

**RADIO FREE EUROPE BROADCASTS
TO POLAND NOW AVAILABLE ON C D's
IN PIASA SOUND ARCHIVES**

Just before its closing in 1994, the New York Office of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty on 1775 Broadway, contacted Dr. Thaddeus V. Gromada, Executive Director of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America (PIASA) and offered to deposit close to 300 large reel-to-reel audio tapes containing radio broadcasts to Poland. The offer made by Albert Arkus, RFE's Broadcast Operations Director, was immediately accepted and arrangements for a speedy transfer were made by PIASA's director and his deputy Jane Kedron.

Unfortunately these reel-to-reel tapes were not catalogued and they were so fragile and brittle that for all practical purposes were not accessible to researchers. Recently, however, these conditions have been dramatically changed as a result of an agreement that was made between Poland's National Archives (Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwow Panstwowych) in Warsaw and PIASA in New York. The audio tapes were sent to the National Archives in Warsaw for deposit. In return the Poland's National Archives using the technological capabilities of its "Archiwum Dokumentacji Mechanicznej" performed the formidable and labor intensive task of cataloging the contents of the tapes and then transferring them electronically on Compact Discs (CD's). Thus a large proportion of radio broadcast produced by Radio Free Europe New York Office between 1956 to 1989 are now conveniently available to researchers studying the Cold War period. Over 600 radio broadcast to Poland have been identified and can now be easily heard at PIASA's Sound archives located at 208 East 30th St. in New York City. These CD's include among other interviews with such notables as Czeslaw Milosz, Adam Ulam, Artur Rubinstein, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, Henryk Grynberg, etc.; lectures by Leszek Kolakowski, Piotr Wandycz, Stanislaw Baranczak, Wacław Jędrzejewicz, Jerzy Lerski, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Feliks Gross, etc. , coverage of important events like the Papal visits to the U.S. PIASA's Congresses, Polonia programs, etc. A complete listing of the broadcasts will be made available on PIASA's website www.piasa.org under the link "Archival Information Center".

Each year PIASA has the services of a Visiting Research Archivist from Poland made possible by the cooperation and support of Poland's National Archives and the Kosciuszko Foundation. This year Krzysztof Porolniczak, from the Gdansk State Archives serves as the Visiting Research Archivist. For more information email: piasany@verizon.net

Press Release from Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of Americas (PIASA)
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