

Eds. Tadeusz GUZ, Jan GŁUCHOWSKI, Maria PAŁUBSKA, *A synthesis of Polish law*, part 1-2, Frankfurt am Main–Berlin–Bern–Bruxelles–New York–Oxford–Wien: Peter Lang 2009, part 1 – 742 pp., part 2 – 411 pp.

*A synthesis of Polish law* is a collective work by twenty-seven Authors, specialists in particular fields of law.

The Authors present the following disciplines of legal knowledge: axiology of law (MAREK PIECHOWIAK), philosophy of law (TADEUSZ GUZ), constitutional law (WALDEMAR BEDNARUK, DARIUSZ DUDEK, WOJCIECH ŁĄCZKOWSKI), history of law (STANISŁAW WIELGUS), canon law (Mirośław Sitarz), Roman law (ANTONI DĘBIŃSKI), civil law (MARZENA DYJAKOWSKA, JULIUSZ PETRANIUK), civil proceedings (GRZEGORZ TROJANOWSKI), family law (ANDRZEJ DZIĘGA, ZDZISŁAW JANCEWICZ, PIOTR TELUSIEWICZ, MARTA GRESZATA), penal law (ALICJA GRZEŚKOWIAK), penal executive law (MAŁGORZATA KUĆ), penal proceedings (GRZEGORZ GOZDÓR), international public law (LECH ANTONOWICZ), international private law (MARIA R. PAŁUBSKA), denominational law (JÓZEF KRUKOWSKI), labour law (GRZEGORZ GOŹDZIEWICZ), administrative law (STANISŁAW WRZOSEK), administrative proceedings (SŁAWOMIR FUNDOWICZ), financial law (JAN GŁUCHOWSKI), company law (ANDRZEJ HERBET), economic law (CEZARY KOSIKOWSKI).

Each paper is an individual dissertation presenting up-to-date knowledge from the field of the problems under discussion together with the Author's conclusions and reflections. Totally, they constitute a uniform, coherent work demonstrating the state of Polish law.

What deserved special attention is the fact that the work reviewed here is an innovative undertaking. It does not constitute a synthesis of Polish law *sensu stricto* (which is emphasized by the editors in the Introduction) but it is a successful attempt at showing the current picture of contemporary law in its historical development. *A synthesis of Polish law* lays the foundations and makes the way for a future synthesis of Polish law in the full understanding of these words. Now,

this work fulfills the task of the first important project on the way to showing law which is constantly developing in the full range of its disciplines. What cannot be overlooked is the extremely important function of popularizing legal knowledge.

Two currents which are strictly interconnected appear in the work consistently, namely the historical and contemporary ones. The former presents the appearance and formation of legal and political institutions, going deeper into the history of the Polish state. It begins with the First Republic of Poland (e.g. Professor S. WIELGUS), throughout the period of partitions, the Second Republic of Poland and Poland after World War, and ends in the period of the Third Republic of Poland. It shows the richness of independent, creative legal thought, the formation of institutions of public and private law in the course of more than a thousand years of the history of the state and the Polish nation, which did not give in to destruction even during the 123 years of the loss of independence of the Polish statehood (e.g. the Penal Code of the Kingdom of Poland from 1818, the Civil Code of the Kingdom of Poland from 1825, mortgage laws from 1818 and 1825 as well as many other monuments of law). The historical current appears in typically historical and legal articles (e.g. by W. BEDNARUK, Ph.D.) or it is referred to in the papers discussing contemporary law (e.g. by Professor A. GRZEŚKOWIAK). The contemporary current, on the other hand, presents the up-to-date picture of the binding law of particular disciplines. It shows huge changes that took place in law in the period of the political transformation in Poland in the years 1998-2007. They mainly concern all disciplines of constitutional, case law and economic law.

The applied method of a two-fold research current creates a fascinating review of the creation and formation of Polish law in its different fields. This constitutes an unquestionable, and probably the most important, value of the reviewed work.

All articles have a very rich research apparatus including references to the sources or information, which considerably enriches the scientific value of the work. It possesses undeniable scientific, social and national values in addition to being both interesting and clear. The printed collective work *A synthesis of Polish law* should be made commonly available.

Jerzy Markiewicz