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Dear Readers

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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.

Dear Readers

Islam is the second – in terms of a number of followers – monotheistic religion in the world. Universalism of this religion validates not only the systematic increase in the number of believers, but also the interest shown Muslims outside the religious field. What are the faces of Islam? What do we think of when pronouncing the word “Muslims”? Finally, what is the place of the descendants of Abraham and Hagar in the encounter of religions, cultures and humanisms? – The present volume of “Nurt”: *Faces of Islam - part. I* is devoted to these issues. Since the subject matter of this theological and religiological reflection is extremely broad and multifaceted, our next our semi-annual edition will also lean on the multithreaded phenomenon of Islam.

Both volumes of “Nurt” on Islam are dedicated to His Excellency Archbishop **Michael Louis Fitzgerald M.Afr.** – spokesman for the Christian-Islamic dialogue. The hierarch was an apostolic nuncio in the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Holy See’s delegate to the League of Arab States (2006-2012). He also served as chairman of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue (2002-2005). In the book *Dieu rêve d’unité* (Paris 2005), M.L. Fitzgerald asks: “Can you say that, because of the parentela with Judeo-Christian tradition, Islam occupies a special place in God’s plan of salvation?” (p. 125, free translation). This question has been raised by authors of this publication – especially F. Bousquet, H. de La Hougue and K. Kaluza. E. Sakowicz, on the other hand, accurately discerns the post-conciliar struggles of the theology of religion: “The Declaration of *Nostra aetate* was an approach to the «threshold of hope». The pontificate of John Paul II taking place «in our time» meant «crossing the threshold of hope» in the spirit of *Nostra aetate*, for which the pope shook hands with Muslims and showed them love”.

The present edition of “Nurt” also opens the rich characteristics of the phenomenon of “Islam” in terms of the humanities. Recalling the thesis: “Mosque as a mirror of Islam”, S. Czerwonnaja shows that in the design, in the spatial composition and in the decoration of a Muslim place of worship, there are symbolically expressed basic elements of the Islamic faith and the Muslim worldview. Equally revealing prove to be articles showing regional and continental specificity of the Muslims’ religion: in Brazil (K.H. Arenz), DR Congo (J. Ngalula), West Africa (Bara N’Diaye), Germany (J. Nowak) and on the Crimean Peninsula (J.A. Babinow). *Faces of Islam* encompass religiosity associated with all forms of cultures and civilizations.

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