
Contents

Acknowledgements	5
1. Introduction	11
2. Ideas and Polemics	15
2.1 Religion on the Periphery – the Polish Case	15
2.1.1 God’s Playground or the Heart of Europe?	15
2.1.2 John Paul II and the Fall of Communism	17
2.1.3 The Polish Millennium (1966)	18
2.1.4 The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth as the European Periphery	18
2.1.5 The Triumph of the Counter-Reformation on the Periphery of Europe	20
2.1.6 Conclusions: New Challenges on the Way Back to the Heart of Europe	22
2.2 The Polish Reception of John Calvin’s Works in the Context of the History of Christianity in Poland	23
2.2.1 Introduction	23
2.2.2 Calvin’s Contacts with Poland – a Bibliographical Survey .	24
2.2.3 Calvin’s Works Translated and Published in Poland	27
2.2.4 Reception of Calvin’s Thought in the Early Modern Period and Academic Publications on Calvin in the 19 th , 20 th , and 21 st centuries	30
2.2.5 Instead of a Conclusion	35
2.3 The Myth of the Polish Reformation: Socinianism in Modern Historiography	36
2.3.1 Stanislas Lubieniecki’s <i>Historia reformationis Polonicae</i> as a Source of the Myth of the Polish Reformation	36
2.3.2 Polish Reformation in Twentieth-Century Historiography .	37

2.3.3	Antitrinitarianism/Socinianism in Polish Historiography – an Evolution of Attitudes	39
2.3.4	Conclusion: No Breakthrough after the Fall of Communism	44
2.4	The Major Concepts of Antitrinitarian Theology in the 16 th Century	45
2.4.1	Introduction	45
2.4.2	The Bible	47
2.4.3	Christology	48
2.4.4	The Holy Trinity	49
2.4.5	Nonadorantism	51
2.4.6	Predestination	52
2.4.7	Baptism	52
2.4.8	Eucharist	53
2.4.9	Church	54
2.4.10	Conclusions	55
2.5	Raków – the Capital of Socinianism: A Unique Case of European Religious Topography in the Age of the Reformation	55
2.6	<i>Liber Socinianorum primarius</i> : Introductory Remarks on the Racovian Catechism	60
2.6.1	Introduction	60
2.6.2	<i>Liber Socinianorum primarius</i>	62
2.6.3	Bibliographical Summary	64
2.6.4	The State of Research and Proposals for the Future	68
2.7	Debates between Jesuits and “Heretics” in Early Modern Polish Literature	71
2.7.1	Polemical Pamphlets of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation	71
2.7.2	Socinians as Principal Adversaries in Catholic Polemics	74
2.7.3	Jesuit Anti-Socinian and Anti-Lutheran Polemics – the Case of Marcin Łaszczyński	76
2.7.4	A Jesuit-Socinian Debate about the Authority of the Scripture	84
2.7.5	Conclusion	91
3.	Between Luther and Socinus: Polish Poets in the Age of the Reformation	93
3.1	Jan Kochanowski and Polish Confessional Dilemmas in the Mid-16 th Century	93
3.1.1	Jan Kochanowski – the Finest Poet of the Polish Renaissance: a Bio-Bibliographical Sketch	93

3.1.2	Jan Kochanowski's Religion: Protestant? Erasmian? Catholic?	97
3.2	Erazm Otwinowski – a Biblical Poet	103
3.2.1	Erazm Otwinowski – an Adventurous Traveller, Famous Scandalmonger and Modest Poet of the Church: a Bio-Bibliographical Sketch	103
3.2.2	Erazm Otwinowski's <i>Deeds and Histories of Distinguished Women and Parables of Our Lord Jesus Christ</i> as Poetical Transformations of the Bible	107
3.2.3	The Brest Bible and other Polish Translations of the Bible in the Poetical Works of Erazm Otwinowski	113
3.3	Conversion and Transformation: a Few Remarks on the Lives and Works of Polish Writers of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation	121
3.3.1	Conversions – an Introduction	121
3.3.2	Jan Kochanowski	123
3.3.3	Mikołaj Sęp Szarzyński and Erazm Otwinowski	124
3.3.4	Kasper Twardowski	125
3.3.5	Wacław Potocki	126
3.3.6	Kasper Wilkowski	127
3.3.7	Conclusion	127
	Bibliography	129
	Original Publications	139
	Index of Persons	141