

Beyond Philology 5, 2008

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**The ceremony of presenting the Festschrift
De Lingua et Litteris
to Professor Kazimierz A. Sroka,
the founder of the English Department
at the University of Gdańsk**

On 6 December 2005, the Institute of English, University of Gdańsk, held a ceremony of presenting the Festschrift *De Lingua et Litteris* to the founder of the Institute, Professor Kazimierz A. Sroka.

1. Professor Kazimierz A. Sroka

Before coming to Gdańsk, Kazimierz Sroka worked at the Catholic University of Lublin (where he had studied English Philology at the Faculty of Humanities), the University of Wrocław and Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. In 1973 Kazimierz Sroka was offered a job at the University of Gdańsk, and his task was to organize the Department of English. He was head of the Department of English from 1973 to 1978. Although in 2002 he retired from his job at the University of Gdańsk, he has still been an active scholar, writing and presenting papers at conferences and teaching at the Mazurian University (Wszechnica Mazurska) in Olecko and at the Polonia University (Akademia Polonijna) in Częstochowa.

The scope of Kazimierz Sroka's research includes general linguistics (theory of language and, in particular, the theory of grammatical categories, including definiteness), the structure of English and Hungarian, comparative linguistics, and problems of translation (mainly Bible translation including translations into Kashubian). Kazimierz Sroka has written three books: *The Syntax of English Phrasal Verbs* (The Hague, 1972), *The Dynamics of Language* (Gdańsk, 1976), and

Definiteness as a Grammatical Category (forthcoming). He has also written about seventy scholarly articles, published both in Poland and abroad: in the Czech Republic, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary/Finland and the Netherlands. The works he has edited include, among others, *Linguistica et Anglica Gedanensia* 1 and 2 (Gdańsk, 1979 and 1981 respectively) and *Kognitive Aspekte der Sprache: Akten des 30. Linguistischen Kolloquiums, Gdańsk 1995* (Tübingen, 1996).

2. The Festschrift *De Lingua et Litteris: Studia in Honorem Casimiri Andreae Sroka*

The Festschrift in honour of Kazimierz Sroka, edited by Danuta Stanulewicz, Roman Kalisz, Wilfried Kürschner and Căcilia Klaus, was published by The University of Gdańsk Press (Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego) in 2005.

The Festschrift contains sixty-six papers – written in English, Polish and German – divided into the following sections:

- (1) General Linguistics, including papers by Zofia Bilut-Homplewicz, Antoni Furdal, Maciej Kandulski, Ronald W. Langacker, Alicja Sakaguchi, Marian Szczodrowski, and Zdzisław Wąsik
- (2) Phonology and Morphology, including papers by Bogusław Kreja, Edward Łuczyński, Alberto Nocentini, Ewa Rogowska-Cybulska, Andrzej M. Skrzypiec, and Włodzimierz Wysoczański
- (3) Syntax, including papers by Abraham P. ten Cate, Klaus-Dieter Gottschalk, Wim Klooster, Jürgen Lenerz, Elisabeth Rudolph, Piotr Stalmaszczyk, and Heinrich Weber
- (4) Semantics and Lexicology, including papers by Edward Breza, Martin Koldau, Michail L. Kotin, Ryszard Lipczuk, Maria Malinowska, Joanna Redzimska, Olga Sokołowska, Manfred Uessler, and Grażyna Vetulani & Zygmunt Vetulani
- (5) Text Analysis, including papers by Heidrun Dorgeloh,

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- Regina Pawłowska, and Jarmila Tárnyiková
- (6) Comparative Linguistics, including papers by Joanna Golonka, Andrzej Kałny, Jolanta Maćkiewicz, Norbert Reiter, and Irena Sawicka
 - (7) Hungarian Studies, including papers by Tatiana Agranat, Elżbieta Artowicz, Barbara Greszczuk & Justyna Sokołowska, and Danuta Stanulewicz
 - (8) Translation Studies, including papers by Andrzej Bogusławski, Krzysztof Hejwowski, and Reinhard Rapp
 - (9) Language of the Bible, including papers by Marek Cybulski, Barbara Greszczuk, Alfred F. Majewicz, Bożena Matuszczyk, Leszek Moszyński, Tadeusz Szczerbowski, and Jerzy Treder
 - (10) Sociolinguistics and Psycholinguistics, including papers by Werner Abraham, Karin Ebeling, Elżbieta Waśik, and Maciej Widawski
 - (11) Language Acquisition, including papers by Beata Klimas, Wojciech Kubiński & Ryszard Wenzel, and Luzian Okon
 - (12) Literary Studies, including papers by Joanna Burzyńska, Joanna Kokot, Olga Kubińska, David Malcolm, Jadwiga Węgrodzka, Beata Williamson, and Andrzej Zgorzelski

This division reflects not only the scholarly interests of the Contributors but also the versatile scholarly interests of Professor Kazimierz Sroka.

3. The ceremony of presenting the Festschrift to Kazimierz A. Sroka

As has already been stated, the ceremony of presenting the Festschrift to Professor Kazimierz A. Sroka took place in Gdańsk on 6 December 2005. Many of the authors listed above came to the ceremony, not only the ones from Gdańsk but also those from other academic centres in Poland and Germany, including Professor Elżbieta Artowicz of the University of Wrocław, Dr Andrzej Skrzypiec and Dr Włodzimierz Wysoczański of the University of Wrocław, Dr Karin Ebeling of the University of

Magdeburg and Professor Manfred Uessler of the University of Berlin. Also, one of the editors of the papers written in German, Professor Wilfried Kürschner of the University in Vechta, came to the ceremony. Apart from the authors of the papers and editors, the guests included Professor Sroka's colleagues from the Institute of English and other institutes of the Faculty of Philology and History, University of Gdańsk. One of the special guests was the Rector of the Polonia University in Częstochowa, Rev. Prof. Andrzej Kryński. Professor Sroka's family and friends also came to the ceremony.

The Master of Ceremonies was Dr Łucja Biel, Vice-Director of the Institute of English, who welcomed the guests warmly. Then other scholars delivered their addresses:

- (1) Professor Andrzej Ceynowa, Rector of the University of Gdańsk, talked about the years spent with Professor Sroka at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań and the University of Gdańsk. Concluding his speech, the Rector presented the Festschrift to Professor Sroka.
- (2) Dr Ewa Kremky spoke on behalf of the scholars who began their academic career in Gdańsk when Professor Sroka was head of the Department of English.
- (3) Dr Monika Rzczycka, Deputy Dean, gave an account of Professor Sroka's academic career.
- (4) Dr Włodzimierz Wysoczański talked – also on behalf of Professor Antoni Furdal, who could not come to the ceremony – about Professor Sroka's relationships with the University of Wrocław.
- (5) Professor Wilfried Kürschner talked about his friendship with Professor Sroka and presented his contribution to Linguistics Colloquia, including not only his papers read at these conferences, but also organizing one of them in Gdańsk, editing a volume of conference proceedings and participating in the International Committee responsible for the annual meetings and publishing policy.
- (6) Mr Kazimierz Orzechowski, Director of the University of Gdańsk Press, talked about the publication of the Festschrift and its characteristic features.

- (7) Professor Elżbieta Artowicz, Director of the Institute of Hungarian Studies, University of Warsaw, emphasized the great contribution made by Professor Sroka to Hungarian studies in Poland.

The speeches were delivered either in Polish or in English. An excellent translation service was provided by Tadeusz Z. Wolański, M.A.

The official part of the ceremony was closed by Professor Sroka's address delivered in both Polish and English.

This report is followed by Professor Kürschner's and Professor Sroka's speeches.

Danuta Stanulewicz,
University of Gdańsk



Professor Andrzej Ceynowa, Rector of the University of Gdańsk, delivers his speech. Seated from the left: Dr Adam Krassowski, Dr Ewa Kremky, Dr Monika Rzczycka, Dr Łucja Biel, Professor Kazimierz Sroka, Professor Wilfried Kürschner and Rev. Professor Andrzej Kryński. Photo: Danuta Stanulewicz



Professor Andrzej Ceynowa, Rector of the University of Gdańsk, presents the Festschrift to Professor Kazimierz A. Sroka.
Photo: Danuta Stanulewicz

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**The ceremony of presenting the Festschrift
De Lingua et Litteris to Professor Kazimierz A. Sroka:
Professor Wilfried Kürschner's speech**

Dear Professor Sroka, dear Colleague and Friend, dear Kazik,
dear Cecily, dear Magda,
Distinguished Officials of the universities at which Professor
Sroka has worked,
Ladies and Gentlemen –

I have been asked to say a few words on one special aspect of the man whom we honour today – an aspect that I thought fit to subsume under a heading that fits to the Latin title of the Festschrift that is presented to him this afternoon. So I'll dwell on Casimirus Colloquianus for a while.

“Colloquianus” is meant to refer to the Linguistics Colloquium. Kazimierz Sroka joined the Linguistics Colloquium in 1980, when it took place at the University of Münster, Germany. At that date, 1980, he was the first in many respects. He was the first scholar from Poland ever to participate in a Linguistics Colloquium. Probably, he was not only the first Polish colleague but the first man from what used to be called the “Eastern Block” then. To this Eastern Block at that time belonged the German Democratic Republic, East Germany. So in a way Kazik represented the whole, to most of us nearly unknown world behind the Iron Curtain.

He read a paper at this Colloquium in Münster. It was published in the Proceedings under the title “The grammatical category of definiteness”. You will notice that an important part of Kazik's scientific program was present at once: his interest in grammatical categories as a feature of language in general, in general linguistics, this is to say. He treats one

of several important instances of grammatical categories, namely that of definiteness. And he treats it not only in English, the language he specializes in, but also in Polish, his mother tongue, in Hungarian, a language he had acquired by himself in order to have the chance of regularly getting into contact with colleagues in the Eastern Block. He contrasts his findings with Greek and other languages that have a definite article. And these languages happily include German, my own mother tongue, which leads me back again to 1980 – the first Linguistics Colloquium attended by Kazik.

It was the first colloquium in a long row to follow each year. Lo and behold, he has never missed any Colloquium since then. We just had the 40th Colloquium in August. It took place in Moscow and was Kazik's 26th. I'm sure, not one single person can look back on such a series of uninterrupted participation in the meetings of a scientific conference. And he took heavy burdens upon himself to make his visits possible. He told me that the most strenuous of them was the journey from Gdańsk to Thessaloniki, Greece. It took him 48 hours in each direction, by bus. It's a miracle that his legs would work after such long periods of virtual immobility. Kazimierz Sroka and I, we didn't come to know each other in Münster, but only four years later, when the Linguistics Colloquium, the 19th, took place in Vechta, at my university (probably the smallest university in Germany, situated near Bremen).

Kazik invited me to his university and I'm glad that I had the opportunity to visit the University of Gdańsk, its Institute of English, and read some papers to the students and the staff. This was in 1986, when Poland still was governed by martial law. I came into contact with staff members who belonged to *Solidarność* and had to go to prison for that. I was taken to Gdańsk, especially to the monument in front of the Lenin shipyard and to St. Brigid's Church, where I could see all the signs of resistance. All this awakened in me a keen feeling that a political system like this could not survive for a very long time. And three or four years later it really crumbled down, not only in Poland, where it all began, but also in East Germany and, successively, in the other so-called "People's Republics".

Since then freedom also meant freedom of scientific encounter. The Linguistics Colloquium no longer remained an affair of Western Europe, but it moved to Eastern Central Europe, in Poland at first to Poznań in 1993 and then to Gdańsk in 1995. The organizer of the 30th Linguistics Colloquium was Kazimierz A. Sroka with assistance by many other people, among them Danuta Stanulewicz. He did a most memorable job, as well on the scientific side and also what concerns the social aspect of conferences. The participants won't forget the excursion to Kashubia which ended in a party at a lake there, with a folkloristic show and a bonfire with excellent food. Kazik read a paper on the translations of the New Testament into Kashubian, one of his other fields of specialization.

Regarding the Linguistics Colloquium as a whole, Kazik is a member of the International Steering Committee, whose task is none other than to see to it that the continuity of the Colloquia is not disturbed. You have to bear in mind that the Linguistics Colloquium has no organization like a scientific society or something comparable behind it. It is fully self-organized and one of Kazik's task is to talk people present on the Colloquia into accepting our wish to organize one of the next Colloquia. This has worked so far for next year, when we will meet in Mannheim, it has worked for 2007, when the Colloquium goes to Rhodos, Greece, and it has worked for 2008 when we will meet in Magdeburg. We are happy to have the organizer of this 43rd Colloquium among us – Dr. Ebeling who has come here with Professor Üsseler. In a way, the three of us have to represent the participants of the Linguistics Colloquium, most of them being too busy to come here today in the middle of term. But several asked me to give you their best regards, Kazik: Professor Weber, who is the unofficial, but efficient head of the International Committee, Reinhard Rapp, who organized the 39th Colloquium in Germersheim, where we honoured Kazik for twenty years of uninterrupted presence, Käthi Dorf Müller-Karpusa, who opened Rhodos for us, her friend and colleague Elisabeth Rudolph, who contributed a rich article to your Festschrift. Last but not least I have been asked by Cäcilia Klaus to give you her best regards – she is the co-editor of the contributions to your Festschrift written

in German.

This brings me to the last point, the Festschrift dedicated to Kazimierz A. Sroka that is presented to him this afternoon. It is moving to notice that so many people show you their respect by writing articles for the collection compiled to honour you. Many of them have come here today – many could not come, among them, as I said, several people from Germany and other parts of Western Europe. I myself didn't find the time to write an article – so I must apologize and ask you to accept this book of mine [*Grammatisches Kompendium*, 5. durchgesehene Auflage 2005, Tübingen: Narr Francke Attempto Verlag] as a present together with the work I put into editing the Festschrift. – But mine was only a minor job. The overwhelmingly huge amount of workload has been taken over by the Polish editors, Professor Kalisz, and most of all by Dr. Stanulewicz. She did not only have to care for the many papers in Polish and English, but also for the financial side. Only people who have done both can fully appreciate the amount of work and energy Danuta dedicated to her teacher Kazimierz A. Sroka. So please, Danuta, let me present you my little book I have written for my students to show them how to write scientific papers [*Taschenbuch Linguistik*, 2. Auflage 2003, Berlin: Erich Schmidt Verlag]. You don't really need it any more for yourself, since you perfectly well know how to write scientific contributions and copy-edit papers from others. But maybe it reminds you of our co-operation and is helpful for your students, although it's written in German. All my best wishes for your own career in linguistics.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me thank you for your patience. I wish you, Kazik, and you, Cecily, many more happy years in the company of each other, interrupted only by Kazik's visits to the Linguistics Colloquium (and other conferences), whenever possible in the company of your wife.

Wilfried Kürschner,
University in Vechta

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**The ceremony of presenting the Festschrift
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Professor Sroka's address in Polish**

Magnificencjo Panie Rektorze, Księżo Rektorze, Panie Dziekanie,
Szanowni Goście, Drodzy Koledzy,

Dzisiejsza uroczystość przepelnia mnie uczuciem wdzięczności, uczuciem wdzięczności wobec Najwyższego Pana, wobec Tej, co Jasnej broni Częstochowy, oraz wobec wszystkich tych, których Opatrzność postawiła na mojej drodze i od których otrzymałem tak wiele.

Dziękuję moim Rodzicom, a szczególnie mojej Mamie, bez której nie posłano by mnie do szkoły średniej; w domu warunki materialne były bardzo trudne, a najbliższe gimnazjum znajdowało się w oddalonym o 20 kilometrów mieście, przy czym nie było jeszcze komunikacji autobusowej i odległość tę trzeba było w celach kontaktu pokonywać pieszo. Dziękuję Wychowawcom i Nauczycielom, dziękuję Szkołom i Wyższym Uczelniom.

Dziękuję Katolickiemu Uniwersytetowi Lubelskiemu, gdzie na kierowanej przez Prof. Przemysława Mroczkowskiego anglistyce uzyskałem stopień magistra. Dziękuję Nauczycielom tejże anglistyki, m. in. Profesor Irenie Przemieckiej, Profesor Irenie Kałużance i Profesor Alinie Szali.

Dziękuję Uniwersytetowi Wrocławskiemu, gdzie uzyskałem stopień doktora nauk humanistycznych i stopień doktora habilitowanego w zakresie językoznawstwa. Dziękuję Profesorowi Leonowi Zawadowskiemu, w którego katedrze pracowałem kolejno jako asystent i starszy asystent i który, jako promotor, kierował przygotowywaną przeze mnie rozprawą doktorską.

Dziękuję Uniwersytetowi Gdańskiemu, w którym przepracowałem 30 lat. Dziękuję wszystkim jego Rektorom, począwszy od Rektora Janusza Sokołowskiego, a skończywszy na Jego Magnificencji Andrzeju Ceynowie.

Dziękuję kolejnym dziekanom Wydziału Humanistycznego, a później Filologiczno-Historycznego, począwszy od Prof. Bogusława Cyglera, poprzez m. in. Prof. Wacława Odyńca, Prof. Edmunda Kotarskiego, Prof. Jana Datę, Prof. Jana Iluka, Prof. Mariana Szczodrowskiego, a skończywszy na obecnym Dziekanie, Prof. Józefie Arno Włodarskim. Dziękuję Instytutowi Anglistyki – zarówno kolegom, jak i studentom.

Cokolwiek osiągnąłem, nie byłoby to możliwe bez atmosfery, jaka istniała w mojej rodzinie i bez wsparcia z jej strony, za co szczególnie dziękuję żonie, Cecylii, która poprzez swoje oddanie i poświęcenie jest cichą współtwórczynią tego, co pozytywne, w uzyskanych przeze mnie wynikach. Dziękuję dzieciom: Elżbiecie i Mariuszowi oraz żonie Mariusza, Krystynie; dziękuję wnukom: Tomkowi, Magdzie i Wojtkowi.



Professor Kazimierz A. Sroka addresses the meeting.

Photo: Danuta Stanulewicz

Dziękuję Autorom artykułów zamieszczonych w Księdze Pamiątkowej i wszystkim, którzy umieścili swoje nazwiska w Tabula Gratulatoria.

Jest mi niezmiernie przykro, że dwóch spośród autorów artykułów nie doczekało opublikowania książki i nie ma ich pośród nas. Są to świętej pamięci mój bliski przyjaciel Prof. Bogusław Kreja z Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego i mój drogi kolega Prof. Luzian Okon z Ingenieurschule Biel (Szwajcaria). Cześć ich pamięci.

Dziękuję serdecznie recenzentom poszczególnych grup artykułów zamieszczonych w książce: Pani Prof. Irenie Przemekiej oraz Panom Profesorom: Henrykowi Kardeli i Norbertowi Morcińcowi.

Składam gorące podziękowanie Redaktorom książki *De lingua et litteris*: Prof. Romanowi Kaliszowi, Prof. Wilfriedowi Kürschnerowi z Uniwersytetu miasta Vechta w Niemczech, Pani Dr Cäcilii Klaus z tego samego Uniwersytetu, a szczególnie Pani Dr Danucie Stanulewicz, która wzięła na siebie główny ciężar pracy redakcyjnej i organizacyjnej i która pilotowała całe przedsięwzięcie od początku do końca.

Dziękuję Wydawnictwu Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego i jego pracownikom, a szczególnie Panu Redaktorowi Kazimierzowi Orzechowskiemu za tak estetyczne wydanie książki pamiątkowej.

Istnieje wiele osób i instytucji, których imion nie sposób wymienić, a które miały swój udział w tym, że dziś uhonorowano mnie książką *De lingua et litteris*. Do takich instytucji i osób należą między innymi biblioteki i pracownicy bibliotek oraz pracownicy różnych działów administracji uczelni, w których pracowałem. Do nich kieruję moje serdeczne podziękowanie.

Jest mi bardzo miło, że anglistyka, w której tworzeniu było mi dane uczestniczyć, jest dzisiaj silnym instytutem i że wyda obecnego Rektora w osobie Prof. Andrzeja Ceynowy.

Niech książka *De lingua et litteris* przynosi chwałę Uniwersytetowi Gdańskiemu, w tym Wydziałowi Filologiczno-Historycznemu i Instytutowi Anglistyki oraz wszystkim tym, którzy przyczynili się do jej powstania.

Kazimierz A. Sroka,
Uniwersytet Gdański
i Akademia Polonijna, Częstochowa

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**The ceremony of presenting the Festschrift
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Professor Sroka's address in English**

Magnificence Rector, Reverend Rector, Dean of the Faculty,
Ladies and Gentlemen, Colleagues,

The present ceremony fills me with the feeling of gratitude, gratitude towards the Lord in the Highest, towards the Lady who defends bright Częstochowa, and towards all those whom Providence has put on my way and from whom I have received so much.

I would like to thank my parents, and particularly my Mother without whom I would not have been sent to the secondary school; material conditions at our home were very hard, and the closest secondary school was situated in a town distant twenty kilometers from our village; moreover, at that time, there was no bus transportation and, in order to reach the town, one had to go there by foot.

My thanks are due to my teachers and tutors, to schools and universities.

I would like to thank the Catholic University of Lublin, where in the English Department, whose head was Professor Przemysław Mroczkowski, I obtained my master's degree. I would like to thank the teachers who at that time worked in that Department; among them there were Professors Irena Przemicka, Irena Kałuża, and Alina Szala.

My great thanks are due to the University of Wrocław, where I obtained my doctor's degree in humanities and then postdoctoral degree (in Polish 'doktor habilitowany') in linguistics. I would like to thank Professor Leon Zawadowski in whose department I worked successively as an assistant and senior assistant and who supervised the preparation of

my doctoral dissertation.

My particular thanks are due to the University of Gdańsk, in which I worked for 30 years. I would like to thank all its Rectors, from Rector Janusz Sokołowski to Rector Andrzej Ceynowa. I would like to thank all the Deans of the Faculty of Humanities and then Faculty of Philology and History, starting with Professor Bogusław Cygler, through, among others, Professors Waclaw Odyniec, Edmund Kotarski, Jan Data, Jan Iluk, Marian Szczodrowski, and ending at Professor Józef Arno Włodarski.

I would like to thank the Institute of English – both my colleagues and my students.

Whatever I have achieved, it would have been impossible without the climate which existed in my family and without their support, for which I would like to express my special thanks to my wife, Cecylia, who, through her devotion and sacrifice, has become a silent co-creator of what is positive in the results of my work. I would like to thank also our children: Elżbieta and Mariusz, and Mariusz's wife, Krystyna, as well as our grandchildren: Tomek, Magda, and Wojtek.

I would like to thank the Authors of the papers included in the Festschrift and those who placed their names in the Tabula Gratulatoria.

It is very painful that two of the Authors of the papers have not lived to see the publication of the Festschrift. These are: my close friend Prof. Bogusław Kreja of the University of Gdańsk and my dear colleague Prof. Luzian Okon of the Ingenieurschule Biel (Switzerland). May their names live on.

I would like also to thank the reviewers of particular groups of the papers included in the Festschrift, Professors Irena Przemicka, Henryk Kardela and Norbert Morciniec.

I express my thanks to the editors of the book *De lingua et litteris*: Prof. Roman Kalisz, Prof. Wilfried Kürschner of the University of Vechta in Germany, Dr Cäcilia Klaus of the same University, and particularly Dr Danuta Stanulewicz, who coped with the main burden of the editorial and organizational work and piloted the enterprise from the beginning till the end.

Let me also express my thanks to the Gdańsk University Press (Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego) and its staff,

and particularly, to the head of that publishing institution, Mr Kazimierz Orzechowski, for such an aesthetic edition of the Festschrift.

There are many persons and institutions whose names it would be impossible to enumerate and who in one way or other helped me in my work and owing to whom I am today receiving the Festschrift. Such institutions and persons include, among others, libraries and their staff as well as the staff of various divisions of university administration. To them I address my cordial thanks.

It is my great pleasure that the Department of English in whose creation I had the chance to participate, is now a strong Institute of English and that this institute has produced the present Rector of the University of Gdańsk in the person of Professor Andrzej Ceynowa.

Let the Festschrift *De Lingua et Litteris* do credit to the University of Gdańsk, to the Faculty of Philology and History, to the Institute of English and to all the contributors.

Kazimierz A. Sroka,
University of Gdańsk,
Polonia University, Częstochowa