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## INTRODUCTION TO THE VOLUME LVI OF THE 'ŚWIATOWIT' JOURNAL

Dear Readers,

In the incoming year 2019 we are going to celebrate the centenary of the opening and foundation of the Institute of Archaeology at the University of Warsaw. This occasion makes all of us in the academic community very proud, since it was when the Institute became one of the most important and dynamically-developing institutions, where many generations of students could find an intellectual quiet harbour, hone their knowledge, and indulge in their fascination about the past and past cultures. One of the emblematic symbols strongly associated with this intellectual atmosphere has ever since been, and I hope it shall remain so, 'Światowit'. This archaeological journal has been considered the most important platform for presentation of research results and exchange of ideas with other scholars. If we take a careful look at the first volumes of 'Światowit', edited by one of the most prominent scholars in the history of Polish archaeology, Erazm Majewski, it will be clear that since the establishment of the journal it has been an academic and scholarly medium focusing not only on the local Polish archaeological research, but has included also contributions analysing findings, artefacts, and social and cultural processes from a much broader perspective. In this context, it is worth mentioning, especially for those Readers who have so far had little interest in the history of archaeology in Poland and the dynamics of development of this scholarly discipline, that the first volume of 'Światowit' was published as early as 1899. It makes the journal predate the history of archaeology in the Institute itself.

If we had another close look into the past, the process of the development of the journal can be clearly observed with its many editorial changes, which reflect a natural scientific, scholarly, and technological progress. It means that the 'Światowit' journal has never been a conservative medium and has instead ever been open to new ideas and research perspectives, even if sometimes they promoted controversial results or, much more often, heralded breakthroughs in our understanding of the past and past cultures with the dynamical processes of their expansion, decline, and transformation.

The technological aspects of the editorial process also required some adjustments over the years. The main goal of every change in the layout, reviewing process, or other

such features was undertaken so as to help 'Światowit' become and remain a top-tier and valued archaeological periodical with readership in Poland and beyond.

This very intention was behind one of the most important recent decisions – to change the language of the journal and focus our attention on publishing articles in foreign languages, especially in English. This choice determined a thorough shift in the editorial approach and involved the latest modification of the layout of the periodical. The person who should be credited with reviving and pushing the idea of 'Światowit' forward was the late Tomasz Mikocki. He was a very dynamic personality and openly shared his ideas with other scholars and colleagues employed in the Institute of Archaeology at the University of Warsaw. As Chief Editor of the journal, he was in a position to rewrite, redefine, and renew its mission statement. One of his decisions was to split the two main channels of archaeological research and publish two volumes a year. One was dedicated to the prehistoric research and some aspect of archaeology of Poland. The other, in turn, focused on the so-called Mediterranean or non-European archaeological studies. Such state of matters continued for a relatively long time. The next two Chief Editors were simultaneously Directors of the Institute. It needs to be admitted that since Tomasz Mikocki reformed and renewed 'Światowit', it became a rule that the director of the Institute was automatically elected as Chief Editor of the journal. In consequence, with the personal involvement of Kazimierz Lewartowski and Wojciech Nowakowski, and their verve for the editorial work, it was possible to maintain the high scientific quality of 'Światowit'. The current situation, especially the internationalisation of the archaeological research, prompted another change in the editorial concept of the journal. Nowadays, the artificial border between the so-called Mediterranean research and pre- or protohistorical as well as medieval archaeology seems to be absolutely pointless. Even more so if one considers the diverse and interdisciplinary scholarly pursuits of the academic staff of the Institute of Archaeology at the University of Warsaw. Moreover, a very dynamic and active new generation of archaeologists took over as editors of the journal, which testifies that the legacy of the past generations and numerous scholars who

regularly published their contributions in 'Światowit' is still vivid among younger researchers, and thus makes keeping 'Światowit' up and running a worthwhile effort.

In parallel to the changes in the editorial team, as well as the recent activity of the journal's scientific board, the general concept of the periodical was also updated during meetings of the steering committee.

As a fruit of the said labour and choices, we are delighted to present the latest volume of 'Światowit'. It can be noticed on the first glance that in comparison to the previous editions this publication looks slightly different. The decision concerning the graphic layout of the journal, and a more open policy regarding the possible publications of the texts sent by authors not employed in our Institute, was broadly discussed, as already mentioned above. Right now, the final effect of these editorial works is becoming more visible. The whole editorial team and I personally believe that the new layout will be well-received and the scope of the problems and research published in contributions submitted to this volume, and those which shall be published in the future, will be welcomed warmly by the community of scholars and researchers.

This volume embodies the new way of thinking about our journal. The current issue contains numerous articles focused mainly on research on the ancient textile industry, fabric manufacturing, and weaving. These studies show almost the whole spectrum of this scholarly discipline and simultaneously put our new idea and

concept of 'Światowit' to practice. Here, the Readers will find multi-faceted studies dealing with problems concerning textile production in the prehistory and proto-history of Northern Europe as well as the Mediterranean, Greece, Middle East, and other regions outside Europe. All of these eleven contributions were originally presented as lectures during the session '*Tradition and Innovation in Textile Technology in Bronze Age Europe and the Mediterranean*' organised by Agata Ulanowska and Małgorzata Siennicka during the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists in Vilnius. It bears emphasising that the contributions presented in the current volume are not only of a high scholarly level, but also witness emergence of a small yet dynamic team of researchers from our Institute who are following the latest international studies on textiles and fabric manufacturing industries. Such activities represent new perspectives in archaeological research and as attempts at reconstruction of culturally- and socially-patterned behaviour in past societies will always be warmly welcomed and supported by the Institute. I hope deeply that this publication is opening a new chapter in the history of the 'Światowit' journal, which will confirm its position as one of the most important archaeological periodicals in Poland providing information on the latest state-of-the-art research endeavours. On behalf of the editors and my humble self, I can confidently say that we are ready to work hard to keep the journal on a good level and ensure its recognition among other archaeological periodicals published in the European Union.