

FROM THE EDITORS

In the global system of relationships and mutual links as well as international cooperation, the representatives of almost all cultures observe the growing importance of communication. The need to cooperate does not limit, but rather reveals the importance of distinct identity and cultural heritage as well as the ability to create the future with respect for the original values of human communities, even while undertaking the activities of innovative nature.

Inspired by the above described notions, and the idea presented by an eminent Indian scholar, Professor Suresh Sharma, whose concept of Word and Image creates a transcultural space for academic discussion, we present a volume of essays by a group of scholars united within the framework of the Jagiellonian Cultural Studies which refers to multicultural and centuries-old tradition of dialogue and fruitful co-existence between different nations, originating in the medieval Poland, as well as the allied neighbouring countries. The inspirational concept of Word and Image – in which the project of Jagiellonian Cultural Studies, with its stress on intercultural in-depth understanding could be written in – allowed us to bring together the two projects under the heading of this publication.

The articles are divided into two parts: Word and Image in Intercultural Space and Human Values in Intercultural Space. The volume opens with two programmatic texts, by Bogdan Szlachta and Leszek Korporowicz. The former article discusses political and legal issues related to the problem of cultural rights in a modern multicultural society, whereas the latter – proposes a creation of an integrated theory of intercultural space, in the context of the contemporary universe of symbolic culture.

The relationship between word and image in the context of intercultural space triggered the reflexions of six Authors: Rahul Peter Das, Andrzej Dudek, Tomasz Gacek, Beata Klocek di Biasio, Bohdan Michalski, and Paweł Siwiec. The spectrum of themes discussed in this part includes literature; translation; Western religious painting; Orthodox iconography; semantic aspects of expressing values in languages belonging to

different civilisations; language as a value; the myth of Europe in art; and the question of European identity.

The Authors of the articles gathered in the second part of the volume – Marcin Brocki, Leon Dyczewski, Łukasz Gacek, Sylwia Jaskuła, Hubert Królikowski, Józef Łucyszyn CM, Tadeusz Paleczny, Dorota Rudnicka-Kassem, Margaret J. Secombe, and Tobiasz Targosz – dedicated their contributions to axiological dimensions of “East” and “West.” The issues confronted encompass cultural relativism; translating cultures; the triad of values fundamental for the development of modern society, such as: human dignity, justice, and solidarity; the principles of Confucianism cultivated in Chinese diaspora; the concept of Carl von Clausewitz’s military strategy in relationship to the ancient Chinese ideas of Sun Tzu; contemporary information culture and society; the approach of the Christian state towards pagans and Paweł Włodkowiec’s definition and recognition of the level of dialogue, understanding and compromise; processes of transferring the cultural elements between different racial, ethnic and religious groups; the issue of multi-ethnic relations in Western Europe with special focus on the question of Muslim nowadays identity; the concept of core values in intercultural space defined by Jerzy Smolicz; and modernisation of a traditional society during the colonial period (on the example of Burma).

The Contributors of the volume address the complex connection between both the axiological and pragmatic levels of human life, thinking, and comprehension – indicating the natural craving to combine the material and the spiritual. In this context, they also undertake the multifaceted issue of mutual interdependences between word and image, both of which not only signify meaning but also work as natural carries of human values. The articles gathered in this publication justify therefore that different cultures of the World are not only united by common values, but at the same time, they are also enriched by cultural diversity.