The announcement of the Minister of Education and Science dated December 21, 2021 on the amendment and correction of the announcement on the list of scientific journals and peer-reviewed materials from international conferences brought joyful news for the Editorial Board, Readers, and Friends of Perspectives on Culture. We have received 100 points in the new ranking of the Ministry.

The cover title of the new issue, An Oriental Journey, has attracted a great deal of interest from authors of various disciplines. Scholars of both remote and recent history have passionately explored this theme. The issue section contains three articles related to the medieval Levant. Wojciech Mruk, a medievalist from the Jagiellonian University, analyses the account given by Lionardo Frescobaldi, Simone Sigoli and Giorgio Gucci, who made a peregrination to the Holy Land together between 1384 and 1385. Another article, by Christopher Schabel (Cyprus University in Nicosia), discusses the best-known medieval Cypriot village of Psimolofu and its links with the patriarchs of Jerusalem. Nicholas Coureas of the Cyprus Research Center provides a broad perspective on the presence of the Greek Church on Cyprus during the Lusignan and Venetian rule (1191–1571). The next contribution takes us back to the 20th century and even further to the East. Magdalena Filipczuk (Jesuit University Ignatianum in Cracow) reconstructs selected themes in the reflections by Lin Yutang, a Chinese thinker, translator and editor, based on his work towards explaining and popularizing Chinese culture and philosophy in the West. One more article that takes us to the Far East, but back in time, is by Małgorzata Sobczyk (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń) undertakes to characterize the image of a Japanese woman in the light of sixteenth-century European accounts. The next three studies invite us to learn more about Poles and their presence in the East. Ewa Siemieniec-Golaś (Jagiellonian University) makes an attempt to discuss the figure of Władysław Jabłonowski, not only a physician in the Ottoman service, but also an expert and researcher of the East. Beata Gontarz (University of Silesia in Katowice) discusses the cultural experience of Jan Józef Szczepeński based on his book Do raju i z powrotem [To Paradise and Back]. The last article in the issue section
is a work of turkologist Sylwia Filipowska (Jagiellonian University), who discusses the circumstances of Tadeusz Kowalski’s journey to Turkey in 1927.

The Areas of Cyberculture section contains a study by Klaudia Golon (University of Gdańsk), who analyses the philological interpretation of the museum narrative about the Splendor i finesza. Duch i materia w sztuce Korei [Splendor and Finesse. Spirit and Matter in Korean Art] exhibition showed at the National Museum in Warsaw at the turn of 2020.

The regular section of the Perspectives on Culture, Cross-Cultural Management, contains three texts: the first by Ewa Kopeć (Jesuit University Ignatianum in Cracow) and Michał Tuszyński (Warsaw School of Economics) who reviewed selected empirical studies in the context of the importance of innovation during the coronavirus pandemic. The second text in this section, by the tandem of Łukasz Quirini-Popławski (Pedagogical University in Krakow) and Marcin Senczuk (Economic University of Krakow), deals with the use of mobile GIS applications in cultural heritage management. The section closes with the work of a team of researchers from the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Cracow, Hubert Guz and Konrad Ościecimski. They undertook to present the process of developing the Development Strategy for the Małopolskie Voivodeship as an example of organizational learning in local government.

In the Varia section we offer a number of fascinating studies. It opens with a review by Karolina Madeja, a medievalist (Jagiellonian University), who presents the views of researchers on the causes of pagan revolts in Hungary from the end of the 10th to the second half of the 11th century. Next, continuing the Middle Ages studies, Rafał Hryszko (Jagiellonian University) focuses on an interesting document from the end of the 15th century, which is an extremely valuable source on early Renaissance Italian confectionery. Marcin Ogrodnik (Jagiellonian University) takes a broader perspective on the development of the People’s Republic of China.

The authors of the next two articles are employees of Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce. The first one, Karol Miernik, discusses the foundations of the social, political, economic and religious thought of Ludwik Królikowski (1799–1878). In the second article, Łukasz Ospara characterizes the organizational structures of the National Party in the Radom district in the decade preceding World War II. Wiktor Szymborski (Jagiellonian University) presents the possibilities of using trench art in scientific research. Radosław Kazibut (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań) refers to Claude Lévi-Strauss and his take on alchemy, which was to be a source communicating mythological topoi. The next author, Tomasz Grabowski (Jesuit University Ignatianum in Cracow), ventures to explain the cultural causes of the radicalization of Western European
foreign terrorist fighters (FTF) who migrated to Syria and Iraq after 2011 to fight in the ranks of terrorist groups. Evelina Kristanova (Academy of Economics and Human Sciences in Warsaw) presents the characteristics of the situation of Polish Catholic periodicals in the current democratic system. The next article, by Agnieszka Puszkow-Bańka (Jesuit University Ignatianum in Cracow), presents a comparison between the criticism of Poland and Poles in early national democratic thought (on the example of J.L. Popławski) and the Krakow school (as in M. Bobrzyński’s views). The issue closes with an article by Krzysztof Koeheler (Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski University), which interprets Wespazjan Kochowski’s poem Kamień świadectwa [Testimony Stone].

We wish you a scientifically useful and enjoyable read

Łukasz Burkiewicz

Łukasz Burkiewicz – Cultural studies scholar, historian, economist of culture, and Assistant Professor at the Institute of Cultural Studies at the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow. His scholarly interests are related to the cultural history of the Mediterranean region in the Middle Ages and the modern age. He also deals with medieval travels. His research includes issues related to cultural management, marketing, and economics.