

Leszek Zinkow

<http://orcid.org/0000-0003-0681-7428>

Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures PAS

lzinkow@iksio.pan.pl

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From the Editors

An examination of the meanders of how the heritage of antiquity is received in contemporaneity is usually associated with the legacy of Greek and Roman culture. In the current issue, we propose a slightly different perspective – on the interesting and intriguing themes drawing from the achievements of cultures of the ancient East, primarily Egypt. This thread appears in the articles of the theme section of this issue of *Perspectives on Culture*.

The issue opens with a text by Aldona Snitkuvienė from the M.K. Čiurlionis National Art Museum, Kaunas, Lithuania. The author recalls and considers possible sources of inspiration from ancient Egypt in the work of Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis, painter and composer, the most prominent representative of Lithuanian culture at the turn of the 20th century. Hieronim Kaczmarek (Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures PAS) points to the patterns of shaping the modern model of a ruler on the basis of ancient testimonies about Egyptian pharaohs, while Leszek Zinkow (IMOC PAS) recalls how the ancient Egyptian sphinx became a twentieth-century symbol of modern Egypt in the sculptural work of Maūmūd Muūtār. Andrzej Ćwiek (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan) presents surprising references to ancient Egyptian symbols and motifs in the online space. The last article of the theme section of our journal is by Joanna Dębowska-Ludwin (Jagiellonian University, Krakow) – not only about the reading of hieroglyphs by the French scholar Jean-François Champollion (this year marking its bicentennial anniversary), but also about the commemoration of this discovery on world postage stamps.

A permanent section of *Perspectives on Culture* is, as always, Management and Marketing. In this issue it is represented by the text written by Mikołaj Sokołowski from Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow, who presents the most important issues of competition policy in the European Union.

While completing articles for several previous thematic issues, a lot of other texts have accumulated, so highly interesting and valuable that it is impossible to delay their publication. Hence, the Varia section is particularly abundant this time. Kamila Ziółkowska-Weiss, Mariusz Szubert and Karol Bożek (all from the Pedagogical University of Krakow) discuss their own, original concept of a tourist cultural heritage trail, called the Trail of

the Roman Rhineland Civilization (Germany). Roksana Rał-Niemeczek from the University of Opole proposes an analysis of the most important principle forming the convention of the genre of the Old Polish literary that is the bucolic, i.e. the so-called rule of compositional biplanism. The next text also brings us into the circle of ancient literature: Pelagia Bojko (Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce) delves into the topic of the curse as an important motif in the literature of Romanticism, especially in the works of Juliusz Słowacki. Beata Garlej (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw) considers philosophical, cultural, and especially phenomenological, links of *The Idiot* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky with the motif of *The Body of the Dead Christ in the Tomb* by Hans Holbein.

Konrad Kopel (University of Silesia in Katowice) proposes an intriguing analysis (using such research tools as Deleuze's concepts or machine systems) of alternatives to the contemporary hegemonic organization of power (state order, capitalism, bio-power, etc.) on the example of "moderation" of community mechanisms in the system of the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Łukasz Czajka (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan) introduces us to the world of the American popular culture of the 1950s: films about the invasion of Earth by space aliens – but in the context of the Cold War political conflicts. In a sense, the next paper, by Anna Wiśnicka (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University) is close thematically, in which the author analyses two narratives about nuclear potential in the mid-20th century: fascination with nuclear energy and the fear of the consequences of a possible nuclear attack, especially through the prism of... bomb shelter design.

And the last two texts of *Varia*, by Ewa Niestorowicz from the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (MCSU) and Magdalena Szubielska from the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin discuss the issues of making contemporary art available to the blind and visually impaired, while the international research team: Jakub Lickiewicz (Jagiellonian University Medical College), Jaroslav Pekara (Paramedic Department at the Medical College in Prague), Irina Georgieva (Department of Cognitive Science and Psychology, New Bulgarian University) and Marta Makara-Studzińska (Faculty of Health Sciences, Jagiellonian University Medical College) analyze the attitudes and reactions of the inhabitants of the Czech Republic and Poland to the COVID-19 pandemic. The issue closes with the Reports and Reviews section and Zenon Myszak's interesting text about the scientific and social activities of the St. James the Apostle parish in Łeba.

As always, we wish you a pleasant and useful scientific reading.