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Editorial

We invite you to the latest issue of *Perspectives on Culture*, thematically significant to us as it is devoted to the centuries-long ties between the Society of Jesus and the history of culture. The individual articles offer scholarly reflections on Jesuit sources and traces that have shaped both the material and immaterial cultural heritage. This heritage encompasses the significance of selected figures, events, places, works, and objects through which bonds were formed and traditions of Jesuit provenance were built. Viewed both historically and in the present day, this heritage carries universal and continually relevant values that enrich and complement our knowledge of the past, shape cultural identity, and – above all – enable an ongoing discourse on the cultural role of the Society of Jesus.

This issue is the result of the work carried out by the research team involved in the 2024–2027 project “Enhancing Research Capacity in Cultural and Religious Studies in the Area of the Jesuit Cultural Contribution” (as part of the “Regional Initiative of Excellence” announced by the Polish Minister of Education and Science on 29 June 2023). The issue includes scholarly articles dedicated to selected aspects of Jesuit cultural heritage – primarily those connected with Kraków and the Małopolska region – especially the overlooked or little-known elements that merit renewed attention, reinterpretation, and analysis within the context of contemporary humanities research.

The issue opens with a discussion of the importance of Jesuit sources held in the Archive of the Southern Poland Province of the Society of Jesus in Kraków. The significance of digitizing these collections is presented by Andrzej Paweł Bieś and Dariusz Kuźmina in their article *The Jesuit Digital Archive*. The authors note that the creation of the Jesuit Digital Archive (JDA), which fits seamlessly into contemporary trends in digital humanities, serves as a modern scholarly tool that enables researchers to access little-known manuscripts,

prints, and publications thematically related to the history of the Jesuits, particularly those of Kraków and the Małopolska region. The potential of such sources is further examined by Bogdan Zemanek in his article *Twenty Thousand Pages of Cultural Exploration: the Monthly "Misje Katolickie" (1882–1939) as a Research Resource*.

The next group of articles offers a synthetic reflection on issues related to selected Jesuit sources, resulting from archival, museum, and library queries. In her article *Antoni Reichenberg SJ: Caregiver of the Poor, Painter, Colleague of Jan Matejko*, Beata Bigaj-Zwonek revisits the biography of this Polish Jesuit artist and analyses and interprets his creative legacy. Monika Stankiewicz-Kopeć examines the relationship between the controversial Young Poland writer Stanisław Przybyszewski and the Kraków-based Jesuit Jan Pawełski SJ in her article *The Mediator of a 'Soul Long Lost in the Wilderness': On Stanisław Przybyszewski's Reconciliation with the Church and the Role Played in It by Fr. Jan Pawełski SJ*. Drawing on accounts of survivors of the plague epidemic, Péter Erdősi shows how Jesuits confronted crisis situations and attempted to combat the disease. His article, *The Response of the Transylvanian Jesuit Mission to the Plague of 1585–86*, focuses on the Transylvanian Jesuit mission supported by King Stephen Báthory.

The following section of the issue presents articles that result from micro-analyses and case studies conducted by the authors in relation to Jesuit writings and works of art. This group of texts opens with an article by Małgorzata Rygielska, who focuses on a preserved manuscript by Ignacy Skrocki SJ. In her article *The Tyniec Amusements: On a Manuscript by Ignacy Skrocki SJ (1799–1851)*, the author examines "Opisanie przyjacielowi zabaw swoich i współmieszkańców Collegii Theologici Tynecensis Societatis Jesu. Anno 1828 mense 1 Octobri," analyzing the role this work plays in understanding the Jesuits' intangible heritage: their didactic practices, the scope and content of their teaching, and its alignment with the *Ratio studiorum*. A further case study dedicated to Jesuit writing is offered by Izabela Kaczmarzyk in her article *Religious Culture in Upper Silesia during Industrialisation (Based on the Accounts of Jan Badeni SJ)*. The author examines the text "Z wycieczki na Górny Śląsk" by Jan Badeni SJ, published in "Przegląd Powszechny." The next two articles present analyses from the perspective of art history. In her article *Our Lady Known as the Merchant's Madonna: A Case Study*, Maria Szcześniak investigates one of the particularly valuable paintings held at the Jesuit Residence of St Barbara at Mały Rynek in Kraków. The volume concludes with an article by Barbara Hryszko titled *The Symbol of the Sacred Heart Devotion above the Presbytery of the Jesuit Church in Kraków: New Research*, in which the author examines the artwork crowning the presbytery of the Basilica of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in Kraków.