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THE INTERACTION OF THE LATIN WEST AND THE BYZANTINE EAST: THE  
CYRILLO-METHODIAN TRADITION, THE SOURCES OF POLISH LITERATURE AND  
THE PROBLEMS OF SLAV MUTUALITY

*(Summary)*

The interaction of the Latin West and the Byzantine East has left its traces more or less on the territory of whole Europe. The results of the research work in the field of archaeology, linguistics, literature and art point out the role of the Cyrillo-Methodian mission in Poland. It is reflected, in particular, in “The virgin”, the famous masterpiece of the Old Polish poetry and in the greatest national sacred treasure – the icon of the Virgin of Chenstoknow.

Poland played the role of the interslavic link, connecting the cultures of Catholic and Orthodox Slavic communities. At the same time Poland was synthesizing cultural-artistic values of Christian West and East from the point of view of its beliefs, conventions and needs.

The adequate understanding of Slavic community may be reached only if we consider it in the light of the superethnic universal community – the Mediterranean civilization.