

5. The Texts

5.1. Dedicatory letter of Antonius Verancius to Stanislaus Tarło, Bishop of Przemyśl

Cracow, at the beginning of 1539³³

Printed version: BN E. XXXIII. 352, (mf. 2207) from the BCzart. *sign.* XVI. 260/II.

Antonius Verancius recommends the work of his brother to bishop Stanislaus Tarło. Michael intended to narrate the wedding of King John I and Isabella Jagiełło in accordance with their dignity. As a patron of literature, Antonius supports the poets so that the stories of John's reign do not fall into the obscurity of oblivion. Fortuna favours the bold, hence he sends his brother's wedding poem in private to Tarło so that he might give an opinion on it with his singular honesty, eloquence and erudition.

Reverendissimo domino Stanislao Tarłoni,³⁴ episcopo Premisliensi, consiliario Sacrae Regiae Maiestatis Poloniae etc., domino suo observantissimo, Antonius Wrancius, Transsilvaniensis et veteris Budae praepositus, regni Hungariae secretarius natus.

Michael, frater meus carissimus, cum scripsisset hoc de Serenissimo Ioanne rege et Isabella regina Augustissima nuptiale carmen, veritus forsan se non satis pro dignitate tantorum principum neque pro magnitudine tantae celebritatis cecinisse, suppressere statuerat. Ego etsi (quod aliena cures) impudentiae accusabor, utpote ad id officii non requisitus, pati tamen numquam possum ut ii, quorum opera principum meorum aut res gestae aut memoria posteritati quamvis etiam exili voce commendantur, in lucem non referantur,³⁵ praesertim vero ne hic frater meus hac indigna ingenuo viro verecundia aspergeretur, cum et fortuna audaces iuvat, et ipsi etiam dii salsa pauperum mola ac rusticorum lacte tum coli, tum augeri sese existimant. Clam igitur ipsum carmen sustuli tibi in signum meae assiduae

³³ Only the year is on the printed version. The dedication and the following wedding poem were most likely published – in a narrow sense – between 15 January (the Hungarian delegation's arrival in Cracow) and 2 February (Isabella's departure for Hungary).

³⁴ Stanislaus Tarło (1480–1544) was the Bishop of Przemyśl between 1537 and 1544, and secretary of King Sigismund I, see *Hierarchia Catholica medii et recentioris aevi...*, ed. Conradus E u b e l, t. III, Monasterium, 1923, 279. He is a known humanist poet. He wrote a poem entitled *De bello Pruthenico* about the war of Albrecht Hohenzollern, see Przemysław P y t l a k I, *Tajemnice archiwum parafialnego w Końskowoli*, TODK Fara Końskowolska, Końskowola, 2009, 16. Antonius Verancius wrote several letters to him at the end of 1530s, when Tarło was head of the Polish delegation which accompanied Isabella to Hungary with Petrus Opaliński. Opaliński was castellan of Gnėzen and marshal of the younger Polish king. Cf. the letter of Antonius Verancius on 29 November 1539, see MHHS t. VI, nr. XXVII; E. V e r e s s, *op. cit.* (1), 39.

³⁵ referantur: referentur *BCzart*

observantiae, qui et integritate et eloquentia eruditioneque singulari praeditus es ac me tanta benevolentia prosequeris quantam equidem hactenus minime promeritus sim, dedico. Quod alioqui meo licet nomine nuncuparent, animo tamen utriusque Wrancii velim acceptum iri. Ceterum si in te colendo venerandoque tam repente nimis audax visus fortasse fuero, ingenio tuo candidissimo ac tuae erga omnes bonos humanitati imputabis, qui non solum ad amandum se facundia homines allicis, verum etiam praesentiae gratia devincis. Vale.

5.2. [Michael Verancius:] *Ioannis Hungariae regis nuptiae*
[sine loco], [at the beginning of 1539?]³⁶

Manuscript: OSZK, Budapest, *sign.* Quart. Lat. 776, folio 1r–6v

Printed version: BN E. XXXIII. 352, (mf. 2207) from the BCzart. *sign.* XVI. 260/II

After John was officially recognized in his kingdom, he starts thinking about the marriage. The time for peace has come after countless wars. Ferdinand I (Germanus) entered into an alliance with King John in order to be able to attack the common enemy, namely the Turks. Delegates go to Sigismund I the Old of Poland to ask for the hand of the Polish princess Isabella Jagiełło for the Hungarian king. Three Hungarian noblemen guide the prestigious delegation, followed by a numerous and rich cortege of young people. There is a feast and entertainment at the royal court in Cracow. A Hungarian chivalric contest and a tournament of knights are organized on the second day. Then the marriage settlement is concluded. The Polish king takes farewell of his beloved daughter with a heavy heart. He desires a long and lucky life for her. Isabella departs for Hungary. Crossing the Carpathians, she arrives in Buda. The Hungarian nobility welcomes her at the palace and wishes her all the best. They remind her of the former greatness of the Scythians whose ancestry dominated the whole of Asia a long time ago. Neither the Macedonians, nor the Romans were able to conquer them. Not a humble and weak, but a most brave and strong race will stem from the 'Sarmatian-Scythian league'. Their successors will have one goal: restraining the wild Turks and extending the country's borders.

Cum iam securus rerum regnique potiti,
factaque Ioannes,³⁷ non tradita scepra teneret,
Pannoniae viduos etiam nunc compare spectans
regales thalamos placido sic murmure fatur:³⁸

³⁶ Neither the date, nor the place is marked in the manuscript version. The interpolation of the welcome in Buda (between lines 190–199) probably denotes the modification of the printed version after 19 February 1539.

³⁷ A diaeresis can be found over the character *o*. Similarly in lines 90 and 99.

³⁸ Cum iam murmure fatur. *om.* BCzart

communemque vocat detrudere finibus ⁵⁶ hostem.	
Quis velit aeternis semper se involvere bellis, et curis tenuare brevis solacia vitae?	30
Sed neque perpetuum Boreas sibi vindicat annum, et Zephiro quandoque vices Euroque relinquit. ⁵⁷	
Quod superest igitur, quod non labor abstulit aevi, ⁵⁸ id sibi iam tandem suavis ferat omne voluptas, nec sinat incassum fugientes currere soles. ⁵⁹	35
Sumite gaudentes ⁶⁰ animos! Fortuna secundis servatos voluit ⁶¹ mala tot, tot vincere casus. Dulce est, si patriae defensae viximus aegre: vivere iam liceat nobis, iam solvere curas.	40
En ⁶² ego regales taedas, regalia iungam connubia, ac populos iubeo gaudere per omnem Hungariam, et mecum laetis incumbere rebus! Vos ⁶³ mihi Sarmatici praecelsa palatia regni atque arces caelo aequatas, quas Istula ⁶⁴ flavo, divorum sedes miratus, flumine lambit, quaerite, ubi magni natarum maxima regis Sismundi ⁶⁵ servat thalamos Isabella pudicos. Illa quidem dudum nobis ⁶⁶ sua gaudia servat, illa dabit sobolem vobis per ⁶⁷ secula, reges magnanimos, illam sceptris adiungere nostris ⁶⁸ munus erit vestrum celebrique inducere pompa! Ut merita est regis coniunx, generosaque ⁶⁹ regis progenies veniet fatis Isabella secundis, nec regnis invita volet succedere nostris. ⁷⁰	45
	50
	55

⁵⁶ detrudere finibus: vexare umoribus *BCzart*

⁵⁷ Quis velit ... Euroque relinquit. *om. BCzart*

⁵⁸ Quod superest ... aevi: At nunc quod superest fugitivi cernitis aevi. *BCzart*

⁵⁹ id sibi ... currere soles. *om. BCzart*

⁶⁰ gaudentes: iam laetos *BCzart*

⁶¹ voluit: velint *BCzart*

⁶² en: ecce *BCzart*

⁶³ vos: nunc *BCzart*

⁶⁴ The proper noun Istula refers to the river Vistula in Poland.

⁶⁵ Sigismund I of Poland (1467–1548) of the Jagiellon dynasty reigned as king of Poland and also as the Grand Duke of Lithuania from 1506 until 1548.

⁶⁶ dudum nobis: nobis olim *BCzart*

⁶⁷ per: post *BCzart*

⁶⁸ Illam sceptris adiungere nostris: Illam nostris adiungere sceptris *BCzart*

⁶⁹ generosaque: formosaque *BCzart*

⁷⁰ nostris: avorum *BCzart*

At⁷¹ proceres faustas dudum componere taedas
 exoptant laudantque novos in principe amores,
 iamque sibi tali vincolo subsidere bella,
 et pacem et fessis promittunt foedera regnis.⁷²
 Protinus ex omni numero, qui principis aulae
 prima tenent, tres regna viri⁷³ petiere Polona.
 Illos agminibus comitum stipata iuventus
 nobilis Hungariae volucres insidere⁷⁴ docta
 quadrupedes cursuque breves⁷⁵ convertere gyros
 subsequitur. Rutilans ardescit purpura⁷⁶ et albo
 instratae incedunt acies fulvoque metallo.⁷⁷
 Tandem Pannonios⁷⁸ emensi passibus agros,
 nubiferas superant Alpes pinusque virentes⁷⁹
 frigoribus mediis viduataque vitibus arva
 Sarmatiae et gelidi sinuosa volumina Popruth.⁸⁰
 Iamque propinquabant, ubi pulchra Cracovia turre
 explicat, et mediis circumdata clauditur undis,
 cum subito e speculis conspexit regia pubes
 Pannonios iuvenes campis se effundere totis.
 Fit clamor, laeti plaudunt, et nuntius aulam
 pervolat, atque acies atque exoptata⁸¹ videri
 agmina, quae regis⁸² veniant abducere natam,⁸³
 ii⁸⁴ tristes, hilares alii variataque miscent
 gaudia maestitiamque simul vanumque dolorem.
 Sed postquam placidas implevit nuntius aures
 reginae, viditque procos Isabella propinquos,

⁷¹ at: iam *BCzart*

⁷² regnis: regni *BCzart*

⁷³ Viz. Petrus de Perenius (1502–1548), Stephanus Brodericus (c. 1480–1539), and Stephanus de Werbócz (1458/1460–1541)

⁷⁴ insidere: conscendere *BCzart*

⁷⁵ breves: levi *BCzart*

⁷⁶ purpura: purpur *BCzart*

⁷⁷ instratae incedunt ... metallo: Spendescunt [!] acies passim, fulvoque metallo *BCzart*

⁷⁸ Pannonios: Pannonicos *BCzart*

⁷⁹ nubiferas superant ... virentes: Per gelidas superant alpes pinctaque vicina *BCzart*

⁸⁰ Sarmatiae et ... Popruth *om. BCzart*. The Popruth is the River Poprad in Southern Poland.

⁸¹ exoptata: expectata *BCzart*

⁸² regis: divam *BCzart*

⁸³ natam: nostram *BCzart*

⁸⁴ Ii: Hi *BCzart*

virgineo primum castus pudor ore cucurrit,
 purpureusque simul niveos color imbuit⁸⁵ artus.
 Verum ubi cui⁸⁶ regno, quali regina marito
 iungitur expendit, lacrimis immota parentum 85
 et studiis immota piis optata videre
 tempora taedarum gaudet castamque⁸⁷ sub alto
 pectore laetitiam simulat. Si quando per aures
 sponsi nomen iit, tacito succenditur igni.
 Nomen Ioannis repetitque libensque revolvit 90
 saepius, inque illo sensus persaepe morantur.
 Iamque lares patrios, queis⁸⁸ pulchra adoleverat aetas,
 posthabet agnotae tantum de nomine Budae.
 Non oculos retinet properantibus Istula lymphis,
 Danubium⁸⁹ cunctis praefert labentibus undis, 95
 Danubium sulcare⁹⁰ cupit. Iamque horrida bellis
 Pannonia est segura magis, nil Sarmata mitis,
 nil patris fratrisve⁹¹ movent tutissima regna:
 omnia Ioanni postponit diva marito.
 Ne patriam, ne, virgo, lares contemne paternos; 100
 felix, quae tales producit patria nymphas,
 quaeque dedit nobis totus quod concinat orbis
 mireturque deas arctoo nascier orbe.
 Nec⁹² minus illa tamen felix, quae talia dona
 accipit, et laetis fruitur cumulata⁹³ diebus. 105

Quid memorem structas epulas, quo regia luxu
 tecta fremunt? Genio indulgent et pocula vertunt:
 exhausti nihil est, poscenti nulla negantur
 laetitiae fomenta, viros vix sustinet aula.
 Illa dies epulis levibusque dicata choreis, 110
 postera ludorum est et duro tradita Marti.
 Hic iuvenum formosa cohors gentisque Polonae
 atque aulae decus eximium fulgentibus armis
 sublimis volitans hastae certamina poscit.

⁸⁵ imbuit: occupat *BCzart*

⁸⁶ cui: quo *BCzart*

⁸⁷ castamque: puramque *BCzart*

⁸⁸ queis: quae is *BCzart*

⁸⁹ The proper noun Danubium means the Danube, see in line 96. Its other name is Istrum in line 190.

⁹⁰ sulcare: superare *BCzart*

⁹¹ patris, fratrisve: frater, fratrique *BCzart*

⁹² nec: non *BCzart*

⁹³ cumulata: tumulata *BCzart*

Inter quos sublimis equo, magna arma ferendo, Augustus princeps ⁹⁴ galea processit aperta, formosus, viridi dignus regnare iuventa audacesque vocans iuvenes in bella coevos ⁹⁵ conspiciuus campum metuenda circuit ⁹⁶ hasta.	115
Hic quidam conferre pedem male robore fisus, atque ausus trifido Sismundi se opponere ferro, ⁹⁷ everso deiectus equo, resupinus arenas sparsit, ut ingentem sonitum daret aula ruinae. ⁹⁸	120
Invictum plausu populus regemque salutat Augustum. Gaudet victor, spectansque sororem praemia digna petit. Verum illi concita vano corda metu pavitant. Post pulsum laeta timorem ⁹⁹ demittit, sertum gemmis auroque decorum, victoremque suo designat munere fratrem.	125
Parte alia campis Scythico de more tremendus Pannon adest aliudque fremit, tela altera ¹⁰⁰ vibrat, atque alias infert acies. Celer advolat, idem vix conspectus abit, pariter ¹⁰¹ fit multus ¹⁰² ubique. ¹⁰³ Tantus amor pernicious ¹⁰⁴ equi, non aereus umbo, non agiles artus armorum pondera tardant, ¹⁰⁵	130
loricaeve graves, ¹⁰⁶ toto sed corpore nudi concurrunt hastis, clipeis a pectore tantum	135

⁹⁴ The only son of Sigismund I the Old. Sigismund II Augustus (1520–1572) was king of Poland from 1548 and Grand Duke of Lithuania.

⁹⁵ viros vix ... bella coevos: graves quin summere ludos / Gradivumque iocis addis, et ludere Martem / Bellonaque iubes, viridi Sismunde iuventa / integer, et solido consortas robore vires. / Hic magno subnixus equo magna arma ferens. *BCzart*

⁹⁶ circuit: circuis *BCzart*

⁹⁷ *Versus claudicat. Coniecerim*: ausus Sismundi trifido se opponere ferro,

⁹⁸ Prince Ilia (Elias) Ostrogski (1510–1539) fell from his horse and suffered internal injuries in the tournament of knights. He died a few months later, see N. P e t n e k i, *op. cit.* (12), 196.

⁹⁹ Hic quidam ... laeta timorem: Cunctantesque vocas iuvenes in bella eo quos / et gaudes victis, et praemia digna sororis / expectas. Ast illa metu iam libera vano *BCzart*

¹⁰⁰ altera: alia *BCzart*

¹⁰¹ pariter: pariterque *BCzart*

¹⁰² multus: tumultus *BCzart*

¹⁰³ *post* ubique *BCzart* Fatigatque graves armorum pondere turmas *add.*

¹⁰⁴ pernicious: fugacis *BCzart*

¹⁰⁵ armorum pondera tardant: defendit ferrea vestis *BCzart*

¹⁰⁶ loricaeve graves: ferreus aut carcer *BCzart*

protensi, gladiisque ruunt in vulnera¹⁰⁷ curvis.¹⁰⁸
 Ergo adsunt avidi¹⁰⁹ laudis, quos gloria tangit
 et quos nobilitas dignos censebat¹¹⁰ arena. 140
 Nec mora; flammatis¹¹¹ passim¹¹² concurritur hastis,
 horrendum fragor exoritur caelumque remugit.
 Cum iuvenes sensim veros sentire calores
 bellandi studio occipiunt ac pectore vanos
 excutiunt ludos, infesti seria miscent¹¹³ 145
 proelia, nec vano spargentes sanguine terram
 intrepidi puerile vocant sine sanguine bellum¹¹⁴
 reginamque volunt iam tum vidisse cruoris
 Pannonios numquam parcos. Certamine tali
 horrescit populus. Mirantur fortia bello 150
 pectora, quae ludis etiam per¹¹⁵ vulnera gaudent.¹¹⁶
 At regina suos consurgens iam vocat esse
 Pannonios, laudat vires animosque viriles
 et, compressa iras, victores¹¹⁷ laeta coronat.
 Iamque dies aderat, qua missis¹¹⁸ vertere cursus¹¹⁹ 155
 in patriam, qua tempus erat mandata referre.
 Conveniunt proceres longaevi ad limina regis
 Sismundi, poscuntque moras nec nectere pergat¹²⁰
 ulterius, redeant tandem¹²¹ cum coniuge pacta
 principis, et gratos nolit¹²² differre hymenaeos. 160
 Ille licet pactam dederat firmataque starent
 pacta fide, illacrimat tamen: et pia et ultima natae

¹⁰⁷ vulnera: bella *BCzart*

¹⁰⁸ curvis: recurvis *BCzart*

¹⁰⁹ avidi: iuvenes *BCzart*

¹¹⁰ censebat: ea censet *BCzart*

¹¹¹ flammatis: flammati *BCzart*

¹¹² passim: coeunt *BCzart*

¹¹³ bellandi studio ... miscent: bellandi studio occipiunt, et pectore ludos / excutiunt sensim vanos, iam seria miscent *BCzart*

¹¹⁴ proelia, nec ... bellum: praelia, iam vero profundunt sanguine [!] vultus *BCzart*

¹¹⁵ per: post *BCzart*

¹¹⁶ post gaudent *BCzart* Quid patriae fecisset amor, cogitare relinquunt *add.*

¹¹⁷ victores: victorem *BCzart*

¹¹⁸ missis: nostris *BCzart*

¹¹⁹ cursus: cursum *BCzart*

¹²⁰ pergat: velit *BCzart*

¹²¹ tandem: iam *BCzart*

¹²² et gratos nolit: optatos nec eat *BCzart*

cura senem tangit, veluti nec mittere posset, nec retinere velit. Tandem sic pauca profatur: ¹²³	
'I, felix, felixque tuo sociare marito,	165
nata, precor, thalamisque habitet concordia vestris. Ambobusque simul centum regnare per annos dent superi, tribuant ¹²⁴ sobolem longosque nepotes. O mihi si totidem proferrent numina messes, ¹²⁵ quod ¹²⁶ satis esse queat ¹²⁷ parvum vidisse nepotem	170
et matrem te, nata, ¹²⁸ novam, tum claudere demum morte diem, et longae componere membra ¹²⁹ quieti! Felici et longo functus non deprecor aevo. ¹³⁰ Sic ait, ac fessis ¹³¹ circumdat colla lacertis maerentis natae, lacrimans vix ¹³² deinde resolvens	175
Et iam Pannoniam vulgarat fama per omnem non procul a regni dominam ¹³⁴ iam finibus esse et superasse nives, quas vertice ¹³⁵ Carpatus alto ¹³⁶ excitat, atque suas vestigia ferre per urbes.	180
Exultant omnes, omnique ex parte feruntur. Nec pars ulla viget regni, non angulus ullus, quo non fit plausus, quo non venit obvia turba. Quin etiam longo procedunt ordine matres Hungariaeque nurus, ¹³⁷ quas altis curribus ingens	185
turba puellarum sequitur. Formosa videri corpora, sed longe superat formosior omnes	

¹²³ According to Wolfgang de Bethlen, the Polish royal chancellor Samuel Maciejowski gave a congratulatory speech on the symbolic wedding on 31 January 1539, see W. B e t h l e n, *op. cit.* (2), 278–281; cf. E. V e r e s s, *op. cit.* (1), 34; T. O b o r n i, *op. cit.* (4), 72. Samuel Maciejowski (c. 1499–1550) was chancellor, Bishop of Chełm from 1539, Bishop of Płock from 1542 and finally Bishop of Cracow from 1546 until his death.

¹²⁴ tribuant: tribuat *BCzart*

¹²⁵ messes: menses *BCzart*

¹²⁶ quod: quot *BCzart*

¹²⁷ queat: queant *BCzart*

¹²⁸ nata: natam *BCzart*

¹²⁹ componere membra: membra committere *BCzart*

¹³⁰ Felici et ... aevo *om. BCzart*

¹³¹ Sic ait, ac fessis: Non piget, ac tremulis *BCzart*

¹³² Lacrimans vix: Lacrimas tum *BCzart*

¹³³ tremulos: longos *BCzart*

¹³⁴ regni dominam: nostris proceres *BCzart*

¹³⁵ quas vertice: dominam, quas *BCzart*

¹³⁶ alto: asper *BCzart*

¹³⁷ nurus: mirus *BCzart*

regina. Ac dubium est, formane an moribus esset admiranda magis, pariterque excellit utroque.	
Sed cum iam sparsum ratibus superaverat Istrum admoratque pedem regalibus omine fausto liminibus, stantes miratur nubibus arces, inclusasque trabes arvo, pavimenta, fenestras multiplicesque domos amplisque palatia valvis, accedunt proceres felicia cuncta precantes, et dominam flexi reverenti voce salutant. ¹³⁸	190
‘Salve, Sarmatici proles dignissima regis, ¹³⁹ Pannonici regina soli, felixque penates ingredere antiquos, quibus ingens ¹⁴⁰ scepra tenebat Romani imperii quondam Sismundus ¹⁴¹ et acer ¹⁴² Matthias, ¹⁴³ toto qui gestis notus in orbe est, ¹⁴⁴ et Ladislavus ¹⁴⁵ patruus. Tibi debita regna, non aliena petis: gentilem sume coronam, et Maria ¹⁴⁶ regnes felicior et Beatrice! ¹⁴⁷	195
Nec te, diva, genus Scythicum moresque recentes Hunnorum moveant, certe et tua Sarmata gens est, ¹⁴⁸ quamvis ampla vigent etiam nunc regna Scytharum, ut fama est, Asiae semper dominantia magnae.	200
Nec potuere armis infringi aut viribus ullis, nec Macedo quondam gentem tentare ferocem, nec Romana queunt Scythicum dare bella triumphum.	205
	210

¹³⁸ Sed cum ... voce salutant *om. BCzart*

¹³⁹ Sarmatici proles dignissima regis: Sarmaticis merito praelata puellis *BCzart*

¹⁴⁰ antiquos, quibus ingens: antiquosque is magnus *BCzart*

¹⁴¹ Sigismund of Luxemburg (1368–1437) was king of Hungary and Croatia from 1387, king of Bohemia from 1419, and Holy Roman Emperor from 1433 until his death.

¹⁴² acer: ingens *BCzart*

¹⁴³ Matthias Corvinus (Hungarian Hunyadi Mátyás) (1443–1490), was king of Hungary and Croatia from 1458 until his death.

¹⁴⁴ gestis notus in orbe est: sparsit nomen in orbe *BCzart*

¹⁴⁵ Vladislaus II (1456–1516), also known as Ladislaus Jagiełło, was king of Bohemia from 1471 and king of Hungary and Croatia from 1490 until his death in 1516.

¹⁴⁶ Very likely Maria Anjou (1370–1395) who was queen of Hungary between 1382–1395. Sigismund of Luxemburg married her in 1385.

¹⁴⁷ Isabella, who was brought up in Wawel, was Italian (thanks to being brought up by her mother, Bona Sforza) rather than Polish. Thus she followed Beatrice's example (wife of Matthias Corvinus) when she was married to János Szapolyai and moved to Buda at the age of twenty. See Szabolcs Ö. Barlay, *Romon virág. Fejezetek a Mohács utáni reneszánszról*, Gondolat, Budapest, 1986, 57.

¹⁴⁸ Nec te ... gens est: Non te, quod Scythica duramur origine diva / commoveat quicquam, certe et tua Sarmata gens est. *BCzart*

Et te de Scythico prognatos sanguine reges
poscimus: iis dabitur saevos compescere Turcas,¹⁴⁹
et patriae arctatos cupient¹⁵⁰ extendere fines.
Non humile aut molle dabit fugiensve laborum
Sarmaticum Scythicumque genus, sed fortia cuncta.’

215