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A Report of the Scientific Conference "Teachers: Meritorious, Underrated, Remembered", Krakow, September 19-20, 2017

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On 19–20 September 2017 in Krakow an academic conference was held with the purpose to remember, within academic discourse, some meritorious, though often underestimated teachers whose memory has been preserved in various forms since the Middle Ages until the present day. The conveners were (i) the Section of History of Education of the Committee of Pedagogical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences; (ii) the Chair of History of Pedagogical Thought of the Faculty of Education at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń; and (iii) the Chair of History of Education and Upbringing of the Pedagogical Faculty of Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow. The conceptual framework and programme of the conference were developed and supervised by Prof. dr hab. Władysława Szulakiewicz (the Nicolaus Copernicus University), while the organisational effort was the responsibility of Dr Andrzej Paweł Bieś SJ (the Jesuit University Ignatianum), Dr Joanna Falkowska (the Nicolaus Copernicus University), Dr Anna Królikowska and Dr Beata Topij-Stempińska (the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow).

The conference as such was preceded by a meeting of the Section of History of Education of the Committee of Pedagogical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences, which took place on 19 September at the Pedagogical University of Krakow at the venue at Ingardena 4. The meeting was opened by Prof. dr hab. Władysława Szulakiewicz, Chairperson of the said Section. The

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agenda of the meeting included presenting the development of history of education as an academic discipline at the Pedagogical University of Krakow and discussing scientific initiatives of historians of education connected with the approaching centenary of the revival of Poland as an independent state. The phases of that development, the personalities involved, and the achievements in the academic field of history of education at the Pedagogical University of Krakow were recounted by Dr hab. Katarzyna Dormus, professor of the Pedagogical University of Krakow, Dr Justyna Wojniak, and Dr Anna Włoch. The presented information was supplemented by memories of the academic staff of the University and other researchers who co-operate with it. The next point on the agenda was a discussion concerning the publications and academic conferences on the 100th anniversary of the restoration of Polish sovereignty. Plans were made to organise three conferences and one seminar. Preliminary arrangements were made by historians of education from Białystok, Warsaw (the Maria Grzegorzewska University), Łódź (as a joint initiative of the Nicolaus Copernicus University and the University of Łódź), and Kalisz (the Faculty of Pedagogy and Fine Arts of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań). The particulars of the conferences and other initiatives of the Section of History Education as well as regular updates on the publications of the members of the Section appear on its site <http://www.home.umk.pl/~khmpwnp/>.

The events of the conference took place on 20 September on the premises of the Jesuit University Ignatianum at Kopernika 26. Over sixty participants represented twenty-one institutions of higher education: the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, the University of Białystok, the University of Gdańsk, the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, the University of Łódź, the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, the Pedagogical University of Krakow, the University of Rzeszów, the University of Szczecin, the University of Silesia in Katowice, the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, the University of Warsaw, the University of Wrocław, the University of Zielona Góra, the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow, the Maria Grzegorzewska University in Warsaw, the Pomeranian University in Słupsk, the University of Lower Silesia in Wrocław, the Angelus Silesius University of

Applied Sciences in Wałbrzych, and the Ivan Franko University in Zhytomyr (Ukraine).

The opening ceremony was performed by the representative of the highest authorities of Ignatianum, Dr hab. Bożena Sieradzka-Baziur, professor of Ignatianum. The next speaker was Prof. dr hab. Ludwik Grzebień, SJ, head of the Chair of History of Education and Upbringing of Ignatianum, who welcomed the participants, hoping for rewarding outcomes of the conference. Then the participants were greeted and thanked for their attendance by the originator and initiator of the event, the Chairperson of the Section of History of Education of the Committee of Pedagogical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Prof. dr hab. Władysława Szulakiewicz, who read her introductory paper entitled: “Teachers. Several trends in pedagogical thinking” (*Nauczyciele – o kilku kierunkach myśli pedagogicznej*). As stated in the programme, the conference fell into three parts: the plenary session, papers on five selected groups of topics, and the panel discussion, which complemented our reflection on the main theme of the conference.

The plenary session in room 412 was chaired by Prof. dr hab. Władysława Szulakiewicz and Dr hab. Katarzyna Dormus. All the participants also had a chance to listen to Rev. prof. dr hab. Edward Walewander (the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin), who talked about “The professorial figure, with hindsight” (*Sylwetka profesora w perspektywie czasu*); Prof. dr hab. Ludwik Grzebień, SJ, who described the figure of “Stefan Weidel, SJ, a unique teacher and mentor” (*Stefan Weidel SJ – wyjątkowy nauczyciel i wychowawca*); Dr hab. Iwonna Michalska, professor of the University of Łódź, who delivered her paper entitled “Teacher to teachers and educators. Michał Friedländer (1894–1942/43?) as a populariser of pedagogical knowledge between the world wars” (*Nauczyciel dla nauczycieli i wychowawców. Michał Friedländer (1894–1942/43?) jako popularyzator wiedzy pedagogicznej w latach międzywojennych*), and Dr hab. Witold Chmielewski, professor of Ignatianum, who acquainted his audience with the personality of Jan Konopnicki (1905–1980), who carried out research on schooling systems and organised an educational system aimed at Polish teachers living abroad.

Then the five sections worked on their particular topics. The first group was chaired by Dr hab. Alina Rynio, professor of the John Paul II

Catholic University of Lublin, and Prof. dr hab. Eugeniusz Sakowicz (the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw); the discussions focused on academic teachers who had been dedicated to their work in higher education, and are remembered as worthy figures of educational sciences and, in a broad sense, all the humanities. Prof. dr hab. Eugeniusz Sakowicz talked about Wincenty Granat, Dr hab. Aneta Bołdyrew (the University of Łódź) about Zofia Daszyńska-Golińska, Prof. dr hab. Władysława Szulakiewicz about Bogdan Nawroczyński, Dr hab. Alina Rynio about Stefan Kunowski, Prof. dr hab. Elwira J. Kryńska (the University of Białystok) about Stanisław Mauresberg, Sister Dr hab. Maria Opiela, professor of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, about Teresa Kukołowicz, Dr hab. Elżbieta Magiera, professor of the University of Szczecin, about Lucyna Turek-Kwiatkowska, Prof. dr hab. Wiesław Jamrożek (the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań) about Stanisław Michalski, Rev. dr Jerzy Smoleń (Ignatianum) about Archbishop Józef Życiński, Dr hab. Jolanta Lenart, professor of the University of Rzeszów, about Alicja Kargulowa and her followers.

The second team was chaired by Dr hab. Andrzej Szmyt, professor of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, and Dr hab. Piotr Goldyn, professor of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. The common topic of 10-minute presentations was teachers' work towards the progress in national education and culture, both locally and nationwide. Dr hab. Jerzy Kochanowicz, professor of the University of Lower Silesia in Wrocław, delivered a paper about Wawrzyniec Bojer, SJ, a Swedish teacher who worked in Polish schools in the period of the Counter-Reformation. The role of professors of the Jesuit College in Poznań in the development of the spiritual life of the region of Greater Poland was discussed by Dr Michał Nowicki (the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań). The estimable teachers of the Lithuanian Piarist province were presented by Dr hab. Mariusz Ausz (the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin). Dr Katarzyna Buczek (the University of Warsaw), in her vivid talk accompanied by interesting illustrations, acquainted her audience with Antoni Andrzejowski, affiliated with the secondary school in Krzemieniec. Łukasz Kalisz (the University of Białystok) talked about Rev. Karol Lubianiec, an educator and social activist from Vilnius. Dr Anna Królikowska, accurately and synthetically,

described how Benedykt Herbest and Grzegorz Knapski, lecturers in Jesuit teachers' colleges, contributed to Polish culture. The vital role of secondary school teachers in Austrian Galicia, who appreciated the formative aspect of schooling, offering different opportunities and more frequent school trips, was emphasised by Dr Ewa Barnaś-Baran (the University of Rzeszów). The Krzemieniec school teachers in the years between the world wars were remembered by Dr hab. Andrzej Szmyt, while Ignacy Ziębowicz, a provincial teacher, social activist, regionalist and ethnographer, who had earned much gratitude of the local community, was the focus of attention for Dr hab. Piotr Gołdyn. Dr Andrzej Paweł Bieś, SJ talked about those teachers among the former Jesuits whose achievement had been noticed and honoured by the National Education Commission. Thanks to strict discipline, effectively exercised by the chairmen, there was sufficient time for the papers to be followed by questions, supplementary remarks, and discussion.

The third section was chaired by Dr hab. Janina Kamińska (the University of Warsaw) and Prof. dr hab. Marian Surdacki (the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin); its leading theme was the contribution of teachers to the growth of pedagogical sub-disciplines. Papers were read by Prof. dr hab. Marian Surdacki, Dr hab. Anna Boguszewska (the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin), Dr Wiesław Partyka (the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin), Dr hab. Janina Kamińska, Ewelina Kurowicka (the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin), Dr Iwona Czarnecka (the Maria Grzegorzewska University in Warsaw), Dr Joanna Dąbrowska (the University of Białystok), Dr Barbara Surma and Prof. dr hab. Natalia Seiko (both from the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow), and Rev. Andrzej Jasnos (the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin). The speakers underscored the merits of people who were instrumental in the development of educational sciences by their work in the field of childcare and upbringing education, nursery education, social rehabilitation pedagogy, special education, and theory or history of education.

The fourth section concentrated upon the involvement of teachers in the activities of pedagogical institutions and associations. The chairpersons were Dr hab. Hanna Markiewicz, professor of the Maria Grzegorzewska University in Warsaw, and Dr hab. Grzegorz Michalski, professor of the University of Łódź. Nine papers were delivered

and the discussion centred on the efforts of those whose aim was to improve the professional standing of educators. Other discussed figures were originators of education reforms as well as the most active members of academic and educational societies. The achievements of teachers in those areas were expounded by Dr hab. Kazimierz Puchowski, professor of the University of Gdańsk, Dr Małgorzata Puchowska (the Pomeranian University in Słupsk), Dr Danuta Kocurek (the University of Silesia in Katowice), Dr hab. Grzegorz Michalski, Dr hab. Hanna Markiewicz, Dr Beata Topij-Stempińska (the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow), Dr Dorota Grabowska-Pieńkosz (the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń), Dr Elżbieta Dolata (the University of Rzeszów), and Dr Agnieszka Suplicka (the University of Białystok).

The fifth section was chaired by Prof. dr hab. Władysława Szulakiewicz and Dr hab. Iwonna Michalska. The participants listened to eight papers on the authors of educational models. The speakers were: Dr Anna Włoch, Dr Justyna Wojniak (both from the Pedagogical University of Krakow), Dr hab. Katarzyna Dormus, Sister Dr Agnieszka Skrzypek (both from the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin), Dr hab. Edyta Wolter, professor of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Dr Joanna Falkowska (the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń), Dr Katarzyna Kochan (the University of Zielona Góra), and Dr Mirosława Furmanowska (the Angelus Silesius University of Applied Sciences in Wałbrzych). They talked about meritorious but slightly forgotten representatives of the schooling system whose work and suggestions about the curricula helped to shape education both in Poland and other countries as well as impacted the evolution of the school system and educational models.

The topic of the multitude of tasks and circumstances that inform the teaching profession was addressed by the participants in the panel discussion, which was chaired by Prof. dr hab. Wiesław Jamrożek. Opinions on the matter were voiced by Dr Krzysztof Ratajczak (the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań), Dr Krzysztof Biel, SJ (the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow), Dr Joanna Cukras-Stelągowska (the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń), Dr hab. Bożena Sieradzka-Baziur (the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow), and Dr hab. Jacek Kulbaka, professor of the Pomeranian University in Słupsk.

During the conference several important threads were followed that weave into historical pedeutology. Many eminent University teachers were remembered and special attention was paid to their influence on shaping pedagogy as an academic discipline. The speakers talked about the output of meritorious teachers in social and educational institutions, their work in academic organisations and educational reform projects. They underlined the significance of teachers' activity in the school environment and elsewhere. The topic-related part of the meeting concluded with the panel discussion, which crowned the entire conference.

Closing up the event, the Chairperson of the Section of History of Education of the Committee of Pedagogical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences thanked all the participants and invited them to join the next similar occasions as hosted by the Section and announced on their website, mentioned above.

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