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## Professor Jan Gwiazdomorski (1899–1977): Biography Notes\*

*Profesor Jan Gwiazdomorski (1899–1977).  
Kilka uwag do życiorysu*

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## ABSTRACT

The present article seeks to cast light on the figure of Professor Jan Gwiazdomorski from a perspective distinct from that adopted in the scholarly literature hitherto. The authors intend to depict this eminent jurist not solely as a professor of law but also as an individual actively committed to the formation of a reborn Polish state, personally participating in the struggle for its independence and subsequently contributing to the development of a robust state grounded in constitutional principles. The analysis is consistently centred on three thematic areas. First, the impact of the familial milieu on the development of Professor patriotic attitudes, as illustrated by the lives of his grandfather Jan, his father Jan Kazimierz, and his brother Kazimierz. Second, the Professor's active involvement in the struggle for Poland's independence and in the building of its statehood, recalling both his participation in the battles for independence between 1918 and 1920 and his later role as an official of the General Prosecutor's Office in Kraków in the famous lawsuit brought against Poland by the Habsburg family concerning the so-called Cieszyn Chamber (Ger. Teschener Kammer). The final area addressed in the article is the Professor's journalistic activity, centred on an analysis of the contemporary internal situation of the state and an evaluation of the methods by which public authority was exercised.

**Keywords:** Jan Gwiazdomorski; General Prosecutor's Office; "Czas"; Cieszyn Chamber trial

## INTRODUCTION

Professor Jan Marian Gwiazdomorski belonged to a generation of Poles who, upon reaching adulthood, volunteered to take part in the armed struggle, initially for the restoration, and subsequently for the defence, of national independence. He was able to combine this patriotic engagement with his legal studies at the Jagiellonian University. Like many of his peers, he later contributed to the broader process of state-building by joining the General Prosecutor's Office and subsequently pursuing an academic career.

The figure of this eminent scholar has not yet been afforded a comprehensive biography, despite his unquestionable merit. Nonetheless, several biographical notes on Professor Jan Gwiazdomorski can be found in academic literature, published either to mark his seventieth birthday<sup>1</sup> or as commemorative tributes following his death in 1977.<sup>2</sup> In recent years, the scholar's life and work have once again attracted attention, inspiring a number of valuable new studies.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> J. Górecki et al., *Jan Gwiazdomorski*, "Studia Cywilistyczne" 1969, no. 13–14, pp. 3–4.

<sup>2</sup> S. Grzybowski, *Jan Gwiazdomorski*, "Studia Cywilistyczne" 1978, no. 29, pp. 3–4; S. Kosiński, *Adwokat prof. dr Jan Gwiazdomorski*, "Palestra" 1978, no. 8, pp. 58–59; J. Piątowski, *Jan Gwiazdomorski 1899–1977*, "Państwo i Prawo" 1978, no. 3, pp. 138–140.

<sup>3</sup> Exceptionally valuable and informative are the works presenting Professor Jan Gwiazdomorski in connection with his scholarly activity at the Jagiellonian University. See P.M. Żukowski, *Wydział Prawa Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego w Krakowie w latach 1918–1939*, Kraków 2016; idem, *Gwiazdomorski Jan Marian*, [in:] *Profesorowie Wydziału Prawa Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego*, vol. 2: 1780–2012, ed. D. Malec, Kraków 2014, pp. 147–149; idem, *Gwiazdomorski Jan Marian*,

In this brief study, the authors, given its character, have refrained from providing a detailed account of Professor Gwiazdomorski's academic career, focusing instead on highlighting those lesser-known or previously unexplored aspects of his life that reveal him as a man deeply committed to the building of a free Polish state – one who not only personally fought for its independence but also contributed to the development of a robust state rested on constitutional principles. Accordingly, three areas are highlighted: the influence of the family environment on the formation of Professor Gwiazdomorski's patriotic attitudes; his involvement in the struggle for Poland's independence and in the process of state-building; and his journalistic engagement, which focused on the internal situation of the state at the time and assessing the exercise of power. To this end, the article recalls the lives of Professor's grandfather Jan, his father Jan Kazimierz, and his brother Kazimierz, as well as his own participation in the armed struggle for independence between 1918 and 1920. The authors highlight Professor's subsequent involvement, as an official of the General Prosecutor's Office in Kraków, in the notable litigation instituted against Poland by the Habsburg family over the so-called Cieszyn Chamber. The study also addresses the lesser-known aspect of his life – writing for the press.

#### PATRIOTIC TRADITIONS IN THE GWIAZDOMORSKI FAMILY

Jan Marian Gwiazdomorski, born on 4 February 1899 in Kraków, was the youngest of five children of Jan Kazimierz Gwiazdomorski and Maria née Ciechanowska.<sup>4</sup> Both families, paternal and maternal alike, enjoyed considerable standing and respect within Kraków's community. His grandfathers, Jan Gwiazdomorski and Hieronim Ciechanowski, served on the City Council for many years and were actively engaged in the work of the Kraków Charity Society. The former was an Austrian fiscal officer stationed in Lviv. He participated in the armed struggle during the Spring of Nations in 1848, which led the Austrian authorities to regard him

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[in:] *Słownik biograficzny adwokatów polskich A–Ż*, ed. A. Redzik, vol. 3, part 1, Warszawa 2018, pp. 153–155. Similarly, in the case of Professor Gwiazdomorski's work at the University of Wrocław, see P. Machnikowski, *Jan Gwiazdomorski (1899–1977)*, [in:] *Pamięci zmarłych Profesorów i Docentów Wydziału Prawa, Administracji i Ekonomii Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego 1945–2010*, eds. L. Lehmann, M. Maciejewski, Wrocław 2010, pp. 86–92; T. Dolata, *Wrocławski okres w życiu naukowo-dydaktycznym profesora Jana Gwiazdomorskiego jako przejaw opresji Ministerstwa Oświaty, "Studia nad Autorytaryzmem i Totalitaryzmem"* 2022, vol. 44(4), pp. 167–177. Equally important is the study that presents Professor Gwiazdomorski through the lens of the remarkable book collection he amassed. See A. Maruszczuk, *Profesor Jan Gwiazdomorski i jego księgozbiór jako warsztat pracy naukowej*, [in:] *Kolekcje w zbiorach bibliotek Uniwersytetu Śląskiego w Katowicach*, eds. M. Kycler, D. Pawelec, B. Warząchowska, Katowice 2018, pp. 193–224.

<sup>4</sup> Archiwum Narodowe w Krakowie (hereinafter: AN), 29/331/0/1/54, *Akta stanu cywilnego Parafii Rzymskokatolickiej św. Szczepana w Krakowie. Liber natorum et baptisatorum 1899*, item 33.

as politically suspect and consequently to withhold his professional advancement for several years. In the 1850s, he relocated to Kraków, where he remained in the fiscal profession. After the outbreak of the January Uprising, he was appointed tax collector by the insurgent authorities. In June 1863, he was arrested in Kraków, but since the evidence gathered against him vanished, he was released after several days in detention. Later, he became involved in organising assistance for insurgents returning from exile in Siberia. For more than 20 years, he sat as a member of the Kraków City Council. He was an active contributor to the Archconfraternity of Mercy and the Charity Society. He successfully implemented an accounting reform in both institutions.<sup>5</sup> He died in Kraków on 1 December 1894.<sup>6</sup>

The father of the future professor, likewise named Jan Gwiazdomorski, was born in Lwów on 7 April 1854 to Jan and Eufemia née Kaczmarek. He received his education in Kraków, where he completed St. Hyacinth Junior High School in 1872 and subsequently undertook medical studies at the Faculty of Medicine of the Jagiellonian University, earning his doctoral degree in 1879. Prior to continuing his education abroad, he served for three months as an assistant in the Department of Internal Medicine at the National St. Lazarus Hospital in Kraków. He then pursued advanced medical studies in Vienna, where he also volunteered at the Second Clinic of Internal Medicine and, from October 1880, held the position of assistant at the Vienna General Hospital. He practised in the Austro-Hungarian capital until November 1881, subsequently undertaking a six-month medicine programme in Paris. In May 1882, he returned permanently to his native city of Kraków where he embarked on a long-term medical career as an assistant at the St. Lazarus Hospital.<sup>7</sup> Drawing upon the knowledge and expertise acquired during his studies, he undertook the establishment of the first private hospital in Kraków, founded in 1883.<sup>8</sup> Initially located at Karmelicka Street 39, the institution was, from October 1889 onward, housed in a purpose-built edifice in Łobzowska Street.<sup>9</sup> That same year, in 1883, Jan Gwiazdomorski married Maria Ciechanowska, the daughter of the late Hieronim Ciechanowski, a long-standing member of the Kraków City Council. The wedding ceremony was held on Sunday, 24 February, at the Capuchin Church

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<sup>5</sup> Jan Gwiazdomorski, wiceprezes Towarzystwa Dobroczynności. *Wspomnienie pośmiertne*, "Rocznik Krakowskiego Towarzystwa Dobroczynności za rok 1894" 1895, vol. 76, pp. 21–28.

<sup>6</sup> AN, 29/328/0/3/185, *Acta stanu cywilnego Parafii Rzymskokatolickiej Najświętszej Marii Panny w Krakowie. Liber defunetorum 1894*, item 131.

<sup>7</sup> J. Kowalczyk, *Gwiazdomorski Jan Kazimierz Władysław*, [in:] *Polski słownik biograficzny*, ed. K. Lepszy, vol. 9, Wrocław 1960–1961, p. 204.

<sup>8</sup> J. Rostański, *Kraków pod względem lekarsko-przyrodniczym*, Kraków 1900, p. 71.

<sup>9</sup> The opening of Doctor Jan Gwiazdomorski's Health Home, first in Karmelicka Street and later at the corner of Łobzowska Street and Siemiradzkiego Street, was reported extensively in the Kraków press. See "Czas" 1883, no. 153, p. 2; "Czas" 1889, no. 246, p. 3; "Kurier Polski" 1889, no. 21, pp. 2–3.

on Loretńska Street in Kraków.<sup>10</sup> The marriage was blessed with five children: the eldest, Stanisław,<sup>11</sup> who died prematurely; followed by Anna,<sup>12</sup> Kazimierz,<sup>13</sup> Helena,<sup>14</sup> and the youngest, Jan. For many years, Doctor Jan Gwiazdomorski was affiliated with the Kraków Medical Society, in which he held the office of treasurer from 1898. During this period, together with other members, he contributed to the construction of the society's building in Kraków. Following in his father's footsteps, he was actively involved in charitable undertakings. He passed away prematurely on 11 June 1906 due to a serious cardiac illness. He was held in great esteem by the Kraków medical milieu. In a posthumous commemorative note, he was remembered in the following terms: "The late Doctor Gwiazdomorski brought (...) exceptional conscientiousness, sound judgment, and indefatigable energy. By virtue of his upright character and intellectual virtues, he gained universal respect and the unqualified trust of his colleagues (...)".<sup>15</sup>

Another individual who exerted a discernible influence on the formation of the future civil law expert was his brother, Kazimierz Gwiazdomorski. Having completed his secondary education at the Jan III Sobieski Junior High School in 1908,<sup>16</sup> he undertook studies at the Royal Technical College in Berlin, which he discontinued after three years, returning thereafter to Kraków. He subsequently enrolled in the Faculty of Philosophy of the Jagiellonian University.<sup>17</sup> In August 1914, following many members of the Riflemen's Associations, he entered the ranks of the Polish Legions and was assigned to the Second Infantry Regiment of the Second Brigade. He participated in the Carpathian campaign and, in July 1915, entered the officers' school, upon completion of which he was assigned to the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of the Polish Legions.<sup>18</sup> He was subsequently appointed adjutant to the commander of the Second Battalion. During the engagement near Kamieniucha in Volhynia, on 29 October 1915, he sustained severe wounds while personally leading a Polish

<sup>10</sup> "Czas" 1883, no. 46, p. 2.

<sup>11</sup> AN, 29/331/0/1/51, *Akta stanu cywilnego Parafii Rzymskokatolickiej św. Szczepana w Krakowie. Liber natorum et baptisatorum 1885*, item 11.

<sup>12</sup> AN, 29/331/0/1/51, *Akta stanu cywilnego Parafii Rzymskokatolickiej św. Szczepana w Krakowie. Liber natorum et baptisatorum 1888*, item 39.

<sup>13</sup> AN, 29/331/0/1/53, *Akta stanu cywilnego Parafii Rzymskokatolickiej św. Szczepana w Krakowie. Liber natorum et baptisatorum 1890*, item 58.

<sup>14</sup> AN, 29/331/0/1/53, *Akta stanu cywilnego Parafii Rzymskokatolickiej św. Szczepana w Krakowie. Liber natorum et baptisatorum 1894*, item 34.

<sup>15</sup> S. Ciecchanowski, *Dr Jan Gwiazdomorski*, "Przegląd Lekarski" 1906, no. 24, p. 451.

<sup>16</sup> *Sprawozdanie dwudzieste piąte dyrekcji C.K. Gimnazjum III w Krakowie za rok szkolny 1908*, Kraków 1908, p. 103.

<sup>17</sup> Centralne Archiwum Wojskowe (hereinafter: CAW), 6.6.1931, KN, *Akta o nadanie Krzyża Niepodległości Kazimierz Gwiazdomorski*, fol. 1.

<sup>18</sup> CAW, AP 7606, *Teczka Akt Personalnych Kazimierza Gwiazdomorskiego. Wyciąg ewidencyjny z 21.01.1921*, n.p.

charge. He died a few days later, on 3 November 1915, in a hospital in Sewerynówka. His body was later exhumed and reinterred in the family tomb at the Rakowicki Cemetery in Kraków in March 1916.<sup>19</sup> Years later, he was posthumously awarded the Cross of Virtuti Militari and the Cross of Independence.

## WORKING FOR THE FREE AND INDEPENDENT COUNTRY

Jan Gwiazdomorski received his secondary education at the Jan III Sobieski Junior High School in Kraków, following in the footsteps of his brother Kazimierz. In 1917, he entered the Faculty of Law at the Jagiellonian University, where he completed his studies in 1922, earning the title of Doctor of Laws.<sup>20</sup> At the beginning of November 1918, he volunteered for service in the reconstituted Polish Army and was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Heavy Artillery Regiment, then in formation in Kraków. His military career advanced rapidly: on 30 November, he was posted to the regiment's Fourth Battery,<sup>21</sup> with which, in early December, he took part in the expedition to relieve Lviv, besieged by Ukrainian forces. On the eve of Christmas, his unit became part of General Zygmunt Zieliński's grouping and engaged in the fighting along the Czerlany–Lubień–Stawczany–Obroczyń line. A few days later, his unit reached Lviv.<sup>22</sup> Jan Gwiazdomorski, together with his formation, fought in the campaign against Ukrainian forces until July 1919. In September of that year, he was assigned to the Artillery School in Rembertów, and later continued his military training in Toruń. On 1 August 1920, he was assigned to the Warsaw Defence Group, then engaged in the city's defence against the advancing Bolshevik army. From 20 August 1920, he served in the Independent Heavy Artillery Detachment, where he assumed the post of adjutant.<sup>23</sup> At the close of December 1920, he was placed on indefinite leave from military service in order to complete his academic education. On 8 June 1922, he received a commission as a reserve second lieutenant.<sup>24</sup>

The subsequent stage of Jan Gwiazdomorski's professional career, marking the transition from military to civil service, commenced on 1 February 1923, with his appointment to the Kraków Branch of the General Prosecutor's Office of the

<sup>19</sup> "Nowości Illustrowane" 1916, no. 11, p. 9.

<sup>20</sup> P.M. Żukowski, *Gwiazdomorski Jan Marian*, [in:] *Profesorowie...*, p. 147.

<sup>21</sup> CAW, AP 4556, *Teczka Akt Personalnych Jana Gwiazdomorskiego. Karta ewidencyjna*, n.p.

<sup>22</sup> P. Podhorodecki, *Armaty wycelowane w niebo. Przeciwlotnicza epopeja pułkownika Kazimierza Henryka Angermana (1898–1982)*, Kraków 2025, p. 8.

<sup>23</sup> CAW, AP 4556, *Teczka Akt Personalnych Jana Gwiazdomorskiego. Wniosek nominacyjny Dowództwa Samodzielnego Dywizjonu Artylerii Ciężkiej z 17 X 1920*, n.p.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibidem*, *Karta ewidencyjna*, n.p.

Republic of Poland.<sup>25</sup> He first served in the capacity of trainee and later as referendary, remaining in office until 28 June 1930, when he resigned in response to his appointment as professor at the Jagiellonian University.<sup>26</sup> During his tenure at the General Prosecutor's Office, Jan Gwiazdomorski was delegated to one of the most widely publicised lawsuits brought against the Polish State by Frederick Habsburg over the so-called Cieszyn Chamber (Ger. Teschener Kammer).<sup>27</sup> The case, which attracted national attention, was extensively reported in the press throughout the country. Before the District Court in Cieszyn, Doctor Jan Gwiazdomorski delivered one of the key pleadings in the case, presenting the historical background of the Cieszyn estate.<sup>28</sup>

### PROFESSOR GWIAZDOMORSKI'S JOURNALISTIC OUTPUT

Existing literature on Professor Jan Gwiazdomorski – an outstanding figure by any measure – has concentrated predominantly on the analysis of his extensive scholarly achievements, which have indubitably enriched the development of Polish civil law. It is, however, equally pertinent to examine his journalistic work, wherein he often entered into critical dialogue with the governing authorities and subjected contentious legal reforms to rigorous scrutiny. Especially noteworthy in this regard is one of his articles published in the “Czas” daily, offering a detailed analysis of the 1933 higher education reform authored by Janusz Jędrzejewicz. In his article, titled *O zwijaniu wydziałów i katedr w szkołach akademickich (On the Dissolution of Departments and Faculties in Universities)*, Jan Gwiazdomorski examined in detail the draft law on academic institutions, with particular emphasis on its Article 3, which

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<sup>25</sup> The General Prosecutor's Office was established by a Decree of Chief of State Józef Piłsudski of 7 February 1919. Its competence was to represent the State Treasury in judicial proceedings, particularly in disputes concerning the private law and property interests of the state. For more, see M. Tkaczuk, *Kompetencje i udział Prokuratury Generalnej Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w procesie stanowienia prawa w Polsce międzywojennej i w Polsce ludowej do 1951 roku*, “Miscellanea Historico-Iuridica” 2024, vol. 23(1), pp. 359–393.

<sup>26</sup> Archiwum Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego, S II 619, *Acta personalne prof. Jana Gwiazdomorskiego. Wykaz stanu służby dr. Jana Gwiazdomorskiego*, fols. 33–36.

<sup>27</sup> The so-called Cieszyn Chamber trial (1925–1930) concerned the ownership of the vast estates of Archduke Frederick Habsburg in Cieszyn Silesia. The archduke maintained that the estate was his private property, whereas the State Treasury, represented by the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Poland, argued that the estates had been state property of the Austro-Hungarian Empire prior to 1918. The case was heard before the District Court in Cieszyn and subsequently before the Court of Appeal in Katowice. It was conclusively resolved by a judgment of the Supreme Court in 1930, which held that the Cieszyn Chamber property had validly passed into the ownership of the Polish State.

<sup>28</sup> “Gwiazdka Cieszyńska” 1927, no. 25, p. 1.

conferred upon the minister the power to intervene in matters relating to the internal structure of universities, such as division into faculties, departments, courses, and chairs, as well as their establishment and dissolution. He noted that “Article 3 of the draft law on university establishments contains, in respect of the creation and dissolution of faculties and branches, as well as of sections and departments, extensive and substantial modifications in comparison with the regulations presently in force – modifications which undesirably restrict the principle of academic self-government”.<sup>29</sup> It is worth noting that Gwiazdomorski’s thorough and incisive analysis of the reform’s implications provoked a response from the reform’s author himself, Janusz Jędrzejewicz, who accused him of tailoring his interpretations and conclusions to fit preconceived theses. Jędrzejewicz’s reaction, however, was met with criticism within the university milieu – most notably from the professors of the Faculty of Law at the Jagiellonian University, who submitted a formal letter to the Minister of Religious Affairs and Public Enlightenment in support of Professor Gwiazdomorski’s position.<sup>30</sup> This was not the only instance in which his writings boldly exposed errors and ill-considered actions within the public sphere. By way of illustration, reference may be made to his article of 24 December 1935, in which he subjected the government’s economic policy to critical analysis,<sup>31</sup> as well as to his commentary of 2 April 1939, addressing the statements of General Stanisław Skwarczyński, MP. The latter piece was concluded with a note of refined irony: “At present, we have no intention of sharing power or responsibility with others”.<sup>32</sup>

The authors of the present study wish, however, to draw particular attention to one of Professor Gwiazdomorski’s essays, *Usprawnienie administracji a podniesienie poziomu kultury* (*On Improving the Administration and Raising the Level of Culture*), a piece of striking timelessness whose relevance endures to this day.<sup>33</sup> The article centers on a diagnosis of the causes underlying the inefficiency of state administration and attempts to identify a solution. Professor Gwiazdomorski began with the assumption that the root of the problem lay in “the intellectual and moral disposition of those serving in the state administration”, a matter which, in his view, should be regarded as “a national issue, closely linked to our general and average level of cultural development”. In his text, he identified three principal national deficiencies which, in his mind, hindered the country’s progress. Foremost among them, he pointed to a lack of respect for the law. He remarked that “during the period when the Polish people were divided among three alien and hostile powers,

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<sup>29</sup> J. Gwiazdomorski, *O zwijaniu wydziałów i katedr w szkołach akademickich*, Kraków 1933 (reprint from “Czas” 1933, no. 41), p. 19.

<sup>30</sup> P.M. Żukowski, *Wydział Prawa...*, p. 400.

<sup>31</sup> Cf. J. Gwiazdomorski, *Spostrzeżenia i uwagi*, “Czas” 1935, no. 353, p. 10.

<sup>32</sup> Cf. idem, *Przemówienie posła Skwarczyńskiego*, “Czas” 1939, no. 92, p. 5.

<sup>33</sup> Idem, *Usprawnienie administracji a podniesienie poziomu kultury*, “Czas” 1937, no. 352, p. 22.

the breach of imposed laws was – so we are fond of asserting – a patriotic obligation, a protest against coercion, a deed worthy of esteem and praise. This attitude towards the law allegedly became ingrained in our national character, a habitual disposition shaping our approach to our own Polish law and statehood”. He nevertheless added that “the foregoing argument, veiled in the platitude of superficial patriotism, constitutes nothing more than an excuse devoid of any connection with reality”. According to Gwiazdomorski, the second impediment to improving the effectiveness of public administration was the superficial execution of duties. He noted that “the Polish individual seeks to perform every task with the utmost haste and the least exertion, which consequently leads to frequent mistakes and inaccuracies that diminish the quality and value of the work to the lowest degree”. He further noted that negligence and superficiality in one’s work impair not only the quality of its outcome but also the moral fibre of the person performing it. The third national flaw, in his assessment, was the lack of a deep-rooted sense of honesty in conduct. Irrespective of social or professional position, “a tendency may be observed everywhere towards the pursuit of exceptional material or personal advantage – a desire to attain results exceeding normal expectations, and to attain them by navigating through ‘sideways’.” Yet, as Gwiazdomorski was careful to remind his readers that “honesty – apart from its ethical, moral, and social value – is, in the long run, also a sound investment”.

In the same article, Gwiazdomorski outlined a three-step model for remedying the deficiencies that he had diagnosed. The first step, he argued, was to inculcate in individuals the awareness that respect for law, diligence and conscientiousness in the performance of duties, and constant adherence to the principle of integrity are ultimately in their own interest – that by following such guidance, the individual acts to his or her own advantage. The second step consisted in underscoring the moral, ethical, and social significance of the widespread observance of the afore-said principles in life. Finally, the third step, as Gwiazdomorski proposed, was to accustom society to such consistent and universal adherence to these three precepts that their observance would become something natural, self-evident, and instinctive.

The remarkable aspect of his argument lies in its enduring relevance: despite the passage of time and the many historical experiences that should have “shaken” Poland from its inertia toward the culture of law, many of the flaws he described remain strikingly familiar. Perhaps, then, it is worth revisiting Gwiazdomorski’s vision of national renewal – one grounded in a penetrating understanding of Polish flaws and weaknesses.

## CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this study has been to offer only a brief and suggestive portrayal of Professor Jan Gwiastdomorski as a man devoted to the ideal of building a free and strong Polish state in one of the most turbulent periods of its history. His scholarly achievements – well known and duly recognised in the academic milieu – have been deliberately left aside, in order to highlight instead the formative influence of his family environment on his profound sense of civic duty and commitment to public service. Raised in the spirit of patriotism and endowed with a profound sense of social responsibility, Jan Gwiastdomorski became an exceptional and multifaceted figure – distinguished by the clarity of reasoning, intellectual rigour, and loyalty to the institutions he served: the state, the university, and the law. His contemporaries recalled him as a man of “unwavering legal culture and serenity of spirit”, who “through his life embodied the principle that law is a service rendered to humanity”.

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### ABSTRAKT

Niniejszy artykuł przedstawia sylwetkę Profesora Jana Gwiazdomorskiego z odmiennej perspektywy niż dotychczas prezentowana w literaturze przedmiotu. Autorzy postawili sobie za cel pokazanie tej wybitnej osoby nie tylko jako profesora prawa, lecz również jako człowieka zaangażowanego w budowę wolnego państwa polskiego, biorącego osobiście udział w walkach o jego niepodległość, a także zaangażowanego w rozwój silnego państwa opartego na zasadach ustrojowych. W analizie konsekwentnie skupiono się na trzech obszarach. Po pierwsze, na wpływie środowiska rodzinnego na kształtowanie się postaw patriotycznych Profesora poprzez ukazanie losów jego dziadka Jana, ojca

Jana Kazimierza oraz brata Kazimierza. Po drugie, na zaangażowaniu Profesora w walkę o niepodległość państwa polskiego i budowanie państwowości, przywołując jego aktywny udział w walkach o odzyskanie niepodległości w latach 1918–1920 oraz uczestnictwo jako urzędnika Prokuraturii Generalnej Oddziału w Krakowie w głośnym procesie sądowym wytoczonym Polsce przez rodzinę Habsburgów o Komorę Cieszyńską. Ostatnim obszarem zasygnalizowanym w artykule jest działalność publicystyczna Profesora, która koncentrowała się na analizie ówczesnej sytuacji wewnętrznej państwa i ocenie sposobu sprawowania władzy.

**Słowa kluczowe:** Jan Gwiazdomorski; Prokuratura Generalna; „Czas”; proces o Komorę Cieszyńską