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 year\(^1\). 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 decoration\(^2\).

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 centers, such as Płock, Cieszyn, Toruń and others. This pottery, mostly the fruit of collectors’ passions, caught the attention of foreign researchers, including

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\(^2\) 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.
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

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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 tradition\(^9\).

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

\(^8\) 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.

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 Oxford. 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 scientists.

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 objects) as well as a small group of vessels kept in the Jagiellonian University.

10 In 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.


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University Museum (four objects\textsuperscript{13}). 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 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 period\textsuperscript{14} and located in the Ancient Art Gallery of the National Museum in Warsaw\textsuperscript{15}. 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)\textsuperscript{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 again\textsuperscript{17}.

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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\textsuperscript{17}Just as W. Dobrowolski did when he reconstructed the Wilanów collection: \textit{Stanislaw Kostka Potocki’s Greek Vases. A Study Attempt at the Reconstruction of the Collection}, Warsaw 2007.