

Czech Science Foundation - Part C

Project Description

Applicant: Prof. PhDr. Petr Osolsobě, Ph.D.

Name of the Project:

Edmund Campion: Art of Drama, Rhetoric, and the Literary Imagination

Current state of research:

Life and works of Edmund Campion (1540-1581), who spent eight years in Brno and Prague (1573-1580), provide extraordinary material for aesthetic, drama and comparative culture research in the Late Renaissance and Early Modern period. We had long known that Campion was the author of three Latin plays, written during his stay at Prague. According to Sommevogel's authoritative bibliographical dictionary, Campion wrote:

- 1) *Nobilem actionem in theatrum dedit, qua Ambrahami Sacrificium in Filio Isaaco, inter Patris secum ipso pugnantis miros affectus, ingeniose exhibuit* (*Sacrifice of Abraham*, 1575);
- 2) *Tragoedia de Saule Rege* (*King Saul*, 1577), and
- 3) *Ambrosius, Theodosium Imperatorem ad poenitentiam adducens*, or *Ambrosia* (1578).

In 1578 *Ambrosia* was performed before a wide public in the presence of the Emperor and Bohemian King Rudolf II in Prague. None of Campion's plays had ever been printed and all three were considered to be lost until a manuscript copy of the third, play *Ambrosiana* was found in the collection belonging to Jakob Gretser (1562-1625), an outstanding playwright and philosopher of that time, in the Dillingen Library, near Ingoldstadt in Germany and edited by Jos. Simons (Assen 1970).

Though the discovery of it is of the greatest importance for the history of Czech theatre and literature (it indeed pre-dates the first extant school play written in Bohemia by almost one hundred years), the play has never been published in a Czech edition. It was seven years since Campion had given up his splendid career at Oxford and had left England. While he was professor of rhetoric and philosophy at the *Clementinum*, the Jesuit College in Prague (1574-1580) Campion wrote treatises on the art of rhetorics (*De imitatione rhetorica*) and on the idea of university education (*De iuvene academico*). There is no modern Czech edition of these works, and they are hardly mentioned in our literature. Campion remained an influential figure in Bohemia for a long time after his return to England (Jakobus Pontanus, Bohuslav Balbín et al.). He died as a missionary in London, at Tyburn, in 1581.

Today, Campion's influence on English literature and culture is perceived as central. His pivotal role is often stated by cultural historians (John Bossy, Eamon Duffy, Alexandra Walsham, Christopher Haigh, Michelle Lastovickova, Donna Hamilton), contemporary literary historians, editors and Elizabethan scholars (Gerard Kilroy, Alison Shell, Clare Asquith, Arthur Marotti, Robert Miola, Catherine Duncan-Jones), Shakespeare scholars (Stephen Greenblatt, Richard Wilson), in Art & Religion studies (Peter Milward, David Beauregard) and in many others fields, since Campion's influence reaches from theatre, rhetorics and literature up to painting, emblematics, and music (famous Elizabethan composer William Byrd composed a madrigal on the verses of Henry Walpole's epitaph for Edmund Campion). In the last ten years, two previously unknown archival manuscripts of a long

Campion Virgilian epic (821 verses) have been discovered by Gerard Kilroy in the British Library [MS 36529, fols 69^v-78^r (B)], and in Holkham Hall, and published (2005). Since then another has come to light in the Bodleian Library Oxford.

The question which has increased interest is Campion is the controversial issue of a possible meeting between Campion and the young Shakespeare in Lancashire in 1581 based on the so-called „Shakeshafte theory“ presupposing their presence in Hoghton Tower during the „lost years“ in Shakespeare’s life. The hypothesis is hotly debated; first put forward by Ernst Honigmann and developed by Peter Milward, Stephen Greenblatt, Richard Wilson, but denied by Thomas McCoog, Peter Davidson and Robert Bearman. The conference on *Lancastrian Shakespeare* (1999) and Michael Wood’s TV series (BBC 2002) have further enhanced interest in Shakespeare’s religious affiliation.

While much of this discussion has been speculative, what is needed is close study of the writings of Campion himself and of documents about his life and influence.

Objectives of the project:

The final purpose of this project is to create a new Latin-Czech comprehensive edition of Campion’s writings (c. 300 pp.) together with a biographical and bibliographical introduction based on the contemporary state of research (c. 100 pp.). This would be preceded by two articles published in peer-reviewed journals in Czech Republic, or Britain or in United States and the creation of a web-site of the project, which would keep a running account of the state of Campion studies.

Research time table, method and proceedings:

In 1st year: collection of all the extant works and primary sources for Campion’s life and work, with special attention paid to his *dramatic production*; editing works on *Ambrosia*; making photocopy of *Ambrosia* MS. and searching for other extant manuscripts in Dillingen Library (Gretser’s collection); a collation and critique of sources; comparison with plays of Jakobus Pontanus (Campion’s disciple. Is Pontanus’s *Stratocles* attributable to Campion?) and of Jan Ámos Komenský (Comenius). Is Komenský’s drama *Abrahamus Patriarcha* influenced by the (so far) lost Campion’s drama *Sacrifice of Abraham*? (Could Komenský have come into contact with some manuscripts in Uherské Hradiště where Jesuit seminary had been?). A visit of places of importance for Campion’s work in Britain and collecting and making documents (Saint John’s College Oxford, Lyford Grange, Stonor Park, Farm Street-London, Baddesley-Clinton in Warwickshire, Hoghton Tower in Lancashire). Presentation of the research in the form of conference paper and power-point presentation in Great Britain.

In 2nd year: research concentrated upon Campion’s epistolary production for the most related to Rome, ARSI /*Jesuit Archives in Rome*/, letters written to Gregory Martin (photocopy) and general Aquaviva. Preparatory work on editing Campion letters. *English College, Rome* : MSS. and Guests Books related to English missionaries 1572-1590 (photocopying); description and survey of Campion’s activity in Rome reported by Anthony Munday’s *The English Romayne Lyfe* written in 1582.

In 3rd year: final preparation of the Latin-Czech edition, making translations from the best preserved manuscripts and the earliest printed editions; survey of Campion’s influence on the English literary imagination (Robert Southwell, Shakespeare, Henry Walpole) based on the current research (Walsham, Shell, Marotti). Study of related manuscripts and transcriptions in *British Library*, *British Museum* (Dept. of MSS and Dept. of Printed Books),

Public Record Office, Archives of the English Province, 114 Mount Street, Bodleian Library, and at Holkham Hall. Consulting about the up-to-date approaches to editing early modern literature in book or in internet. Presentation of the final output in the form of two articles published in peer-viewed journals and a conference paper presented at a relevant academic occasion.

Documented international cooperation:

Applicant has long-term academic contacts with Lancaster University, Campion Hall Oxford, Bodleian Library Oxford, University College London, Renaissance Society of America, Archivum Romanum Societatis Iesu (ARSI) in Rome and Archives of English Province in London (Farm Street), with the National Library in Prague, and other institutions that may be helpful in the field of research. He has participated in conferences in Manchester (2008), Venice (2010), and Portsmouth, Rhode Island (2011), largely dedicated to editing and interpreting 16th and 17th century literature.

International Significance of the Project

The research into correspondences between two cultural clusters in the second half of the 16th century, the Elizabethan England and the Rudolphian Bohemia, will prove itself valuable for all contemporary scholars working in this field.

In Edmund Campion we see a pivotal personality connecting European thought, literature and art of his time. In an unusual fusion he brings together the values of classical education with those of Christian art. In his drama, poem and oratory he has shown how the Mediterranean cultural space, as symbolically unified in Homeric and Virgilian epic poetry and, after him, in Shakespeare, provides us with both artistic forms and imaginative sources, and how it remains a powerful metaphor for the continuity of Western civilization.

The intention is to establish a centre for Campion Studies at Brno, which would attract funding for an annual lecture by a visiting scholar, a conference every five years, and establish a data-base of resources for Campion scholars. This would help to re-focus attention on the European dimension of Campion's scholarship.

In Brno, April 7 2011

prof. PhDr. Petr Osolsobě, Ph.D.

Selected bibliography:

Primary Latin Sources:

CAMPION, EDMUND

Rationes decem. Henley on Thames, 1581.

Orationes, Epistolae, Tractatus de imitatione Rhetorica, ed. Robert Turner. Ingolstadt, Angermarius, 1602.

Opuscula omnia, ed. Robert Turner. Paris, Cramoisy, 1618.

Litanie Deiparae Virginis Mariae. Paris, Cramoisy, 1633.

Ambrosia. ed. Jos. Simons. Assen: Van Gorcum, 1970.

Two Bokes of the Histories of Ireland, ed. A. F. Vossen. Assen: Van Gorcum, 1963.

Alciato, Andrea: *Emblematus Liber. Selecta epigrammata graeca latine versa, ex septem epigrammatum Graecorum libris*. Venetiae, 1546

Balbin, Bohuslav. *Miscellanea historica Regni Bohemiae ... seu Bohemia sancta*. Praegae, 1682.

Bartoli, Daniel.: *Evropae Historiae Societati Iesu. Pars Prior. Anglia*. Lugduni (Lyon) 1671.

Bombino, Paolo.: *Vita et martyrium Edmundi Campiani*. Mantua 1620.

More, Henry: *Historia Missionis Anglicanae Societatis Jesu* (MS 1660).

In Francis Edwards, *The Elizabeth Jesuits*. London: Phillimore, 1981.

Schmidl, Johannes: *Historiae Societatis Iesu Provinciae Bohemiae Pars Prima, Liber IV*. Praegae, 1747.

Edmundus Campianus coelesti lauro insignis, admodum reverendo, nobili ac doctissimo domino Danieli Nastaupil, SS.

Theologiae Doctori etc., oblatum A Rhetorica Academica Pragensi, Praegae 1651. (Strahov Library sign. AJ VIII 80/1.)

Secondary and Modern Sources:

Cobbett, William, M. P. *Complete Collection of State Trials*, 33 vols. London: Bagshaw, 1809.

Duncan-Jones, Katherine: Sir Philip Sidney's Debt to Campion, in *The Reckoned Expense: Edmund Campion and the Early English Jesuits*, ed. Thomas M. McCoog, S.J. Woodbridge: Boydell Press, 1996, pp. 85-92.

Foley, Henry: *Records of the English Province of the Society of Jesus*. 7 vols. London: Burns and Oates, 1877-1883.

Gerard, John: *The Autobiography of an Elizabethan*, trans. Philip Caraman. London: Longmans, Green, 1951.

Greenblatt, Stephen: *Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare*. New York: W. W. Norton, 2004, s. 108-109;

Groves, Beatrice: *Texts and Traditions. Religion in Shakespeare (1592-1604)*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2007.

Hodgets, Michael: „Campion in the Thames Valley, 1580“. In *Recusant History*, 2010 / 3, pp. 7-46.

Holleran, James, V: *A Jesuit Challenge: Edmund Campion's Debates at the Tower of London in 1581*. New York: Fordham University Press, 1999.

Honigmann, E. A. J.: *Shakespeare: The Lost Years*. Totowa, N.J.: Barnes and Noble Books, 1986.

Holmes, Peter: *Resistance and Compromise*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982.

Kazda, Jaromír: „Pater Edmund Campianus martyr“. In *Divadelní revue* 1997 / 4, s. 9-17.

Kilroy, Gerard, *Edmund Campion: Memory and Transcription*. London: Ashgate 2005.

Kopecký, Milan: „Edmund Campion a John Ogilvie“. In *Studia comeniana et historica* 26, 1996, č. 55-56, s.63-69.

Konečný, Lubomír, „Edmund Campion, S.J. jako emblematic“. In L. Konečný, *Mezi textem a obrazem: miscellanea z historie emblematicky*. Praha: Národní knihovna ČR, 2002.

Marotti, Arthur: *Religious Ideology and Cultural Fantasy. Catholic and Anti-catholic Discourses in the Early Modern England*. Notre Dame: Notre Dame University Press, 2005.

McCoog, Thomas: *The Reckoned Expense: Edmund Campion and the Early English Jesuits*, McCoog (ed.) Woodbridge: Boydell Press, 1996.

McCoog, Thomas: „The Flower of Oxford“: The Role of Edmund Campion in Early Recusant Polemics. In *Sixteenth Century Journal*, XXIV/4 (1993), pp. 899-913.

Milward, Peter: *Shakespeare's Religious Background*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1973.

Reynolds, Ernest Edwin: *Campion and Parsons*, London, 1980.

Shell, Alison: „„We are made a spectacle“: Campion's dramas“. In *The Reckoned Expense: Edmund Campion and the Early English Jesuits*. T. McCoog (ed.), *Essays in Celebration of the First Centenary of Campion Hall, Oxford (1896-1996)*. Woodbridge, 1996.

Shell, Alison: *Catholicism, Controversy and the English Literary Imagination, 1558-1660*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Simons, Joseph, *Ambrosia, a neo-latin drama by Edmund Campion S. J.* Assen, 1970.

Simpson, Richard, *Edmund Campion: A Biography*. London: Burns and Oates 1907 (1867).

Waugh, Evelyn, *Edmund Campion. Scholar, Priest, Hero, and Martyr*. Oxford: Ox. Univ. Press 1980 (1935).

Theatre and Religion: Lancastrian Shakespeare. R. Dutton, A. Findlay, R. Wilson (eds.). Manchester Univ. Press, 2003.

