
Introduction

It is a pleasure for me to introduce a new issue of *Scripta Classica*. The present volume is a collection of interesting and valuable articles, which will appeal to the most exacting readers. Most of them were presented by guests of a conference entitled *Ancient Techniques of Persuasion*, which took place on the 15th and 16th of September, 2017 at the University of Silesia in Katowice. The first text, *Carmen in honorem Peिताυρηι, Usiae et Classicae*, is an engaging laudation written in Greek by Anna Szczepaniak, who combines in it both ancient and Silesian motifs. The second article, *References to Historical Figures as a Means of Persuasion in Ancient Rhetoric. A Research Methodology Applicable to Cicero* by Damian Pierzak, is aimed at outlining differences between references to historical figures, which can be used as means of persuasion *sensu stricto*, and the exempla understood in a wider sense. The theme of ancient persuasion is continued in an article written by Beata Gaj, entitled *Persuasion and Religion: i.e. How to Convince Somebody about Religious Illusion*. The author shows that a Christian writer, Firmicus Maternus, used a wide number of rhetorical measures, e.g. *argumentum ad baculum*. This set of persuasive techniques made it possible to spread cultural rules and rites even though people were worried about its harmful impact on society and the empire in general. Natalia Cichoń in her article *Repozjanus, O schadzce Marsa i Wenery* presents the results of a perceptive analysis of the text under discussion. A translation into Polish is supplemented with a lengthy commentary, in which she exhaustively explains the most important issues. The next article, *Ispirazioni antiche nella retorica politica del '300: dall'immagine alla parola. Il caso di Cola di Rienzo e Francesco Petrarca*, by Julia Krauze, concentrates on Cola di Rienzo, whose life and political mission was influenced in some way by classical civilisation and ancient motifs. The volume ends with a text by Olga Śmiechowicz, entitled *If Cloud Cuckoo Land Were Conquered by*

the Nazis..., in which the author argues that Aristophanes' *The Birds* could convey a secret message when it is read with reference to Hitlerism. In that way it performs a persuasive function.

I sincerely hope that the diverse articles presented in this volume will meet all readers' expectations for challenging and informative discussion.

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