

Description of the Dataset Hanow – *Praecepta de Arte Disputandi* – Transcription and Photographs

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Abstract

This article briefly characterises the “Hanow – *Praecepta de arte disputandi* – transcription and photographs” research dataset. The dataset was created based on photographs and transcriptions of the manuscript of the Latin lectures on the rules of effective discussion (the title of the manuscript: *Praecepta de arte disputandi*) by Michael Christoph Hanow (1695–1773), professor of Gdańsk Academic Gymnasium. The original document is held in the collection of the Gdańsk Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The collected research material can be used for studying the practical application of the rhetorical theory in the life of the old Gdańsk urban community.

Keywords: Hanow, Michael Christoph; *Praecepta de arte disputandi*, transcription, Latin, rhetoric

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Specification table (data records) – “Description of the dataset Hanow – *Praecepta de arte disputandi* – transcription and photographs”

Subject area	Humanities
More specific subject area	Neo-Latin studies
Type of data	Text, photographs
How the data was acquired	transcription, photography
Data format	txt, docx, jpg
Experimental factors	–

Experimental features	The original spelling was standardised based on modern Latin dictionaries; the text is a transcription of an original manuscript; the Latin language used by Hanow is typical, both in terms of vocabulary and syntax, for the scholarly milieu from the early modern Republic of Letters
Data source location	MOST Wiedzy Open Research Catalog, Gdańsk University of Technology, Gdańsk, Poland
Data accessibility	16.12.2019 (version 1.0); 30.03.2021 (version 1.1)

Background

The research dataset “Hanow – Praecepta de arte disputandi – transcription and photographs” was created as part of my own research on the application of rhetoric principles in the life of the urban community of eighteenth-century Gdańsk.

“Praecepta de arte disputandi” is a hand-held record of one of the three lectures presented in 1754 at the Gdańsk Academic Gymnasium by Michael Christoph Hanow (1695–1773). This versatile scholar gave lectures on philosophy in this school between the 30s and the 70s of the 18th century.

“Praecepta”, together with the other two lectures on logic and metaphysics, form a kind of course of philosophy, by the standards of that era, modern in terms of didactics. In these lectures, Michael Christoph Hanow referred, directly or indirectly, to the textbooks of Christian Wolff (1679–1754), one of the most popular philosophers of the Enlightenment era.

“Precepta de arte disputandi” also presents content important for rhetoric. In these lectures, Michael Christoph Hanow tried to show the audience how to build their own persuasive potential and how to effectively convince opponents during the discussion. This is what made me include this text in my own research on the presence of rhetoric in the life of the urban community of eighteenth-century Gdańsk.

The manuscript of these lectures by Michael Christoph Hanow is part of the collection of manuscripts of the Polish Academy of Sciences Gdańsk Library (reference number: Ms.512).

Methods

Building this dataset required photographing the whole manuscript, which was not created by Hanow himself, but by his student, Constantin Ernst Grodeck (1735–1774), a member of a prominent merchant family from Gdańsk. I also transcribed the photographed manuscript for the dataset. In the transcription, I standardised the spelling to match that recommended by the Latin dictionaries currently in use. I also decided to remove some of the punctuation marks. As a rule, I left those punctuation marks that reflect the syntax boundaries of individual parts of the compound-complex sentences. I did not pay attention to the rhetorical structure of the utterances. I assumed that the

rhetorical system of punctuation, with the division of higher-order structures, that is, compound-complex sentences, into finer parts, i.e. “protasis”, “apodosis” or “kolon” and “komma”, can be seen in the attached photographs. However, I have to note that the transcription is not a closed matter and should not be treated as an edition of the text which respects the rules of Neo-Latin editing.

All photos have been pre-edited (cutting and sharpening some shots). The photographs were taken with a digital camera. Text files were created using popular text applications (in the Windows environment: MS Word, Notepad).

Data records

The resolution of the photograph (JPG file format) is good enough to get a magnification that allows for fairly comfortable reading of most of the textual original. I also included text files (extension: txt and docx) in the dataset with the transcription of the Latin manuscript.

The dataset includes 50 photo files (resolution from 0.88 MB to 2 MB; total: 63.8 MB) and 2 text files (0.05 MB and 0.06 MB).

Data quality and availability

The verification of the data took place both during the acquisition of the photographic material (the quality of the photograph was verified; it was essential to obtain satisfactory focus). The text files in turn were examined by reading the transcript several times and comparing it with the photo material. In a few passages, the manuscript notation seemed incomprehensible to me. I marked these omissions in the text. Another edition of the text is planned, in which the current gaps will be filled.

Dataset DOI

[10.34808/01f6-n909](https://doi.org/10.34808/01f6-n909)

Dataset License

CC-BY

If you want to use the photos, you should indicate that the photographed objects come from the collection of the Gdańsk Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

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