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VIVESIANA és una revista científica anual, que té com a objectiu la publicació d'estudis sobre Joan Lluís Vives i el Renaixement. Es publica en Open Journal System. La secció ARTICLES està sotmesa a avaluació. També publica números especials.

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MISCEL·LÀNIA / MISCELÁNEA



VALENCIA HONOURING JUAN LUIS VIVES

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From 24 till 26 October 2018 Prof. Antonio Lastra and his staff, in collaboration with Gianluca Cuzzo, Krzysztof Piotr Skowroński and myself, organized in Valencia the “Seminar of European Studies on Luis Vives”. Before starting my paper on “Philosophical and Political Thinking in Juan Luis Vives’s *De Europae dissidiis et republica*”, I took the opportunity to draw the attention of the learned public on a few Latin lines that had caught my eye during an exploratory walk through the city we had made the day before with a few friends and colleagues. These lines are painted on the wall in the small Plaza Margarita Valldaura, where Juan Vives supposedly is born, and form the background for the bronze bust of the humanist that was created by the Valencian professor and sculptor Ramon Mateu Montesinos. This bronze statue originally found its place in the Plaza de los Pinazo (since 1992 the Plaza de la Ciudad de Brujas), where it was inaugurated on 25 October 1966.

The two lines on the wall read as follow:

PATRIA DAT VITAM RARO LARGITVR HONORES
ILLE MVLTO MELIVS TERRA ALIENA DABIT.



Trying to understand the two lines of the inscription on the wall, we agreed that the first line did not create any problems and meant: “The homeland gives life, (but) it seldom bestows public honors”. The second line was more puzzling, although the general meaning seemed to be clear enough, viz. “ A foreign country will provide these honors in a much better way”. Although the second line was not indented, it was almost immediately obvious that the two lines constituted a Latin distich, viz. a hexameter followed by a pentameter. But the pentameter does not scan and there is also a grammatical problem: the sentence here has two subjects: “Ille” and “Terra” and no object. My suggestion then to solve this double problem was to replace “Ille” by “Quos” or by “Hos”, both closely referring to the “honores” in the previous line.

Back home, I discovered that this inscription goes back several centuries, but also that the distich, with erroneous use of “Ille”, had found its way even into academic speeches, such as the “laudatio” held on 10 January 2018 by Prof. Luis Franco for the doctorate honoris causa

of Francisco J. Martínez Mojica at the University of Valencia. Therefore I wrote on 4 November a letter to the alcalde of Valencia, proposing to change “Ille” into “Hos” and to indent the second line, in order to make clear that the two lines formed a Latin distich. To my deep regret, until today I never received an answer.

It may be interesting to point at the widespread use of this distich, which exactly as its biblical equivalent “Nemo propheta in patria sua”¹ regularly occurs in collections of quotations, proverbs and mottoes used for educational or pedagogical purposes. A distich with a similar beginning is to be found in the epigrams of Salomon Frenzel von Friedenthal (Breslau 1564-1605)²: “Patria dat vitam: raro dat patria victum / Patria cuique sua est, est ubicunque bene.” The more common reading of the first line (“Patria dat victum, raro largitur honores”) is included in several nineteenth-century editions, such as those by Wilhelm Binder, Karl Friedrich Wilhelm Wander, Hermann Hempel or Eduardus Margalitz, and has found its way into the comprehensive reference work by Hans Walther.³

Other authors preferred to reproduce completely the distich, sometimes with a very small variation in the second line, which does not affect the scansion. One of the most enthusiastic collectors of proverbs and adages was the German philologist Johann Georg Seybold (1617-1686). He published in 1654 his *Fasciculus Adagiorum Latino-Germanicorum in gratiam et usum scholasticae iuventutis* (Ulm: Balthasar Kühne, 1654). A decade later followed a second edition (Nuremberg: Endter, 1665), inaugurating a long series of new editions and reprints of his *Selectiora adagia Latino-Germanica*.⁴ In these editions, all printed by Endter at Nuremberg, the items were arranged alphabetically, and the distich appears on p. 266, with in the pentameter the reading “Hos melius multo”.

It does not come as a surprise that the same reading occurs on p. 430 in Seybold's much larger *Viridarium selectissimis paroemiarum & sententiarum Latino-Germanicarum flosculus amoenissimum, ex optimis quibusque tam vetustissimis quam recentissimis auctoribus ita adornatum, ut non modo scholaribus & studiosis, verum etiam theologis, politicis, imo quibuscunque aliis, sive literatis sive*

1 This proverb is extracted from Vulg. Lc. 4, 24: “Nemo propheta acceptus est in patria sua”, but it is present in a variant form in all four gospels (Mt. 13, 57; Mc. 6, 4; Joh. 4, 44).

2 *Epigrammatum libelli quatuor lectu non iniucundi ... Auctore Salomone Frenzelio poeta laureato Caesario ...* (Pragae: Georgius Nigrinus, 1588), p. 60; a slightly changed version in the *Epigrammatum Salomonis Frenzelii a Friedenthal poetae (aureati) Caesarii sylula prima ...* (Witebergae: Georgius Mullerus, 1593), p. 151 where we read “haud semper” instead of “raro” in the first line.

3 Wilhelm Binder, *Novus Thesaurus adagiorum Latinorum – Lateinischer Sprichwörter-Schatz* (Stuttgart, 1861; zweite Ausgabe 1866), p. 276, no. 2496; Karl Friedrich Wilhelm Wander (ed.), *Deutsches Sprichwörter-Lexikon: ein Hausschatz für das deutsche Volk*, 5 vols (Leipzig, 1867-1880), III (1873), p. 720; Hermann Hempel, *Lateinischer Sentenzen- und Sprichwörter-Schatz* (Bremen, 1884; 2. Ausgabe 1890), p. 234, no. 4239; Eduardus Margalitz, *Florilegium proverbiorum universae latinitatis: proverbia proverbiales sententiae gnomaeque classicae mediae et infimae latinitatis*. Collegit et in novum ordinem rededit E.M. (Budapest, 1895), p. 223. *Proverbia sententiaeque Latinitatis Medii Aevi. Lateinische Sprichwörter und Sentenzen des Mittelalters in alphabetischer Anordnung*. Gesammelt und herausgegeben von Hans Walther, 5 vols (Göttingen, 1963-1969), III (1965), pp. 731-732, no. 20842.

4 I quote the title of the 1665 edition: *Selectiora Adagia Latino-Germanica: In Gratiam et Usus Scholasticae Juventutis olim privatim collecta, & in Alphabeti seriem concinnata: Nunc Superiorum auctoritate & iussu publice typis demandata Studio Johannis Georgii Seyboldi, Halae Sueni, ibidemque Praeceptoris Classici. Editio secunda priori longe auctior & correctior* (Norimbergae: Endterus, 1665). See further the entry by Ludwig Fränkel, “Seybold, Johann Georg”, in *Allgemeine Deutsche Biographie*, 34 (1892), 80-83 [Online-Version], and *VD 17 online (Verzeichnis der im deutschen Sprachraum erschienenen Drucke des 17. Jahrhunderts)*, s.v.

illiteratis in sermonibus & scriptis permagno usui esse possit. -- Lust-garten von auserlesenen Sprüchwörtern auch schönen und denckwürdigen Sitten- und Lehrspruchen ... Von Johann Georg Seybold Gymnasii Halensis collega. Mit einem gedoppelten und sehr nützlichem Register geziert (Nuremberg, Endter, 1677).

The distich with exactly the same reading occurs also in the *Fasciculus poematum Latinorum* of Hieronymus Freyer (1675-1747), in the *Florilegium Adagiorum* of the Swiss scholar Andreas Ritzius, in the *Fragmenta poetarum Veterum Recentiorumque* of the Bohemian priest Josephus Ernestus Barisien, and in the *Teutsche Sprichwörter* of the Bavarian priest, poet and lexicographer Andreas Schellhorn (1761-1845).⁵

The only collection in which the distich appears with in the pentameter the variant reading “Hos multo melius” instead of “Hos melius multo” is, to my knowledge, the famous miscellany published by the benedictine monk Odilo Schreger (1697-1774) for the first time in 1749 with the title: *Studiosus iovialis, seu auxilia ad jocose, & honeste discurrendum. In Gratiam & Usum Studiosorum juvenum, aliorumque Litteratorum Virorum, honestae recreationis amantium, collecta. A P. Odilone Schreger Benedictino* (Monachii et Pedeponti, 1749), p. 57, no. 221. It immediately enjoyed an immense success and was steadily corrected and enlarged. A second edition came out in 1751 (p. 61), a third one in 1752; a fourth one in 1755; a fifth one in 1757, a sixth one in 1766 and a seventh one finally at Augsburg in 1773, where the distich appears on p. 52, no. 221.

It is rather unlikely that one of the previously mentioned editions was a direct source for Prof. Luis Franco preparing his “laudatio” on 10 January 2018. He most probably was inspired by the distich painted on the wall in the Plaza Margarita Valldaura, which he inconsiderately copied. Until now it remains unclear, however, how and when and by whom the correct “Hos multo melius” was changed, most unfortunately, into “Ille multo melius”.

5 *Hieronymi Freyeri ... Fasciculus Poematum Latinorum ex optimis antiqui ac recentioris aevi poetis collectus et exempla uti casta sic utilia et institutiones poeticas cum aliorum tum maxime Rev. Ioach. Langii in grammatica Latina abunde illustrantia exhibens* (Halaë Magdeburgicae, 1713), p. 596.

Florilegium Adagiorum et sententiarum Latino-Germanicum Ex optimis quibusque Auctoribus latinis Classicis, Poëtis, Historicis, Rhetoribus, non omissis Auctoribus recentioribus, undique collectum et in Alphabetico Ordine dispositum ... ab M. Andrea Ritzio Sangallensi (Basileae, 1728), p. 216;

Fragmenta poetarum Veterum Recentiorumque, Ponderosioribus metris, cum laudi cum vituperio inservituris, Nec non Intermixtis Apophthegmatibus, Axiomatibus, Variis In- & Descriptionibus, Sententiis, ac Documentis, Sacris, atque Profanis, Interjectisque metris Leoninis, Rhythmis, & Epigrammatibus, in modum Polyanthæ Poëticae proposita Per Alphabeticos Titulos in ordinem disposita, Pro erudita legentium utilitate Luci publicae exposita a Josepho Ernesto Barisien Bohemo Pragensi (Pragae, 1747), p. 309;

Teutsche Sprichwörter, sprichwörtliche Redensarten und Denksprüche gesammelt, in Ordnung gebracht, und mit den nöthigsten Erklärungen begleitet von Andreas Schellhorn ... Nebst einem Anhang von Sprichwörtern und Denksprüchen in lateinischen Versen für Studierte und Studierende (Nürnberg, 1797), Anhang, p. 37.

