

Editor's Note

The last issue of *Terminus* to be published in 2021 contains four articles and one annotated edition. The first of the articles, contributed by Ewa Cybulska-Bohuszewicz, offers a new perspective on Piotr Skarga's *Żywoty świętych* (The Lives of Saints), presenting it as a modern text, congruent with the Council of Trent reforms. Analyzing the way in which selected manifestations of piety, such as pilgrimages, processions, and iconolatry were presented in *Żywoty*, the author claims that following Jesuit conception of spiritual development, Skarga's narrative aimed to encourage active involvement in religious life rather than passive replication of traditional patterns or dogmas.

Margarita A. Korzo's article documents the search for the sources of a funeral sermon by Melecjusz Smotrycki. Written in 1620 on the occasion of the death of Leoncjusz Karpowicz, a prior of The Holy Spirit Monastery in Vilnius, the sermon is available in two language versions: Polish and Ruthenian. At the beginning of the third decade of the 16th century, Socinian Eustachy Kisiel (a.k.a. Gelaziusz Diplic) alleged that Smotrycki had copied the sermon from a Latin text written by a Dominican friar. Korzo argues against these allegations, demonstrating that the sermon is likely to have been inspired by a text contributed by the Walloon Franciscan Philippe Bosquier.

Francesco Cabras' contribution takes us to the realm of poetry. Cabras scrutinizes elements of metapoetic reflection included in the first book of Jan Kochanowski's *Elegiarum libri quattuor*. Three elegies (I 1, I 5 and I 12) are posited to be *recusationes*, in which Kochanowski explores the potential and the limits of the genre, at the same time declaring rejection of epic poetry in favour of love poetry.

The article by Jakub Zbądzki deals with a 16th-century Latin paraphrase of the mock heroic poem *Batrachomyomachia*, adapted

by the relatively little known Neo-Latin poet Jan Siemuszowski. Zbądzki identifies transtextual motifs in Siemuszowski's version of the original Greek work, tracing allusions to Roman epic poetry, including Vergil's *Aeneid* and Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Zbądzki's analysis highlights numerous erudite allusions added by the 16th-century poet, constituting a new layer of meaning for those who were able to decipher them.

Beside the above-mentioned articles, this issue contains Ała Brzozowska's annotated edition of the fourth speech by the Bishop of Płock Erazm Ciołek. The oration was delivered in 1518 in Rome in front of Pope Leo X and the Sacred College of Cardinals. The readers are presented both the original Latin text and its Polish rendition, together with an introduction, as well as a historical and philological commentary.

Magdalena Ryszka-Kurczab