

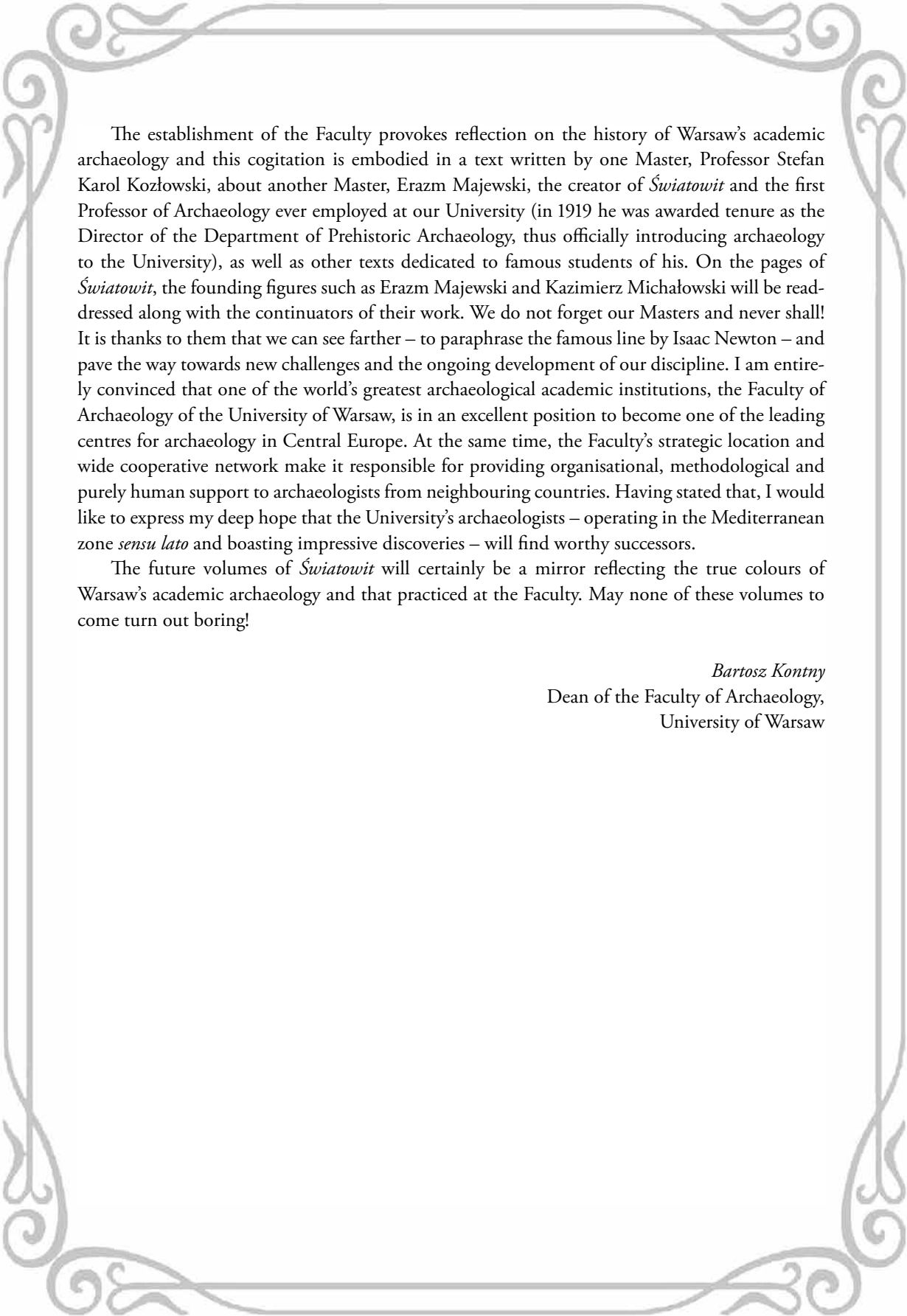


***“Full Astern!
Because the Past Has a Future!”***

Another volume of *Światowit* sees the light of day in unusual circumstances. On 1 September 2020, the former Institute of Archaeology was rebranded as the Faculty of Archaeology of the University of Warsaw. This means that the periodical became an official yearly issue of the Faculty. The release of its latest edition creates the perfect opportunity to present the new role envisioned for our discipline at the University. The structure of the new Faculty includes eleven departments and five labs, in addition to research teams. The represented areas of expertise carry on the traditions of the University’s archaeological research – from the Stone Age to the modern times, from the archaeology of the Americas, through the Mediterranean and Northern Europe to East Asia and the Pacific islands, from the mountains to the bottom of the seas and lakes. Non-invasive research methods hold a prominent place, without, however, depreciating bioarchaeology, archaeometry or underwater archaeology. It is worth noting that the names of departments testify to the continuation of tradition on the one hand (e.g. the Department of Classical Archaeology), while on the other hand demonstrating the blurring of boundaries between traditional academic disciplines (e.g. the Department of Archaeology of the Barbaricum and Roman Provinces). This way, the idea championed by the late Professor Tomasz Mikocki, long-time Director of the Institute of Archaeology and visionary (as time has clearly shown) came true. Professor Mikocki is credited with the unification of prehistorical and early-medieval archaeology with Mediterranean archaeology into a single academic degree course, as well as with the unprecedented development of archaeology at the University. Without the foundations that he laid, the Faculty would never have come to be!

The new structure entails a new logo that will accompany the Faculty. The previous one to which many of the staff (the undersigned included) are attached unfortunately does not meet modern editorial standards. I bid farewell to it not without regret and nostalgia, remembering the late Professor Jerzy Okulicz-Kozaryn who discovered the Roman brooch from the Wielbark Culture burial ground in Weklice which served as a model for the old logo. Modern design, however, does not eliminate tradition entirely – particular departments and laboratories will enjoy their own distinguishing signs which will reference archaeological finds.

The wide range of research carried out at the Faculty will undoubtedly be reflected in the contents of future issues of the *Światowit* periodical, as well as its supplementary series. The present volume highlights the international nature of our community and the studied topics as well as our diversity, even though texts on the Neolithic clearly dominate. Such focus results from the fact that the issue is dedicated to Professor Andrzej Kempisty, a long-time fellow of the Institute of Archaeology and recognised scholar of the Neolithic with an undeniable impact on the development of protohistoric archaeology.



The establishment of the Faculty provokes reflection on the history of Warsaw's academic archaeology and this cogitation is embodied in a text written by one Master, Professor Stefan Karol Kozłowski, about another Master, Erazm Majewski, the creator of *Światowit* and the first Professor of Archaeology ever employed at our University (in 1919 he was awarded tenure as the Director of the Department of Prehistoric Archaeology, thus officially introducing archaeology to the University), as well as other texts dedicated to famous students of his. On the pages of *Światowit*, the founding figures such as Erazm Majewski and Kazimierz Michałowski will be read-dressed along with the continuators of their work. We do not forget our Masters and never shall! It is thanks to them that we can see farther – to paraphrase the famous line by Isaac Newton – and pave the way towards new challenges and the ongoing development of our discipline. I am entirely convinced that one of the world's greatest archaeological academic institutions, the Faculty of Archaeology of the University of Warsaw, is in an excellent position to become one of the leading centres for archaeology in Central Europe. At the same time, the Faculty's strategic location and wide cooperative network make it responsible for providing organisational, methodological and purely human support to archaeologists from neighbouring countries. Having stated that, I would like to express my deep hope that the University's archaeologists – operating in the Mediterranean zone *sensu lato* and boasting impressive discoveries – will find worthy successors.

The future volumes of *Światowit* will certainly be a mirror reflecting the true colours of Warsaw's academic archaeology and that practiced at the Faculty. May none of these volumes to come turn out boring!

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