

## **Raptus Puellae, Between Life and Literature. An Unknown Poem from Silva Rerum Written by Alexander Minor, Cupbearer of Chelm, as a New Reference of the Literary Tradition of Abduction**

Reflection on the literature of past gives us an insight into the contemporaneous world, its problems, the culture and the history, and lets us intellectualise modern issues with respect to the past and its paradigms. Since the dawn of time rape (from Latin *raptus puellae*) is an important topic in the European culture. Although it concerns different discourses: law, social, religion, psychology, this term appears also in literature.

I put a question: what is the literary tradition of rape in old-Polish literature (from the 16<sup>th</sup> up to the 18<sup>th</sup> century)? My aim is to prepare a critical edition of the unknown poem *Rapt J[ej]m[ości] Panny Dzierżanowskiej przez J[ego]m[ości] Pa[na] Frantemberka, opisany przez J[ego]m[ości] Pana Aleksandra Minora, cześnika Chełmskiego* written by Alexander Minor. I will also supplement it with the analysis and interpretation.

This poem comes out to be based on a real story. Preparing the edition will be also contribute to the reconstruction of the tradition, literary tradition and canon to which Minor's text belongs. The initial study of this poem has given to rise many questions and the need of further investigation, for example it turned out that the characters from the poem were real humans and neighbours. Why the story about the abduction does not appear in historical sources, court's registers etc.? Did the story happened in real? What was the name of the abductor and what was the name of the abducted? To answer these questions I intend to carry the queries in the libraries and archives in Poland and abroad (for instance in Czech Republic and in Germany) and investigate the whole manuscript.

The story of the abduction of miss Dzierżanowska is mentioned only in Alexander Minor's *silva rerum*. This makes it unique, and also complex and even culturally biased. It becomes also a part of regional history, small homeland. As a result, my study falls into the regional history, and concerns current-day Upper Silesia, which was in the 17<sup>th</sup> century the meeting point of Polish, German and Czech cultures.

Also the figure of the author is very interesting. Minor should be seen as the author of his *silva rerum*, which is 'the archive of his memory' and which gives us access to his mentality and social environment. We can reconstruct that he was a Polish nobleman, author and reader. Many lines of Minor's poem refer to the ancient writings he might read or know from the list of the works recommended to read at school. Minor's *silva rerum* seems to be organised in a specific way. It opens door for possible investigations and sheds a new light on the issue of the authors from Lesser Poland (maybe my research will let Minor to be included to the circle of the authors from Lesser Poland).

As far as the results are concerned, my study will bring the first edition of an unknown manuscript and let other scholars become acquainted with it. It will also let fill the gap among historical and legal approaches and appearing the ravishment examples in art. I intend to publish papers: the edition of the poem (in Polish), the analysis and interpretation of it (in Polish), and the study on the abduction in old-Polish literature (which I plan to publish in English in an international scientific journal). The dissemination of the project's results will also cover participating in some conferences in Poland and abroad. This interdisciplinary project will open the door to prepare and bring the first complex study on the issue of abduction in old-Polish literature based on examples from the 16<sup>th</sup> up to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.