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Wydział Nauk Humanistycznych

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TITLE:

The concept of religious education in selected literary works of Stanisław Konarski in the educational and literary traditions of Polish Piarists

KEY WORDS:

Enlightenment, Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, piarists, education, Collegium Nobilium, poetry, drama, prose, utilitarianism

SUMMARY

Within Polish humanities, there are numerous works related to religious congregations' cultural and pedagogical activities. The Piarist Order has specific merits in educational development in the territory of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. It is difficult to ignore the Piarist Order's immense contributions to educational reform by Stanisław Konarski in the 18th century. The work of the Piarists before 1740 was the foundation for Konarski's future reforms. His views on religious education were strongly connected with the earlier work of Piarist monks, whose work was distinguished by their pedagogical and scientific background.

The doctoral thesis's subject was Stanisław Konarski's works and the contemporary problems of the eighteenth-century society of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The Piarist's literary works served the utilitarian purposes of transforming the awareness of society of that time, especially on reformation issues of law, religious upbringing, and civic education. Konarski's literary works raised important issues for Enlightenment journalism. They were created within a framework of a specific literary convention of that era and referred to praiseworthy models developed by artists coming from the environment of the founders of Collegium Nobilium. The Piarist's texts were meant to be a tool to help transform the culture of nobility into an Enlightenment culture and played an instrumental role in the development of the Polish language. They raised important issues to Enlightenment journalism, such as issues related to socio-political life, and elevated religious education to significance. The religious order and environment from which Konarski emerged, worked for

many years to make their schools a place where young people will acquire skills and knowledge that will be useful in the future and provide models to ensure pupils will continue these habits acquired in Piarist schools in their further lives. Stanisław Konarski's work collated previous attempts to take up this effort.