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Introduction

In this issue of the *Ignatianum Philosophical Yearbook*, the first section focuses on texts related to Mediterranean history. Many texts center around Cyprus (Greek: Κύπρος, Turkish: Kıbrıs), often referred to as Aphrodite’s Island, as it is said to be the birthplace of the most beautiful goddess of antiquity, who, according to myth, emerged from the sea foam on its shores. The significance of Mediterranean culture, the cradle of classical civilization, is well known and needs no elaboration. The Greco-Roman world profoundly shaped European identity, culture, and history, influencing the political development of the continent as a whole. Within this context, Cyprus stands out as a particularly important region. As an integral part of Mediterranean culture, Cyprus has made significant contributions to the development of the broader Mediterranean world.

Modern Cyprus, or more specifically the Republic of Cyprus (Gr. Κυπριακή Δημοκρατία, Tur. Kıbrıs Cumhuriyeti), is currently overshadowed by other developments in the Mediterranean, particularly in the eastern region. A significant factor is the longstanding conflict between the island’s Greek and Turkish populations, commonly referred to in academic and diplomatic circles as the “Cyprus problem.” Since 1974, Cyprus has remained divided: the southern part is predominantly

inhabited by Greek Cypriots, while the northern part is home to Turkish Cypriots and houses the self-declared Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, a state recognized only by Turkey¹. Almost fifty years have passed since the division, yet no effective solutions have emerged to resolve the impasse. The two communities live separately, divided by a buffer zone known as the Green Line, which is monitored by the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). The future of Cyprus remains uncertain, but the situation continues to pose challenges for Turkey's relations with Cyprus, Greece, the European Union, and the broader international community.

The Mediterranean has long been a vital center of cultural and commercial exchange, serving as a crossroads between Europe, Africa, and Asia, and holding great strategic importance. After the collapse of the Roman Empire, Cyprus remained under the control of Constantinople, which successfully defended the island from Arab expansion in the ensuing centuries, allowing Greek culture to continue flourishing. In 1191, the island was captured by the Crusaders under Richard the Lionheart, marking the beginning of 380 years of Latin rule. This period included the brief rule of the Knights Templar (1191–1192), followed by the French Lusignan dynasty (1192–1474), and finally the Venetians (1474–1571). Many scholars regard the Middle Ages as the most remarkable period in Cyprus's development. During this time, the island served as the eastern frontier of *Christianitas Latina*, represented by the Frankish rulers of Cyprus. The island's rulers adopted the triple title of Kings of Cyprus, Jerusalem, and Cilician Armenia, while the port of Famagusta became one of the Mediterranean's most important economic centers. Gothic cathedrals modeled after French architecture were also built during this era, symbolizing the island's prominence. Interestingly, Poland and Cyprus had connections during this period. Notably, King Peter I of Lusignan of Cyprus visited Cracow in 1364, and in 1432, Cypriot envoys traveled to Wiślica to offer the Polish ruler, Władysław II Jagiełło, the opportunity to take control of the island. In 1571, Cyprus fell under Ottoman rule, which lasted for 307 years, until 1878, when the island came under British administration following the Cyprus Convention. The Cypriots eventually sought and gained independence in 1960, but the new constitution, imposed externally by Britain, Turkey, and Greece, proved unworkable. This set the stage for future conflicts, which culminated in the events

1 An important issue in discussing Cyprus is the correct definition of the island's inhabitants. Interpretation in this regard is provided by official UN and EU documents, where the terms Greek Cypriots (rather than Cypriot Greeks) and Turkish Cypriots (rather than Cypriot Turks) are used.

of 1974. Research on the history and culture of Cyprus—beyond just the focus on the “Cyprus problem”—continues to generate new insights and perspectives. This is reflected in the papers published in this journal, contributed not only by scholars from Polish institutions but also by researchers from abroad.

Without further ado, we invite readers to the first article in this issue of the *Yearbook*, a brief update by Janusz Smołucha on the establishment of the Centre for Mediterranean and Oriental Studies at the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Cracow, along with the goals and objectives of this new unit. The need for such an institution is underscored by the fact that 13 of the 22 articles in this issue focus on Mediterranean and Oriental themes.

The current issue of the journal opens with a contribution by Karolina Wyrwińska, who explores the circumstances surrounding Emperor Augustus’ election as president of the College of Pontifices (*pontifex maximus*). The topic is particularly intriguing given Augustus’ decision not to seize the title from Marcus Aemilius Lepidus, a former political rival, even though Augustus held absolute power. Instead, he waited 24 years and assumed the title only after Lepidus’ death. In the following article, the focus shifts from Rome to Constantinople. Veronika Kostopoulou examines the unique process of selecting the wife of a future emperor, which resembled a beauty contest. These contests, held between 788 and 882, aimed to choose the most beautiful and virtuous women to become the future empress, specifically for the first marriages of the emperor’s eldest sons. The article delves into the combination of qualities that were considered in these contests.

Eight additional texts in this issue focus on the Levant, particularly Latin Cyprus under the Lusignan dynasty and Venetian rule. Christopher David Schabel presents a biography of Hélié de Chamberlhac, the bishop of Paphos, who spent much of his tenure away from the island, serving as the permanent ambassador of Cyprus’s rulers to the papal court in Avignon. Svetlana Bliznyuk, through meticulous source analysis, challenges previous conclusions about the status and role of Bulgarians in Cyprus, particularly during the Cyprus-Genoa War of 1373–1375. Earlier research suggested that Bulgarians were slaves, but Bliznyuk demonstrates that they were mercenaries recruited in the 1360s to join King Peter I of Lusignan’s Alexandrian Crusade. These mercenaries remained on the island after his assassination in 1369, employed by his successors.

Nicholas Coureas examines the education available to both the Greek and Frankish populations of the Kingdom of Cyprus under the Lusignans, including the opportunity to study abroad. In the following article,

Łukasz Burkiewicz offers a comprehensive portrayal of Latin Cyprus as depicted in late medieval Castilian travel accounts—both real journeys documented in travel books (*libros de viajes*) and imagined ones described by “armchair travelers” (*viajeros de gabinete*) who wove medieval tales of wonder. Olgierd Lenczewski shifts the focus from medieval Cyprus to modern times and the Holy Land, revisiting lists of Polish pilgrims based on the *Navis peregrinorum* register (1561–1695). He makes new discoveries, corrects previous errors, and proposes alternative methods for identifying Polish names in these pilgrim records. Grażyna Zajac discusses the history of the emergence and development of Turkish-language literature in Cyprus and its links with Turkish literature. Magdalena Sadlik’s article is devoted to 19th-century travel descriptions depicting Cyprus made by Polish travellers. The author analyses the accounts and presents the impressions of the Polish travellers who mostly came to Cyprus during their pilgrimage to the Holy Land. In the last article dealing with Cyprus, Kinga Białek discusses the protection of material cultural heritage in Nicosia after 1974. These topics are difficult and complex, in view of the aforementioned fact that Cyprus is divided into two parts inhabited by separate groups that live in deepening isolation from each other. Although the prospect of a solution to the ‘Cyprus problem’ is distant, there are forms of care for the common cultural heritage, which can also be perceived symbolically as efforts at reconciliation.

During the preparation of this year’s articles, several additional texts were submitted that are both interesting and valuable. As a result, the Editorial Board has decided not to delay their publication. Consequently, the non-thematic section of this issue is quite extensive, but we trust that readers will appreciate this inclusion.

Monika Stankiewicz-Kopeć presents a little-known debate from 1829, which appeared in the *Pamiętnik Warszawski Umiejętności Czystych i Stosowanych* (*Warsaw Diary of Pure and Applied Arts*). The debate took place between two professors from the Royal University of Warsaw: Feliks Bentkowski and Count Fryderyk Skarbek. It centered around Skarbek’s translation of Charles Ganilh’s *An Inquiry Into the Various Systems of Political Economy*, and evolved into a broader discussion about the potential impact of new values, attitudes, customs, and cultural patterns on Polish culture.

The next two texts explore Asian themes. The first, by Andrzej Wadas, offers a depiction of 19th-century Korea (the Kingdom of Chosŏn) based on the accounts of Ivan Goncharov. In 1854, the Russian crew of the frigate *Palladium* made several encounters with the people of the Kingdom of Chosŏn on the island of Kōmundo and along the east coast of

the country. The article examines Russian-Korean relations during this voyage and places these interactions within a broader political and cultural context. The second article, by Bogdan Zemanek, highlights Anna Lewicka, a teacher, writer, and editor from Lviv. Lewicka is noted for authoring the only pre-war Polish book on China for young readers.

The next three texts relate to the scientific conference, Central Europe: A Community of Values—A Community of Interests, which took place on June 16–17, 2023, at the Podhale State Vocational College in Nowy Targ (now the Academy of Applied Sciences in Nowy Targ). The papers presented there have been adapted for this journal.

Grzegorz Kucharczyk provides an overview of Germany's attitude towards Central Europe from the 18th century to the end of the 20th century. He explores two key factors shaping German (Prussian) perspectives: first, Prussia's, and later the German Reich's, application of Realpolitik to Central Europe; and second, the German elites' emphasis on Germany's "cultural mission" towards Central European nations. Marek Kornat analyzes three concepts for how Poland, reborn in 1918, might navigate its position between Germany and Russia (the Soviets). These concepts evolved from a federalist approach aimed at reconstructing Eastern Europe (1919–1920) to weaken the Bolshevik Russian empire, to a Central European policy involving Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary (1921–1924), and finally to the idea of an Intermarium—a bloc of Central European states independent of Germany and the Soviet Union (1937–1938). The third text, by Mirosław Szumiła, examines the response of communist states to Pope John Paul II from 1978 to 1981. The focus is on the Eastern Bloc countries' reactions to John Paul II's visit to Poland in June 1979, particularly in the People's Republic of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and the Soviet Union.

Katarzyna Ceklarz's article explores current changes in tourism in Małopolska and Podhale. With the rising number of tourists from Arab countries, the author conducted field research in Zakopane to examine how the tourist industry is adapting to these new challenges. Konrad Oświęcimski's article delves into political science and administration by analyzing the significance of debates in US presidential campaigns. This topic is particularly relevant with the upcoming US presidential election in November 2024. The next two articles focus on architectural themes. Gordana Rovčanin Premović examines the symbolism of socialism in Montenegro's tourist architecture during the latter half of the 20th century, considering the socio-political context of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Hanna Michalak and Jerzy Suchanek discuss the role of light and acoustic effects in understanding the functionality

of architectural compositions from the perspective of building users. Beyond architectural issues, Tomasz Śmigiel addresses a crucial topic in the modern economy: safety culture. This concept has emerged as a variant of organizational culture in response to growing cyber threats, with a strong emphasis on contemporary methods of employee education.

The issue concludes with a review by Grzegorz Nieć, who evaluates the collection titled *Historical Politics*. This volume is the twelfth installment in the *Social Dictionaries* series, edited by Wit Pasierbek, S.J., and Bogdan Szlachta and published since 2019 by the Ignatian Social Forum at Jesuit University Ignatianum in Cracow.

We wish you an enjoyable and scientifically useful read!

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