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Introduction

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Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

Introduction

The sixth volume of the *Series Byzantina* prepared by Polish and foreign scientists is connected with scientific research conducted jointly, based on the initiative of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University. In 2003 the first volume of the journal was published, containing articles on Post-Byzantine art in the Republic of Poland and Moldavia. In the introduction the authors referred to the pre-war scientific papers by Polish and Romanian art historians. This volume was highly appreciated and received a detailed review published in the Belgian magazine: *Byzantion* (2005). The authors of the project continue their scientific research and the present volume shows papers by Romanian, Polish, Greek and British scientists. In the articles included we show the artistic links between the Latin and Byzantine worlds.

The scientific research of Polish art historians results in new publications. Mention should be made of the publication by Piotr Grotowski who translated the work of Procopius of Caesarea entitled *About Monuments*, providing an introduction and extensive explanations. For art historians the publication by Aleksandra Sulikowska is important; she introduces a reader to the issue of the disputes about icons in Russia in the 15th and 16th centuries. This work belongs to the range of publications by Polish art historians dealing with Russian art, initiated by Barbara Dąb-Kalinowska. Similarly, the latest publication by Grażyna Kobrzeniecka-Sikorska refers to the images of Russian emperors and the links between icons and portraits. Agnieszka Gronek in researching the icons of the Passion presented the changes in Orthodox painting in the borderlands of Poland and Ukraine, especially in the 17th and the 18th centuries, referring many times to their graphic prototypes.

A very successful local research center, whose activities are focused around the Museum of Zamość, prepared a deeply profound publication based on the scientific conference organized in 2007: *The Past and the Future. The Role of Polish and Ukrainian Museums in the Protection and Documentation of Cultural Heritage of the Borderland*. The publication, issued in Polish and Ukrainian language versions, introduces the reader to the issues of the museum industry, shared history and future research prospects.

The Collegium Europaeum in Gniezno is also a very fast growing institution that includes the center of Balkan cultural heritage research. In 2008 the center organized a conference on the monasteries of the Athos Peninsula. The authors of the project promise the publication of the materials.

The Cracow scientific community organized a very significant conference: *Towards Rewritings? New Approaches to Byzantine Art and Archaeology*, prepared on the initiative of the Jagiellonian University and the Pontifical Academy of Theology represented by Piotr Grotowski and Sławomir Skrzyński. The conference, which was held in September 2008, was highly appreciated among the international scientific community.

A huge interest in the icon in Poland and many new icon painting schools inspired Warsaw scientific institutions to set up the International School of Humanism and prepare a conference entitled: *The Icon Today*. Also scholars from Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University took part in preparations for the whole project. They also participated in scientific research on Byzantine art. This year an international conference on Lebanese art was organized, prepared on the initiative of the archeologists represented by Magdalena Łaptaś. Diverse Polish excavation and conservation heritage place us among the leading research centers dealing with the Christian historic monuments in this country.

A further volume of the *Series Byzantina* will include materials from the international conference: *Christian Art on the Borderlands of Asia, Africa and Europe*, organized in the Capuchin Fathers Monastery at Zakroczym by the Polish Society of Oriental Art and the Art History Institute of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, in May 2008. During a few days' visit to a place situated far from civilization, participants from Eastern and Western Europe had a chance to discuss the subject issues, sometimes until late hours. The participants reported that they liked this type of conference, so we plan to return to similar issues, organizing the second meeting in the same way. This time, however, the subject will be the art of Armenian Diaspora (Zamość, April 2010). We would like to invite both archeologists and art historians pursuing scientific research in this area to attend.

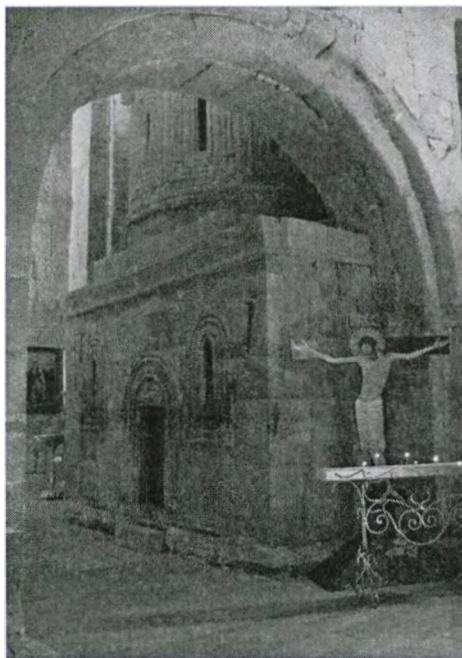


Fig. 1. Svelistkovele Cathedral, Georgia