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From the Editors

The topic of Issue 32 of *Perspectives on Culture* is Christianity and its role as a source of not only European, but also a geographically wider cultural sphere (e.g., the Egyptian Copts). Three pillars were fundamental to the construction of Europe's current cultural identity: Athens as a source of philosophy, Rome as the foundations of law, and Jerusalem as a place where religion was born. Christianity created a new cultural heritage upon the achievements of Athens and Rome, having respect for the legacy of the previous civilizations. There is no doubt that Christianity has made an important contribution to European culture. In this issue, an important place is given to the person of Pope John Paul II, whose teachings and thoughts appear in several texts.

We offer the reader over a dozen different texts presenting, above all, but not only, various aspects connected with Christianity, be it Catholic, Coptic and Orthodox, as a source of culture. Among the articles there are highly detailed studies, but also more general ones that signal certain subjects and issues.

The issue opens with an article by Joanna Małocha (UPJP2) describing a specific phenomenon of religious tattooing in Copts, which has been present among Egyptian Christians for centuries. Another text by Monika Kowalczyk (AIK) is focused on the icon as an object of worship in Eastern Christianity. The author mainly refers to the theses put forward by Nadia Miazhevich and Jan P. Strumiłowski in their newest work titled *Ikony zbawienia. Słowo, światło, kontemplacja*. A reconnaissance into recordings from meetings at the Catholic Intelligentsia Club in Krakow (KIK) with a brief historical outline of the club and their thematic analysis is the subject of Kinga Ziemińska's (AIK) contribution. The author argues that the recordings collected by the KIK constitute an archive with a rich content: historical, political and cultural. Magdalena Jankosz (UPJP2) described the religious songs accompanying the Pope's speeches during his pilgrimage to Poland (1979), seeking to answer the question what role they played in the public speeches of the Pope. In the following text, also dedicated to John Paul II, Leszek Zinkow (PAN) indicates a number of selected issues concerning the relationship of the Pope with the ancient

world. The author discusses selected statements made by the Pope and the pilgrimages he made in 2000 and 2001. Grażyna Zając (UJ) discusses the subject matter of short stories by the Armenian novelist from Turkey, Hagop Mintzuri, which are an invaluable source of knowledge about the no longer existing world of the ancient Christian nation in Asia Minor – the Anatolian Armenians. The poetry of Adam Zagajewski is the subject of interest to another author, Bogusława Bodzioch-Bryła (AIK), who proves how complicated the relationship between man and the sacred can be. Józef Bremer (AIK) presents a look at the current topic of the coronavirus pandemic; the author proposes a reflection from the point of view of biopolitics.

The regular section of *Perspectives on Culture*, Intercultural Management offers two texts. Łukasz Burkiewicz and Agnieszka Knap-Stefaniuk (AIK) present their introductory assumptions of their research on the intercultural competence of university students from the Czech Republic, Spain, Italy and Poland. The second article in this section, by a group of Catalan researchers: Anna Alvado, Joan Sorribes, and Josep Boyra (Escola Universitària Formatic Barcelona), present an interesting issue for the management of tourist destination and its dynamics on the example of Barcelona as compared to the Catalan region.

Another regular section of the quarterly, *Varia*, also contains two texts. In the first article, Marzena Kutt (UP) analyzes the theses of Feliks Koneczny as useful in the context of the contemporary clash of civilizations. The issue closes with the text by Klaudia Mularczyk (AIK), who is interested in the work of the Slovenian philosopher and cultural critic, Slavoj Žižek. The author draws attention to the dangers faced by modern man, which are discussed by the mentioned philosopher.

We wish you interesting and useful reading.

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