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35 Years of "Ochrona Zabytków"

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Artykuł został zdigitalizowany i 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.

35 YEARS OF "OCHRONA ZABYTKÓW"

In June 1948 Józef E. Dutkiewicz, initiator of the foundation and Editor in Chief for 20 years, took up publishing a quarterly. "Thin as it was, unimposing, on greyish, today already yellowed, paper, still this first edition filled us with great pleasure..." — recalled Professor Jan Zachwatowicz on the occasion of the publishment of the hundredth edition in 1973. The subsequent successors of J. E. Dutkiewicz were Władysław Ślesięński (1969—1973) and Olgierd Czerner (1974—1975).

Our magazine was founded on the initiative of the Union of the Historians of Art and Culture (at present — the Art Historians Association) who at the same time were its first publisher. In 1962 the magazine was taken over by the Centre for Monuments Protection. "Ochrona Zabytków" is the only Polish scientific magazine devoted to the problem of the preservation of cultural property. Its patron is the General Monuments Conservator of the Ministry of Culture and Art.

The first concept of the magazine worked out by J. E. Dutkiewicz represented an open and, on the whole, popularizing character. In 1961 Editor in Chief changed it radically and gave it a decidedly specialistic character; since then the magazine has been issued in its present format. Going through three numbers of our bibliographies (up to 1977, the next one is being prepared) and reaching for some items a few general reflections can be formulated.

And so, the first stage when the magazine was published in a small format, is characterized by a fierceness of professional discussions and a vast number of detailed reports on works carried out. Of special importance were reports of district monuments conservators. The second stage, initiated in 1961, realized the formula of presenting scientific and research reports; problems associated with methods of studies and complex conservation executions were frequently encountered at that time. In addition to this, problems of legal nature were introduced on a large scale; the same refers to international problems. An ever growing scope of the preservation of cultural property affected decidedly the topics raised in articles and communiques. The number of authors and reviewers got also increased.

Although during professional discussions it has often been pointed out that there is an urgent need to have a separate paper for technologists, as long as those justified postulates remain as mere wishful thinking, "Ochrona Zabytków" must function as a universal magazine. Therefore, in each edition we try to present a full range of problems.

Out of numerous problems that we have to cope with we would like to mention just a few. Despite our efforts we are not able to increase the edition; hence the publication is available only to the subscribers. In our opinion, there is not enough controversial material that could be described as a conservation criticism. Nevertheless, a careful reader will find this kind of presentations as well. In this respect we set great hope on the Association of Monuments Conservators being now brought to life.

We are not satisfied with the quality of summaries in foreign languages, which is of significance, especially that nearly 30 per cent of the edition goes abroad. Still, our biggest shortcoming is an extremely long publishing cycle which at present has exceeded one year and which, in turn, has resulted in the publishing of two numbers together. We have decided to do it for technical reasons, filled however with compunction before the Authors and the Readers.

The condition of the editorial portfolio and an ever bigger number of authors allow us to believe that we are entering the next thirty years not only with a positive balance but also with optimism.

Dr L. Krzyżanowski
Editor in Chief