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Title: CVII General Meeting of the Polish Philological Association
Conference: Ancient Techniques of Persuasion

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CVII General Meeting of
the Polish Philological Association
Conference: *Ancient Techniques of Persuasion*¹
[Translation: David Schauffler]

On the 15th and 16th of September, 2017, there took place in Katowice the 107th General Meeting of the Polish Philological Association (PTF), under the auspices of which was held an academic conference entitled “Ancient Techniques of Persuasion.” The organizers of the conference and related events were dr hab. Anna Kucz, professor of the University of Silesia (UŚ) and President of the Katowice Chapter of the PTF, and dr Edyta Gryksa, Treasurer of the Katowice Chapter of the PTF. The panels at which our honored guests read and debated their research presentations were held in the Centre for Scientific Research and Academic Library of the University of Silesia. The question of “Ancient Techniques of Persuasion” as an issue in literature, art and other sources from the ancient world is quite extensive, and the field of research upon which one may engage with this issue is a broad one. The conference found an enthusiastic reception among its attendees and attracted many participants anxious to gain further insight into this aspect of ancient rhetoric. The first day of the conference was broadcast live on Youtube.

Dr hab. Anna Kucz, prof. UŚ, greeted the assembled participants on behalf of the Chair of Classical Philology of the University of Silesia and of the Katowice

¹ The conference was organized thanks to a grant funded by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (DUN) within an agreement No. 880/P-DUN/2017

Chapter of the PTF. The conference was officially opened by prof. zw. dr hab. Andrzej Noras, Vice-Rector for Research of the University of Silesia. Also speaking at the opening ceremony were prof. dr hab. Krzysztof Jarosz, Dean of the Philology Department, and the Archbishop of Katowice, the Most Rev. Damian Zimoń. At the opening ceremony the President of the PTF, dr hab. Gościwit Malinowski, mgr Magdalena Bereza – awarded with the prize “Optima magistra,” which is sponsored by the foundation “Traditio Europae” and is given to recognize the best teacher of Latin in Poland.

The plenary session was opened by dr hab. Tadeusz Aleksandrowicz, prof. UŚ, (the previous Director of the Chair of Classical Philology of UŚ and Vice President of the PTF), who presented a brief summary of the history of classical philology studies in Poland. He noted that 2017 marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Chair of Classical Philology at the University of Silesia, and the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Katowice Chapter of the Polish Philological Association. The programme next featured the performance of a hymn in praise of the PTF and the Chair of Classical Philology, composed by dr Anna Szczepaniak. The plenary session ended with the delivery of the keynote address by the guest of honor, prof. dr hab. Marian Szarmach, which was entitled “The Rhetoric of Persuasion: Theory and Examples.”

On the first day of the conference 18 papers were presented. The panels ran concurrently in three lecture halls and attracted many participants, who enthusiastically took part in the extended discussions that followed the papers. Many topics received attention in the presentations; the researchers described various persuasive techniques deployed in the works of, among others, Cicero, Macrobius, Heliodorus, Libanius, and St. Augustine. Also receiving analysis were the topics of historiographic prose, theoretical-literary texts, and ancient grave inscriptions.

After the academic panels, participants in the conference were given the chance to take part in a walking tour of Katowice. The guide, dr Przemysław Piwowarczyk, pointed out many sites that mark significant aspects of the city’s history and that possess special significance for the inhabitants. In the late afternoon was held the General Meeting of Delegates of PTF, which opened with a tribute to the members of the Association who have passed away during the last four years. Next the delegates passed a motion to award prof. dr hab. Marian Szarmach the title of Honorary President of the PTF. There was then circulated a summary of the activities of the General Meeting during the last term, and a vote was held for officers of the Association for the next term (2017–2021). Dr Katarzyna Ochman was duly elected president for this term.

The second day of the event began with a mass for the departed members of the Association, which was held in the Academic Chapel of the Cathedral of Christ the King in Katowice, and conducted by Archbishop Zimoń. The liturgy was delivered in Latin, and the text in Greek.

During the academic part of the second day of the conference, 12 papers were presented in concurrent sessions, touching on such diverse topics as techniques of persuasion in contemporary renditions of ancient Greek works, non-verbal communication in modern iconography, and the philosophical sources of the concept of *logos*. Participants valued the rich research content of the presentations and once again the ensuing discussions were lengthy and fruitful. The papers presented at the conference will be published in the forthcoming numbers of *Szkice o antyku* (vol. 5) and *Scripta Classica* (vol. 15, 2018).