dr Fabian Tryl – history, knowledge about society

17. Sylwia Wieczorek – chemistry

18. Beata Zacharzewska – nature.

The project documentation and its administration were supervised by:

1. Dorota Gołębiowska – President of the Board of „Prosperidad” Sp. z o.o. – the school’s governing body

2. Marta Kamińska – deputy headmaster

3. Ewa Sokołowska – deputy headmaster.

The students participating in the project also had the opportunity to improve their competences through the e-learning platform, which was run by Agata Poręba (Polish language), Dr. Fabian Tryl (history), Ewa Sokołowska (nature), father Mirosław Matuszny (religion) and its administrator, Marek Niczyporuk.

Thanks to the implementation of the project “Poland – the Homeland of John Paul II”, several hundred students of Polish schools of native subjects from Great Britain participated in regular lectures on Polish history, art history, Polish language, etc. Many of them completed the program of the Polish lower or upper-secondary school with obtaining a certificate. A very important part of the project consisted of educational trips around Poland, during which young people learned about the beautiful monuments of Krakow, Lublin and Warsaw. They visited Wawel Castle and in the Warsaw Uprising Museum, and touched the monuments of their country’s history. This lively contact with the Homeland and with its cultural heritage, allowed them not only to touch but also to taste Poland.

The project, through its attractiveness, also encouraged young people in exile to study in Polish schools of native subjects. According to the Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, it was a particularly important instrument promoting the biculturalism in the Polish community in the United Kingdom.

The cooperation of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad with the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin has been noticed and appreciated by the Lublin scientific community. On 15 November 2016, by the unanimous decision of the Council of the Chapter of the Polonia Prize the Franciszek and Irena Skowrya Polonia Prize was granted to the President of the Association’s Board, Irena Grocholewska. The award is granted annually to people who in the many years of activity have distinguished themselves in the field of Polonia research on history, culture studies, philosophy, or theology, or through

their involvement in the development of national culture, the fight for Poland's freedom and independence, social justice and human rights.

The award ceremony, in the presence of the General Consul of the Republic of Poland Krzysztof Grzelaczyk, took place in London on 22 January 2017, during the Christmas wafer meeting of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad. The awarding of this distinction to President Irena Grocholewska was widely publicized in the Polish diaspora press in Great Britain and in Poland.

ORGANISATION OF PATRIOTIC EVENTS AND HISTORY EDUCATION

The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad was still very actively involved in the organisation of patriotic and religious celebrations.

In 2008, the year of the 90th anniversary of regaining independence by Poland, the Association, responding to the appeal of the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, Barbara Tuge-Erecińska, encouraged the Polish community in Great Britain to take part in the ceremonious celebrations. They took place on 8 November at the Westminster Cathedral, where during the Holy Mass, God was thanked for the gift of independence and the military and civil efforts of six generations of Poles struggling for the freedom of their homeland were mentioned. After the Eucharist, an independence march led by the Orchestra of the Polish Navy set off from the Westminster Cathedral. It arrived at Trafalgar Square, where the independence rally took place, during which patriotic songs were sung with the support of choirs and orchestra. Passers-by were handed in leaflets with a short history of Poland, specially prepared for this occasion.²⁸

In the appeal addressed to young people, teachers and parents, the Association pointed out that such an organized manifestation of Polishness is a testimony to our identity and national pride. In order to consolidate knowledge about this particularly important event, APTA organized a historical contest in schools entitled *11 listopada – Święto Niepodległości w 90-tą rocznicę odzyskania niepodległości* [November 11 – Independence Day on the 90th anniversary of regaining independence]. The competition questions concerned not only the independence effort, national uprisings and outstanding Polish patriots, but also recalled the most powerful Polish rulers from the time of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

²⁸ "W 90 rocznicę odzyskania niepodległości Polski," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 7 November 2008. p. 7.

The Association did not forget about the Katyn Day – Katyn Memorial celebration, organized each year in April at the Katyn Memorial in Gunnersbury Park. It made sure that young people from Polish schools of native subjects took part in these important ceremonies.

Apart from celebrating historical anniversaries, APTA also celebrated jubilees related to the life and activity of eminent Poles in the country and abroad. A representative example of such activity was the solemn celebration of the 40th anniversary of the death of the eminent Polish poet, Kazimierz Wierzyński. The Association's Board organized "Wierzyński's Evening of Poetry", and the Vice-President of the Association, Beata Howe, in an extensive article in "Dziennik Polski" [Polish Daily], depicted the figure of the poet and characterized his work, recalling the battle he had fought for Poland and for European culture. At the end of the article, she postulated that the new core curriculum, prepared by the Ministry of National Education, include writers and poets who were harassed and sentenced to oblivion for their uncompromising patriotism and love for Poland during the communist period.²⁹

In the years 2008-2016, the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, as part of the patriotic education of the Polish diaspora youth, continued the successful project "lessons of living history," in which the witnesses of the most important events related to the World War II and the fight against communist enslavement, delivered lectures addressed to students and teachers of Polish schools of native subjects. Initially, speakers were soldiers of the Polish Armed Forces in the West, serving in various formations, from land, air and sea troops to special units. In later years, the Board of the Association reached out to the participants of post-war events, who had impact on regaining independence, or to scientists specializing in a given subject.

On 21 November 2009, in the Raspberry Hall of the Polish Social and Cultural Association, a lecture entitled *70 rocznica wybuchu II wojny światowej* [the 70th Anniversary of the Outbreak of World War II] was given by professor Tadeusz Kondracki from the University of Warsaw.³⁰ The speaker discussed the genesis of the Polish Defense War in September 1939, military operations related to the invasion of the Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia, and the heroic struggle of the Polish nation in defense of the Homeland. Professor paid attention to the tragic fate of the civilian population and the enormity of

²⁹ B. Howe, "W 40 rocznicę śmierci Kazimierza Wierzyńskiego," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 19 February 2009, p. 9.

³⁰ Tadeusz Kondracki – professor at the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He specializes in the military history and the history of Polish emigration after 1945. Author of excellent publications and scientific articles. The most important include: *Historia Stowarzyszenia Polskich Kombatantów w Wielkiej Brytanii*, *Polskie Organizacje Kombatanckie w Wielkiej Brytanii*, *5 Kresowa Dywizja Piechoty*, etc.

losses suffered by Poland. Using audiovisual means, he not only introduced the historical facts to the youth, but above all, he reconstructed the atmosphere of the first days of the war after the German invasion of Poland. The audience listened to the archival recordings of messages and radio calls made, inter alia, by Warsaw Mayor Stefan Starzyński. The lecture was also illustrated with the film *Zapomniana Flotylla* [the Forgotten Flotilla].

After the lecture the youth received a short history of the contribution of the Polish Armed Forces in the West to the victory of the Allies during World War II issued by the Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum, and a commemorative album from the unveiling of the monument of the Polish Armed Forces in the Arboretum.³¹ The idea of the participation of guests from Poland in cyclical classes, part of the history education block, turned out to be perfectly accurate and promised great opportunity for the future.

In 2010, the Poles in Poland and abroad officially celebrated the 30th anniversary of the establishment of NSZZ “Solidarność.” The Board of the Association decided to invite, as part of the “lessons of living history,” a witness to the events of August 1980, who would present the events of those days to the youth. The invitation was directed to Andrzej Gwiazda, who, unable to arrive, recommended Krzysztof Żmuda. The speaker was a participant of the August Strike, at that time he was the Chairman of Komisji Międzyzakładowej NSZZ “Solidarność” Stoczni Północnej SA [the Inter-enterprise Committee of NSZZ “Solidarność” at Bohaterów Westerplatte Stocznia Północna SA] in Gdańsk.

An extremely interesting lecture presented the reality of life in the communist Poland and the heroic struggle of workers for basic human rights. It was illustrated with documentary films and original accessories from the Gdansk shipyard. Participants of the meeting also received a jubilee edition of *Historia “Solidarności”* [the “Solidarity’s” History].

In 2011, the theme of the meeting, which took place on 19 November in the Raspberry Hall of the Polish Social and Cultural Association, was “The Beatification of John Paul II.” The lecture was given by father Krzysztof Tyliczszak – Chancellor of the Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales.

In a letter encouraging to take part in the lecture, The President of APTA, Irena Grocholewska, emphasized that the life and activities of Karol Wojtyła had a significant impact on the history of the Polish nation both in Poland and abroad, and that is why Polish youth in exile should know exactly the figure of this great Pole.

³¹ B. Howe, “Niecodzienne lekcje historii,” *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 4 February 2010, p. 5.

In a very warm and friendly way, the speaker presented the figure of the Holy Father, telling the gathered audience about the difficult wartime years of his youth, the beginnings of the priesthood, and work with youth and students at the Catholic University of Lublin. Then, he described the special character of his pontificate, the gift of proclaiming the Gospel with both the word and the example of his life, and the initiation of the world pastoral care of youth. The Chancellor also drew attention to the fact that John Paul II brought to the common Church the most valuable treasures of Polish spirit and Polish culture, with its openness, ideals and beautiful experience of the liturgical year.

The Polish Pope and Pilgrim, through his walk through the world, showed faith as a way and a conscious following of the Christ present in another human being. Every meeting of John Paul II with the faithful attracted thousands of Poles living in exile and was an extremely important factor in rebirth of Polish identity and awareness among the emigrants.³²

The meeting was attended by over 100 students from Polish schools of native subjects. During the lecture, they watched a film containing both a record of the selected events from the pontificate and beatification, as well as statements of young people from different countries of the world about the role of the testimony of the life of John Paul II in shaping their personality.

In 2012, the lecture organized as part of history education was devoted to the person of Dr. Janusz Korczak. It was delivered by Marek Michalak, the Ombudsman for Children from Warsaw, who showed the "Old Doctor" as an outstanding and righteous man; endowed with the greatest virtues – love, friendship, sensitivity – especially to children's harm; as well as the willingness to sacrifice and help. Referring to the views of Janusz Korczak, the Ombudsman for Children talked about the need to treat a child as an equal man who has the right to life, to dignity, self-expression and personal inviolability.³³

In 2013, the 150th anniversary of the January Uprising was celebrated. The decision of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland throughout the year there were commemorative celebrations of an extremely important event in the recent history of Poland. The APTA's Board joined the anniversary celebration program by organising a lecture entitled *Powstanie Styczniowe drogowskazem wolności i suwerenności ojczyzny* [The January Uprising, a signpost of freedom and sovereignty of the homeland]. It was a part of periodic history lessons for students of Schools of native subjects. The lecture was given by Anna Stefanicka, Secretary General of the Józef Piłsudski Institute in London, author of many articles and publications, and a respected archivist. In an

³² I. Grocholewska, "O beatyfikacji," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 17 January 2012, p. 8.

³³ M. Bugaj- Martynowska, "O Korczaku jeszcze raz," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 18 December 2012, p. 6.

accessible way, the lecturer showed young people the causes and the course of the January Uprising, illustrating her lecture with a multimedia presentation. She recalled the names of the most outstanding insurgents and their fate after the fall of the uprising. It was another very successful history lesson that remained long in the memory of its participants. Thanks to the financial support of PAFT, not only did the lesson from the history of Poland once again be realized, but also the students were given the novel Eliza Orzeszkowa, *Gloria Victis*.

In 2014, taking advantage of the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Monte Cassino, The Association decided to remind students from Polish schools of native subjects of the combat of the II Polish Corps commanded by General Władysław Anders. On 22 November in the Raspberry Hall of Polish Social and Cultural Association, another lecture was given by veteran of the Battle of Monte Cassino Witold Szmidt. The speaker was accompanied by the Group of Historical Reconstruction "First to Fight."

During the next "lesson of living history" conducted by the witness of events, the youth learned about the deportation of Polish families into the depths of the Soviet Union and the martyrdom of the Polish nation condemned to death through exhausting work, hunger and severe weather conditions.

Witold Szmidt also discussed the circumstances of the release of thousands of Poles on the basis of the Sikorski-Majski agreement and the combat trail of the Second Polish Corps commanded by General Władysław Anders. The lecture was illustrated with a documentary film about the fights of Monte Cassino, Bologna and Ancona, provided by the Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum in London. The reconstruction group presented the uniforms and armaments of Polish soldiers performing military service in the II Polish Corps.

Students of schools of native subjects, who in the amount of over 150 participants came to the meeting, were absorbed by the story of the hero of the battle of Monte Cassino and fascinated by the enthusiasm of the members of the reconstruction group. Once again, this extremely attractive history lesson proved that young people are able to get interested in the history of their own nation, if it is presented in the right way.³⁴

In subsequent years, 2015 and 2016, the Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, while choosing the topics of the next lessons of Polish history, decided to commemorate important national anniversaries. In 2015, it was the 75th anniversary of the Katyn massacre. The lecture devoted to the above topic was given by Krzysztof de Berg – a well-known and respected volunteer employee of the Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum in London.

³⁴ K. Janota-Bzowska, "Przekazywanie historii oręża polskiego," *Dziennik Polski*, 24-25 December 2014, p. 15.

He presented the historical background and the perpetrators' motives to murder Polish officers, arousing great interest of the listeners. The lecture was illustrated with the fragments of uniforms of Polish officers excavated during the exhumation and a documentary film.

In 2016, in turn, Poles in Poland and abroad celebrated the 1050th anniversary of the Baptism of Poland. The lecture was given to students of Polish schools of native subjects by Paweł Sieradzki, scientific secretary of the Center for Research on the Polish Diaspora and Apostolic Ministry of John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, who had previously taught Polish history classes as part of the project "Poland – the Homeland of John Paul II". The speaker presented the historical background of the early Piast times and the importance of adopting Christianity for the process of shaping the Kingdom of Poland. In his interesting multimedia presentation he demonstrated the importance of the Church in the life of the Polish nation in difficult times of regional disintegration, wars, partitions and nationalist liberation fights. He familiarized young people with the most outstanding representatives and the culture-forming role of Christianity and its influence on Polish political thought, morality, customs and tradition.

The "Lessons of Living History" organised systematically by the Board of the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad as part of the history education of Polish students from schools of native subjects have been a great success. Thanks to them, students learned the history of Poland, learned all the formations of the Polish Armed Forces in the West (airmen, sailors, paratroopers, representatives of armored troops, infantry, intelligence and special units) directly from the witnesses of the discussed events. Their testimonies influenced the students' feelings of Polishness and national pride, which determined their life choices and further education.

RELIGIOUS TRADITION

The attachment to the Catholic religion and basing the education of youth on Christian ethics meant that the Association of Polish Teachers Abroad treated the matters of faith and religion very seriously. It was believed that all Polish tradition, culture and customs are steeped in Christianity, and emigration must preserve Polishness unpolluted by communist atheism.

The defense of Polishness and faith are the slogans connecting the Polish independence emigration in Great Britain. The Association tried to ensure that the new wave of emigrants from Poland, joining the organizational structures of the institutions, associations and organizations of "Polish London," also adopted the ideals of their predecessors. Upholding Christian tradition was ex-

pressed in the organisation of Christmas wafer meetings, participation in religious ceremonies organized by the Polish Catholic Mission in England and Wales, the Institute of Polish Catholic Action and parishes, as well as in the introduction of religion lessons in Polish schools of native subjects. Christmas wafer meetings have been taking place since the very beginning of the organization and have had a unique, festive, family-like, friendly and warm climate. They were organized in the middle of January at the “Łowiczanka” restaurant in the Polish Social and Cultural Association in London. In accordance with the decades of tradition, the meeting was attended by the representatives of the consular authorities of the Republic of Poland, the Polish Catholic Mission, St. Andrzej Bobola’s parish, the Polish Ex-Combatants’ Association, Polish Educational Society and other Polish diaspora organizations, as well as teachers, parents and students of Polish schools of native subjects.

A constant element of the meeting was the reading of numerous wishes from friends in Great Britain (including Polish Ex-Combatants’ Association, Polish Catholic Mission, Polish Social and Cultural Association, Polish University Abroad, Polish Scouting Association in Great Britain, Federation of Poles, Polish Catholic Action Institute, Editors of “Dziennik Polski,” Polish Educational Society, schools of native subjects), from Poland (Primate of Poland, “Polish Community” Association, Ministry of National Education, University of Warsaw, Center for Research on the Polish Diaspora and Polonia Pastoral Ministry of Catholic University in Lublin, Teachers’ Choir from Poznań, Head of the Office for War Veterans and Victims of Oppression, Young Polonia Foundation, Community of Children’s Home in Kłodzko), from the Vatican (Archbishop Szczepean Wesoły), from the United States (Polish Teachers’ Union in America), from Belarus (Editors of the quarterly “Echo Polesie”).

The participation of students staging “Jasełka” (nativity play) and common carol singing always made the atmosphere of the meeting resemble Poland and created an unforgettable mood for the integration of the teaching community.

The President of the Association, Irena Grocholewska in her report on the wafer meeting in January 2013, which was published in “Dziennik Polski” [Polish Daily], wrote:

Christmas is a family holiday, full of love, kindness, joyful experiences in the company of the loved ones. It is connected with the birth of the Baby Jesus and the Holy Family. This example of the Holy Family is a beautiful tradition for us – the most beautiful holidays – Christmas. From this everything has started and continues. The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad, annually from 1941, has been organising Christmas wafer meetings to celebrate this tradition together, so that nobody is forgotten, because this tradition brings us closer together and

strengthens us in everyday life and school work. Now we want this beautiful custom to pass on and instill in the new teachers who have come from the country.

The Christmas meeting of our organization pursues a friendly contact with teachers and families and is a nice and lasting symptom of communication that we need, because the teaching profession requires it regardless of age and years of work in the profession.³⁵

Teachers who have been the ambassadors of Polishness in Great Britain, carrying, for over 75 years, the torch of education, have raised pupils of Polish school of native subjects in the spirit of loyalty to God and their homeland, and instilled in them the love of Polishness, cultivated also through faithfulness to Christian culture and tradition.

³⁵ I. Grocholewska, "Opłatek rodziny nauczycielskiej," *Dziennik Polski i Dziennik Żołnierza*, 12 February 2013, p. 6.

ANNEX

Data of Polish Saturday Schools in UK in the years 1998-2000

Name	Location	Year of Foundation	Patronage	Financing Sources
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. św. Józefa	Amersham	1950	Komitet Rodzicielski	Komitet Rodzicielski, wspólnota parafialna, SPK
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej	Bedford		Komitet Rodzicielski	Komitet Rodzicielski, SPK
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. Mikołaja Kopernika	Birmingham	1950	PMS	PMS, County Council
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. Adama Mickiewicza	Blackburn	1950	SPK nr 183, PWK w Blackburn	SPK, PWK, Komitet Rodzicielski, wspólnota parafialna
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych	Bournemouth			
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. św. Stanisława Kostki	Bradford	1949	Klub parafialny, SPK	Klub parafialny, SPK, Komitet Rodzicielski
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. gen. Władysława Sikorskiego	Hove-Brighton	1997	Komitet Rodzicielski, wspólnota parafialna, SPK	Komitet Rodzicielski, The Holy family Educational Trust, wspólnota parafialna, SPK
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. Jana Pawła II	Bristol		Komitet Rodzicielski, SPK	Komitet Rodzicielski, SPK
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. Dąbrowki	Cambridge	1956	PMS	Komitet Rodzicielski, PMS
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. św. Stanisława Kostki	Derby	1951	Koło SPK nr 432 „Gdańsk”	Komitet Rodzicielski, SPK, dotacje Stowarzyszenia Lotników Polskich i Spadochroniarzy, lokalne władze edukacyjne
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych	Edinburgh		SPK	
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych	High Wycombe		Komitet Rodzicielski, wspólnota parafialna	Komitet Rodzicielski, wspólnota parafialna
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. Adama Mickiewicza	Huddersfield		SPK, Komitet Rodzicielski, Koło SPK nr 440 w Huddersfield	Komitet Rodzicielski, wspólnota parafialna, SPK

Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych w Lancaster	Lancaster		wspólnota parafialna, SPK	wspólnota parafialna, Komitet Rodzicielski, SPK
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. św. Stanisława Kostki	Leeds	1951	Wspólnota parafialna, SPK	Komitet Rodzicielski, wspólnota parafialna, SPK
Polska Szkoła Ojczysta	Leicester	1955	Komitet Rodzicielski, wspólnota parafialna	Komitet Rodzicielski, wspólnota parafialna, SPK
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. Matki Boskiej z Lourdes	Leighton-on-Sea	1998	Zrzeszenie Nauczycielstwa Polskiego za Granicą	Komitet Rodzicielski
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. Adama Mickiewicza	London, Brockley-Lewisham	1951	Wspólnota parafialna	Komitet Rodzicielski, wspólnota parafialna
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. Mikołaja Reya	London, Chiswick	1953	PMS, Komitet Rodzicielski	Hounslow Borough Council, Komitet Rodzicielski, dotacja od fundacji Medical Aid for Poland
Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Dzieci i Młodzieży	London, Balham	1950	Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Dzieci i Młodzieży	Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Dzieci i Młodzieży
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. Karola Chodkiewicza	London, Croydon	1950	Parafia pw. Pana Jezusa Miłosiernego	wspólnota parafialna, Komitet Rodzicielski, SPK Londyn Południe
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. Matki Boskiej Częstochowskiej	London, Devonian	1950	PMS	PMS, Koło Rodzicielskie, wspólnota parafialna Devonian
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. Tadeusza Kościuszki	London, Ealing	1950	Wspólnota parafialna	Komitet Rodzicielski, władze lokalne EEC, wspólnota parafialna
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. Królowej Jadwigi	London, Ilford	1957	Komitet Rodzicielski, wspólnota parafialna	Komitet Rodzicielski, wspólnota parafialna
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. Marii Skłodowskiej-Curie	London, Putney	1960	Komitet Rodzicielski	Władze gminy Wandsworth, Koło Rodzicielskie
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. Marii Konopnickiej	London, Willesden-Green	1953	Komitet Rodzicielski	Komitet Rodzicielski, wspólnota parafialna Ojców Jezuitów w Willesden-Green
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. św. Stanisława Kostki	Luton		Polska parafia, SPK Luton, Komitet Rodzicielski	Polska parafia, SPK Luton, Komitet Rodzicielski
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. św. Stanisława Kostki	Manchester	1949	SPK	SPK Manchester, Komitet Rodzicielski, wspólnota parafialna
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. Maksymiliana Kolbego	Melton Mowbray		Komitet Rodzicielski, Rada Administracyjna P.O.K.	Komitet Rodzicielski, Rada Administracyjna P.O.K.

Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. bł. Franciszki Siedliskiej	Northampton		Komitet Rodzicielski, wspólnota parafialna w Northampton, SPK w Wellingborough, Anglo-Polish Society – Wellingborough	Borough Council w Northampton, Komitet Rodzicielski, wspólnota parafialna w Northampton, SPK w Wellingborough, Anglo-Polish Society – Wellingborough
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych w Nortwich	Nortwich		PMS	Komitet Rodzicielski, wspólnota parafialna
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. św. Kazimierza	Nottingham	1951	SPK, Koło Przyjaciół Polskiej Szkoły, wspólnota parafialna	Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council, Komitet Rodzicielski
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych	Oxford			
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych	Peterborough		SPK	SPK, Komitet Rodzicielski
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. Mikołaja Kopernika	Reading		PMS, Komitet Rodzicielski	PMS, Komitet Rodzicielski
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych (<i>zakończyła działalność 28.10.2000</i>)	Rochdale	1954	Komitet Rodzicielski	Komitet Rodzicielski, wspólnota parafialna
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. św. Maksymiliana Kolbe	Scunthorpe		Komitet Rodzicielski, wspólnota parafialna	Polski Ośrodek Społeczny, Local Educational Authority
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. Tadeusza Czackiego	Sheffield		SPK, Association of Sheffield Community Language Schools, Sheffield LEA	SPK, dotacje od prywatnych osób, dotacje roczna od wspólnoty parafialnej, Komitet Rodzicielski
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. Henryka Sienkiewicza	Slough	1952	PMS	PMS, Stowarzyszenie Polskie, Rada parafialna, Komitet Rodzicielski
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. Fryderyka Chopina	Southampton		Komitet Rodzicielski, SPK	Komitet Rodzicielski, wspólnota parafialna, SPK, Southampton City Council
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. Marii Konopnickiej	Swindon	1955	Komitet Rodzicielski	Komitet Rodzicielski
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. św. Stanisława Kostki	Trowbridge		Wspólnota parafialna, SPK	Wspólnota parafialna, SPK
Szkoła Przedmiotów Ojczystych im. Królowej Jadwigi	Wolverhampton		PMS, Komitet Rodzicielski	PMS, Komitet Rodzicielski



The Gold Cross of Merit awarded to The Association of Polish Teachers Abroad



A diploma of „Pro Memoria” medal awarded APTA



Polish Consul – Teresa Zawisza opens an exhibition
of educational recourses, 1995



An exhibition of educational recourses for polish Saturday school
organised by APTA



A literature meeting with a writer Romuald Wernik, 1995



The ZNPZ election meeting in a SPK hall, 17th May 1998



A mass inaugurating the celebration of the Polish Saturday School
50th anniversary in Devon, 2000



The 50th anniversary of Polish Saturday School in Devon, 2000



The School Golden Jubilee in Croydon



A history lesson with a participation of a commander Tadeusz Lesicz, 2001



A Reading Competition, 2002



A APTA Christmas meeting, 27th January 2002



The honorable teachers awarded The Medal of Commission of National Education, 19 October 2003: Teresa Szadkowska-Łakomy, Danuta Trojanowska, Beata Howe, Irena Grocholewska



Stanisława Horwat during a concert in The Teachers' Day, 2003



"Młode Orle" band from Balham



The 50th anniversary of Maria Konopnicka Polish Saturday School in Brondesbury Park



A „Poloniada 2004” semifinal in The Polish Embassy in London



A Teachers' Day 2004 – a performance of The Teachers' Choir from Poznań



John Paul II Polish Saturday School students performance, Shepherds Bush



A Reading Competition, 2008



A Reading Competition, 2008



Independence Day celebration – 11th November



Katyn Memorial celebration by Katyn monument in Gunnersbury Park



A history lesson with a participation of Krzysztof Żmuda – a participant of “Solidarność” strike



A ceremonial flag consecration ceremony



Polish Saturday School in Harlow



A Reading Competition, 2011



Awarding Elżbieta Rush the „Pro Patria” medal by a Polish consul Grzegorz Sala



The 70th anniversary celebration of APTA, 2011



The 70th anniversary of APTA celebration with the participation of Professor Jerzy Bralczyk



Irena Grocholewska – the president of APTA and Aleksandra Podhorodecka
– the president of The Polish Educational Society
during a meeting with youths in Harlow



A teachers' Christmas meeting, 2013



A history lesson led by Professor Jacek Gołębiowski, 2014



A lecture by Paweł Sieradzki, PhD

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