Dear Readers

2009
Dear Readers,

The issue of “Ochrona Zabytków” that we are currently putting into your hands constitutes the first step in the direction of major changes in our magazine, which is addressed to the Polish conservation professionals. This issue is a so-called transitory stage.

A comprehensive article written by Zbigniew Kobylniski regarding scientific, conservation and ethical bases of the philosophy of protecting archaeological heritage, richly illustrated by examples from all over the world and supported by numerous legal arguments portrays the modern approach to archaeology, based on preventive conservation which relies on preservation of authentic historical structure. This interpretation complies with the principles determined in the mission of the National Heritage Board of Poland which stipulates that “the NHB is a national institution of culture that creates bases for sustainable protection of heritage – it collects and popularises knowledge about monuments, determines standards of their protection and conservation and shapes social awareness for the purpose of preserving Poland’s cultural heritage for future generations”.

The text referred to above and the very competent article on combating crime against archaeological monuments also constitute signals that archaeology is going to be a constant issue of interest in our magazine. Issues related to protection of archaeological monuments, most numerous, most endangered and least recognized, require special support.

The scope of issues related to the heritage of the past, and therefore subjects that we are trying to bring closer to you, is, obviously, very extensive. Starting from presentation of painting masterpieces, such as the works of Rembrandt from the collection of the Royal Castle in Warsaw – whose complex conservation process was discussed in chapter “Realisations” – to showing monuments that testify to perception of art in rural areas, for example paintings in the late-Baroque church in Krosno (Warmia region).

Two highly recommended texts that we would like to encourage you to read were written or co-written by the employees of our institution. This is another important change – we will use our best effort to make “Ochrona Zabytków” a place where concepts and achievements resulting from conservation programmes currently implemented by our institution are presented.

At the same time, we have the pleasure of informing you that as of January 1, 2011 our institution will be transformed into the National Heritage Institute with an increased scope of competences, pursuant to a decision of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage. The range of our activities will be increased even more; “Ochrona Zabytków” will also continue to develop and – hopefully – the circle of its readers will keep growing.

I invite you to read our periodical!

Paulina Florjanowicz

Director a. i.

of the National Heritage Board of Poland