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## Introduction

Dear Readers,

We are presenting you with another issue of *The Ignatianum Philosophical Yearbook*, which, in accordance with the current profile of the journal, contains articles on broadly understood history (including the history of culture, ideas, the Church, and law), philosophy, culture and literature.

The first two articles are historical studies on issues related to the Mediterranean region. It is worthwhile to study the history of this region, where the classical culture was born, and to analyze its problems, because of the extremely important processes that took place there, which significantly influenced how our civilization was formed. This applies not only to the areas of mainland Greece: Attica and the Peloponnese, but also to the islands in the Aegean Sea.

In the first article by Nicholas Coureas, the issues concerning the settlement of Cyprus soon after the Latin conquest of the late twelfth and early thirteenth centuries are discussed, based on accounts from various medieval and early modern chronicles. The author points out that most of the source material on this subject has been preserved in the chroniclers' legacy and not in documents, unlike, for example, the materials regarding the Venetian Crete or Rhodes under the Order of Knights of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem. As has been mentioned, the second text also refers to the Mediterranean, and it deals with the history of the Church, and above all, the history of the Jesuits. Its author, Krzysztof Homa, S.J.,

has analyzed the correspondence of the 19th-century Jesuit, Fr. Tadeusz Kuczyński, S.J., who ministered for a quarter of a century among the Latin Catholics of the Aegean Sea islands, Syros and Tinos, which make up the Cyclades archipelago. The contents of the letters complement the history of the Jesuits during the tumultuous period of the Order's rebirth in Europe and worldwide.

The next article, by Jakub Grudniewski, also refers to the history of the Church, recalling the Fulda Bishop Georg Kopp and presenting his role in ending the Kulturkampf in Germany. The author researched, among other archives, the records of the German bishops' conferences, the transcripts of the sittings of the Prussian Chamber of Lords (the upper house of the Prussian parliament), and other sources of the time that dealt with the evaluation of this bishop's activities. Bishop Kopp took an active part in the negotiations with the Roman Curia for the abolition of the anti-church legislation of the Kulturkampf, in which he appeared to advocate for concessions to the government. As the author has it, it was also thanks to the efforts of Bishop Kopp that Bismarck ended the Kulturkampf.

The next article, by Ewa Modzelewska-Opara, also deals with a nineteenth century-related topic, this time in Literary Studies, recalling the first comprehensive anthology of Polish literature, *Poets and Poetry of Poland*, published in English in the United States by Paweł Sobolewski 140 years ago. Sobolewski is worthy of attention because he initiated many pioneering projects in the Polish American community in the second half of the 19th century. The author has characterized Sobolewski's work and attempted to reconstruct its reception.

The next article we present to you deals with twentieth-century problems and issues in legal history. Its author, Lech Krzyżanowski, has analyzed the polemics on the death penalty that took place in the inter-war period in Poland. Although the issue was not given paramount importance at the time, it caused considerable controversy among lawyers, being reflected in professional journals such as *Palestra* and *Gazeta Sądowa Warszawska*, among others. Opponents of the death penalty pointed to its ineffectiveness and religious-moral concerns, while its supporters argued that abandoning the use of this sanction by the state would contribute to an uncontrolled increase in crime. As the author argues, authorities in pre-war Poland did not choose to repeal the death penalty out of a belief that a strong state had the right and duty to severely punish society's greatest enemies.

The last two texts address philosophical issues focusing on phenomenology. Andrzej Gielarowski's article takes up the subject of the

recognizability (or invisibility) of God in contemporary French phenomenology of religion. The author focused on the concepts of transcendence, immanence and mystery developed by Emmanuel Lévinas, Michel Henry and Gabriel Marcel. These philosophers set themselves the goal of “saving” God from the objectification to which they believed the phenomenological method presented by Edmund Husserl was leading. According to the author, particular attention should be paid to Gabriel Marcel’s concept of God as Mystery, which best meets the expectations of the believer. The second philosophical text and the last one included in this issue, by Tymoteusz Mietelski, is a bibliographical study. It is a compilation of a bibliography of the 20th century Italian phenomenologist Paolo Valori, who is little known in Poland.

Be sure not to miss out on this issue.

Janusz Smołucha, Editor-in-chief

