



SCIENTIFIC FINAL REPORT

Two- and three-year projects and postdoctoral projects

Regnr Östersjöstiftelsen: 2015-0044

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Project title: Terra, patria, urbs. Identitetsskapande i östersjöområdet under tidigmodern tid

1. The three most important results of the project and what conclusions can be drawn from them

Firstly, the project has given new insights concerning rhetorical theory. The history of rhetoric has been systematically studied before. Curricula for education on different levels give us clues to the theoretical sources used. According to these, the most studied text were the rhetorical handbooks written by Vossius, and mainly his abbreviated manuals for rhetoric. However, these short texts do not go into the composition of *laus urbis*. In editing the four chosen orations it has become clear that a totally different rhetorical treatise was known and much used by the students. The author, Konrad Dieterich, is mentioned in a school curriculum but for being a suitable author in the teaching of logic, but there is no mentioning of his rhetorical treatises. This means that a tradition of rhetoric, stemming directly from Quintilian, passed on by Erasmus and Melanchthon, was continued and left traces in Scandinavia a century later. I can thus prove that a specific rhetorical treatise was used in Sweden at the time, hitherto not known and discussed as a source of knowledge in Scandinavia.

Secondly, new knowledge on text composition and imitation can be mentioned. Any student at a university in Scandinavia (and elsewhere) was supposed to compose rhetorical argumentations and orations, both as exercises within the program and as a final test. The orations studied in this project were probably examinations of this kind and produced at the very end of the education. The rhetorical skills of the student and thereby his skills in the Latin language were thus put to the test. Apart from rhetorical theory (see above) the orations give witness to contemporary composition techniques. To a quite large extent, the orations have proven to be filled with quotations from other works (historiographic and chorographic texts, but also rhetorical treatises and other orations of the kind). We can discern a different view of imitation, one that comes close to plagiarism; this was nevertheless not uncommon in Neo-Latin writing at the time. My editions attempt to trace this compositional tool as far as possible in order to give insights in how this quite complicated language, not being the mother-tongue for these authors, was handled and mastered. It has also offered valuable insights into how education was structured at the time, and the authorities of the field.

Thirdly, I wish to stress the importance of meticulous philologic work for understanding the texts produced during the period, i.e. the Latin texts. My work as a Latin scholar has actually given the most fruitful 'news' of this project. My cumbersome search for quotations and allusions to other texts has led me to a new understanding and a new picture of the literary canon present for these young students. The orations also give yet another witness of individual competences in the Latin language, and how it was mastered and used.



2. The project's contribution to the international research frontline

The genre of *laus urbis* (praise of cities) has to some extent been treated in earlier research. An important work on the genre, published in 2011, treats the genre in Spain. Northern Europe and the tradition here and the individual specimens of texts of this genre have not been given thorough analysis. Through my study, light has been shed on the theoretical background and has given knowledge of the development of the theory of this genre, from its roots up until the curricula of the universities in northern Europe. The heavy influence of a German scholar and rhetorician, Konrad Dieterich has been detected and investigated (cf. above). New insights concerning the genre both in theory and practice has been achieved.

3. The contribution of the research to the knowledge of the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe

The educational institutions, the theoretical sources and the literary canon used constitute together a similar framework for the region around the Baltic Sea during the early modern period. Universities located over the region, in Uppsala, Dorpat, Åbo and Riga, formed a common academic culture, which has been investigated in different projects financed by ÖSS during the past 20 years. This project has strongly attributed to the knowledge of academic culture, and more precisely to the knowledge of the specific curricula and the spread and use of certain handbooks on rhetorical theory. The choice of edited orations here come from Uppsala and Åbo and they treat the city of Stockholm. A corpus of altogether 25 orations on cities from all the different regions around the Baltic Sea has functioned as a comparative material. Similar traits are obvious and still individual differences can be detected. The project has thus contributed to the knowledge of this region in several ways: use of the Latin language, compositional techniques, theoretical approaches and the function of this genre for building Sweden as political power during the 17th century.

4. New research questions that the project has led to

The present project has permitted me to investigate yet another sub-genre to the classic genre *genus demonstrativum*, one of the three basic oratorical expressions according to classical rhetoric. My previous research has been partly directed towards this genre and the more I go into the theory of the epoch, i.e. the early modern period, the more the field widens and shows new paths to walk down. Especially interesting to me after having finished this investigation on praise to cities, written in Sweden in the 17th century, is to trace the influence of one of the greatest Roman rhetoricians, namely Quintilian. As stated above, I can pinpoint the use of a German scholar and rhetorician, Konrad Dietreich, in the Swedish education in the 17th century. It is a well established fact that Quintilian was of great importance for many of the German scholars of Rhetoric during the 16th century, namely Agricola, Erasmus and Melanchthon. These rhetoricians in their turn have left heavy imprints on following specialists on rhetoric and education, such as Bucoldianus and precisely Dieterich, in the production of rhetorical theory. In a coming project, my aim is to gather scholars with an interest in rhetoric and education and form an investigation on the reception av Quintilian in Scandinavia in the 17th century.



5. Dissemination of the results of the project within and outside the research community

Monographs

Ström, Annika, *De rhetorica vetere et nova: två dissertationer om retorikens historia (1743 och 1746)*, Södertörns högskola, Huddinge, 2018

<http://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:sh:diva-34858>

Ström, Annika, *Laudes Stockholmianae – Att hylla en stad. Fyra latinska orationer över staden Stockholm från 1600-talet. Utgivna, översatta och kommenterade av Annika Ström*, 300 pages.

This monograph will be published in 2023, in the series Södertörns retoriska studier, and it is currently under peer review.

Editions

Ström, Annika, *Eloquentia duabus declamationibus accusata et defensa*, 1654.

Utgåva av latinsk text med översättning och kommentar.

Forthcoming, in *Bibliotheca Neolatina Upsaliensis*

Forthcoming articles

(will submitted to *Rhetorica Scandinavica*):

Ström, Annika, *The praising of cities. Developments and functions.*

Ström, Annika, *Rhetoric praising itself. A study on an epideictic subgenre – laus eloquentiae.*



Conferences

RSA conference March 2017, Chicago. I participated in a panel (Educational Practice in Early Modern Sweden) with a paper *Two dissertations on the History of Rhetoric*

RSA conference March 2018, New Orleans. I arranged the panel *Epideictic oratory and political communication*, and read the paper The ‘*laus urbis*’ as a means of political persuasion.

Due to the pandemic, further participation at international conferences has been impossible. Two panels for the RSA yearly conferences were accepted (Philadelphia 2020 and Dublin 2021). Both were cancelled.

I read a paper at Early Modern Dissertations of the Baltic Sea Region IV, 2021. Uppsala University Library, 1–3 December 2021: *De Rhetorica Vetere et Nova*. Two dissertations on the history of rhetoric, 1743 and 1746