

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the first of the planned three monographic issues on European epic poetry. The first two papers of this issue present an excerpt from the Polish reception of the didactic epic of Ovid. In his study entitled: *Ars amandi, ars dictandi—Medieval Pseudo-Ars amatoria and Its Didactic Functions at Cracow University*, Adam Jegorow discusses three 15th-century manuscripts from the Jagiellonian Library. The manuscripts in question offer an elaboration of a 12th-century text belonging to the *amour courtois* culture, then attributed to Ovid, and patterned after his *Ars amatoria*. Against a broad background of comparison, the author shows how these and similar texts were used in university teaching, mainly to teach the rules of *ars dictandi*, but also to familiarize the audience with the topoi of courtly love. In turn, the paper by Patryk Michał Ryczkowski, entitled “*Longas carpere perge uias*”. *The Role of Wandering as Ovid's remedium amoris in the Compositional Structure of Samuel Twardowski's Nadobna Pasqualina*, includes Ovid's *Remedia amoris* in the context of reflections on the sources of the Baroque poem. Ryczkowski shows how the convention of the Latin love elegy, together with the topos of love as a disease and the therapeutic wandering recommended by Ovid, influences the shape of the Polish poem. In addition, analysing the compositional frame set up here by the wandering, he also emphasizes the epic qualities of *Nadobna Pasqualina* and other qualities that bring her closer to the epyllion.

The next paper, by Rozalia Sasor, entitled *The Lost Castilian Epic*, tells the story of research and theories on the origins of the oldest heroic epic written in Castilian, which has not been preserved in its

original version and we only know its later modifications in prose versions of epic legends included in chronicles and in poetic *romances*. Sasor discusses lost poems from three main cycles: the Carolingian cycle, the cycle about the Earls of Castile, and the Cidian cycle, whose discussion is based on Castilian chronicles.

The volume is complemented by the following edition prepared by Justyna Kiliańczyk-Zięba with the participation of Katarzyna Gara, a translator: *Jan Januszowski's Letters to Marcin Kromer and Tomasz Płaza on Printing Missale Varmiense (1587) in the Lazarus Printing House*. The text is provided with a commentary of two letters by Jan Januszowski found in the Archive of the Archdiocese of Warmia concerning the planned edition of the new *Roman Missal* for the Archdiocese of Warmia. These texts together with the introduction constitute an interesting contribution to the history of books in Poland, they also bring information about the organizational conditions of the production of liturgical books in the Polish printing house.

Finally, Magdalena Ryszka-Kurczab presents Olga Weijers' book *In Search of the Truth. A History of Disputation Techniques from Antiquity to Early Modern Times*, from the Brepols series *Studies on the Faculty of Arts. History and Influence*.

With the wishes of a fruitful reading,

Grażyna Urban-Godziek