

*A Social Philosopher in a Communist State***M. Albert Krapiec (b. 1921)**

EDWARD KACZYNSKI

A SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Mieczysław Albert Krapiec, one of the most outstanding contemporary philosophers of Poland, is the principal exponent of the 'Lublin School' of classical philosophy. Active in the socio-cultural life of Poland, he was a defender of Christian culture with brave and untiring service to the truth during times when it was severely threatened by the totalitarian system. Krapiec was born on 25 May 1921 in Berezowica Mała (now in Ukraine). After finishing grammar school at Tarnopol, in 1939 he entered the Order of Preachers in Cracow. In 1946 he obtained a PhD in philosophy under the guidance of the Dominican philosopher Jacek Woroniecki, and in 1948 a doctorate in theology at the Angelicum. In 1951 Krapiec began his teaching work in the Faculty of Philosophy of the Catholic University of Lublin, where he held the post of Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy from 1958 to 1961 and from 1969 to 1970. He became Rector of the University, re-elected five times. He therefore held that post uninterruptedly for 13 years, from 1970 to 1983.

His academic publications include 30 books and about 400 articles and studies.¹ Krapiec's great work has been a new and creative expression of classical philosophy with a rigorous methodology, expressed in modern language and taking into account present problems in the field of philosophical realism, such as those concerning being, the human person, knowledge, morality, law, language, politics, art and religion. With him, other members of the Lublin school include S. Swieżawski, J. Kalinowski, S. Kamiński and K. Wojtyła, who have all contributed to developing a line of thought derived from the French existential Thomism of J. Maritain and E. Gilson, taking into account phenomenology and other European philosophical currents of thought, although their ensuing philosophical synthesis must be considered original.

Krapiec is a member of numerous academic associations, both Polish and international. He is an active member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Association of Polish Philosophers, the Pontifical Academy of Theology,