



IN MEMORIAM: STEFAN F. KWIATKOWSKI (1946–2022)

Professor Stefan Kwiatkowski, a medievalist and prominent researcher of spirituality and religiosity in the Teutonic Order in Prussia, passed away on 22 October 2022. Born on 6 January 1946, Stefan Kwiatkowski began his career as an assistant at the Institute of History and Archival Studies of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń immediately after graduating in 1969. He remained in Toruń until 2000. After completing his PhD in 1976, he was hired as an assistant professor. Following his habilitation in 1991, he was appointed associate professor. In 1999 he was awarded the title of professor. From 1999–2000, he served as director of the Institute of History and Archival Studies. In 2000, he took over the Chair of Medieval History at the University of Szczecin, where he taught until his retirement in 2018. Stefan Kwiatkowski's initial research interests focused on religious mentality in medieval Poland. He devoted his doctoral dissertation to this topic, among others. He took up the history of the Teutonic Order in the 1980s. The choice of a new field of research was not without influence from the inspiration of Karol Górski, who established a center for research on the Teutonic Order in Toruń after 1945.

An Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung scholarship in 1983–1984 for research on religiosity in the state of the Teutonic Order in Prussia enabled Stefan Kwiatkowski to take an internship at the University of Bonn. There, he established cooperation with Professor Udo Arnold and conducted research at the Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz in Berlin. The results of the studies carried out in the 1980s were published in the monograph *Klimat religijny w diecezji pomezkańskiej u schyłku XIV i w pierwszych dziesięcioleciach XV wieku* [*Religious climate in the Pomezanian diocese at the end of the 14th century and in the first decades of the 15th century*] (Toruń: Towarzystwo Naukowe w Toruniu, 1990). This book was distinguished by an in-depth methodological reflection on the study of religious imagery. The author included in his research the most significant elements of the religious climate at various levels of social life, both in the context of popular



piety and the framework of the moral-public order in the Teutonic Order's authority in Prussia. He was one of the first researchers to make an in-depth analysis of witness testimony of the canonization trial of Dorothy of Montau.

Throughout the next two decades Stefan Kwiatkowski continued his research on the spiritual history of the Teutonic Order. To this subject he devoted his book *Zakon niemiecki w Prusach a umysłowość średniowieczna. Scholastyczne rozumienie prawa natury a etyczna i religijna świadomość Krzyżaków do około 1420 roku* [*The Teutonic Order in Prussia and Medieval Mentality. Scholastic Understanding of the Law of Nature and the Ethical and Religious Consciousness of the Teutonic Knights until about 1420*] (Toruń: Uniwersytet Mikołaja Kopernika, 1998; Szczecin: Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Szczecińskiego, 2005, 2nd edition). In it he presented the use of the law of nature to legitimize the military and political activity of the Teutonic Order. The subject of his analysis was both the reception of the philosophical tradition of St. Augustine and the criticism of the Order formulated during the period of the conflict with Poland and Lithuania, which was based on the doctrine of Thomas Aquinas and the moral aspect of the law of nature. Stefan Kwiatkowski paid particular attention to the influence of St. Augustine's philosophical concepts on the identity of the Order's members. His innovative remarks on the influence of the thought of John Duns Scotus in Peter of Dusburg's chronicle *Chronicon terrae Prussiae* deserve particular emphasis. Professor Kwiatkowski is also credited with an in-depth analysis of the crisis of *devotio antiqua* in the Teutonic Order marked in the fifteenth century. With his research, he also covered the polemics between the Teutonic Order's legates and King Władysław Jagiello of Poland on the subject of war and peace at the Council of Constance.

A separate study devoted to the dispute of the Teutonic Order with Poland and Lithuania at the Council of Constance, *Der Deutsche Orden im Streit mit Polen-Litauen. Eine theologische Kontroverse über den Krieg und Frieden auf dem Konzil von Konstanz (1414–1418)* (Stuttgart: W. Kohlhammer, 2000). Here, Stefan Kwiatkowski analyzed the arguments and theological positions used on both sides of the dispute.

In our memory, Professor Stefan Kwiatkowski will remain as a kind and passionate scientific colleague. His innovative works mark a breakthrough in the study of religiosity and spiritual culture in the state of the Teutonic Order in Prussia.

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