

# FIRST ANNUAL REPORT (2019) OF THE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ARMENIAN CULTURE IN POLAND (RCACP)

## The inauguration and organisation of the centre

The RCACP was established by a resolution of the Council of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences (PAU) of 10 September 2019. Its inauguration took place on 21 September that same year in *Collegium Maius* and took the form of an international conference on Armenology. During the conference, which is described in detail in volume six of *Lehahayer*, Professor Jan Ostrowski, president of PAU, presented the diplomas nominating the members of the Council of the RCACP. In alphabetical order, they were: Monika Agopsowicz (Foundation for the Culture and Heritage of Polish Armenians, Warsaw); Professor George Bournoutian (Iona College, New York); Armen Checzojan (Aniw Foundation for the Promotion of Armenian Studies – Minsk-Moscow-Yerevan); Professor Armenuhi Drost-Abgarjan (Martin-Luther-Universität – Halle-Wittenberg); Professor Armen Edigarian (Jagiellonian University); Zbigniew Manugiewicz (PMP Group); Professor Lidia Matynian (Kraków Academy of Music); Edward Mier-Jędrzejowicz (representative of the Armenian minority on the Joint Commission of the Government of the Republic of Poland and the National and Ethnic Minorities); Professor Claude Mutafian (Université Paris XIII; National Academy of Sciences of the Armenian Republic); Professor Józef Naumowicz (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, Warsaw); Professor Pál Judit (Babeş-Bolyai University – Cluj-Napoca); Professor Andrzej Pisowicz (Jagiellonian University); Professor Ara Sayegh (Wrocław University of Science and Technology); Professor Ewa Siemieniec-Gołaś (Jagiellonian University); Professor Krzysztof Stopka (Jagiellonian University).

In accordance with the RCACP Statute, which was formulated and written during this period and approved by the PAU Council on 23 October 2019, Professor Krzysztof Stopka – proposed by Professor Claude Mutafian – was unanimously elected chair of the RCACP Council by a vote taken electronically. On 30 December 2019, in accordance with

a resolution of the PAU Council adopted on 17 December 2019, Dr hab. Andrzej Zięba was appointed RCACP director by the president of PAU. Full-time researchers (Dr Tomasz Krzyżowski, Dr Franciszek Wasyl, Dr Marcin Łukasz Majewski) and a permanent associate researcher (Dr Jakub Osiecki) were recruited.

The RCACP was declared to the OPI-PIB (Centre for Information Processing – National Research Institute within the Ministry of Science and Higher Education), work was begun on a vertical Internet portal (vortal) for the RCACP, an official logo was designed, and work started on stocking a library and acquiring necessary equipment.

## Research

The RCACP conducted research in teams and individually.

The latter included:

Andrzej A. Zięba – *Awans społeczny w środowisku ormiańskim na ziemiach polskich, XIV-XIX w. – nobilitacje* [Social Advancement among the Armenians in the Polish Lands from the Fourteenth Century to the Nineteenth Century – Ennoblement]

Marcin Łukasz Majewski – *Ormianie w mieście staropolskim – Lublin, Zamość* [Armenians in Towns of Old Poland]

Krzysztof Stopka – *Unia kościelna Ormian polskich* [Ecclesiastical Union of the Polish Armenians]

Tomasz Krzyżowski – *Kościół ormiańskokatolicki na ziemiach polskich w XIX i XX wieku* [The Armenian Catholic Church in the Polish Lands in the Nineteenth Century and the Twentieth Century]

Jakub Osiecki – *Relacje polityczne polsko-ormiańskie w wieku XX* [Polish-Armenian Political Relations in the Twentieth Century]

Franciszek Wasyl – *Ormianie małomiasteczkowi w dawnej Polsce i Galicji Wschodniej* [Armenians of the Small Towns of Old Poland and Eastern Galicia].

The former included a digital edition of *A Bibliography of the History of Polish Armenians*, a digital edition of *The Encyclopaedia of the Polish Armenians*, and the *Testaments of the History of Polish Armenians* source materials series.

Two archival searches were undertaken in Lviv by Dr Franciszek Wasyl and Dr Tomasz Krzyżowski in the period this report covers: one of the Central State Historical Archive of Ukraine and one of the Historical Museum. During a three-week stay, they scanned ninety archival units concerning the Armenian gmina in Lviv in the Old Polish Period and the Armenian Catholic Church in the nineteenth century and twentieth century. The fruits of their labours are to be used for the preparation of historical monographs planned by the RCACP, but will also form part of an archival database to be shared with the Foundation for the Culture and Heritage of Polish Armenians, whose purpose is to collect all available archive material on Polish Armenians available in collections abroad (Lviv, Kyiv, Venice, Vienna). In December, Dr Jakub Osiecki spent two weeks in Yerevan collecting source material for his research project and establishing a rapport with the Armenian National Academy of Sciences and the National Archives of Armenia on behalf of the RCACP.

## Seminars

The RCACP seminar series addressed specific subjects or research projects, which were discussed by guests and members of the RCACP team. On 23 September, Dr Svante Lundgren presented his research into the Armenian genocide in Turkey. On 3 October and on 30 October, the RCACP team discussed the allocation of their resources with regard to editorial, bibliographic, and encyclopaedic tasks, while in November the matter at hand was the seventh annual edition of the journal *Lehahayer* to be published in 2020. Finally, in December 2019, the first entries compiled for *The Encyclopaedia of the Polish Armenians* were considered.

## Publications

Upon its establishment, the RCACP assumed responsibility for writing and publishing *Lehahayer*, which is an annual scholarly journal devoted to the history of Polish Armenians. It was at this time too that the *Lehahayer Library* series of publications, which are edited by Krzysztof Stopka and Andrzej A. Zięba, was begun. Its editorial committee was made up of Professor Petr Kaleta (Brno-Prague), vardapet Vahan Ohanian (Venice), Professor Judit Pál (Cluj-Napoca), Professor Andrzej Pisowicz (Kraków), and Dr. Tatevik Sargsyan (Simferopol). The efforts of the RCACP produced two publications in 2019:

(1) the sixth annual edition of *Lehahayer* (2019), which included 13 articles across 383 printed pages. Their titles and authors are as follows:

Monika Agopsowicz – *Ormianie kamienieccy w ostatniej ćwierci XVII wieku – próba rekonstrukcji spisu imiennego* [The Armenians of Kamieniec Podolski in 1675-1700: an Attempt to Reconstruct a List of Names and Surnames]

Dorota Jarząbek-Wasył – *Jak kupiec Symonowicz trafił do polskiej komedii* [How did the Merchant Symonowicz Become the First Armenian to Enter the Annals of Polish Comedy?]

Maksym Potapenko – *Ormianie Mohylowa Podolskiego według materiałów V rewizji z 1795 roku* [Armenians of Mohylów Podolski in the Light of Documents from the Fifth Revision of 1795]

Fr Marek Miławicki OP – *Źródła do dziejów Kościoła ormiańskokatolickiego w Galicji w zbiorach wiedeńskich* [Sources for the History of the Armenian Catholic Church in Galicia in the Viennese Collections]

Wahan Ohanian – *Ghewond Aliszan – poeta i historyk promiennej Armenii* [Ghewond Aliszan – Poet and Historian of Glorious Armenia]

Tomasz Krzyżowski – *Korespondencja arcybiskupa ormiańskokatolickiego Józefa Teodorowicza z prymasem Polski kardynałem Augustem Hlondem z lat 1924-1938* [The Correspondence of the Armenian Catholic Archbishop Józef Teodorowicz with the Primate of Poland Cardinal August Hlond in 1924-1938]

Romana Obrocka – *Listy z łagru Issaka Antoniego Donigiewicza* [Issak Antoni Donigiewicz's Letters from a Gulag]

Krzysztof Stopka – *Jeszcze o losach „Ewangeliarza ze Skewry”* [More Insight into the Fate of the Skevra Evangelary]

Anna Jasińska – *Portret trumienny Ormianina ze Stanisławowa w zbiorach Muzeum Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego* [Coffin Portrait of an Armenian of Stanisławów in the Collections of the Museum of the Jagiellonian University]

Andrzej Pisowicz – *Pendereccy wywodzą się z Iranu* [The Penderecki Family Originated in Iran]

Andrzej A. Zięba – *Nowe znalezisko z Jass, jako źródło do analizy obrazu „Chrzest Armenii” pędzla Teodora Axentowicza* [A New Find in Iași as a Source for the Analysis of *Baptism of Armenia* Painted by Teodor Axentowicz]

Andrzej A. Zięba – *Inauguracja prac Ośrodka Badań nad Kulturą Ormiańską w Polsce przy Polskiej Akademii Umiejętności w Krakowie* [Inauguration of the Research Centre for Armenian Culture in Poland as a Part of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences in Kraków]

Edgar Ghazaryan – *List do uczestników ceremonii otwarcia Ośrodka Badań nad Kulturą Ormiańską w Polsce* [Letter to Attendants at the Opening Ceremony of the Research Centre for Armenian Culture in Poland]

(2) The second volume in the *Lehahayer Library* series: a monograph by Professor Józef Osiecki entitled *Bolszewicy a Kościół ormiański. Apostolski Kościół Ormiański w Armenii sowieckiej w latach 1920-1938* [The Bolsheviks and the Armenian Church: The Apostolic Armenian Church in Soviet Armenia in 1920-1938].

## Cooperative Research

The RCACP worked on joint projects in cooperation with a number of research institutions both in Poland and elsewhere. They include the Armenian National Archive (scanning archive collections for the requirements of the RCACP and compiling a

dictionary of Armenian officers from the period of the struggle for Polish independence who settled in Poland after 1920); the Aniw Foundation for the Promotion of Armenian Studies – Minsk-Moscow-Yerevan (drawing a historical map of the Armenians of Crimea; writing a monograph on the *Mons Pius* bank of the Lviv Armenians in Russian); Foundation for the Culture and Heritage of Polish Armenians in Warsaw (producing a source edition of *Testaments of the History of the Polish Armenians*, which was accomplished through an NPRH grant [National Programme for the Development of the Humanities] administered by the foundation); Gliwice Museum (preparing an exhibition on the cultural heritage of the Polish Armenians, which is planned for the end of 2021 and the beginning of 2022).

Kraków, 30 January 2020

Dr hab. Andrzej A. Zięba

Director of the Research Centre for Armenian Culture in Poland