

A Word from the Publisher

The Museum of Kraków hereby presents the latest, 40th volume of its academic annual journal *Krzysztofor*. This, obviously, is a source of satisfaction, since the regular publication of a journal is one of the most significant measures of any museum's or academic institution's efficiency, reflecting the quality of its work.

On this occasion, it is hard not to notice that with this issue we are celebrating a round anniversary: forty issues of a periodical published annually call for some reflection and demand us to critically look back. For there are many other periodicals which can boast a far richer tradition, the ones whose good example we should follow. It is important to know one's place in the world and be able to critically assess one's achievements, acknowledging one's strong and weak points alike. Therefore, in this introduction, apart from presenting the contents of the current issue, I would like to share a few critical thoughts on the history and achievements of the Museum of Kraków's yearbook.

I suppose it is worth pointing out that the Historical Museum of the City of Kraków (renamed the Museum of Kraków in 2019) was established in 1899, but it was not until 1974 that the institution mustered up to establish its own academic periodical. Whatever I choose to say in an attempt to explain the causes of this delay, we must admit that it marked a weak point in the history of our institution. The explanation of this long history consists of two parts. Initially, in the years 1899–1945, the Museum existed merely as a branch of the Archives of Historical Records (Archiwum Aktów Dawnych), although the word 'merely' seems hardly appropriate, considering the authority of the latter institution. For that reason, the Museum itself did not engage in publishing activity, and the idea to establish its own periodical was not even formed. It was not until 1945, i.e. when the Museum gained independence as a separate institution that its Director Jerzy Dobrzycki (1900–1972) listed the development of publishing activity, including the establishment of an academic journal, on his agenda. Dobrzycki even had his own, very specific plan which we should consider quite inventive, but also too complex to be executed at the time. His idea was publicly revealed for the first time by the end of 1949, as part of a more extensive document defining the institution's academic plans.¹ Among the research issues dis-

cussed in that document was the postulate that the Museum annually publishes *Kronika Miasta Krakowa* [The Chronicle of the City of Kraków] which would contain, on the one hand, problem articles discussing various aspects of the history of Kraków, and on the other hand – a painstakingly prepared chronicle presenting major events that took place in the city over the course of the past year. In other words, the idea was to combine in one periodical a narrative about the city's past and an account of the city's present (preserving it for the future). From the beginning of the 1950s until the early 1970s the staff of the Historical Museum of the City of Kraków gathered excerpts and clippings from the press and other sources, accumulating records for the chronicle which to this day remain stored in the institution's archives. The work covered in this field was presented in annual reports, and the leader most active in this area was Tadeusz Wroński (1936–1984).² *Kronika Miasta Krakowa* also featured in the planning materials as a consistently sustained 'forthcoming' publishing project. Alas, every year this issue would resurface in annual reports as 'unfulfilled'. Financial problems were usually listed as the main reason for this failure, although it seems that parallel to it was the tightness of staff responsible for publishing activity. After all, the venture was an ambitious one, and demanded permanent, extensive editing work. We should do justice to Jerzy Dobrzycki and admit that he remained consistently faithful to his original idea – perhaps even 'too faithful', since he was unable to abandon a project which was too ambitious and replace it with a more realistic one. Finally, in 1962 these endeavours were crowned with success, as the first (and, at the same time, the last) issue of *Kronika Miasta Krakowa*, covering the years 1959–1960 was published.³ Three years later Jerzy Dobrzycki made the

¹ Archiwum Zakładowe Muzeum Krakowa [Internal Archives of the Museum of Kraków] (hereafter cited as AZMK), sign. 1/260, Plan Badań Naukowych z 1 grudnia 1949 r. [Academic research plan of December 1, 1949].

² Ibid, sign. PXI 71, Nowak Tadeusz: Działalność Naukowa Muzeum Historycznego m. Krakowa 1946–1970 [Academic activity of the Historical Museum of the City of Kraków], p. 11.

³ *Kronika Miasta Krakowa 1959–1960* 1962.

decision to resign as director of the Historical Museum of the City of Kraków. His successor Stanisław Czerpak tried to walk in Dobrzycki's shoes and – at least technically – remained faithful to the idea of publishing *Kronika Krakowa* (the title was abridged to “The Chronicle of Kraków”) as the Museum's academic journal. The new director, with nomenclatorial connections to Communist party authorities, was notably successful in acquiring financial resources for the institution's development. Had he had the will to do so, he should have had no problems acquiring even more money to help launch the publishing of the journal. However, he clearly lacked that will. Even on 13 October 1969 the prospect of establishing a periodical to be published under the abovementioned title was brought up once again at the Museum's staff meeting.⁴ And although in 1970 *Kronika Krakowa* was included in the Museum's statute,⁵ no further issues of the annual were published until the end of Czerpak's term as director (1973). It was not until Sławomir Wojak took over the helm of the institution in 1974 that it was finally decided that the almost thirty years of pointless stagnation surrounding the idea of the Museum's own periodical was enough. In the Museum's new statute of 1975 Director Sławomir Wojak finally and effectively enforced the removal of *Kronika Krakowa* from the Museum's research and publishing plans.⁶ This decision should be considered as a reasonable one. In 1974 (or, strictly speaking, in 1975), thanks to the efforts of the new director, his new deputy Ludwik Ludwikowski, and the substantial support of the chairman of the Museum Council, Józef Mitkowski, the first issue of the academic annual journal titled *Krzysztofor. Zeszyty Naukowe Muzeum Historycznego Miasta Krakowa* was published. The title itself was interesting and had been picked according to a certain identity key to emphasize the connection between the institution itself and the Krzysztofor Palace which, from 1966 onward, became (or rather, room by room, had been becoming) its headquarters. Faced with many residents' reluctance to move out from their apartments in the palace, the decision about the title was also a political manifesto of sorts. Looking from our contemporary perspective, we can hardly blame those who made this decision back in the 1970s for our current problems resulting from this choice of title. The logic of functioning in a world ruled by the Internet, controlled by the power of online browsers creates a situation

in which those who seek information about our journal are usually directed to pages offering information about the historical building – Krzysztofor Palace – since it is much more recognizable and much better positioned.

48 years have passed from 1974 to 2022, and yet we are presenting you with the 40th issue, which means that we have not been able to avoid eight lean years in our publishing activity. These mostly took place in the period of political transformation, when all museums in Poland, including ours, went through a phase of changing their subordination, which entailed a serious financial crisis. Those bygone days are, hopefully, well behind us now and never coming back, which means that our ongoing work on the next, 41st issue of *Krzysztofor* will certainly yield a splendid result. The critical analysis of the contents, shape, programme and typographic transformations of our academic journal clearly deserves to be presented in a more serious study, which I intend to execute myself. It would also be interesting to document all the people (authors as well as editors) who have contributed to the success of our annual journal over the years.

Meanwhile, we are presenting to you our 40th issue. It does not have a strictly profiled character, although the choice of papers included in it particularly accentuates the issues of social topography. This results from the new research programme dedicated to the social topography of Kraków, recently launched by the Museum of Kraków. The scope and objectives of this programme are further discussed in my paper titled “Social Topography of Kraków 1257–1939. A Research Programme Launched by the Museum of Kraków: its Genesis, Scope and Perspectives.” A valuable introduction to this subject is the paper by a widely recognized expert in this field, Roman Czaja titled “Polish Research on the Social Topography of Towns in the Pre-Industrial Era.” Various aspects of social topography are also discussed in the papers offered by Iwona Kawalla-Lulewicz: “Grodzka Street in Kraków in 1900. Introduction to Social Topography Research,” and Bogusław Krasnowolski: “Nowy Square in Kraków's Kazimierz: an Overview of the Square's History from the 14th to the 20th Century.” This subject is also explored in Mateusz Drożdż's article discussing aspects of our most recent history titled “The Removal of Communist Street Names. The First Wave of the Decommunization of Kraków's Streets.”

Other studies included in this volume discuss, in accordance with our journal's profile, various problems from the history and art of Kraków, as well as issues related to museum studies and museology. Eminent expert on Kraków's architecture Marek M. Łukacz, together with Marek J. Łukacz (note the intergenerational aspect of the authorial duo, representing a good school of succession) discuss “A Previously Unknown Defensive Wall Surrounding a Portion of Kazimierz prior to its Establishment under Magdeburg Law.” Anna Bednarek – an excellent scholar specializing in Kraków photography who, despite her unadvanced age, no longer needs special recommendations – dedicates her study to the person of Walery Maliszewski: “Walery Maliszewski (1836–1885) – So Much More than a Photographer of Kraków.” In his illuminating paper titled “Kraków Solicitor Bolesław Rozmarynowicz (1891–1959) between

⁴ AZMK, sign. 8/2, Plany roczne i sprawozdania z ich wykonania. Sprawozdanie z działalności podstawowej Muzeum Historycznego m. Krakowa w 1969 r. [Annual plans and reports on their completion. A report on the statutory activity of the Historical Museum of the City of Kraków in 1969], p. 71.

⁵ Dziennik Urzędowy Rady Narodowej m. Krakowa [The Official Register of the National Council of the City of Kraków] 1970, No. 22, entry 97.

⁶ AZMK, sign. 475/1, Organizacja własnej jednostki. Zarządzenie Prezydenta Miasta Krakowa nr 117 z dnia 30 września 1975 r. w sprawie zmiany statutu Muzeum Historycznego m. Krakowa [Unit's internal organization. Directive no. 117 of September 30, 1975 issued by the Mayor of the City of Kraków concerning the change of statute of the Historical Museum of the City of Kraków], p. 223.

Resistance and Adaptation – a Life of Ethical Dilemmas” Wojciech Paduchowski presents the person of solicitor Bolesław Rozmarynowicz, shedding light on the moral dilemmas of the Stalinist era. “The Museum of the Kraków University of Technology – Searching for One’s Identity” – the text written by Marcin Chrzanowski and Lilianna Lewandowska – offers a museological perspective, particularly valuable for the study of the history of Kraków museums. A good example of a museological study initiated by our own collection is the paper contributed by a promising art historian Barbara Świądek titled “Gothic Chalice from the Collection of the Museum of Kraków.”

It has been our ambition since issue 39 to use our yearbook as a forum for critical discussion on Polish museums’ achievements in the field of exhibitions. In order to meet these objectives we invite prominent authors to review recently opened permanent, as well as temporary exhibitions (perhaps we should consider extending this critical reflection to cover European museum exhibitions as well). This time, one of the most outstanding museologists of her generation, Anna Ziębińska-Witek has accepted our invitation and presents her original review of the Sybir Memorial Museum in Białystok. Museologist and our own museum staff member Michał Grabowski has reviewed the permanent exhibition at the Dialogue Centre Upheavals in Szczecin. The Museum of Kraków is very much aware of the fact that it has evolved from the Archives of Historical Records which, after many transformations, currently operate as the National Archives in Kraków. Hubert Mazur has

shared his thoughts on the subject in the form of a review of a recently published book presenting the history of changes undergone by the Archives from 1878 until the present day: “Kamila Follprecht, Karolina Zięba, Paweł Ząbczyński: *Na drodze do współczesności. Archiwum Narodowe w Krakowie. Ludzie – miejsca – praca. 1878–2021*” [On the road to the present time. The National Archives in Kraków. People – places – work. 1878–2021]. Kraków 2021, 341 pp.”

It is difficult to review one’s own work, but it is still worth drawing conclusions from it. Mateusz Zdeb, the curator of the *Współistnienie* [Coexistence] exhibition which we launched in 2021 as a form of the Museum’s abreaction to the presence of the COVID-19 pandemic in the city, reflects on the role of the present time in a museum’s activity in a fascinating paper titled “A Museum of the Present? How Do You Tell the Story about the Here and Now in a Museum – the *Współistnienie* Project and Some Reflections upon its Completion.” The issue is, traditionally, complemented by “The Chronicle of Activity of the Museum of Kraków in 2021,” an annual report which, since 2008, has been regularly prepared by Jacek Salwiński.

We deeply hope, indeed, we are convinced that reading the 40th volume of *Krzysztofory. Zeszyty Naukowe Muzeum Historycznego Miasta Krakowa* shall be a pleasure, a source of knowledge and food for thought, providing you with plenty of material to reflect upon the past and the present.

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