

FROM THE EDITORS

BOLESŁAW THE BRAVE – A RULER AND HIS TIMES

This issue of *Academia* is a special one: appearing in 2025, it celebrates one thousand years since the coronation of Bolesław the Brave, Poland's first crowned king and a major figure in its early history. For the first time, the magazine focuses entirely on events from ten centuries ago. The territorial shape of the Polish state that emerged after Bolesław's conquests differed little, as it turns out, from today's map of Poland – remarkable given how much the country's borders have shifted since then (his immediate successors, for instance, merely tried to lose as little as possible).

In the pages that follow, we present both well-known and lesser-known episodes linked to Bolesław's coronation, while also evoking the atmosphere of his bygone era. We explore the circumstances of the coronation itself and how the monarch is portrayed in medieval chronicles and modern scholarship. We look at the people who lived under the early Piast dynasty rulers – warriors, members of the elite, and migrants – examining their physical traits, health problems, and even the genetic makeup of early inhabitants of Polish lands. We discuss the buildings erected in Bolesław's time, the towns that existed a millennium ago that survive today, and how Poland's first crowned king has been presented in school curricula.

The articles in this issue, written by distinguished specialists from diverse disciplines, research centers, and scholarly generations, show how modern humanities – especially archaeology – draw on a variety of methods from fields such as physical anthropology, molecular biology, and physicochemistry. How far these tools bring us closer to truly understanding this distant chapter of Poland's history – that we leave for you, our Readers, to judge.

PROF. ANDRZEJ BUKO



The Gniezno Doors also known as the Doors of St Adalbert

Crafted in the twelfth century, these doors are a monument of Romanesque casting. Set in the inner portal of the southern porch of the primatial basilica in Gniezno, they depict 18 scenes from the life and martyrdom of St Adalbert.



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