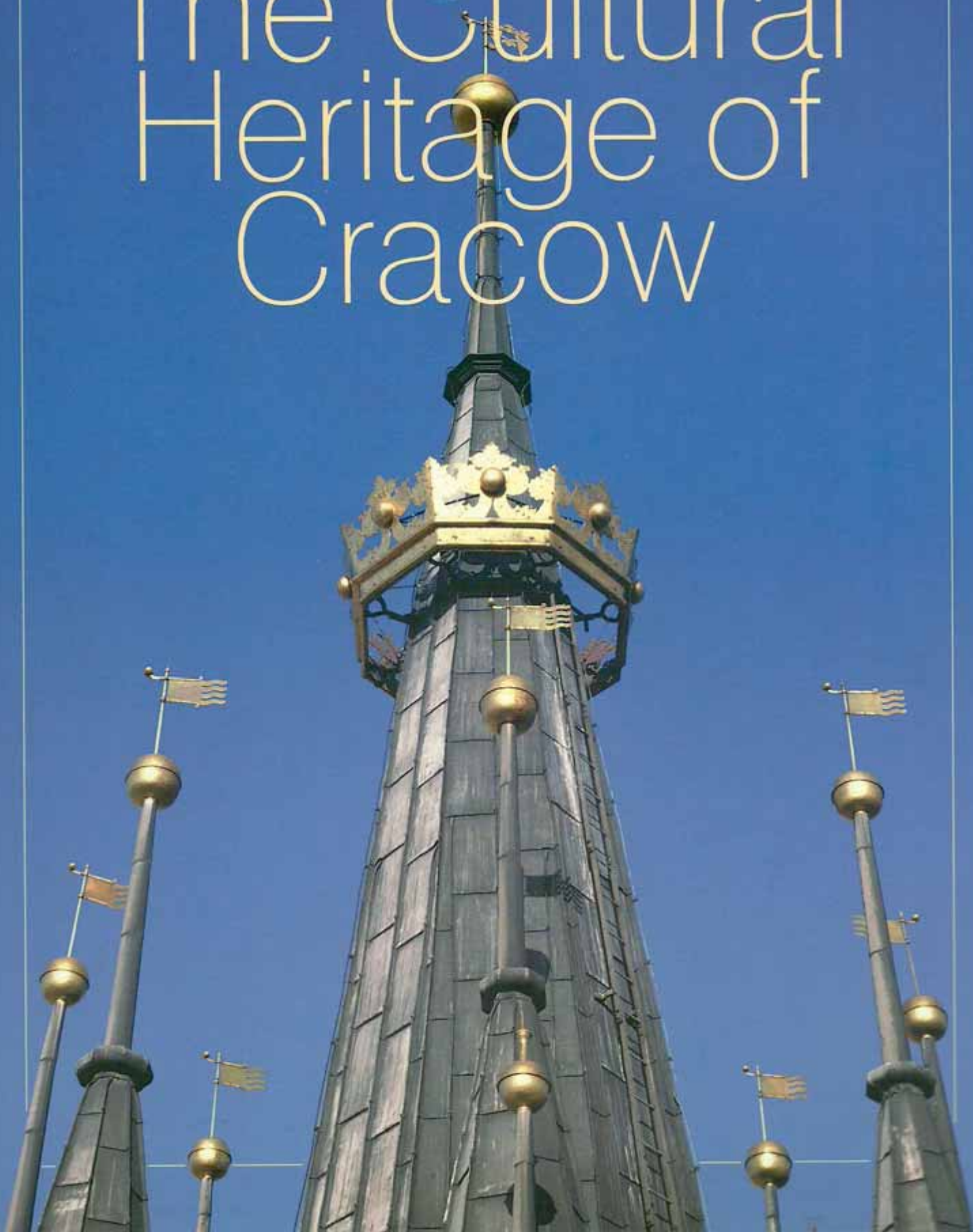


The Cultural Heritage of Cracow



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page: 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19 down, 20, 22, 23,
24, 25, 27, 29, 31, 32, 35, 37, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 46 down, 47,
48, 49, 51, cover – page 1 i 4)

Wojciech GORGOLEWSKI (page: 18 up, 46 up)

Jacek WITALIŃSKI (page: 18 down)

Zdzisław SOWIŃSKI (page: 19 up)

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Krzysztof FEDOROWICZ (page: 33)

Caroline ROSE (page: 34)

Lucjan BIRCZYŃSKI (page: 36)

Janusz GAWŁOWSKI (page: 44)

Archive of St. Norberth's Nuns Order, Cracow (page: 45)

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This city, the most Polish of all of Poland's cities, which Pope John Paul II (formerly Metropolitan Archbishop of Cracow) once described as "a synthesis of all that is Polish, a summary of the history of Poland", is at the same time architecturally and culturally the most European of all the Polish cities. This situation is due not only to the many centuries of Cracow's extremely extensive cultural and economic relations with the outside world, but also to the fact that Cracow has contributed to, not just simply borrowed from, the European cultural heritage. Cracow is one of the cultural capitals of Europe – as it is being recognised more and more widely. It is culture, too, in spiritual and material dimensions accumulated here in an abundance unparalleled anywhere else in Poland and combined with the local academic and scientific traditions, that constitutes the city's major tourist attraction. Tourism, culture, and scholarship go to form the prime opportunity for growth in Cracow and its region, which Nature has embellished with an attractive and diversified landscape environment.



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