

THE *TRADITIO EUROPAE* FOUNDATION

The *Traditio Europae* Foundation was established in 2007 by Professor Marian Szarmach as a non-profit organisation registered in Poland. The Foundation's aim is to study, popularise and preserve the tradition of European culture, especially Greek and Roman heritage, through academic, educational, cultural and publishing activities.

From the beginning we have co-operated with established and well-known Polish organisations such as the Polish Classical Association (*Societas Philologa Polonorum*, PTF) and the Scientific Committee on Ancient Culture of the Polish Academy of Sciences (KNoKA PAN), as well as other minor non-profit organisations in Poland like *Statek Feaków* or *Imperium Romanum* (the internet portal). We also co-operate with local authorities and local institutions and organisations.

One of our leading projects, running from the very beginning of the Foundation's activity, is "*Liga starożytnicza*" – a competition for lower school ("gymnasium") and senior school ("lyceum") students. The aim of this competition is to popularise the heritage of ancient Greek and Roman cultures and their influence on modern European culture among the students and thus to make them more aware of the European tradition and its importance. At the moment [February 2016] the 9th edition is being held. Every year more than one hundred (and sometimes even up to or over two hundred) students from the Kuyavian-Pomeranian district take part in our competition, which consists of seven lectures each year led by recognised Polish scholars. The competition is held under the auspices of the Kuyavian-Pomeranian General School Inspector and the Dean of the Faculty of Languages of the Nicolaus Copernicus University.

From 2008 until 2014 we ran several projects dealing with Greek and Roman antiquity and its reception in modern culture such as: "*Antiquity in my city*" (artistic and photographic competition held in 2008–2010); "*Aphrodite, Apollo, Ares and the others*" (mythological competition held in 2009); "*The Old Toruń through the eyes of the young people*" (competition held in 2011–2014 and aimed at senior school students from Toruń; its aim was to make students more conscious of the history of the town and its cultural achievements). Since 2013 we have also run a mythological workshop ("*Zeus +*") in various nursery and primary schools in Toruń.

Since 2010 we have also organised ancient numismatics workshops which are held twice a year (in Toruń, Cracow or Brodnica). This project is organised

together with the Institute of Archeology of the Nicolaus Copernicus University, the Polish Numismatic Society, the National Museum in Cracow and the Museum in Brodnica. The project is held under the auspices of the Institut für Numismatik und Geldgeschichte of the University of Vienna. The workshops are aimed at all people fond of ancient numismatics and on each occasion many interested individuals take part in them.

Since the establishment of the Foundation, many conferences in Poland have been organised under its auspices; in 2011 the archaeological excavations in Negotino (Macedonia) were also led by archaeologists from the University of Gdansk.

Since 2007 we have published three books: K. Jarzęcki, J. Rakoczy, *Wartość źródłowa znalezisk monet antycznych z okolic Inowrocławia*, Bydgoszcz–Toruń 2010; *Symbolae Philologorum Posnaniensium Graecae et Latinae*, vol. XXIII, fasc. 2, Posnaniae 2013; and *Armées grecques et romaines dans le nord des Balkans*, édité par A. Rufin-Solas, en collaboration avec M.-G. Parissaki et E. Kosmidou (ouvrage publié avec le concours du Centre “Méditerranée Antique: Civilisation et Christianisme Ancien”, de l’École doctorale “Mondes Anciens et Médiévaux” et du Conseil Scientifique de l’Université Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV), Gdańsk–Toruń: Fondation Traditio Europae, 2013. We have also published two catalogues: *Monety Republiki Rzymskiej (ok. 300–31 p.n.e.). Wystawa w Muzeum w Brodnicy 12.09–31.10.2013* (Brodnica–Toruń: Toruńskie Warsztaty Numizmatyki Antycznej, Fundacja Traditio Europae, Muzeum w Brodnicy, 2013), and *Monety Cesarstwa Rzymskiego. Część I – okres pryncypatu 30 p.n.e.–235 n.e. Wystawa w Muzeum w Brodnicy 24.04–31.05.2015* (Brodnica–Toruń: Toruńskie Warsztaty Numizmatyki Antycznej, Fundacja Traditio Europae, Muzeum w Brodnicy, 2015).

In 2011 we also founded an award for the best Latin teacher in Poland which is granted every two years during the general meeting of the Polish Classical Association.

And since 2011 our activity in great part concentrates on the status of Latin in Polish schools. In that year we opposed the removal of Latin from the subjects on offer to by students for their final senior school examinations. We wrote a petition to the then Minister of Education which was signed by over three thousand people. Among them there were many well-known and recognised scholars of different academic fields such as law, medicine, classics, mathematics, physics, history, philosophy, literature, cultural studies and philology. We succeeded then but unfortunately, mainly because of bureaucratic obstacles, the teaching of Latin in Polish schools is constantly lapsing and every year reaches new lows. That is why last year we gathered the financial means to fund the whole course of Latin in one lyceum and one gymnasium in Toruń. We announced the competition and finally we chose two schools. On 1st February 2016 seventy-five students from those schools (Lyceum no. 4 and Gymnasium no. 10 in Toruń)

started their Latin course. The realisation of this project was possible only thanks to donations of private individuals who, approving of our activity, decided to support us financially.

You may follow our activities on the Foundation website: www.traditio-europae.org or by joining one of our facebook profiles: <https://www.facebook.com/traditioeuropae/>; <https://www.facebook.com/lacinawszkole/>.

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