

*In memory of the first historical president of Radom Scientific Society (RTN),  
Dr Stefan Witkowski*



## Editorial

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The Radom Scientific Society (Radomskie Towarzystwo Naukowe — RTN), established in 1963, is approaching its 60th anniversary. In addition to research and disseminating knowledge about the Radom region, our Society has set itself a strategic goal for the scientific development of its members and the Radom academic centre. The currently operating association follows the tradition of the Scientific Society founded in the 1820s at the Radom Voivodship School on the initiative of its rector, Kazimierz Kłaczyński. We are still guided by the slogan, taken from the Isocrates: "The roots of knowledge are bitter, but its fruits are sweet." We also admit to the heritage of the Scientific and Social Institute, an unique project in Poland, undertaken in Radom in 1945 with the participation of the world-famous philosopher Tadeusz Kotarbiński and a young student of science, Stefan Witkowski, later the first president of RTN. From the Latin version of our motto: "Scientiae radices amarae, fructus dulces" – we took the name for our new journal. It means: the roots of knowledge. The multidisciplinary periodic refers to the roots of European science. The main idea of our journal appeals to the RTN Quarterly Bulletin published in the years 1964-2011 – a total number of 97 issues in 45 years, also with comprehensive content from many fields of science. *Scientiae Radices* is an international, peer-reviewed, open access journal. It is our policy that publishing in *Scientiae Radices* is completely free. This is a challenge that we want to take with full responsibility. The beginnings can be bitter, but we believe the the fruits will be sweet. The composition of the Editorial Board, made up of recognized scientists from various fields, from many research centres in different parts of the world, is a strong root of the new work. We expect good fruits, focusing primarily on high quality and not necessarily

on big quantity of published papers. Indeed, on behalf of the Editorial Board we welcome you to submit your manuscripts to *Scientiae Radices* - this could be the form of a full research paper, a critical review article, or a short note. The journal is multidisciplinary, but its content is initially limited to selected areas related to the scientific specializations of the editorial team, members of our Society and the scientific traditions of the academic centre. We do not exclude the possibility of extending the magazine's science content spectrum in the future.

We dedicate this inaugural issue to the memory of Stefan Witkowski, the founder of our Society, whose 110th birthday will be celebrated this year 2022. Witkowski is our inspiration as a titan of scientific and community work. Already in his high school years, he published articles in the regional press. An economist by profession, he specialised in urban and spatial planning. Known and awarded nationally as a planner, he also established the scientific foundations in the theory of regional planning. During the World War II in Radom, he co-led first academic lectures in clandestine, and then co-founded the Scientific and Social Institute. Tadeusz Kotarbiński appreciated him as a good conspirator, organizer and lecturer. He was socially active in many fields. He was among the founders of the Society of Friends of Fine Arts, which in December 1945 led the "National Winter Salon of Fine Arts" in Radom - the first national art exhibition after the WWII. He contributed greatly to the development of the Radom academic centre in the fields of economics and planning. In the Polish Geographical Society, he headed the Commission for Applied Geography - his own discipline of science. As a precursor of this, he undertook innovative projects at the interface between the science and its application. After the conference in 1970: "Foreign geographers unanimously stated that they had not encountered this kind of professional activity of geographers so far and expressed the hope that Polish experiences in this field can and should be a model for other countries." Witkowski, as an avid regionalist, conducted and coordinated comprehensive research in Radom and the surrounding towns. During 1963-1971 he was the president of the Radom Scientific Society. Stefan Witkowski was the editor-in-chief of the first seven years of the RTN Quarterly Bulletin.

Today we, with humility and respect towards our predecessors, undertake the work of creating the new *Scientiae Radices* magazine. With your support, we hope that the new journal can contribute to the further development of our research fields. We would welcome your comments and ideas on how to improve this project.

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