

Ogniewo Polish Museum Society Inc.

Annual Report

January 1 – December 31



2011

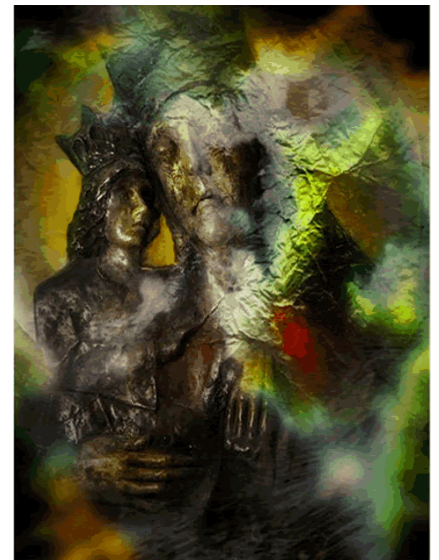
Ogniwo Polish Museum Society Inc.
ANNUAL REPORT
1 JAN – 31 DEC 2011

The year 2011 brought with it many challenges and successes for the Museum and its hard-working volunteers. This report will highlight our activities, provide an analysis and establish the direction of proposed activities for 2012.

Programming

Our overall focus was to continue expanding programming to a wider audience and to improve the status of our collections management. We accomplished these as follows:

1. planning, designing and producing a series of educational workshops for children and adults on a variety of topics, using modern technology and interactive methods. (e.g. folk crafts such as pisanki, paper cuts (wycinanki), Christmas traditions and modern-day Polish culture).
2. planning and delivering a winter lecture series for adults on various topics for 2011/2012
 - “Archeology of the Undead: An examination of vampire graves in north-western Poland”,
 - “Cultural Crossroads: Tartar influences on Poland”,
 - “Canadian Children of Polish War-time Immigrants: An oral history project”,
 - “Your Roots are Showing: Starting the Geneology hunt in Eastern Europe”.
3. updating Collections Management Policies and procedures that included:
 - a review and validation of existing collections management records,
 - de-accessioning artefacts not meeting the collections policy,
 - a review and redesign of current storage systems
 - appointment of a Collections Manager to oversee systems management and conservation.
4. planning, designing and producing temporary Exhibits that showcase a wide range of Polish-Canadian themes that support our Mission and Vision:
 - “Our Founding Mothers: Celebrating 25 years of the Polish Museum”
 - “Madonny: An interpretive Journey through Polish Marian tradition”.



Photograph from “Madonny” exhibit

Projects for 2012:

- A history of Polish spirits and beers (in support of our fundraiser),
- Through the footsteps of Manitoba pioneers,
- an oral history project,
- Communication through Polish Poster Art.

Financial

Although we continued to solicit private donations, apply for specific project grants and raise funds through corporate sponsorships and sale of boutique items, our bottom line was affected by the unexpected closure of the Polish Press CZAS office and rent of space in our building. Therefore, we experienced a small loss of \$70.00 on our 2011 financial statement. A new fundraising initiative in early 2012 will be developed and should be instrumental in turning around our recent losses.



Winter lecture series proved to be popular programming for the museum

Infrastructure

Upgrades to the exterior of the museum were accomplished in 2010. A review of the building and its systems was undertaken at the end of 2011 and a list of priorities drawn up. Focus in 2012 will be placed on finding appropriate funding opportunities to execute critical replacement and improvements that are considered necessary to the Museum's continued well-being. In order of priority, these are:

- replacement of the heating/cooling system,
- upgrade of insulation and humidity problems in the crawl space,
- disposal of exhibit hall rug and refinishing or replacement of wood flooring,
- building of new storage systems for books,
- building/acquiring additional storage units for basement area
- upgrade of electrical and lighting in storage areas
- rebuilding/reconfiguration of collections work area
- upgrade of collections management computer system

Community Involvement

The Museum participated with other Polish-Canadian organizations and businesses in presenting Polish Fest in June. This festival is held at Garden City Community Centre and open to the public for 2 days every year. The Museum presents an interactive display for all attendees.

The Museum also took part for the first time in Manitoba Culture Days celebrations from 30 September – 2 October, by throwing our doors open to the public, without charge. The success of this event will ensure our continued participation in future years.

Respectfully submitted,



C.M. Tabbernor
President



The results of students' diligent work – wycinanki workshop

Activities for the Year 2011

15 Jan 2011	Open House
5 Mar 2011	Annual General Meeting
21 Mar 2011	Participation in Assoc. of Manitoba Museums “Exhibits Course”
2/3 Apr 2011	Pisanki Workshops for adults & children at the Polish Museum
7 Apr 2011	Children’s Presentation & Workshop: “The Art of Wycinanki” at George McDowell School, Winnipeg MB
20 Apr 2011	Children’s Workshop: Pisanki at Dawson Trails School, Lorette MB
29 Apr 2011	Seniors’ Demonstration: Pisanki – Donwood Manor
28 Apr 2011	Children’s Workshop: Pisanki – Ryerson Boys & Girls Club, Winnipeg MB
13 May 2011	Polish Literary Evening – local Poets Club
4/5 Jun 2011	“Polish Fest/Dni Sokola” – “The Art of Wycinanki” presentation and workshops at Garden City Community Centre, Winnipeg MB
27 Jul 2011	Children’s Workshop: folk crafts, slide presentations “A Country of Contrasts”, story-telling and games
30 Sep – 2 Oct 2011	Participation in Culture Days Manitoba – opening of new exhibit
4 Oct – 15 Dec 2011	Exhibit: “Madonny: An interpretive journey through Polish Marian tradition”
5 Oct 2011	Children’s workshop: The Art of Wycinanki” at Ecole St. Anne, St. Anne MB
30 Oct 2011	Lecture Series: “Archeology of the Undead: an examination of Vampire Graves in north-western Poland” – Guest lecturer Amy Scott, PhD Student Dept. of Anthropology, University of Manitoba
3 Dec 2011	Lecture Series: “Cultural Crossroads: Tartar Influences on Poland” – Guest lecturer Elizabeth Tabbernor, BFA(Art History), University of Manitoba
3 Dec 2011	Christmas Open House at the Polish Museum
4 Dec 2011	Children’s Presentation and Workshop: Christmas Paper Crafts at Sokol School of Dance, Polish Gymnastic Association Sokol, Winnipeg MB