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FAUSTUS SOCINUS
AND HIS HERITAGE

EDITED BY
LECH SZCZUCKI



KRAKÓW MMV

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FOREWORD

The present volume contains the materials of the international conference entitled *Faustus Socinus and His Heritage* (Cracow-Lusławice, 24-26 September 2004) organized by the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences (Cracow) and the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Science (Warsaw).

First of all, a few words about the reasons why we have decided to organize this conference, on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of Faustus Socinus' death, in Cracow and not elsewhere.

The first reason is Faustus Socinus himself. This Italian thinker and theologian settled in Cracow in 1579 and lived in the city – with some intervals – until 1598. The last years of Socinus' life were spent at Lusławice, close to the mountains, where he also died (1604) and was buried.

The second reason is Cracow's place in research on Socinianism. Let me remind one of the professors of the Jagiellonian University before the Second World War, Stanisław Kot, an outstanding culture historian, the editor of the important quarterly *Reformacja w Polsce* (The Reformation in Poland), an animator of studies on antitrinitarianism and the author of a number of highly valued works, such as a book on the social and political ideas of the antitrinitarians known as the Socinians or the Polish Brethren.