

Rex regum or Stephen Báthory's campaigns against Ivan the Terrible in a poem by Samuel Wolf

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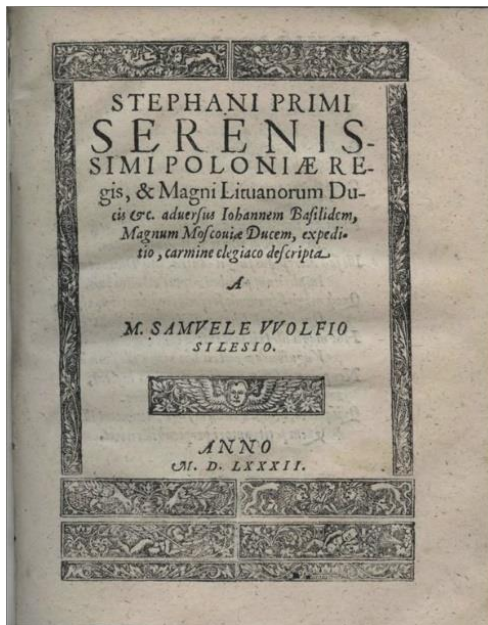
(Uniwersytet Wrocławski)

When:

2nd February 2024 – 6pm

Where:

Seminarraum 6, Ágnes-Heller-Haus, Innrain 52a, 1st Floor



Among the abundant poetic output produced during the reign of Stephen Báthory on the throne of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, a poem by Samuel Wolf (1549-1591) occupies a special place. Clearly written upon request by the royal court for propaganda purposes, the poem was published in 1582 (1583) in Gdańsk. However, it is not the poetic panache or the beauty of prosody that distinguish this work from the others, but the fact that the author, who did not participate in the expeditions himself, and probably never visited the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, succinctly and faithfully described all three of the Polish king's victorious military campaigns against the long-unsettled Muscovite ruler. In it, Stephen Báthory was glorified as a just king waging a just war, a king above all Polish kings.

In the final talk ending my fellowship at the LBI for Neo-Latin Studies, I would like to present the historical sources that Samuel Wolf used in composing his poem with a particular focus on the last military expedition to Pskov (Plescovia) in 1581-1582.

