

**POLISH INSTITUTE ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENTS,
AND BOARD MEMBERS**

Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada Becomes Ninth President of PIASA

This year the regular members of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America (PIASA) voted by mail ballot to elect its President, two Vice Presidents, and 1/3 of the Board of Directors. The results were announced by Election supervisor Dr. Richard J. Hunter on June 14, 2008, during a banquet that culminated PIASA's 66th Annual Meeting, at the Holiday Inn Historic District, Philadelphia. Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada was elected President for a three year term, replacing Dr. Piotr S. Wandycz, who served as President until his retirement for the past nine years. (Dr. Wandycz was voted the title *President Emeritus of PIASA*). Dr. Gromada served as secretary general of the Institute from 1971 to 1988 and then became Vice President for Academic Affairs. From 1991 he became Executive Director a position which he will continue to hold. Dr. Gromada received his Ph.D. in East Central European History from Fordham University under the mentorship of the world renowned Polish historian, Oskar Halecki. This eminent Polish scholar was one of the founders in 1942 of the Polish Institute and became its first Executive Director and later President. It was Professor Halecki who encouraged Dr. Gromada to get involved in the activities of PIASA.

Until his retirement, Dr. Gromada was full Professor of European History and Coordinator of Multi-Ethnic and Immigration studies at New Jersey City University in Jersey City. He now holds the rank of Professor Emeritus of European History at NJCU. He is editor and contributor of several books dealing with Polish foreign policy, Polish-Czech-Slovak relations, U.S. Immigrant Ethnic History, and author of many articles in various scholarly journals such as *Slavic Review*, *East European Quarterly*, *The Polish Review*, *East Central Europe*, *Nationalities Papers*, etc. Together with his sister Jane Kedron, he founded and co-edits a bi-lingual folkloristic quarterly, *Tatrzański Orzeł* (*The Tatra Eagle*). In 1991 he edited and prepared for publication Oskar Halecki's posthumous monograph Jadwiga of Anjou and the Rise of East Central Europe, which he presented to Pope John Paul II in 1993 before the canonization of Queen Jadwiga.

Governor Thomas J. Kean of New Jersey appointed him Chairman of the Governor's Commission on Eastern European History. This Commission published a highly acclaimed report in 1989 on the status of East European studies in the secondary schools of New Jersey based on the examination of the most frequently used history and social studies textbooks. The report authored by Dr. Gromada was disseminated to State Boards of Education in many states throughout the country. He has also served as a consultant to the U.S. Department of Education, National Education Association, Smithsonian Institution, and the Polish American Congress. In addition he was educational consultant to Learning Corporation of America on the production of an educational film "The Immigrant Experience: The Long, Long Journey" and to PBS Television Ch 21 on the production of a television documentary "The Polish Americans".

He served twice as President of the Polish American Historical Association which awarded him the “Haiman Medal”. In 1993 he received from Poland the Officers Cross of Merit and in the year 2000 the Commander’s Cross of Merit. He is also a trustee and Vice Chairman of the Kosciuszko Foundation Board of Trustees. The Związek Podhalan (Polish Highlanders Union) in Poland made him its “Honorary Member”. As a firm believer of cultural pluralism and an advocate of inter-ethnic cooperation, Dr. Gromada has worked closely during the New Pluralism era with many ethnic groups in America. He served on the Advisory Council of the New Jersey Department of Higher Education’s Multi-cultural Studies project.

Since 1989 Dr. Gromada as Executive Director of PIASA has devoted himself to establishing close contacts and a working relationship with two major Polish Academies, Polska Akademia Umiejetnosci in Krakow and the Polska Akademia Nauk in Warsaw. In addition he has developed a cooperative working relationship with *Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwow Panstwowych (Poland’s National Archives)*; *Biblioteka Narodowa (Poland’s National Library)*; *Fundacja Na Rzecz Nauki Polskiej (Foundation for Polish Science)* and the *Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora Studies* at the Jagiellonian University. These contacts have enriched PIASA and helped make it a major center of learning about Poland and Polish America.

Dr. Gromada served two years in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. He is married to the former Theresa Michalski of Fair Lawn, N.J. They have two sons, Joseph and John, a daughter Ann, and six grandchildren.

PIASA members also elected two Vice Presidents, namely Dr. M.B. Biskupski, Professor of History and holder of the Dr. Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American History at Central Connecticut State University, and Dr. Susanne S. Lotarski, who until her recent early retirement was Director of the Office of Eastern Europe, Russia and Independent States at the U.S. Department of Commerce. The following were elected to the Board of Directors: Dr. Jakub Grygiel, Assistant Professor of Politics, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University; Dr. Donald E. Pienkos, Professor of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Dr. Jan Napoleon Saykiewicz, Professor of International Marketing, Duquesne University, and Dr. Anne Hermanowski-Vosatka, Director of Research, Merck Research Laboratories. Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, Counselor at the Center of Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC was elected to PIASA’s Advisory Council.

PIASA is a national academic and cultural organization composed of scholars, scientists, artists and professionals who are dedicated to the advancement of knowledge about Poland’s humanistic, intellectual heritage and about Polish American contributions to the life and culture of America. It is based in New York City with headquarters in a five story townhouse in Murray Hill section of Manhattan on 208 East 30th St., New York, N.Y. 10016. www.piasa.org