



## From the Editor

The current volume of the journal “Z Badań nad Książką i Księgozbiorami Historycznymi” brings six original studies, which present the results of current research on the history of book culture in Slovakia conducted by eminent Slovak specialists in this field. The authors of the studies discuss their pieces of research carried out in prominent academic and cultural institutions in Slovakia: the Department of Library and Information Science of the Faculty of Arts of Comenius University in Bratislava, the Department of Classical Languages of the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts of Trnava University in Trnava, the Institute of Foreign Languages of the Faculty of Medicine of Comenius University in Bratislava, the Manuscripts, Old and Rare Prints Department of the University Library in Bratislava, and the Lyceum Library of the Central Library of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava.

The studies deal with various aspects of book culture: the history of book printing, publishing, censorship, and the history of libraries and readership in the territory of present-day Slovakia, covering a long span of time from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries.

In her contribution *To Publish, Make Known and Sell or Promoting Printed Books in the Incunabula Period*, Doc. Lucia Lichnerová, PhD analyses book announcements as a tool of publishing policy, competition, and book promotion in the fifteenth century, and focuses on the genesis, development, design elements, form, and content of book announcements, pointing out their significance in the regulation of book production in the incunabula period. She outlines the transformation of the content and design of book announcements into the title page of books in the sixteenth century and the development of book promotion from advertising book announcement posters to booksellers' catalogues.

Mgr. Marta Špániová, PhD focuses in her study *Social Influences on the Typographic Medium in the Reformation and Counter-Reformation Period in Bratislava, the Capital of Hungary* on a historical overview of the most important social events that influenced the history of book printing in Bratislava in the sixteenth and the seventeenth centuries. In the context of the development of Jesuit book printing in Bratislava, she elucidates the circumstances of the activities of Reformation printers who gave an impetus

to the birth of Counter-Reformation printing in Hungary. She also deals with particular titles of popular Catholic Revival literature published in Bratislava in the seventeenth century, which played an important role in implementing catholic reforms in Hungary. With regard to the publishing and the social function of this literature, she points out the role of patronesses in the history of book culture.

In their contribution *Significance of Book Production of Historic Trnava University to the Development of Science and Literature at the Territory of Present-Day Slovakia from the Perspective of Research Conducted Over the Last Two Decades*, Doc. Erika Juríková, PhD and Mgr. Janka Mišeková present the publishing activities of one of the most significant printing houses in the history of Slovak book printing – the Jesuit Academic Printing House of Trnava University in Trnava in the seventeenth and the eighteenth centuries. They characterize the specialist and the scientific literature in its publishing programme and discuss its most prominent personalities and titles. They also highlight the contribution of the scientific production of the Academic Printing House of Trnava University to the development of scientific knowledge not only in the territory of Slovakia, but also in the Central European and the global context.

The study of Mgr. Angela Škovierová, PhD, *Reception of Period Cultural and Literary Trends in the Prints of Slovak Authors Active in Bohemia at the Turn of the 16th Century*, deals with the circumstances of the activities of prominent Slovak men of letters, scholars, and humanists who lived, or worked for a longer period of time, in the territory of Bohemia or Moravia. She explains the literary, cultural, religious, and philosophical trends in their works, which shaped the Bohemian cultural milieu in the period of the Renaissance and Humanism at the turn of the sixteenth and the seventeenth centuries. She points out the social and cultural interactions between the Slovaks and the Czechs, which manifested also in the field of the history of book culture, and which continue to this day.

In her study *The Reception and the Fear of Kant in the Late Eighteenth Century*, Ivona Kollárová, PhD explores the philosophical writings of Immanuel Kant popular in the Slovak regions of Hungary and, by analysing censorial and other historical sources, she discusses the circumstances of the import of Kantian texts and their distribution and reception in Hungary at the turn of the eighteenth and the nineteenth centuries. Against the background of philosophical disputes, she explains the philosophical message and social impact of Kant's oeuvre in the circles of the intellectual elite and in the academic sphere.

The study of Mgr. Michaela Sibylová, PhD, *Aristocratic Libraries in Slovakia – Status, Research, History*, gives an overview of the history and research on the best-known aristocratic libraries which were established and

operated in the territory of present-day Slovakia in the Humanist, the Baroque, and the Enlightenment times, and which form an indispensable part of the history of the book culture and the intellectual heritage of Slovakia.

The studies represent culminations of long-term systematic research on various aspects of the history of book culture in Slovakia, which forms an indispensable part of comprehensive research on the cultural history of the Slovaks.

Marta Špániová

