



Introductory Comments

The second issue of the annual journal “Colloquia Humanistica”, published in the Institute of Slavic Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences, is a continuation of the themes presented in the first volume. The former issue focused on the problem of *continuity and discontinuity* shown on the Balkan and Macedonian example; this one presents a thematic section on *minor languages, minor literatures and minor cultures*. This time we did not choose any concrete region to serve as exemplification for the study of the problem, as we did in the former issue. Instead, we decided to present the complex and often paradoxical phenomenon of minority in a global context composed as a mosaic of diverse cases, not only from the European, but also from the American and African reality.

The questions of minor languages, minor literatures and minor cultures are organically connected with those of continuity and discontinuity, because both topics are closely related to cultures and identities that emerge from larger cultural wholes right now or existed “always” as marginalized realities. The former category can be exemplified by the language of Farsherots, a specific, Balkan variation of the Aromanian dialects, the latter by the Yiddish culture. In the contemporary world, the perception of such cultural realities gains quite a new significance.

The thematic section which focuses on minor languages, minor literatures and minor cultures has been prepared by Ewa Łukaszzyk from the Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw. The introductory text *Why Minor, Not Major?* is, at the same time, a guide to the collected articles.

Analogically to the former issue, this volume of “Colloquia Humanistica” contains also the section Materials, in which we offer fragments of *Phyllada*



and *Old Serbian Alexander Romance*, for the first time in Polish translation. By the juxtaposition of these fragments of both texts, Krzysztof Usakiewicz, a student of the Individual Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities at the University of Warsaw, tries to show the paths of cultural influence in the Balkans. The Greek *Phyllada* appears to be an adaptation of the *Old Serbian Alexander Romance*, a proof of existence and durability of cultural links and connections in the Balkans, i.e. in the Turkish Europe. This fact brings to our consciousness the identity of the region that we had already illustrated in the former issue. Usakiewicz's discovery confirms our intuitive convictions concerning not only linguistic but also cultural convergence in the Balkans, bringing together languages and cultures belonging to different families.

The section *Discussions. Presentations. Book Reviews* contains two critical notes concerning a monograph and a miscellanea relevant to the main topic of this issue. Ewa Łukaszyk (*"In the Pleats of Great Languages": Minor Romance Literatures in Europe*) presents the volume *Literature mniejsze Europy romańskiej* prepared by a group of researchers from the Institute of Romance Philology at the Adam Mickiewicz University. A Hungarian colleague, Magdolna Balogh (*Hungarians and Jews. An Important Monograph with Deficit*) presents a monograph by Géza Komoróczy, *The History of the Jews in Hungary*.

This second issue of "Colloquia Humanistica" that we submit for the consideration of the reader is redacted entirely in English. We hope this fact will enlarge its target readership, inscribing itself into the context of the current discussion concerning the status of minor cultures, a discussion that goes far beyond the narrow understanding of the specificity of Polish culture.

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