

Dear Readers,

In 2022, the *Museology* journal celebrated its 70 years. Searching for its roots in the tradition of the independent Second Polish Republic, the journal identifies its forerunners in the following periodicals published at the time: *Przegląd Muzealny*, *Pamiętnik Muzealny*, or *Kwartalnik Muzealny*. In 1945, when the preservation of the legacy of the inter-war period required much effort, it was Prof. Kazimierz Malinowski, a pre-WW II graduate from the Gymnasium of St Mary Magdalene in Poznań, graduate in art history from the University of Poznań, and a post-WW II Director of the Central Council of Museums and of the Preservation of Monuments at the Ministry of Culture and Art, contributor to the Hague Convention (1954) and to the Act on the Preservation of Cultural Goods and on Museums (1962) who initiated the launch of *Museology*, serving as its first Editor-in-Chief. The journal's first publisher was the Association of Historians of Art and Material Culture (currently the Association of Art Historians, SHS); since 2011 *Museology* has been published by the National Institute for Museums and Public Collections, from 2 September 2023 under the name of the National Institute for Museums.

The *Museology* journal has been documenting the history of Polish museums spanning over 200 years, at the same time trying to represent it within the context of international relations. The thematic array of the published papers covers the range delineated by the framework of the statutory and also public tasks of museums. Various topics find their place within the structure of the annual's regular sections containing, among others, museums and collections, museum management, provenance studies, digitizing, law in museums, as well as segments dedicated to biographies (Polish Dictionary of Museum Curators), memoirs, and reviews. The set of the regular sections is annually complemented with a genuine and at the same time topical leading theme of the issue.

The last decade has meant an intense effort to make the *Museology* annual boast all the features of an academic journal periodically parametrized by the Ministry of Education and Science. Currently, the periodical is indexed in the major international and domestic journal databases: Scopus, CEJSH, ICI Journals Master List, BazHum. The latest parametric evaluation conducted by the Ministry of Education and Science has resulted in awarding 100 points to *Museology*, which places it among the highest-ranking humanist periodicals in Poland. Despite these accomplishments and respect-worthy experience, we have not as yet said the final word: we are seeking to increase our parametric assessment by implementing, e.g., a grant awarded from the 'Development of Journals' Programme aimed at internationalizing periodicals and increasing their availability.

The leading theme of the 2023 issue is museum's *i d e n t i t y*. The topic was actually inspired, e.g., by the works on the new museum definition, concluded during the last ICOM General Assembly held in Prague in August last year. Just as the new definition was coined in a lengthy and controversial process of debates and arguments [which we reported on extensively in *Museology*, 61 (2020)], so is museum's *i d e n t i t y* seen by us as a process: seeking identity, redefining it when faced with contemporary-day challenges which in the recent years have also included the pandemic, war started with Russia's aggression on Ukraine, economic crisis, deepening of social inequalities; all these in their accumulation can be perceived as the end to the world which not until long ago used to boast stability. Therefore, asking about museum's *i d e n t i t y* is an encouragement to Authors to write articles on how to rearrange this disintegrating world, and what role museums should be assigned in the process. History has provided museums and their founders with much experience of the 'time of the end, of the time of the beginning', thus they are, in a way, historically preconditioned to look into the future with the boldness of the proposed and implemented ideas.

On behalf of the Editorial Staff of the *Museology* journal I would like to thank you for contributing to the journal's next issue.

Piotr Majewski
Editor-in-Chief