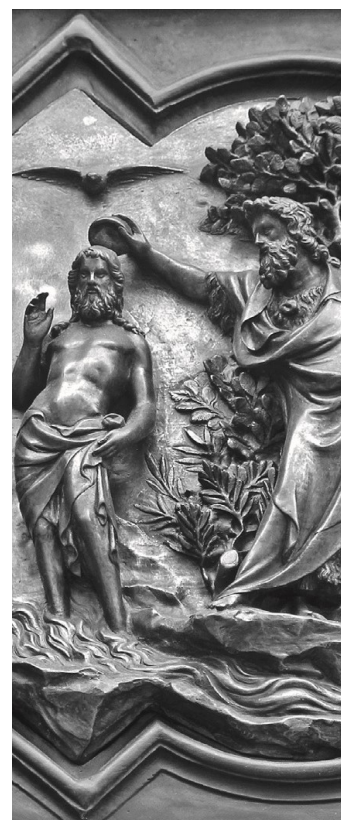


INTRODUCTION



Devoted to the spread of Christianity on the European continent, this book is the fruit of three conferences held in Poznań between 2014 and 2016¹. Published in Polish in three volumes, the proceedings of the conferences display the complex processes involved in the spread and the rooting of Christianity and the formation of the medieval *Christianitas*². This scholarly undertaking was related to the 1050th anniversary of the baptism of the first historical ruler of Poland – Mieszko I (died 992), which fell in 2016. From the papers published in the three books, we have selected those which most fully reflected the character of the Christianisation phenomena, which approximately from the end of antiquity to the twelfth century brought almost all of Europe into *Respublica Christiana*.

Considerable scholarly success of the conference series and their proceedings has encouraged us to render some of the published articles into English. Herein we offer our readers nine extensive articles. Papers by Maria Dzielska, Maciej Salamon and Jan Prostko-Prostyński were published in the first volume of the conference proceedings. They investigate a religious panorama in the Roman Empire (Maria Dzielska), the problems related to the missionary activity of the Eastern and Western Church in the

¹ Three conferences devoted to the issues of Christianity were organised owing to the project financed under the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Poland (National Program for the Development of Humanities) Nr 0046/NPRH3/H11/82/2014 entitled 'Dzieje (archi)diecezji poznańskiej X–XX w. U źródeł polskiego chrześcijaństwa i Kościoła' [The history of the (archi)diocese of Poznań between the 10th and 20th century. At the roots of Polish Christianity and the Church]: 1. *Chryścianizacja Europy. Kościół na przełomie I i II tysiąclecia*, Poznań, 25–26 September 2014; 2. *Chryścianizacja „Młodszej Europy”*, Poznań 16–18 September 2015; 3. *Chrzest Mieszka I i chryścianizacja państwa Piastów*, Poznań, 21–23 September 2016.

² See *Chryścianizacja Europy. Kościół na przełomie I i II tysiąclecia*, J. Dobosz, J. Strzelczyk (eds), Poznań 2014, Wydawnictwo Naukowe UAM, pp 291; *Chryścianizacja „Młodszej Europy”*, J. Dobosz, J. Strzelczyk, M. Matla (eds), Poznań 2016, Wydawnictwo Naukowe UAM, pp 318; *Chrzest Mieszka I i chryścianizacja państwa Piastów*, J. Dobosz, M. Matla, J. Strzelczyk (eds), Poznań 2017, Wydawnictwo Naukowe UAM, pp 338.

areas of the so-called Younger Europe (Maciej Salamon) and the penetration of Christianity among the Germanic tribes settling in the territories of the Roman Empire at the end of antiquity (Jan Prostko-Prostyński). The three texts originally included in the second volume of the mentioned studies refer to the Christianisation processes in some areas of Young Europe. Jarosław Dudek analyses the problem of the spread of Christianity among Eastern steppe people, Roman Michałowski tackles the important issue of the Christianisation of Saxony, while Jakub Morawiec portrays various conditions for the introduction of Christianity in Scandinavia. The last three papers investigate the Christianisation of the state of Mieszko I; two of them (by Przemysław Urbańczyk and Marek Cetwiński) come from the third volume of the conference proceedings, while the third one, by Józef Dobosz, has been specially prepared to complement the image of Christianity in Piast Poland. In his paper, Przemysław Urbańczyk examines the pace of Christianization processes in the first decades after the baptism of Mieszko I, while Józef Dobosz shows how the baptism of Mieszko was related in medieval chronicles and annuals. The last article, by Marek Cetwiński, looks at the tradition and collective memory related to the baptism of Mieszko, which took shape in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

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