

WOMEN  
FROM THE LVOV-WARSZAW SCHOOL



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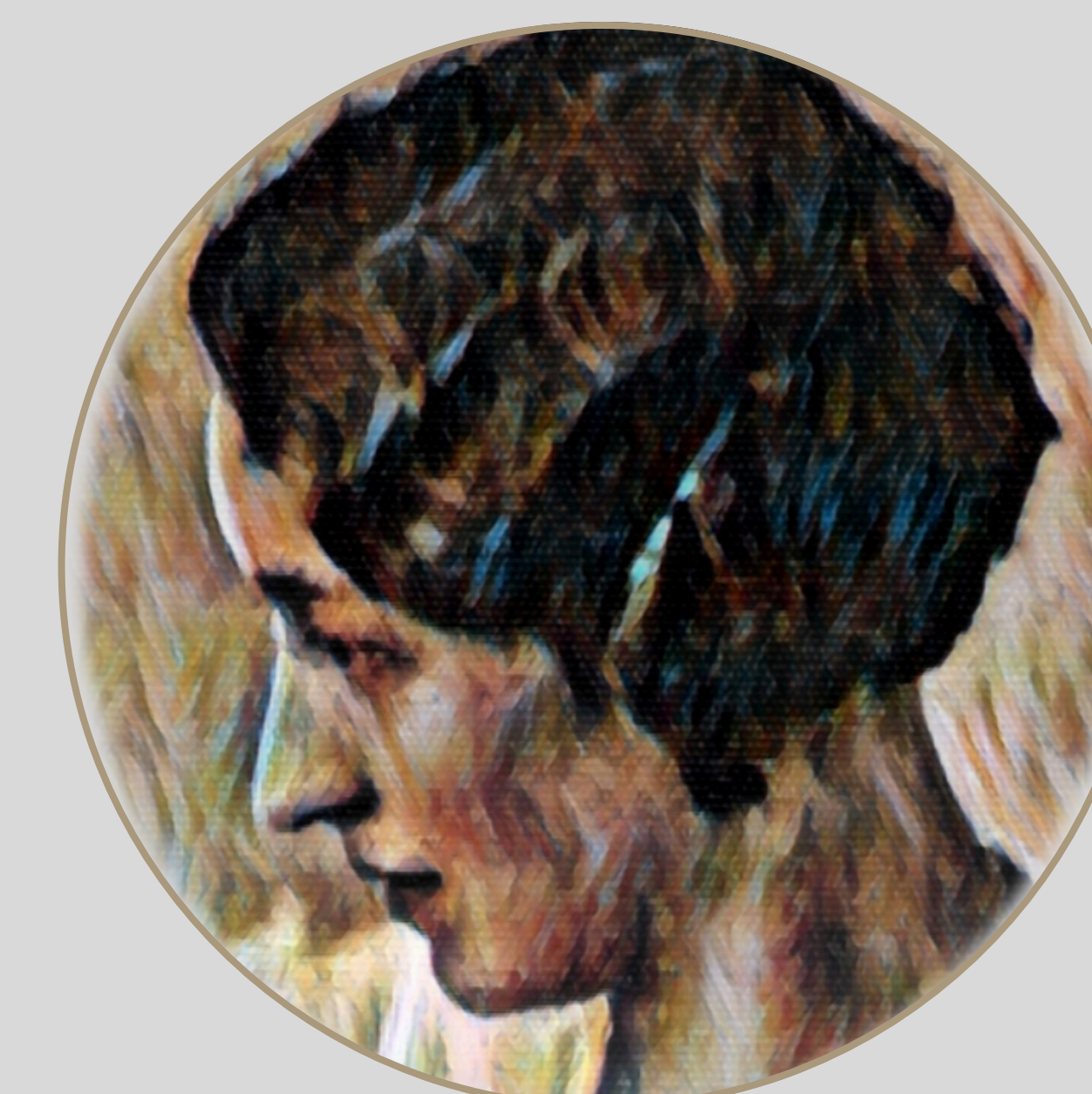
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LOVERS OF WISDOM







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## WOMEN

### FROM THE LVOV-WARSAW SCHOOL

Exhibition of the Lvov-Warsaw School  
Research Center

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The Lvov-Warsaw School (LWS) is in many respects a global phenomenon. It was, first of all, one of the most important centers of analytical philosophy, although it was founded on the periphery of Europe. Secondly, it was an interdisciplinary formation, from which came representatives of various disciplines: logic, computer science, psychology, sociology, pedagogy, and, above all, various branches of philosophy. Third, it was one of the largest philosophical schools of the 20th century. Fourthly, and finally, an important element of the LWS phenomenon was the large percentage of women active in it.

The boundaries of the School are controversial, but even if we limit it to two generations and close it with the outbreak of World War II, we must include 37 women in the LWS. If we take into account the post-war period, this number increases to 66. This is undoubtedly a unique phenomenon. About 30 women from the LWS have pursued academic careers in philosophy and other disciplines; others were pioneers in various areas of life, such as journalism, politics, social, and teaching activities.

Women from the LWS implemented the ideal of anti-irrationalism in scientific research, i.e. the demands of clarity of thought and speech, justification of beliefs, as well as reliability and methodological awareness. For this reason, their achievements constitute an important and lasting contribution to the disciplines they practice.

However, what they had in common was not only their methodological attitude, but also exceptional life courage. In many cases, they had to overcome numerous obstacles to complete their studies and undertake scientific work. However, their courage was also revealed in borderline situations, such as war or ideological pressure.

The fate of many women from the LWS was exceptionally difficult. Some of them died during World War II, others went through the nightmare of concentration camps. At the same time, they did everything to maintain the existence of the philosophical school from which they came, including engaging in secret teaching, and risking their lives.

This combination of intellectual and moral virtues was not accidental. At the LWS, logical education was combined with character education.



The founder of the School, Kazimierz Twardowski, believed that the world needs people who are both wise and hard-working, sensitive to social issues, and brave; critical and cautious when it comes to the assumptions made, but at the same time ready to defend freedom of thought and the independence of universities. There was also a belief in the LWS that order in thinking, obtained through philosophical studies in the spirit of anti-irrationalism, contributes to effective action in all areas of life.

The exhibition "Lovers of Wisdom", prepared by the Lvov-Warsaw School Research Center (Faculty of Philosophy, University of Warsaw), and presently displayed in Vienna, presents the profiles of several representatives of SLW. This is the first part of a broader initiative aimed at documenting and promoting the achievements of women from the Lvov-Warsaw School.