

The Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of *Forum Philosophicum*

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Forum Philosophicum is a philosophical journal connected with the Institute of Philosophy of the Faculty of Philosophy of the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow, and this year we are celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary. It was established in 1996 as an organ of the Philosophy Department of the Society of Jesus in Krakow, thanks to the initiative of two notable members of the Jesuit community there: Father Professor Roman Darowski, who for many years was its Editor-in-Chief, and Father Professor Stanisław Ziemiański, who served for many years as Deputy Editor-in-Chief. Over the course of its existence so far, a number of distinguished authors from both Poland and abroad have published their work in the journal's pages.

Even a brief review of the early issues of *Forum Philosophicum*—which in its first years was published annually, but since 2006 has been produced biannually—looks impressive. The profile of the journal was very clearly defined with reference to the general mission of the Society of Jesus, which is essentially concerned with disseminating Christian ideas in the broad context of discourse with the surrounding world, and with particular attention to the importance of education and scholarship. *Forum* was conceived as the voice of Krakow's philosophical community revolving around the Society of Jesus: one which surely needs to be heard, both in Poland and in the wider world. The first editors of the journal, especially Father Professor Roman Darowski, concentrated their efforts on constantly improving its quality, as is exemplified by its publication of papers in many languages,

including Polish, English, French, German, and Italian, not to mention abundant referencing of the great European tradition in Latin (the language that, for many centuries, served as a *lingua franca* for the academic tradition). This is indicative of the uniqueness of *Forum Philosophicum*, and represents an aspect of its significance that should not be lost sight of.

Father Professor Darowski, who managed *Forum* for many years, left his mark and spirit on it, and this is something that all subsequent editors-in-chief and editorial teams have sought to continue and develop. First of all, the idea of the journal includes maintaining the openness of philosophical discourse, and not being limited to issues related only to Christian philosophical trends; at the same time, the journal seeks to take up universal issues, and the papers published in it describe various views and philosophical systems, guided by a clear realization that the world around us calls out to simply be known, and for us to try properly to understand it, as only with such an approach can there be effective dialogue and promotion of universal Christian values, values that undoubtedly have the power to attract contemporary society and its members.

Father Professor Darowski himself gave an excellent personal testimony to this idea in his own scholarly work. For many years, his research focused on the discovery and promotion of Polish Jesuit philosophy, especially of the period from the sixteenth to the eighteenth or nineteenth centuries. The first few issues of *Forum Philosophicum* published a whole series of articles—written in Polish, French, English, but also in Latin!—in which Stanisław Ziemiański, Kazimierz Bargiel and Roman Darowski provided information about outstanding Jesuit teachers and philosophers active within the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, as well as later on in the difficult times of the partitions and the dissolution of the Jesuit Order. The works of these Jesuits constitute an unarguably important part of the general philosophical legacy, both in Poland and the world. Unfortunately, these individuals have been almost completely forgotten, as is evidenced, for example, by the fact that the particularly outstanding Jesuits of the period described, Jan Morawski and Marcin Śmiglecki, are much better known abroad than in Poland itself.

Father Professor Darowski emphasized very strongly the importance of Śmiglecki, whose great work *Logica*, published in Ingolstadt in 1618, achieved a kind of prominence very early on, as is confirmed by the number of years for which it served as a textbook at the University of Oxford. Father Professor Darowski, together with Father Kazimierz Bargiel and a group of researchers gathered together from other centers, spent several years exploring this work, and their activities resulted in a preliminary conceptual

study presenting it to Polish readers—one which, unfortunately, was interrupted by the premature death of Kazimierz Bargieł. Research into Jesuit philosophy also appeared regularly in the pages of *Forum Philosophicum* during the first few years of the journal's existence.

The changing times have also caused changes to the journal itself. First of all, the death of Father Professor Darowski forced a change of editor-in-chief. Later, due to his age, Father Professor Ziemiański also left the editorial office. These changes posed a great challenge for their successors, though it should be emphasized that the journal, having been run so excellently by its founders, already had a well-established position in the philosophical community by then. In 2006, a decision was made to change the periodical from a yearly to a biannual basis, and to switch to English as the international language of contemporary scholarly research. However, the profile of the journal remained the same, as its mission statement made clear. It has continued to strengthen its international position and gain increased recognition in the world, as is evidenced by the growing number of foreign authors contributing to it, as well as the expansion of its editorial team and scholarly committee to include foreign academics.

The importance of the journal was recognized during the transition period associated with the reform of higher education and academic research in Poland initiated by Jarosław Gowin after the latter assumed the relevant ministerial office. In 2018 *Forum Philosophicum* received a grant under the ministerial support program for academic journals, and it has led to major changes, which have further enhanced the quality of the journal, principally in terms of its formal-procedural aspects. A complete IT system has been introduced, both to enable the digitization of all published texts and as a system for registering submissions of new articles and their authors' details. The peer-review and publication systems have likewise been digitized, and in addition, the periodical's website has been modernized and some new cover art designed. The changes supported by the grant have undoubtedly helped raise the profile of *Forum Philosophicum* with international databases, and have assisted preparations for making an application to SCOPUS and the Web of Science.

