

In volume 3, 441a of his monumental *Iter Italicum*, Kristeller refers to MS 123 of the Ratsschulbibliothek in Zwickau, which transmits a commentary on Ovid's *Fasti* composed by Philipp Melanchthon. An examination of the manuscript *in situ*, however, has revealed that in addition to the commentary on the *Fasti*, the codex has eleven other commentaries on Ovidian works, including a commentary on Book 13 of the *Metamorphoses* by Johann Velcurio; commentaries on individual letters of the *Heroides* by the same Velcurio; and a commentary on Books 1-7 of the *Metamorphoses* by Veit Dietrich. The manuscript was written by Andreas Poach, a student and teacher at Wittenberg, 1538-1541, wherein he has recorded the lectures which he heard by individual masters at Wittenberg between 1534 and 1538. In addition to the commentaries on Ovid, the manuscript preserves Veit Amerbach's lectures on the *Meteora* of Pontanus and the *Physica* of Albert the Great.

In this paper, I examine the individual commentaries on the works of Ovid, elucidating their approaches to the text and showing how they reflect the preoccupations and concerns of German reformation humanists. Johann Velcurio's commentary on Book 13 of the *Metamorphoses* falls into a recognized group of commentaries on that book, while the critical stance adopted by Veit Dietrich may be shown to foreshadow that of Georg Schuler, who wrote an *Explicatio* on the *Metamorphoses* in 1554 for the benefit of his students at Königsberg. Finally, I discuss the relationship of this manuscript copy of Melanchthon's commentary on the *Fasti* to the print edition of 1540, and I demonstrate how the manuscript copy is in several ways superior to the later print version.

MS 123 from the Ratsschulbibliothek in Zwickau is an interesting example of the discoveries to be made from original archival work in European libraries. Kristeller's description of the manuscript in his *Iter* reproduced the handwritten inventory list found in the library and thereby failed to take account of the riches to be found therein. The newly discovered texts present a revealing window onto the interests and intellectual pursuits of Melanchthon and his circle at the University of Wittenberg in the 1530s.