

A Word from the Publisher

We hereby present to you the 28th volume of *Krzysztofor*. *Zeszyty Naukowe Muzeum Historycznego Miasta Krakowa* [Krzysztofor. Scientific Bulletin of the Historical Museum of the City of Kraków]. The current issue is almost entirely dedicated to the subject of the former Nazi German concentration camp Plaszow in Kraków. The papers we have gathered in this annual, contributed by researchers working in a variety of fields, indicate the factual, scientific basis for establishing the new museum, as well as inspirations and ideas that triggered off the process of its creation.

With this publication, we recapitulate on the over four years of educational, academic and organizational work focusing on the comprehensive project of the commemoration of the former KL Plaszow camp which was carried out by the Museum of Kraków and its special unit – the Workshop of the Museum and Memorial Site at the former KL Plaszow in Kraków. The result of that work and the actions and support offered by many people and institutions is the establishment of the KL Plaszow Museum and Memorial Site which shall be opened on 1 January 2021.

This seems to be the perfect moment to express our gratitude to the Mayor of Kraków, Professor Jacek Majchrowski for his initiative to build an institutional foundation for the commemoration of this Memorial Site, and to the Minister of Culture, National Heritage and Sport, Professor Piotr Gliński for supporting this initiative with his will and the authority of his office. The museum institution which has thus been set up is jointly managed by the Municipality of Kraków and the cabinet minister for culture, which constitutes a value in itself and guarantees its future development.

The genesis of the script for the commemoration at the former KL Plaszow camp and the process of the script's creation are discussed by Monika Bednarek. The texts written by Kamil Karski, Robert Kulig and Aleksander Schwarz, on the other hand, present the research activities that were fundamental for the preparation of the script in the first place, i.e. the pioneer archaeological research on the post-camp area, the studies of the history and architecture of the Grey House in which a part of the permanent exhibition is to be located, or the research into the history of the Jewish cemeteries (property of the Jewish communities in Podgórze and Kraków) where Nazi German occupants set out to build the forced labour camp for the Kraków Jews in 1942. Sebastian Różycki describes his method and sources in an attempt to present a cartographic analysis of the history of the memorial site. Pioneer research

on the numerous photographs taken in the camp during the war is presented by Marta Śmietana who has managed to trace the authors of the photographs, and tried to determine their postwar fates. The next two articles are dedicated to selected themes from the history of KL Plaszow: Alicja Jarkowska, the author of the study of cases of collaboration among Jews living in Nazi-occupied Kraków, elaborates on that subject addressing the situation in the Plaszow camp, whereas Michał Wachuła analyses the postwar testimonies of former KL Plaszow inmates living in the subcamp at the Kraków Cable Factory in the light of the methodology of documenting the Holocaust in the period shortly after the war. The volume also includes several articles that address issues associated with the contemporary functioning and significance of post-camp memorial sites. Hubert Kaszyński and his team have been investigating the potential of the former KL Plaszow as a site of axiological education and a space used in educational work with young people for many years now. Elżbieta Cajzer, an archaeologist and conservator from Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum points out to the ethical, social, as well as technical aspects concerning the organization of archaeological research in post-camp areas. The last three papers tackle the issues of establishing, preservation, and restoration of social awareness of memorial sites and their role in contemporary societies. And thus, Katarzyna Kocik analyses the intricate attempts to commemorate the area of the former KL Plaszow in the postwar period against a backdrop of the political changes taking place at the time, Jörg Skriebeleit presents the equally complex actions undertaken in the case of the former KL Flossenbürg Memorial Site commemorating the camp to which many former KL Plaszow prisoners were transferred, whereas Roma Sendyka shifts the discussion about the commemoration of post-camp areas into the context of the environmental history of the Holocaust, and of putting emphasis on the value of the land itself as a holder and carrier of memory.

The present volume definitely does not exhaust the richness of subjects connected with the KL Plaszow memorial site. On the one hand, it provides a kind of closure of a certain phase of work on the restoration of knowledge and memory about this concentration camp in Kraków, while on the other hand, it opens scope for discussion and further research.

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