



RECTOR
UNIVERSITATIS JAGELLONICAE
CRACOVENSIS

Kraków, September 11th, 2018

Ladies and Gentleman,

I would like to warmly welcome to the Jagiellonian University all the participants of the biggest worldwide romanian conference.

Between today and Saturday, the Jagiellonian University, and particularly the Chair of Roman Law of the Faculty of Law and Administration JU, is hosting the scholarly congress, which is an annual meeting of the association of antiquity historians – *Société Internationale Fernand de Visscher pour l'Histoire des Droits de l'Antiquité (SIHDA)*. It is already the 72nd session of the Association. We are honoured to have you as our guests within the walls of Poland's oldest university, as it is for the first time that the event is held in Poland! Kraków was chosen for the site of this assembly two years ago in Paris, during the 70th session of *Société*. That choice, consequently, granted the Jagiellonian University the right to organise this great scholarly event, for which I would like to wholeheartedly thank you on behalf of the whole academia. It is a tremendous honour and privilege to host over one hundred seventy remarkable scholars, specialists in the field of antiquity law from all over the world.

You have come here from nearly thirty different countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Estonia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea, Portugal, Russia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, the Republic of South Africa, the United States of America, Turkey. University representations are countless. You all, however, share common interests, and – no less importantly – the bonds of friendship developed and earned over the years. Because *Société* is, in essence, a fellowship of friends, on which I sincerely congratulate you.

Once again, I wish to give a warm welcome to all the participants of the Congress, as well as their companions.

The program of the Congress includes one hundred and thirty papers delivered in five languages. In keeping with the tradition, the official language of the conference is French, however individual papers will be delivered in English – in most cases, as well as Italian, German and Spanish.

Two years ago, during the *Société's* session in Paris, it was established that the topic of the conference in Kraków would be outlined by the four words making the weighty phrase: *Plus ratio quam vis*. This motto regarding the pre-eminence of reason over force has been adopted by the Jagiellonian University as its philosophy, appeal and credo. Our *Alma Mater* – as a community of scholars and students – attaches the greatest importance to the potency, grandeur and significance of *ratio*. I personally am very interested in the conclusions drawn during this conference, especially those directly related to the motto.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Guests,

The Congress is an organizational challenge for the Jagiellonian University, but it is also a pride and joy. Above all, however, it is a great scholarly celebration of not only law and its history but also many affined fields. I strongly encourage you to take an active part in the rich offerings of the Congress and wish you many inspiring, creative and fruitful sessions, as well as an unforgettable time in our beautiful city.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Nowak', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Prof. Wojciech Nowak, MD, PhD
Rector of the Jagiellonian University