

Introduction and Acknowledgments

This volume is the outcome of several years of collaboration among a team of more than 30 researchers from four countries. As is inevitable in projects of its kind, we have faced a number of challenges over the course of those years. A key issue that arises in the preparation of this type of book are the criteria for the selection of the authors, in this case specifically defining who can be considered Humanist authors in the Bohemian context. In doing so, we had to cope critically with the approaches taken by past generations of researchers: the nationalist history of literature had either considered Humanist literary production in the Czech lands to be a sign of the advancement of civilisation in the region or promoted the thesis of the primacy of Czech-written works and the low importance of Latin, German and Hebrew production. In the interwar period, on the other hand, classical philologists' interests focused exclusively on the Humanists' Latin production (mainly poetry, which represented more than two thirds of Latin production at the time). The most significant outcome was the excellent six-volume handbook *Rukověť humanistického básnictví v Čechách a na Moravě / Enchiridion renatae poesis Latinae in Bohemia et Moravia cultae* [A Compendium of Humanist Poetry in Bohemia and Moravia], published by Jan Martínek and Josef Hejnic in Prague in 1966–2012, which was entirely groundbreaking. Given that the *Enchiridion renatae poesis* contains such a large number of facts and references, we could hardly overlook it (especially in putting together the biographical parts of our entries); nevertheless, we look at most of the Humanist authors in a new light. In selecting authors we decided to proceed from the conception of P.O. Kristeller, who saw the decisive factor in the 'professional role' of the Humanists – in the sense of their rhetorical, editorial and literary competence based on their (more or less creative) handling of ancient texts. In contrast to the *Enchiridion renatae poesis*, which logically focused mainly on Latin poets, we have redefined the group of authors studied and focused on their literary activities in different genres and languages. We have tried to interpret their works to the greatest extent possible, especially in terms of their treatment of the classical tradition.

In the end, we have included authors who:

a) were active in literature in the period between the last third of the 15th century, when Humanist education began to establish itself in the Czech lands, and roughly the 1630s, when scholarly and literary practices began to change in connection with developments after the battle of White Mountain (in particular after the Utraquist university in Prague was closed and some scholars forced to emigrate);

and

b) were born in the Czech lands, worked there for a substantial period of time, or were significantly connected with the local nobility and scholars. After careful consideration, we ceded some entries to colleagues working on projects dealing with other

regions for this editorial series, where these concerned Humanists with strong ties to those regions or of key importance for the local literary and intellectual life there; and

c) wrote a substantial number of works in Latin or Greek inspired by ancient classics or edited ancient works or translated them into vernacular languages (we omit several hundred authors included in the *Enchiridion renatae poesis* who only wrote a few occasional compositions or student texts). We do, however, also pay attention to these authors' original works in vernacular languages.

Some of those authors are here presented to an international audience for the very first time.

The first volume includes authors whose surnames begin with the letters A–L. It will be followed by a second volume covering the second half of the alphabet. The first volume is introduced by three synoptic chapters outlining the development of Humanism in the Czech lands and drawing attention to its local specifics and international ties. The individual author entries then contain, besides biographical introductions, detailed discussions of literary and scholarly activities, which are presented in subsections that address particular types of text. The analysis of the works is chiefly focused on how their authors treated the ancient tradition, what type of ancient texts and authorities they preferred and how they used them in their own work. Separate attention is also paid to the scholarly networks (including foreign) in which the authors were involved and to the patrons who supported them. The last part of each entry consists of a bibliography – this is not intended to offer a complete or exhaustive list of works; reference is always made to the latest lexicographic entry summarising previous research, and this is only complemented by secondary literature published since that entry.

Numerous entries concern authors who have not previously been covered in any research at all and of the scope and importance of whose work scholars had only a vague idea. In these cases, we have tried to provide as much specific factual information as possible and we hope that our entries will become bases for further research. On the other hand, in the cases of the authors who have already been covered in detail in handbooks such as *Rukověť humanistického básnictví / Enchiridion renatae poesis* (6 vols, 1966–2012), *Lexikon české literatury* [The Lexicon of Czech Literature] (7 vols, 1985–2008), *Verfasserlexikon – Deutscher Humanismus* (3 vols, 2006–2015) or *Frühe Neuzeit in Deutschland 1520–1620: literaturwissenschaftliches Verfasserlexikon* (7 vols, 2011–2019), etc., we have referred to these sources for more detailed information and have added details of their biography and works that are specifically related to the Czech lands. Considering the existence of earlier biographical databases and handbooks (Knihopis, VD 16, etc.), we have provided specific references to the places of deposition and shelf marks of original works only for previously unknown manuscripts and early printed books.

This volume is an outcome of a project supported by the Czech Science Foundation, grant no. 16-09064S: *Podoby humanismu v literatuře českých zemí (1469–1622)* [Forms of Humanism in the Literature of the Czech Lands, 1469–1622], implemented at the Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences in 2016–2018. As already mentioned, the research, analysis of materials and entry composition are the joint work of a team of colleagues; the greatest thanks are thus due to them. While we were working on the project, the volume of material to be processed increased somewhat unexpectedly as we discovered authors and works that had been neglected; so also the size of the volume grew considerably in comparison with our original expectations. The book would not have been possible without the contribution of a large number of colleagues. We thank Kateřina Millerová, Anna Barton, Laura Lawrence, Barbara Day, Josef Šebek, Magda Králová, Tomáš Rataj, Marta Vaculínová and Eva Zezulková for translation, proofreading, typesetting and preparing the indices. The authorial team is very grateful to Marta Vaculínová, who read the Czech version of most of the entries, for her helpful comments and suggestions. Since this book underwent a standard review process prior to publication, we would also like to express our gratitude to both anonymous reviewers. Furthermore, we would like to thank all the institutions that have provided us during the course of the project with materials, especially manuscripts and early printed books, necessary for the preparation of particular entries. These include the National Museum in Prague, the National Library in Prague, the Strahov Library in Prague, Ratsschulbibliothek Zwickau, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek in Vienna, Universitätsbibliothek der Medizinischen Universität Wien, Staatsbibliothek Berlin, National Széchényi Library in Budapest, Syracuse University Libraries (USA), and many other libraries.

Editorial Note

The editorial rules for this volume are based on the rules of the entire series; these are described in detail in the first volume concerning Hungary (to be published in 2021). In some cases, those rules needed to be adapted to suit the Czech material. Because of the existence of earlier bibliographic handbooks, our entries e.g. do not include references to the shelf marks of manuscripts and early printed books (with the exception of previously unknown works). Due to the relatively small number of modern editions and translations of Humanist works, these are listed at the ends of the entries. According to the rules written Latin has been adjusted to the classical use and texts in earlier Czech and German have been transcribed based on generally accepted rules. Humanist authors' names presented a specific problem. In the headings of the entries of Latin-writing authors, preference was given to Latin forms of their names; in the cases of authors writing in vernacular languages, their Czech or German names have been

used. In all cases, as many known forms of their names as possible in the various different languages used at that time are included in parentheses.

Berlin, July 2019

Lucie Storchová (on behalf of the entire team of authors)