

## Editor's Note

This issue of *Terminus* begins with two articles dealing with selected problems of medieval preaching. In the first of them, Lidia Grzybowska ponders the question of whether Mikołaj of Błonie (before 1400 – ca. 1448), doctor of canon law and lecturer at the Kraków Academy supported the conciliarist movement, which subscribed to the view that ecumenical councils held the highest power in the Church. It appears that despite recognizing the need to reform the church institutions, he was far from formulating radical postulates. In the second article, Paula Cotoi investigates Osualdus de Lasko's (ca. 1450–1511) sermons with respect to the Franciscan's personal traces. Assuming that the text embodies the author's views, Cotoi analyzes the prologues of the preacher's sermons, attempting to explicate the motif of concealing one's own identity, stemming from the medieval idea of authorship and from the Franciscan concept of humility as a virtue. We shift to another epoch and a different theme in the paper by Wojciech Krawczuk, discussing letters by the Swedish diplomat Johan Ekeblad (1629–1697), written during his stay in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in 1656. The letters contain information on the advances of the Swedish army, on every-day life in a military camp, and also on the author's personal hopes and fears. In the edition section we publish a Polish translation of two epistolary elegies, being imitations of an elegy attributed by Ovid to Penelope. The latter elegy opens the collection *Heroides*, which became an attractive object of imitation in the 16th and 17th centuries. One such imitation discussed in the paper is by Andrzej Krzycki (1482–1537), who was secretary to king Sigismund the Old's wife Barbara. It is on behalf of her that Krzycki wrote a poem expressing her longing for her husband, and at the same time lauding

the king's victory in the battle of Orsza (8 September 1514). The other elegy was authored by Baldassare Castiglione (1478–1529), who wrote it on behalf of his wife, Ippolita Torelli, awaiting with impatience his return to Rome. Both elegies display an array of feelings and emotions, such as sadness, despair, resignation and joy. The issue closes with Andrzej Staniszewski's review of Aleksandra Jakóbczyk-Gola's book on animal gardens in the early modern period. The monograph describes changes in the perception of various creatures by humans, linking them to the cultural environment, and also poses questions concerning human nature.

We are certain that you will find this issue truly inspiring,

*Wojciech Ryczek*