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## INTRODUCTION

In 2015, the community of the University of Łódź celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding. The Institute of Philosophy took advantage of this opportunity, and organized an international philosophical conference titled “University – Philosophy as the Foundation of Knowledge, Action and Ethos” on June 11–13. Numerous philosophers took part in the conference, philosophers from different universities and research institutes (inter alia Bergen, Dublin, Cracow, Lublin, Łódź, Nancy, Opole, Pittsburgh, Poznań and Warsaw). Conference participants discussed many fundamental problems concerning the life of the university and its research work. In particular, philosophical, ethical and praxeological questions of knowledge, action and ethos were often investigated. Of course, a notable part of the discussion was related to Tadeusz Kotarbiński’s theory of action, ontology and reism, methodology, and the ethics of the reliable guardian. Tadeusz Kotarbiński was Kazimierz Twardowski’s pupil, and one of the leading members of the Lvov–Warsaw School. After the Second World War, Kotarbiński taught at the University of Łódź and was the first rector of our university (1945–1949).

The present monograph, we hope, is a valuable outcome of the combined lectures and disputations. For our monograph, the editors chose 16 papers from the ones prepared for this work. The whole is divided into four parts: 1) Chapter I, dedicated to Kotarbiński the person, philosopher and teacher, 2) Chapter II, devoted to the theoretical problems of knowledge, 3) Chapter III, containing various questions about certain problems in ethics, religion and the theory of action and 4) Chapter IV, problems concerning the condition of contemporary humanities and social sciences.