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Introduction

We are offering you a new issue of *The Ignatianum Philosophical Yearbook*. It is almost entirely devoted to Mikołaj Zebrzydowski. The state of research on him is outlined in the first article by Elżbieta E. Wróbel and Tomasz Graff. In a separate article, the latter author also presents issues related to the development of Florian Zebrzydowski's estate as his political importance grew at the court of King Sigismund Augustus. Special emphasis was placed on the case study method here. The author analyzes Zebrzydowski's acquisition of property in Radocza near Wadowice, showing the prospect of the need for further research into the growth of the estate of Florian Zebrzydowski and his family. The article concludes with an appendix, including an edition in Latin and a Polish translation of the document, in which "Sigismund Augustus grants Florian Zebrzydowski the right to build a dam on the Skawa River and to run water from there through a moat across the area of the Wadowice estate to build fish ponds in the Radocza estate."

On the other hand, the article by Bartłomiej Wołyniec, *On Mikołaj Zebrzydowski's Alleged Second Marriage*, addresses genealogical issues, particularly focusing on clarifying the question of interpreting an entry from the *Metrica Regni Poloniae* register regarding the marriage of Mikołaj Zebrzydowski to Dorota Herburt. An ambiguous translation of the phrase used there, *ad secundas nuptias*, has introduced the suggestion that Zebrzydowski was married twice into the literature. The author finally clarifies this issue by relating the phrase to Dorota's possible remarriage in the event of Zebrzydowski's early death.

The next author, Przemysław Gawron, in his article on the military career of the Cracow Voivode Mikołaj Zebrzydowski, discusses the importance of military service in the career of the future voivode and rebel. In light of the research carried out, Zebrzydowski's involvement in military matters can be seen, first as a court cavalry master and then of the royal regular army, and later as the Captain of Krakow, Voivode of Lublin and court hetman. All of these ranks of his ascendancy were also associated with his military activity, requiring Zebrzydowski to be somewhat proficient in commanding sometimes significant military units. However, in the author's opinion, military involvement was only a stage in Zebrzydowski's political career and served rather to make valuable acquaintances and gain royal favor, which resulted in new offices and the granting of more captainships in the following years.

In a slightly different way, Mikołaj Zebrzydowski as the Captain of Cracow was portrayed by Kacper Górski, who discusses his administrative and judicial activities during his tenure in this office. This is a case study to accurately reconstruct the procedure of Zebrzydowski's assumption of the Cracow Captaincy and his involvement in the administration of justice, since by virtue of holding this office, Zebrzydowski was obliged, among other duties, to supervise the township court's seatings, which theoretically took place every six weeks. It is interesting to compare Zebrzydowski's activities as Captain with those of his predecessor in office (Jan Zamojski) and his successor (Gabriel Tarnowski), as well as issues related to the administration of the office during the period of the rebellion. The author also explains the circumstances of Zebrzydowski's dispute with King Sigismund III over the Captain's tenement, which was (according to many contemporary participants in these events) the primary motive for the conflict.

Zebrzydowski as a politician valued by Vatican diplomacy is shown in an article by Janusz Smołucha, *Public Activity of Mikołaj Zebrzydowski during the 1596 Anti-Turkish Holy League Negotiations in Krakow*. Zebrzydowski, who held the post of Grand Marshal of the Crown at the time,

took part in talks that were held in Krakow under the chairmanship of papal legate Enrico Caetani, who, on behalf of Pope Clement VIII, tried to persuade the Commonwealth to participate in the anti-Turkish Holy League that was being organized. Although these endeavors were not successful, it is worth noting Mikołaj Zebrzydowski's direct involvement in this project, as he was then standing at the threshold of his public career.

In the following article, about Mikołaj Zebrzydowski and Piotr Skarga, S.I., and the history of their mutual relations, Fr. Andrzej Bruździński presents the relationship between these two important historical figures of this time. On the basis of the surviving sources, especially letters, the author analyzed the circumstances of their getting to know each other, and then of their cooperation, especially in the field of charity in Cracow. An important issue is also discussed: the case of mediation undertaken by Skarga on behalf of the king in the era of the rebellion, the course of which ultimately confirmed the cooling of the Jesuit's relations with Zebrzydowski.

A novel look at the figure of Zebrzydowski is presented by Agnieszka Pawłowska-Kubik in her article on Mikołaj Zebrzydowski (1553–1620) as an epistolographer. Only letters related to Zebrzydowski's public activities were analyzed, as his private correspondence is not known. The author paid special attention to the “deep layer” of the letters containing information transmitted by the sender in an unconscious manner, as well as their linguistic layer. The conclusions drawn from this research allow us to look at Zebrzydowski as a pragmatic man who uses words sparingly but deftly, and whose letters addressed to a collective audience further reveal him as a politician who skillfully uses rhetorical devices to achieve the desired effect.

The next article by Elżbieta E. Wróbel reveals a selected aspect from Zebrzydowski's rich charitable activity, concerning the foundation of a hospital for military invalids at the family estate in Zebrzydowice. In this context, the document of Bishop Bernard Maciejowski of Cracow, dated 1601, was discussed, which referred to the governor's request to transfer the rights of the local parish to the hospital parish established in 1599. At the same time, the situation described is an example of an interaction in the Church at that time between the clerical and lay elements, influencing not only the life of the parish but also the local community. The Latin version of this document and a Polish translation are included in the appendix.

Previously unknown aspects related to the foundation of the shrines in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska are addressed by Mirosław Płonka in the article on the overlooked consequences of the foundation of the sacred

sites' complex of Mikołaj Zebrzydowski (*dróżki kalwaryjskie*). The author points out the economic and social consequences of this project for the residents of the surrounding villages, mainly Stronie, Zakrzów and Leśnica, where this first Polish "New Jerusalem" was partially built. Analyzing the records of a case pending in 1687 before the Krakow bishop's court and concerning a tax owed to the parish priest of Stryszów, the author presented the opinions of the area's residents themselves regarding the changes that occurred in their lives after the shrines were built. Despite their impoverishment due to the loss of the most fertile land, they had a sense of making a sacrifice for a godly cause, which went some way to mitigating these negative effects.

The next text is an article by Agata Chrobot and Jacek Pielas, discussing the landed estate of Jan Zebrzydowski, the crown swordbearer (1620–1641), that is, the only son and heir of Mikołaj. An in-depth analysis of the Castle Court Records of Cracow from 1618–1641, especially the paternal donation made by Jan Zebrzydowski (1583–1641) in favor of his sons: Michał (1613–1667) and Franciszek Florian (1615–1650), supplemented by information from other sources, allows one to learn indirectly also about the wealth of his ancestors: his father Mikołaj and partly also his grandfather Florian. The article closes with an appendix in which the authors have included a document cited in the text: *The division of landed estates made by Jan Zebrzydowski, Swordbearer of the Crown, between his sons Michał, starosta of Lanckorona, and Franciszek, starosta of Nowy Korczyn and Szereszów, at the castle in the New Town of Korczyn on December 10, 1640.*

The last text published in this issue is the article by Magdalena Filipczuk on the work of Lin Yutang, the twentieth-century writer, essayist and philosopher who wrote within the framework of traditional Chinese thought. The author places Lin's writings in the broader context of his era and points out the connections between his thought and the Anglo-Saxon philosophical tradition, especially pragmatism.