



FROM *ACTA MEDIAEVALIA*
TO *ACTA MEDIAEVALIA*.
SERIES NOVA

We are happy to present the first volume of the new academic journal *Acta Mediaevalia. Series Nova*, published by the Centre for Medieval Studies at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (KUL). In 2021, scholars from over a dozen Polish academic institutions, who had joined forces to establish the Centre, started discussing the projects that the Centre should pursue. They agreed that alongside its research projects, the Centre should publish its own journal. The original intention was to make it multi- and interdisciplinary, widely open to Polish and international scholars. Our underlying idea is to be open to various research centres, and to works mostly by medievalists not affiliated with the Centre. Apart from research papers, we seek to publish book reviews and source materials. We are determined to make the journal a platform for sharing research and addressing pressing questions of medieval studies. This is why each volume will have its own, well-chosen topic. The first focuses on “The Age of Transition: Crisis, Reform and Renewal in Late Medieval Central and Eastern Europe.” Our aim was to invite contributors to discuss and overview the roots of the crisis symbolised by the Great Western Schism, which undermined the very foundations of the late medieval Church and sent shock waves all across Christendom. We sought papers dealing with the origins and implications of the crisis, and in particular the way it had its impact on political, social and cultural developments in Central and Eastern Europe, described by Jerzy Kłoczowski as “Younger Europe.” In addition, we were interested



particularly in publishing papers discussing reactions to the crisis at various levels and in different social settings. The papers published in this volume largely meet those expectations.

It is worth mentioning that our journal continues the *Acta Mediaevalia* series not by title alone. The old series was launched by the Inter-Faculty Department for the History of Culture in the Middle Ages, founded in 1965 (later renamed the Institute for the History of Culture in the Middle Ages, and currently known as the Centre for the History of Culture in the Middle Ages). *Acta Mediaevalia* was initiated by the founder of the Department, Prof. Marian Rechowicz, with a view to publishing research findings of the Department's members, as well as works of Polish and foreign medievalists who cooperated with him. In the years 1973–2016, 25 volumes were released in the series.

The very beginnings of the *Acta Mediaevalia* series were challenging due to the hostile reaction of the communist regime, which tried to curb the activities of KUL by imposing restrictions on publishing. In our times, the challenges with obtaining paper and printing machines that Marian Rechowicz had to tackle may seem hard to comprehend. That is why it is worth recalling Rechowicz's words in his letter to the Rector of KUL, Prof. Wincenty Granat, dated 20 April 1967. He wrote: "Considering the planned publication of two journals – *Bulletin du Centre de Recherches de Civilisation Médiévale* and *Acta Mediaevalia Catholicae Universitatis Lublinensis* – by the Inter-Faculty Department for the History of Culture in the Middle Ages, I respectfully request that efforts be made to obtain permission from the Central Office for Control of the Press, Publications and Public Performances to print the journals on a mechanical printer." Before the state authorities granted larger numbers of publishing sheets, the KUL Learned Society slightly lowered the print run of some other journals to facilitate the release of the planned series *Acta Mediaevalia* within the existing limits. Thanks to this, the first volume in the series subtitled *Acta Mediaevalia Catholicae Universitatis Lublinensis* was published as a part of *Annales Theologico-Canonicae* in 1973. The subsequent volumes of *Acta Mediaevalia* were issued at irregular intervals, depending on the materials collected for publication. In the years 2011–2016 three final volumes of *Acta Mediaevalia* (nos 23–25) were released and after that the editors – not having enough financial resources – had no choice but to suspend the publication.

The works published in the series were focused on the history of science, in particular dealing with natural philosophy, logic, metaphysics, anthropology and philosophical psychology, as well as theology, especially medieval biblical studies. Most works offered critical editions of commentaries on the writings of Aristotle or the Bible. The list of medieval authors whose writings were published in critical editions in the entire series of *Acta Mediaevalia* includes: Jan Elgot, Jan of Dąbrówka, Benedykt Hesse, Nicolaus Peripateticus, Stanisław of Zawada, Jan Isner, Stanisław of Skarbimierz, Jan of Kęty, Maciej of Łabiszyn, Conrad of Soltau, Henryk of Hesse, Andrzej of Kokorzyn, Alexander of Hales, Michael Falkener of Wrocław, Johannes of Raciborsk, Nicolaus of Dinkelsbühl, Johannes of Dambach, Jan of Słupcza and Augustinus of Ancona. These modern critical editions upheld the highest academic standards and gained international recognition for their quality. This is testified by the award granted by Commissio Leonina to Lucyna Nowak in 1997 for her edition of *Quaestiones disputatae super octo libros "Physicorum" Aristotelis cum glossis Ioannis Isneri*, published in the volume no. 9 of *Acta Mediaevalia* (1996). Apart from the critical editions of medieval writings, fourteen volumes of the *Acta Mediaevalia* series offered collections of studies including 186 research papers produced by 70 Polish and foreign scholars.

In September 2022, the director of the KUL Faculty of Philosophy agreed to hand *Acta Mediaevalia* over to the newly founded Centre for Medieval Studies, which intended to transform this respectable series into a journal. In April 2023, Prof. Mirosław Kalinowski, the Rector of KUL, appointed Prof. Paweł Kras, the Director of the Centre, as editor-in-chief of *Acta Mediaevalia. Series Nova*. His work on the new academic journal is supported by the International Scientific Council, which comprises 16 medievalists from 11 countries, and the Advisory Board with 10 scholars from 7 Polish and foreign institutions. As mentioned earlier, during the meeting of the International Scientific Council, we decided that the first volume would focus on the crisis and reforms of Christianity in Central and Eastern Europe during the 'long' fifteenth century.

We are pleased that our first call for papers attracted a number of authors, both senior and younger researchers, who submitted their contributions to the first volume. We are content that the papers accepted for publication are not exclusively historical, but also deal with philosophy, theology, canon law and literary studies. Some texts are

concerned directly with the crisis of the late Middle Ages, discussing its origins and presenting various efforts to counter it. A brilliant paper by Joëlle Rollo-Koster addresses the concept of tyrannicide, which stirred heated debates among key European intellectuals and was used to legitimise the deposition of feuding popes. Stephen Lahey's article offers a refreshing insight into the approach of Stanislav of Znojmo, a leading Prague philosopher at the turn of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, to John Wyclif's metaphysics, analysing his treatise *De vero et falso*. In his splendid overview, Thomas M. Izbicki traces the evolution of Aristotle's argument of the need for one ruler in various historical settings, starting from the debates during the Great Western Schism, when Thomas Aquinas's interpretation prevailed, and ending with the confrontation between Protestant leaders and Jesuits (Cajetan, Robert Bellarmine), when Aquinas's reading of Aristotle's arguments was challenged. In the first volume of our journal, there are also two case studies focused on the transmission of reforming ideas in selected fifteenth-century writings. Carolin Gluchowski's paper analyses the Easter Prayer Book produced in 1408, currently held in the Royal Danish Library in Copenhagen (Ms GKS 3452), showing how this devotional writing reflects religious transformations taking place during the 'long' fifteenth century in the Cistercian nunnery in Medingen, where the manuscript was written. Wojciech Baran examines two manuscripts with commentaries on the fourth book of *Sentences* by Peter Lombard, preserved in the Archive and Library of the Kraków Cathedral Chapter (Ms 113) and the Jagiellonian Library (Ms 1721) and demonstrates the transfer of theological ideas from Prague to Kraków via Leipzig. The paper of two Hungarian scholars, István Pánya and Bernát Rácz, presents the religious and organisational developments in the friary of Augustinian canons in Bátmonostora fostered by their patrons. Mateusz Zimny discusses the role and strategies of the Hospitallers of the Holy Spirit *de Saxia* in promoting indulgences in Poland, Lithuania, Silesia and Prussia.

Our journal is also a forum for exchanging opinions on recently published works by researchers from various countries. The first volume includes seven book reviews submitted mostly by Polish medievalists, though the very first one is written by a French scholar, Marie-Madeleine de Cevins who offers an insight into Nora Berend's book on Hungarian King Stephen the Great and the way his legend had been

produced and developed over centuries. Radosław Biskup presents Rafał Kubicki's recent study on the rural society, production relations and the organisation of agriculture in the Teutonic State in Prussia. Sobiesław Szybowski takes a closer look at Tomáš Homolá's book on the foreign policy of Hungarian King Matthias Corvinus in 1458–1471. Krzysztof Bracha's work on the Marian piety in the so-called collection of sermons by Piotr of Miłosław is reviewed by Ewelina Kaczor. Agnieszka Maciag-Fiedler discusses the findings of Katarzyna Jasińska, Dorota Kołodziej and Mariusz Leńczuk who researched two Latin *rosaria*. The critical edition of the register of the Gniezno vicars general from the mid-fifteenth century published by Adam Kozak is discussed by Paweł Kras, who demonstrates how important these source materials are for the research on the religious practice and morals in late medieval Poland. Thanks to Marcin Polkowski's review our readers can also learn more about the collective volume on some popular fictional narratives circulating in early modern Europe edited by Rita Schlusemann, Helwi Blom, Anna Katharina Richter, and Krystyna Wierzbicka-Trwoga.

The publication of the first volume of *Acta Mediaevalia. Series Nova* crowns the intensive work of reviewers, copyeditors and the personnel of the Publishing House of the Catholic University of Lublin. We are very thankful to everyone who cooperated with the Editorial Board, but above all we express our gratitude to all of the authors who submitted their papers, and who have worked with us on them over recent months.

New thematic volumes will be presented in the years to come. We hope that, with each one of them, our community of readers and authors will continue to grow.

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Paweł Kras,
editor-in-chief of the *Acta Mediaevalia. Series Nova* journal