

Janusz Smółucha

ORCID: 0000-0003-2633-7093
Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow

Introduction

The initial segment of the latest volume of the *Ignatian Philosophical Yearbook* is centered on the discourse surrounding the presence of cultural heritage in the cyber domain. It explores the dissemination of this heritage by cultural institutions such as museums, libraries, and archives, as well as initiatives undertaken by Internet users. The authors scrutinize a comprehensive array of topics concerning the digital presentation of cultural artifacts, employing carefully selected examples in their discourse.

Leszek Zinkow's introductory text provides a comprehensive survey of chosen online museum platforms aligning with the author's scholarly interests. The principal focus lies in the analysis of tools and methodologies wielded by museums in disseminating their collections within the online sphere. In the subsequent article, Dorota Żurek explores facets tied to the utilization of the oldest handwritten manuscripts, pivotal sources for the study of the early history of Polish urban centers. The author draws attention to the preservation status of these sources and conducts an analysis of the extent to which their digital facsimiles are accessible online.

In the following text, Dariusz Zdziech scrutinizes the extant state of archives linked to the endeavors of Poles in New Zealand, along with the advancements in their digitization. Emphasis is also placed on the imperative of establishing a central Polonian archive on the Antipodes, endowed with the means to safeguard evidence of Polish presence in that country. Bartłomiej Wołyniec, the author of another scholarly contribution, directs attention to the analysis of genealogy within the

digital expanse, elucidating how this auxiliary discipline within historical sciences has not only secured its niche on the internet but thrives and undergoes dynamic evolution therein.

Danuta Smołucha emphasizes both the positive facets of the digitization of cultural heritage resources and the risks attendant upon the inappropriate deployment of modern technologies in their presentation. Illustrated by selected instances, she delineates how such endeavors may lead to the decontextualization or trivialization of cultural artifacts. Michał Szandula, the author managing this section, concentrates on the issues of surrounding remote education. His inquiry seeks to evaluate the functioning of the Third Age University at the University of Agriculture in Krakow during the years 2019–2022, particularly in the context of the utilization of digital tools in the educational process.

This volume further incorporates two historical articles. In the initial discourse, Fr. Jan Szczepaniak delineates the scenario of elementary education in the Pinsk diocese in the Polish territories annexed by Russia between 1772 and 1795, antecedent to the educational reform of 1803. He indicates that education (primarily for males) administered by Catholic parishes and orders was not subjected to state oversight during that period but rested upon antiquated Polish legislation, sanctioned by ecclesiastical authorities and parents. In the second text, Karol Miernik, drawing from archival sources and press publications, dissects the electoral maneuvers of the National Democracy preceding the elections to the Sejm and Senate of the First Cadence in November 1922, within the confines of three counties in the Kielce voivodeship: Kielce, Jędrzejów, and Włoszczowa. The inquiry reveals that confronted with formidable competition from the left-wing PSL “Wyzwolenie” (Polish Association of the People’s “Liberation”) party, particularly popular among the peasantry, the National Democracy had to concentrate its efforts on garnering support from this predominant social stratum in the scrutinized locale.

The concluding text in the volume, authored by Bogusław Szuba, focuses on the ideological, semantic, and aesthetic-spatial values inherent in the sacred architecture conceptualized by Adam Lisik. The author accentuates the symbiotic relationship between architecture and human sentiment and reflection, underscoring its spiritual and transcendental dimensions. The work is divided into two parts: the first includes the introduction, methodology, thesis, research overview, and analysis of Lisik’s chosen oeuvre as a precursor to subsequent deliberations, encapsulated in the second segment, along with a comprehensive summary.

The editorial board of RFI extends an invitation for perusal.