

PROFESSOR GERARD LABUDA'S JUBILEE

On December 28, 2001, Gerard Labuda, eminent mediaevalist and authority on Polish–German relations throughout history, since the beginning of his studies in 1936 connected with Poznań, turned 85. A scholar who has always been able to combine research (his fundamental works are *Studia nad początkami państwa polskiego* [Studies of the Beginnings of the Polish State], *Pierwsze państwo słowiańskie — państwo Samona* [The First Slavic State — the State of Samon], *Fragmety dziejów Słowiańszczyzny zachodniej* [Fragments of the History of West Slavs], *Polska granica zachodnia — tysiąc lat dziejów politycznych* [Polish Western Border — a Thousand Years of Political History]), and popularization of knowledge with directing many–volume collective works (in the first place *Historia Pomorza* [The History of Pomerania] and *Historia dyplomacji polskiej* [The History of Polish Diplomacy]), has over half a century performed a number of the highest academic functions (among others that of the Adam Mickiewicz University rector, Western Institute director, vice-president of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the first president of the revived Polish Academy of Learning and currently its honorary president). Already after his 80th anniversary of birth he enriched the list of his works (which then numbered about 1650 items). Let us mention the most important of his recent publications: *Święty Wojciech w polskiej tradycji historiograficznej* (St. Adalbert in the Polish Historiographic Tradition, 1997), *Święty Wojciech. Biskup–Męczennik, Patron Polski, Czech i Węgier* (St. Adalbert. Bishop–Martyr, Patron of Poland, Bohemia and Hungary, 2000), *Święty Stanisław — biskup krakowski, patron Polski* (St. Stanislaus — Bishop of Cracow, Patron of Poland, 2000). A translation of his synthesis of the history of the Teutonic Knights in Prussia, written jointly with Marian Biskup, appeared in the FRG. His innovatory book about Mieszko I and his role as the architect of the Polish state is waiting to be published, and he is soon going to submit for publication his dissertation entitled *Rozwój metod historiograficznych* (The Development of Historiographic Methods).

This work is being prepared within the framework of a research programme of the Political History Institute of the Higher School of Management and Banking in Poznań, to which the Professor is currently linked after having otherwise retired. This school has prepared a commemorative book in his honour, the title of which (*Aere perennius. In honour of Professor Gerard Labuda on December 28, 2001*. Pub. Forum Naukowe. Poznań 2001, 358 pp.), taken from the first stanza of Horace's *Exegi monumentum*, seems quite justified.

The jubilee ceremony, organized on January 25, 2002, brought together a large group of historians from all over Poland. The Professor, with his characteristic vivacity, delivered a lecture referring to the work he is now concentrating on. His subtle deliberations on the intricacies of historiographic methods have become an excellent workshop instruction for some participants, while others were reminded of their Master's lectures in the history of historiography once delivered at his Poznań *Alma Mater*.

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