

Series “The Polish Christian Philosophy in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century”:

Józef Bremer, Damian Leszczyński, Stanisław Łucarz, and Jolanta Koszteyn. *Piotr Lenartowicz*. Krakow: Ignatianum Univ. Press, 2019, 200 p.

Piotr. S. Mazur, Barbara Kiereś, Ryszard Skrzyniarz, and Agata Płazińska. *Jacek Woroniecki*. Krakow: Ignatianum Univ. Press, 2019, 220 p.

Ryszard Món, Sylwia Tondel, Jan Krokos, and Andrzej Waleszczyński. *Tadeusz Styczeń*. Krakow: Ignatianum Univ. Press, 2019, 207 p.

Jan Sochoń, Maciej Bała, Jacek Grzybowski, Grzegorz Kurp, and Joanna Skurzak. *Zofia Józefa Zdybicka*. Krakow: Ignatianum Univ. Press, 2019, 221 p.

Kazimierz Marek Wolsza, ed. *Stanisław Kamiński*. Krakow: Ignatianum Univ. Press, 2019, 236 p.

At the Akademia Ignatianum w Krakowie, the University of the Jesuits in Krakow, a publication project was carried out between 2016 and 2020 entitled “Monuments of Polish philosophical, theological and social thought of the 20th and 21st century.” In this context, it was made financially possible to set up parallel editions in Polish and English. In Polish, 13 volumes have been published, each devoted to a single thinker: Mieczysław Gogacz, Stanisław Kamiński, Kazimierz Kloskowski, Kazimierz Klószak, Feliks Karol Koneczny, Mieczysław Albert Krapiec, Piotr Lenartowicz, Tadeusz Józefelmas, Tadeusz Józef Styczeń, Jacek Adam Woroniecki, Zofia Józefa Zdybicka. In addition, another volume (a companion) was devoted to Polish Christian philosophy in the 20th century. What we have before us are five titles that have now been translated into English. The works are also available free of charge in PDF format via <https://pchph.ignatianum.edu.pl/en/>.

Each volume contains a selection of primary texts by the philosopher in question and is preceded by a detailed introduction that discusses the life, work, historical context and major philosophical themes of the thinker under discussion. The mentioned historical context often plays the same role in the various volumes: the regained independence in 1918, the invasion of the Germans in 1939, the communist rule since 1944, the Stalinist power politics, the election of Karol Wojtyła as pope in 1978, the Solidarnosc movement and the fall of the wall all have had an impact on philosophy. Christian philosophy managed to survive despite much opposition. In many ways Christianity’s view of humanity and the world is radically opposed to the communist ideology and it functioned as a solid intellectual rock in the midst of the social strife. In a communication about this book review, HIW emeritus Frans De Wachter wrote to me briefly about the support that went from Leuven to the University of Lublin in the 1980s in the form of library material and a lecturer exchange. It is not surprising that in the volumes at hand one finds a pronounced attachment to a Thomistic realism (also in the guise of an existential Thomism). After all, in a Thomistic natural-law-thinking the oppressed intellectual can ‘find an instance above the positive law of the totalitarian state.’

It would go too far (and beyond my capabilities as a reviewer) to discuss each volume in detail, but I would like to highlight two figures nonetheless. The first is

Jacek Woroniecki, born in 1878 into an aristocratic family. After studying at a military academy and a year in the Grodno Hussar regiment, he left for Fribourg in Switzerland in 1899 to first study natural sciences, later theology and philosophy. A visit to Dominic's cell in Rome in 1907 initiated his vocation to become a Dominican. Various detours brought him to Krakow in 1914 as a lecturer of ethics. He eventually became rector of the Polish KUL, the Catholic University of Lublin. He continued to hold positions at the Angelicum in Rome and at the Dominican College in Lwow (Lviv, Lemberg) before staying in Krakow from 1940 until his death in 1949. In his impressive philosophical production, his most famous work on a 'Catholic ethics of education' stands out. Man's moral growth, education and religious destiny are intrinsically intertwined for him. His selected texts concern the specificity of Christian ethics, a fine study of 'habit or skill' and a political-philosophical text about nation and state. Woroniecki was beatified in 2004.

The second philosopher I would like to highlight is Zofia Josefa Zdybicka – the only woman in this male group. Born in 1928, Zdybicka joined the Ursulines in 1948. Her 1965 dissertation concerned the knowability of God in Lubac's thought. Her habilitation dealt with the Thomist participation theory. She came to Leuven repeatedly and had contact with Jan Van der Veken, among others. She devoted several studies to the doctrine of God, understood as a completion of metaphysics, and to the philosophy of religion. For her, the latter discipline must primarily answer the question of why a phenomenon such as religion, which she calls 'the religious fact,' exists at all. Typical of her holistic and ontological approach is that both the pole of the absolute and the pole of man must be involved in the explanation through a study of religious experience. Thus, her view on religion appears to be penetratingly determined by her reflections on Thomas's participation theory. Naturally, countless other intellectual influences play a role. Zdybicka's approach is wonderfully original and deserves more attention in an international context than it has hitherto received. In each volume one can become acquainted with such original approaches and learn something from them.

Vitello Thuringopolonis (ca. 1230-1280) is considered one of the most important philosophers of medieval Poland. He was friends with Willem of Moerbeke and he dedicated his optics to him. Browsing through these volumes, even more philosophical affinities between Poland and Flanders can be discovered. A recommendable exploration of little known philosophical territory!

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Erik Meganck. *Religieus atheïsme: (Post)moderne filosofen over God en godsdienst*. Eindhoven: Damon, 2021, 255 p., € 24,90.

Mystiek en spiritualiteit zitten in de lift, zo hoor je zeggen. En dat klopt misschien, afgaand op een aantal recente publicaties. Het zielenleven van de mens