

Editor's Note

This issue of *Terminus* offers a collection of articles on the culture of the final decades of 16th-century Polish humanism. Dealing with the political culture of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Grzegorz Franczak's contribution "*Polotia recepta*. A Map of the Principality of Polatsk: Texts and Pretexts of the Power Dispute" discusses an innovative propaganda strategy undertaken by Polish diplomacy. Drawing on ample Polish and Ruthenian-Lithuanian sources, this erudite study analyses the political message conveyed by a note attached to the map *Descriptio Ducatus Polocensis* authored by Stanisław Pachołowiecki in 1580 and included in so called *The Atlas of the Principality of Polatsk*. The map, which was later reprinted in numerous European publications, marked Polatsk as recovered rather than conquered (*Polotia recepta*) for the Commonwealth by Stephen Báthory. This legitimized Poland's rights to this territory, depicted as a historical part of Lithuania, and refuted Ivan the Terrible's claims to the former Principality of Polatsk and to Poland and the Great Duchy of Lithuania. This successful diplomatic action additionally bolstered the Polish and Lithuanian nobility's right to elect their own king, which was questioned by the tsar.

Katarzyna Płaszczyńska-Herman's text "Bookbinding as a Stage of Book Production: On the Relations Among Printers, Booksellers, and Bookbinders" presents the evolution of the book production industry, whereby at the turn of the 16th century books were no longer a luxury product purchased by connoisseurs, who subsequently had them bound with their coats of arms sealed on the cover. Instead, printed and bound as a ready-made product, books started to reach a wider population of readers. Using data from 16th-century Krakow booksellers' sheets and data recovered from recycled paper utilized by book binders, the author traces connections

between well-known printers and bookbinders, additionally estimating the number of covers made for sale. She also analyses two copies of the Bible in Polish, published in Krakow in 1599, which were apparently bound by the publisher.

The topic of popularizing humanist thought through school education appears in Justyna Kiliańczyk-Zięba's paper on the Polish indirect translation of Erasmus' treatise, made on the basis of Reinhard Lorich's version by S.F. Klonowic. The paper "Sebastian Fabian Klonowic's Translation of *Civilitas morum* by Erasmus of Rotterdam: Its Place in the Poet's Legacy and Its Publishing History in Poland-Lithuania" also provides evidence that the study of the publishing history of the original work and its Polish adaptation, once a bestseller, which has since become largely forgotten, can shed light on the early modern book market.

In the book review section there are two contributions dealing with works on Latin humanist literature created in the East-Central Europe. Barbara Milewska-Ważbińska discusses the work of the late researcher Angelika Modlińska-Piekarz, entitled *Łacińska poezja biblijna na Śląsku w XVI i XVII wieku* (Wydawnictwo KUL, 2018), and Elwira Buszewicz presents *Companion to Central and Eastern European Humanism*, vol. 2: *The Czech Lands*, edited by Lucie Storchová (De Gruyter, 2020).

I wish you fruitful reading!

Grażyna Urban-Godziek