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From the Editors

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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.

FROM THE EDITORS

2006 MARKS THE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY of *The Journal*. Rafał Taubenschlag founded it shortly before coming back to Poland from his refugee years in the United States. The first, 1946 issue exists in two versions: one bearing the original publication place: New York and the other re-printed already in Warsaw where he had accepted leading the newly created Institute of Papyrology and Roman Law. His strong personality, scientific friendships, co-operation with another Warsaw papyrologist Jerzy Manteuffel and the work of their Warsaw students, Anna Świderek, Henryk Kupiszewski, Józef Modrzejewski marked the first difficult decades of *The Journal*. The urban-legends and anecdotes about the heroic days still populate the rooms where Raphael Taubenschlag's Library of Roman Law and Papyrology combines and connects in close co-operation the Department of Papyrology and the Chair of Roman and Antique Law of Warsaw University. Still the double first publication marks what has been the most important value of our Journal: its internationally high scientific profile. Lack of printing paper, troubles with the censor's office (how to explain that papyri are after all not counter-revolutionary?), post, printing of a book in the reality of planned-economy, finally the 10 years pause in the publication cycle in the eighties. Luckily the auspicious historical change allowed for the revival. But the change alone would have not been enough. Again it was the people who made it, we owe the resurrection to the help of our American friends, who in 1989 donated us a

Macintosh computer, one of the first Macs in our part of Europe and above all to meticulous work and the great, unwrought enthusiasm of Ewa Wipszycka. To all of them we are deeply grateful.

Without them *The Journal* would not be what is it today. A highly respected international platform of scientific exchange which has been most recently acknowledged in the *Arts and Humanities Citation Index*: a little thing for our own scientific community but surprisingly highly important for the modern research management institutions profoundly believing in the magical power of rankings and graphs. Our publication specialises in what used to be the very core of our discipline but now has become somewhat less popular: the research on forms of legal organisation of a society. This prospect has been undergoing modifications since the foundation of our review. Once dedicated to general legal history of the Mediterranean, it is now focussing on the social, economic and legal history of post-pharaonic Egypt. The Coptic questions and the history of the ancient churches, *pièce de résistance* of Ewa Wipszycka, not seen here at the times of our Founder, now occupy more than a half of each issue. We do not forget the Ptolemaic and pre-Greek Egypt. The newest projects under the headline of the younger offspring of οἱ περὶ τὸν *JJP*, the *JJP Supplements*, will soon bring Winnicki's study on the Aliens in the Nile Valley and Méléze Modrzejewski's *Law and Justice* dedicated to the legal order of pre-Roman domination Egypt. We shall also be particularly happy to publish soon Ewa Wipszycka's *Summa*: a study on monks and monastic communities in Egypt: the fruit of her life-long passionate research.

With the best auspices we present this new volume, hoping to become even more interdisciplinary in the decades to come, to offer a place for a friendly cross-examination of sources by specialists of various fields (as we have given quite some room in this Issue to mathematicians). And hence, traditionally, we renew the call for contributions and reviews for the *Journal* itself and for the proposals for the forthcoming *Supplements*, especially on the topics the history of legal institutions.

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