

Henryk Jakubanis (1879–1949)
as a Researcher of Ancient Philosophy and Its Reception

Aim of the project is to research little known works of Henryk Jakubanis (1879–1949), a classics scholar, a philosopher, and a historian of ancient philosophy, who primarily devoted his attention to Greek thought and its reception, and who attempted to prove topicality of ancient philosophy. His academic curriculum is usually divided into two periods: Kyiv and Lublin. In Kyiv he graduated in 1902 under supervision of A.N. Gilarov and wrote a book on Empedocles and a series of papers on ancient philosophy. In Lublin, after World War I, he received a post at newly founded University of Lublin where he lectured until his death in 1949.

Jakubanis' little known and unknown works will be brought into focus to answer the questions of their inspirations, and as a consequence, to demonstrate that Jakubanis' Kyiv works in ancient thought constituted an essential stage in his curriculum. For now, his Russian works from his Kyiv period have usually been only listed, never discussed, it is therefore necessary to put them under research. His years in Lublin were much less productive than his earlier years in Kyiv, and, in fact, Lublin period appears to be rather a supplement of Jakubanis' biography than the most creative part of it. In the literature, however, the significance of these two periods is usually presented the other way round and the emphasis is put on his Lublin years, while it is impossible to depict him comprehensively as a researcher in ancient Greek philosophy without taking into account his Kyiv period.

Final effect of the project will consist of a doctoral thesis on Jakubanis' overall research on ancient philosophy. This will be preceded by more detailed studies on his interpretation of Empedocles, on his possible dependence on his supervisor, on his arguments on topicality of Greek thought. Consequently, Jakubanis will be assessed as a historian of philosophy on the basis of his early works and the lectures of his mature years.