

EDITORIAL NOTE

Emblematics (the art of arranging words and images in new symbolic wholes) and the emblem itself (a genre which combines literature and visual arts) as well as related tendencies and forms has become an object of attention for scholars of various interests and specialities. Emblematics, which officially began with the appearance of Andreas Alciatus *Emblemata* in the 1530s, turns out to be a remarkably rich and fertile research field, one that can provide occupation not only for historians of literature or ideas, but also theoreticians of communication, researchers of book history or material culture.

It is, therefore, no surprise that new critical editions and translations of emblematic works appear continuously and monographs or joint publications with the word “emblem” in the title are still published. A specialist journal “Emblematica” has been published since the 1980s, researchers meet at conferences or at international meetings held by the Society for Emblem Studies. Recent years brought numerous initiatives aiming at making catalogues, emblematic bibliographies, and digitalizing collections of libraries that hold largest numbers of emblem books. Also representations of the emblematic output of separate authors, nations and languages have been produced.

The research on Polish emblems – especially on emblematic writings – owes mostly to the efforts of Paulina and Janusz Pelc, whose texts are the obligatory starting point for all studies conducted by younger scholars as this volume shows very well. This issue of “Terminus” chiefly contains studies analysing Old-Polish emblemata and the influence of emblematic tradition on local writing. We present texts on textual-picture compositions of structure similar to classic emblem (Bartłomiej Czarski, Elżbieta Chrulśka), on signs of emblematic ways of thinking in religious prints (Iwona Słomak, Anna Paulina Pawłowska), on sermons and epithalamia

of emblematic associations (Dariusz Dybek, Michał Kuran, Ewelina Drzewiecka) and manuscript subscriptions to compositions of Vaenius and Hugo (Radosław Grześkowiak, Jakub Niedźwiedź). We also publish a text on the theory and practice of hieroglyphs based on wide source research (Magdalena Górską) and an edition of emblematic epithalamia (Radosław Grześkowiak). The majority of these studies concentrate on texts produced in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth but there are also studies dedicated to Dutch emblematic songbooks and a poem of a German poet Jakob Balde translated into Polish in the 17th century.

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