

**ARS BONI ET AEQUI – MEETING BETWEEN ART AND LAW
SEMINAR
WARSAW, 17 JUNE 2019**

On 17 June 2019 the Biblioteka Stowarzyszenia Historyków Sztuki im. Prof. Jana Białostockiego (Prof. Jan Białostocki Art Historian Association Library) held an interdisciplinary scientific seminar of romanists and art historians entitled “*Ars boni et aequi*” – *Meeting Between Art and Law*. The meeting was organized as part of the promotion of a multi-author monographic study *Ius est ars Boni et Aequi. Sztuka w prawie, prawo w sztuce*, edited by A. Dębiński, M. Jońca and I. Leraczyk (Wydawnictwo KUL, Lublin 2019).

The conference was opened by Prof. Maciej Jońca, Head of the Department of Roman Law at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. On behalf of the authorities of the Association of Art Historians, the President of the Association welcomed all the guests. Next, Vice-President Prof. Ryszard Kasperowicz in his opening speech pointed out to the intertwining of the legal and artistic fields, constituting a common starting point for undertaking new scientific subjects. Professor R. Kasperowicz referred to the fact that Aby Warburg was a great proponent of abandoning the approach of clearly-defined scientific disciplines in favour of “borderless and fluidity of” art, and the publication in progress fitted well within that line of thought.

The first lecture was delivered by the Rev. Prof. Antoni Dębiński, Rector of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, who referred to the figure of Maria Chomentowska, a renowned interior architect who created an exquisite work in the interiors of the Catholic University of Lublin. The Rev. Rector referred also to atmosphere of the 1970s, pointing out that in those economically difficult times M. Chomentowska, described by her students as the “Lady of Beauty”, created a comprehensive concept of the applied art and put it in practice. Next, major Wińczysław Jastrzębski, Deputy Head of the Military Police in Lublin delivered a lecture entitled: *Symbol as an Attribute of Power: A Few Remarks on the Badges and Emblems of the Military Police*. The speaker pointed out to the significance of the symbols used by the authorities and the significance of the visual sign. While discussing the specific elements of the military uniform, military distinctions and the symbols signifying military rank, he reminded the audience that the applied art embedded in a symbol is

an understandable and meaningful sign legitimizing the authorities and their actions. The last speaker was Dr. Romana Rupiewicz from the Institute of Art History of the Stefan Wyszyński University, who shared her reflections on: *The Last Instance – Imagery of the Last Judgement in the Court Room of Medieval and Modern Europe*. The speaker emphasized the sacral significance of fair judgements and that of justice as a moral virtue, pointing out to the specific instances of symbols in legal iconography.

The second part of the seminar included a presentation of the monographic study *Ius est ars Boni et Aequi. Sztuka w prawie, prawo w sztuce*, which includes various reflections on literature, painting, sculpture, opera, numismatics, architecture or interior decoration, as well as the ancient art of measure making (*ars mensoria*).

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