

This project aims to demonstrate the influence of Italian humanism on Kraków's intellectual milieu in the first half of the 15th century and to prove that the time of the beginnings of humanism in Poland should be considered in the years 1420–1440. To achieve that, I will use computer-assisted comparative, stylometric, and philological analysis of recommendational orations written by the most important representatives of Kraków's intellectual milieu, such as Mikołaj of Kozłów, Jan Elgot, and Maciej of Łabiszyn. I will conduct the analysis and compare it with the corpus of Italian humanist literature from the first half of the 15th century. Additionally, the project will result in preparation of HTR (Handwritten Text Recognition) datasets and models for future studies on the material of Latin language literary creation at the University of Kraków in the 15th century and to create the first-ever digital editions of around 60 orations.

The debate about the beginnings of Renaissance humanism in Poland has been going on for almost a hundred years, but, as it seems, there is still no definitive conclusion to it. Various definitions and indicators place the beginnings of Polish humanism as early as the first decades of the 15th century or as late as the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries. The popular *cesura* is the year 1470, i.e., the arrival of Italian humanist Philip Callimach Buonaccorsi to Kraków. Some scholars place the origins of humanism in Poland during the period between 1430 and 1460, when a whole generation of Polish intellectuals had emerged. However, as the newest discoveries suggest, at the turn of the 1440s and 1450s, humanism, albeit not a dominant trend, was already grounded in the Polish intellectual environment. Therefore, we should place its origins long before that.

In order to prove such a hypothesis, I intend to conduct literary, linguistic, and source studies on the recommendational orations written by representatives of the University of Kraków. Based on the list of such orations prepared in the 1970s by Maria Kowalczyk, I plan to create digital editions of around 60 of them. To achieve this, I will use automatic methods (HTR), which significantly decrease the time consumption and the cost of such work in comparison with traditional methods. It is worth mentioning that currently available HTR models ensure almost a 90% success rate in reading manuscript texts; therefore, they will provide the best possible results. Prepared editions will be analyzed with the use of computer-assisted comparative, stylometric, and philological means and compared with the corpus of Italian humanist literature, which I have prepared in my previous project. i.e., “Jan Długosz, a medieval or already a Renaissance writer? Intertextual inspirations in 15th century Poland”.

I anticipate that this research will allow us to pinpoint the precise moment when humanist literature established itself in the Kraków intellectual milieu. This, in turn, will enable us to pinpoint the exact beginnings of humanism in Poland and draw significant conclusions for the sake of the ongoing discussion about it. Furthermore, the project will directly result in the creation of digital editions of approximately 60 university orations. This will significantly enrich existing electronic corpora and make them accessible to researchers who have previously only read them from manuscripts. The obtained and gathered datasets will also be used to train a new open-access HTR model, thereby facilitating future studies on the Latin language literary creation of the Polish intellectual milieu in the 15th century.