When after the liturgical reform conducted by patriarch Nikon some of the faithful to the Russian Orthodox Church did not recognize the innovation, stayed with the „old faith" and refused to recognize the new church hierarchy, the celebration of most of the sacraments, including the sacrament of marriage, turned out to be impossible. The Old Believers were then faced with a dilemma: to live a life in purity in accordance with the principles of monastic life, or to remain "in sin".

The polemics about marriages lasted for about two hundred years and led to internal divisions among the Old Believers, until eventually at the beginning of the 20th century the disputes of the Old Believers started to ease.

Father Paweł Pruski, prior of the monastery in Wojnowo, initiator of the organisation of the Slavic Printing House in Johannisburg, had a huge impact on the course of disputes about marriages. The establishment of the printing house was of exceptional significance for the entire Old Believers' movement. At that time it was probably the only legal Old Believer printing house in the world. Books from Johannisburg were spread through underground routes in the entire Russia: we can find them behind Ural Mountains. Father Paweł and his students analysed books, and the result of their reflections were some works published in the printing house, mainly of polemic and moralising nature.

The main source of information contained in the study was the collection On marriages, consisting of fragments of texts by various authoritative authors, collected by Paweł Pruski. Deliberations about marriages constitute the main part of the treatises in the collections. The aim of the thesis was an axiological analysis of evaluative means used in the excerpted fragments of texts concerning the essence of marriages and the traditions existing in the Old Believers' communities.

The analysis of values contained in the treatise by Father Paweł allowed to take a closer look at the arguments which the clergyman used to convince the Old Believers to accept the institution of marriage from the moment he began his spiritual life until death.

The thesis Marriage in the system of values of Masurian Old Believers (based on the treatise "On marriages" by Paweł Pruski) consists of three chapters.

The first chapter discusses the history of research into the history of the Old Believers in Masuria and scientific studies which focus on the polemics about the sacrament of marriage, as well as the basic notions and theoretical issues used in the thesis.

The second chapter presents the history of polemics about marriages among the Old Believers, and the canonical foundations and possibilities of entering into marriage since early Christianity. Moreover, the second chapter consists of a short description of the history of the

Masurian Old Believers' community, the biography and account of Father Paweł Pruski's journalist and publishing activity, as well as his influence on the shaping of one of the main ideological centres of the Fedoseevtsy — the Bezpopovtsy monastery in Wojnowo.

The third chapter contains an integral textological and axiological analysis of the collection of works entitled On marriages.

An index of names and sources for the treatise, an abstract and a bibliography annex are attached to the thesis.

The textological and axiological analysis of Father Paweł's treatise was of integral nature: both the communication situation, based on the content of the work and its historical context, and the intention of its message or the style and genre were described. The structure and sources of the treatise were also analysed. The sources were divided into fragments of texts from the Bible, works by the Holy Fathers of the Orthodox Church, sources of Canon Law, historical sources, historical and legal sources, and fragments of West Russian works. The analysis of the sources of the collection made it possible to list all the names and texts referred to by Father Paweł in the form of an index. The axiological analysis of the vocabulary allowed to distinguish several semantic and lexical fields which referred to sets of key words related to the sacrament of marriage, such as the concept of marriage and its main purpose, God, title husbands and their arguments in favour of marriages, sin, the position of the Bezpopovtsy as opponents of marriages, universal virginity, addressees of the text, wives and children. The last chapter also presents arguments contained in Father Paweł's text, which confirm that marriage is a sacrament, and its sacramentality does not depend on a clergyman's participation in the ceremony.

The analysis of the text of Father Paweł Pruski's treatise on marriages shows that it is a kind of a collection of patterns of conduct and misconduct and a moral code, as the arguments contained in it, used by Father Paweł, define good and evil.