



UNIwersytet
Zielonogórski

R E K T O R

November 15, 2006

Professor Owen Gingerich
Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics
Cambridge, MA 02138
USA

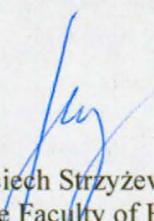
Dear Professor Gingerich,

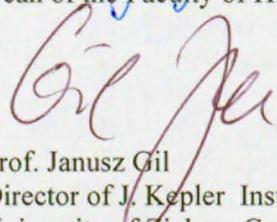
It is our great pleasure and honour to let you know that the Council of the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Zielona Góra have decided to award you an honorary doctorate of the University. A suitable proposal, put forward by professor Janusz Gil, the director of J. Kepler Institute of Astronomy of the University of Zielona Góra, and professor Jarosław Włodarczyk from the Institute for the History of Science of the Polish Academy of Sciences, has gained a complete acceptance of the Council of the Faculty on account of your indisputable, outstanding achievements in the area of the history of science. Your works, allowing a better understanding of Johannes Kepler scientific method, together with publications bringing closer the profile of this scientist, who spent the closing years of his life in Żagań carrying out his scientific and editorial activity in the Lubuskie Province, rouse our admiration and recognition. Your contribution to the Copernican studies is immense and invaluable, as you have shown from an entirely new perspective the process of the reception in XVI and XVII century Europe of the work of Nicolaus Copernicus – the scientist whose thought had constituted the most important inspiration for the astronomical research of Johannes Kepler. We owe to you the pioneering application of computers and computational methods in the history of astronomy. Finally, your contribution to the preservation of Polish cultural heritage and your actions, thanks to which priceless rare astronomical books were returned to Poland, command our great respect.

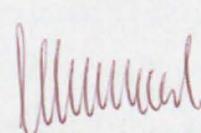
Closeness of Żagań, and strong relations between the University of Zielona Góra and this town, predestine our University to awarding an honorary degree to such an eminent expert of life and work of Johannes Kepler, the continuator of the thought of Nicolaus Copernicus. We deeply hope that you will do us an honour and accept this token of our deepest recognition to your intellectual and scientific achievements.

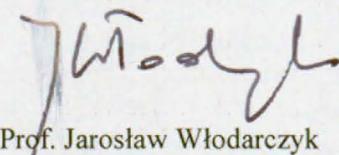
The ceremony of awarding you an honorary doctorate of the University of Zielona Góra is being planned for June 2008, during an international scientific conference in celebration of the 380-th anniversary of Johannes Kepler arrival in Żagań.

With deepest regards


Prof. Wojciech Strzyżewski
Dean of the Faculty of Humanities


Prof. Janusz Gil
Director of J. Kepler Institute of Astronomy
University of Zielona Góra


Prof. Czesław Osekowski
Rector of the University of Zielona Góra


Prof. Jarosław Włodarczyk
Institute for the History of Science of the
Polish Academy of Sciences