

# *S*TUDIES IN HONOUR OF ADAM ZIÓŁKOWSKI ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 70<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, VOL. I

Epitomizing Adam Ziółkowski's scholarship is both easy and extremely difficult. On the one hand, his fellow ancient historians and archaeologists will be well aware of his erudite and illuminating studies in their respective fields. On the other hand, the full impact of his scholarship can only be grasped when one goes beyond one's usual scholarly focus. From the very beginning of his career, Adam's interests have spanned Roman republican imperialism and the conversion of the emperor Constantine. Ever since, he has been appreciated as a foremost specialist in the topography of Rome, early Christianity, and in the ethnogenesis of the Celts and of the Slavs, to mention only a few. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that his magisterial *Storia di Roma* in 2000, a temporary crowning of his longstanding work on ancient Rome, was soon matched with his enormous state-of-the-art handbook of *Ancient History* of 2009, originating from his thorough reassessment of almost every important aspect of ancient history (thus far, it is regrettably available only in Polish). It will be fair to say that thinking of Adam's scholarly record in many senses requires thinking out of the box and forgetting our usual disciplinary and thematic boundaries – as he has been doing since the eighties of the previous century.

Given the sheer breadth of his scholarly interests it would be superfluous to ask about a conceivable common denominator of Adam's work. Rather, we would be tempted to say that what gives his scholarship its rare intellectual coherence is at the same time highly individual and fairly collaborative. On the one hand, he seems unique in that his vast erudition, keenly critical eye, and perspicacious intelligence makes him naturally unable to overlook texts, details, analyses, and arguments missed by many others, while always striving for new solutions and

sweeping interpretations of crucial historical problems old and new. His specialty has been lively discussions and passionate involvement with current scholarly issues so his career is punctuated with energetic polemics, reviews, and debates. On the other hand, as much as he teaches, criticises, and inspires others, he learns from every single scholarly encounter as if squeezing each interlocutor for his or her ideas and interpretations to defy or rectify his own ones. It must be admitted that experiencing this openness in one's admired lecturer or colleague has been a humbling experience for more than one of his students, disciples, and friends. Even more importantly, this last characteristic of Adam's intellectual profile makes him capable of instantly learning general lessons from others' individual and detailed conclusions. Time and again, he has seen sweeping implications of studies by other scholars faster and better than themselves. We would venture to say that these complementary strands of Adam's scholarship have recently resulted in his *opus magnum* (more to come, no doubt), *From Roma quadrata to la grande Roma dei Tarquini. A Study of the Literary Tradition on Rome's Territorial Growth under the Kings* (2019). Whatever new developments and paradigm changes in the study of early Rome take place in the years and decades to come, this monograph will remain fundamental. Rarely, can a scholar be so sure of the future fate of his or her work.

This volume is offered to Adam Ziółkowski on the occasion of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, delayed as it is by extraordinary historical circumstances of our time. But it belongs as well to all those who have been lucky to meet him, and sometimes oppose him, on their scholarly paths and to enjoy his generous friendship of the best kind, spirited and critical ever since.

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