

Summary

CHRISTIAS OR *CHRISTEIS*: THE ATTEMPT BY CONRAD HUBERT, JOHANNES OPORINUS AND CASPAR NIDBRUCK TO PUBLISH AN ANTHOLOGY OF CHRISTIAN POETRY

In the 1550s, the Strasbourg clergyman Conrad Hubert, the printer Johannes Oporinus and the Imperial counsellor Caspar Nidbruck joined together to publish a large anthology of Christian poetry. This monumental work, which they worked on for several years with the help of a number of other humanists, was not printed in the end. Its preparation is documented in detail, however, in the correspondence of the three main organizers, and Oporinus' printed promotional leaflet for the proposed anthology has also survived. With the help of these sources, it has been possible to reconstruct the planned form of the editorial project and explain the reasons it ultimately did not come to fruition. Based on the correspondence and the leaflet, it has also been possible to deduce the main goals of the editors: they wanted to create a compendium useful for school-teaching and other forms of education, a practical tool that would gather in one place material that would otherwise have to be individually gleaned from libraries. The shape of the planned anthology was undoubtedly influenced by Conrad Hubert's tolerant religious attitude and his aim to unite, rather than divide, the various denominations. Lutherans, Catholics, Calvinists and Bohemian Utraquists are thus represented in the anthology. The intentions of the anthology's compilers are also evident in the desire to broaden the range of authors to as many countries as possible. The focus was not to be on great poetic works such as *Christias* by Girolamo Vida, but rather, according to Hubert, the poems to be selected were fringe publications, preserved in manuscript, or created specifically for the purposes of the anthology. The history of the preparation of the anthology raises a number of other questions, such as the funding of large publishing enterprises in the Early Modern period and the anonymity of their sponsors.

Keywords: Conrad Hubert; Johannes Oporinus; Caspar Nidbruck; Neo-Latin Poetry; Early Modern Anthologies; Bohemian Humanists; Matthaeus Collinus; Thomas Mitis

MARTA VACULÍNOVÁ

Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences

Centre for Classical Studies

Na Florenci 3, 110 00 Prague, Czech Republic

vaculinova@ics.cas.cz