

FROM THE EDITORS

The Forest: Between Care, Responsibility, and Cooperation

Julian Fałat's painting "Burnt Forest in the Tatra Mountains," from the early twentieth century, bleakly symbolizes the transformation in human relations with nature that has occurred over the times of greatest industrial development in history. In this issue of *Academia* magazine, our authors look at these relations in modern terms, from the standpoint of the current state of research on trees and forest ecosystems, economics and global climate change. In short, what do we, and what don't we know about Poland's (and the planet's) forests?

Our understanding of trees and forest ecosystems rests on solid scientific foundations, though today, in the face of dramatic, human-caused environmental changes, they are in need of reexamination and verification. A number of state-of-the-art findings to this effect are presented herein by various researchers from the PAS Institute of Dendrology. Scientists from the PAS Institute of Agricultural and Forest Environment in Poznań, in turn, write about the complex and valuable role played by mid-field woodlots. Prof. Daniel R. Sobota explores the philosophical underpinnings of nature, while Prof. Dariusz J. Gwiazdowicz addresses how conscious interaction with a forest teaches respect for it and its inhabitants. Prof. Dries Kuijper valiantly debunks some common stereotypes about wolves. And in an interview with Andrzej Grygoruk, director of the Biebrza National Park, we learn what day-to-day work looks like in a Polish national park.

This issue of *Academia* is the result not only of profound concern for our forests and a sense of responsibility (collective and individual) for the future, but also the result of considerable teamwork – something for which our editorial staff is grateful to all our authors, particularly to Prof. Andrzej M. Jagodziński, Director of the PAS Institute of Dendrology.

PROF. JERZY DUSZYŃSKI
PRESIDENT OF THE POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



MAREK H. DYTKOWSKI/NATIONAL MUSEUM IN WARSAW

Julian Fałat (1853–1929) "Burnt Forest in the Tatra Mountains,"
after 1900, oil, canvas, from the collections of the National Museum in Warsaw



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