

## PREFACE

This is the eighth volume of the biennial yearbook of the Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences. It addresses the activities of the Library in 2015–2016. This time period marks the beginning of the reconstruction of the Library. With the start of construction works, the Library had to organize its activities taking into account the new work conditions. However, it stays open for the readers. This is reflected in the content of the current volume.

This time the yearbook consists solely of publications written by the members of the Library's staff. The section "Scientific articles" contains a study by Dr. Sigita Narbutas concerning the earliest publications in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, printed in Cracow, Milan, Prague, Rome, Vilnius and some other cities prior to the death of Francysk Skaryna (1551–1552) and to the opening of the GDL's first long-running printing (1553). The study commemorates the 550<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of the Polotsk-born founder of printing in the GDL, Francysk Skaryna (1470 – before 1552-01-29). The topic of Skoriniana, started in the previous volume, is thus further explored preparing to commemorate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first book printed in the GDL. An article by Dr. Artūras Judžentis looks into three hymns translated into Lithuanian by Wilhelmus Martinius (ca. 1618–1670) and published in Daniel Klein's hymnal in 1666. The study of the particular features of the translations affords a better look at the phenomenon of the spread of Lithuanian culture in the Kingdom of Prussia. The staff member of the Manuscript Department, Rasa Sperskienė, describes in her article documents from the period of the restoration of the independence of Lithuania (the second half of 1917–1918) kept in the Manuscript and Rare Book Departments of the Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences. She also discusses their use in recent scientific research and publications of historical sources. This topic is particularly relevant in the aftermath of a meaningful celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the restoration of the State of Lithuania, one of the most significant events of the recent years and a motivating occurrence for researchers of documentary heritage. The Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences has actively participated in the commemoration. Another inducement for a more comprehensive study of monuments of written culture and for spread of information about them is the intention of the Library to establish a museum of written culture of the GDL. The Head of the future museum, Dr. Alma Braziūnienė, in her article "Book museum between the old and the new", discusses issues pertaining to the traditional and the modern book museums. She also addresses the current state of affairs and the experience of exhibiting both manuscript and printed documentary heritage in museums of Lithuania.

The section "From the Library's collections" contains an important news about a composite book consisting of two Czech incunabula, the last report of whose existence dates from 200 years ago. The composite, part of the Memorial Book Collection of Acad. Konstantinas Jablonskis (1892–1960) established in the Library in 1968, is discussed by staff members of the

Rare Book Department Danguolė Palačionytė and Violeta Radvilienė. Another staff member of the same department, Jolanta Stasytė-Berniūnienė, takes a look at distinguishing characteristics of periodicals published in 1941–1944 on the territory of present-day Lithuania, which are now kept in the Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, and provides a list of 153 titles.

As usual, the yearbook is concluded by the report of the Library's activities in 2015–2016 prepared by the scientific secretary, Leokadija Kairelienė. The volume also includes a list of publications by staff members of the Library published in 2015–2016, compiled by the Head of the Scientific Information Department, Dr. Giedrė Miknienė, as well as information reports prepared by staff members of the same department: a chronicle of the Library's activities and a list of bibliographical records of information published about the Library in the media in these years.

The section "In memoriam" pays homage to the memory of a former staff member of the Library, the philosopher, cultural scholar and bibliographer Ipolitas Ledas (1935-10-04–2015-08-11).

We extend our sincere thanks to the reviewers of the scientific articles in this volume for their valuable remarks.

*Editorial board*