

Laudation Celebrating the Ceremony of Awarding Professor Jerzy Kłoczowski the Medal of Merit of the Catholic University of Lublin

Professor Jerzy Kłoczowski, the Historian of Christianity, Polish and European Culture, a Great Humanist

A few weeks ago our *laureatus* of today, Professor Jerzy Kłoczowski, who will be awarded the Medal of Merit of the Catholic University of Lublin by the Rector, the Rev. Stanisław Wilk SDB, turned 80. he has spent most of his working life in the employ of the University — he has been serving KUL for 55 years.

When I was asked by the Dean to prepare today's ceremony and deliver a laudation I did not fully realise the difficulty of the task I was undertaking. The reason for this difficulty is that it is nearly impossible to describe concisely and briefly the achievements of such a great scholar. Moreover, it is even more demanding to write and talk about my own Teacher and Master.

The Sources of Understanding History According to Professor Jerzy Kłoczowski

Jerzy Kłoczowski was formed academically as a historian in an excellent way by the most eminent scholars, such as the renowned scholars from Poznań: Kazimierz Tymieniecki, Adam Skalkowski and Karol Górski. When Adam Górski moved to Toruń to teach at Mikołaj Kopernik University Kłoczowski followed him and moved there as well. he received his MA at Mikołaj Kopernik University and Górski was his advisor and supervisor. Two years later he received his PhD. Tymieniecki, an eminent medievalist, acquainted young Kłoczowski with both Polish and European traditions of historiography, thus providing Kłoczowski with the fundamentals of understanding history. However, as can be observed in the subsequent years, the subject of Kłoczowski's fascination and research developed via the contacts with his second Master - Karol Górski. It was while working with Górski that Kłoczowski realised the significance of the research into the history of Christianity and his favourite subject, namely the history of the Dominicans Order (Black Friars; Ordo Fratrum Praedicatorum).

He has been faithful to the choices he made at the beginning of his academic career throughout his whole life. he looked for his new inspirations to create his perception of the past in books and in contacts with great historians and scholars of the previous century. One

of the people who influenced him significantly was Pierre Mandonnet and the French School of the Dominicans — Yves Congar, Marie Dominique Chenu. These scholars paved the way for him to the contemporary French Historical School created around Marc Bloch and the Journal “Annales”. The reading of *Feudal Society* was another significant moment in his life. When in 1958 he met Bloch's friend Gabriel Le Bras they understood each other very well. Le Bras had a very significant impact on Kłoczowski. As he himself claims, “(...) while studying Le Bras one cannot separate methods from results and it is necessary to treasure in one's memory a figure of a scholar who is open and avoids any kind of routine or narrowing down. This is a dynamic person who constantly searches, asks questions and propagates his interests among the wide circles of researchers”. Kłoczowski's inspiration and fascination with Le Bras is best reflected in his research programme presented at the beginning of the 1960s — “The Development and Issues Concerning the Research Into the Historical Geography of the Church in Poland” (“Roczniki Humanistyczne” 11:1962, z. 2). The new sources of his interests, fascinations and research projects came from the influences of various foreign historians from France, Italy, Belgium and other countries.

Academic Master and Education Organizer

Jerzy Kłoczowski came to Lublin in 1950, invited by the current Rector, the Rev. Antoni Słomkowski. It was a very difficult time. KUL was persecuted by the communistic authorities - sections and departments were being closed down. People were leaving the university - both the Faculty and the students who were becoming more and more restricted and limited by *numerus clausus determined* by the Ministry. Both teaching and studying were politically dangerous issues. Therefore, Kłoczowski put emphasis on didactics and looked for the enthusiasts of history and history teaching. he was supported in his efforts by two other scholars who had just come via Poznań to teach at KUL, namely Zygmunt Sułowski — who graduated from the Jagiellonian University and Marzena Pollakówna who graduated from Warsaw University. The results of his undertakings turned out to be very significant and profitable, especially when looking from today's perspective. The subsequent successes were the result of excellently organized seminars. The atmosphere of these seminars has influenced the new generations of students. The seminars are free from ideological brain-washing and enable the students to develop their own intellectual passions and choices. Young doctor Kłoczowski's knowledge, talent and involvement combined with personal charm and charisma attracted ambitious and involved students. In the mid-1950s, with the help of his first students, he formed a new group of researchers, subsequently formalized as the Institute

of Historical Geography of the Church. They undertook a comprehensive research programme examining the history of Christianity in Poland and in the Commonwealth of Poland and Lithuania, which later on included the countries of East-Central Europe. The major emphasis should be put on Kłoczowski's great understanding for academic didactics. He was always an involved, passionate lecturer and a demanding examiner. Because of him historical studies at KUL won acclaim both all over Poland and in other countries. One of the foundations of KUL's historical formation was and still is the course *Introduction to Historical Research* that concludes with the examination by the person who gives the lectures. For years, it has been Professor Kłoczowski who has taught this course. His success is also reflected by the number of Faculty members who participated in his seminars. There are 20 such Faculty members, but the number is going to increase, as there more PhD teachers who are working on their postdoctoral dissertations.

He undertook various duties at the University. he was chosen several times to be a Director of the Section of History. he was also the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities. In all his jobs he endeavored to improve the 'didactic ability' of the unit he supervised. he fought against the activities leading to the isolation of science and teaching practised at our University. And one must not forget that these were the times when the value of a University was measured by what may be called 'the Party indicator' (e.g. how many people belonged to the Communist Party). The atmosphere prevailing at the universities then was a mixture of conformism, human fear or even hostility towards KUL. Therefore, those who decided to cooperate with the group of historians from KUL at those difficult times should be especially acclaimed and honoured. And Professor Kłoczowski was a person who facilitated this cooperation and contributed to the reduction of all those barriers. the activities of the group of historians gathered around Professor Kłoczowski at KUL gained support from other research circles in Poland. These were usually the researchers from reputable and renowned universities in Warsaw, Cracow, Poznań or even Wrocław. The most difficult task was to gain support here in Lublin. After a time, particularly since mid-1960s, Professor's personal con-tacts with researchers from the other side of the Iron Curtain resulted in their visits to KUL. They conducted lectures and seminars. I can find in my own credit book the signatures of such renowned scientists as Christopher Brooke, Alphons Dupront and Roger Aubert, Cinzio Violante. I also remember the lectures that were conducted by such historians as: Jean Delumeau, jacques Le Goff, Georges Duby or Rob55ert Mandrou. It is also worth mentioning

that owing to Kłoczowski, two other great Polish researchers, namely Professor Władysław Bartoszewski and Professor Tomasz Strzembosz lectured at KUL.

The Value and Importance of Scholarly Achievements

Professor Kłoczowski's scholarly achievements are so numerous that it is impossible to talk about them in detail today as we would not have enough time to cover everything. It is only possible *to* mention the most important issues and the most general figures. His scholarly achievements comprise over 800 publications, including dozens of books published both in Poland and abroad (in France, Italy, Great Britain, the USA, Belgium, Hungary and Ukraine).

Let's briefly look over the issues of interest to our Laureate and the subjects of his scholarly publications. We should start with the history of the Dominicans Order (Black Friars; Ordo Fratrum Praedicatorum). Kłoczowski devoted his first scholarly works, namely his MA and his PhD, to this subject, and he is still interested in this topic nowadays. His work *Dominikanie polscy na Śląsku w XIII-XIV wieku* \Dominicans in Silesia in 13-14th Centuries\ published in 1956 became one of the key works in Polish historiography. he also provided the first scientific synthesis of the history of the Order in historically Polish lands - *Zakon Braci Kaznodziejów w Polsce 1222-1972. Zarys dziejów* [The Dominicans Order in Poland 1222-1972. The History\ in *Studia nad historią dominikanów w Polsce 1222-1971* [The Studies of the History of the Dominicans in Poland 1222-1971] edited by J. Kłoczowski (Vol. I, Warszawa, 1975, pp. 19 - 158 and Mały Atlas). These publications reveal his understanding of the importance of a manifold approach to research into society - he emphasises looking at the research into society through the prism of monastic communities. The subsequent publications devoted to these issues and drawing on European scholarly achievements also reveal these attitudes. These are, as follows: *Wspólnoty chrześcijańskie. Grupy życia wspólnego w chrześcijaństwie zachodnim od starożytności do XV wieku* [Christian Communities. The Groups of Common Living in Western Christianity, from Ancient Times to the 15th Century], (Znak, 1964); *Od pustelni do wspólnoty. Grupy zakonne w wielkich religiach świata* \From Hermitage to the Community. Monastic Communities in the Great Religions of the World] (Czytelnik, 1987) and published recently *Wspólnoty chrześcijańskie w tworzącej się Europie* [Christian Communities in Developing Europe], (W drodze, 2003). His innovative approach is presented in the works that sum up Polish historiography, namely in two studies devoted to orders in Poland both in the Middle Ages and in modern times: *Zakony na ziemiach polskich w wiekach średnich* [The Orders in Poland in the Middle Ages\

in *Kościół w Polsce [Church in Poland]*. Kłoczowski, ed. (Kraków, 1968, pp. 373-582) and *Zakony męskie w Polsce w XVI-XVIII wieku [Men's Orders in Poland in 16-17th Centuries]* in *Kościół w Polsce [Church in Poland]*, (Vol. 2, Kraków, 1970, pp. 483-730). he also conducted a range of studies devoted to individual orders, such as the Cistercians (the White Monks), Franciscans (Grey Friars) and Carthusians.

Another significant project is a group work that has been directed by Professor Kłoczowski for over 30 years. It is a research project carried out by a group of about 100 nuns who gathered materials connected with the histories of their orders and congregations during the Second World War, the occupation and the beginnings of communism in Poland. There have been 16 volumes published so far and the work is still in progress. The nuns are currently doing research on the period of time of the Polish People's Republic.

The subject that appears in many works by Professor Kłoczowski is the Catholic Church in Poland and the history of both Polish and European Christianity. The works include both the results of the research done by the research groups he directed and his own studies. The whole range of the analyses opens with *Studia nad historią Kościoła katolickiego w Polsce [The Study of the History of the Catholic Church in Poland]*, *Kościół w Polsce [Church in Poland]*, Vol. 1-2, (Kraków, Zak, 1968-1970) published at the end of the 1960s. This work strengthens the status of Professor Kłoczowski and his research group to such an extent that they start to be described as the "Lublin School" or "Kłoczowski's School." Their significance is confirmed by the subsequent works dealing with the same subject, such as *Chrześcijaństwo w Polsce [Christianity in Poland]* with two editions in Poland and others soon published in Italy and France. Another meaningful publication was *Zarys dziejów Kościoła w Polsce [The Catholic Church in the World and in Poland. Historical Sketches]*, (Kraków, Zak, 1986) written together with Jan Skarbek and Lidia Müller, translated into Hungarian (Budapest 1994). he had his own auteur study *Dzieje chrześcijaństwa polskiego — History of Polish Christianity* — published by a French publishing house Editions du Dialogue. This two-volume edition, intricately illustrated contains a small atlas of Polish Christianity made by Zofia Żuchowska from the Workshop of the Institute of the Historical Geography of the Church in Poland at KUL. A slightly modified version was published in the collection "Świat Książki" (The World of Books), and the English version was published by Cambridge University Press.

One sign of his achievements in the research into the history of Christianity was the invitation he received to join the international project summing up the results of the research from all over the world aimed at compiling a new synthesis of the history of Christianity. As a result of that project a 14-volume work was published - *Historia chrześcijaństwa. Religia, kultura, polityka. -A History of Christianity. Religion, Culture. and Politics* (eds. J-M. Mayer, Ch. I L. Piętn, A. Yoche, M. Venard and J. Kłoczowski). The work was published in French, German and Italian. In the Polish version two volumes have been published so far, namely *Historia chrześcijaństwa. Religia, kultura, polityka* [A History of Christianity. Religion, Culture and Politics], Warszawa, 1999, vol. 4: *Biskupi, mnisi, cesarze 610-1054* [Bishops, Monks and Emperors 610-1054]; 2001, vol. 5: *Ekspansja Kościoła rzymskiego 1054-1274* [The Expansion of Roman Church 1054-1274]. The other volumes still need to be translated.

Another area of Professor Kłoczowski's interest is thematically connected with East-Central Europe. His scholarly achievements in this field are both numerous and monumental. They include the contributions of the Institute of Central-East Europe which he has established and directed. It was established in the atmosphere of the rebirth for freedom of the countries from this part of Europe. The Institute was also blessed by Pope John Paul II at a memorable colloquium in Rome in 1990. The accomplishments of the Institute go beyond strictly scientific achievements, but it is always easier to enumerate these ones. Therefore, while talking about the achievements of our Laureate, it is necessary to mention the activities organised by the Institute, such as numerous symposia and International congresses, research groups extending beyond both Polish and European borders, the initiative to establish a Polish-Ukrainian University, visits of statesmen, prime ministers, presidents as well as many book series, materials, studies, and syntheses. The knowledge of East-Central Europe has been significantly expanded by the innovative project of the research group from the Institute devoted to the description of the history of this part of the Old Continent which Professor calls the Younger Europe. This study is even more important because of the fact that is also published in a French version that broadens significantly the debate over borders, divisions, societies, European states and Europe as such, Other noteworthy and innovative projects include the synthetic studies of the history of the states that are the successors of the Polish Republic, namely Belarus, Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine. the historians representing the historiographies of these countries undertook the task of compiling new history studies of their countries. Thanks to that cooperation the first study of this kind was created. Therefore, we can read in Polish the Belarusian history that was written by the Belarusians, or the

Ukrainian history written by the Ukrainians, e te. The Polish history of the Middle Ages at the end of the 15th century was written by Professor Kłoczowski. The work to translate the studies into respective national languages is in progress now. Talking about such projects it is worth mentioning Kłoczowski's work *Młodsza Europa {Younger Europe}* with the meaningful subtitle *Europa Środkowo-Wschodnia w kręgu cywilizacji chrześcijańskiej średniowiecza [East-Central Europe in the Domain of Christian Civilization of the Middle Ages]*. The book has already had two editions and won the KLIO prize for the best historical book in Poland in 1999. In order to sum up this part of the description of the Laureate's achievements it is also necessary to mention the congress of the International Commission of the Comparative History of Churches organized by the Institute of Central-East Europe at KUL in 1996. The congress with the subject "Christianity in East-Central Europe and Its Links with East and West" attracted hundreds of participants from all over the world.

According to a Polish saying "What is not stated, does not exist" and, therefore, taking into consideration both the achievements of the Laureate and the patience of our distinguished guests, I have to say a few words about Professor Kłoczowski's activities at international fora and abroad. And I have to admit that the future biographers will have a very laborious task to describe all his achievements. It is worth mentioning the International Congresses of Historical Sciences in which he participated as an official representative of Poland. It is also necessary to mention some other aspects of his work such as his activity within the International Commission of the Comparative History of Churches, his longtime work at UNESCO in Warsaw and in Paris, the lectures at many renowned European and American universities. And his career as a soldier of the Home Army during the Second World War... And his civic and civil involvement... There are so many merits it is really hard to believe that one person could do so much!

This incomplete, out of necessity, list of achievements, merits, talents and gifts Professor Kłoczowski got from God would be really incomplete without mentioning the person who has been supporting the professor throughout his whole life — his wife, Krystyna. He is the one who really knows how much she has helped him and contributed to the outcomes of his work that we can see today.

Jerzy Kłoczowski can be described as a 'rooted' person who has his own foundation and roots. This eminent historian appreciates the role and importance of tradition, he knows what

'long lasting' means and at the same time he is a man 'on the road.' he is aware of the inevitability of changes, and I do not mean progress, but the changes that are involved in the very fact of life and existence of man, society, all the institutions, the state and the Church... He also realizes that there is no such idea as a perfect state. He knows that everything is only a stage that leads to another stage and people have to move on — both speaking of science and life in general. He talks about that himself in the recently published book *Europa, chrześcijańskie korzenie [Europe, Christian Roots]*. This is at the same time a voice in the heated debate on the history of culture, European identity and the essence of Europeaness. And deploying his experience as a historian, a scholar and man he states: "Spiritual Christian heritage is a foundation of a cultural European identity. Culture places us in history defending us at the same time from all-pervasive modern barbarization that can destroy not only every culture but the whole of mankind. Mobilization and cooperation of *imperium studium* and *sacerdotium together* with the respect for the autonomy of each of those powers, also when under any kind of threat, are extremely important for the future of our continent. Europe needs people who by words and by actions will defend its endangered foundations, seek mutual understanding and respect human dignity. Words are not enough, never. They need to be implemented in life."

Ladies and Gentlemen, our honoured guests. In order to live and survive a University has to remember both about the founders and those who have been creating the University. The Catholic University of Lublin should speak and remember its second motto: *Veritatem facientes in caritate* - it is actions that comprise truth and love! Today's ceremony proves that the University remembers its role and the laurel that is honoring Professor Jerzy Kłoczowski, its longtime associate, praises not only the Laureate but also those who are honoring him — the whole academic community.

Honorable Professor, it is owing to such people as you that the Catholic University of Lublin has been gaining prestige, authority and a renowned place in science, society and the Church.

Honorable Professor, I am really happy and honored to have the privilege to thank you with this laudation on behalf of the University for the work you have done, for your service to the University and your friendship. Thank you very much.

Professor Henryk Gapski