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Introduction

Dear Readers,

After a long break caused, on the one hand, by staff changes in the Editorial Board and, on the other, by the lingering coronavirus pandemic, another issue of the *Ignatianum Philosophical Yearbook* is coming out. The new editorial team has decided to expand the journal's formula to include texts from the general humanities; thus, there will be articles not only on philosophy, but also on history, cultural and religious studies, and theology, on top of Polish and foreign literature. The journal is also open to a wide range of issues that take into account the mission of the Jesuit University Ignatianum as a Catholic research center. An important element of this approach is the issue of the Mediterranean civilizational tradition and cultural heritage, which in our understanding are the most important sources of knowledge and inspiration for the study of contemporary problems of individual people, societies and states as well.

The issue opens with Janusz Smołucha's article on the cultural and social repercussions of the most notorious pandemic in the history of the world, the Black Death, which struck Europe in the late Middle Ages. Above all, this horrific disease exposed doctors' inadequate knowledge and their unpreparedness to save lives. The ubiquitous death, horror and terror that prevailed in many parts of Europe for years led to rapid demographic and social change. The Plague not only had an extremely significant impact on the economy, but also on the culture and mentality of medieval people.

A similar impact was also carried by epidemics in the modern era, which is discussed in the article by Beata Stuchlik-Surowiak. The author discusses the struggles against the *pestilence* (epidemics of plague, smallpox, typhus, dysentery, typhoid fever, measles, cholera, and influenza) in the Żywiec region based on the *Chronografia or Dziejopis żywiecki*, a local chronicle written by *advocatus* Andrzej Komoniecki (1659-1729). He left an extremely interesting and detailed description of the beliefs, customs and practices to stop pestilence. As in earlier eras, the Church was on the front line of the fight against the epidemics, exhorting the faithful to repent and pray for the reversal of God's punishment.

Turkish researcher Sabire Arik introduces the figure of Karol Bonkowski, born in Istanbul in 1841, son of a Polish emigrant from the period after the November Uprising. After his studies in the Turkish capital, he was sent to western Europe, where he gained extensive knowledge of chemistry and pharmacy. Upon his return to Turkey in 1868, he was appointed a teacher of chemistry at the Medical School. He was also later involved in chemical research and the study of infectious diseases, especially cholera.

The next article, written by Marcin Sokalski, refers to the parliamentary activity of Marcján Ścibor Chełmski (d. 1641), who came from a family with a strong tradition of public service, settled in the Krakow province. The text is based on manuscript archives (Sejm Journals and private correspondence) and printed sources (e.g. instructions and parliamentary resolutions), and presents "one of the most interesting parliamentarians and Sejm activists in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth of the 17th century."

Mariusz Nowak focuses on presenting the views of Henryk Lisicki, a publicist and historian active in the second half of the 19th century. The author was particularly interested in the role Lisiecki played in the society of Krakow's *Stańczy*. It turns out that Lisiecki's position was strengthened by his close intellectual relations with Stanisław Koźmian.

In the last article, Jan Szczepaniak analyzes the dispute between the Church and the state over the Catholic character of Polish schools in the Second Polish Republic. According to the Author, the turning point in this regard was the May Coup of 1926. The new government and its administration began to seek to subordinate the Church to the state, so that this institution would help in the formation of a new citizen – the civil man.

The issue closes with a review of a book by Bogusław Paż, *Filum cognitionis: Przemiany nowożytnej metafizyki od Suareza do Kanta* [Filum cognitionis: The transformation of modern metaphysics from Suarez to Kant] written by Bogdan Lisiak, S.J.

Be sure not to miss out on this issue.

Janusz Smołucha, Editor-in-chief

