

On the Third International Conference of Oriental Studies
Exploring Languages and Cultures of Asia.
Prof. W. Kotwicz in Memoriam,
Cracow 2012

The Third International Conference of Oriental Studies *Exploring Languages and Cultures of Asia. Prof. W. Kotwicz in Memoriam* was held in Cracow on 15–17 November 2012. Cracow was chosen purposely to host the conference as a place closely connected with the legacy left by Prof. Władysław Kotwicz (1872–1944), since it is the Archive of Science of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN) and Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences (PAU) where various materials gathered by Władysław Kotwicz are kept in his private archive (K III-19).

The conference to commemorate Kotwicz's 1912 expedition to Mongolia was organized jointly by the Committee of Oriental Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN), the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences (PAU), the Archive of Science of PAN and PAU and the Faculty of Oriental Studies of the University of Warsaw. Twenty five scholars from Poland, USA, Germany, Russia, Hungary, Great Britain, Mongolia, Japan and Thailand presented their papers during two days' proceedings. The exhibition of Kotwicz's legacy portraying his expedition to Mongolia in 1912¹ organized by the Archive of Science of PAN and PAU was opened during the conference on 16 November 2012 by Ganbaatar Adiya, Ambassador of Mongolia, who read the address to conference participants sent by Tsakhyagiin Elbegdorj, President of Mongolia.

The 100th anniversary of Kotwicz's expedition to Mongolia in 1912 was also marked by the publication of a monograph entitled *In the Heart of Mongolia. 100th Anniversary of W. Kotwicz's Expedition to Mongolia in 1912. Studies and Selected Source Materials*² which displayed some of the results of recent scholarly investigations conducted on the basis of Kotwicz's unpublished sources. The volume was distributed to conference

¹ Entitled "W sercu Mongolii. Stulecie wyprawy W. Kotwicza do Mongolii w 1912 r." [In the Heart of Mongolia. 100th Anniversary of W. Kotwicz's Expedition to Mongolia in 1912].

² Edited by Jerzy Tulisow, Osamu Inoue, Agata Bareja-Starzyńska and Ewa Dziurzyńska, Cracow 2012. Published by the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, co-financed by the University of Shimane. Authored by Tulisow, Osamu Inoue, Takashi Matsukawa, Burkart Dähne, Ulambayar Erdenebat, Ewa Dziurzyńska and Agata Bareja-Starzyńska.

participants. Both the monograph and several conference papers which were based on Kotwicz's materials proved that his legacy is still a potent source for scholarly research. It should be also emphasized that without long-term studies of Dr. Jerzy Tulisow, who has been working together with the Archive researchers on describing and cataloguing of the Kotwicz's private archive, the legacy of Kotwicz would not have been known and accessible as it is now.

The conference brought together many organizations and individuals working on Asia. The organizers take this opportunity to thank the host of the conference, the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, especially Prof. Jerzy Wyrozumski, the Secretary General, for excellent co-operation, and extend their warm thanks to Dr. Rita Majkowska, the Director of the Archive of Science of PAN and PAU, and Mrs. Ewa Dziurzyńska, curator of Kotwicz's legacy.

The present volume of the *Rocznik Orientalistyczny* is composed of the majority of papers read at the Third International Conference of Oriental Studies. They enclose broad topics ranging from various aspects of Asian linguistics through history and ethnographic fieldwork research to contributions on literature and arts. The range of scholarly problems covers studies on different Asian regions, including Mongolian, Manchu and Turkic studies which were the main focus of Władysław Kotwicz's research, and, similarly to his broad Oriental interests, it encompasses Inner Asia and Far East: Mongolia, Tibet, Iran, India, China, Japan and Korea.

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