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From the Editors

To proclaim independence and announce the results of research is a double satisfaction.

To this day, there is a debate what date should be adopted as the anniversary of Poland's independence. In addition to the present one of 11 November, which has been established since the declaration of the Independence Day in 1937, there have been other proposals. What is important here is that, regardless of their positions, all those taking part in this discussion share the conviction that independence must be proclaimed, and that it must be expressed clearly and widely. Freedom also manifests itself in the fact that the independence of the homeland is spoken about without fear but with joy.

After the issue of our magazine depicting the independence thought, we consistently put forward one that makes its main theme the proclamation of independence. Jolanta Załączny recalls written accounts of the arrival of Józef Piłsudski from the Magdeburg citadel to Warsaw by Polish women, showing that even then, this event was seen as an expression of the homeland's return to sovereignty. At the chronological opposite there is the independence novel by Donata Dominik-Stawicka, published on the centenary of the Polish liberation. Its analysis by Maria Jolanta Olaszewska is juxtaposed here with the testimonies from a hundred years ago to afford the narrative frame that emphasizes the proclamation of independence at a time when it was still uncertain – and then looking back. A completely different perspective is provided by Arkadiusz S. Więch in his sketch about Erazm Jerzmanowski. Here the proclamation of independence takes place through the practice of inventive and social activity. Looking at Jerzmanowski's activism, from armed struggle to building the

material foundations necessary for the functioning of every free society, we view A.S. Więch's article as an announcement of his monograph about this outstanding Pole, remaining hopeful to see a cinematic biography of Jerzmanowski. This thematic block is closed symbolically with the proclamation of Polish independence on the eve of its loss at the New York World's Fair in April 1939. Its slogan, "The World of Tomorrow," became the leitmotif for Apolonia Filonik who recollects this event. For Poland, the world of tomorrow, and even after tomorrow, was to be deprived of independence, so valued and emphasized. Persistent proclamation of independence, however, echoed happily in the distant future, and we can still hear and repeat it after decades of oppression.

The Cross-cultural Management section takes us from the realm of the spirit expressed in the issue to the hard rules of maintaining financial stability. Michał Tuszyński discusses the concept of macro-management to control economic entities and to ensure interconnectedness of the different entities themselves. From the managerial point of view, this is a crucial idea which requires the focus from financiers and humanists alike, seeking a balance between freedom and transparency of rules in the financial activities. Quite a different perspective is provided in the Spaces of Cyberculture section by Danuta Smołucha, who writes about uncontrolled Internet, which, being an oasis of freedom, sometimes also becomes its contradiction, pulling us in the snare of manipulation and misinformation. In search of spiritual sources of European culture, we turn to Hungary together with Gábor Horváth discussing the author of *Gesta Hungarorum*, one of the most important works of Hungarian medieval chronicles.

The Varia section abounds in relevant thematic, but also geographical diversity. Lorenzo Mascheretti presents a copy of Raphael's work from the Krakow Czartoryski collection, Aldona Snitkuvienė painstakingly reconstructs the history of the artifacts from the collection of Johann Friedrich Böttger, and Leonard Zissi completes this international authorship indicating the Albanian interest in Polish, which is a little-known issue in Poland. Returning to the Polish ground, but still not forgetting the literary atmosphere, we analyze the domestic publishing market in the last decade. Michał Rogoż skillfully shows the trends and phenomena in literature for young readers. The issue closes with the reviews by Magdalena Grabias and Leszek Zinkow who approximate the issues of the new perspectives in the Gothic studies, and the tactics in the use of social media, respectively.

We are pleased that such varied and rich material from a large host of authors from many different domestic and foreign research centers is well inscribed in the time of remembrance and proclamation of Polish independence. Let this be an opportunity to note for anyone that Italians, Hungarians, Lithuanians and Albanians also do know the price of independence

and autonomy. It is a real pleasure to be able to present today in our magazine the free exchange of ideas and research results from these representatives of free nations. We would like to share this satisfaction with our readers. Enjoy the reading!



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