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Edited by
Sylwester Fertacz and Maria W. Wanatowicz

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Preface

Wieki Stare i Nowe (The Old and the New Ages) is a serial publication by Institute of History, University of Silesia in Katowice. Volume one of the periodical, planned as a yearbook, was published in the year 2000 and edited by Idzi Panic and Maria Wanda Wanatowicz. In 2005 (since Vol. 4) the journal was officially rated by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. Since the year 2009, the periodical has been appearing under a slightly altered title: capital letters were used and the numbering of the yearbook was changed – volume six was issued as Vol. 1 (6). From then on, individual volumes of the journal have been also available online. Beginning with Vol. 2 (7) the periodical's formula has been widen. So currently, apart from articles, it also includes reviews and source materials.

The works published in *Wieki Stare i Nowe* concern both general history and the history of Poland from ancient times to the modern historical events. The editors remain faithful to the idea that motivated the establishment of the journal, and that is, not restricting particular volumes to selected thematic fields, but keeping them varied and survey in character. This approach also pertains to the assumption that in *Wieki Stare i Nowe* the results of research by academic employees and doctoral students of Institute of History, University of Silesia, are published. However, it does not exclude publishing in the periodical the papers by historians representing other academic centres. Therefore, the thematic scope of works published in *Wieki Stare i Nowe* is very wide, since the journal accepts articles concerning various fields of history.

For the above-mentioned reasons, among others, we decided to publish an English-language edition of the journal. Our goal was to include the works not only by the Institute of History, University of

Silesia historians, but also by researchers from other academic centres. Moreover, we wanted to provide space for texts analysing all, if possible, or several historical periods.

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