

Volume IX *Reformed Church in I Commonwealth. Dialogue with Europe and axiological choices in light of literature and writing of XVI-XVII century*, edited by Dariusz Chemperek

This tome gathers studies of literary researchers, historians and theologians that are results of research on cultural heritage of Calvinism in Polish-Lithuanian country. Analysis focuses on epistolography, parenetic, theological and philosophical treatises by i.a. Mikołaj Rej, Jakub Lubelczyk, Bartłomiej Keckermann or Daniel Kałaj. The results prove openness of Polish Calvinists to ideas coming from Europe, outline range of values affirmed by members of Reformed tradition and show considerable and versatile influence of that denomination on Polish culture.

This tome presents dialogue of Calvinists (citizens of Polish-Lithuanian country) with European literary, religious, social and political traditions as well as shows specificity of Calvinism in I Commonwealth regarding European background (i.e. question of constituents of reformed theology stemming from analysis of catechisms). It also determines the role of this denomination in adapting for Polish culture western and Czech intellectual achievements and presents the influence Polish Calvinist had on western thinkers (paraphrases and reprints of Latin pieces). Special attention is paid to Bartłomiej Keckermann whose enormous literary output remains hardly known to Polish humanities.

In the centre we put John Calvin's relations with representatives of Polish elites, reception of reformed theology present in Polish catechisms, songs, psalms and literature (i.e. Jan Kochanowski regarding Calvinism) and polemics (works of last Polish reformed theologian of XVII century Daniel Kałaj). We also observe esthetical and ethical inspirations flowing via Calvinist channels from Switzerland, France and England (reception and polemics) and influence of concepts of reformed theologians on forming Polish ethic of work, family, time and money.

Calvine profiles of fine literature (Mikołaj Rej, Jakub Lubelczyk, Salomon Rysiński, Piotr Wachenius), social writings (Anzelm Gostomski, Maciej Wirzbięta), religious texts written for usage in Reformed Church (postils, hymnals) and social, political and philosophical writings were reconstructed. Those pieces reveal values close to Polish Calvinists and Unity of the Brethren joined with Calvinists since XVII century.