

Description of the Dataset Rhetoric at School – a Selection of the Syllabi from the Academic Gymnasium in Gdańsk – Transcription and Photographs

Jacek Pokrzywnicki^{1*}

¹ Institute of Classical and Slavonic Studies, Classical Philology Division, University of Gdańsk (51 Wita Stwosza Street, Gdańsk, Poland)

* Correspondence author: jacek.pokrzywnicki@ug.edu.pl; ORCID: 0000-0002-4765-8577

Abstract

The research dataset described in the article was based on photographs and transcription of a textual record from Latin syllabi for classes at the Gdańsk Academic Gymnasium. The syllabi concern the years 1645/1648/1652/1653. The original document is held in the collection of the Gdańsk Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences [reference number: Ma 3920 80]. The collected research material can be used for studying the practical use of persuasion art by the members of the old Gdańsk urban community.

Keywords: Syllabi, Catalogus lectionum, transcription, Latin language, rhetoric, Academic Gymnasium, Gdańsk

https://doi.org/10.34808/x55q-sz53_dyr_roz42

Specification table (data records)

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, xlsx

Experimental factors	–
Experimental features	The original spelling was unified based on modern Latin dictionaries; the text is a transcription of printed syllabi published in the 17 th century; the Latin from the syllabi is supposedly the one used by the professors of the Academic Gymnasium in Gdańsk; the language is typical, both in terms of vocabulary and syntax, for the Gdańsk scholarly milieu of the time
Data source location	MOST Wiedzy Open Research Catalog, Gdańsk University of Technology, Gdańsk, Poland
Data accessibility	31.12.2020

Background

The research dataset “Rhetoric at school – selection of syllabi from the Academic Gymnasium in Gdańsk – transcription and photographs” was created as part of my research on rhetoric in the urban community of eighteenth-century Gdańsk. All of the described syllabi were published in one binding and form part of the old prints collection of the Gdańsk Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences (reference number: Ma 3920 8o; order of prints in the binding: 106, 107, 108, 109).

Methods

While the texts of the syllabi included in this dataset date back to the mid-17th century (more precisely the years: 1645, 1648, 1652, 1653), I collected them (i.e. the texts) as a comparative material for my research on the practical dimension of the art of persuasion in the life of the urban community of Gdańsk in the eighteenth century.

I built this dataset photographing particular entries by specific professors of the Gdańsk Academic Gymnasium (e.g. Peter Oelhaf, Johann Mochinger, Heinrich Nicolai, Johann Raue, Georg Neufeld, Johann Maukisch, Daniel Lagus, Michael Falck, Johann Peter Titz). I also transcribed photographed fragments of the syllabi. The spelling was standardised in the transcription. I applied words from the Latin dictionaries currently in use (e.g. *A Latin Dictionary*, ed. by Ch. Lewis, Ch. Short, and *Słownik łacińsko-polski*, ed. by J. Korpany, etc.). I tried to eliminate some punctuation marks. I left those that reflect the syntax boundaries of particular parts in compound-complex sentences, or facilitate the reading process thanks to separation of e.g. the construction of *ablativus absolutus*. I did not pay too much attention to the rhetorical structure of the utterances. The rhetorical punctuation system can be seen in the attached photographs. Importantly, this transcription should not be regarded as an edition of a text, since it (i.e. the transcription) does not respect all of the rules used in the editing of Neo-Latin texts.

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 ap-



plications (in the Windows environment: MS Word, Notepad). A special folder contains files with individual entries by specific professors. The dataset also contains a file containing all of the transcribed entries. In addition, the user will find an information file (formats: csv, xlsx), which facilitates navigating among the transcribed professorial entries. It contains: the number of the print in the volume, the number of the photograph file, the year of the publication, printed or default signature of the sheet or the catchword, and references to the name of the author of the entry or title page and number of the file (all title pages and professor entries separately).

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 this dataset with the transcription of the Latin manuscript and the information file in csv, xlsx and txt formats. This amounts to: 30 txt files (0.04 MB), 18 photograph files (resolution of 1.48 MB to 3 MB; total: 44.5 MB) and 2 all-in-one text files, i.e. the transcription of all entries (0.05 MB and 0.04 MB), as well as 3 information files (names: readme_a_Ma3920_8o.txt, readme_b_Ma3920_8o.csv, readme_b_Ma3920_8o.xlsx).

Data quality and availability

I was verifying the data during the acquisition of the photo material, as well as during its development. I evaluated the quality of the photographs: the purpose being to obtain a satisfactory focus of the photograph. The text files in turn were verified by reading the transcript several times and comparing it with the photo material.

Dataset DOI

[10.34808/823g-1y16](https://doi.org/10.34808/823g-1y16)

Dataset License

CC-BY

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

Acknowledgements

Photographs for the dataset were taken thanks to the courtesy of the Head of the Special Collections Department of the Gdańsk Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

References

- Gierszewski, S. and Nowak, Z. (eds.) (1997) *‘Słownik biograficzny Pomorza Nadwiślańskiego’* (4 vols., 3 supp.). Gdańsk: Wydawnictwo Gdańskie.
- Korpanty, J. (ed.) (2001-2003) *‘Słownik łacińsko-polski’* (2 vols). Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Szkolne PWN.



- Krollmann, C. (ed.) (1967) *Altpreußische Biographie, hrsg. im Auftrage der Historischen Kommission für ost- und westpreußische Landesforschung* (4 vols). Marburg-Lahn: N.G. Elwert Verlag.
- Lewis, C.T. and Short, C. (1987) *A Latin dictionary: Founded on Andrews' ed. of Freund's Latin dictionary*. Rev., enl., and in great part rewritten. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Oelhaf, P. et al. (1645-1653) *Typus et Syllabi lectionum publicarum et operarum* Athenaei Gedanensis. Danzig.
- Praetorius, E. et al. (2016) *Athenae Gedanenses Ephraïma Praetoriosa*. Gdańsk: Wydawnictwo Athenae Gedanenses.
- Praetorius, E. (1713) *Athenae Gedanenses, sive commentarius historico-chronologicus succinctus, originem et constitutionem Gymnasii Dantiscani Illustris itemque recensionem superiorum eius antistitum, seu protoscholarcharum, nec non vitas et scripta rectorum ac professorum eiusdem continens.: Accedit series I. rectorum scholarum reliquarum publicarum Gedanensium*, II. rectorum Gymnasiorum tum Thoruniensis, tum Elbingensis. Leipzig: Johann Friedrich Gleditsch und Sohn. Available at: <https://books.google.pl/books?id=vm5ALijSHIQC&dq=Athenae%20Gedanenses%20Praetorius&hl=pl&pg=P-P7#v=onepage&q=Athenae%20Gedanenses%20Praetorius&f=false> (Accessed: 15th January 2021).

