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Some unnoticed and unpublished letters from Balthasar Moretus to or concerning the Latin poet Matthias Casimirus Sarbievius (1595-1640)

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SOME UNNOTICED AND UNPUBLISHED LETTERS FROM BALTHASAR MORETUS TO OR CONCERNING THE LATIN POET MATTHIAS CASIMIRUS SARBIEVIUS (1595–1640)1

It is beyond any doubt that the earliest Antwerp editions of Sarbievius contributed greatly to the spread of the poet’s fame in Western Europe2. The first Antwerp edition of the Lyrica was produced by a relatively unimportant printer, John Cnobbaert, shortly after February 16303. This edition contained some new poems. We must suppose that Cnobbaert had received the Sarbievius material from the Antwerp Jesuits, his printing shop being located next to the Jesuit residence. The booklet caught the attention of a connoisseur, Balthasar Moretus, the most important printer in the Southern Netherlands, a grandson of Plantin, a former pupil and protégé of Justus Lipsius and a friend of the painter Peter Paul Rubens4. This printer must have been interested in Sarbievius’ verse on account of its intrinsic value (Moretus himself was no mean poet), as well as because of the fact that he was a Jesuit (Moretus was their most important printer), whose lyrics were eulogies of Pope Urban VIII, with whom our Counter Reformation printer wanted to be on good terms. So, Moretus issued two enlarged standard editions of Sarbievius

1 I want to thank Dr. M. Laureys (K. U. Leuven) for reviewing my English.
2 Cp. e.g. E. Uléinaite, Mathias Casimirus Sarbievius, the poet of two worlds, [in:] Motiejus Kazimieras Sarbievijus, Lemties zaidimai. Poezijos rinktine – Ludi Fortunae. Lyrica selecta, Bibliotheca Baltica – Lithuania, Vilnius 1995, p. XLVII.
3 See on Cnobbaert (1590–1637) e.g. G. Van Havre, Marques typographiques des imprimeurs et libraires anversois, Maatschappij der Antwerpse Bibliofilen, Uitgaven, 13, Antwerpen, Gent 1883–1884, 1, p. 97–100; F. OIthoff, De boekdrukkers, boekverkopers en uitgevers in Antwerpen sedert de uitvinding der boekdrukkunst tot op onze dagen […], Antwerpen 1891, p. 18.
in 1632 and 1634 – in that year 1634 he also produced a beautiful edition of Pope Urban’s Poemata. The genesis of these Moretus editions can be partially illustrated thanks to a number of letters written by the printer to the Lithuanian poet and to other persons in the period 1631–1635. These letters also illustrate the way in which the Antwerp printer tried to find a market for his books in Danzig and in Poland. These Latin letters are unpublished and, as far as I can see, have not received any attention; I found them recently in the Archives of the Plantin-Moretus Museum in Antwerp.

The first letter written to Sarbievius by Moretus on 2 May 1631 (n. 1) is an answer to a letter from Sarbievius that is lost. Moretus thanks Sarbievius for the very flattering poem Ad Balthasarem Moretum Panegyris Lyrica (composed and sent to Antwerp before May 1631). Probably, the Antwerp Jesuits, and particularly Father Bollandus, soon after the Cnobbaert edition, informed Sarbievius that Moretus might be interested in publishing his lyric poetry. Father Bollandus had told the printer that Sarbievius had enlarged his Lyrica and that he was working on a book of Heroica. Therefore, Moretus was even more eager to produce a new edition since (or: when) Cnobbaert’s edition was (or: would be) exhausted. So, Father Bollandus served as a link between Moretus and Sarbievius; this is the reason why he was the most important addressee of Sarbievius’ poem Ad amicos Belgas. Our letter also confirms the introduction to the 1632 edition: the poet wanted the book to be dedicated to Pope Urban VIII, a source of satisfaction for Moretus. It remains a mystery why that dedication never reached Antwerp, whereas the ode Ad amicos Belgas and other new poems got into Moretus’ hands. It is not impossible that the poet was unwilling to have his book

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5 1025 copies of the Lyrica were printed in 1632 (in-4”), 5000 in 1634 (in-24”): cp. Antwerp, Archives of the Plantin-Moretus Museum, Arch. 39, f. 35r and 36r.
7 Lyr. 3, 31.
9 Langbein’s remark, therefore, on that poem is not completely true: „ne invidiam huius vel illius irritaret, omnibus ac singulis sine ratione doctrinae aut dignitatis inter eos habita, uno quasi numero debitum numerabat”. (L. G. Langbein, Commentatio de Mathiae Casimir Sarbievii S.I. Poloni vita, studiis et scriptis, Dresdae 1754, p. LXXXII. Bollandus is mentioned as a promotor of Sarbievii’ poetry in the Tractatus praeliminaris de vita, operibus el virtutibus Joannis Bollandi S. J. […], which one can read in the Acta Sanctorum […], ed. J. Bollandus, G. Henschenius, D. Papebrochius, Martii tomus I, Parisis et Romae 1865, p. XIV.
dedicated to the Pope (but did not want to admit that). On the other hand, Sarbievius could have kept silent about any dedication; after all, there had been previous editions of his poems with no dedication at all. We should not forget that written communication between the Netherlands and Poland or Lithuania was difficult; at times, the Jesuit network enabled the exchange of letters, but it often caused serious problems to have books or letters delivered by any other means, as the following letters show. In any case, the Lyrica were dedicated to Urban VIII, in name of the poet, by the Antwerp Jesuits.

Moretus' first edition of Sarbievius' poetry came out in 1632. Thanks to letters n. 2 to 6, it is now possible to determine with some precision the month in which the book was published. On 27 July 1632, Moretus wrote to a secretary to the King of Spain, Franciscus de Calatayud\(^1\), in Madrid (n. 2), that it was nearly ready; on 28 July (n. 3) he wrote to Jodocus a Castro\(^2\) in Mechelen that he expected the book to be ready in August, which he confirmed in a letter to another ecclesiastical writer, Benedictus Van Haeften at Affligem\(^3\) on 5 August (n. 4). On 5 September he informed Petrus Biverus\(^4\) in Brussels (n. 5) that he was sending a letter to the secretary of the Great Council in order to obtain a privilege for the book; in our editions, that privilege is dated 16 September 1632\(^5\). We still have a copy of the letter he sent to Brussels to that end\(^6\). The Lyrica must have been published at the end of September or in the first days of October 1632. On 16 October, its publication is mentioned in a French

\(^{1}\) Moretus and de Calatayud were correspondents in the years 1631–1637 (letters in the archives of the Plantin-Moretus Museum; cp. i.a. Arch. 144, p. 220).

\(^{2}\) A religious writer from Brussels (died in Mechelen in April 1634); in 1633 and 1635, Moretus published some works of his, i.a. the *Decachordum Marianum id est Tractatus de decem virtutibus Immaculatae Virginis [...]* (1635); cp. *Biographie nationale [de Belgique]*, 6, Bruxelles 1878, col. 221 (A. Vander Meersch).

\(^{3}\) On Van Haeften (Utrecht, ca. 1588 – Spa, 1648), a Benedictine monk, dean of the abbey of Affligem and a writer of religious works, see the *Nationale Biografisch Woordenboek [van België]*, 11, Brussel 1985, col. 345–350 (W. Verleyen).

\(^{4}\) A Jesuit from Madrid (1572–1656). In 1632, he was the confessor of the governor of the Spanish Netherlands. In 1634, Balthasar Moretus published two works of de Bivero, the *Sacrum sanctuarium Crucis [...] and the Sacrum Oratorium piarum imaginum immaculatae Mariae [...]*; cp. C. Sommervogel, op. cit., col. 1525–1528.

\(^{5}\) At the end of the 1632 and the 1634 editions, one reads an „imprimatur“ by the provincial of the Lithuanian Jesuits, dated 11 July 1631; an approbation by the Antwerp censor (no date); a transfer of the imperial privilege to Moretus by the provincial of the Flemish Jesuits, dated 12 September 1632; and, finally, the royal privilege from 16 September 1632, subscribed by the secretary of the Great Council of Mechelen, Steenhuyse. On Filips Willem van Steenhuyse (Mechelen, 1593 – Brussels, 1668), see the *Biographie Nationale [de Belgique]*, 23, Bruxelles 1921–1924, col. 758–760 (L. Bril).

\(^{6}\) Antwerp, Plantin-Moretus Museum, arch. 142, p. 288. The letter is written in Dutch. See the appendix.
letter\(^{17}\) on 23 October Moretus included it in a list of recently published works (n. 6); here, he called Sarbievius already a modern Horace. A mention of the book also occurs in a letter from 3 February 1633 to Van Haeften (n. 7), to whom he sends a copy of the book on 16 December 1633 (n. 8).

Balthasar Moretus then wanted to send a batch of books to Vilnius. As we learn from a later letter (n. 14), he had tried, in 1632, to send twenty copies of the first edition to Vilnius: he had handed these over to Father Bollandus, who had forwarded them to a Jesuit in Amsterdam, who, in turn, had to send them to Kaspar Förster\(^{18}\), a famous musician and bookseller in Danzig; from Danzig it would be easy to get them to Vilnius. But in March 1635 Sarbievius still had not received any books at all. The matter turned into an adventure lasting for more than three years. In 1634, Sarbievius had written to Father Bollandus and had asked for a number of copies of his poems. He had complained about the fact that Moretus' books were extremely difficult to find in Poland. His letter had been delivered to Bollandus through Ernestus Kruse, a bookseller in Danzig\(^{19}\); Father Bollandus had handed it over to Moretus. In his answer (n. 9) from 17 July 1634, Moretus promises the poet to send (free of charge) 20 copies of the Sarbievius \textit{minoris formae}—which means that the 1634 edition in-24\(^{\circ}\) was ready by then—together with the \textit{Poemata} of Urban VIII and other works Father Bollandus thought useful to deliver to Sarbievius, who would sell them to interested readers. The books were wrapped up in a pack marked with a special sign. To that parcel, Moretus added another, larger pack of books issued from his printing shop: since his books were hard to find in Poland, he supposed Kruse would be glad to be able to sell new books from the \textit{Officina Plantiniana}. Finally, a third parcel, meant for the well-known Neo-Latin writer Simon Starovolsci\(^{20}\) in Poland, was added;

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\(^{17}\) Arch. 143, f. 101v: [...] ai achevé d'imprimer nouvellement les livres en dessous mentionnés: [...] Sarbievii Lyrica in 4\(^{\circ}\).

\(^{18}\) The famous musician and bookseller (since ca. 1617) in Danzig (born ca. 1574, died near Danzig in 1652): cp. i.a. C. Krollmann [ed.], \textit{Altpreußische Biographie [...], 1}, Königsberg 1941, Marburg 1974, p. 189–190 (Gütter), and \textit{Die Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart. Allgemeine Enzyklopädie der Musik [...], Kassel, Basel 1955, col. 457–459 (G. Fock). It would be worthwhile to publish the letters exchanged by Balthasar Moretus (Sr. and Jr.) and Gaspar Förster (and his son Georgius). Though Gaspar Förster wrote that „nafragium passa est Latinitas mea inter sudores musicos” (to Balthasar Moretus Sr., 14 April 1636; Arch. 82), the Archives of the Plantin-Moretus Museum preserve many interesting and elegantly written letters they exchanged.

\(^{19}\) Until now I have not been able to find more information about this bookseller Ernestus Kruse or Cruse from Danzig. I presume some Polish readers might know more about him. I would be very grateful for any information.

it contained no doubt a number of copies of works by Starovolscius, published by Moretus\(^{21}\). The three packs were sent to Danzig by land via the Amsterdam bookseller and printer Jan Janssonius\(^{22}\), with whom Kruse apparently had already done some business. Kruse had to send a parcel to Sarbievius in Vilnius and to deliver the parcel for Starovolscius in Cracow to one Cornelius Schiff\(^{23}\), as Moretus wrote to Kruse on the same day, 17 July 1634 (n. 10). As for the books he sent to the bookseller himself, he offered him a discount of 15% on the two-colour-toned, and 25% on the other books: this should enable Kruse to make some profit and to pay off his debts within a short term. In November, Moretus heard that the letters had not reached Kruse; he had received only the books and did not know what to do with the packs signed with "cts" and "sfs". On 22 November 1634, the Antwerp printer wrote to both Sarbievius and to Kruse (n. 11 and 12), stating that his previous letters had probably been intercepted by some Swedish soldiers\(^{24}\), and repeating what he had written four months earlier. Now he decided to send the letters by sea; once again, it was Kruse who had to forward the letter to Sarbievius in Vilnius. From a letter, written by Moretus to the Cologne printer and bookseller Hermannus Mylius (n. 13)\(^{25}\), we learn that this second attempt to get in touch with Sarbievius remained fruitless. On 15 March 1635, the Antwerp printer asked Mylius, who dealt with Kruse, to forward his letters, written to the latter and to Sarbievius (n. 14 and 15), to Kruse in Danzig. In these letters, he repeated what he had written twice already. To Sarbievius he wrote that he supposed that the first batch of books was still at Förster's in Danzig, the second one at Kruse's. The latter had ordered some books from the Officina Plantiniana; Moretus was going to send them, if possible, via Schönwetter\(^{26}\) in Francfort. Kruse had also made a complaint to

\(^{21}\) In 1632, Moretus published his *In obitum serenissimi Piissimique principis Sigismundi III., Poloniae et Sueciae magni regis [...] Oratio*; in 1633, his *Panegyricus serenissimo atque potentissimo principi Vladisloa Sigismundo, ob virtutem omnium votis acclamato Polonorum regi [...]*.  
\(^{23}\) Who is unknown to me.  
\(^{24}\) An allusion to the Swedish campaigns in Germany under Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden (+1632) and A. Oxenstierna, regent for the young Christina of Sweden.  
Mylius: he would never be able to sell all the books Moretus had sent to him, for some works, such as the edition of Dionysius Areopagita\textsuperscript{27}, did not find ready buyers. Kruse even wanted to send these books, which he refused to pay for, back to Antwerp via Amsterdam. Moretus advised him to send these to Sarbievius in Vilnius, who could get rid of them. These letters, it seems, finally reached Kruse. On 19 July 1635 it was Balthasar Moretus Junior, Balthasar's nephew and the future heir to the Officina\textsuperscript{28}, who wrote to Kruse (n. 16) and thanked him for having forwarded some books to Sarbievius in Vilnius. In the meantime, Moretus had sent some other editions to Kruse, destined for Vilnius, if Sarbievius was willing to sell them in Lithuania, as well as a batch of books ordered by Kruse and sent to Danzig via Janssonius in Amsterdam.

It is clear that Moretus was not too happy with his collaboration with Kruse, whose market was limited to the city state of Danzig and whose customers were not interested in scholarly works. Moretus was looking for a bookseller with a larger clientele and a larger market. Through a common relation, Christophorus Rivius, who had paid a visit to him at Antwerp\textsuperscript{29}, Moretus got in touch with the famous musician and bookseller Kaspar Förster in Danzig, who sold a lot of books in Poland – it was the same person the Jesuits had worked with on behalf of Sarbievius, in 1632\textsuperscript{30}. Moretus asked him (on 17 February 1636, n. 17) to stock the volumes Kruse wanted to get rid off; referring to Sarbievius' letter in which the Lithuanian poet had claimed that the production of the Plantin press was hard to find in Poland, Moretus proposed to Förster to cooperate: both he and his Antwerp colleague Nutius\textsuperscript{31} were willing to provide the Danzig bookseller with the editions from the Netherlands he desired to obtain; he proposed the same conditions he had offered to Kruse. He warned Förster for the parallel market some Jesuits were trying to establish: they aimed at buying books with an important discount, in order to sell them at a lower price than the booksellers. Förster agreed to Moretus' conditions, it seems, and collaborated regularly with him\textsuperscript{32}. He took over the books Kruse had refused and paid them some

\textsuperscript{27} Probably an allusion to \textit{Opera S. Dionysii Areopagitae cum scholibus S. Maximi et paraphrasii Pachymerae a Balthasare Corderio Societatis Jesu} (Antverpiae 1634).

\textsuperscript{28} He was active in the Officina from 1632 on and died in 1674: cp. L. Voo et, \textit{op. cit.}, ch. 5.

\textsuperscript{29} We could not find any information on him. Was he relative of Grerardus Rivius, the well-known printer from Liège and Leuven?

\textsuperscript{30} Supra, note 18.

\textsuperscript{31} Martinius Nutius III (1594–1638), printer and bookseller in Antwerp, a relative of Moretus; cp. G. Van H a v r e, \textit{op. cit.}, 2, p. 67.

\textsuperscript{32} In the archives of the Plantin-Moretus Museum at Antwerp, there is a fair number of unpublished letters from Balthasar Moretus (Sr. and Junior) to Förster (Gaspar and his son Georgius).
time after 21 July 1636. In their later correspondence, the name of Sarbievius occurs now and then. On 8 July 1646, Balthasar Moretus Jr. sent to Georgius Förster, Kaspar's son, in Danzig some copies of Sarbievius' *Lyrica*, which had been reissued by the *Officina Plantiniana*.

**Texts**

1. **Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Sarbievius (Vilnius), 2 May 1631 (Arch. 144, p. 187) Matthiae Casimiro Sarbiewski, Vilnam, in Lithuania.**

Gratissimas tuas accepi, summae erga me benevolentiae indices ac testes, una cum carmine panegyrico, in quo omnia dilaudo praeter nimias meas laudes; quas non a iudicio tuo, sed ab affectu admitto; et de hoc gratias ago et mutuum repono, cum debito cultu.

Reverendus Pater Bollandus varie te Lyrica auxisse, et heroicorum item Carminum librum adornare indicavit. Itaque sic auctum, innovatum et quodammodo novum opus prelo subicere haud recuso, cum Cnobarus exemplaria sua distraxerit. Et quia Pontifici Optimo Maximo inscribere statuisti, primo augustiorem et tanta maiestate haud indignam formam meditabor, deinde minorem et quae magis studiosis inserviat.


2. **From a letter by Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Franciscus de Calatayud (Madrid), 27 July 1632 (Arch. 144, p. 299–300).**

Brevi exibunt opera Senecae a Justo Lipsio emendata et scholiis illustrata; et huic novae editioni accedunt scholia Liberti Fromondi ad Quaestiones

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23 Cp. also Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Gaspar Förster (Danzig), 21 July 1635 (Arch. 146, p. 360–361): „Dominus Ernestus Crusius se libros tibi tradidisse scribit; pecunias item brevi numeratum, quas una cum tuis mihi transcribas“; Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Ernestus Kruse (Danzig), 21 July 1636 (Arch. 146, p. 248): „Dominus Forsterus operam suam in pecuniis transmittendis haud denegabit; cui libros, quos recipere pridem recusasti iam tradidisse existimo. Nam is litteris 6 Junii datis nondum se eos accepsisse significat“.

24 Cp. Arch. 150 p. 266: „Interim, cum Sarbievii Lyrica recuderem [...], gratum fore existimavi si aliquot eiusdem exemplaria ad Dominationem Vestram translitterem“.

30 Cp. note 7.
36 Cp. note 8.
37 Cp. note 3.
26 In 1632, the edition in-4° came out, in 1634, the edition in-24°.
20 Cp. note 11.
Naturales et Claudii Caesaris Apocolocyntosin⁴⁰; Othonis Zylii e Soc. Jesu Historia Miraculorum Divae Virginis Silvaeducensis⁴¹, Mathiae Casimiri Sarbievii Lyricorum libri quattuor.

3. From a letter by Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Jodocus a Castro⁴² (Mechelen), 28 July 1632 (Arch. 144, p. 300).

Proximo mense a me finientur [...] Lessius De Iustitia et iure⁴³; Othonis Zylii Historia Miraculorum Divae Virginis Silvaeducensis; Mathiae Casimiri Sarbievii Lyricorum libri quattuor.

4. From a letter by Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Benedictus Van Haeften⁴⁴ (Affligem), 5 August 1632 (Arch. 144, p. 302–303).

Praeter Senecam hoc Augusto absolvam Lessium [...], Othonis Zylii Historiam Miraculorum Divae Virginis Silvaducensis, Casimiri Sarbievii Lyricorum libros quattuor.

5. Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Petrus Biverus⁴⁵ (Brussels), 5 September 1632 (Arch. 144, V 310).

Reverende in Christo Pater,
Scribo ad Dominum Steenhuyse, secretarium Concilii Brabantiae⁴⁶, ut mihi pro Reverendi Patris Mathiae Casimiri Sarbievii Lyricorum libris diploma expediat, cui et Sacrum vestrum Oratorium ac Sanctuarium inseri possint⁴⁷. Quaeso Reverentiam Vestram, illum accedere librosque suos exhibere dignetur; nam ipsum de libris vestris eidem diplomati inserendis admoneo.
A R.P. Zylio epistolam dedicatoriam pro Historia sua Miraculorum exspecto⁴⁸.

⁴⁰ Cp. L. Annaei Senecae philosophi Opera quae exstant omnia, a Iusto Lipsio emendata et scholiis illustrata. Editio tertia [...] aucta Liberti Fromondi scholiis ad Quaestiones Naturales et Ludum de Morte Claudii Caesaris, Antverpiae 1632.
⁴² Cp. note 12.
⁴³ The famous work De iustitia et iure by Leonardus Lessius S. J. (1554–1623) was indeed reedited in 1632.
⁴⁶ Cp. note 15.
⁴⁷ Cp. appendix.
⁴⁸ Cp. Moretus to Zylius, 7 August 1632 (Arch. 144, p. 304): „Itaque Reverentiam Vestram rogo ne moras ipsa iam nectat, praefationem aliaque in initio vel fine apponenda submittat“. (See D. Sacré, A Forgotten Autograph Poem, op. cit.).
6. From a letter by Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Franciscus de Calatayud (Madrid), 23 October 1632 (Arch. 144, p. 323–324).

Seneca Lipsii et Fromondi iam a prelo meo prodiit itemque Historia Miraculorum Beatae Mariae Silvaducensis, elegantissimo stilo a Patre Othone Zylio Soc. Jesu sacerdote conscripta et Casimiri Sarbievii (qui nostri est aevi Horatius) Lyricorum libri quattuor.

7. From a letter by Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Benedictus Van Haeften (Affligem), 3 February 1633 (Arch. 144, p. 343).

Recens a prelis meis exiere [...] Historia Miraculorum Divae Virginis Silvaeducensis, in 4°; Mathiae Sarbievii Lyricorum libri IV, in 4°.

8. From a letter by Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Benedictus Van Haeften (Affligem), 16 December 1633 (Arch. 146, p. 34).

Mitto Sarbievii Lyrica (quorum pretium novem asses)\(^49\).


Casimiro Sarbievio.
Reverende in Christo Pater,
Vestras ad Reverendum Patrem Bollandum mittente Domino Ernesto Kruse\(^50\), bibliopola Dantiscano, recte accepi et curavi. Porro bibliopolae huius opportunitate usus, Reverentiae Vestrae mitto viginti Lyricorum suorum minoris formae exemplaria, atque addo Urbani VIII Poemata\(^51\) recens a me cusa cum Epænesi Iberica Tribaldi Toleti\(^52\), quae aequi bonique consulere Reverentiam Vestram rogo. At vero sarcinulam curavi signatam signo marginali cts; et adieci quos Reverendus Pater Bollandus ad Reverentiam Vestram mitti voluit libros, nimirum


\(^{50}\) Cp. note 19.


\(^{52}\) Cp. *Epænesis Iberica* auctore Ludovico Tribaldi Toleti rhetore olim Complutensi, nunc rerum Indicarum regio primarioque historico, Antverpiae 1632.
Floreni sunt centum et unus Brabantici. De aliis qui recenter a prelis meis exiere libris adiungendis Reverendus Pater Bollandus ambigebat. At ne quid praeter Reverentiae Vestrae votum mitteretur, satius visum iis abstinere et maiori eos numero ad bibliopolam Dantiscanum mittere, a quo emere Reverentia Vestra ipsos possit.

Vale, Reverende in Christo Pater, mei in sacris precibus memor. Antverpiae in Officina Plantiniana 17 Julii 1634.


Ernesto Kruse, Dantiscum.

Ornatissime Domine,

Ego quam libentissime Reverendi Patris Casimiri litteras curavi; scio te haud minus libenter has ad eundem meas curaturum, nec eas tantum, sed et sarcinulam librariam, quam maiori tuae sarcinae adiunxi et his diebus via Amsterodamensi per Joannem Janssonium56, ut praescripseras, ad te misi. Immo et aliam sarcinam signatam signo marginali f. 101,00 ad te direxi, reddendam istic Domino Cornelio Schiff57, qui vecturae pretium solvet prout his litteris ipsi iniungitur a nobili et doctissimo viro Domino Simone Starovolscio58; cui et rem gratissimam hoc nomine praestabis. Pluscula Orationum eius in honorem regum Coloniae defuncti et vivi exempla mitto, quae istic in primis desiderari credo. Aliorum item recentium a prelis meis librorum maiorem numerum misi, ut Reverendo Patri Casimiro Sarbievio aliisque satisfaciam, qui de meorum librorum in Polonia inopia conqueruntur.

56 Cp. note 22.
57 Cp. note 23.
58 Cp. note 20.
Breviaria et Diurnalia Urbani VIII non alia hactenus forma impressi quam mitto, quia plurimi haud libentes novam correctionem amplectuntur. Diurnale in 8° mihi superest ex correctione Clementis VIII. Officium Beatae Mariae deinceps mihi cudendum ex recensione Urbani VIII, cuius exemplar iam ex Urbe accepi. [Impressionem auspiciabur a forma 32a quae mihi deesse coepit.] Porro in indice librorum quos mitto pretia annotata sunt Brabantica, quorum valorem te nosse existimo: quippe duodecim floreni Brabantici conficiunt quinque daleros imperiales. E rubronigris quindecim in centum subduco, ex aliis libris viginti quinque, ut honeste lucrari possis mihi commodum solve. Pecunias vero Dantisco Antverpiam per litteras cambii transcribendi commoditas haud deest.

Vale, ornatissime Domine. Antverpiae, in Officina Plantiniana 17 Julii 1634.


Casimiro Sarbievio, Vilnam.
Reverende in Christo Pater,
Has ad Reverentiam Vestram mense Julio scripsi et ad Dominum Ernestum Kruse misi, qui nullas se litteras ac tantum sarcinas librarias accepiisse significat. Itaque illarum exemplar iterum eidem committo, sed via Amsterodamensi sive maritima; nam terrestris parum tuta a Suecis, quos priores litteras interceptissae hinc cursorum credit.

Vale, Reverende in Christo Pater. Antverpiae, in officina Plantiniana 22 Nov. 1634.

12. Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Ernestus Kruse (Danzig), 22 November 1634 (Arch. 146, p. 142).

Ernesteo Kruse, Dantiscum.
Ornatissime Domine,
Hoc litterarum, quas mense Julio ad te dedi, et indicis librorum, quos misi, exemplar. Cursorum hic praefectum conveni et fatetur haud semel a Suecis interceptas fuisse litteras. In iis et meae haud dubie fuerunt. Itaque has modo via Amsterodamensi mitto atque addo litterarum quas Reverendo Patri Sarbievio scriperam exemplum; quas rogo ut cures una cum fasciculo pro cedem, qui signatus erat signo hoc marginali. Sarcina vero maior pro Domino Simone Starovolscio reddenda istic erat Domino Cornelio Schiff,

50 Cp. e.g. Breviarium Romanum ex decreto sacri sancti concilii Tridentini restitutum, Pii V iussu editum et Clementis VIII primum, nunc demoe Urbani PP. VIII auctoritate recognitum, Antverpiae 1632.

60 This line has been deletad.
qui vecturae pretium tibi solveret et ad ilium curaret transmitti. Quaeso
intelligam ubi has receperis, et librorum quos misi solutionem cures.

Vale. 22 Novembris, 1634

Typis meis iam nunc absolvi
Malderum de S. Trinitate et angelis, f° 61
Oratorium et Sanctuarium P. Biverii e Soc. Jesu in 4to duobus tomis cum
figuris aeneis 62.

Sub prelis sunt
Lipsii Opera omnia in folio 63
Huberti Goltzii Opera in folio 64
Jodoci a Castro Decachordum Morale de Virtutibus B. Mariae, in 4° 2 voll. 65
Joannis Tollegarii et Soc. Jesu Speculum Vanitatis sive Commentarius in
Ecclesiastem, in 4° 66
Hugonis Semplii e Soc. Jesu de disciplinis mathematicis Libri XII in f° 68
Martyrologium Romanum in 8° Urbani VIII 69
Breviarium Romanum Urbani VIII in 12°. Idem in 8°

13. From a letter from Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Hermannus Mylius70
(Cologne), 15 March 1635 (Arch. 146, p. 164).

Hermanno Mylio, Coloniam.
Clarissime Domine, [...]

Ad Reverendum Patrem Sarbievium litteras has commendo, atque
alteras ad Dominum Ernestum Kruse bibliopolam Dantiscanum, ad quem
mense Julio anni superioris sarcinam misi Reverendo Patri Sarbievio

61 Cp. Ioannis Malderi episcopi Antverpiensis, S. Theologiae in Academia Lovaniensi quondam
professoris In primam partem D. Thomae commentaria de Sancta Trinitate, creatione in genere
et angelis, Antverpiae 1634.
63 Cp. Iusti Lipsii v.c. Opera omnia, postremum ab ipso aucta el recensita, nunc primum
copioso indice illustrata, Antverpiae 1637, 4 vols.
64 Cp. note 83. They were published in 1644-1645!
65 Cp. note 12.
ligataque oratione dilucidans, Antverpiae 1635.
physiologiae professoris Historia naturae [...], Antverpiae 1635.
68 Cp. Hugonis Semplii Craigbaltaei Scoti e Soc. Jesu De mathematicis disciplinis libri XII
[...], Antverpiae 1635.
auctoritate recognitum, Antverpiae 1635.
70 Cp. note 25.
transmittendam. Sed quia Kruse nullas meas accepit, quas terrestri et
maritima via misi, litteras, nescivit quo sarcinam illam certis signatam
characteribus destinaret. [...] Antverpiae, in Officina Plantiniana, 15 Martii
1635.

14. Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Sarbievius (Vilnius), 15 March 1635
(Arch. 146, p. 165).

Casimiro Sarbievio, Vilnam.

Harum litterarum exemplar iam tertio Reverentiae Vestrae mitto. Nam
cum Dominus Ernestus Kruse, ad quem primo via terrestri miseram, nullas
se recepisse litteras indicasset ac tantummodo sarcinam litterulis C.S.
signatam, quae quo mittenda esset nesciret, denuo eas via Amsterodamensi
sive maritima 22 Novembris ad Dominum Kruse misi. Iam vero cum
a Domino Mylio, bibliopola Coloniensi, intellegam nihil hactenus librorum
Reverentiam Vestram accepisse vel litterarum, tertio per illum easdem
mitto\[71\], et Dominum Kruse pariter moneo de sarcina Reverentiae Vestræ
mittenda. Priorum sarcinam, quae viginti Lyricorum vestrorum exemplaria
continebat, Reverendus Pater Bollandus ad Reverendiam Vestram via Am­
sterodamensis misit iam a triennio. Miror Reverentiam Vestram nondum
recepisse. Cuidam Societatis vestræ Patri, qui Amsterodami agebat, com­
miserat ut Dantiscum ad Dominum Forsterum bibliopolam mitteret. Forsan
prior ista sarcina apud Forsterum adhuc latet, prout posterior apud
Dominum Kruse.

Vale, Reverende in Christo Pater, mei in sacris precibus memor. Ant­
verpiae, in Officina Plantiniana 15 Martii, 1635.

15. Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Ernestus Kruse (Danzig), 15 March
1635 (Arch. 146, p. 165).

Ernesto Kruse, Dantiscum.

Tertio iam easdem litteras mitto cum indice librorum quos ad te
misi; nam 22 Novembris via Amsterodamensi sive maritima, cum via
terrestri haud pervenisse intelligerem, denuo eas misi; et simul monui
fasciculum C.S. signatum ad Reverendum Patrem Mathiam Casimirum
Sarbievium pertinere, ad quem rogo uti quam citissime eures. Cista S.S.
signata ad Dominum Simonem Starovolsium spectabat. Credo is aut
aliquis eius nomine Cracovia repetit; alias Domino Cornelio Schiff istic
reddenda erat qui ad eundem Dominum Simonem transmitteret. Dionysii

\[71\] Cp. a letter from Mylius to Balthasar Moretus, Saint-Joseph’s day (19 March) 1635
(Arch. 90): „Clarissime vir, Transmissas litteras Vilnam et Gedanum fideliter curabo“.
Opera aliosque quos istic minus vendi scribis Reverendus Pater Sarbievius facile divendi curabit: nam is questus est de librorum meorum istic penuria. Quos modo desideras, prima opportunitate mittam aut intra tres abhinc septimanas, ut novos aliquot interim meis absolvendos coniungam. Cum Francofurtum a Caesarianis quodammodo obsideatur\textsuperscript{72}, vereor ne\textsuperscript{73} nundinae celebrentur. Ego hoc rerum statu nullum ex meis mittam. Sed si quispiam ex Amsterodamensis ibit, Dominum Schönwetter\textsuperscript{74} moneri atque urgeri curabo. Vale, ornatissime Domine. Antverpiae, in Officina Plantiniana, 15 Martii 1635.

\textit{16. From a letter from Balthasar Moretus Jr. (Antwerp) to Ernestus Kruse (Danzig), 19 July 1635 (Arch. 145, f. 166v).}

Ernesto Cruse Dantzigh.
Ornatissime Domine,
Quindecim dies sunt elapsi quibus litteras ad Dominacionem Tuam dedit\textsuperscript{75}, sed quia hac temporis iniquitate dubius sit postarum adventus, has secundas mitto, quibus denuo significo missam sarcinam librorum ad Dominacionem Tuam destinandam per Dominum Ioannem Ianssonium, bibliopolam Amstelodamensem, quorum notam hic addo, excurrentium ad summam f. 356 quos Dominaciones Tuae rationibus ascripsi [...] Quod ad libros, quos ad Reverendi Patris Casimiri gratiam miseram, quae apud se retineat, donec ab ipso Patre responsum accepero. In operibus Lipsii fol. index generalis imprimitur, quo absoluto mox evulgabo. Quod sarcinam ad Reverendum Patrem Casimiri gratiam miseram, gratias ago; si obsequium meum aliqua in re praestare possim, quam paratissimum reperiet. Litteras cambiales quod ad me Dominatio Tua misit, Francofurtum nondum destinavi, his primis nundinis spero missurum; ubi nummos recepero, rationibus ascribam et Dominations Tuae indicabo. Mirabitur, ut credo, Dominatio Tua alia manu et stylo has esse conscriptas quam quas a patruo ante aliquod tempus receptit; morbus est in causa, qui iam a mense aut amplius patrum nonnihil afflictit, brevi tamen sanandum spero. Interim me et obsequia mea Dominations Tuae offero. Antverpiae in Officina Plantiniana XIX Julii M.D.C.XXXV.

\textsuperscript{72} An allusion to the campaigns of Ferdinand II of Habsburg against the Swedish conquests in Germany.
\textsuperscript{73} Moretus means \textit{ne non}.
\textsuperscript{74} Cp. note 26.
\textsuperscript{75} This letter is lost.
17. Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Gaspar Förster \(^{76}\) (Danzig), 17 February 1636 (Arch. 146, p. 227–228).

Gaspari Forstero, Suae Regiae Maiestatis Poloniae et Sueciae aulico, Reipublicae Dantiscaee capellae magistro et bibliopolae, Dantiscum.

Clarissime Domine,

Gratissimas tuas accepi, tuae erga me benevolentiae indices ac testes. De quibus et consultissimi Domini Christophori Rivii\(^{77}\) affectum cognovi, qui te meo nomine salutare haud neglexerit; quaeso te mutuum ei a me amorem nunties cum plurima salute (qua ipse non fruebar cum Antverpiae adisset, ut plenius illum novisse per invaletudinem haud licuerit, immo et salutem tibi impartiendam non ego ipse sed per meos ei commendarim). Mihi antehac istic negotium cum Domino Paulo Classens, qui iampridem negotiationem librarium\(^{78}\) mecum intermissit. Deinde cum Domino Ernesto Kruse negotiari incepit. At is solis suae Reipublicae Dantiscaee finibus se continet nec in varias amplissimi Poloniae regni dictiones libros dispersit, adeo ut paucos a prelis meis novos, quos ipse miseram, recipere detrectarit, quos suo sumptu Amsterodamum remittere paratus erat, ni monuissem ut penes se servaret donec cui istic redderet nuntiarem. In schedula his adiuncta nomina et pretia librorum leges, quorum venditionem et solutionem in te recipias rogo.\(^{80}\) Ad illum eos miseram quia Reverendus Pater Sarbievius aliique de multa istic librorum meorum inopia querebantur. Mitto praecipuorum librorum meorum indicem manu scriptum adscriptis pretiis, donec pleniorem ipse conficiam typisque meis divulgem. Libri novi haud pauci mihi sub prelis erant, aut certe veteres quos recudebam, sed chartae penuria, quam bella Gallicum et

\(^{76}\) Cp. note 18.

\(^{77}\) Cp. note 26.

\(^{78}\) Moretus means 

librarium

but is confusing with 

negotium librarium or librorum.

\(^{79}\) Moretus means librarium but is confusing with negotium librarium or librorum. See also L. V o e t, op. cit., II, p. 489: already in 1609, Claessens, did some trade with the Officina. In 1638, Moretus mentions in a letter to Claessens (Arch. 147, p. 91–92) „Onse oude vriendschappe“ („our long friendship“). There are many Latin and Dutch letters to (and from) Claessens in the Archives of the Plantin-Moretus Museum (until 1643). In 1638, Gaspar Forster wrote to Moretus that he saw Claessens quite often (Arch. 82, letter from 19 March 1638).

\(^{80}\) In Arch. 82, there is a letter from Georgius Forster, Gaspar’s son (18 June 1638), complaining to Moretus about books he had received from Kruse and that were useless for his shop.
Lotharingicum peperere\textsuperscript{81} vel invitus intermisi: utpote Concordantiae Bibliorum in folio, Breviarium in 8°, Quaresmii Historia Terrae Sanctae in folio\textsuperscript{82}, Goltzii item Caesares in folio (cuius reliquarum operum a Biaeo editorum exemplaria una cum aeneis numismatum laminis compararam)\textsuperscript{83}. At vero Operibus Justi Lipsii in folio itemque Breviarium bipartita in 4to absolvendis aliquam reperire chartam potui; quae inter bimestre cum bono Deo prodibunt in lucem. Eadem chartae inopia ceteros fere in Belgio typographos cessare cogit. At quae pridem coepta erant Opera omnia Drexelii\textsuperscript{84} Duaci prodiere in lucem. Porro quos desideras varias generis libros libens mittam; quod tamen absque affinis mei Nutii\textsuperscript{85} incommodo fieri velim, cui libens faveo; et ab utroque nostrum libros petere licebit. Ex libris rubronigris (quos vocamus) quindecim in centum subduces, ex aliis viginti quinque. Negotiationem librarium plurimum bellis remissam tecum hic querimur itemque a Patribus Societatis Jesu eam exerceri publico bibliopoliorum incommodo. Certe si quis liberalitatis ergo de pretio iis remittere quidquid velit, id eleemosynae loco recipere eos oportebat, nec plures libros eum in finem comparare, ut viliori aliis pretio distribuant\textsuperscript{86}. Vale, clarissime Domine, et me tui amantem ama. Antverpiae, in Officina Plantiniana, 17 Feburarii 1636\textsuperscript{87}.

\textsuperscript{81} An allusion to the campaigns of the French, the Germans and the Swedish troops in Alsace and Lorraine. Moretus' paper came mainly from Lorraine.

\textsuperscript{82} Cp. F. Quaresmii Historica, theologica et moralis terrae sanctae elucidatio, Antverpiae 1639.


\textsuperscript{84} H. Drexelius' \textit{Opera spiritualia} were published by Bellerus in Douay in 1635.

\textsuperscript{85} Cp. note 31.

\textsuperscript{86} Cp. a letter from Förster to Moretus, 14 April 1636 (Arch. 82), from which it appears that Förster knew Sarbievius: "Patres Societatis Iesu si conqueruntur de penuria librorum honororum, remittantur ad me. Invenient quod erit ad palatum coram. Reverendus Pater Sarbievius, vir egregius et vestri amantissimus, nunc contionator regius est." See also a letter from the same to the same, 12 February 1638: "Negotiationio libraria hic locorum valde dubia est, cum Iesuitae omnis ad se unguibus aquilinis trahere et rapiere conantur, quibus etiam in venditione et distillatione vinum adustum (et quidem in maxima copia) non sordet, cum tamen illi alienissimi debebant esse ab omni negotiacione".

\textsuperscript{87} Cp. also Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Gaspar Förster (Danzig), 21 July 1636 (Arch. 146, p. 247–248): "Dominus Ernestus Crusius se libros tibi tradidisse scribit; pecunias item brevi numeratum, quas una cum suis mihi transcribas". Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Ernestus Kruse (Danzig), 21 July 1636 (Arch. 146, p. 248): "Solutionem itaque quam promittis brevi istinc exspecto. Dominus Forsterus operam suam in pecuniis transmittendi haud denegabit; cui libros, quos recipere pridem recusasti iam tradidisse existimo. Nam is litteris 6 Junii datis nondum se eos accepisse significat".
Appendix

Balthasar Moretus to Filips Willem van Steenhuyse, [5 September 1632] (Arch. 142, p. 248)

The letter is undated, but through a comparison with letter n. 5, and considering the place of the letter (between other ones from 2 and 6 September 1632), we can safely date it on 5 September 1632.

Steenhuyse, Secretaris, Brussel.
Mijn heer,
Ick sende V. L. beneffens desen den titel van den Boeck Mathiae Casimiri Sarbieviid geapprobeert van mijn heer den Pleban Estrix, den welcken meynde in eenigh voorgaende octroij geïnsierert te wesen; maer als nu voleyndende den voorgh. boeck te drucken bevinde in alle voorgaende octroijen vergeten te wesen. Oversulck bidde V. L. mij een besonder octroij voor den selven boeck te procureren, ende in 't selve octroij te stellen een Boeck vanden heren p. Petrus Biverus, genaemt Oratorium et Sanctuarium Sacrum: zijn boecken die geen materiam politicam en raecken ende geene examinatie ten hove van doen en hebben. Alsoo sal V. L. believen met den eersten het octroij te expedieren, waer van V. L. den brengher deses Jan Lenaerdt voldoen sal; ende ick sal blijven, Mijn heer,

V. L. ootmoedighen dienaer
Balthasar Moretus

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88 Gaspar Estrix (Mechelen, 1580 – Antwerp, 1644): cp. P. J. G o e t s c h a l c k x, Geschiedenis van het bisdom van Antwerpen, 1, Ekeren-Donk 1915, p. 173-174.
89 Bestellen ante correctionem.
90 Unknown to me.