Librarian Bulas
Given Medal For Polish Dictionary

By ROY LOWEY-BALL

Next year Poland will be 1000 years old. In 963 AD that country was baptized and entered into the orbit of the western civilizations. Searching for something to represent the Polish Millenium, the Kosciuszko Foundation has given the honors to the work of Kazimierz Bulas, Research Librarian of the Rice Fondren Library.

MR. BULAS has produced the first adequate Polish-English, English-Polish dictionary in 1000 years, described by the Kosciuszko Foundation as "a labor of love over a period of two decades and an outstanding achievement in the field of English and Polish languages."

During the war, Mr. Bulas was arrested for teaching at the University of Cracow. He was interned for a short period in a concentration camp.

Upon his release, he read prodigiously; it was then that he complained of the need for a good English-Polish dictionary, whereupon his wife quipped, "Why don't you write the dictionary yourself?"

THE DICTIONARY, in its crude form, was completed on January 8, 1945, just as the Russians entered Cracow.

He took it with him to Rome in 1947 where he was appointed Director of Research for the Polish Academy of Science in Cracow in Rome.

In 1951 the Soviets threatened his position in Rome and realizing that resistance was futile, Bulas left for America. "You (Continued on Page 10)
can’t be objective in a communist country,” he explained.

Mr. Bulas came to Rice in 1952 assuming the position of Research Librarian. In the Spring of 1953 “I received a telegram from the Kosciuszko Foundation. They wanted to publish something for the Millenium. I knew that the dictionary was good. I believed in it.”

The dictionary has just come out in Poland, free Europe, and America.

AN INTERESTING sidelight is that as Bulas saw the balance of power shift into the hands of America, he decided to add American slang.

Looking back on it all, Bulas reminisced, “I can’t believe now what tremendous work it was.”

In the foyer of the library lies the Kosciuszko Foundation medallion inscribed simply with, “He is as pure a son of liberty as I have ever known.”