

FOREWORD

The publication you are reading is the 7th volume of the series “The State of Research on Multicultural Heritage of the Old Commonwealth”, which began in 2010. So far, 6 sizeable volumes have been published on the cultural heritage of our country that is currently abroad. The main idea behind the effort of the organizer of this initiative, the European Cultural Heritage Research Institute in Białystok, is: *an attempt to present as comprehensively as possible the current state of research and the research needs in the area of the Old Commonwealth heritage, with special consideration of the cultural heritage that is currently abroad.*¹

I am glad to announce the publication of another 4 volumes of the series in 2017. It is the follow-up of the 3rd International Scientific Convention “The State of Research on Multicultural Heritage of the Old Commonwealth”, organized in Białystok in October 2010. They are the effect of long work of researchers from Poland, Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, whose results were primarily presented during the above-mentioned convention. The interest in participation in our project is increasing. In 2015, our Convention had over 90 participants from Poland and from abroad.

In Volume 7 we focused on texts pertaining to the common history of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and texts concerning the history of education therein.

Presenting you with this volume, we would like to give sincere thanks to Mr Jacek Miler, Director of the Department of Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, and Ms Dorota Janiszewska-Jakubiak, Vice-Director of the Department of Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, for their support in the organization of our cyclical scientific conferences and substantive help. The Ministry of Culture coordinates numerous research, recognition, conservation and cataloguing works and supports the digitalization of the Commonwealth

¹ An excerpt from a letter from Prime Minister Piotr Gliński included in this book.

heritage dispersed out of the Republic of Poland. That is why cooperation with this Department is important so as to collect and summarize those numerous activities promoting the Polish (multicultural) heritage of the old Commonwealth.

First of all, I would like to give many thanks to all the Authors of the publication. Without their engagement, research and devotion, this success would be impossible. Thank you very much!

The 4th Convention is planned for late 2018. This time, we have been invited by the Marshal of Podkarpackie Voivodeship, Mr Władysław Ortył, so the convention will take place in Rzeszów. You are warmly invited!

Once again I would like to thank all who have contributed to the writing of this book and I hope you will enjoy reading it.

Wojciech Walczak