

The Introduction to *Religious and Sacred Poetry* (2)

Praise be to Jesus Christ! God bless you!

Laudetur Jesus Christus! Beneficiat vobis Deus!

Ἐυλογημένος ὁ Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς! Ὁ Θεὸς ὑμᾶς αὐτοῦς ἐυλογεῖ!

Welcome to the internet portal of the international scholarly periodical *Religious and Sacred Poetry: An International Quarterly of Religion, Culture and Education (Poezja Religijna i Sakralna: Międzynarodowy Kwartalnik Religii, Kultury i Wychowania)*. This is an interdisciplinary scholarly periodical (intended as a quarterly) focused on Christian religious and sacred poetry considered from various angles: theological, philosophical, literary, linguistic, cultural, pedagogical, psychological and historiographical. The multidimensional, cultural and educational focus of this periodical allows for formulating scholarly theory and reflection about biblical poetry, sacred (liturgical) poetry, and religious poetry present in the Christian tradition of many nations, from Antiquity through the Middle Ages up to modern times. Catholic (Roman Catholic, Greek Catholic and others), Orthodox and Protestant traditions in religious poetry are part of the complementary heritage of Christian poetry of European countries, with which we would like to enrich one another. Christian poetry, approached by various avenues of study, is the subject of research in many countries. All these approaches follow the principle of discovering the truth in the classical sense – the relationship between cognition and reality. Truth, goodness, beauty, and holiness in religious poetry and matters of this kind constitute the subject of our studies.

The range and scope of subject matter published in our periodical include teachings in relation to man (a person as **creator** and a person as **recipient of religious poetry**) and man's creation in the form of **religious poetry**. We present the results of this research on the phenomenon of religious and sacred poetry to the representatives of many scholarly disciplines. In particular, **with regard to religious and sacred poetry** we are interested in the following subjects, arranged by the following disciplines and sub disciplines:

- 1) **Theology**, particularly biblical theology (in reference to Psalms, hymns, Lamentations, and poetic aspects in the Bible) and liturgy (liturgical theology, theology of worship),
- 2) **Philosophy**, primarily the philosophy of the beauty of religious poetry, esthetics of literature, axiology of literature, philosophy of poetry, as well as the philosophy of culture, philosophy of pedagogy and theory of communication,
- 3) **Literary science**, in particular the history and theory of literature and comparative literary sciences of all European literature (religious and sacred poetry in Europe, particularly Central Europe)
- 4) **Linguistics**, especially of the Slavic nations (the language of religious and sacred poetry),
- 5) **Slavic philology**, mostly in reference to the Christian poetry of Slavic countries, including:
- 6) **Polish philology** (Polish religious and sacred poetry, also in the regional dialects),
- 7) **Bohemian philology** (Czech and Moravian religious and sacred poetry),
- 8) **Slovakian philology** (Slovakian religious and sacred poetry),
- 9) **Ukrainian philology** (Russian, Russian and Ukrainian religious and sacred poetry),
- 10) **Belorussian philology** (Belorussian religious and sacred poetry),
- 11) Other **Slavic philologies** (religious and sacred poetry of other Slavic nations),
- 12) **Cultural sciences** (religious literary and artistic culture),
- 13) **Pedagogy**, especially pedagogy of culture, including pedagogy of art and literature, pedagogy of artistic culture, religious culture, education of religious poetry, the poetry of Christian education, fine literature in religious education, and didactic poetry,
- 14) **Psychology**, including the psychology of creativity, psychology of religion, psychology of religious artistic and literary creativity,
- 15) **Historiography** of culture, particularly the historiography of religious literature (history of Christian poetry, history of literary culture in connection with religious poetry, and history of Christian religious poets).

We will focus on both the **subject** (a piece of religious poetry) and on the **object** (a religious poet or artist producing religious works), and see these activities and products of the religious poet or artist as a broad matter of research, open for description, analysis, and examination of its various aspects. As the subject of studies we also include the recipient or receiver of these religious works: the reader of the Bible (e.g.

Psalms, hymns, Lamentations and poetic fragments of the Holy Scripture), who is the receiver of the message contained in religious poetry (in accordance with the principles of communication theory). We also focus our attention on the learning process through religious poetry and education through Christian literature and biblical pedagogy. The high professional standards of this periodical will be established by the presence of eminent specialists and scholars on our international scholarly board who represent university centers from many countries in Europe and America. Our aim is to meet the high standards of national and international scores for published scholarly papers.

We offer our academic and scholarly peer reviewed periodical to the scholars of various humanistic branches from all countries. We invite authors to publish original papers that include the results of their own research. We also invite authors to publish reviews of scholarly books devoted to Christian religious poetry, Christian literary culture, education through poetry and other religious, cultural and educational matters of this kind. The periodical is open to scholars, academics and experienced pedagogues, clergy and laypeople who are acquainted with the Christian culture, and have deep conceptual interests and a creative mentality.

The language of preference for the majority of scholarly papers published by “Religious and Sacred Poetry: An International Quarterly of Religion, Culture and Education” is **English** as it is an international language, but we will also publish selected texts in the following Slavic languages: Polish, Czech, Russian and Slovakian. We would like to bridge the East with the West to reach a wide and diversified range of international recipients. We encourage you to publish in the next volume of our periodical and wait for your papers as we are currently accepting new submissions for our periodical:

<http://www.religious-and-sacred-poetry.info>

Dear Readers, welcome to the complete resource for the current and most recent volume of our periodical. Each volume of the “Religious and Sacred Poetry: An International Quarterly of Religion, Culture and Education” contains two basic parts: 1) **Dissertations, Papers, Studies and Research Reports**, which comprises the primary content of our periodical; 2) **Reviews and Resources**, comprised of book reviews and other materials (e.g. sources, bibliography).

“Religious and Sacred Poetry” is a periodical with free access to its contents, which results from the rule Open Access (unlimited access to complete versions of the published papers). This makes it easier for authors to share their scholarly results with academic centers all over the world. Our authors appreciate this principle and willingly publish with

us. We invite you to cooperate with us. Materials which satisfy the scholarly criteria but received after the closing of the current volume are published in the next volume. Authors and scholars may send their papers to be published at any time. Papers sent to the editor undergo a process of academic review and when published they are protected by authorship law.

The periodical “Religious and Sacred Poetry: An International Quarterly of Religion, Culture and Education” (“Poezja Religijna i Sakralna: Międzynarodowy Kwartalnik Religii, Kultury i Wychowania”) is a new periodical founded in 2012, well rooted in Latin-Greek civilization and Christian tradition, owing to its scope and the choice of its members a consciousness of the Christian foundation of the European cultures. The aim of the periodical is to spread and raise awareness to the results of scholarly research, led in various university centers (primarily European), upon Christian religious poetry in the religious (theological), cultural, pedagogical, literary, artistic, linguistic, psychological and philosophical (anthropological, ethical, and esthetic) contexts.

The international character of the periodical “Religious and Sacred Poetry. Religion, Culture and Education” is guaranteed not only by the international scholarly board, but also by the authors, who represent many nations and impart genuine and important scholarly insights through their precious texts. Our periodical is open for cooperation and collaboration with many universities. We care about the high level of competence and form of our periodical content, pay precise attention to the observance of scholarly procedures, and promote an interdisciplinary approach to the subjects considered. We also make attempts to diversify the contents of the periodical despite an apparently narrow specialization of subject. This is according to the spirit of international openness, and at the same time with respect to the idea of a Europe of sovereign countries, the Europe of complementary, unrepeated national cultures, the Europe of Latin and Greek civilizations, the Europe of Christian roots, from which we rise as national and cultural communities thanks to the Gospel transmitted for two thousand years, and thanks to the Tradition and rich heritage of the Church breathing with two lungs: eastern and western.

Our periodical in general is a permanent, international and interdisciplinary communal, a social European and independent research project devoted to religious and sacred poetry. The values presented in „Religious and Sacred Poetry” express the realized mission of the authors and editors. The mission of our common international enterprise, elaborated by many scholars and academic centers, is giving its readers a periodical which will introduce scholarly discoveries concerning Chris-

tian religious and sacred poetry into European and world circulation. There hasn't existed a scholarly periodical of this nature and scope so far (at least there are no such periodicals existing in the international European syllabuses). The editorial team together with the authors will address this shortcoming by filling this research niche in the humanistic sciences.

The periodical appears primarily in electronic form, available on the internet (open access), and is also available secondarily in paper form. We aim at achieving a high ranking for this periodical not only within the Polish evaluation system of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, but also at reaching a position on the list of the European Reference Index for Humanities (ERIH).

The initiative for creating a scholarly periodical which would combine the studies of literature, culture, theology and pedagogy as well as the other related humanistic branches, began in 2010 by the founder of the periodical Dr Mark Mariusz Tytko, a pedagogue and a historian of art from Jagiellonian University. The idea had the support of a retired professor of the University, Bogusław Żurkowski, a pedagogue and specialist of literature and cultural sciences, who has become the head of the international scholarly board. The periodical "Religious and Sacred Poetry: An International Quarterly of Religion, Culture and Education" first came into existence on May 3rd 2012 in Cracow. On the first editorial board, apart from these two scholars just mentioned, there are the following members: from Poland prof. UKSW Dr hab. Wojciech Feliks Kudyba (literature studies), prof. UJ Dr hab. Maciej Jan Urbanowski (literature studies), prof. KUL Dr hab. Piotr Juliusz Jaroszyński (philosophy of culture, a representative of the Lublin Philosophical School), prof. UMCS Dr hab. Anna Marta Żukowska (a pedagogue and a specialist in the history of artistic education), prof. UŚ Dr hab. Urszula Jolanta Szuścik (a psychologist of creativity), sr prof. UPJPII Dr hab. Adelajda Sielepin CHR (liturgical theology), rev. p. Dr hab. Roman Bogacz (biblical theology), prof. AGH Dr hab. Adam Michał Nodzeński (statistics), Dr Barbara Krystyna Niemiec (linguistics and pedagogy), from the Czech Republic doc. Dr hab. Libor Martinek (a translator, literary studies), from Slovakia doc. Dr Marián Andričík (a translator, literary studies), Dr Ivica Hajdučeková (literary studies), from Ukraine prof. Dr hab. Svitlana Ivanivna Krawchenko (literary studies), from Belorussia doc. Dr Eugeniusz Arkadejowicz Pańków (literary studies) and doc. Dr Olga Eugenijewna Pańkowa (literary studies). We are open for additional scholarly cooperation on the editorial team and it may grow as needed with new specialists (the list of the editors is not closed).

The founding of the periodical has been an answer by international scholars to the contemporary crisis in humanistic writing. The founding principles of the periodical say that this periodical is meant to be an international scholarly quarterly having its contents coherent with the Magisterium of the Roman-Catholic Church. From the very beginning of the periodical its focus is typically interdisciplinary, keeping balance between philology, pedagogy, psychology, cultural studies, theology and philosophy. The post of editor in chief has been filled by Dr Mark Marius Tytko in May 2012.

The periodical, though it has risen from the university in Cracow, is not exclusively connected with one university but has embraced from the beginning various academic communities from many countries in Europe, and in this sense it is an international work by numerous scholars for presenting the results of research done mainly in the middle European academic centers (Middle / Central Europe) in several humanistic areas. The subject range expressed in the title indicates the profile of the periodical.

Since the birth of the periodical we have established a professional internet portal in several languages: Polish, English, Russian, Bielorrussian, Czech, Slovakian and Ukrainian (other languages are not excluded, we are open for cooperation in the future). The professional electronic version of the periodical is edited in a way such that the national (language specific) web pages on our internet portal refer to the same contents of the periodical, which can be found in PDF, available anywhere in the world: <http://www.religious-and-sacred-poetry.info>

Marek Mariusz Tytko

(Translated by Sr Adelajda Sielepin CHR,
Mark Simon Bonnet and Muir Alan Evenden)

Key words:

religious poetry, sacred poetry, literature, culture, education, scholarly periodical, religious literary culture, Slavic philology, Christian culture

Bibliography:

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