

themselves. This chapter thus offers a very rich presentation of the commentaries of the *Sentences* which can be connected to the largest universities operating in the Iberian Peninsula in the 16th century.

In the final chapter, “Text, Media and Re-Mediation: The Digital Future of the *Sentences* Commentary Tradition”, the *Sentences* are studied as a living tradition by Jeffrey C. Witt. He points out the importance of digital editions of the *Sentences commentaries* as we are now undergoing a change not less important than that undergone by the contemporaries of the transition from manuscripts to printed editions. I would like to point out two aspects mentioned in this article which might be of some importance to today’s scholars of the *Sentences* of Peter Lombard. The first one would be that digital editions seem to be a very good solution to the problems raised by the present print editions, namely that they have to be published in an almost perfect version- which takes a very long time- and that the publishers are often reluctant to publish an author who is not well known. These problems are all solved by a digital edition, published on the internet, from the very beginning of the editorial work and changed often. The second very interesting aspect mentioned in the chapter is the necessity for editors to be able to semantically encode the texts that they are now editing just as they have been able to visually encode them so far.

This volume dedicated to Peter Lombard’s work opens up new research fields and addresses the practical concerns of contemporary ‘*Sentences* commentators’, while giving precious information on how the *Book of ‘Sentences’*, through its abbreviations and commentaries, influenced the study of theology throughout the *Middle Ages* and is presently influencing researches in different areas, ranging from theology to history and philosophy.

ALEXANDRA BANEU

alexandra.baneu@yahoo.com

JOHANNES HONTERUS, *Rudimenta Cosmographica. Grundzüge der Weltbeschreibung*, Corona/Kronstadt, 1542. Edited by Robert OFFNER, Harald ROTH, Thomas ŞINDILARIU and Ulrich A. WIEN. (Hermannstadt–Bonn, Schiller Verlag, 2015).

Keywords Johannes Honterus, cosmography, history of geography, 16th century education

The figure of Johannes Honterus, the polyhistor of Braşov, is still very much alive in the cultural memory of the Saxon population of Transylvania, especially in the communities of Braşov and Sibiu. Honterus’s statue in Braşov, and the streets, squares and schools named after him are gestures of reverence and instruments of maintaining his memory.

At home, he is mainly known as a publisher, editor of textbooks, typographer, pedagogue, the founder of humanist education in Transylvania, and a reformer of Braşov and

its surroundings. Much less scholarly attention has been paid to the work that is probably Honterus's best known opus throughout Europe, entitled *Rudimenta Cosmographica*.

The *Rudimenta*, written for secondary education and printed in Braşov in 1542 by Honterus himself was practically the first encyclopaedia for schools, and a true bestseller with close to one hundred partial or complete editions published throughout Europe in 150 years, and then almost completely forgotten. The final version of 1542 was the result of a work of decades: the previous versions stand as evidence for Honterus's continuous information about European science and the ideas that later turned the world upside down. This was preceded by the prose version published in Cracow in 1530, followed by the map of the Saxon lands published in Basel in 1532 (*Chorographia Transylvaniae Sybenbürgen*), then the Braşov edition of the *Rudimenta* from 1541. Honterus's humanist erudition coupled with his excellent sense of pedagogy, demonstrated by the fact that he rewrote the extended text of the *Rudimenta* – originally written in prose in the Cracow edition and republished in verse form in a shorter and provisory form – into easily memorable hexameters. This 1542 edition was also completed with 13 engraved maps of his own, three illustrations of certain concepts of astronomy, and a woodcut coat of arms of Braşov.

The facsimile edition of the *Rudimenta Cosmographica*¹ was published in 2015, jointly by two institutions, the Braşov branch of the German Democratic Forum of Romania led by Thomas Şindilariu, and the Arbeitskreis für Siebenbürgische Landeskunde (Heidelberg–Sibiu), with the cooperation of several renowned experts. It contains the translation of the text in German, Romanian and Hungarian, and studies also in these three languages. The edition was prepared by Robert Offner, Harald Roth, Thomas Şindilariu and Ulrich A. Wien, the studies accompanying the text were authored by Ulrich A. Wien, Zsolt Győző Török, Robert Offner and Heinz Heltmann, and translated by Edit Szegedi, András F. Balogh, Éva-Mária Papp, László András Magyar and Robert Offner. The Honterus-bibliography was compiled by Gernot Hussbächer. The greatest achievement of the volume from a literary point of view is of course the translation into German, Romanian and Hungarian of the Latin text of 1366 hexameters. The present edition is all the more timely and important as the text had no full translation in German or Hungarian before, only a previous Romanian translation which was published in 1988. The work has not been thoroughly analyzed in a European context of cultural and educational history. The starting point of this edition was the partial German prose translation of Lore Poelchau, continued by Robert Offner, physician and medical historian of Transylvanian origin, this volume is (also) the result of his persistence and organizing work. The parts missing from the partial German translation were completed by Georg Burckhardt and Heinz Heltmann, and turned into a metric form by Peter Pauly. The Romanian translation is the work of Valeria Căliman; it was published before in Cluj, in 1988. The first Hungarian full translation is published in this volume, in the excellent rendering of László András Magyar. The

¹ Johannes Honterus, *Rudimenta Cosmographica. Grundzüge der Weltbeschreibung*, Corona/Kronstadt, 1542. Ins Deutsche, Rumänische und Ungarische übersetzte und kommentierte Faksimile-Aufgabe. (The basic principles of cosmography. Facsimile edition translated into German, Romanian and Hungarian with comments) (Hermannstadt–Bonn, Schiller Verlag, 2015).

translations of Honterus's text are introduced by studies which compensate for the lack of previous research on this book. The three studies apply three different points of view on the work and its author, also offering a general view of 16th century scholarship.

Church historian Ulrich A. Wien depicts the figure of the humanist Johannes Honterus with methods of the history of ideas. He maps the previous researches connected to Honterus and presents approaches, at times contradictory, but often complementary, to humanism in Transylvania. Honterus's biography, his education and extended personal and professional network guide the reader in assessing the significance of humanism and the early period of Reformation in the history of Transylvania. The humanist scholar educated at the universities of Vienna and Cracow and active in Basel moved back to Transylvania to completely reorganize the school of Braşov, transforming it into a humanist gymnasium (one of the first in south-eastern Europe), establish his printing press, and place thus the town of Braşov on the map of European scholarly networks. The list of Honterus's works shows the place of the *Rudimenta* in his life work.

Győző Zsolt Török, historian of cartography, authors a thorough study on the first three books of the *Rudimenta*, the parts on cosmography and geography. Also including the previous editions of the work into his research, he presents the 1542 edition by contextualizing the contemporary knowledge on astronomy and geography. The most important reference point for Renaissance cosmography is the work of Ptolemy, newly rediscovered by the humanists. Zsolt Török explains the contemporary geocentric conception of the world as a basis for understanding Honterus's predecessors and his contemporaries, which makes the scholar's work interesting for other people as well, not just historians of the early modern period. The new geographical discoveries are mentioned in the *Rudimenta*. Honterus used maps to illustrate geographical data, the European regions and the world outside Europe. This way of using materials for illustration in school education was completely new, and stands as evidence for Honterus's pedagogical flair. The author of the study claims that Honterus's maps could, in fact, be regarded as the first world atlas. The facsimile edition reproduced in the highest quality not only the full Latin text but also the maps, the three illustrations connected to the books, and the coat of arms of Braşov at the end of the volume.

The fourth book of the *Rudimenta* is a collection of all knowledge outside astronomy and geography. The study on this part is the collective work of physician Robert Offner and biologist Heinz Heltmann. In this part, Honterus gathered as in a lexicon article the most important knowledge on the animate and inanimate world, with short occasional comments: the hexameters contain knowledge on the human body in 121 concepts of anatomy, names of 212 animals and 275 plants. The orientation in the world surrounding the human being and in human relations is assisted by the names of ranks, offices, professions, institutions, family relations. Then follow names of household tools, objects of the house, vehicles on land and water, food and drinks, and finally 131 of man's illnesses. This chapter is an exciting read, offering a plethora of perspectives: the rich and colourful repertory of concepts may be of interest to researchers of medical history, literary history or anthropology, and presents Honterus as a worthy predecessor of Alsted and Comenius, as noted by the authors.

The German, Romanian and Hungarian metric translations of the Latin hexameters each have their own notes system. The annotations are justified for multiple reasons: in all three languages, on account of preserving the metric verse, the translators often had to find or even create words more suitable than the ones that translate most closely the meaning of the original Latin words, or in some cases they had to change the order of the lists. These are perhaps the most interesting parts of the translations: observing how the translators find brilliant solutions to render the content, the information contained in the text constrained by the strict metric form. Such reversals or word replacements were signalled each time in the notes. Detailed notes accompany the subjects of mythology and the culture of the antiquity, assisting the reader of today in accessing a field that was widely known in the time of humanism.

Gernot Nussbächer offered much help for the edition of this volume, he also compiled the bibliography of the editions of *Rudimenta* between 1530 and 1692. He took account of the preliminaries of the 1542 edition from Braşov and Cracow, as well as partial or full reprints of the 1542 edition. He is also the author of the table of Honterus's bio-bibliography. At the end of the volume, the modern editions of Honterus and the bibliography of these editions are also listed.

The high quality of the book as an object, the reproduction of the maps and other illustrations do not only stand as evidence for the state of scholarship in Honterus's time, but also offer aesthetic pleasure even for those who are not researchers of this age.

Undoubtedly, this extraordinary endeavour will contribute to a wider knowledge of Transylvanian humanism and early Reformation in the history of Transylvania. The editors' decision to publish this book on the territory of Transylvania – the Honterus typography in Sibiu – and in the language of the ethnic communities living here is all the more worthy of praise, its greatness and uniqueness lies precisely in this aspect. It is also unique how they could mobilize institutions and experts from four countries – Romania, Germany, Hungary, Austria – and coordinate their common work.

KATALIN LUFFY

katalin.luffy@bcucluj.ro

ERIKA BENCE: *Virtuális irodalomtörténet* (Virtual History of Literature). (Veszprém: Iskolakultúra, 2015).

Keywords Hungarian literature from Vojvodina, social and historical contexts, topoi

The scientific approach and the horizon of interpretation adopted in the 18 essays gathered in Erika Bence's volume *Virtuális irodalomtörténet* (Virtual History of Literature) place the literary works analysed in a broader, interdisciplinary, cultural-historical and anthropological context. The textual analysis of the pieces of literature investigated in the volume intermingles with the