

PREFACE

This is the seventh volume of our serial. It covers the activities of the Wroblewski Library of the Academy of Sciences in 2013–2014. In this period, the key event for the Library was the 300th birth anniversary of the Lithuanian classical author Kristijonas Donelaitis (1714–1780), an important date featuring on the UNESCO list of anniversaries. The Library’s community was actively involved in the celebration of the Donelaitis year by launching exhibitions, giving presentations, and publishing the bibliographic index “Kristijonas Donelaitis”. These and other activities are overviewed in the section containing the chronicle and the report of the Library’s activities.

Scientific articles and other texts published in this volume were in preparation until the fall of 2018. Accordingly, some of them deal with events from years later than 2013–2014. An important date in the book history of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was marked in 2017: the publication of *The Ruthenian Bible* started 500 years ago in Prague. Its publisher, Francysk Skaryna (before 1490 – after 1552), founded the GDL’s first publishing house in Vilnius in 1522. Our volume thus starts by an article on Skaryna by Ilya Lemeshkin, Assistant Professor in Prague University and Senior Researcher in the Institute of Lithuanian Language. The article “Simeon the Russian and Francysk Skaryna”, based on four archival sources, unveils new facts from the biographies of Skaryna and his younger son Simeon.

The section “Scientific Articles” includes papers by restorers working in the Library, Birutė Giedraitienė and Aušra Čiuladienė, who discuss results of their research of materials used in old documents, conducted in collaboration with colleagues from other institutions. Bindings from old books are talked about in articles by Enrika Blikertaitė and Gražina Smaliukienė. Violeta Radvilienė, a staff member of the Library’s Rare Book Department, writes about a bibliographic rarity held in the Wroblewski Library, the panegyric *Capitolium perennis gloriae*, written to honour a Cossack hetman of Left-Bank Ukraine, Ivan Mazepa. Art scientist Dr. Neringa Markauskaitė offers new insights into the collection and archive of Father Franciszek Tyczkowski. Women’s contribution to the activities of the Lithuanian Scientific Society, an organization founded in 1907, is studied in the article by Eglė Paškevičiūtė-Kundrotienė. Historian Rasa Sperskienė throws light on changes in the society of Lithuania at the start of World War I, while Dr. Birutė Railienė writes about *Isis* (Izidė), the first ever science history journal, and its founder, George Sarton’s, views on the bibliography of history of science.

Two more publications deal with Francysk Skaryna. Czech scientist Tomáš Hoskovec gives an original interpretation of the GDL’s multilingual literature in his presentation “The literature of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania as a European phenomenon: on the cultural and historical context of the reception of Francysk Skaryna”, which was read in Russian at an international symposium on the 500th anniversary of Skaryna’s Bible held in Prague. Lithuanist Lina

Pestal from the University of Vienna writes about a manuscript source kept in the Austrian State Archives, in which Francysk Skaryna is mentioned by another, so far unknown, name.

In the present volume, the name of Kristijonas Donelaitis is accorded appropriate attention: Daiva Narbutienė discusses Donelaitis studies in Lithuania in her review of Domas Kauņas' study of Donelaitis memorial heritage.

The section concerning the Library's collections has the article by Justina Kučinskaitė-Toliautienė on a unique set of documents filed together in a portfolio, *Album pamiątkowy P. Selingera* (mid-19th cent. – early 20th cent.), which came to the Library in 1949 as part of the collector Lucjan Uziębło's archive and is now kept in the holdings of the Rare Book Department.

The section "Signs of the Time" contains remembrances of a former member of the Library's staff, Julija Paltarokaitė-Šalkauskienė, shared by her son, the late Dr. Julius Šalkauskas (1931–2018), who for many years had been an esteemed reader of the Wroblewski Library.

As usual, the publication ends with the report of the Library's activities in 2013–2014 prepared by the Scientific Secretary, Leokadija Kairelienė, the chronicle of the Library for the same period compiled by Dr. Birutė Railienė, and bibliographic data on the Library collected in print media for 2013–2014 by Rūta Kazlauskienė.

We express our heartfelt thanks to the reviewers of the scientific articles published in this volume, who gave the publication their undivided attention and provided valuable advice.

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