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## PREFACE

The present volume, numbered V/3 in the series *Corpus Epistularum Ioannis Dantisci* (CEID), is published within the research programme “Registration and Publication of the Correspondence of Ioannes Dantiscus (1485–1548)”. Part V of CEID contains materials discussed during scholarly sessions which accompany presentations of successive volumes of the series to the programme’s International Board.

The volume opens with the paper “Once Again on the Origin and Afterlife of the Files H.154 and H.155 Housed at the Uppsala University Library”. The manuscript files it discusses are an extraordinarily important source in Dantiscus’ epistolary legacy. This is because relatively early, by beginning of the 18th century, a large part of these materials were excerpted from the files and multiple copies became part of the scientific circuit. Thus, the collection played a major role in highlighting and drawing attention to Dantiscus’ role in German and Polish culture. This interest coincided with that period’s special interest in early national histories. In the artistic and intellectual circles connected with King Stanisław August (reigned 1764–1795), one person of great importance was Adam Naruszewicz, historian and politician, in whose files (today known as the Teki Naruszewicza – Naruszewicz Files) these materials are extensively represented. The study of Anna Skolimowska includes a stemma that is extremely valuable for finding one’s way around the sources, illustrating the links between the originals and the main copy books, as well as complete documentation of the source study work needed to build such a stemma.

The next five papers are devoted to works of poetry. The first four discuss poems by Ioannes Dantiscus. They begin with a critical edition of two poems newly discovered by Gilbert Tournoy: *De Lucretia barbara* and *In Lucretiam Romanam sese interficientem*. The poems were written in 1531 and until now the

only knowledge of them came from Dantiscus' correspondence. They existed unrecognised in a printed book entitled *Stephani Comitis Bellocassii Sylvula carminum non minus docta quam iucunda, cum nonnullis epitaphiis Marci Laurini et Iohannis Lodovici Vivis* (Bruges, 1544). The texts come complete with critical apparatus and commentary. The studies on these poems are supplemented by Anna Skolimowska's paper on the manuscript sources of these works, which were probably copied from a first edition that has been lost.

The next paper discusses Dantiscus' autobiographical poem *Vita Ioannis Dantisci*. Jerzy Axer presents proof that this work should be dated to 1534 and not 1548 – the year of Dantiscus' death – as has been accepted in the literature. The new dating is justified both by the identification of historical facts mentioned in *Vita* and by mentions of the poem in Dantiscus' correspondence from 1533–1535. The new dating demands a change in the ideological interpretation of the text, which until now was considered to correspond with Dantiscus' religious hymns.

In her study entitled “*Vaticinium ruiturae Poloniae*. Was Dantiscus Foretelling the Downfall of Poland?”, Anna Skolimowska shows that *Vaticinium ruiturae Poloniae* was written in 1579 in the context of the war between the King of Poland Stephen Báthory and the city of Gdańsk (in response to the publication at that time of an early poem by Dantiscus, *Ionas Propheta*, also known under the title *Praedictio ruinae Gedani*). *Vaticinium* was published in print under Dantiscus'(!) name in 1734, again in connection with historical events: the short-lived defence of Gdańsk against the Russian army by a French expeditionary troops supporting King Stanisław Leszczyński. This subtle reasoning shows the endurance of neo-Latin poetry in political propaganda over the course of almost 200 years.

In the next study Walther Ludwig publishes a hitherto unknown poem by Joseph Justus Scaliger, [*In tyrannidem Papatus sive*] *Superstitio* from 1603. This report brings an interesting example of the activity of a member of *Respublica Litteraria Europaea* working and living in the Low Countries who tried to influence the religious situation in Bohemia. It is a very interesting contribution documenting conflicts and relationships functioning in the international scholarly network.

The volume concludes with a critical edition of Mercurino Arborio di Gattinara's oration from 1516 discovered (by Paul Oskar Kristeller and John Headley), never before published in print. The manuscript version that served as the basis of the edition looks like a text prepared for printing: it is accompanied by an introduction in the form of a sonnet as well as an exchange of letters between author and reviewer. The piece promotes the idea of a new universal monarchy while also including many elements of self-apologia. The historical

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context in which it was written was a fundamental time for the development of the future Spanish empire: it was the moment when Charles Habsburg ascended to the Spanish throne and the future Chancellor Gattinara sought his favour.

The volume's coherence is evident from two points of view. First of all, as the title *New Sources* indicates, it contains newly discovered sources or those that have been dated and interpreted anew. Secondly, all the studies in the volume demonstrate that there was a close connection between the literary and political activity of the citizens of *Respublica Litteraria*, a connection that was fundamental for that Republic's function.

*Jerzy Axer*

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