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Ladies and Gentlemen

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Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

I have great pleasure to present to you a special issue of "Ochrona Zabytków" ("Protection of Monuments"). The issue is special for two main reasons: it is much larger and more varied than usual and, above all, it is the last issue! Being the last issue, it also gives a foretaste of the new periodical "Ochrona Zabytków", which you will get to know soon.

"Ochrona Zabytków" is a periodical with traditions. It has been published uninterruptedly since 1948. Its last publisher is the National Heritage Board of Poland (formerly the Centre for the Documentation of Historic Monuments, in the last decade also functioning as the National Centre for Research and Documentation of Historic Monuments). This decades-old tradition comes with great responsibility. We decided that our periodical should change to reflect changes in the institution itself. We tried to maintain all the good qualities of "Ochrona Zabytków", at the same time introducing new solutions. The periodical must be an important contribution to the debate on the Polish system of protecting our heritage, whilst also providing grounds for the exchange of experience associated with the restoration of historic monuments. Addressed to specialists and enthusiasts alike, it is intended to present the latest trends in the Polish and international conservation in a balanced and interdisciplinary manner.

The scope of tasks carried out by the National Heritage Board of Poland has been steadily increasing, as can be seen in the ever-widening range of topics discussed in "Ochrona Zabytków". The current issue is the best example of this. Its contents include: background information on the history of Polish conservation, information on the current conservation trends in Ukraine, article on specific issues associated with the preservation of monuments from the point of view of the Church, an analysis of the economic potential of the heritage, characteristics of the archaeology of battle fields as well as a large number of regular features, such as articles with expert information on selected historic monuments, historic sites and methods of their restoration. The current issue is so large also because it incorporates topics from the year 2010 (and it is 2012 now). The delay has been accumulating for several years, causing more and more confusion for you – our Readers and ourselves. This is why we decided to put a stop to this and catch up for the lost time. The year 2011 was a year of transformation for us, so we decided to publish in this issue only a list of articles (with relating bibliography) which were published in the previous years. The next issue delivered to our Readers will be dated with the actual date.

Of course, there will be many more changes. First of all, every issue will have a leading topic, covered by several articles. Our regular features will be redesigned to provide a lot of up-to-date and reliable information on the latest conservation trends. We hope that our current Readers will accept the changes that are being introduced, while those of you who come across "Ochrona Zabytków" for the first time will also find a lot of interesting and inspiring articles there.

The mission of the National Heritage Board of Poland is to create a basis for sustainable protection of our heritage by collecting and disseminating knowledge about historic monuments, establishing standards for their protection and conservation and by raising social awareness of their importance for preserving the cultural heritage of Poland for future generation. The new format of "Ochrona Zabytków" will fully enable us to carry out that mission, providing information on the rules and examples of sustainable heritage management. "Ochrona Zabytków" as has been known to you is not disappearing, but embarking on a new and exciting path. We hope that it will evolve into something even better. We invite you to read it and work together with us!

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