

FOREWORD

This current volume of *Studia Europaea Gnesnensia* differs from previous issues. With this particular publication, we wish to celebrate the memory of Professor Géza Alföldy, a truly outstanding scholar of history of the Roman Empire. Hence, its nature is that of a quasi-monograph, since it is entirely devoted to the “Roman Empire from a 21st-Century Perspective”. This is how we chose to title the meeting which took place on November 8th-10th, 2016, the fifth anniversary of Géza’s passing, at the AMU Institute of European Culture in Gniezno. It brought together over forty researchers from ten countries: his disciples, friends, colleagues and adherents, all of them experts in various aspects of Roman history. The papers delivered there and the discussions which ensued focused on those issues which had attracted much of Alföldy’s attention: epigraphy, prosopography, social and political history, the Roman army, and historiography. The structure of this volume roughly follows that particular array of topics. Most texts comprised here had been presented at the colloquium in Gniezno, now offering a reflection and an insight into its proceedings. The remainder, albeit not presented at the time, would also have coincided with the scope of Géza Alföldy’s interests as well.

The sessions in Gniezno paid homage to the great scholar who had left such a profound mark on the studies into the history of ancient Rome. Simultaneously, they demonstrated that such meetings are more than a sensible undertaking, enabling one to exchange ideas and introduce one’s scientific explorations in a broader milieu of experts. They prove that science is nowhere near stagnation; on the contrary, progress, reassessment of views and notions, novel interpretations of sources, shifts in research perspectives are evident at every step, and it does not take long, mere several years in fact, before they manifest themselves. Lively discussions which accompanied each paper, reinforce that conviction and encourage one to look forward to symposia which are certain to follow.

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