

## From the Editorial Board

This special volume of the “Studies into the History of the Book and Book Collections” was inspired by the scientific conference “The book, press, broadcasting, film, and libraries in developing the cultural heritage of the Second Polish Republic”, organized by the Department of the Book and History of Media, University of Warsaw, and the Warsaw Branch of the Polish Book Studies Society on November 2018. The presentations given in the jubilee year of regaining independence by Poland, as well as discussions which took place both in conference rooms and lobbies, offered a nuanced picture of factors influencing the culture of the Second Polish Republic. They also enabled the existence of its heritage during and after World War II.

The articles collected in this volume either resulted from this conference or answered the Editorial Board's invitation to present the role of culture (books, press, libraries, collections) on the eve of independence regaining, in developing the Independent, and in preserving heritage in tragic times of war and difficult period of communist Poland (PRL).

The part concerning libraries includes articles presenting – among others – the role of libraries in consolidation and enhancement of national awareness during the partition time, and in shaping patriotic and civic attitudes among children and youth in the years 1918-1939.

The one focused on heritage consists (among others) of texts concerning private collections as essential elements of gathering, storing and promoting national culture (the history of the collections after World War II is also important). There is also the text revealing how the opposition of the PRL period referred to the heritage of interwar Poland.

The final part refers to the press and its extremely important role in developing new, independent society, identity, patriotic and national attitudes on both national and regional levels.

The Editorial Board aimed at presenting cultural and national diversification at the territory of Poland. Therefore articles concerning Jewish libraries, Belarusian press, Ukrainian educational and publishing activities, as well as the libraries in Vilnius, are dispersed in different parts of this volume.

We would like to thank the Authors of the texts for answering our invitation, for the patient and smooth cooperation. Thanks to You we were able to realize our goals. We also would like to thank conference participants for their presentations and inspiring discussions. This volume would not be created without Your contribution.

*Jacek Puchalski*