

From the Editor

The current volume of the „Studies into the History of the Book and Book Collections” has been prepared in the time of events important for the journal and the people gathered around. Firstly, we paid last respects to Prof. Edward Potkowski, who died on July 31st, 2017. He was not only a member of the Editorial Board, but mostly our mentor, chief, and colleague, longstanding director of the Section on the Knowledge of Old Book, further called the Section of the Knowledge of a Book in the former Department of Library and Information Science, then Department of Information and Book Studies, University of Warsaw. Professor has been supporting as in all kinds of matters: research, professional, sometimes private, and editorial obviously. Despite his illness, he participated in editorial works, like organisation of the international conference „Polish/Polish diaspora written heritage in foreign collections – problems, research workshop, results, and perspectives (Warsaw, May 25-26, 2017). The special volume of the journal was published as the conference proceedings, *Polonica in foreign collections*.

Prof. Edward Potkowski is recalled by his pupil in the current volume. A few articles concerning Polish and *Polonica* collections in Ukrainian, American, and Italian collections, as well as the reviews of catalogues registering materials of this kind, continue the topics of the conference proceedings. There are also two following parts of texts published in previous volumes – the one analysing problems of the ways history of Russia was presented in the writings of the time of Stanisław August Poniatowski, and the other presenting sources for the catalogue of emigrant publications of the WW2 and post-war period. The latter is related to the study of Polish publishing and bookselling catalogues printed in West Germany in the years 1945-1950. There is also a complete study of relations between the Gebethner & Wolff Company and its authors, and a source material – selection of Warsaw publishers’ letters to Józef Ignacy Kraszewski. Going another step back to the history, the following article on publishing practices analyses activity of the Gdańsk bookseller and publisher Georg Markus Knoch. There is also a contribution to the history of book culture in the Western Pomerania, concerning school printings of 17th-18th centuries. The set of texts on Polish book collections, next to these on private collections of Czapski and Cielecki families, as well as a well known singer Kazimierz Czekotowski,

includes also a synthesis on public libraries of scientific character. Then comes the article concerning the Culture, Education, Book, and Press Days in the politics of communist authorities in the years 1971-1989. Current issues are discussed in articles describing regional bibliography of Cieszyn, and participation of the Cieszyn Library in publishing sources to the regional history. History of foreign book culture is presented in articles on the pre-war history of the Bulgarian National Library, the bibliophiles in Kowno, and Soviet touristic guides to Moscow.

The section of reviews consists of analyses and presentations of a few important publications from the years 2015-2017, in particular *Encyklopedia książki* (*Encyclopedia of a Book*), long expected mostly (but not only) by Polish library and information scientists. There is also an enlarged Chronicle section, mentioning important national and international conferences and research sessions of the 2017.

We would like to thank very much the Authors for interesting texts, the Reviewers for their meritorious support, and the Editorial Board members for cooperation in preparing this volume.

Finally, there is a short introduction to changes in the present volume. The Editors decided to start an electronic version of the journal, and publish texts online. We hope for increase of citation indicators of the articles, as well as for improved evaluation of the journal itself. Therefore changes in this volume have occurred, aiming at adaptation to the standards of online journals: an English version of the title, „a footer” above articles’ titles supporting adequate citations, authors’ affiliation at the article title page (list of authors will not be prepared), abstracts and keywords in English. We no longer publish Polish abstracts, but replace them with bibliographic lists of texts mentioned in articles and references. Starting from this volume, the electronic version of the journal becomes a reference one. However, it still will be published in print as well.

Jacek Puchalski