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Report on the scientific conference.

Ispirazioni classiche ed aspirazioni culturali
dei promotori della cultura polacca a Padova
[Classical inspirations and cultural aspirations
of Polish culture promoters in Padua]
Padua, 14–15th october 2021

The eight-hundredth anniversary of the founding of the University of Padua (1222–2022) provided an opportunity for many modern European nations to recall the presence of their representatives among the students of the Athenaeum, counted among the oldest and most distinguished, its contribution to the development of science and culture, and the importance that education in the city of Antenor had on the course of the careers of the graduates of the *Gymnasium Patavinum*.

In Poland, interest in the topics evoked by the aforementioned anniversary celebrations was reflected in the establishment of a Team for initiatives to mark the 800th anniversary of the University of Padua, by Order of the Minister of Science and Higher Education dated April 23, 2018. Professor Mirosław Lenart, literary historian and expert on the history of the First Republic's relations with the Republic of Venice (697–1797), theologian, head of the Department of European Cultural Heritage Studies at the University of Opole and Director of the State Archives in Opole, was appointed chairman of this body, which also included scholars from Italy.

Among the many projects carried out in honour of the anniversary, there could be no shortage of scientific conferences. The symposium discussed here was dedicated to the study of the inspirations, often dating back to antiquity, and the cultural, religious and political aspirations of those who, through their achievements in various fields – from science and literature to political-social activity – left their mark on the history of

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the Polish-Lithuanian state. It was also thanks to their activity and mobility that it was possible to promote Polish culture in the Paduan universities among lawyers and artists, in addition to the cities of the Republic of Venice. The appearance of such figures throughout history is linked to the fact that the representatives of the Republic were particularly attached to Mediterranean civilization, and therefore to the Latin language and ancient culture.

Seventeen speakers from Poland and Italy took part in the two-day meeting (14–15.10.2022), held in Padua. Scientists representing various disciplines came to the conference, despite the pandemic restrictions in place. Their lectures, presentations, and the discussions they provoked dealt not only with topics related to the history of the interactions but also with research perspectives.

On the first day, the lecture series began with Prof. Ryszard Naskręcki (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań), delivering a paper on the significance of Vitellon's discoveries, in the context of the modern knowledge of optics. Professor Marta Wojtkowska-Maksymik (University of Warsaw) introduced the audience to the world of Klemens Janicki's poetry, with a special focus on the themes of Venice and Padua, while Prof. Rodney Lokaj (Università degli Studi di Enna Kore) shared insights on Carl Sigonia. Professor Mirosław Lenart (University of Opole) presented the results of his research on Jan Kochanowski's ties with Padua; an analysis of Stanisław Temberski's work *Tiara episcopalis Ad Diem Festum Divi Stanisłai Martyris Episcopi Cracoviensis Regni Poloniae Patroni* was presented by Prof. Elwira Buszewicz (Jagiellonian University in Cracow), and Prof. Franco Benucci (Università di Padova) discussed the crest representations preserved in the two volumes of the Metrics of the Polish Nation, due to their structure and references to religious and ancient symbolism, in the context of similar documentation of the Nationes Germanicae and Natio Ultramarina. Lastly, Dr. Magdalena Wrana (Jagiellonian University in Cracow) recalled the pilgrimages of Polish monarchs to the tomb of St. Anthony in Padua.

The second day began with papers prepared by art historians. The first to speak was Prof. Giovanna Baldissin-Molli (Università di Padova), who introduced the audience to the subject of 14th-century female burials in the Basilica of St. Anthony. Doctor Olga Kucharczyk (POLONIKA The National Institute of Polish Cultural Heritage Abroad) presented her interpretation of a panegyric engraving in honor of Jan Zamojski, by Giacomo Lauro, and Prof. Paweł Pencakowski (Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Arts in Cracow) discussed the issue of Polish-Italian artistic relations during the Renaissance. The next series of lectures began with Fr. Dr. Michał Sołomieniuk (Gniezno Archdiocesan Archive), who presented findings on

the contacts of the Italian clergy of Gniezno, Prof. Massimo Galtarossa (Università di Padova) outlined the issue of the centuries-old cultural roots of the University of Padua in the context of the findings of the Center for the Study of the History of the University of Padua, while Prof. Justyna Lukaszewicz (University of Wrocław) recalled the figure and achievements of August Moszyński.

During the afternoon session, Dr Sławomir Marchel (University of Opole) acquainted the attendees with the previous findings of researchers on Jews from Poland studying in Padua in the 17th and 18th centuries, paying special attention to their inspirations and aspirations, Prof. Dariusz Chemperek (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin) brought the history of Matthias Vorbek-Lettow's stay in the Grotto of Antenor, Prof. Paweł Marcinkiewicz (University of Opole) discussed the problem of methodological differences in the translation of Italian medieval texts into Polish and English, while Dr. Giulia Zornetta (Università Roma Tre / Università di Cassino e del Lazio meridionale) reported on the results of the activities of the team developing the University's student database as part of the Bo2022 project.

It is worth mentioning that thanks to the hospitality of the Benedictines, the conference participants deliberated in Padua's St. Justina Abbey, in the beautiful St. Luke's Hall. The organizers also made sure that the guests got acquainted with the sights of the Antenor Castle. Those gathered toured the Palazzo del Bo, the Basilica of St. Anthony, the Botanical Garden and the Basilica of St. Justina. The rich history of these places was introduced by Prof. Giovanna Baldisin Molli – President of Veneranda Arca di Sant'Antonio, Father Giulio Pagnoni, OSB, Abbot of the Basilica of St. Justina, and Prof. Mirosław Lenart, among others. The participants also had the opportunity to go on an overnight boat trip to see the Renaissance walls surrounding the city, which was one of the contributions to the conference of Padua's Accademia dei Rampanti, chaired by Dr Mikołaj Winnicki.



Il. 1. Basilica and Abbey of St. Justina in Padua (photo: P. Pencakowski)



Il. 2. Professor Mirosław Lenart welcoming conference participants (photo: J. Kujath)



Il. 3. Professor Ryszard Naskręcki and Professor Justyna Łukaszewicz (photo: S. Marchel)



Il. 4. Professor Franco Benucci and
Professor Justyna Łukaszewicz
(photo: S. Marchel)



Il. 5. Professor Giovanna Baldisin Molli and Father Francesco G.B. Trolese, O.S.B. (photo:
S. Marchel)



Il. 6–7. Conference participants during a tour of the Palazzo del Bo (photo: O. Kucharczyk)