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CORPUS VASORUM ANTIQUORUM
NEW EDITION
OF POLISH VOLUMES 1931-1936

In 1919 an excellent French archaeologist Edmond Pottier (1855-1934) initiated the publishing of an international work titled *Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum* (*CVA*), which - as the name suggests - regarded antique vases. The project was formalised and carried out under the auspices of *Union Académique Internationale* during the following year¹. At that time the term “antique vases” included not only Greek pottery, but also other groups of vessels from ancient culture circles, for instance Egyptian, Punic and Cypriote. The idea turned out to be spot-on and many countries joined the project, not only European ones, but also from outside of our continent. Today the output of this work is vast: almost 30 countries from a few continents take part in the *CVA*, including countries that only recently joined the project, such as Brazil, Russia or Turkey; over 300 volumes have been published by now and further fascicules are being prepared. At the same time some pottery categories were excluded from the *CVA* (for instance Egyptian pottery or undecorated vessels), focusing mainly on painted vases with figural decoration².

In Poland a large amount of ancient pottery is located in large museums, especially in Warsaw, Cracow and Poznań, but it is also stored in smaller centres, such as Płock, Cieszyn, Toruń and others. This pottery, mostly the fruit of collectors’ passions, caught the attention of foreign researchers, including

¹ Category A under the auspices of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres; directors: E. Pottier 1922-1934, A. Merlin 1935-1954, Ch. Dugas 1954-1957, P. Devambez 1958-1980, F. Villard 1980-1988, H. Metzger 1988-2002, J. de La Genière 2002-

² Exceptions are acceptable, however, especially in case of small collections, i.e. when a museum owning such a collection wishes to publish it as a whole.

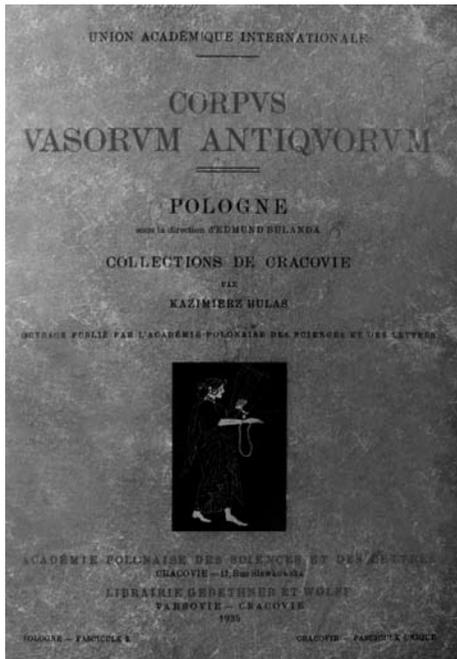


Fig. 1. *Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum*, Poland, volume 2, the Kraków collections (by K. Bulas, 1935). Phot. Katarzyna Mirczak

the greatest specialist on Athenian black-and-red-figure vases, John Davidson Beazley, who described the best objects in his book *Greek Vases in Poland* (Oxford 1928). Ancient vessels from Polish pre-war collections were mostly published in the Polish series of the *CVA*. Three fascicules of that series drawn up by Kazimierz Bulas, an employee of many years of the Chair of Classical Archaeology of the Jagiellonian University³, as well as Edmund Bulanda⁴, were edited by the latter and published during the years 1931-1936. The first volume comprised of vases from the famous Gołuchów collection gathered by Izabela Działyńska (née Czartoryski) and Jan Działyński in the Gołuchów castle⁵. The second pre-war volume of the *CVA* was dedicated to vases from Cracow collections⁶, that is in the Czartoryski Museum, the Jagiellonian University (the former collection of

the Archaeological Cabinet), the Archaeological Museum, National Museum and the Museum of Science and Industry. The last pre-war fascicule regarded all other collections located in Poland at the time and comprised of various collections from Warsaw, Wilanów, Poznań, Vilnius and other smaller ones⁷.

After World War II the largest input in the creation of the Polish *CVA* was made by an excellent expert on Greek pottery (and Greek art in general), a

³ Cf. J. Śliwa, *Przyjaciel Greków - Kazimierz Bulas (1903-1970)*, [*Friend of Greeks - Kazimierz Bulas (1903-1970)*], [in:] „Archeologia Śródziemnomorska w Uniwersytecie Jagiellońskim 1897-1997, Materiały Sympozjum Naukowego, Kraków, 21-23 października 1997” [*Mediterranean Archaeology in the Jagiellonian University 1897-1997, Proceedings of the Scientific Symposium, Kraków, 21-23 October, 1997*], J. Śliwa (ed.) Kraków 1998, 67-75.

⁴ J. Ziomecki, *Edmund Bulanda (1882-1951)*, [in:] *Archeologia Śródziemnomorska w Uniwersytecie Jagiellońskim...*, 35-39.

⁵ K. Bulas, *CVA Pologne 1, Gołuchów Musée Czartoryski*, E. Bulanda (ed.), Varsovie-Cracovie 1931.

⁶ K. Bulas, *CVA Pologne 2, Collections de Cracovie*, E. Bulanda (ed.), Varsovie-Cracovie 1935.

⁷ E. Bulanda, K. Bulas, *CVA Pologne 3, Collections divers (Varsovie, Wilanów, Poznań, Wino etc.)*, E. Bulanda (ed.), Varsovie-Cracovie 1936.

professor of our *Alma Mater*, Maria L. Bernhard (1908-1998)⁸. In seven subsequent volumes she published all Greek and Cypriote vases that were in possession of the National Museum in Warsaw after the war, thus increasing the number of Polish *CVA* fascicules to ten; the last volume was published in 1993 by the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cracow (not the Polish Academy of Sciences, as in case of fascicules nos. 4-9), referring to pre-war tradition⁹.

Professor Bernhard, while directing the Polish editorial staff of the *CVA*, had repeatedly stressed that one of the priorities of the research on ancient vases in Poland is the necessity to publish a new study on the pre-war volumes of the corpus, and she committed the realization of this task to the author of these words. For, during the many years that passed since they were published in the *CVA*, the research on ancient vases has developed greatly. The methods of study within the *CVA* framework have also changed and are now more specific - we observe a tendency towards a much more thorough analysis than it was practiced in the time of Bulas. The publishing technology of the *CVA* has improved - except from the paper version it is now also available in an electronic version.

At the beginning of the 21st century, exactly in 2000, the International Committee of the *CVA* decided that the *CVA*, the oldest research project of the

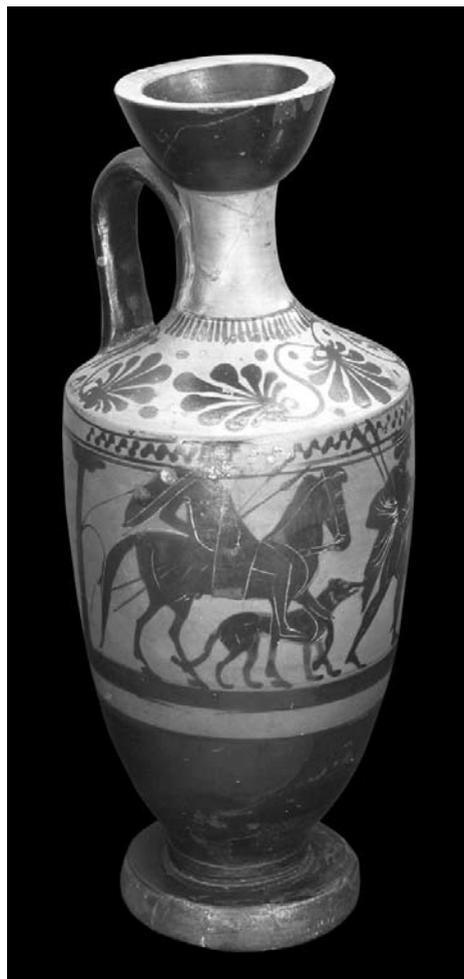


Fig. 2. Athenian black figure lekythos. Departure for hunting, the Gela Painter, ca. 500-490 BC. Institute of Archaeology, Jagiellonian University, Kraków, inv. no. 345, height 0,31 m. Phot. Jakub Śliwa, Paweł Gąsior

⁸ Cf. E. Papuci-Władyka, *Maria Ludwika Bernhard i jej badania nad sztuką grecką* [Maria Ludwika Bernhard and her Research on Greek Art], [in:] *Archeologia Śródziemnomorska w Uniwersytecie Jagiellońskim...*, 87-92.

⁹ M.L. Bernhard, *CVA Pologne 4-9, Varsovie, Musée National 1-6, Varsovie 1965-1976; ead. CVA Pologne 10, Varsovie, Musée National 7, Cracovie 1993.*

Union, should be accessible for researchers and other interested parties on the Internet. Union Académique Internationale obtained a substantial grant from the Getty Grant Program as well as the support of some national academies, and realization was entrusted to the Beazley Archive in Oxford¹⁰. Due to an enormous effort by the employees of the archives directed by Donna Kurtz, all the *CVA* fascicules that are out of print (together c. 250 volumes) were put into the Internet in 2002-2004, which is a tremendous help for researchers and allows access to ancient pottery for all enthusiasts, not only scientists¹¹.

In light of those great changes and technological development, the Polish *CVA* editorial staff, currently directed by the author under the auspices of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cracow, and especially professor J.K. Kozłowski (director of Department II of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences and Vice-director of the Union Académique Internationale), with support of the Institute of Archaeology of the Jagiellonian University, made a decision to publish completely new edition of pre-war volumes of the corpus. A decision was also made to publish the new series of the Polish *CVA* both in a traditional, printed version and an electronic one, while the Beazley Archive will include each new volume in its internet collection.

The first volume of the new series, which is now in the last stages of preparation, will consist of Cracow collections. Vases of the Jagiellonian University were the first subject. It is mostly the collection of the Institute of Archaeology, originating largely from the above mentioned Archaeological Cabinet (together c. 250 objects¹²) as well as a small group of vessels kept in the Jagiellonian

¹⁰In 2002 the Beazley Archive organised a conference in Oxford for the directors of national *CVA* editorial staffs, where a project was presented to digitalize the *CVA*; Poland was represented by the author of these words on behalf of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences.

¹¹ www.cvaonline.org. and the Beazley Archive www.beazley.ox.ac.uk. Cf. D. Kurtz, *A Corpus of Ancient Vases*, *Revue Archéologique* 2004, p. 259-286. Lately a discussion took place, not only in the Union Académique Internationale, regarding the future of the *CVA*, Cf. e.g. W. van de Put, *CVA, Corpus or Corpse?* [in:] *Proceedings of the XVth International Congress of Classical Archaeology, Amsterdam, July 12-17, 1998. Classical Archaeology towards the Third Millennium: Reflections and Perspectives*, (Allard Pierson Museum Series vol. 12) eds. R. F. Doter, E. M. Moormann, Amsterdam 1999, 428-429, which despite the deceitful title sees tremendous possibilities for development of the *CVA* in the Internet; P. Rouet, *Approaches to the Study of Attic Vases: Beazley and Pottier*, Oxford 2001, 124-137.

¹²Cf. M.L. Bernhard, Z. Kaperka [in:] *Zabytki archeologiczne Zakładu Archeologii Śródziemnomorskiej Instytutu Archeologii Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego. Katalog*, praca zbiorowa pod red. M.L. Bernhard, [Archaeological Objects of the Chair of Mediterranean Archaeology of the Jagiellonian University. Catalogue. Edited by M.L. Bernhard], Kraków 1976, nos. 132-177, 197-203, 301-471; E. Papuci-Władyka, *Corinthian and Italo-Corinthian Pottery in the Polish Collections*, Warszawa-Kraków 1989; ead. *Ceramika antyczna w zbiorze zabytków starożytnych Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego* [Ancient Pottery in the Collection of Antiquities of



Fig. 3. Athenian red figure bell krater, woman bathing surprised by Silens (A); two youths and boy (B). Ripe Classical period, the Dinos Painter, ca. 420–410 BC. Institute of Archaeology, Jagiellonian University, Kraków, inv. no. 331, height 0,30 m. Phot. J. Śliwa, P. Gašior

University Museum (four objects¹³). New pictures of all the objects were taken as well as section drawings of all the vessels and drawings of decorations and other details (e.g. inscriptions) of the objects where those elements were poorly visible or poorly preserved or omitted. Detailed descriptions of the vases were made regarding both the techniques (e.g. a description of ware or fabric using the Munsell's Soil Colour Chart), shapes, decorations and the state of preservation. The most exact classification and dating possible of all the objects was conducted on the basis of a detailed analysis and various analogies.

According to plan, the second volume of the new series is to be dedicated to the Czartoryski collection in Cracow, which became a part of the National Museum collection after the war, however after 1989 was returned to the Czartoryski Museum and is now in the hands of the Czartoryski Foundation. The collection comprises of c. 100 objects, mainly Athenian black- and red-figure vases.

The next fascicule will contain the remaining Cracow collections, that is small collections of the National Museum and the Archaeological Museum and some other objects.

the Jagiellonian University], [in:] *Egipt, Grecja, Italia... Zabytki starożytne z dawnej kolekcji Gabinetu Archeologicznego Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego* [Greece, Egypt, Italy... From the history of the Archaeological Cabinet of the Jagiellonian University], J. Śliwa (ed.), Kraków 2007, 215-233; the volume was published for the 140th anniversary of the foundation of the Archaeological Cabinet of the Jagiellonian University (1867).

¹³E. Papuci-Władyka, *Some Unknown Vases from the Jagellonian University Museum*, [in:] "Studies in Ancient Art and Civilization 2", J. Śliwa (ed.), Kraków 1992, pp. 47-57.

The above mentioned Gołuchów collection will be an object of further studies. Some of the vases it once comprised of had been lost during the war, however most of them were recovered in the post-war period¹⁴ and located in the Ancient Art Gallery of the National Museum in Warsaw¹⁵. A small part was returned in 1984-1985 as revindicated objects to where it was originally stored and is now on exposition in the Gołuchów castle (a branch of the National Museum in Poznań)¹⁶. A detailed query is necessary, however, to establish all the details regarding the post-war fate of the collection and to research it with regard to the achievements of national and international “ceramology”.

The last volume of the series will contain the remaining collections from the former Polish territories. This task will not be easy, since the collections were spread and a part was located in the areas that after World War II were no longer a part of our country’s territories. Therefore it will be essential to establish which and how many of the objects are now in Poland and where they are, and to study them once again¹⁷.

The research project that this article is dedicated to is a long-term one. Therefore we see it fit to appoint a team to accomplish it and initial talks with W. Dobrowolski (directing the Ancient Art Gallery of the National Museum in Warsaw) and D. Gorzelany (directing the Ancient Art Gallery of the Czartoryski Museum in Cracow) provided positive results. We have hope and a deep belief that the initiative will receive the necessary support of all the interested institutions and will be a great success.

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¹⁴K. Bulas, *Zbiór naczyń greckich w Gołuchowie* [The Collection of Greek Vessels in Gołuchów], [in:] *Prace i materiały rewindykacji i odszkodowań* [Works and Materials of Revindication and Compensation], No 5, Warszawa 1948, p. 25, fig. 13; M.L. Bernhard, *Powrót zbiorów gołuchowskich* [Return of the Gołuchów Collection], „Rocznik Muzeum Narodowego”, 3, 1958, pp. 319-332.

¹⁵W. Dobrowolski, *Wazy greckie, I: Ceramika attycka okresu archaicznego* [Greek Vases, I: Pottery of the Archaic Period], Warszawa 1977; id., *Wazy greckie, II: Attycka ceramika czerwonofigurowa* [Greek Vases, II: Attic Red-Figure Pottery], Warszawa 1982; id., *Ancient Art Collections*, [in:] National Museum of Warsaw Galleries and Study Collections Guide, Warsaw 2001, 50-80.

¹⁶51 vases are on exposition in the Chamber of Greek Vases in Gołuchów, cf. J. Szymkiewicz, *Zbiory starożytności w zamku gołuchowskim, przewodnik* [The Collection of Antiquities in the Gołuchów Castle. A Guide], Poznań 1988.

¹⁷Just as W. Dobrowolski did when he reconstructed the Wilanów collection: *Stanisław Kostka Potocki’s Greek Vases. A Study Attempt at the Reconstruction of the Collection*, Warsaw 2007.