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## Introduction

Welcome to the fourteenth volume of *Series Byzantina*, which contains articles submitted by researchers from our country and abroad. The first part deals with the travels of relics in the Christian world. Three articles are the result of a conference organized by Magdalena Laptaś from Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in 2014. In the second part of the journal texts are related to the changes in the art of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. We are trying to introduce new issues concerning the history of Byzantine and post-Byzantine monuments of the past.

Polish archaeologists are making further discoveries of Christian art in Africa; no wonder that the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University has organized another conference on the subject. The international meeting in 2016 concerned the history of Nubian paintings in the context of artistic connections with Byzantium, Coptic Egypt and Ethiopia.

Research by archaeologists of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University was conducted in the Białowieża National Park using state-of-the-art technology bringing to life fascinating discoveries that prove the existence of a civili-

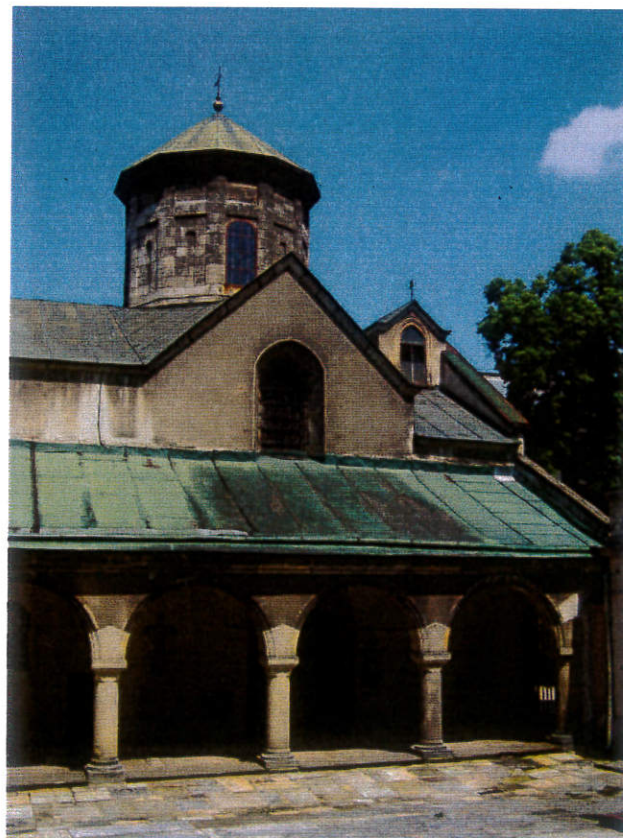


Fig. 1. The Armenian cathedral in Lviv



Fig. 2. St. John the Evangelist and St. Prochorus,  
a mural painting from the Armenian cathedral in Lviv



Fig. 3. The Gospel from Skevra, National Library in Warsaw (on loan from Warsaw Archdiocese)

zation before the growth of the natural forest, dated by the researchers back to over 700 years ago. During the Jagiellonian period, Polish kings hunted in the forest then referred to as the “old woods”. This area, located mostly in the territory of Poland and in Belarus, is Europe’s largest national park and is also a natural forest. Polish scholars published the initial results of the research and showed that future scientific exploration will surely give amazing scientific results.

The *Art of Armenian Diaspora* conference was a big event; it was held in June 2016 at the National Museum in Gdańsk. Many researchers from the country and abroad participated in it. This was the second meeting of the Armenian diaspora art scholars. The first took place in Zamość Museum in 2010. The papers were connected with

the history of Armenian art in many European countries, a large group related to relics from Romanian collections. The researchers presented two different regions: Moldavia and Transylvania, showing two directions of development of Armenian art, one associated with the Apostolic Church, the second with the Catholic Church and the adoption of the Union by the Armenians. The second group of papers related to the Armenian diaspora in the 20th century. Due to the great interest shown the organizers have decided to prepare the second part of the Conference. The meeting will take place in March 2017, this time in Warsaw.

Also in the neighboring countries interest in art of the Eastern Christianity is growing. The international conference in: *Medieval Art in Central Europe*, organized at the initiative of the University of Ostrava, where lively research of the team of the *Vivarium* scientific circle contribute to increased international cooperation. The conference, which was

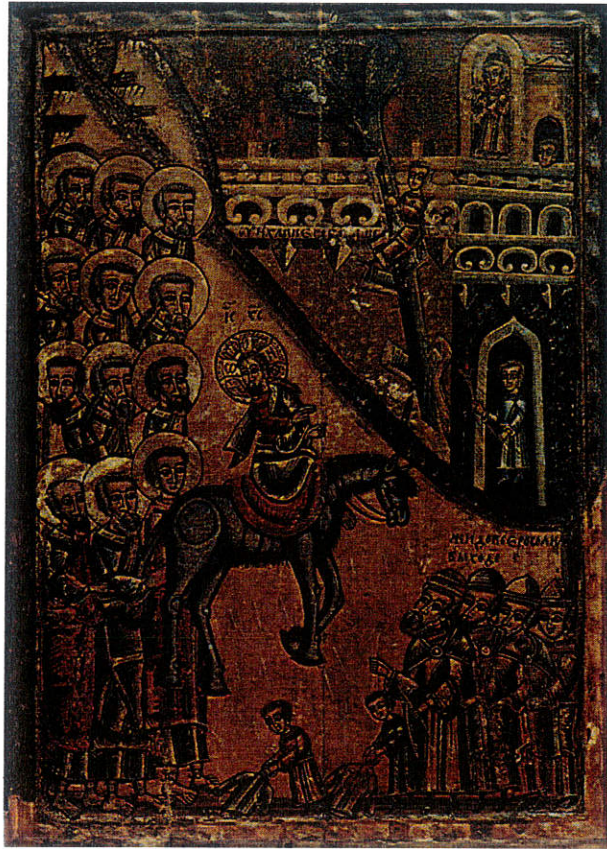


Fig. 4. Entrance to Jerusalem, the icon from 17 century, Lańcut Castle Museum





Fig. 5. Ghelintă, Roman Catholic church, Transylvania

held in the “Galician Town” in Nowy Sącz, referred to the Polish initiative of Niedzica Seminars, organized in 1980–1991, with the participation of Polish, Czech-Slovak and Hungarian scholars. 7 volumes were issued, in which rich comparative material was collected. The seminars were held at the castle in Niedzica in the Spiš region, the site of historic importance for Poland, Hungary as well as Slovakia. Despite many political constraints, very interesting thematic meetings were organized, which contributed to the knowledge of the scientific research of our neighbors.

After many years, we go back to the initiative of our predecessors, reactivating international meetings. Among the leading topics, worth mentioning is the entire thematic block on art on the border between the world of Eastern and Latin Christianity, postulated by our predecessors in 1980. The meeting in Nowy Sącz contributed to the exchange of ideas between scholars from the countries clustered around the so-called Visegrad Group. Let us hope that this initiative will have a continuation in the context of the exchange between the East and the West as well as the South and the North and they will bring interesting scientific discoveries.

*Waldemar Deluga*

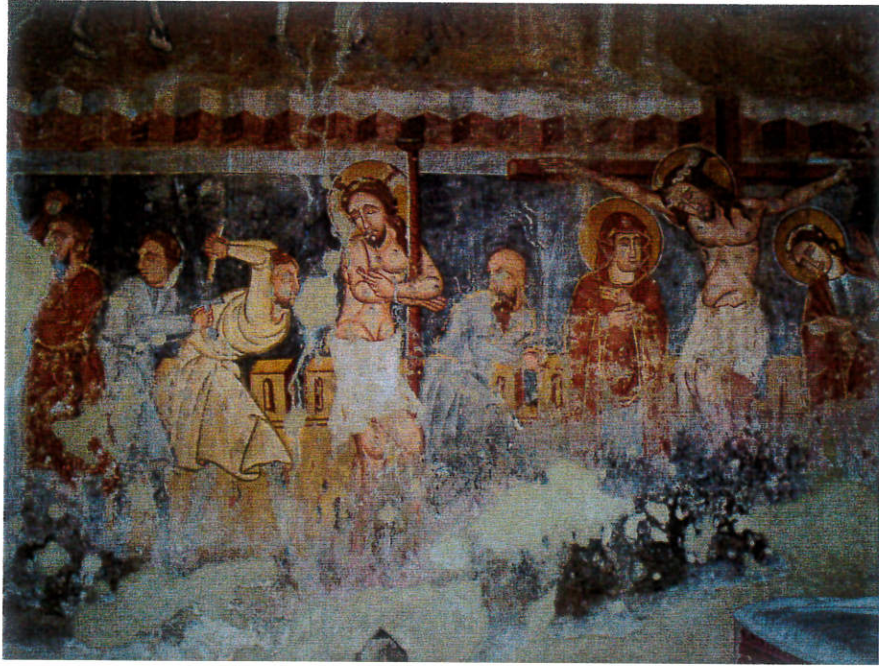


Fig. 6. Mural paintings from the church in Ghelintă, Transylvania



Fig. 7. Anunciation, mural painting from the church in Dravce near Levoča, Slovakia