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Introduction to the English edition

The theme of this collective monograph is a description and critical analysis of the arguments for the thesis about the alleged discovery of the remains and the grave of Nicolaus Copernicus – for further details see *Introduction* (to the Polish edition). This is so far the only elaboration of this type in world literature. We have made it available in an English translation, in order to reach the widest possible range of researchers so that they can become familiar with this subject.¹

The presented monograph stems from the Polish tradition of practicing multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research on the achievements and life of Nicolaus Copernicus. Being the longest research tradition in the world, it began with Jan Brożek (1627) and Jan Śniadecki (1782; 1802) and their studies, based on respect for the university model *Septem Artes Liberales*, *New Humanism of George Sarton* and the *Third Culture of Sarton – Snow* (author's term) (cf. Kokowski 1996; 2001; ed. 2002; 2004; 2012 and, in particular, 2009).

A reader, if somewhat familiar with Copernican studies and subject to the influence of a popularizing style of practicing the history of science (cf. *Wikipedia* 2014, chap. “Death”) and mass culture (cf. e.g. The Associated Press 2005; Reuters 2005; Bowcott 2008; Easton 2008; Gera 2010; Bradley 2010; Stonehill College 2010), may be surprised at the level of substantive discussion on many various disciplines presented in this monograph, but omitted in the studies of prominent American authors (cf. Gingerich, MacLachlan 2005; Gingerich 2009; 2011; Goddu 2007; 2010). I hope this will not be a reason to ignore the considerations presented in this monograph, as it has already happened in certain analogous cases in the past.

I wish you a fruitful and insightful experience while reading and invite you to join the debate.

¹ By decision of Prof. Lidia Smentek (Department of Chemistry, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, USA) her popular article (2012) has not been included in the translation.

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