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The Elite of “Kalos Kagathos” in Poland

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Abstract

Kalos kai agathos, which means “beautiful and good”, is associated with the idea of a man who involves beauty, strength, goodness, wisdom, truth, and the right ethical attitude in daily routine. The origin of awarding the “Kalos Kagathos” medal in Poland reaches to the 1980s. The idea originated in difficult times for Poland and for sport, and the distinction initially was supposed to add faith and optimism into the belief that it is possible to connect sport and life. From 1985 to the present day the chapter house of this prestigious and elite distinction has awarded the medal to 71 outstanding and exceptional personalities. It is necessary to underline that, over the 34 years, out of hundreds of nominees, in each of the ten editions; only seven “magnificent” awards were made. Among these sportsmen are Olympians and world, European, and Polish champions of different age categories and of different sport events who, beside sport, are connected with the world of science, culture, and social service. The medal is awarded to those who have achieved at least the level of mastery in sport at the country-wide scale, and, having finished their competitor’s career, have reached an outstanding position and respect in their professional career. Kalos Kagathos are mainly the “People of the Medal”—individuals of a multidimensional personality, shaped on the foundation of socially important values. This is elite that can be an example and creator of the axionormative world for future generations.

Keywords: Capital, Elite, Kalos Kagathos, Prestige, Symbolism, Tradition

Introduction

“*Decent future life requires a decent and versatile personality*”¹

More and more often, universal and timeless values, also those located in sport; seem to lose with the common cultural ideal of personality of the so-called “civilization of death” (Pope John Paul II). The notion of anomy is also commonly familiar to those who are observing a progressive disappearance of traditional values in the contemporary world and are deeply concerned about it. However, it is the elites who decide about the value of a society and, at present, besides political elites, there is an increase in meaning of a newly shaped type of elite, namely the elites who represent different sport events (Sztumski 2014). Without delving deeply into the complexities of defining character, it can be accepted that the “elite” are exceptional individuals who are particularly appreciated for their extraordinary features and performance in different areas of life. The history of awarding the *Kalos Kagathos* medal in Poland begins in the 1980s, at a time that was difficult both for Poland and for sport. From 1984 until now the chamber of this elite and prestigious distinction has awarded medals to 71 outstanding and exceptional personalities. Among these sportsmen are Olympians and world, European, and Polish champions of different age categories and of different sport events. Beyond sport, the laureates have been connected mainly with the world of science, culture, and social service. The people honoured with the medal achieved at least the level of sport mastery at a country-wide scale, and after having finished their competitive careers they reached high positions and recognition in their professional careers. Thus, “the outstanding in sport occurred to be equally outstanding in their performances beyond the final line” (Lipiec 2014: 108). For 34 years, in each of the ten editions, the chamber has bestowed seven “magnificent” awards, out of hundreds of nominees. The laureates of *Kalos Kagathos* in Poland are not only examples of double careers and double successes; they are also individual and collective holders of social capital. This is “human capital because it is embodied in people” (Schultz 1976: 48 cit. after Domański 1993: 19) and understood as a “provision of knowledge, skills, health, [and] vital energy contained in the society” (Domański 1993: 19). The exceptionality of the distinction is associated also with a symbolism of timeless values, which are lasting and universal as well as socially appreciated. The originator, Pierre Bourdieu, acknowledged this symbolic capital to be more important than basic capital, which he labelled as economic, cultural, and social. Symbolic capital holds symbolic authority, is assigned to a specific position in society, and is expressed in prestige, reputation, and fame (Bourdieu and Wacquant 2001). *Kalos Kagathos* are first and foremost “People of the Medal” -elite individuals of multidimensional personality- who can be examples and creators of the axionormative world for future generations. The aim of the present work is to examine the characteristics of the Old Greek ideal of versatility and its place in the contemporary world. In this context the article refers to a unique distinction of *Kalos Kagathos* in Poland and

¹Doktor K (2002) *Humanistyczne problemy sportu wyczynowego*. In Dziubiński Z (ed.) *Antropologia sportu*. Warszawa: SOS RP, p. 168.

the “People of the Medal”, whose personalities and achievements themselves defend the prestige involved and the elite affiliation. This is also a community that can be regarded as an example of contemporary *kalokagathi*, as well as individual and collective social capital.

Methodology

The paper is qualitative in nature. The basic source materials are non-directive interviews with the originator of the idea of the medal, with selected members of the chapter house of the distinction as well as with some of the awarded laureates, conducted from September 2017 to July 2018. Other sources stem from available literature on the specific subject as well as commonly known and generally available sources on the chosen problems.

Findings

Traditions of Kalokagathia

Every language is a subject of cognition, and its usage often requires consideration and, as with this work, scientific reflection. Although the word *kalos* in ancient Greek expressed beauty and *agathos* meant goodness, the meanings of the notions were not the same for all Greeks. The heroes of Homer (2008), particularly those shown in *Iliad*, are teachers of the good and beautiful life, and they are also figures¹ to whom not only the notions of *kalos* and *agathos* but also the knightly *ethos* is referred. *Iliad* is an epos telling mostly about bravery, devotion, and gallantry of the knightly elite, where each of the knights is presented together with his noble ancestors². The origin of the term “*kalos*” can regard the notion of decency and the man named *Kallias*³, about whom Herodotus (2005) wrote that he deserves to be frequently mentioned. However, a man himself can be *Agathoi*⁴—dignified by activities visible through the virtue of *arete*, which is explained as perfection and which, in Socrates, determines spiritual beauty. Thus, it seems in part that for the ancient Greeks, beauty was linked to or even identified

¹Homer’s knights, though they fought with different intentions as e.g. Achilles (revenge) and Hector (reverence and honour), appeared to be generous and honourable. The example of Achilles’ cruelty is that of profanation after having cast insults over the corpse of Hector. However, on the other hand, Achilles is aware of his tragic fate and is able to show compassion and generosity. Hector, by contrast, seems to be the opposite of Achilles, and though he is equally courageous, he is less irritable than Achilles, he does not burn with hatred, and he understands that in a fight one may have to lose. In spite of the fact that the brave and unrestrained Achilles is the main hero, it is Hector who compels greater admiration, in view of his ability to devotion and his sense of duty. In Homer (2008), *Iliad*, Kraków: Greg.

²Homer stresses the background of ancestors, among whom there are also gods.

³The enemy of titans, a member of a wealthy and eminent clan of Athenian aristocracy, who not only strove zealously for freedom of his native land but also won in the Pythian Games and in Olympia. In Herodot (2005), *Dzieje*, Wrocław-Warszawa-Kraków: Zakład Narodowy im. Ossolińskich, pp. 480,482.

⁴*Agathos* can be an adjective but it can also be a noun. However, *agathos* is a term including many other notions of the ancient Greeks, such as e.g. good, generous, wise, just, strong, brave, or also useful. <https://agathoi.wordpress.com/key-homeric-terms> (18.10.2018).

with goodness, because “what was beautiful was good at the same time, and there was no such goodness that would not be beauty” (cited after Karolak, 2015). Literally, *kalos kai agathos* simply means “beautiful and good”, but these two adjectives alone do not determine the Greek ideal of *kalokagathia*, which involves “the unity of virtues of mind, heart and body” (Lipiec 1988: 7). A *kalos kagathos* versatile man is also complemented by such virtues as valour, generosity, wisdom, honour, honesty, spiritual perfection, physical fitness, and a proper, ethical attitude in daily routine. *Kalokagathis* cannot be spoken about without reference to Plato, in the thought of whom, twenty-five centuries ago; the ideal of versatile perfection in shaping both the body and spirit was born. These words sound particularly accurate: “There is no body that has in itself as much of godlike element as wings. And the godlike element[s] are beauty, goodness, and reason and all the like things. That is the food for the feathers of soul which grow the fastest out of it, and which waste away and disappear because of moral laxity” (Plato 1993: 36). In *Symposium*, the famous dialogue of Plato, the word *Agathon* refers to the host’s name and his goodness and wealth. It can be interpreted that wealthy people who were good were *kalokagathos*. However, this wealth can be understood as personal virtues, involving sport talents. Both in Plato and in the conception of Greek people, the system of education and proper upbringing involves philosophy as a study of all subjects, gymnastics for the body, and art which is music, understood as intellectual culture for the soul (Morrou 1965: 117). It is necessary to note that in Plato’s dialogues there are numerous references to places where the body was exercised (*Palestra*) and where philosophers held discourses with young men. It can be assumed that Aristocles (the real name of Plato) was the first *Kalos Kagathos* man, who not only practiced in poetry, painting, and music but also won sport games (Lipoński 2012). It is worth mentioning that the pattern to follow and a personification of harmony of body and spirit in the Greek education was the Homeric Achilles as well as Hippocrates, known as the father of medicine, who was also an athlete in his youth (Lipoński 2012). However, the ideal of *kalokagathia*, which combined truth, goodness, and beauty, has never been fully realized (Lipiec 1988), and even if it embodied itself, this was only for a short while in view of contradictions within different directions of development (Morrou 1965). Moreover, the ancient Athenian education was rather more artistic and sport-centred than literary or intellectual. Although physical education and intellectual education were disunited by an “unrelenting hostility”, the *kalos kagathos* man of those times was undoubtedly a “sporty man”, and his education did not exclude moral contents that would be shaped just through sport (Morrou 1965: 83). However, we know that “moral behaviors in sport are mostly determined by the state of morality of the society as a whole and they reflect its moral easing, and (...) the results of moral education for sport and through sport depend mainly on moral education in the global sense” (Krawczyk 2000: 53).

The ideal of versatile perfection became a foundation of lasting values, which the Greek agonistics incorporated into general human culture (Biliński 1956). An integral component of the classical ancient civilization constituted games, and as its symbol they perished along with that civilization. However, the disappearing Olympiads of that epoch were to predict the games of the future, which would

belong to and celebrate not only the Hellenes, Romans, or Europeans but all humanity (Krawczuk 1988). *Kalokagathia* was the philosophical base of modern Olympism, and the creative continuator of the idea of harmony between body and spirit was Baron Pierre de Coubertin. His intention was, among others, to make the modern Olympic Games similar to the ancient games, which had always symbolized peace, which were characterized by fortitude and beauty, and which were able to still all war conflicts (Zuchora 1976). Krzysztof Zuchora, who has been propagating the Olympic message for years, writes that Coubertin's Olympism "referred to the ancient philosophy preaching invariably the appreciation of truth, goodness and beauty, justice and valor" (Zuchora 2013: 6). The ideals of the ancient Hellas became the foundation of European culture and always accompanied the Olympic Games, and the idea of Olympic sport was to unify (Lipiec 1988). Is the Greek idea of the versatile man possible today? The answer lies in the distinctions described here in reference to the "*kalos kagathos*" people.

The Idea of Kalos Kagathos in Poland

The idea of the award was born in a time that was difficult both for Poland and for sport. The beginning of the 1980s was a time of negative emotions related to the introduction of martial law in Poland (1981) and undignified events in the world of sport. It is worth mentioning for example the boycotting of the Olympic Games in Moscow (1980) and Los Angeles (1984) and the retreat from Coubertin's idea of amateurship, which allowed the first professional sportsmen to compete in Olympiads (1984). Experts claim that this era began the process, continuing until now, which can be described in the words of Kazimierz Doktor, "from Olympic games to games of business" (Doktor 2014: 244). The highest competitors in performance sports more and more often had to make choices between continuation of their sport careers or achieving their educational objectives and professional qualifications at the same time. With the professionalization and commercialization in sport, having been in progress since the 1980s, the crisis of Olympism and other threats produced numerous discussions about the shape and image of contemporary sport.

The originator of the award that promotes people who skilfully combine sport and non-sport achievements was then the editor-in-chief of *Tempo* magazine in Cracow, Ryszard Niemiec. Together with the rector of Jagiellonian University, Józef Gierowski, they worked out the conception of the distinction, which was to show that in Poland there is no place for sport which does not give any opportunities of development in other areas of life. Moreover, it is possible for outstanding sportsmen to achieve success not only in sport but also in other aspects of life. Besides this, an important message was the signal that sport does not break characters but on the contrary is a school for life beyond sport. Prof. Gierowski made the decision by himself, without involving the patronage of Jagiellonian University. Following this, a few questions appeared. Do we have such people in the country? And if so, how should their professional achievements be evaluated? For example, are they to be professional politicians or media

celebrities? Eventually it was specified that the award would honour outstanding sportsmen who were representatives of solid but not necessarily brilliant professional careers and people who exemplified a proper attitude in their daily lives.

Although the idea of referring to the Greek Olympic ideal crystallized in autumn 1984, the unique event for conferring the distinction for the first time took place one year later. The *Kalos Kagathos* came to be recognized with a replica of “*Gloria Victis*”, an initiative originated in 1986 by its first chairman, Ryszard Parulski (1938–2017), who was a fencer, a multiple world champion in three categories, an Olympic Games medallist, and a lawyer. The Latin phrase *Gloria Victis* (“glory to the vanquished”), as intended by the foundation, can be explained as “glory to those sportsmen who failed in life”. Up to that time they had been acting as former sportsmen whose sport careers had not jump-started careers in other dimensions of life beyond sport (Tomecka 2009).

Symbolism of the Distinction

In spite of the fact that the “etymological roots of the award stick in money and exchange”, it is not only an economic transaction, a purchase or payment and it should not be bargained over or negotiated (English 2013). The distinction of *Kalos Kagathos* is an award of a symbolic character exclusively; it is a cultural value and a symbol of universal and timeless values, which are expressed in the symbolism of the disc itself. Sport belongs to the area of symbolic culture, and the characteristic of symbolic behaviours is their additional meaning and additional perceived value, understood by people of a particular cultural circle (Krawczyk 2006). The laureates are representatives of symbolic capital related to awards, which has become particularly meaningful due to globalization of cultural and media industries (English 2013). The ceremonies of awarding the medal are rituals of symbolic exchange, requiring an acceptance of the award regulations and also showing respect to these extraordinary events by the participants. An outstanding artist from Cracow, Jerzy Nowakowski, recognized already in the beginning of the 1980s and frequently awarded for his creativity in numerous artistic media, was engaged to design the medal. He recalls that taking up this commission was an honour for him, but he also felt responsible for.

The symbolism of the “medal after medals” (Figure 1) refers to the ideals of ancient Greece as well as those selected by the chapter house outstanding former sportsmen, who have achieved success in other areas following their competitive sport careers. In the left part of the front, in the rim of the laurel wreath, medals of sport events are highlighted. On the right there is a round medal that presents a Greek goddess with a laurel leaf on her head, and this is a reference to the idea of beauty and Greek art. The inscription reads “*Kalos Kagathos*”, which is related to the ancient idea of mind and body balance. On the reverse side, on the right, in the rim, as on the front, there are medals of sport events, surrounded by a laurel wreath. At left there is a round medal that presents an Olympic torch being passed to a mature person who achieves post-sport success after having been successful in achieving medals in sport. The garment on the outstretched hand symbolizes the dignity of the awarded. It is worth noting that Jerzy Nowakowski’s medal received

the third prize in the national contest entitled “Sport in Art” in 1986, which was organized by the Polish Olympic Committee and the Museum of Sport in Warsaw (Nowakowski and Nowakowska 2004). Furthermore, one of the medals is kept in the museum in Olympia (Greece), which is an iconic place where ancient Olympiads were held. This is undoubtedly an honour and a meaningful recognition for our Polish, prestigious award, and a symbol as well for the elite of *Kalos Kagathos*.

Figure 1. *The 2 Sides of Medal*

Front of the Medal

Reverse of the Medal



Source: Jerzy Nowakowski’s private collection.

Prestige of the Award and of the “People of the Medal”

The expert on the subject presented in this work, Henryk Domański, duly notes that “there are as many types of prestige, as many people playing different roles and involved in relations inclining us to make evaluations” (Domański 1999: 36). The phenomenon of prestige is that “one can have it, neither having big money nor property” (Domański 1999: 34), and in this context the words of Allain de Botton are appropriate: “the person who holds an important position can be spoken of as ‘somebody’, and his opposition is called ‘nobody’ (Botton 2004: 13, 24). Four types of prestige are listed most often: institutionalized, personal, positional, and situational. Personal prestige is a value most often present in human thinking and behaviours, related to personal virtues, and these are personal features manifested in direct relationships. Positional prestige is influenced by personality in a global dimension, and its indication in sociological research is the prestige of the performed occupation. Social position is evaluated on the basis of the level of education, occupation, property ownership, and wealth. Brevity and elusiveness, on the other hand, are characteristics of situational prestige. Each of these types of prestige can undergo institutionalization; thus, institutionalized prestige is determined by the way in which it is manifested to others. Institutions of prestige are not disappearing, but they are changing and expressed in different forms (Domański 1999).

The medal is associated with the prestigious academic institution of Jagiellonian University, the oldest university in Poland and one of the oldest in Europe, which has represented distinction since its beginning. For over 650 years, thanks to its outstanding scholars, Jagiellonian University has produced “outstanding men” of our nation, among them famous graduates such as Nicolaus Copernicus (the world-famous astronomer), Karol Wojtyła (Pope John Paul II), Jan Sobieski (the king of Poland), and Wisława Szymborska (Nobel Prize laureate in literature). Prestige is also incontestable for the *Collegium Maius* and *Collegium Novum* of Jagiellonian University, which bestow the award. A special and equally honourable role was performed by institutionalized members of the chapter house of the first edition: the Academic Sports Association¹, *Tempo*² sports daily (which simultaneously took over the media affairs), and the Chief Committee for Physical Culture and Sport³. Since 1987 the medal has been collaboratively handled by Jagiellonian University, the editorial board of *Tempo*, the Polish Olympic Committee,⁴ and the Polish Olympic Academy⁵. In the 2009 edition, the newspaper *Przegląd Sportowy*⁶ [*Sport Review*] substituted for the daily *Tempo* in the chapter house, and it continues to handle the media affairs. A few medal bestowals have also been covered by Polish television, and the last editions were shown by the Polsat private TV station.

Kalos Kagathos are mainly “People of the Medal” as well as jurors of the award who perform their task with solemnity and dignity. They are eminent people and instances of all types of prestige in chairpersons of the chapter house: rectors of Jagiellonian University such as Józef Gierowski, Aleksander Koj, Andrzej Pelczar, Franciszek Ziejka, Karol Musioł, and Wojciech Nowak, the current rector. The composition of the chapter house has also included chairmen of the Polish Olympic Committee. Starting from the first edition of the medal they were: Marian Renke, Bolesław Kapitan, Aleksander Kwaśniewski (president of the Republic of Poland, 1995–2005), Andrzej Szalewicz, Stanisław Stefan Paszczyk, Piotr Nurowski, and Andrzej Kraśnicki (current chairman of the Polish Olympic Committee, beginning in 2010). The members of the chapter house who have fulfilled their functions the longest are: Ryszard Niemiec, the originator of the idea and laureate of the distinction in 2003; Józef Lipiec (Jagiellonian University), co-founder and long-time chairman of the Polish Olympic Academy; and Aleksander Krawczuk (Jagiellonian University) A member of the chapter house of the early editions of the medal was one of the later laureates (1994) and the one who gave the name to the distinction: Wojciech Lipoński. One of the

¹The Academic Sport Association (Polish: AZS) was founded in 1909, and what is crucial from the point of view of the historical political conditions is that this apolitical association has survived all economic changes and has been functioning up to now.

²Polish sport daily newspaper founded in Cracow in 1948.

³The organ of Polish state administration related to the communist period in Poland. Political conditions of those times had no negative impact upon the origin of the idea of *Kalos Kagathos*. The attention given to this prestigious distinction in those times can be perceived today as a natural, adequate, and socially desirable activity.

⁴Founded on the 12th Oct., 1919; up to 1924 called the Polish Committee of the Olympic Games.

⁵Originated on the 11th of Oct., 1984 as a social organ of the Polish Olympic Committee. It groups the top Polish scholars, publicists, and activists—outstanding experts on Olympism.

⁶The oldest Polish sport daily newspaper, founded as a weekly in May, 1921 in Cracow. Until today the newspaper has organized a prestigious, national plebiscite for the best sportsman of the year.

members of the chapter house was also Anna Pawlak, and the one who fulfilled the duties of secretary was the editor Jerzy Wicherek. Zbigniew Porada is also a member of the chapter house. In the last editions of the medal there were also the laureate of the first edition of 1984, Wojciech Zabłocki, as well as the recently deceased and frequently titled Polish sportswoman and laureate of the distinction of 1994, Irena Szewińska.

Listed below are the laureates starting from the first edition in 1985 until the last one in 2017, followed by identification of their achievements. Each of the medallists deserves a separate report, but space limitations preclude more extensive biographical information. Information is limited to the practiced event, participation in the Olympic Games, and professional activity. I present one example of a laureate of each of the nine editions more broadly.

Kalos Kagathos 1984

Jerzy Chromik (1931–1987): athlete, Olympian, mining engineer. Stefan Dziedzic (1927–2006): skier, MSc in economics. Witalis Ludwiczak (1910–1988): hockey player, Olympian, professor of law sciences. Zbigniew Resich (1915–1989): basketball player, professor of law sciences. Marian Suski (1905–1993): fencer, Olympian, professor of technical sciences. Marian Śliwiński (1919–1985): athlete, welder. Wojciech Zabłocki (1930–): fencer, multiple champion and Polish championship medallist, first Polish junior world champion (1953), medallist (two silver and one bronze medal) and multiple participant of the Olympic games, five-time champion and five-time world championships medallist, member of the head board of the Polish Fencing Federation and Polish Olympic Committee, chairman of the Polish Olympic Academy (1993–2000), vice president of the Polish President’s Council for Physical Culture, outstanding Polish architect, professor of technical sciences.

Kalos Kagathos 1987

Izabela Cywińska (1935–): basketball player, theatre and film director. Roman Ciesielski (1924–2004): basketball player, professor of technical sciences. Jerzy Jurowicz (1920–1989): football player, zincographer (printer). Jerzy Olszowski (1920–2000): tennis player, building engineer. Witold Henryk Paryski (1909–2000): alpinist, physician. Jan Karol Kostrzewski (1915–2005): rower, three-time Polish champion, officer of the Polish Home Army during World War II, participant in the Warsaw Uprising, chairman of the International Association of Epidemiologists, minister of health and social care, president of the Polish Academy of Sciences, professor of medical sciences.

Kalos Kagathos 1989

Adam Brodecki (1949–2010): figure skater, Olympian, physician. Czesław Centkiewicz (1904–1996): athlete, electrical engineer. Władysław Hasior (1928–1999): athlete, one of the most outstanding sculptors of the world. Tadeusz

Koszarowski (1915–2002): basketball player, professor of medical sciences. Adam Papée (1895–1990): fencer, Olympian, Doctor of Law. Kazimierz Wejchert (1912–1993): volleyball player, professor of technical sciences. Zdobysław Stawczyk (1923–2005): athlete, multiple Polish champion, champion and medallist of the academic world championships, Olympian, rector of the Academy of Physical Education in Poznań, professor of sciences on physical culture.

Kalos Kagathos 1993

Wanda Rutkiewicz (1943–1992): alpinist, one of the most outstanding Polish women of the world in Himalaism, electronic engineer. Zbigniew Garnuszewski (1917–1998): athlete, associate professor in medicine. Zbigniew Lewandowski (1930–): athlete, Doctor of Medical Sciences. Jan Nawrocki (1913–2000): fencer, Olympian, veterinary doctor. Edward Popiołek (1939–): glider and airplane pilot, professor of technical sciences. Leszek Rostwo-Suski (1930–2007): fencer, Olympian, professor of chemical sciences. Marek Walczewski (1937–2009): fencer, outstanding theatre and film actor. Leszek Balcerowicz (1947–): athlete, Polish junior champion, Master of Business Administration from Saint John's University (New York), member of the Economic Sciences Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences, vice president of the Council of Ministers in Poland, finance minister, president of the National Bank of Poland, professor in economic sciences.

Kalos Kagathos 1994

Waldemar Baszanowski (1935–2011): best Polish weightlifter of the 20th century, Olympian, Master of Physical Education. Marian Dudziak (1941–): athlete, Olympian, professor of technical sciences. Wojciech Lipoński (1942–): athlete, Olympian, professor of humanities. Czesław Marchewczyk (1912–2003): hockey player, construction engineer. Jerzy Młynarczyk (1931–2017): basketball player, Olympian, professor of law sciences. Zbigniew Pietrzykowski (1934–2014): boxer, food industry technician. Irena Szewińska (1946–2018): the most titled and outstanding athlete in the history of Polish sport (sprint running, long jump), 24 Polish championship medals, three-time gold medallist of the junior European games, two-time champion and vice champion of the Universiade, seven-time Olympic medallist (three gold medals, 2 silver medals, 2 bronze medals), ten-time European championship medallist (including 2 hall gold medals), two-time champion and multiple champion of the world championships, chairman of Polish Athletic Association, vice president of Polish Olympic Committee, member of the International Olympic Committee, Master of Economics.

Kalos Kagathos 2001

Janusz Czerwiński (1936–): handball player, coach of the representation of Poland, Iceland and Greece, professor of sciences of physical culture. Michał

Joachimowski (1950–2014): athlete, Olympian, solicitor. Bogusław Nowak (1952–): speedway rider, Master of Physical Education. Jacek Pietrzyk (1944–): basketball player, professor of medical sciences. Wilibald Winkler (1933–2010): basketball player, associate professor of technical sciences. Sobiesław Zasada (1930–): racing driver, chairman of the Supervisory Council of Zasada Group, one of the bigger capital groups in Poland, Master of Economics. Zbigniew Boniek (1956–): among the hundred best football players in the history of football, according to FIFA, two-time Polish champion and outstanding representative of Poland, winner of the European Cup final and the Cup Winners' Cup as well as the European Super Cup winner, world championships bronze medallist, businessman, current chairman of the Polish Football Association, member of the Executive Committee of UEFA, Master of Physical Education.

Kalos Kagathos 2003

Andrzej Bachleđa-Curuś (1947–): skier, Olympian, trainer. Maria Kwaśniewska-Maleszewska (1913–2007): athlete, Olympian, activist of the Polish and international Olympic movement. Ryszard Niemiec (1939–): basketball player, journalist, editor-in-chief of Cracovian newspapers. Zenon Ważny (1929–2017): athlete, Olympian, professor of sciences of physical culture. Maksymilian Więcek (1920–2006): hockey player, Olympian, Doctor of Pharmaceutic Sciences. Marian Zieliński (1929–2005): weightlifter, Olympian, officer of the Polish Army. Michał Kleiber (1946–): tennis player, member of the European and Austrian Academy of Sciences and Arts, president of the European Community on Computational Methods in Applied Sciences, minister of science, chairman of the Polish Academy of Sciences, professor of technical sciences.

Kalos Kagathos 2009

Jacek Bierkowski (1948–): fencer, Master of Energy Engineering. Barbara Grocholska-Kurkowiak (1927–): skier, Olympian, poet. Teresa Kodelska-Łaszek (1929–): skier, Olympian, professor of economic sciences. Andrzej Łędzki (1945–): basketball player, professor of technical sciences. Helena Oszast (1926–2014): basketball player, Doctor of Sciences of Physical Culture. Bohdan Tomaszewski (1921–2015): tennis player, legend and symbol of sport journalism, outstanding commentator called a “poet of microphone”. Mieczysław Nowicki (1951–): cyclist, one of the best Polish cyclists of the 1970s, four-time Polish champion, Olympic medallist and runner-up, world championships medallist, vice president of the Polish Cycling Federation, member of the board of the Polish Olympic Committee, director of the “Solidarity” cycling race and Olympians, undersecretary of state at the Ministry of National Education, chairman of the Physical Culture and Sport Office, businessman, local government official.

Kalos Kagathos 2013

Zbigniew Czajkowski (1921–): fencer, one of the most famous and most deserved trainers of fencing worldwide, physician. Barbara Gorgoń-Flont (1936–): Olympian, teacher of physical education and arts. Marian Machowski (1932–): football player, Doctor Engineer of Mining. Janusz Różycki (1938–): fencer, Olympian, painter-artist. Adam Smelczyński (1930–): clay pigeon shooting, officer of the Polish Army, Doctor of Medical Sciences. Danuta Straszyńska-Kossek (1942–): athlete, Olympian, Doctor of Physical Culture Sciences. Jerzy Twardokens (1931–): fencer, Olympian, professor at the University of Nevada in Reno (USA). Kajetan Hądzelek (1930–): basketball player, Polish representative, bronze medallist of university games, vice president of the Polish Olympic Committee, member of the Polish Olympic Academy, chairman of the Pierre de Coubertin's Committee in Poland Foundation, Olympic Education Centre Foundation chairman, member and secretary of the Physical Culture Sciences Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences, member of the Fair Play International Committee Council, Doctor of Sciences of Physical Culture, associate professor at the Academy of Physical Education in Warsaw.

Kalos Kagathos 2017

Iwona Bielska (1952–): volleyball player, outstanding theatre and film actress. Czesław Lang (1955–): cyclist, originator and organizer of Tour de Pologne racing, manager of sport, businessman. Edward Mleczko (1948–): athlete (long runs), four-time champion and a multiple medallist of Polish championships, finalist of the European Cup, vice-rector of the Academy of Physical Education in Cracow, professor of sciences of physical culture. Antoni Piechniczek (1942–): football player, coach of the representations of Poland, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates, senator, Master of Physical Education. Grażyna Rabsztyn (1952–): athlete, Olympian, Master of Economics. Aleksander Ronikier (1942–): basketball player, professor of sciences of physical culture. Zbigniew Pacelt (1951–): swimmer and pentathlete, multiple Polish champion and Polish record holder in swimming, Polish runner-up and two-time world champion in pentathlon, Olympian, secretary of state in the Ministry of Sport and Tourism, vice president of the Physical Culture and Sport Office, long-time vice president of the Polish Modern Pentathlon Federation, member of the Polish Olympic Committee Board, Master of Physical Education.

Short Overview

Firstly, it is necessary to mark that among the 71 distinguished people there are 11 *Kalos Kagathos* women, which is a little over 15% of all the laureates. The most numerous groups comprise representatives of individual sports (51), Olympic Games participants (34), and winter sports representatives (10). In sport categories, there are athletes (17), basketball players (12), fencers (10), football players (3), hockey players (3), tennis players (3), and skiers (3). There are also “heavy

athletes”: one boxer and two weightlifters. There are two representatives each for volleyball, alpinism, cycling, and hockey, as well as one representative each for handball, shooting (tramp), speedway, rowing, swimming, modern pentathlon, motor racing, luge, skating, and sport aviation. It is necessary to notice the lack of representatives of such Olympic events as field hockey, horse riding, gymnastics, wrestling, and judo. In regard to post-sport accomplishments, the most numerous group of medallists are representatives of the world of science, including 24 professors of great prestige. The areas of greatest representation are medical sciences (health and physical culture sciences) (23) and technical sciences (15). The average age of the awardees at the time of their award is 66 years, which testifies that they have to represent a proper, ethical attitude over a lifetime.

Discussion

“Beautiful and good” was in ancient times the reflection of generous and ethical conduct. On the other hand, the possibilities for being generous and good depended on a noble background. The Athenian aristocracy eagerly associated this expression with themselves and made the achievement of it an ambition for others to reach. Today, it is no longer one’s social position that determines the merit of an individual’s life but the position achieved in his or her own endeavours. The concept of being versatile, not only a sportsman but also a human, is in the contemporary world more than desirable. With unaffected consideration, I observe the phenomena of narrow specialization in various areas of life, and that is why the idea of versatility and a multidimensional social personality has become an important field of my investigations. The Polish *Kalos Kagathos* medal might imply a distinction that extends beyond the national scope. Thus, the medal of *Kalos Kagathos* can have international implications. Due to timeless and universal values, of which the medal is a symbol, it can become the object of aspiration for ex-sportsmen of all continents.

Conclusions

It is decisively more difficult for contemporary people to face the requirements of versatility, mainly due to the high level of expectations put to them; this means that they are expected to have specialized knowledge and skills in several fields of life, especially in professional life. Simultaneously, discussions have revived that refer to a narrow specialization in the contemporary sport movement and, also, a fear about shaping a man/sportsman in only one dimension. Concern on this subject was expressed by Józef Lipiec (among others), who underlined that “sport universalism is also a demand for versatility” (Lipiec 2007: 73), and *kalokagathia* in today’s world can and is to be embodied in a particular man (Lipiec 1988). Originally, the distinction with the *Kalos Kagathos* medal was to give hope and optimism to the idea that it is possible to connect sport with life. Moreover, the laureates, both in sport and in life, are people of struggle, people with a

champion's mentality, who can win in a beautiful way but also cope with failures in a dignified manner (Lipiec 2017: 77). In retrospect, the *Kalos Kagathos* award has become not only a local phenomenon but also an element of the system of national distribution of symbolic capital¹. Unfortunately, the idea of the distinction has not so far achieved a deserved social resonance in Poland, mostly due to the lack of greater attention from the media, which are heavily commercialized. Lastly, I would like to focus attention upon the fact that there are no perfect people, but it is possible to be a versatile man and to aim at the ideal of *Kalos Kagathos*.

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¹The subject discussed in the present work was presented at the International Conference in Mińsk (Belarus, 2018) on the subject "Values, Traditions and Innovation of Contemporary Sport" as well as in Athens at the 18th Annual International Conference on Sports (2018), the subject of which was Economic, Management, Marketing & Social Aspects, Athens Institute for Education and Research.

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