

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



IN THE COURSE of work on the subject-matter of this book, I had on occasion discussed different topics with a large group of thinkers representing various disciplines. I believe that these sometimes even fleeting discussions (during seminars, international congresses and schools, e-mails), have let me express my thoughts in a clearer way. For this dialog I am grateful to the following distinguished researchers (listed in alphabetical order): Prof. Jerzy Dobrzycki (1927–2004), historian of astronomy (Institute for the History of Science of the Polish Academy of Sciences; Committee for the History of Science of the Polish Academy of Science); Prof. John Heilbron (Office of History of Science and Technology, University of California, Berkeley; Senior Research Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford University); my tutor Priest Prof. Michał Heller, philosopher, cosmologist and popularizer of science (Pontifical Academy of Theology in Cracow; Vatican Observatory; Pontifical Academy of Science); Prof. Mieczysław Markowski, historian of philosophy (Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences); Dr. Krzysztof Maślanka, cosmologist, popularizer and historian of science (Cracow Astronomical Observatory, Jagiellonian University); Prof. Grażyna Rosińska, historian of science (Institute for the History of Science of the Polish Academy of Sciences); Prof. Bronisław Średniawa, physicist and historian of physics (Institute of Physics, Jagiellonian University; Commission for the History of Science of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences; Committee for the History of Science of the Polish Academy of Sciences); Prof. Andrzej Staruszkiewicz, physicist and philosopher of science (Institute of Physics, Jagiellonian University; Secretary of the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences); Prof. Adam Strzałkowski, physicist and historian of science (Institute of Physics, Jagiellonian University; Chairmen of the Commission for History of Science of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences); Prof. Noel M. Swerdlow, historian of mathematical astronomy (Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, University of Chicago); Prof. Stefan Swieżawski (1907–2004), historian of philosophy (Honorary Member of the Polish Philosophical Society); the examiner of my knowledge of the history of philosophy of the 15<sup>th</sup>-century during my doctoral exams, which was a great honor

for me); and Prof. Karolina Targosz, historian of science and art (Institute for the History of Science of the Polish Academy of Sciences; Commission for the History of Science of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences; Committee for the History of Science of the Polish Academy of Sciences).

Above all, I am deeply indebted to Prof. André Goddu, historian and philosopher of science (Stonehill College, Easton MA, USA), both for his stimulating comments on the earlier version of my book, and for his linguistic assistance in improving the style of my English.

Further, I thank Prof. André Goddu, Prof. Noel M. Swerdlow, and Dr. Marian Zwiercan (Manuscript Department of the Jagiellonian Library) for allowing me to examine a few their unpublished works (typescripts) as well as Prof. Stanisław Mossakowski (Institute of History of Art of the Polish Academy of Sciences) and Prof. Karolina Targosz for focusing my attention on a particular issue of the ideological content of decoration and geometrical form of Sigismund's Chapel in Wawel Cathedral.

I also express my thanks to Prof. Zdzisław Pietrzyk (Director of the Jagiellonian Library), and Prof. Jerzy Waltoś (Director of the Jagiellonian University Museum) for gratuitously permitting me to use as Plates a slide of the picture of Jan Matejko, "Copernicus's Conversation with God" (preserved by the Jagiellonian University Museum), and digital photos of some works (belonging to the Jagiellonian Library).