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SOME UNNOTICED AND UNPUBLISHED LETTERS FROM BALTHASAR MORETUS TO OR CONCERNING THE LATIN POET MATTHIAS CASIMIRUS SARBIEVIUS (1595–1640)¹

It is beyond any doubt that the earliest Antwerp editions of Sarbievius contributed greatly to the spread of the poet's fame in Western Europe². The first Antwerp edition of the *Lyrica* was produced by a relatively unimportant printer, John Cnobbaert, shortly after February 1630³. This edition contained some new poems. We must suppose that Cnobbaert had received the Sarbievius material from the Antwerp Jesuits, his printing shop being located next to the Jesuit residence. The booklet caught the attention of a connoisseur, Balthasar Moretus, the most important printer in the Southern Netherlands, a grandson of Plantin, a former pupil and protégé of Justus Lipsius and a friend of the painter Peter Paul Rubens⁴. This printer must have been interested in Sarbievius' verse on account of its intrinsic value (Moretus himself was no mean poet), as well as because of the fact that he was a Jesuit (Moretus was their most important printer), whose lyrics were eulogies of Pope Urban VIII, with whom our Counter Reformation printer wanted to be on good terms. So, Moretus issued two enlarged standard editions of Sarbievius

¹ I want to thank Dr. M. Laureys (K. U. Leuven) for reviewing my English.

² Cp. e.g. E. Ulčinaite, *Mathias Casimirus Sarbievius, the poet of two worlds*, [in:] Motiejus Kazimieras Sarbievijus, *Lemties zaidimai. Poezijos rinktinė – Ludi Fortunae. Lyrica selecta*, Bibliotheca Baltica – Lithuania, Vilnius 1995, p. XLVII.

³ See on Cnobbaert (1590–1637) e.g. G. Van Havre, *Marques typographiques des imprimeurs et libraires anversois*, Maatschappij der Antwerpsche Bibliophilen, Uitgaven, 13, Antwerpen, Gent 1883–1884, 1, p. 97–100; F. Olthoff, *De boekdrukkers, boekverkopers en uitgevers in Antwerpen sedert de uitvinding der boekdrukkunst tot op onze dagen [...]*, Antwerpen 1891, p. 18.

⁴ See i.a. L. Voet, *The Golden Compasses. A History and Evaluation of the Printing and Publishing Activities of the Officina Plantiniana at Antwerp*, I: *Christophe Plantin and the Moretuses: Their Lives and Their World*, Amsterdam, London, New York 1969, chapter 4. Balthasar Moretus, Antwerp, 1574–1641 was in charge of the *Officina* from 1610 until his death.

in 1632 and 1634⁵ – in that year 1634 he also produced a beautiful edition of Pope Urban's *Poemata*. The genesis of these Moretus editions can be partially illustrated thanks to a number of letters written by the printer to the Lithuanian poet and to other persons in the period 1631–1635. These letters also illustrate the way in which the Antwerp printer tried to find a market for his books in Danzig and in Poland. These Latin letters are unpublished and, as far as I can see, have not received any attention; I found them recently in the Archives of the Plantin-Moretus Museum in Antwerp.

The first letter written to Sarbievius⁶ by Moretus on 2 May 1631 (n. 1) is an answer to a letter from Sarbievius that is lost. Moretus thanks Sarbievius for the very flattering poem *Ad Balthasarem Moretum Panegyris Lyrica*⁷ (composed and sent to Antwerp before May 1631). Probably, the Antwerp Jesuits, and particularly Father Bollandus⁸, soon after the Cnobbaert edition, informed Sarbievius that Moretus might be interested in publishing his lyric poetry. Father Bollandus had told the printer that Sarbievius had enlarged his *Lyrica* and that he was working on a book of *Heroica*. Therefore, Moretus was even more eager to produce a new edition since (or: when) Cnobbaert's edition was (or: would be) exhausted. So, Father Bollandus served as a link between Moretus and Sarbievius; this is the reason why he was the most important addressee of Sarbievius' poem *Ad amicos Belgas*⁹. Our letter also confirms the introduction to the 1632 edition: the poet wanted the book to be dedicated to Pope Urban VIII, a source of satisfaction for Moretus. It remains a mystery why that dedication never reached Antwerp, whereas the ode *Ad amicos Belgas* and other new poems¹⁰ got into Moretus' hands. It is not impossible that the

⁵ 1025 copies of the *Lyrica* were printed in 1632 (in-4°), 5000 in 1634 (in-24°): cp. Antwerp, Archives of the Plantin-Moretus Museum, Arch. 39, f. 35r and 36r.

⁶ From 1627 to the autumn of 1635, Sarbievius lived in Vilnius: cp. i.a. T. Wall (ed.), *Mathiae Casimiri Sarbiewski e Societate Jesu Poloni Poemata omnia. Editio omnium, quae adhuc prodierant, longe plenissima. Ad usum alumnorum S. J.*, Starviesiae 1892, p. X–XI.

⁷ *Lyr.* 3, 31.

⁸ See on the famous founder of the „Bollandistae” i.a. A. Poncellet, *Histoire de la Compagnie de Jésus dans les anciens Pays-Bas* [...], Bruxelles 1927, *passim*; L. Koch, *Jesuiten-Lexikon. Die Gesellschaft Jesu einst und jetzt*, Paderborn 1934; Löwen 1962, col. 225–226.

⁹ Langbein's remark, therefore, on that poem is not completely true: „ne invidiam huius vel illius irretaret, omnibus ac singulis sine ratione doctrinae aut dignitatis inter eos habita, uno quasi nummo debitum numerabat”. (L. G. Langbein, *Commentatio de Mathiae Casimiri Sarbievii S.I. Poloni vita, studiis et scriptis*, Dresdae 1754, p. LXXXII. Bollandus is mentioned as a promotor of Sarbievius' poetry in the *Tractatus praeliminaris de vita, operibus et virtutibus Joannis Bollandi S. J.* [...], which one can read in the *Acta Sanctorum* [...], ed. J. Bollandus, G. Henschenius, D. Papebrochius, *Martii tomus I*, Parisiis et Romae 1865, p. XIV.

¹⁰ Cp. i.a. C. Sommervogel, *Bibliothèque de la Compagnie de Jésus*, I, 7, Bruxelles, Paris 1896, col. 631.

poet was unwilling to have his book dedicated to the Pope (but did not want to admit that). On the other hand, Sarbievius could have kept silent about any dedication; after all, there had been previous editions of his poems with no dedication at all. We should not forget that written communication between the Netherlands and Poland or Lithuania was difficult; at times, the Jesuit network enabled the exchange of letters, but it often caused serious problems to have books or letters delivered by any other means, as the following letters show. In any case, the *Lyrica* were dedicated to Urban VIII, in name of the poet, by the Antwerp Jesuits.

Moretus' first edition of Sarbievius' poetry came out in 1632. Thanks to letters n. 2 to 6, it is now possible to determine with some precision the month in which the book was published. On 27 July 1632, Moretus wrote to a secretary to the King of Spain, Franciscus de Calatayud¹¹, in Madrid (n. 2), that it was nearly ready; on 28 July (n.3) he wrote to Jodocus a Castro¹² in Mechelen that he expected the book to be ready in August, which he confirmed in a letter to another ecclesiastical writer, Benedictus Van Haeften at Affligem¹³ on 5 August (n. 4). On 5 September he informed Petrus Biverus¹⁴ in Brussels (n. 5) that he was sending a letter to the secretary of the Great Council in order to obtain a privilege for the book; in our editions, that privilege is dated 16 September 1632¹⁵. We still have a copy of the letter he sent to Brussels to that end¹⁶. The *Lyrica* must have been published at the end of September or in the first days of October 1632. On 16 October, its publication is mentioned in a French

¹¹ Moretus and de Calatayud were correspondents in the years 1631–1637 (letters in the archives of the Plantin-Moretus Museum; cp. i.a. Arch. 144, p. 220).

¹² A religious writer from Brussels (died in Mechelen in April 1634); in 1633 and 1635, Moretus published some works of his, i.a. the *Decachordum Marianum id est Tractatus de decem virtutibus Immaculatae Virginis* [...] (1635); cp. *Biographie nationale [de Belgique]*, 6, Bruxelles 1878, col. 221 (A. Vander Meersch).

¹³ On Van Haeften (Utrecht, ca. 1588 – Spa, 1648), a Benedictine monk, dean of the abbey of Affligem and a writer of religious works, see the *Nationaal Biografisch Woordenboek [van België]*, 11, Brussel 1985, col. 345–350 (W. Verleyen).

¹⁴ A Jesuit from Madrid (1572–1656). In 1632, he was the confessor of the governor of the Spanish Netherlands. In 1634, Balthasar Moretus published two works of de Bivero, the *Sacrum sanctuarium Crucis* [...] and the *Sacrum Oratorium piarum imaginum immaculatae Mariae* [...]; Cp. C. Sommervogel, *op. cit.*, col. 1525–1528.

¹⁵ At the end of the 1632 and the 1634 editions, one reads an „imprimatur” by the provincial of the Lithuanian Jesuits, dated 11 July 1631; an approbation by the Antwerp censor (no date); a transfer of the imperial privilege to Moretus by the provincial of the Flemish Jesuits, dated 12 September 1632; and, finally, the royal privilege from 16 September 1632, subscribed by the secretary of the Great Council of Mechelen, Steenhuyse. On Filips Willem van Steenhuyse (Mechelen, 1593 – Brussels, 1668), see the *Biographie Nationale [de Belgique]*, 23, Bruxelles 1921–1924, col. 758–760 (L. Bril).

¹⁶ Antwerp, Plantin-Moretus Museum, arch. 142, p. 288. The letter is written in Dutch. See the appendix.

letter¹⁷ on 23 October Moretus included it in a list of recently published works (n. 6); here, he called Sarbievius already a modern Horace. A mention of the book also occurs in a letter from 3 February 1633 to Van Haefst (n. 7), to whom he sends a copy of the book on 16 December 1633 (n. 8).

Balthasar Moretus then wanted to send a batch of books to Vilnius. As we learn from a later letter (n. 14), he had tried, in 1632, to send twenty copies of the first edition to Vilnius: he had handed these over to Father Bollandus, who had forwarded them to a Jesuit in Amsterdam, who, in turn, had to send them to Kaspar Förster¹⁸, a famous musician and bookseller in Danzig; from Danzig it would be easy to get them to Vilnius. But in March 1635 Sarbievius still had not received any books at all. The matter turned into an adventure lasting for more than three years. In 1634, Sarbievius had written to Father Bollandus and had asked for a number of copies of his poems. He had complained about the fact that Moretus' books were extremely difficult to find in Poland. His letter had been delivered to Bollandus through Ernestus Kruse, a bookseller in Danzig¹⁹; Father Bollandus had handed it over to Moretus. In his answer (n. 9) from 17 July 1634, Moretus promises the poet to send (free of charge) 20 copies of the Sarbievius *minoris formae* – which means that the 1634 edition in-24° was ready by then-together with the *Poemata* of Urban VIII and other works Father Bollandus thought useful to deliver to Sarbievius, who would sell them to interested readers. The books were wrapped up in a pack marked with a special sign. To that parcel, Moretus added another, larger pack of books issued from his printing shop: since his books were hard to find in Poland, he supposed Kruse would be glad to be able to sell new books from the *Officina Plantiniana*. Finally, a third parcel, meant for the well-known Neo-Latin writer Simon Starovolscius²⁰ in Poland, was

¹⁷ Arch. 143, f. 101v: [...] ai achevé d'imprimer nouvellement les livres en dessous mentionnés: [...] Sarbievii Lyrica in 4°.

¹⁸ The famous musician and bookseller (since ca. 1617) in Danzig (born ca. 1574, died near Danzig in 1652): cp. i.a. C. Krollmann [ed.], *Altpreuussische Biographie* [...], 1, Königsberg 1941, Marburg 1974, p. 189–190 (Güttler), and *Die Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart. Allgemeine Enzyklopädie der Musik* [...], Kassel, Basel 1955, col. 457–459 (G. Fock). It would be worthwhile to publish the letters exchanged by Balthasar Moretus (Sr. and Jr.) and Gaspar Förster (and his son Georgius). Though Gaspar Förster wrote that „naufragium passa est Latinitas mea inter sudores musicos” (to Balthasar Moretus Sr., 14 April 1636; Arch. 82), the Archives of the Plantin-Moretus Museum preserve many interesting and elegantly written letters they exchanged.

¹⁹ Until now I have not been able to find more information about this bookseller Ernestus Kruse or Cruse from Danzig. I presume some Polish readers might know more about him. I would be very grateful for any information.

²⁰ (1588–1656): cp. i.a. K. Estreicher, *Bibliografia Polska s. XV–XVIII*, Kraków 1933, p. 186–215; K. Budzyk e.a. (ed.), *Bibliografia literatury polskiej. Nowy Korbut*, 3, Warszawa 1955, p. 282–286.

added; it contained no doubt a number of copies of works by Starovolscius, published by Moretus²¹. The three packs were sent to Danzig by land via the Amsterdam bookseller and printer Jan Janssonius²², with whom Kruse apparently had already done some business. Kruse had to send a parcel to Sarbievius in Vilnius and to deliver the parcel for Starovolscius in Cracow to one Cornelius Schiff²³, as Moretus wrote to Kruse on the same day, 17 July 1634 (n. 10). As for the books he sent to the bookseller himself, he offered him a discount of 15% on the two-colour-toned, and 25% on the other books: this should enable Kruse to make some profit and to pay off his debts within a short term. In November, Moretus heard that the letters had not reached Kruse; he had received only the books and did not know what to do with the packs signed with $\text{c}^{\text{t}}\text{s}$ and $\text{a}^{\text{t}}\text{s}$ LIBRI. On 22 November 1634, the Antwerp printer wrote to both Sarbievius and to Kruse (n. 11 and 12), stating that his previous letters had probably been intercepted by some Swedish soldiers²⁴, and repeating what he had written four months earlier. Now he decided to send the letters by sea; once again, it was Kruse who had to forward the letter to Sarbievius in Vilnius. From a letter, written by Moretus to the Cologne printer and bookseller Hermannus Mylius (n. 13)²⁵, we learn that this second attempt to get in touch with Sarbievius remained fruitless. On 15 March 1635, the Antwerp printer asked Mylius, who dealt with Kruse, to forward his letters, written to the latter and to Sarbievius (n. 14 and 15), to Kruse in Danzig. In these letters, he repeated what he had written twice already. To Sarbievius he wrote that he supposed that the first batch of books was still at Förster's in Danzig, the second one at Kruse's. The latter had ordered some books from the *Officina Plantiniana*; Moretus was going to send them, if possible, via Schönwetter²⁶ in Francfort. Kruse had also made a complaint to

²¹ In 1632, Moretus published his *In obitum serenissimi Piissimique principis Sigismundi III., Poloniae et Sueciae magni regis [...] Oratio*; in 1633, his *Panegyricus serenissimo atque potentissimo principi Vladislao Sigismundo, ob virtutem omnium votis acclamato Polonorum regi [...]*.

²² On Janssonius (Jansonius, Janssen(s), Janszn., Arnhem, 1588 – Amsterdam 1664, see e.g. *De boekhandel te Amsterdam voornamelijk in de 17e eeuw. Biographische en geschiedkundige aantekeningen* verzameld door M. M. Kleerkooper. Aangevuld en uitgegeven door W. P. van Stockum jr., *Bijdragen tot de geschiedenis van den Nederlandschen boekhandel*, X, Den Haag 1914–1916, I, p. 295–299.

²³ Who is unknown to me.

²⁴ An allusion to the Swedish campaigns in Germany under Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden (+1632) and A. Oxenstierna, regent for the young Christina of Sweden.

²⁵ Died in 1657; see on him J. Benzing, *Die Buchdrucker des 16. und 17. Jahrhunderts im deutschen Sprachgebiet*, Beiträge zum Buch- und Bibliothekswesen, 12, Wiesbaden, second edition 1982, p. 250. In November 1637, Mylius ordered 20 copies of Sarbievius' *Lyrice* (ed. 1634) from Moretus (Arch. 90, letter from 19 November 1637).

²⁶ No doubt Johann Gottfried Schönwetter, an editor and bookseller in Francfort (died some time before 1657): cp. *Fünfhundert Jahre Mainzer Buchdruck. Festgabe zum 70. Geburtstag von Aloys Ruppel*. Bearbeitet von J. Benzing und H. Presser, Mainz 1952, p. 98–99.

Mylius: he would never be able to sell all the books Moretus had sent to him, for some works, such as the edition of Dionysius Areopagita²⁷, did not find ready buyers. Kruse even wanted to send these books, which he refused to pay for, back to Antwerp via Amsterdam. Moretus advised him to send these to Sarbievius in Vilnius, who could get rid of them. These letters, it seems, finally reached Kruse. On 19 July 1635 it was Balthasar Moretus Junior, Balthasar's nephew and the future heir to the *Officina*²⁸, who wrote to Kruse (n. 16) and thanked him for having forwarded some books to Sarbievius in Vilnius. In the meantime, Moretus had sent some other editions to Kruse, destined for Vilnius, if Sarbievius was willing to sell them in Lithuania, as well as a batch of books ordered by Kruse and sent to Danzig via Janssonius in Amsterdam. It is clear that Moretus was not too happy with his collaboration with Kruse, whose market was limited to the city state of Danzig and whose customers were not interested in scholarly works. Moretus was looking for a bookseller with a larger clientele and a larger market. Through a common relation, Christophorus Rivius, who had paid a visit to him at Antwerp²⁹, Moretus got in touch with the famous musician and bookseller Kaspar Förster in Danzig, who sold a lot of books in Poland – it was the same person the Jesuits had worked with on behalf of Sarbievius, in 1632³⁰. Moretus asked him (on 17 February 1636, n. 17) to stock the volumes Kruse wanted to get rid off; referring to Sarbievius' letter in which the Lithuanian poet had claimed that the production of the Plantin press was hard to find in Poland, Moretus proposed to Förster to cooperate: both he and his Antwerp colleague Nutius³¹ were willing to provide the Danzig bookseller with the editions from the Netherlands he desired to obtain; he proposed the same conditions he had offered to Kruse. He warned Förster for the parallel market some Jesuits were trying to establish: they aimed at buying books with an important discount, in order to sell them at a lower price than the booksellers. Förster agreed to Moretus' conditions, it seems, and collaborated regularly with him³². He took over the books Kruse had refused and paid them some

²⁷ Probably an allusion to *Opera S. Dionysii Areopagitae cum scholiis S. Maximi et paraphrasi Pachymerae a Balthasare Corderio Societatis Jesu (Antverpiae 1634)*.

²⁸ He was active in the *Officina* from 1632 on and died in 1674: cp. L. Voet, *op. cit.*, ch. 5.

²⁹ We could not find any information on him. Was he relative of Gerardus Rivius, the well-known printer from Liège and Leuven?

³⁰ Supra, note 18.

³¹ Martinus Nutius III (1594–1638), printer and bookseller in Antwerp, a relative of Moretus; cp. G. Van Havre, *op. cit.*, 2, p. 67.

³² In the archives of the Plantin-Moretus Museum at Antwerp, there is a fair number of unpublished letters from Balthasar Moretus (Sr. and Junior) to Förster (Gaspar and his son Georgius).

time after 21 July 1636³³. In their later correspondence, the name of Sarbievius occurs now and then. On 8 July 1646, Balthasar Moretus Jr. sent to Georgius Förster, Kaspar's son, in Danzig some copies of Sarbievius' *Lyrica*, which had been reissued by the *Officina Plantiniana*³⁴.

Texts

1. Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Sarbievius (Vilnius), 2 May 1631 (Arch. 144, p. 187) Matthiae Casimiro Sarbiewski, Vilnam, in Lithuania.

Gratissimas tuas accepi, summae erga me benevolentiae indices ac testes, una cum carmine panegyrico³⁵, in quo omnia dilaudo praeter nimias meas laudes; quas non a iudicio tuo, sed ab affectu admitto; et de hoc gratias ago et mutuum repono, cum debito cultu.

Reverendus Pater Bollandus³⁶ varie te *Lyrica* auxisse, et heroicorum item Carminum librum adornare indicavit. Itaque sic auctum, innovatum et quodammodo novum opus prelo subicere haud recuso, cum Cnobarus³⁷ exemplaria sua distraxerit. Et quia Pontifici Optimo Maximo inscribere statuisti, primo augustiorem et tanta maiestate haud indignam formam meditabor, deinde minorem et quae magis studiosis inserviat³⁸.

Vale, reverende in Christo Pater, tuo, sacrae religionis et litterarum bono. Antverpiae, in Officina Plantiniana, postrid. Kal. Maias, 1631

2. From a letter by Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Franciscus de Calatayud³⁹ (Madrid), 27 July 1632 (Arch. 144, p. 299–300).

Brevi exhibunt opera Senecae a Justo Lipsio emendata et scholiis illustrata; et huic novae editioni accedunt scholia Liberti Fromondi ad Quaestiones

³³ Cp. also Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Gaspar Förster (Danzig), 21 July 1636 (Arch. 146, p. 247–248): „Dominus Ernestus Crusius se libros tibi tradidisse scribit; pecunias item brevi numeraturum, quas una cum tuis mihi transcribas”; Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Ernestus Kruse (Danzig), 21 July 1636 (Arch. 146, p. 248): „Solutionem itaque quam promittis brevi istinc expecto. Dominus Forsterus operam suam in pecuniis transmittendis haud denegabit; cui libros, quos recipere pridem recusasti iam tradidisse existimo. Nam is litteris 6 Junii datis nondum se eos accepisse significat”.

³⁴ Cp. Arch. 150 p. 266: „Interim, cum Sarbievii *Lyrica* recuderem [...], gratum fore existimavi si aliquot eiusdem exemplaria ad Dominationem Vestram transmitterem”.

³⁵ Cp. note 7.

³⁶ Cp. note 8.

³⁷ Cp. note 3.

³⁸ In 1632, the edition in-4° came out, in 1634, the edition in-24°.

³⁹ Cp. note 11.

Naturales et Claudii Caesaris Apocolocyntosin⁴⁰; Othonis ZylII e Soc. Iesu Historia Miraculorum Divae Virginis Sylvaeducensis⁴¹, Mathiae Casimiri Sarbievii Lyricorum libri quattuor.

3. From a letter by Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Jodocus a Castro⁴² (Mechelen), 28 July 1632 (Arch. 144, p. 300).

Proximo mense a rae finientur [...] Lessius De Iustitia et Iure⁴³; Othonis ZylII Historia Miraculorum Divae Virginis Sylvaeducensis; Mathiae Casimiri Sarbievii Lyricorum libri quattuor.

4. From a letter by Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Benedictus Van Haeften⁴⁴ (Affligem), 5 August 1632 (Arch. 144, p. 302–303).

Praeter Senecam hoc Augusto absolvam Lessium [...], Othonis ZylII Historiam Miraculorum Divae Virginis Sylvaeducensis, Casimiri Sarbievii Lyricorum libros quattuor.

5. Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Petrus Biverus⁴⁵ (Brussels), 5 September 1632 (Arch. 144, V 310).

Reverende in Christo Pater,

Scribo ad Dominum Steenhuyse, secretarium Concilii Brabantiae⁴⁶, ut mihi pro Reverendi Patris Mathiae Casimiri Sarbievii Lyricorum libris diploma expediat, cui et Sacrum vestrum Oratorium ac Sanctuarium inseri possint⁴⁷. Quaeso Reverentiam Vestram, illum accedere librosque suos exhibere dignetur; nam ipsum de libris vestris eidem diplomati inserendis admoneo.

Vale, Reverende in Christo Pater. Antverpiae 5 Sept. 1632.

A R.P. ZylIIo epistolam dedicatariam pro Historia sua Miraculorum exspecto⁴⁸.

⁴⁰ Cp. L. Annaei Senecae philosophi Opera quae exstant omnia, a Iusto Lipsio emendata et scholiis illustrata. Editio tertia [...] aucta Liberti Fromondi scholiis ad Quaestiones Naturales et Ludum de Morte Claudii Caesaris, Antverpiae 1632.

⁴¹ Cp. D. Sacré, *A Forgotten Autograph Poem by Sidronius Hosschius S. I. (1596–1653)* (in the press).

⁴² Cp. note 12.

⁴³ The famous work *De iustitia et iure* by Leonardus Lessius S. J. (1554–1623) was indeed reedited in 1632.

⁴⁴ Cp. note 13.

⁴⁵ Cp. note 14.

⁴⁶ Cp. note 15.

⁴⁷ Cp. appendix.

⁴⁸ Cp. Moretus to ZylIIus, 7 August 1632 (Arch. 144, p. 304): „Itaque Reverentiam Vestram rogo ne moras ipsa iam nectat, praefationem aliaque in initio vel fine apponenda submittat”. (See D. Sacré, *A Forgotten Autograph Poem*, *op. cit.*).

6. From a letter by Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Franciscus de Calatayud (Madrid), 23 October 1632 (Arch. 144, p. 323–324).

Seneca Lipsii et Fromondi iam a prelo meo prodiit itemque Historia Miraculorum Beatae Mariae Silvaducensis, elegantissimo stilo a Patre Othone Zyllo Soc. Jesu sacerdote conscripta et Casimiri Sarbievii (qui nostri est aevi Horatius) Lyricorum libri quattuor.

7. From a letter by Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Benedictus Van Haeften (Affligem), 3 February 1633 (Arch. 144, p. 343).

Recens a prelis meis exiere [...] Historia Miraculorum Divae Virginis Silvaeducensis, in 4°; Mathiae Sarbievii Lyricorum libri IV, in 4°.

8. From a letter by Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Benedictus Van Haeften (Affligem), 16 December 1633 (Arch. 146, p. 34).

Mitto Sarbievii Lyrica (quorum pretium novem asses)⁴⁹.

9. Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Sarbievius [Vilnius], 17 July 1634 (Arch. 146, p. 93–94).

Casimiro Sarbievio.

Reverende in Christo Pater,

Vestras ad Reverendum Patrem Bollandum mittente Domino Ernesto Kruse⁵⁰, bibliopola Dantiscano, recte accepi et curavi. Porro bibliopolae huius opportunitate usus, Reverentiae Vestrae mitto viginti Lyricorum suorum minoris formae exemplaria, atque addo Urbani VIII Poemata⁵¹ recens a me cusa cum Epaenesi Iberica Tribaldi Toleti⁵²; quae aequi bonique consulere Reverentiam Vestram rogo. At vero sarcinulam curavi signatam signo marginali ^{LIBRI}†s; et adieci quos Reverendus Pater Bollandus ad Reverentiam Vestram mitti voluit libros, nimirum

⁴⁹ Cp. also Arch. 146, p. 62–53: Moretus sends Sarbievius' poems to Jean della Faille S.J. (Madrid), 24 March 1634. On Jean-Charles Della Faille (Antwerp 1597 – Barcelona 1654), see C. Sommervogel, *op. cit.*, 1, 3, col. 529–530.

⁵⁰ Cp. note 19.

⁵¹ Cp. *Maphaei S.R.E. Card. Barberini nunc Urbani PP. VIII Poemata*, Antverpiae 1634.

⁵² Cp. *Epaenesis Iberica* auctore Ludovico Tribaldo Toletto rhetore olim Complutensi, nunc rerum Indicarum regio primarioque historico, Antverpiae 1632.

200 Lyrica vestra in 24°	f. 60
50 Bauhusii, Cabillavii et Malapertii Epigramm., 24° ⁵³	f. 20
30 Bidermanni Poemata, 24° ⁵⁴	f. 15
10 Tragoedias selectas, 24° ⁵⁵	f. 4
	f. 99.10
sarcinatio constat	f. 1.00
	f. 101.00

Floreni sunt centum et unus Brabantici. De aliis qui recenter a prelis meis exiere libris adiungendis Reverendus Pater Bollandus ambigebat. At ne quid praeter Reverentiae Vestrae votum mitteretur, satius visum iis abstinere et maiori eos numero ad bibliopolam Dantiscanum mittere, a quo emere Reverentia Vestra ipsos possit.

Vale, Reverende in Christo Pater, mei in sacris precibus memor. Antverpia in Officina Plantiniana 17 Julii 1634.

10. Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Ernestus Kruse (Danzig), 17 July 1634 (Arch. 146, p. 194–195).

Ernesto Kruse, Dantiscum.

Ornatissime Domine,

Ego quam libentissime Reverendi Patris Casimiri litteras curavi; scio te haud minus libenter has ad eundem meas curaturum, nec eas tantum, sed et sarcinulam librariam, quam maiori tuae sarcinae adiunxi et his diebus via Amsterodamensi per Joannem Janssonium⁵⁶, ut praescriperas, ad te misi. Immo et aliam sarcinam signatam signo marginali $\frac{A}{LIBRI}$ ad te direxi, reddendam istic Domino Cornelio Schiff⁵⁷, qui vecturae pretium solvet prout his litteris ipsi iniungitur a nobili et doctissimo viro Domino Simone Starovolscio⁵⁸; cui et rem gratissimam hoc nomine praestabis. Pluscula Orationum eius in honorem regum Coloniae defuncti et vivi exempla mitto, quae istic in primis desiderari credo. Aliorum item recentium a prelis meis librorum maiorem numerum misi, ut Reverendo Patri Casimiro Sarbievio aliisque satisfaciam, qui de meorum librorum in Polonia inopia conqueruntur.

⁵³ Cp. *Bernardi Bauhusii et Balduini Cabillavi e Soc. Jesu Epigrammata. Caroli Malaperti ex eadem Soc. Poemata*, Antverpia 1634.

⁵⁴ Cp. *Jacobi Bidermanni e Soc. Jesu Heroum epistolae, epigrammata et Herodias*, Antverpia 1634.

⁵⁵ Cp. *Selectae PP. Soc. Jesu Tragoediae*, Antverpia 1634.

⁵⁶ Cp. note 22.

⁵⁷ Cp. note 23.

⁵⁸ Cp. note 20.

Breviaria⁵⁹ et Diurnalia Urbani VIII non alia hactenus forma impressi quam mitto, quia plurimi haud libentes novam correctionem amplectuntur. Diurnale in 8° mihi superest ex correctione Clementis VIII. Officium Beatae Mariae deinceps mihi cudendum ex recensione Urbani VIII, cuius exemplar iam ex Urbe accepi. [Impressionem auspicabor a forma 32a quae mihi deesse coepit.]⁶⁰ Porro in indice librorum quos mitto pretia annotata sunt Brabantica, quorum valorem te nosse existimo: quippe duodecim floreni Brabantici conficiunt quinque daleros imperiales. E rubronigris quindecim in centum subduco, ex aliis libris viginti quinque, ut honeste lucrari possis mihiq[ue] commodum solvere. Pecunias vero Dantisco Antverp[er]iam per litteras cambi[um] transcribendi commoditas haud deest.

Vale, ornatissime Domine. Antverpiae, in Officina Plantiniana 17 Iulii 1634.

11. Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Sarbievius (Vilnius), 22 November 1634 (Arch. 146, p. 141).

Casimiro Sarbievio, Vilnam.

Reverende in Christo Pater,

Has ad Reverentiam Vestram mense Julio scripsi et ad Dominum Ernestum Kruse misi, qui nullas se litteras ac tantum sarcinas librarias accepisse significat. Itaque illarum exemplar iterum eidem committo, sed via Amsterodamensi sive maritima; nam terrestris parum tuta a Suecis, quos priores litteras interceptisse praefectus hic cursorum credit.

Vale, Reverende in Christo Pater. Antverpiae, in officina Plantiniana 22 Nov. 1634.

12. Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Ernestus Kruse (Danzig), 22 November 1634 (Arch. 146, p. 142).

Ernesto Kruse, Dantiscum.

Ornatissime Domine,

Hoc litterarum, quas mense Julio ad te dedi, et indicis librorum, quos misi, exemplar. Cursorum hic praefectum conveni et fatetur haud semel a Suecis interceptas fuisse litteras. In iis et meae haud dubie fuerunt. Itaque has modo via Amsterodamensi mitto atque addo litterarum quas Reverendo Patri Sarbievio scripseram exemplum; quas rogo ut cures una cum fasciculo pro eodem, qui signatus erat signo hoc marginali ^{c[†]s.}_{LIBRI}. Sarcina vero maior pro Domino Simone Starovolscio reddenda istic erat Domino Cornelio

⁵⁹ Cp. e.g. *Breviarium Romanum ex decreto sacro sancti concilii Tridentini restitutum, Pii V iussu editum et Clementis VIII primum, nunc denuo Urbani PP. VIII auctoritate recognitum*, Antverpiae 1632.

⁶⁰ This line has been deleted.

Schiff, qui vecturae pretium tibi solveret et ad ilium curaret transmitti. Quaeso intelligam ubi has receperis, et librorum quos misi solutionem cures.

Vale. 22 Novembris, 1634

Typis meis iam nunc absolvi

Malderum de S. Trinitate et angelis, f°⁶¹

Oratorium et Sanctuarium P. Biverii e Soc. Jesu in 4to duobus tomis cum figuris aeneis⁶².

Sub prelis sunt

Lipsii Opera omnia in folio⁶³

Huberti Goltzii Opera in folio⁶⁴

Jodoci a Castro Decachordum Morale de Virtutibus B. Mariae, in 4° 2 voll.⁶⁵

Joannis Tollegarii e Soc. Jesu Speculum Vanitatis sive Commentarius in Ecclesiastem, in 4°⁶⁶

Jo. Eus. Nierembergii e Soc. Jesu Historia Naturae, f°⁶⁷

Hugonis Sempilii e Soc. Jesu de disciplinis mathematicis Libri XII in f°⁶⁸

Martyrologium Romanum in 8° Urbani VIII⁶⁹

Breviarium Romanum Urbani VIII in 12°. Idem in 8°

Officium B. Mariae Urbani VIII in 24°.

13. From a letter from Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Hermannus Mylius⁷⁰ (Cologne), 15 March 1635 (Arch. 146, p. 164).

Hermanno Mylio, Coloniam.

Clarissime Domine, [...]

Ad Reverendum Patrem Sarbievium litteras has commendo, atque alteras ad Dominum Ernestum Kruse bibliopolam Dantiscanum, ad quem mense Julio anni superioris sarcinam misi Reverendo Patri Sarbievio

⁶¹ Cp. *Ioannis Malderi episcopi Antverpiensis, S. Theologiae in Academia Lovaniensi quondam professoris In primam partem D. Thomae commentaria de Sancta Trinitate, creatione in genere et Angelis*, Antverpiae 1634.

⁶² Cp. note 14.

⁶³ Cp. *Iusti Lipsii v.c. Opera omnia, postremum ab ipso aucta et recensita, nunc primum copioso indice illustrata*, Antverpiae 1637, 4 vols.

⁶⁴ Cp. note 83. They were published in 1644–1645!

⁶⁵ Cp. note 12.

⁶⁶ Cp. *Joannis Tollenarii Brugensis Soc. Jesu Speculum vanitatis sive Ecclesiastes soluta ligataque oratione dilucidatus*, Antverpiae 1635.

⁶⁷ Cp. *Joannis Eusebii Nierembergii Madritensis ex Soc. Jesu in Academia regia Madritensi physiologiae professoris Historia naturae [...]*, Antverpiae 1635.

⁶⁸ Cp. *Hugonis Sempilii Craighabataei Scoti e Soc. Jesu De mathematicis disciplinis libri XII [...]*, Antverpiae 1635.

⁶⁹ Cp. *Martyrologium Romanum Gregorii XIII Pont. Max. iussu editum et Urbani VIII auctoritate recognitum*, Antverpiae 1635.

⁷⁰ Cp. note 25.

transmittendam. Sed quia Kruse nullas meas accepit, quas terrestri et maritima via misi, litteras, nescivit quo sarcinam illam certis signatam characteribus destinaret. [...] Antverpiae, in Officina Plantiniana, 15 Martii 1635.

14. Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Sarbievius (Vilnius), 15 March 1635 (Arch. 146, p. 165).

Casimiro Sarbievio, Vilnam.

Harum litterarum exemplar iam tertio Reverentiae Vestrae mitto. Nam cum Dominus Ernestus Kruse, ad quem primo via terrestri miseram, nullas se recepisse litteras indicasset ac tantummodo sarcinam litterulis C.S. signatam, quae quo mittenda esset nesciret, denuo eas via Amsterodamensi sive maritima 22 Novembris ad Dominum Kruse misi. Iam vero cum a Domino Mylio, bibliopola Coloniensi, intellegam nihil hactenus librorum Reverentiam Vestram accepisse vel litterarum, tertio per illum easdem mitto⁷¹, et Dominum Kruse pariter moneo de sarcina Reverentiae Vestrae mittenda. Priorem sarcinam, quae viginti Lyricorum vestrorum exemplaria continebat, Reverendus Pater Bollandus ad Reverentiam Vestram via Amsterodamensi misit iam a triennio. Miror Reverentiam Vestram nondum recepisse. Cuidam Societatis vestrae Patri, qui Amsterodami agebat, commiserat ut Dantiscum ad Dominum Forsterum bibliopolam mitteret. Forsan prior ista sarcina apud Forsterum adhuc latet, prout posterior apud Dominum Kruse.

Vale, Reverende in Christo Pater, mei in sacris precibus memor. Antverpiae, in Officina Plantiniana 15 Martii, 1635.

15. Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Ernestus Kruse (Danzig), 15 March 1635 (Arch. 146, p. 165).

Ernesto Kruse, Dantiscum.

Tertio iam easdem litteras mitto cum indice librorum quos ad te misi; nam 22 Novembris via Amsterodamensi sive maritima, cum via terrestri haud pervenisse intelligerem, denuo eas misi; et simul monui fasciculum C.S. signatum ad Reverendum Patrem Mathiam Casimirum Sarbievium pertinere, ad quem rogo uti quam citissime cures. Cista S.S. signata ad Dominum Simonem Starovolscium spectabat. Credo is aut aliquis eius nomine Cracovia repetiit; alias Domino Cornelio Schiff istic reddenda erat qui ad eundem Dominum Simonem transmitteret. Dionysii

⁷¹ Cp. a letter from Mylius to Balthasar Moretus, Saint-Joseph's day (19 March) 1635 (Arch. 90): „Clarissime vir, Transmissas litteras Vilnam et Gedanum fideliter curabo”.

Opera aliosque quos istic minus vendi scribis Reverendus Pater Sarbievius facile divendi curabit: nam is questus est de librorum meorum istic penuria. Quos modo desideras, prima opportunitate mittam aut intra tres abhinc septimanas, ut novos aliquot interim typis meis absolvendos coniungam. Cum Francofurtum a Caesarianis quodammodo obsideatur⁷², vereor ne⁷³ nundinae celebrentur. Ego hoc rerum statu nullum ex meis mittam. Sed si quispiam ex Amsterodamensibus ierit, Dominum Schönwetter⁷⁴ moneri atque urgeri curabo. Vale, ornatissime Domine. Antverpiae, in Officina Plantiniana, 15 Martii 1635.

16. From a letter from Balthasar Moretus Jr. (Antwerp) to Ernestus Kruse (Danzig), 19 July 1635 (Arch. 145, f. 166v).

Ernesto Cruse Dantzigh.

Ornatissime Domine,

Quindecim dies sunt elapsi quibus litteras ad Dominationem Tuam dedi⁷⁵, sed quia hac temporis iniquitate dubius sit postarum adventus, has secundas mitto, quibus denuo significo missam sarcinam librorum ad Dominationem Tuam destinandam per Dominum Ioannem Ianssonium, bibliopolam Amstelodamensem, quorum notam hic addo, excurrentium ad summam f. 356 quos Dominationis Tuae rationibus asscripsi [...] Quod ad libros, quos ad Reverendi Patris Casimiri gratiam miseram, quaeso apud se retineat, donec ab ipso Patre responsum accepero. In operibus Lipsii fol. index generalis imprimitur, quo absoluto mox evulgabo. Quod sarcinam ad Reverendum Patrem Casimirum Sarbievium destinavit, gratias ago; si obsequium meum aliqua in re praestare possim, quam paratissimum reperiet. Litteras cambiales quod ad me Dominatio Tua misit, Francofurtum nondum destinavi, his primis nundinis spero missurum; ubi nummos recepero, rationibus adscribam et Dominationi Tuae indicabo. Mirabitur, ut credo, Dominatio Tua alia manu et stylo has esse conscriptas quam quas a patruo ante aliquod tempus recepit; morbus est in causa, qui iam a mense aut amplius patruum nonnihil affligit, brevi tamen sanandum spero. Interim me et obsequia mea Dominationi Tuae offero. Antverpiae in Officina Plantiniana XIX Julii M.D.C.XXXV.

⁷² An allusion to the campaigns of Ferdinand II of Habsburg against the Swedish conquests in Germany.

⁷³ Moretus means *ne non*.

⁷⁴ Cp. note 26.

⁷⁵ This letter is lost.

17. Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Gaspar Förster⁷⁶ (Danzig), 17 February 1636 (Arch. 146, p. 227–228).

Gaspari Forstero, Suae Regiae Maiestatis Poloniae et Sueciae aulico, Reipublicae Dantiscanae capellae magistro et bibliopola, Dantiscum.

Clarissime Domine,

Gratissimas tuas accepi, tuae erga me benevolentiae indices ac testes. De quibus et consultissimi Domini Christophori Rivii⁷⁷ affectum cognovi, qui te meo nomine salutare haud neglexerit; quaeso te mutuum ei a me amorem nunties cum plurima salute (qua ipse non fruebar cum Antverpiae is adesset, ut plenius eum novisse per invaletudinem haud licuerit, immo et salutem tibi impertiendam non ego ipse sed per meos ei commendarim). Mihi antehac istic negotium cum Domino Paulo Classens, qui iampridem negotiationem librarium⁷⁸ mecum intermisit. Deinde cum Domino Ernesto Kruse negotiari incepti⁷⁹. At is solis suae Reipublicae Dantiscanae finibus se continet nec in varias amplissimi Poloniae regni dices libros dispergit, adeo ut paucos a prelis meis novos, quos ipse miseram, recipere detrectarit, quos suo sumptu Amsterdamum remittere paratus erat, ni monuissem ut penes se servaret donec cui istic redderet nuntiarem. In schedula his adiuncta nomina et pretia librorum leges, quorum venditionem et solutionem in te recipias rogo⁸⁰. Ad illum eos miseram quia Reverendus Pater Sarbievius alique de multa istic librorum meorum inopia querebantur. Mitto praecipuorum librorum meorum indicem manu scriptum adscriptis pretiis, donec plenior ipse conficiam typisque meis divulgem. Libri novi haud pauci mihi sub prelis erant, aut certe veteres quos recudebam, sed chartae penuria, quam bella Gallicum et

⁷⁶ Cp. note 18.

⁷⁷ Cp. note 26.

⁷⁸ Moretus means *librarium* but is confusing with *negotium librarium* or *librorum*.

⁷⁹ Cp. also B. Moretus (Antwerp) to Simon Starovolscius (Kraków), 16 May 1633 (Arch. 144, p. 363): „Iam vero de transmittendis in Polonia exemplaribus laboro. Nam mercator Dantiscanus Paullus Claessens, qui saepius libros petere a me solet, iamdudum nec hos petit et ad litteras meas silet”; B. Moretus (Antwerp) to Starovolscius, 10 July 1634 (Arch. 146, p. 91–92): „Cistam tuam hactenus hic retinui, quia de Paulo Claessens, curatore olim meo, nihil inaudiebam nec scio an Dantisci adhuc vivat, quia nullum ad meas ab eo responsum accipio. Itaque diu alium quaesivi cui fiderem, et opportune iam se obtulit Dominus Ernestus Kruse, bibliopola Dantiscanus, ad quem crastino per Hollandiam cistam tuam mitto”. See also L. Voet, *op. cit.*, II, p. 489: already in 1609, Claessens, did some trade with the *Officina*. In 1638, Moretus mentions in a letter to Claessens (Arch. 147, p. 196) „onse oude vriendschappe” („our long friendship”). There are many Latin and Dutch letters to (and from) Claessens in the Archives of the Plantin-Moretus Museum (until 1643). In 1638, Gaspar Forster wrote to Moretus that he saw Claessens quite often (Arch. 82, letter from 19 March 1638).

⁸⁰ In Arch. 82, there is a letter from Georgius Forster, Gaspar's son (18 June 1638), complaining to Moretus about books he had received from Kruse and that were useless for his shop.

Lotharingicum peperere⁸¹ vel invitus intermisi: utpote Concordantiae Bibliorum in folio, Breviarium in 8°, Quaresmii Historia Terrae Sanctae in folio⁸², Goltzii item Caesares in folio (cuius reliquorum operum a Biaeo editorum exemplaria una cum aeneis numismatum laminis compararam)⁸³. At vero Operibus Justi Lipsii in folio itemque Breviaria bipartita in 4to absolvendis aliquam reperire chartam potui; quae inter bimestre cum bono Deo prodibunt in lucem. Eadem chartae inopia ceteros fere in Belgio typographos cessare cogit. At quae pridem coepta erant Opera omnia Drexelii⁸⁴ Duaci prodire in lucem. Porro quos desideras varii generis libros libens mittam; quod tamen absque affinis mei Nutii⁸⁵ incommodo fieri velim, cui libens faveo; et ab utroque nostrum libros petere licebit. Ex libris rubronigris (quos vocamus) quindecim in centum subduces, ex aliis viginti quinque. Negotiationem librariam plurimum bellis remissam tecum hic querimur itemque a Patribus Societatis Jesu eam exerceri publico bibliopolarum incommodo. Certe si quis liberalitatis ergo de pretio iis remittere quidquam velit, id eleemosynae loco recipere eos oportebat, nec plures libros eum in finem comparare, ut viliori aliis pretio distribuant⁸⁶. Vale, clarissime Domine, et me tui amantem ama. Antverpiae, in Officina Plantiniana, 17 Februarii 1636⁸⁷.

⁸¹ An allusion to the campaigns of the French, the Germans and the Swedish troops in Alsace and Lorraine. Moretus' paper came mainly from Lorraine.

⁸² Cp. *F. Quaresmii Historica, theologica et moralis terrae sanctae elucidatio*, Antverpiae 1639.

⁸³ An allusion to *Vivae omnium fere imperatorum imagines a Iulio Caesare usque ad Carolum V*, Antverpiae 1557, a work of Goltzius (1526–1583) that was not reissued by Balthasar Moretus Sr. It was Balthasar Moretus Jr. who published in 1644–1645 Goltzius' *Opera omnia* in five volumes, using, the copper plates acquired from the printer Jacques De Bie (Biaeus) through Rubens: cp. *Bibliographia Belgica. Bibliographie générale des Pays-Bas. Fondée par F. Van der Haeghen. Rééditée sous la direction de M.-Th. Lenger, 3, Bruxelles, 1964, p. 257–258; W. Le Loup (red.), Hubertus Goltzius en Brugge 1583–1983. Tentoonstelling ingericht door de stad Brugge in het Gruuthusemuseum 11 november 1983–30 januari 1984, Brugge 1983, p. 74–78.*

⁸⁴ H. Drexelius' *Opera spiritualia* were published by Bellerus in Douay in 1635.

⁸⁵ Cp. note 31.

⁸⁶ Cp. a letter from Förster to Moretus, 14 April 1636 (Arch. 82), from which it appears that Förster knew Sarbievius: „Patres Societatis Iesu si conqueruntur de penuria librorum bonorum, remittantur ad me. Invenient quod erit ad palatum coram. Reverendus Pater Sarbievius, vir egregius et vestri amantissimus, nunc contionator regius est.” See also a letter from the same to the same, 12 February 1638: „Negotiatio libraria hic locorum valde dubia est, cum Iesuitae omnia ad se unguibus aquilinis trahere et rapere conantur, quibus etiam in venditione et destillatione vinum adustum (et quidem in maxima copia) non sordet, cum tamen illi alienissimi debebant esse ab omni negotiatione”.

⁸⁷ Cp. also Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Gaspar Förster (Danzig), 21 July 1636 (Arch. 146, p. 247–248): „Dominus Ernestus Crusius se libros tibi tradidisse scribit; pecunias item brevi numeraturum, quas una cum tuis mihi transcribas”. Balthasar Moretus (Antwerp) to Ernestus Kruse (Danzig), 21 July 1636 (Arch. 146, p. 248): „Solutionem itaque quam promittis brevi istinc expecto. Dominus Forsterus operam suam in pecuniis transmittendis haud denegabit; cui libros, quos recipere pridem recusasti iam tradidisse existimo. Nam is litteris 6 Junii datis nondum se eos accepisse significat”.

Appendix

Balthasar Moretus to Filips Willem van Steenhuyse, [5 September 1632]
(Arch. 142, p. 248)

The letter is undated, but through a comparison with letter n. 5, and considering the place of the letter (between other ones from 2 and 6 September 1632), we can safely date it on 5 September 1632.

Steenhuyse, Secretaris, Brussel.

Mijn heer,

Ick sende V. L. benefens desen den titel van den Boeck Mathiae Casimiri Sarbievii geaprobeert van mijn heer den Pleban Estrix⁸⁸, den welcken meynde in eenigh voorgaende octroij geinserert te wesen; maer als nu voleyndende den voorgh. boeck te drucken bevinde in alle voorgaende octroijen vergeten te wesen. Oversulck bidde V. L. mij een besonder octroij voor den selven boeck te procureren, ende in 't selve octroij te stellen een Boeck vanden heren p. Petrus Biverus, genaemt Oratorium et Sanctuarium Sacrum: zijn boecken die geen materiam politicam en raecken ende geene examinatie ten hove van doen en hebben. Alsoo sal V. L. believeen met den eersten het octroij te expedieren⁸⁹, waer van V. L. den brengher deses Jan Lenaerdt⁹⁰ voldoen sal; ende ick sal blijven, Mijn heer,

V. L. ootmoedighen dienaer
Balthasar Moretus

⁸⁸ Gaspar Estrix (Mechelen, 1580 – Antwerp, 1644): cp. P. J. Goetschalckx, *Geschiedenis van het bisdom van Antwerpen*, 1, Ekeren-Donk 1915, p. 173–174.

⁸⁹ Bestellen ante correctionem.

⁹⁰ Unknown to me.