



The Magazine of the Polish Academy of Sciences

No. 3 (39) 2013

Quarterly

ISSN 1731-7401

Edited by:

Polish Academy of Sciences

© Polska Akademia Nauk 2012

Editor Address:

Polish Academy of Sciences  
Office for Popularizing and Promoting Science  
PKiN, pl. Defilad 1, 00-901 Warsaw, Poland  
e-mail: [academia@pan.pl](mailto:academia@pan.pl)  
[www.academia.pan.pl](http://www.academia.pan.pl)

**Subscription:**

[academia.prenumerata@pan.pl](mailto:academia.prenumerata@pan.pl)

**Editorial Staff:**

**Jan Strelau**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Anna Zawadzka**  
Deputy Editor  
Humanities

**Katarzyna Czamecka**  
Managing Editor

**Patrycja Dołowy**  
Biomedical Sciences

**Agnieszka Pollo**  
Mathematics, Physics,  
Chemistry, Technology

**Kinga Malecka**  
Earth Sciences

**Daniel Sax**  
English Language Editor & Translator

**Caroline Stupnicka**  
Translator

**Paweł Adamów**  
Art Director

**Scientific Council:**

Chairman:  
**Michał Kleiber**  
President of the Polish Academy of Sciences

**Aleksander Posem-Zieliński**

**Jerzy Duszyński**

**Henryk Szymczak**

**Lucjan Pawłowski**

**Jacek Zaremba**

DTP by Studio J.P.J.

Printed by Edit Sp. z o.o.

From Academia

## With Passion, or Just the Daily Grind?

Phrases like “take it easy” and “go with the flow,” meant to encourage a laid-back attitude and discourage excessive effort, are going out of fashion. The word “passion” has come back into vogue, encouraging instead a full devotion to whatever one does, in one’s leisure time or especially in one’s professional life. Obviously, in times of economic crisis, taking it easy is simply out of the question in the business world nowadays. “Your performance is reasonably good, but aren’t you perhaps starting to feel burnt-out professionally?” the proverbial HR Director asks the Key Account Manager during an annual evaluation, with the implication being: “It is obvious you do not really have even a smidgen of passion for what you do....”

But such a conversation could never occur to scientists. Without passion, there can be no science in the first place. Indeed, given the low salaries in the Polish academic world, even the mere fact that someone opts for such a career attests to a kind of determination without any counterpart in the business environment. Long hour spent slaving away in the lab or out in the field, working through analyses and calculations, sifting through the literature and writing articles and books, piecing together grant applications. Without the impassioned curiosity to unlock new knowledge that drives Polish researchers, none of this would be possible. The authors featured in this and all our issues are inspired by a passion to create, as well as a passion to translate the complex world of research into comprehensible language.

ACADEMIA staff

**Władysław Hasiór,**  
“religious scene”,  
original techniques,  
assemblage / board  
framed in plexiglas.

**Władysław Hasiór**  
(1928–1999) was a  
sculptor, painter, set  
designer, teacher,  
and graduate of the  
Warsaw Academy of  
Fine Arts, the creator  
of monumental  
outdoor sculptures  
and ephemeral  
installations such as  
“Burning Standards.”  
He worked using  
the assemblage  
technique, producing  
three-dimensional  
compositions out of  
various found objects  
and other works of art



Marcin Kotlik/DiSA Unicum