

AD PENNAS DARE: **The Canons Regular of St Augustine** **and Their Book Collections**



AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

organized by

**Centre for Medieval Studies,
John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin
and Wrocław University Library**

WROCŁAW-ŻAGAŃ
17-19 JUNE 2026

CALL FOR PAPERS

AD PENNAS DARE.

The Canons Regular of St Augustine and Their Book Collections

The Chronicle of Żagań abbots notes that Abbot Ludolf dictated his works to monastic copyists (*ore proprio ad pennas dedit*). This unusual description of the method of preserving texts in the Middle Ages introduces the issue of producing old codices within the circle of the Canons Regular of St Augustine and their broadly understood intellectual and spiritual culture. They are characterized by a keen attention to liturgy and pastoral care, and they also emphasize education and personal development. These aspects were reflected primarily in monastic book collections – manuscripts, and from the late Middle Ages also printed books, are evidence of the adoption of specific ideas or models of piety, but also a record of individual output and the creation of a specific vision of the sacred and the profane. The codices produced in Augustinian canonries – through their material form – are also an invaluable source for understanding how the written word was treated within the monastic community, not only as a tool in the communication process, but also as a manifestation of its inherent symbolic attitudes: models of piety, the sacredness of the book, and so on.

The *Ad pennas dare* conference, organized by the Centre for Medieval Studies at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin and the Wrocław University Library, is intended to provide a forum for the exchange of recent scholarly findings related to the spiritual and intellectual culture of the Canons Regular of St Augustine. The immediate impetus is the cataloguing of a portion of the medieval book collection preserved at the Wrocław University Library, which originated from the monastery of this order in Żagań. This is the most extensive medieval collection preserved in contemporary Poland. In 2023, the painstaking research on a catalogue of this precious book collection was started by a team of more than a dozen scholars working under the supervision of Professor Wojciech Mrozowicz and Professor Jerzy Kaliszuk. Although the work is only halfway through, it has already yielded fruit not only in the form of catalogue descriptions of ca 200 codices but also new findings and discoveries.

We would like to invite researchers interested in the history of the Canons Regular of St Augustine, particularly their spiritual, intellectual, and book culture, to actively participate in the planned conference. The deadline for submitting paper proposals – in Polish, English, German, and Czech is **28 February 2026**. Their topics should be focused on problems outlined in the call for papers, and in particular include the following issues:

- shaping and organizing monastery book collections;
- manuscripts of the Canons Regular of St Augustine as material objects and works of art;
- reproduction of texts;
- transmission of texts and ideas;
- models of piety in comparison to the practice of religious life in the monastery;
- the intellectual horizons of the Canons Regular of St Augustine;
- monastery copyists as the intellectual elite of the monastery;
- monastic, ethnic, and cultural identity;
- multilingualism in manuscripts and monastery life;
- centre–periphery relations, i.e., between the monastery and its provosts and hospitals;
- pastoral ministry (*cura animarum*) in urban and rural settings (parishes).

Organising Committee:

- dr hab. Jerzy Kaliszuk, prof. PAN/KUL
- dr hab. Wojciech Mrozowicz, prof. UWr/KUL
- dr Adam Poznanski
- dr Barbara Grondkowska

Paper proposals should be sent to: zagan@kul.pl