KATARZYNA MARCINIAK

PRAEFATIO

As I frequently contemplate and call to mind the times of the Ciceronian Mentors among Poland’s classicists, there is one thing that never ceases to amaze me, one that I never cease to admire – their steadfast commitment to educating new generations.

While Cicero had solid bases (and reasons) for idealizing the past in his treatise On the Orator (1, 1) and called his mentors «supremely happy» (perbeati), as they could enjoy «the honours and the glory of their actions in the best days of the republic»¹, I have to admit that in the case of our Ciceronian Mentors such idealization would not be possible. Like Cicero, they were plainly bereft of the possibility to pursue their life vel in negotio sine periculo vel in otio cum dignitate.

Kazimierz Morawski (1852-1925) devoted himself to rebuilding the country after its over hundred-year-long absence on the world’s maps, and was a candidate for President of the Second Republic of Poland. Tadeusz Zieliński (1859-1944) experienced emigration, wars, revolutions, and a kind of damnatio memoriae at the hands of the communist regime. Kazimierz Kumaniecki (1905-1977) belonged to the underground Home Army and faced the serious risk of persecution during the postwar Stalinist repressions. And yet, despite such experiences, or maybe because of them (to refer to David Movrin’s moving voice in the panel discussion published in this volume infra p. 536), the faith of these Mentors in the importance of educational efforts emanates from their writings, actions, and the grateful memories of their students. Just as it emanates from the works of Cicero.

I feel privileged to have the opportunity to participate in the transmission and preservation of these memories owing to my own Ciceronian Mentor, Prof. Jerzy Axer – himself Kumaniecki’s pupil – the Dean of the Faculty of Polish Studies in the difficult 1980s, elect-

¹ In optima re publica, cum et honoribus et rerum gestarum gloria florerent. English translation (used also in my opening phrase) by J.S. Watson (1876) via Google Books (all the websites were active on 12 December 2020).
ed on the wave of Solidarność movement, and the founder of the first liberal arts curricula in Poland².

It can happen that turbulent experiences make one more sensitive to the value of education and these noble studies that – to quote Cicero’s Pro Archia 16 – «are the food of youth, the delight of old age; the ornament of prosperity, the refuge and comfort of adversity; a delight at home, and no hindrance abroad; they are companions by night, and in travel, and in the country»³. To share them with the next generations is the best we can do, because – whether young people accept or reject them – they thereby gain access to a millennia-old community joined by the kindred artes (quoddam commune vinclum, Arch. 2), one upon which they can call in the hour of need, and within which they grow up as conscious citizens aware of their intellectual freedom (the attribute liberales next to artes evokes the notion of libertas). All this permits us to hope that turbulent experiences happen no more, or at least less often.

Reflection on Cicero, his vision of the liberal arts, and our contemporary approach to education in a truly worldwide context, is thus one of the most crucial challenges scholars face today. And this is how the idea of our special issue of «Ciceroniana On Line» came into being.

The issue is also a testimony to the supportive force of the humanist community, beyond all geographical and political borders, and despite (or again: because) of so many turbulent centuries and events. I came to know its Ciceronian branch again from Prof. Axer, who took part in several Colloquia Tulliana and finally, responding to the invitation from his Italian colleagues, in the poignant year 1989, that witnessed the first democratic elections in Poland, he organized a Colloquium Tullianum in Warsaw under the banner «Cicerone e lo Stato»⁴.

I experienced the exceptional hospitality of the Italian humanist community also in person, when I went on my first scholarships to the University of Bologna. Then, in 2017, I had the pleasure of taking part in the conference organized by Proff. Ermanno Malaspina and Sergio Audano, Readers and Interpreters of Cicero, Ancient and Modern: In Honour of

² Prof. Jerzy Axer established also, in 1991 at the University of Warsaw, the pioneering Centre for Studies on the Classical Tradition (OBTA) and in 2012 was elected the first Dean of the Faculty of “Artes Liberales” that evolved from the OBTA environment.

³ Haec studia adulescentiam alunt, senectutem oblectant, secundas res ornant, adversis perfugium ac solacium praebent, delectant domi, non impedient foris, pernoctant nobiscum, peregrinantur, rusticantur; English translation by C.D. Yonge (1856) via Perseus Project.

⁴ For the publication of the Atti cf. «Ciceroniana On Line».
Emanuele Narducci and Alberto Grilli in Sestri Levante and Chiavari. Again, antiquorum non immemores.

Next, in the footsteps of a host of Italian humanists moving between their home country and Poland at least since Renaissance time, in the spring of 2019, Prof. Malaspina undertook his journey to Warsaw. And he came not only with his lecture, but also with the idea of organizing another Ciceronian congress in Warsaw, for the 30th anniversary of the Colloquium Tullianum of 1989.

And so it happened. The congress was scheduled for December 2019 as a joint event of the Société Internationale des Amis de Cicéron (SIAC) and three permanent units of the Faculty of “Artes Liberales” at the University of Warsaw: the Centre for Studies on the Classical Tradition (OBTA), the Collegium Artes Liberales, and the Cluster The Past for the Present: International Research and Educational Programme. At this point I wish to thank warmly Prof. Malaspina for his invitation and Prof. Axer who immediately agreed to join forces. All this made it possible for us to work together on the congress and the present volume. The theme, «Cicero, Society, and the Idea of artes liberales» was for our group an entirely natural choice.

The congress was opened by Prof. Robert A. Sucharski – the Dean of the Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, with the inaugural address from Roberto Neccia – Deputy Head of Mission and Economic Counsellor of the Italian Embassy in Warsaw – and from Gabriele Hermani – Science Counsellor of the German Embassy in Warsaw. Then Prof. Ermanno Malaspina and Prof. Jerzy Axer introduced the participants to the congress’s idea and its background, and we started our three-day Ciceronian dialogue.

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5 For the publication of the Atti cf. «Ciceroniana On Line». I am grateful for the amazing accoglienza in Chiavari to the organizers and to Prof. Andrea Balbo, Rita Degl’Innocenti Pierini, Paolo Esposito, Leopoldo Gamberale, and Giancarlo Mazzoli.


7 The Cluster, established in 2017, includes the following institutions: the Faculty of “Artes Liberales” of the University of Warsaw, the Faculty of History and Cultures and the Faculty of Classical Philology and Italian Studies of the University of Bologna, the Faculty of Languages and Literatures of the Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich, and the Faculty of Education of the University of Cambridge. Cf. a short reportage about the Cluster’s activities (as of 2018) by Krzysztof Korwin-Piotrowski: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HfypV5PUMUc&t.
The language of the congress was English (intertwined sometimes with sparkling Latin), however, for the present publication of the proceedings, on «Ciceroniana On Line» – again, by the invitation from Prof. Malaspina, we decided to support language diversity and leave this choice fully with the authors.

The issue is divided into two sections. The first one, subject to the procedure of peer-review as typical of the journal, opens with Prof. Leopoldo Gamberale’s paper on the notion of Cicero’s «small Motherland» – his beloved Arpinum – and its place in the context of Italy as presented in Ciceronian writings. This text resonates interestingly with one of the last ones – the paper by Prof. Yasunari Takada, who takes us to Japan and, offering less philological insight, proves how universal Cicero’s thought is for historiosophic and cultural reflection on the transformations unfolding across the world. This kind of reflection is a perfect introduction to the analysis of the concept of liberal arts at their origin and in the school environment, as offered by the two final papers of this section – the ones by Dr Kathryn Tempest and Dr Sonja Schreiner.

The second section continues these thoughts in a different, albeit also Ciceronian form – this time not as a treatise, but a dialogue. This section, obviously not peer-reviewed, is a record (in some parts slightly re-worked) of the panel discussion on the role of Cicero and artes liberales in education today, inaugurated with Prof. Woldemar Görler’s lecture and moderated by Prof. Jan Miernowski – our magnificent cicerone through the meanders of this theme.

As the pace of the editorial work was intense and preconditioned by the periodical character of the journal, not all the contributions have been prepared on time, and thus not all are to be found in the present issue. Some will appear later on «Ciceroniana On Line». Others will be integrated with the authors’ various research endeavours. This is for instance the case of the presentation of the programme Classics and Communism led by Prof. David Movrin (University of Ljubljana) and Dr Elżbieta Olechowska (University of Warsaw)\(^8\), and the presentation of the programme Our Mythical Childhood, I had the honour to give together with my two team members from the University of Roehampton in London – Prof. Susan

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\(^8\) This programme originates from the project initiated by Jerzy Axer, György Karsai, and Gábor Klaniczay at the Collegium Budapest, *Gnôthi seauton! – Classics and Communism. The History of Studies on Antiquity in the Context of the Local Classical Tradition in the Socialist Countries 1944/45–1989/90.*
Deacy who adapts the ancient myths to the needs of the children with autism (in this case: the motif of the Choice of Hercules, as based on Cicero’s *De officiis*) and Dr Sonya Nevin who prepares, with the IT specialist and artistic designer Steve K. Simons, computer animations of ancient artifacts. This presentation took place in the German Historical Institute Warsaw and here I wish to thank Gabriele Hermani, Prof. Ruth Leiserowitz – Deputy Director of the German Historical Institute Warsaw, Dr Klaudia Knabel – Director of the Warsaw Department of the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD, and the colleagues from the *Societas Humboldtiana Polonorum*, for their hospitality.

Moreover, a special panel of the congress was dedicated to Cicero’s *Aratea* and its reception. As it showed the amazing potential of opening new, indeed cosmic horizons in research into this aspect of the Ciceronian *opus*, we wish to publish its results in a separate, monographic volume.

The honorary lecture by Prof. Walther Ludwig (University of Hamburg) has already been published – in its form as delivered on 14 December 2019 – in the series «Artes Liberales Lectures», an Open Access collection of texts by eminent scholars who have given their presentations in the Collegium Artes Liberales.

Last but not least, as the main theme of the congress was Cicero’s role in the *Artes Liberales* Education, we of course included voices from the youngest generation, as aired during the panel *Cicero according to High-School Students*, moderated superbly by Caroline Bristow – Director of the Cambridge Schools Classics Project from the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge. One presentation has already been made available online; the second one is in the course of preparation for sharing via the congress’ website.

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9 Cf.: [http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/](http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/). The project *Our Mythical Childhood... The Reception of Classical Antiquity in Children’s and Young Adults’ Culture in Response to Regional and Global Challenges* (2016–2021) is carried out within the ERC Consolidator Grant (681202) with funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme (GA No 681202). In its first stages, the programme *Our Mythical Childhood* was supported by the Loeb Classical Library Foundation Grant (2012–2013) and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Alumni-Award for Innovative Networking Initiatives (2014–2017). For my preliminary analysis of Cicero’s reception in the works for youth cf. K. Marciniak, *Cicero für Kinder, oder: Wie man Erbsen züchtet*, in M. Janka, M. Stierstorfer (hrsg.), *Verjüngte Antike: Griechisch-römische Mythologie und Historie in zeitgenössischen Kinder- und Jugendmedien*, Heidelberg 2017, pp. 315-342.


The congress ended with a cultural programme – a study visit to the Museum of King Jan III’s Palace at Wilanów, a historical site in Warsaw, full of classical references as designed by its most famous owner, King Sobieski, whose childhood was shaped by reading Cicero’s works\textsuperscript{12}. I wish to express my gratitude to Paweł Jaskanis – the Director of the Palace – and his collaborators for their help in organizing our visit.

The detailed chronicle of the congress was prepared for «Bolletino di Studi Latini» by Marta Pszczolińska – a Research Assistant on my team at the Faculty of “Artes Liberales” who was also a secretary of the event with the assistance of Olga Strycharczyk, and I thank them for their support. The readers of this volume will find the chronicle reprinted after my Praefatio and the list of participants with the kind consent from the Editor-in-Chief of «BSL» – Prof. Giovanni Cupaiuolo. Here I wish to acknowledge also the editorial support of Federica Lazzerini, Anna Olechowski, and Hugh Wynne in the phase of the English language revision.

The materials from the congress (the poster, the booklet with the programme, the gallery) are available on its website\textsuperscript{13}. For the design of the materials I wish to thank the graphic artist Zbigniew Karaszewski and for the IT assistance Rafal Lempicki, Robert Przybysz, and Dr Krzysztof Miziolek. The words of my utmost gratitude go to Dr Elzbieta Olechowska for her kind support and Maria Makarewicz for her always reliable help with organizational issues.

Following Cicero’s advice to keep the message that goes \textit{ab imo pectore} for the very end of reflections, I wish to thank Jerzy Axer and Ermanno Malaspina for this definitely Ciceronian time of my life, when \textit{ar tes liberales} revealed to me their deepest meaning.

Today, when we are sending this issue of «Ciceronianiana On Line» for publication, exactly one year has passed from our meeting in Warsaw (12-14 December 2019). And a truly international humanistic community it was: Ciceronian scholars from Austria, Belarus, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and the United States. I am most grateful to my new and old friends and colleagues for their effort to cross time (zones) and space to come to the


\textsuperscript{13} Cf. \url{http://www.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/en/cicero-congress}. 
For many of us this congress was the last such event before the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in February 2020. Our meeting concluded with an optimistic message of hope, but this was not the kind of hope that would make us *nimis creduli postero*. Studies of Cicero’s turbulent life and the stormy biographies of our Ciceronian Mentors in many parts of the world, who – like Morawski, Zieliński, and Kumaniecki – for various reasons could not enjoy *negotium sine periculo et otium cum dignitate*, fortify a hope that is not vain but results from the steadfast commitment to share *artes liberales* as actual tools of dialogue and integration. In the upcoming months of 2020 it was, and still is, a precious source of strength for our community. May the readers of this volume, who also belong to this millenia-old community linked by the ties of *artes liberales*, truly feel the hope that emanates from between the lines of the research papers and discussions gathered here, just as we found it emanating from the works of Cicero.

Warsaw, 12 December 2020
LIST OF THE PARTICIPANTS

1. Prof. Giovanna Alvoni (Department of Classical Philology and Italian Studies, University of Bologna)
2. Dr Anastasia Ashaeva (The School of Advanced Studies in the Humanities of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, Moscow)
3. Prof. Bartosz Awianowicz (Faculty of Humanities, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń)
4. Dr Anna Axer (Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw)
5. Prof. Jerzy Axer (Director of the Collegium Artes Liberales, Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw)
6. Prof. Andrea Balbo (Department of Humanities, University of Turin)
7. Prof. Krystyna Bartol (Faculty of Polish and Classical Philology, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań)
8. Dr Caroline Bishop (Classical & Modern Languages & Literatures, Texas Tech University)
10. Prof. Adam Borkowski (Institute of Fundamental Technological Research, Polish Academy of Sciences/Societas Humboldtiana Polonorum)
11. Prof. Małgorzata Borowska (Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw)
12. Alessia Borriello (Student, University of Bologna, Erasmus+ Programme at the Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw)
13. Prof. Arina Bragova (Department of History, Regional Studies and Journalism, University of Nizhny Novgorod)
14. Caroline Bristow (Director of the Cambridge Schools Classics Project, Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge)
15. Dr Nunzia Ciano (Faculty of Philology, University of Münster)
16. Prof. Janet Clare (Department of English, University of Bristol)
17. Prof. Jerzy Danielewicz (Faculty of Polish and Classical Philology, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań)
18. Prof. Susan Deacy (School of Humanities, University of Roehampton, London)
19. Alicja Dynowska (High school student, “Strumienie” High School in Józefów)
20. Prof. Patricia Eichel-Lojkine (University of Le Mans)
21. Raimund Fichtel (PhD student, Institute of Classical Philology, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich)
22. Prof. Leopoldo Gambarale (Department of Letters and Modern Cultures, Sapienza Università di Roma)
23. Angelina Gerus (Student, Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw)
24. Prof. Ingo Gildenhard (Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge)
25. Evelyn Görler (Neckargemünd)
26. Prof. Woldemar Görler (Faculty of Humanities, University of Saarland)
27. Albert Groszyk (High school student, Mikolaj Rej High School in Warsaw)
28. Prof. Janusz Gruchała (Faculty of Polish Studies, Jagiellonian University)
29. Gabriele Hermani (Science Counsellor of the German Embassy in Warsaw)
30. Prof. Markus Janka (Institute of Classical Philology, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich)
31. Dr Klaudia Knabel (Director of the Warsaw Department of the German Academic Exchange Service – DAAD)
32. Dr Stanislaw Kordasiewicz (Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw)
33. Dr Karolina Anna Kulpa (Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw)
34. Prof. Ruth Leiserowitz (Deputy Director of the German Historical Institute Warsaw)
35. Prof. Stéphane Lojkine (Center of Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature, University of Aix-Marseille)
36. Prof. Walther Ludwig (Faculty of Humanities, University of Hamburg)
37. Agnieszka Monika Maciejewska (PhD student, Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw)
38. Maria Makarewicz (Senior Specialist, Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw)
39. Prof. Ermanno Malaspina (Chairman of SIAC Advisory Board)
40. Dr Sibylle Malaspina (Turin)
41. Prof. Katarzyna Marciniak (Director of the Centre for Studies on the Classical Tradition – OBTA, Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw)
42. Prof. Cyprian Mielczarski (Institute of Classics Studies, University of Warsaw)
43. Prof. Jan Miernowski (Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw/Department of French & Italian, University of Wisconsin-Madison)
44. Dr Krzysztof Miziolek (IT, Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw)
45. Prof. Vincenza Mosca (Rome)
46. Prof. David Movrin (Department of Classical Philology, University of Ljubljana)
47. Roberto Neccia (Deputy Head of Mission and Economic Counsellor of the Italian Embassy in Warsaw)
48. Dr Sonya Nevin (School of Humanities, University of Roehampton, London/Panoply Vase Animation Project)
49. Dr Elżbieta Olechowska (Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw)
50. Dr Hanna Paulouskaya (Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw)
51. Dr Daniele Pellacani (Department of Classical Philology and Italian Studies, University of Bologna)
52. Roberto Peressin (PhD student, Faculty of Humanities, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw)
53. Dr Jordi Pià-Comella (Department of French and Classics, Sorbonne-Nouvelle/Visiting Scholar at the Department of Classics, St Andrews University)
54. Robert Przybysz (Head of IT at the Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw)
55. Marta Pszczolińska (Research Assistant, Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw)
56. Dr Amedeo A. Raschieri (Department of Literary Studies, Philology and Linguistics, University of Milan)
57. Ulrich Rausch (Trainer & educator, Bologna/Rodgau)
58. Prof. Philippe Rousselot (President of SIAC, Cour des comptes, France)
59. Dr Sonja Schreiner (Department of Classical Philology, Medieval and Neolatin Studies, University of Vienna)
60. Steve K. Simons (School of Humanities, University of Roehampton, London/Panoply Vase Animation Project)
61. Prof. Anna Skolimowska (Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw)
62. Agata Starownik (PhD student, Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw)
63. Prof. Aleksander Strasburger (Department of Applied Mathematics, Warsaw University of Life Sciences/Societas Humboldtiana Polonorum)
64. Barbara Strycharczyk (Teacher, “Strumienie” High School in Józefów)
65. Olga Strycharczyk (Assistant, Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw)
66. Prof. Robert A. Sucharski (Dean of the Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw)
67. Dr Li Sunju (Researcher of Jungam Academy for Greco-Roman Studies for Cicero translation project, Seoul National University)
68. Prof. Yasunari Takada (The University of Tokyo, emeritus)
69. Dr Kathryn Tempest (School of Humanities, University of Roehampton, London)
70. Prof. Jarosław Włodarczyk (Institute for the History of Science, Polish Academy of Sciences)
71. Anna Wojciechowska (Teacher, Mikolaj Rej High School in Warsaw)
72. Prof. Witold Wołodkiewicz (Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw)