

## INTRODUCTION

The *Kwartalnik Historyczny* (Historical Quarterly) is the oldest Polish historical periodical. The first issue came out in 1887, published by the Polish Historical Society (PTH). Ever since it has been published without a break, except for a short period during the Second World War. During these many decades the *Kwartalnik Historyczny* has been an important forum for the exchange of ideas between Polish historians and one of the most consistently desired places for the publication of their research. The great majority of texts published in the *Kwartalnik Historyczny* have concerned the history of Poland — from the earliest times until the most recent. However, an important place has always been occupied by articles and reviews on the history of other parts of Europe and the World. Such articles have been published more frequently in recent years.

The language of publication in the *Kwartalnik Historyczny* is Polish. This is understandable given that the journal is the forum for intellectual exchange especially between Polish historians and the increasing number of foreign historians whose research chiefly concerns Poland, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and its successor nations. Nevertheless History is becoming an ever more international and transnational discipline. Research on Polish history is increasingly important not only for the wider history of Europe and the World, but also for the history of neighbouring and other countries. It is beginning to interest those historians who are not specialists on Polish history, but who in their own studies do draw on the methods and results of research into the Polish past. Responding to this development, the editors of the *Kwartalnik Historyczny* have decided to publish the journal partly in English. It is hoped that alongside the normal four issues in Polish per annum, that in some years a longer English edition will also be published.

This issue of the *Kwartalnik Historyczny* mostly contains texts which were previously published in Polish issues,<sup>1</sup> but also four which were written especially for the English edition.<sup>2</sup> Several concern the history of Poland, which remains — despite the growing number of foreign scholars working on Polish history — patchily covered in Anglophone historiography. Several texts concern the history of other parts of the World: it is hoped that their publication in English will enable them to make their deserved impact on the historiography of those countries and regions. We believe that the texts assembled here represent some of the best work currently being done, both by Polish historians and by historians working on Poland, and we are pleased to offer it to the worldwide community of scholars.

*Roman Michałowski and Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski*

This, the first English-language edition of the *Kwartalnik Historyczny* was selected and edited in close co-operation with the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at University College London. Responsibility for the editing was taken on by Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski, one of the deputy editors of the *Kwartalnik Historyczny* and Professor of Polish-Lithuanian History at UCL-SSEES. The English-language texts were checked and corrected by Dr Christopher Nicholson, a graduate of the School. In the name of the editorial board of the *Kwartalnik Historyczny* I warmly thank them and the Director of the School, Professor Slavo Radošević, for their co-operation.

*Roman Michałowski, Editor-in-Chief*

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<sup>1</sup> The article by Marcin R. Pauk was first published in *KH* 119, 2012, 3, pp. 467–506; the article by Paweł T. Dobrowolski in *KH* 120, 2013, 3, pp. 425–47, the article by Maciej Górny in *KH* 118, 2011, 4, pp. 681–706; the review articles by Halina Manikowska and Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski both in *KH* 117, 2010, 1, pp. 49–55 and pp. 63–76. The book review by Jerzy Strzelczyk has been published in *KH* 117, 2010, 1, pp. 102–04, by Grzegorz Pac in *KH* 117, 2010, 4, pp. 111–15 and by Edward Opaliński in *KH* 118, 2011, 4, pp. 707–24 (as review article).

<sup>2</sup> These are the articles written by Michał Tymowski, Paweł Duber, and Rafał Stobiecki, and the book review by Andrzej Janicki.