

SUMMARY

The Sacrum in the Museum

Discussions on Violations of the Sanctity Realm

In June 2014, at the Divine Word Missionaries Seminary in Pieniężno, researchers of various specialties, representing disciplines within the scope of humanities and biological sciences, gathered in order to discuss a recurrent problem for museologists, directly affecting the daily work of museums. Namely, acquiring objects which cultural function was associated with a broadly understood sphere of the sacred, by both museums and strictly scientific institutions. The meeting was organized by: Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology of Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Missionary-Ethnographic Museum of the Seminary of the Divine Word in Pieniężno, and Divine Word Missionaries Seminary in Pieniężno. The meeting was framed as seminars held in a plenary session divided into two consecutive panels. The first one concerned objects uprooted from the sphere of the sacred and placed in museums, whereas the second addressed the problem of human skeletal remains stored in museums and research units. Scientific management of the event was performed by: Assistant Professor (NCU) Anna Nadolska-Styczyńska and Associate Professor at the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn Jacek Jan Pawlik SVD. Secretary of the seminar was Renata Lesner-Szwarc (MA at NCU).

13 people participated in the meeting and they represented a variety of disciplines: ethnology/cultural anthropology, the study of open-air museums, museology, physical anthropology, archeology and theology. Seminar guests were invited to produce brief notes of the meeting which would indicate the main theses of their thinking as well as an overall impression after

discussions. Unfortunately, for various, often independent reasons, not all participants responded to the invitation, and in the end, no text representing natural sciences has reached the editor. In contrast, I was happy to accept a proposal from a researcher who, for accidental personal reasons, could not take part in our discussions, but decided to present her stance and reflections in the form of a comprehensive article.

Yet, all the conference texts we received are now before you in this part of our magazine. I hope that they will, in some measure, explain the nature of the meeting and the discussions we had, or moderately present main theses developed by the representatives of humanities.