

# INTRODUCTION

## General information

The present volume of the series *Corpus Epistularum Ioannis Dantisci* encompasses the inventories of Latin letters and letters in vernacular languages written to Ioannes Dantiscus. The volume does not include German letters, whose inventory is contained in volume 2/2. Latin letters to Dantiscus (of which a total of 2590 survive, which is about 42% of his entire correspondence) document primarily his official activity, both in diplomacy and within the structure of the Roman Church, as well as broad contacts with members of the Polish and European *Respublica Litteraria*. The letters in languages other than Latin and German are a marginal group in the collection of Dantiscus' correspondence. There are just 97 of them, including 37 letters in Spanish, 35 in Polish, 16 in Italian, 4 in Czech, 3 in Dutch and 2 in French.

The great majority of letters written to Dantiscus (unlike his own letters, for which the primary sources are often his own rough drafts or office copies) have survived in the form of original fair copies, i.e. the most complete kind of source. We owe this, an advantageous situation for researchers, to Dantiscus himself, who diligently stored his correspondence and near the end of his life transferred it to the archives of the bishops of Ermland. However, this collection did not escape being dispersed during subsequent historical storms (especially during the Swedish invasions of the 17th and 18th centuries). Today the manuscripts documenting the entirety of Dantiscus' correspondence that we know of are kept in 48 archives in 15 countries around Europe.

These letters are arranged with varying degrees of orderliness. Mostly, after years of being stored loose in chests, the letters were bound in sewn files. This, for example, was the case with Dantiscus' correspondence that ended up in Up-

psala in the early 18th century,<sup>1</sup> and the letters kept at the Warmia (Ermland) Archdiocese Archive in Olsztyn. As a result, the text in these letters is often damaged where it is written on pages sewn deep into the spine of the file. Sometimes the letters are kept lying loose in boxes or portfolios. For example, this is how the letters are kept in the Górski Files (a collection of the National Library in Warsaw) and in the Herzogliches Briefarchiv (a collection of the Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz in Berlin). Regardless of how the fair copies are stored, the material is usually only arranged to a certain extent. Among the letters, one often finds other kinds of source texts. Chronological order, for which archivists usually strived when arranging a collection, is not always perfectly preserved. Sometimes the letters are arranged in a completely random order. Among letters to Dantiscus, one sometimes finds letters that are not a part of his correspondence. Sometimes also the contents of a given archival unit are completely random (so-called *miscellanea*). Sometimes, individual Dantiscus letters are found in collections of someone else's correspondence (e.g. Samuel Maciejowski's letter to Dantiscus from 1543 (No. 5509), whose fair copy has survived in a collection of letters to Marcin Kromer from the years 1570-1586, i.e. a time when Dantiscus had long been dead). That is why, despite the fact that our archival research on Dantiscus' correspondence has ended, we cannot rule out that more letters could be found in future, especially in private archives which are less accessible than public ones.

Thanks to the fact that the primary sources for letters written to Dantiscus are mostly fair copies, work on the present volume – compared to previous volumes of the inventory – involved fewer difficulties with reconstructing the metadata of key importance for a given letter. Identification of unknown senders and reconstruction of a letter's date and place of dispatch was necessary in relatively few cases.<sup>2</sup> However, some of the fair copies have survived incomplete, and sometimes the only trace of a letter's existence is its address page. Missing addresses or fragments of text are indicated in the description of a given source. In a few cases it has been possible to piece together a letter from its fragments preserved in different collections; e.g. the page containing the main part of Thomas Cranmer's letter to Dantiscus dated 6 October 1532 (letter No. 4063) is in the Berliner Autographensammlung collection housed in the Jagiellonian Library in Cracow, whereas the address page of this letter is housed in the Polish Academy of Sciences Library in Kórnik (ms 230).

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. CEID 5/3, p. 11-50.

<sup>2</sup> For more on this kind of reconstruction, cf. CEID 1/1, p. 108-110, CEID 2/3, p. 79-96.

In Dantiscus' time, in accordance with the custom, the sender of a letter often enclosed news in the form of copies or excerpts from his own correspondence. Such *novitates* are also found among the preserved correspondence of Dantiscus. Sometimes they can be assigned to a specific letter; sometimes they are separate from letters but appear with a formula of address to Dantiscus that is typical of the correspondence. Such cases have been treated as an incomplete source for a letter whose main text has been lost, and are registered in the inventory. An extra argument in favour of this was the case of letter No. 5405, whose address and enclosure survive in the Kórnik Library (ms 222), while the main body of the letter is housed in the Czartoryski Library (ms 1618).

A different approach was taken to *novitates*, which lacked a letter and an address to Dantiscus, but were preserved among his correspondence; sometimes their pages included a note in Dantiscus' own hand about where and when he had received the news. Though it is potentially possible that such *novitates* came with a letter, there is no proof of this. They could equally well have been handed over personally by the giver or through a messenger with an oral message, or even copied by Dantiscus' secretary. That is why information on these kinds of sources among archival material related to Dantiscus has been listed in a supplement to the inventory (p. 561-562).

## The Inventory's structure

The structure of the volume is similar to volume 4/2 of the series, and therefore the principles set down below repeat (with some minor changes) fragments from the introduction to that volume.<sup>3</sup>

The Latin letters have been arranged in **chronological order**. The letters in vernacular languages have been arranged **first by language** (with the most commonly used language first), and within each language in **chronological order**. Letters bearing incomplete dates have been placed after the fully dated letters of the same year (e.g. a letter dated only with the year is placed after the letters from December 31 of that year). Letters dated the same day are arranged alphabetically according to the names of addressees; if the addressees are unknown, such letters follow after those listed alphabetically. Each letter's description starts with a heading containing the **item number**, information on the **addressee** and on the **place** from where the letter was sent, and the **date**. The items are numbered in continuation of the numbering from the inventory's first and second volumes (CEID 4/1, 4/2). Data not included in the primary sources are provided in square brackets [ ].

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<sup>3</sup> CEID 4/2, p. 9-10.

It is next indicated where the **manuscript sources** of the letter are stored, and to which category the letter belongs: fair copy, early print, rough draft, office copy, copy, excerpt, register including excerpts, or register. Primary sources are marked in bold type. They are mainly fair copies, but if these have not survived or are incomplete, other types of sources are emboldened, those believed by the editors to contain a variant of the text closest to the fair copy. Copies, excerpts and registers are arranged in chronological order of the dates on which they were produced. The numbering of the manuscripts from the Berliner Autographensammlung, housed in the Jagiellonian Library, has been given on the basis of the inventory of the collection, available in the Manuscripts Reading Room of the Jagiellonian Library in the form of a typescript (original numbering is not consistent).

This data is followed by information on **print publications** of the letter listed in chronological order. The form of the publication – in extenso, translation (English, German, Polish or Spanish), register (English, German, Latin or Polish) and reference – is indicated in brackets.

Information about **web publications** of the letter comes next. For Dantiscus' correspondence this consists almost exclusively of references to the *Corpus of Ioannes Dantiscus' Latin Texts & Correspondence* (CIDTC)<sup>4</sup>, which is a part of our research project. The exceptions to this are some letters of Ioannes Secundus and his brother Nicolaus Grudius, published within an electronic version of the Guépin edition (GMS),<sup>5</sup> two letters from Jakov Baničević to Dantiscus published in *Croatiae Auctores Latini* (CroALa),<sup>6</sup> ten letters from Nicolaus Copernicus published in *Nicolaus Copernicus Thorunensis* (NCT),<sup>7</sup> and Dantiscus' correspondence with physicians (48 letters) listed within the online publication *Frühneuzeitliche Ärztebriefe des deutschsprachigen Raums (1500-1700)*.<sup>8</sup> In its part concerning Dantiscus' correspondence, however, this last publication is based exclusively on our CIDTC publication and provides links to it. Websites presenting facsimiles of existing print publications are not considered web publications.

Information about the web publications is followed by the **incipit** with the first words of a letter, excluding the salutation. The spelling of the *incipit* has been standardised similarly to the practice adopted in vol. 2.1 of the series *Corpus Epistularum Ioannis Dantisci*.<sup>9</sup> In the case of letters in vernacular languages,

<sup>4</sup> <http://dantiscus.al.uw.edu.pl>, accessed 9 July 2016.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/Dutch/Latijn/GMS1.html>, accessed 2 September 2016.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.ffzg.unizg.hr/klafile/croala/>, accessed 9 July 2016.

<sup>7</sup> <http://copernicus.torun.pl>, accessed 2 September 2016.

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.medizingeschichte.uni-wuerzburg.de/akademie/index.html>, accessed 9 July 2016.

<sup>9</sup> Experience with the reconstruction of Dantiscus' own spelling acquired during the preparation of volume 1/1 of the series *Corpus Epistularum Ioannis Dantisci* led the editors of the series to

transliteration with elements of transcription has been used, according to the rules adopted in the online publication *Corpus of Ioannes Dantiscus' German Texts* (which is a part of CIDTC).<sup>10</sup>

Next it is specified where and when the letter was delivered (*redditum*), if such details were recorded by the addressee or by his office on the fair copy of the source.

The final section of a letter's description is called **notes**, and contains various supplementary information, including:

- 1) the names of co-addressees, if any;
- 2) uncertainty about the addressee being Dantiscus;
- 3) the type of letter in the case of poetic and dedicatory letters;
- 4) major lost sources for the letter (especially in the case of lost fair copies).

The names of Dantiscus' correspondents and of places of origin and delivery of the letters are provided in a uniform manner, usually reflecting the form used at the time. Some variants are provided in brackets to facilitate identification. The principles of the choice of a standardised form were discussed in the Introductions to the previous volumes of the series *Corpus Epistularum Ioannis Dantisci*.<sup>11</sup> Complete information on the names, including the widest possible range of variations, is provided in the index.

The inventory does not include lost letters reconstructed on the basis of testimony contained in the extant correspondence. They are systematically recorded and presented in the web publication *Corpus of Ioannes Dantiscus' Latin Texts & Correspondence* mentioned above. The web publication is also the only place where the editors record data on the place and date of receipt of letters reconstructed from the replies. However, the data on lost letters and the reconstructed *reddita* is still far from complete.

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Warsaw, 29 July 2016

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standardise the spelling in all Latin texts contained in subsequent volumes of the series, as well as in the web publication *Corpus of Ioannes Dantiscus' Latin Texts & Correspondence*; cf. Introduction to CEID 1/1, p. 69-73; CEID 2/1, p. 59; CIDTC / Information about the project / Graphic form of the text, <http://dantiscus.ibi.uw.edu.pl/?menu=ccor&menu2=project&f=aboutCorpus#7>, accessed 28 June 2016.

<sup>10</sup> Cf. <http://dantiscus.al.uw.edu.pl/index.php?menu=cger&menu2=about&f=aboutGermanLetters>, accessed 9 July 2016.

<sup>11</sup> CEID 1/1, p. 114; CEID 2/1, p. 60-61; CEID 4/1, pp. 8-9.