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Tomasz Polański


## **Christian Art in Oriental Literatures:**

**Greek, Syriac and Coptic Sources  
from the 4th to the 7th Century**



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Tomasz Polański was born in Kraków (Poland) in 1956. He studied Oriental and Classical Archaeology (MA, 1981) and Classical Philology (MA, 1989) at the Jagiellonian University of Kraków. In 1988–2008 he worked at the Institute of Classical Philology at the Jagiellonian University (Head of the Department of Greek and Latin Language). In 1996 he submitted his doctoral dissertation (*Oriental Art in Greek Imperial Literature*, Trier, 1998), and was awarded the degree of Habilitated Doctor in 2004 (*Ancient Greek Orientalist Painters*, Kraków, 2002). He also acquired a knowledge of ancient Semitic-African languages (Hebrew, Coptic, Syriac). He was granted scholarships from the Subak Foundation at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford (1991), the University of Salzburg (1991), the University of Bochum (1993), the Fundacja z Brzezia Lanckorońskich in London (1997), the Research Council of Norway at the University of Oslo (1997), the Andrew Mellon Foundation at the W. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem (1999/2000, 2006/7), and the Prószyński Foundation in Liechtenstein (2000). In 2008 he was appointed professor at the Jan Kochanowski University of Kielce, Poland (Head of the Department of Ancient History).

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**CHRISTIAN ART IN ORIENTAL LITERATURES.  
GREEK, SYRIAC AND COPTIC SOURCES  
FROM THE 4TH TO THE 7TH CENTURY**

Salzburg – Horn 2013

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Professor Joachim Śliwa used to say that our books sometimes need landscapes to come to existence. This is true. My two Andrew Mellon books came into existence among the landscapes of the Dead Sea and En Gedi, where I returned again and again, the Bay of Aqaba, the green hills of Galilee, the rocks of Banyas at the sources of the Jordan River, old and noble Acco, huge waves breaking on the rocks of Dor, the refreshing air of Caesarea Maritima, Wadi Qelt with the monastery of St. George at the mouth of the monumental canyon opening up on the gardens of Jericho, the breath-taking view from the edge of the Judean Desert down to the Dead Sea by Mitspa Shalem. On the bank of the Balikli Göl in Urfa under the moon of Ramadan, on the hills of Upper Mesopotamia beyond the Euphrates, which unfold as if they were petrified gigantic waves of the primeval ocean, in the breath-taking landscape of the Ammanus where it meets the Taurus Mountains, on the Aegean shore washed by warm waves sparkling in the sunshine.

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Tomasz Polański  
Kraków, November 2012

*In Memoriam*

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