

## **ABSTRACTS**

### 1/2006 Profesorowi Gerardowi Labudzie w 90. rocznicę urodzin

Gerard Labuda

*The Institute for Western Affairs and the Challenges of the Future*

This is a reprint of an article by Professor Gerard Labuda that appeared in a jubilee issue of "Przegląd Zachodni" ("Western Review") No. 3, 1994. In it Prof. G. Labuda presented his scientific output and the directions in which the Institute developed up to 1994. He drew special attention to the new scientific challenges the Institute had to take up following the breakthrough of 1989, which meant a broadening of the scope of research onto the European context, i.e. Poland - Germany - Europe.

Marceli Kosman

*Gerard Labuda - The Man and his Work on the 90th Birth Anniversary*

In December 2006 Professor Gerard Labuda will celebrate his 90. birth anniversary. He is one of the most outstanding Polish humanistic scholars, former Rector of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, a full member and former Vice-President of the Polish Academy of Sciences, as well as Honorary President of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cracow. The article recounts the biography of a Scholar entirely committed to scientific work, and his achievements in the area of conducting, promoting and organizing research. The text takes into account the latest source materials, above all Prof. Labuda's own statements and opinions.

Józef Borzyszkowski

*Gerard Labuda - A Kashubian from Poznań. The Way from "The History of Pomerania" to "The History of Kashube"*

Professor Gerard Labuda describes himself as a Kashubian in Poznań. Even to this day he dreams and thinks in Kashubian. Although he has lived in the capital of Great Poland since 1936, he has throughout maintained very close contacts with his native land, where he enjoys immense respect and esteem. When working, among others, on the great synthesis "The History of Pomerania", he had in mind "The History of Kashube in the History of Pomerania" - a publication long awaited by his compatriots, particularly those convened in the Kashubian Union, of which Professor Labuda is a full and honorary member. In the year of the Professor's jubilee, this work became a fact. His links with Kashubians and his way from "The History of Pomerania" to "The History of Kashube ..." are the theme of the article.

["Open whole article" \(PDF\)](#)

Jerzy Strzelczyk

*The Polish Church on the Boundaries of Roman Christianity in the Middle Ages*

The article focuses on the organizational aspects of the early Church in Poland, the development and changes in Church structure in the late Middle Ages, the organization of the Orthodox Church in Poland (due to annexation of lands by Casimir the Great and the Polish-Lithuanian Union, Poland and later the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth became a multi-confessional state). The last part of the article presents the main problems connected with the missionary activity of the Polish Church addressed both to the heathens (Pomeranians, Prussians, Yatvingians, and Lithuanians) as well as to the Orthodox "schismatics". Reformation in the 16th century decidedly deepened the religious divisions in Poland.

Natalia Jackowska

*Protagonists and Heirs. The Role of the Address of Polish Bishops of 1965 in Confessional and European Dialogue*

"The Address of Polish Bishops to their German Brothers in Christ" issued on 18th November 1965 is seen today as an impulse that triggered reconciliation between Poles and Germans after World War II. The appeal for forgiveness was an attempt to introduce ethical motivation in the political sphere that would enable a way out of the tragic labyrinth of history. However, the document was ahead of its times, and that is why its importance - not just in terms of an ethical but also practical dimension of relations between nations - can be appreciated only from the perspective of the last forty years of changes within the Church, ecumenical dialogue and Europe, also on the political plane. The dialogue developed by a small circle of precursors, ultimately turned out to be a basis for the Polish-German agreement which became possible after the democratic breakthrough of 1989. The article shows a continuity of the ideas underscored in the documents of 1965 and the topicality of the model of dialogue outlined on the basis of the Address, relatively to the various crises in contemporary Europe. The difficult road to agreement is recalled not only in documents marking the anniversary but also in opinions that the Polish-German experience can serve as an example for other nations.

Magdalena Mikołajczyk

*The Address of Polish Bishops in the Press Coverage and Historiography of Polish Emigration and Opposition Circles in the Polish People's Republic (PRL)*

Analyzing texts and commentaries concerning the letter sent by Polish Episcopate to the German Episcopate in 1965, which were published in Polish emigrant periodicals and also in the Polish illegal, uncensored publications in Poland during the decades of 70-ies and 80-ies, one can see, that this event formed a very important reference point for the formation of attitudes both for individuals and important oppositional circles in Poland. This event is discussed in several contexts i.e. concerning the problems of the relationships between communist state and Church, Polish-German relations, relations between political opposition and authorities and relations between opposition and Church.

Winfried Lipscher

*The Gospel or Politics? An Exchange of Letters of Reconciliation between Polish and German Bishops in 1965 and Its Consequences*

The article presents the reactions of Polish and German clergy to the contents of the letter of

reconciliation of the Polish and German bishops of 1965. It also discusses the reaction of the Polish state authorities to such an independent decision of the Polish bishops which was perceived as a political undertaking, not a religious and ecumenical act. The letters of reconciliation coincided with the proceeding of the last stage of the Second Vatican Council, which was ecumenical in character.

Theo Mechtenberg

*Agreement and Reconciliation with Poland in the GDR*

The article gives a short account of the activity of Lothar Kreyssig from the Evangelical Church, Günter Särchen from the Catholic laity, and Theo Mechtenberg, an academic pastor from the German Democratic Republic, all of whom were committed to Polish-German reconciliation. The work undertaken by them is presented over a period beginning in the early 1950s up to 1982. The creation of the Action "Sign of Penance" and the first visits of German youth to Poland to the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp are discussed, as well as the attitude of the GDR's state authorities and Church hierarchy to such grass-roots initiatives. Polish circles and individual persons who cooperated with the initiators of reconciliation from the GDR are also described.

Karl Schlögel

*The German East - A Common European Cultural Heritage*

The article presents the perception of the so-called German East in various periods of history until today. Historical studies, memories and emotions appear to be strongly connected with the current political requirements. It was only 1989 that brought a certain breakthrough in the assessment of this problem, whereas the enlargement of the European Union in 2004 finally opened the possibilities of expounding the theme of the "German East" in a historical and cultural perspective as a common heritage of those lands.

Jaroslav Pánek

*Central-European Historians in the European Union*

The accession of ten new member states to the European Union has given rise to a serious problem of the identity of nations and states in confrontation with the identity of a united Europe. Historians can play a major role in solving this problem by underscoring the positive aspects of neighbourly relations. Certainly, discussions concerning contentious issues from Europe's past do not disappear after May 1, 2004, but they should not be reduced to a one-sided irresponsible kindling of controversies or utilization of historical material to provoke new conflicts.

Iwona Hofman

*Question of Polish-German Neighbourly Relations in the Political Writings of Juliusz Mieroszewski*

Juliusz Mieroszewski (1906-1976) belonged to the circle of closest collaborators of Paris-published "Kultura" ("Culture"), regarded as a pivotal centre of Polish political thinking in exile. Inspired by Jerzy Giedroyc, he formulated the magazine's position on such questions as Poland's post-war borders, relations with Poland's Western and Eastern neighbours, and the place of Poland in a divided Europe. Although it is his so-called Eastern doctrine that seems to be considered the most valuable part of his life's work, he was also interested in the matter of Polish-German relations. In his perceptive analyses he strove to convince the readers of the

irreversibility of post-war geopolitical changes, rationalize fears of the neighbouring Germany, and present the logic behind the unification of Germany and Europe within the context of the superpowers' policy and proposals for a federal, neutral Central Eastern Europe. The article discusses the main ideas presented in Mieroszewski's writings on those issues and the influence of his opinions on the perception of the question of Polish-German neighbourly relations on both sides of the border, taking into account the specific role played by the German Democratic Republic.

Andrzej Choniawko

*Confrontational Activity of the Great Poland Administration Towards the Church in the Last Phase of Polands Millennium Celebrations*

The address of the Polish bishops to the German bishops, issued on 6th December 1965 was very negatively received by the state authorities. As a result, the relations between the state and the Church deteriorated significantly, which became clearly manifest in subversive actions inspired by the state against the millennium celebrations organized by the Church. The celebrations proceeded throughout 1966 in circumstances of various limitations and pressure of the administration on the Church hierarchy and the faithful. The Church's activity was subjected to a continuous invigilation on the part of the security police. State authorities systematically escalated acts against the peregrination of the icon of Our Lady of Częstochowa that eventually put a definitive end to this initiative. The episcopate reacted with a pastoral letter, and its reading out in churches broke the information and propaganda monopoly of the leadership of the Polish United Workers' Party (PZPR). In response the regional leaders of the PZPR in Poznań organized groups of party activists to launch protests "in connection with archbishop Baraniak's hostile pastoral letter". All in all the action brought results contrary to what was expected and did not in any way increase the effectiveness of the administration's policy towards the Church.