

Cooperation project between the National Museum in Warsaw and the Kerch Museum.
Report for 2008.

In 2008, the Cooperation Project has entered a new stage of development. Not only were previous projects continued, but new ones were commenced. The National Museum in Warsaw launched an excavation project in the Crimea and the first volume of the publication of grave stelae from the collection of the Kerch Museum was prepared for printing.

January 2008. Upon the request of the Ukrainian participants of the project, Mrs. Irmina Zadrozna has conducted a chemical analysis of the samples of the fresco from the so-called Tomb of Demeter (Kerch). The results of this analysis helped in publishing this unique monument and in establishing a plan of its conservation.

21.05-8.06, 2008. Mr. Alfred Twardecki participated in the Bosporan Readings IX Conference, held in Kerch, where he presented two papers. The project participants were preparing for launching the excavations and working on the joint publication of grave stelae from the collection of the Kerch Museum.

24.05-15.06.2008. Mrs. Sabina Grzegorzółka travelled to Kerch to embark on a research project on the Megarian bowls from the collection of the Kerch Museum.

31.05-15.06.2008. Mr. Miron Bogacki travelled to Kerch in order to prepare photographs for the publication of Megarian bowls from the Kerch Museum by Mrs. Sabina Grzegorzółka and to complete the photographic documentation for the joint publication of grave stelae from the Kerch collection.

26.07-26.08.2008. Launching of the Polish Archaeological Mission „Tyritake”, run by the National Museum in Warsaw and headed by Mr. Alfred Twardecki. During the first season geophysical analyses were conducted and sounding trenches were opened. As a result, fragments of a stone-paved street or a square were uncovered, together with elements of a drainage system and remnants of a yet unidentified structure. The results of the initial exploration enabled establishing the plan for future research in consultation with Ukrainian partners.

22.09-5.10.2008. Mrs. Ewa Parandowska (the head of the Stone Sculpture Conservation Unit at the National Museum in Warsaw) conducted a two-week long workshop in stone-conservation techniques at the Kerch Museum. Her work has been valued highly by the management of the Kerch Museum; the appraisal of her efforts was expressed in a special letter addressed to the director of the National Museum in Warsaw.

03-15.11.2008. Mrs. Olga Gunchina, the head of the Conservation Unit at the Kerch Museum, participated in a training session at the National Museum in Warsaw. During her stay Mrs. Gunchina has acquainted herself with the techniques of exhibiting and storing the collection

of ancient art and conservation units at the National Museum in Warsaw. The principal aim of her stay was to familiarize herself with the techniques of metal conservation employed at the National Museum in Warsaw and to share her experiences in this field.

12-21.11.2008. Mrs. Sabin Grzegorzówka conducted research in the store rooms and the library of the Antikensammlung (Berlin) in relation to her research project on the Megarian bowls from the collection of the Kerch Museum.

16.11-09.12.2008. Mr. Alfred Twardecki visited Kerch and Kiev. During his stay he participated in the editing process of the first volume of the publication of grave stelae from the collection of the Kerch Museum. The publication should be in print at the beginning of 2009.

18.12.2008. An exhibition of photographs by Mr. Miron Bogacki, entitled „The Crimea: Bosporan Landscapes”, was opened in the cafe of the National Museum in Warsaw. The exhibition presents pictures taken by Mr. Bogacki during his stay in Kerch, when he was preparing the photographic documentation for our project. Mr Bogacki's pictures show not only the landscapes of the Bosporan Kingdom, but also archaeological sites of the Crimea and monuments from the store rooms of the Kerch Museum.

Alfred Twardecki