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Dear Readers

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Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

Dear Readers,

“China is one of the countries with the longest histories in the world. The people of all nationalities in China have jointly created a splendid culture and have a glorious revolutionary tradition” – so reads the first sentence of the Chinese Constitution of 4 December, 1982.

The one who comes to China is firstly allured by the Middle Kingdom, then discovers the effects of the Cultural Revolution which has been consuming the country for more than half a century. However, despite the attempts to reduce the genius of past dynasties to collective thinking and acting, the identity of today’s Chinese was formed by history which is over four thousand years old. Such a message constitutes the 135th “Nurt’s” issue, which we dedicate to Reverend Professor Roman Malek SVD. A religious studies scholar and the author of numerous scientific publications, the director of the “Monumenta Serica” Institute in the years 1992-2012 – Rev. Professor Malek holds a special place among the European sinologists. His scientific achievements’ list is impressive and the enthusiasm, with which he researches Chinese culture, fascinates a new generation of sinologists.

Among the presented texts, I will turn special attention to those articles whose authors have a special contribution to this *Chinese “Nurt’s”* issue. Rev. Piotr Adamek SVD, Ph.D. (since 2012, the director of the “Monumenta Serica” Institute) demonstrates and justifies why the *name tabooing in China* plays such an important role in the daily lives of the Middle Kingdom inhabitants. The undoubted revelation of this issue is a translation into Polish of the Nestorian stele inscriptions of Xi’an of 781 A.D., describing the history of Christianity, or the “religion of light,” spreading in China since the year 635 A.D., the task so perfectly handled by Rev. Tomasz Szyszka SVD, Ph.D. of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw. I wish to express my profound gratitude to Professor Eugeniusz Sakowicz of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, the author of *Sinological Research with Confucianism and Taoism Studies in Poland*, for technical support of our editors.

The country where it was said “the sky is high and the emperor – faraway,” where the possession of a cricket is a splendid, old-fashioned, sophisticated joy, where the *de-Maoisation* programme turns out to be unpredictable ... – thanks to Reverend Professor Roman Malek, a sinologist, became more intelligible to people who are open for new and unknown.

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