

## ***Dear Readers***

Podlasie is an icon of Polish multiculturalism. Catholics and Orthodox, Jews and Muslims have been living here for centuries. The villages of Kruszyniany and Bohoniki are said to be the “Polish Orient”. Tatars, who received land from Jan III Sobieski in gratitude for the loyal service to the Republic, have been living here for over three hundred years. They could marry Polish ladies and were taking names after them, but the children were brought up in Islam. In the Polish-Turkish wars they fought with Crimean Tatars in defense of the Polish Raison d’État. Today their descendants – Polish Tatars – are celebrating Muslim, Catholic and Orthodox holidays with equal respect, but they hang a muhir on the walls of their houses. They cultivate traditional rituals and customs, and multiculturalism is their hallmark. “Tatarska Jurta” in Kruszyniany has become a regional Tatar ambassador.

In this issue of “Nurt SVD” we afresh meet with Tatars. This topic, which is so close to the profile of our magazine, has already been initiated in volume 142. The current, 146th volume deals with a number of issues representing the multi-layered Tatar history of the Commonwealth of Poland and Lithuania as well as contemporary “close, and at the same time, unknown to us” Polish Tatars.

Tatar-Philomath 19th-century project of translating the Koran into Polish (J. Kulwicka-Kamińska), the place of muhirs in the artistic culture of Lithuanian Tatars (S. Czerwonnaja), Tatar settlements in northwestern Poland (A. Miśkiewicz) – and especially in Gorzów Wielkopolski (B. Orłowska), the contribution of Polish Tatars to the fight for Poland’s sovereignty (P. Krzyżanowski, A. Miśkiewicz) and their participation in the Prussian-Brandenburg army (K. Bassara) – these are selected topics that testify to the Tatar’s outstanding ability of cultural and religious assimilation in a foreign socio-political space.

Poetry closes the historical commentary closes. The absolute premiere on the columns of the “Nurt SVD” is the publication of ballads and poems by the Tatar poet Musa Czachorowski. Being an emotional message of great craftsmanship, this poetry – affirming Tatariness in its entirety – encourages to cultivate the heritage and build the identity of the Tatar minority in Poland.

Enjoy your reading!

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