

Paul W. Knoll
The University of Cracow as a Late Medieval University

Guest lecture: Monday 16 April 2018, 6 p.m.

Venue: Conference Room, Faculty Library

Abstract

Founded originally in 1364 by King Casimir the Great of Poland, the University of Cracow did not prosper and required a second foundation in 1400 by King Władysław Jagiełło. While Casimir's foundation was based upon Italianate models, Jagiełło's institution followed a Parisian model. In the course of the fifteenth century, the institution eventually flourished, matriculating annually over 260 students in Arts during the last decade of the century. In its organization, support, role in society, and intellectual contribution, the institution played a significant role in the general history of European universities. This presentation examines the various elements referred to in the previous sentence and seeks to situate the university in the context of other, similar, institutions in Europe. The presentation points out ways in which Cracow both followed and differed from universities in its region as well as those elsewhere.

Brief Biographical Note

Paul W. Knoll is Professor Emeritus of History and former three-time Chair of the Department of History at the University of Southern California, where he taught from 1969 to 2011. He received his Ph.D. in History from the University of Colorado in 1964 under the direction of S. Harrison Thomson. Professor Knoll's major scholarly interests are in medieval and early modern European history, especially the history of Central and East Central Europe, and in university history. His first book, *The Rise of the Polish Monarchy. Piast Poland in East Central Europe 1320-1370* (University of Chicago Press, 1972) received the Kosciuszko Foundation Award. His most recent book, published by Brill Press in 2016, was "*A Pearl of Powerful Learning.*" *The University of Cracow in the Fifteenth Century*; it received the Early Slavic Studies Association Prize in 2016. In October 2107 Professor Knoll received the honorary *Pro Historia Polonorum* award of the Polish Historical Association at the Three Congress of International Scholars of Polish History in Cracow. The author of numerous articles and scholarly reviews, Professor Knoll has also translated the *Vita Karoli IV* and (with Frank Schaer) the chronicle traditionally known as *Gallus Anonymous* in the Central European Medieval Texts Series published by the Central European University Press. Professor Knoll is currently the Vice President of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America in New York City (Polski Instytut Naukowy w Ameryce).

Organizer

Doctoral Programme in Premodern History, Department of History