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**Collections of Greifswald  
provenance  
at the NCU Library in Toruń**

**400 Jahre neue  
Universitätsbibliothek  
1604 Greifswald 2004**

**Nicolaus Copernicus University Library**

## Toruń 2004

Collections of Greifswald provenance were brought to Toruń in, as early as, October and November of 1945. They were transported by authorised personnel of the Nicolaus Copernicus University from Pęzino (Ger. *Pansin*), a town in the former county of Stargard Szczeciński (Ger. *Stargard in Pommern*). In April and November 1943<sup>1</sup>, the collections were deposited at the Pansin castle by Germans as a way of protecting them from the destruction of warfare, to which they would have been more exposed in Greifswald. Following the shift in national boundaries brought on by the end of World War II, the collections ended up in the Polish territory. One portion of them was sent to a newly forming library of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. The report at hand describes the collection of books of Greifswald provenance that arrived at the NCU Library in Toruń.

The first stage of provenance studies was conducted in 1996. It dealt with 15-18<sup>th</sup> century books. The results of the study were published in 1999<sup>2</sup>. In February and March 2002, a follow-up examination was carried out using the same method of identifying the Greifswald books by their external characteristics, their typical binding with a call number on the spine, and the stamp and call number printed inside. It examined books bearing call numbers in the range from 1 to 100.000, kept in storage rooms containing new collections from the 19-20<sup>th</sup> century<sup>3</sup>. This

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<sup>1</sup> The first transport of 79 crates with valuable books was sent on April 5<sup>th</sup>, and the second containing 41 crates was sent on October 31<sup>st</sup> — Letter, Bundesministerium des Innern Aussenstelle Berlin Dokumentationsstelle zur Rückführung kriegsbedingt verlagerten Kulturguts. Greifswald 21. 10. 1991, signed by Dr. Gerhard Paul. Betr. : Vermisste ausgelagerte Bestände der UB Greifswald, p. 1. Photocopy in the Old Prints Collection at the NCU Library.

<sup>2</sup> M. Strutyńska, *Struktura proveniencyjna zbioru starych druków Biblioteki Uniwersyteckiej w Toruniu. Przewodnik po zespołach. Problemy badawcze i metodologiczne*, Toruń 1999, p. 17-24.

<sup>3</sup> It should be pointed out that, in Germany, 'old prints' also include publications from the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, while in Poland, this criteria covers 15-18<sup>th</sup>

range of call number results from the history of the NCU Library. As mentioned, the Greifswald books entered the library collections at the very beginning of its founding and they were catalogued in the first order. However, it should be pointed out that single books may have also obtained call numbers greater than 100.000, as well as, serial-specific call numbers (call numbers for serial publications at the NCU Library begin with "0").

The Greifswald books could also be shelved in the various reading rooms of the Library (such as, the Main Reading Room, Pomeranian Collection, Cartographic Collection etc.), as well as, in the faculty libraries of the Nicolaus Copernicus University. However, it can be assumed that their quantity would not have a significant impact on the overall image of the Greifswald collections. Moreover, their investigation would be very time-consuming. One should also remember that some items might have lost their features that would indicate their origin. Labels might have fallen off, thus making it difficult to identify their ownership. Furthermore, some books might have had their binding replaced. In essence, even the most thorough examination will not deliver complete data about the collections. It can only produce information that is very close to their actual state.

After being handed over to the Polish government by Marshall G. K. Żukow, by the announcement of the Ministry of Education (no. IV-5575/45)<sup>4</sup>, the Greifswald collections were transported to Toruń and placed in various rooms designated for the University. Since May 1947, they were kept in the Library's own building at

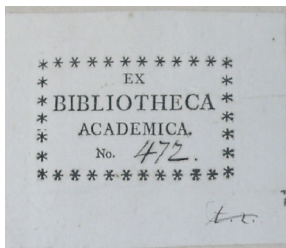
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century.

<sup>4</sup> Announcement of the Ministry of Education as of December 18, 1945. [In:] Archiwum Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika. Akta Biblioteki - [Teczka] Biblioteka UMK. Zasób 1945-1947, call no. 43, p. [13]; H. Baranowski, *Zbiory Biblioteki Uniwersyteckiej w Toruniu, ich rozwój i kierunki przyszłego kształtowania* [In:] *Studia o Działalności i Zbiorach Biblioteki Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika*, v. 5., Toruń 1990, p. 27.

12/18 Chopin Street<sup>5</sup>. In the following years, they were catalogued successively according to the rules adopted by the NCU Library. They were entered into the main catalogue by author or title and they were assigned a *numerus currens*, a consecutive inventory number. The books in storage rooms were neither arranged by subject, as they were originally in Greifswald, nor as a separate set based on their provenance. Therefore, in order to prepare a report of this sort, the entire collection had to undergo a hands-on analysis.

The collection from Greifswald includes about 5700 bibliographic items of old prints (15-18<sup>th</sup> century) contained in 3000 volumes<sup>6</sup>. The majority dates back to the 17-18<sup>th</sup> century because, at that time, there was a tendency to bind different publications together into so-called "binding blocks". One should remember that data concerning publications from this chronological set represents approximate figures because, at one point, binding blocks were broken up into individual volumes at the NCU Library. Therefore, many occasional publications and doctoral dissertations, which were rather unsubstantial, currently exist as single volumes without any clear ownership marks. Their affiliation with the described collection was established on the basis of their Greifswald printing.



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<sup>5</sup> S. Burhardt, *Historia pierwszego pięciolecia Biblioteki UMK*. [In:] *Studia o Działalności i Zbiorach Biblioteki Uniwersytetu M. Kopernika*, v. 3, Toruń 1987, p. 18.

<sup>6</sup> M. Strutyńska, *op. cit.*, p. 17.

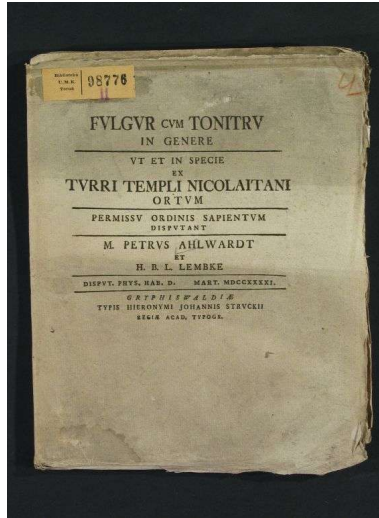


Fig. 1. Title page of a dissertation [NCU Library call no. 98776].

The study found 1621 bibliographic items of 19-20<sup>th</sup> century publications contained in 1680 volumes. The majority included books published in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. There were nearly 400 publications from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, including just 159 items from the first half of the century, which are considered 'old prints' in Germany. Overall, there are 4665 volumes and 7319 bibliographic items, which mainly include old prints, several manuscripts and musical publications, 20 atlases and 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century books from Greifswald. It is known that some 20 000 volumes of books from the Greifswald library were deposited in Pansin<sup>7</sup>. It turns out that over 20% of books

<sup>7</sup> *Handbuch der Historischen Buchbestände in Deutschland*, Bd. 16: Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, hrsg. von F. Krause, Hildesheim, Zürich, New York 1996, p. 60. According to the announcement Bundesministerium des Innern Aussenstelle Berlin..., *op. cit.*, p. 1 deposited in Pansin 23288 vol. Also stored in Pansin, there were private collections, such as, those of the Puttkamer family, portions of the public library in Szczecin (Ger. *Stettin*), the Prussian National Bank in Berlin, or the Institute on Economic Matters of Russia and Eastern Europe in Königsberg. All these collections totaled about 65000 volumes. — H. Baranowski, *op. cit.*, p. 27.

sheltered there in 1943 can be found within the NCU Library collections<sup>8</sup>. The fate of the remaining portion of the Greifswald collections is unknown<sup>9</sup>. The NCU Library delegates brought all the books they found in the Pansin castle<sup>10</sup>. The main part of the Greifswald collections was moved to presently unidentified sites. It is known, however, that since July 1945, these books were left unattended. The first lot was transported to Toruń on October 6<sup>th</sup> and, the second, on November 2<sup>nd</sup> of that year<sup>11</sup>. This action saved the Greifswald collections from further devastation and theft.

The portion of the collection of Greifswald origin, which found its way to Toruń, includes books in all areas of knowledge. About 90% of the 19-20<sup>th</sup> century books are dominated by publications from the *Niederdeutsch* section (former Greifswald call number nd A). Among them, there are many editions of *De Reinecke Fos*<sup>12</sup>, the animal epic embracing the ancient tradition of Aesop's fables.

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<sup>8</sup> *The University Library received about 1/7<sup>th</sup> portion of the Greifswald University Library...* letter of Prof. W. Dziewulski to the Ministry of Education of the Department of Schools of Higher Education in Warsaw, as of January 11, 1946. [In:] Akta Biblioteki UMK, *op. cit.*, p. [14]. See footnote 4. Numerous inquiries from the Greifswald University Library asking whether a given book is held in Toruń, of which the majority are returned with a negative answer, confirms that not all books deposited in Pansin are stored at the NCU Library.

<sup>9</sup> Single books of Greifswald origin were bought by the NCU Library in antique bookshops and one was donated by a private collector.

<sup>10</sup> Letter of Prof. W. Dziewulski, *op. cit.* says that, even at that time, the fate of the remaining Greifswald collections was unknown.

<sup>11</sup> H. Baranowski *op. cit.*, p. 27. On October 6<sup>th</sup>, two train cars with books arrived from Pansin. The Library obtained permission in Warsaw to bring six train cars of books, records, bookcases and cabinets from Pansin (including books from Greifswald, as well as, from the middle school in Starogrod [Stargard]) — Report from a business trip to Warsaw on October 9-16, 1945, no. 686/45 [In:] Akta Biblioteki UMK, *op. cit.*, p. [3]. On the subject, also see "Pozwolenie Ministerstwa Oświaty z dnia 13. X. 1945", no. V — 963/45 N [In:] Akta Biblioteki UMK, *op. cit.*, p. [5].

<sup>12</sup> On Reynecke de Foss, see: *Die deutsche Literatur des Mittelalters Verfasserlexikon*, hrsg. von K. Ruh, Bd. 8, Berlin, New York 1992, pp. 12-19; *Literatur Lexikon. Autoren und Werke deutscher Sprache*, hrsgs. von W. Killy, Bd. 9: 1991, pp. 408-409; *Deutsches Literatur-Lexikon...*, hrsg. begründet von W. Kosch, Bd. 12, col. 853-856.

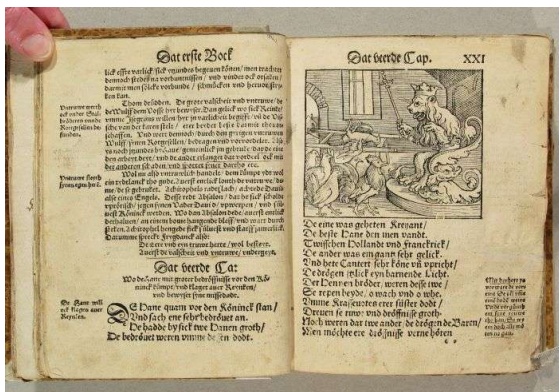


Fig. 2. Page 20 recto and 20 verso from Reinke de Vos, *De Warheyt my gantz frömde ys...*, Rostock 1592, — NdB no. 2471 [NCU Library call no. Ob.6.II.2150].

The editions of this title held at the Library span over the 16-20<sup>th</sup> century. Some contain hand-coloured wood engravings. The condition of many of these items is an indicator of their popularity among readers. Several editions of the epic, as well as, other old print items in the Low German dialect were displayed in an exhibition titled *500 Jahr Nedderdütsche Böker för Kinner un junge Lüüd*<sup>13</sup>, held in Oldenburg, in 1991. In addition to the mentioned fable about a fox, on exhibit, there was a rare copy of a 16<sup>th</sup> century primer, *A-B-C-Book*, printed in Magdeburg around 1535<sup>14</sup>, or a bilingual edition of Martin Luther's catechism for children<sup>15</sup>.

The mentioned *Niederdeutsch* set also includes books of a known Pomeranian religious reformer, Jan Bugenhagen, who graduated from the University in Greifswald<sup>16</sup>.

<sup>13</sup> H. Havekost, A. May, M. C. Fort, *500 Jahr Nedderdütsche Böker för Kinner un junge Lüüd*. Wieters Bidräge van Stephan Dannewitz [et al.]. Oldenburg 1991, pp. 102-103, 110, 114-115, 127, 132-134.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 110.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibidem*, pp. 114-115.

<sup>16</sup> S. Folaron, *Etos profesora XVI wieku. Uniwersytet — człowiek*, Częstochowa

Among his books, there was *Kercken Ordeninge des gantzen Pomerlandes* (*Porządek kościelny dla całego Pomorza*), published in a Wittenberg office of Franz Schlösser, in 1535<sup>17</sup>. Also found in this set, was an early edition of the Bible translated by Martin Luther, *Biblia dat ys de gantze hillige Schriffte dudiesch...*, published by the famous printing office of Hans Luft, in 1541. The book has a binding with furnishings and it contains chiselled gilt page edges<sup>18</sup>.



Fig. 3. View of the top cover containing blind tooling with geometric shapes; metal binding clasps, as well as, gilded and chiselled book edges [NCU Library call no. Ob.6.III.210].

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2003, p. 76.

<sup>17</sup> C. Borchling, B. Clausen, *Niederdeutsche Bibliographie. Gesamtverzeichnis der Niederdeutschen Drucke bis zum Jahre 1800*, Neumünster 1931-1936, Bd. 1 (1473-1600), no. 1213 [further cited as NdB].

<sup>18</sup> NdB, no. 1349. This Bible was presented at an exhibition in Toruń celebrating the 350 years of Colloquium Charitativum, in 1995 — *Dawne Biblie w zbiorach Biblioteki Uniwersyteckiej w Toruniu. Rękopisy. Stare Druki*, comp. M. Strutyńska, Toruń 1995, no. 27.



The collection includes equally impressive publications in life sciences (former Greifswald call numbers Td, Ta), for example, an 18<sup>th</sup> century copy of H. Kniphof's herbarium titled *Botanica in originali seu herbarium...* and F.H.W. Martini's *Allgemeine Geschichte der Natur in alphabetischer Ordnung...* . Both items have hand-coloured copperplates.

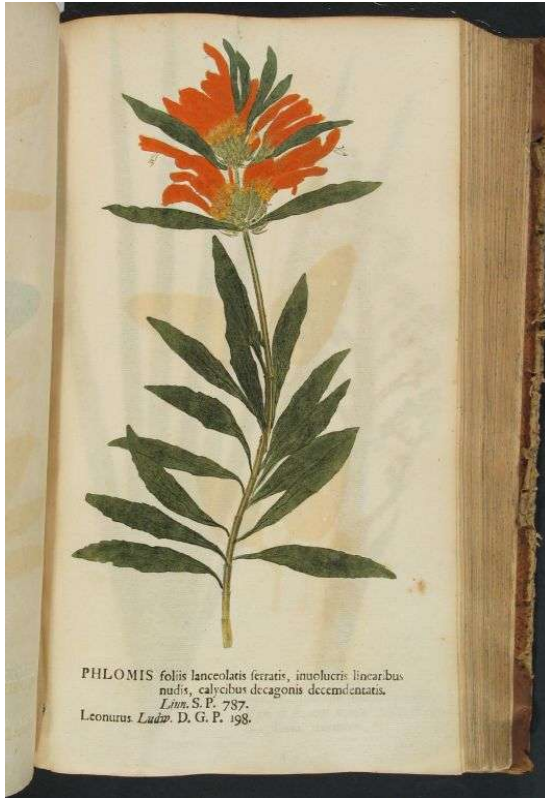


Fig. 4. A page from J. H. Kniphof's herbarium, *Botanica in originali seu herbarium virum...*, Hale Magdeburgieae 1758 [NCU Library call no. 280132/1].

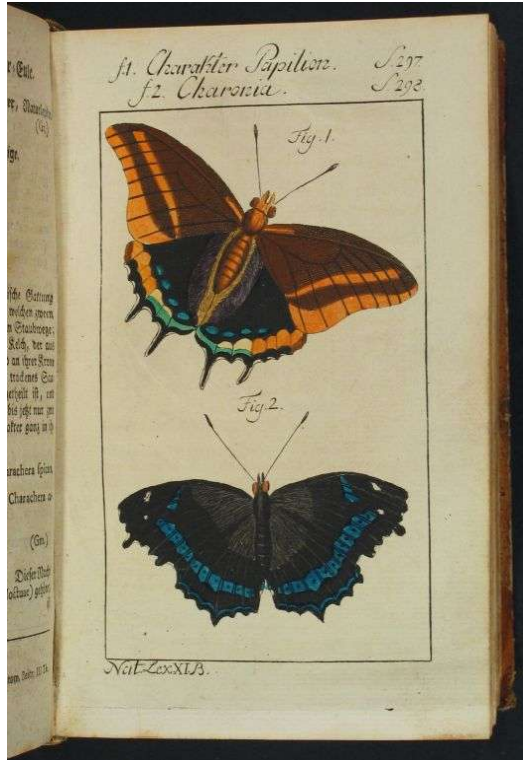


Fig. 5. Page 297 and 298 from Martini F.H.W., *Allgemeine Geschichte der Natur in alphabetischer Ordnung...*, Berlin 1791, Bd. XI, Abt. I, [NCU Library call no. 86559].

Another example of this is the work of mathematician Johann Mathias Hase titled *Historiae universalis politicae idea plane nova...*, which left the Nuremberg printing office in 1743, after the author's death. This edition contains a collection of maps, artistically coloured by hand and descriptions of different regions<sup>19</sup>.

<sup>19</sup> Ch. G. Jöcher, *Allgemeines Gelehrten-Lexikon...*, Leipzig 1750, v. 2, cols. 1392-1393.



Fig. 6. Plate XVII — Imperii Romano-Germanici from J.M. Hase's, *Historiae universalis politicae idea plane nova...*, Nuremberg 1743, [NCU Library call no. Pol.8.II.1561].

Among the collection of books described herein, there are also interesting Polonica items, such as, a block containing 16-17<sup>th</sup> century publications, pressed in Vilnius, Braniewo and Cracow (printing offices of Łazarz and Petricovius). One of the books (Daniel Hermann, *Stephaneis Moschovitica...*, Gedani 1582<sup>20</sup>) has a provenance note of a Warmia canon Sebastian Kromer<sup>21</sup> (NCU Library call number Pol.6.II.530 adl.). Considering that Nicolaus Copernicus is the University patron, exceptionally important is the German translation of a work by one of the first supporters of the Copernicus' theory in England, John Wilkins' *Vertheidigter Copernicus...*, published in Leipzig in 1713<sup>22</sup>, as well as, books on the Toruń tumult.

<sup>20</sup> K. Estreicher, *Bibliografia polska*, Kraków 1900, v. 18, p. 153 [further cited as E.].

<sup>21</sup> Biography S. Kromer's by A. Kopiczko [In:] *Słownik biograficzny kapituły warmińskiej*, Ed. J. Guzowski, Olsztyn 1996, p. 135. (A. Kopiczko).

<sup>22</sup> E. 33, 13. English edition was published in London, in 1638 — H. Baranowski, *Bibliografia Kopernikowska 1509-1955*, Warszawa 1958, no. 1381.

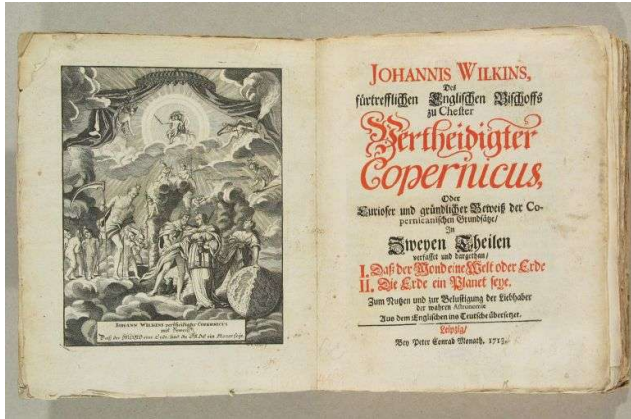


Fig. 7. Title page and frontispiece of J. Wilkins' *Vertheidigter Copernicus...*, Leipzig 1713 [NCU Library call no. Pol.8.II.371].

Furthermore, the Greifswald books include fragments of smaller collections, as well as, single items belonging to individual collectors. They contain bookplates or signatures of, among others: Abraham Droysen<sup>23</sup> (with autographs of several members of his family), the von Dycke family of nobles from Rügen, Christian Ernest Graf Stolberg Wernigerode, Albert Fabricius, Christian Stephan Scheffel<sup>24</sup> and Albert Höfer<sup>25</sup>. However, they are dominated by publications from a collection of Petr

<sup>23</sup> On the collections of Droysen's and others given to the library in Greifswald, see: *Handbuch der Historischen Buchbestände in Deutschland...*, p. 57. For earlier publications on Droysen and his collection, M. Perlbach, *Versuch einer Geschichte der Universitäts-Bibliothek zu Greifswald*, Bd. 1, Bis 1785, Greifswald 1882, p. 55.

<sup>24</sup> Ch. S. Scheffel — professor of medicine in Greifswald (bookplate information: ex legato Scheffeliano). Books donated to the library cover medical subjects. A. Wilhelmi wrote on members of his family in *Die Mecklenburgischen Aerzte von den ältesten Zeiten bis zur Gegenwart: eine Neuausgabe, Vervollständigung und Fortsetzung des 1874 unter gleichem Titel erschienenen A Blanck'schen Sammelwerkes*, Schwerin 1901. See. G. L. Kosegarten, *Geschichte der Universität Greifswald mit urkundlichen Beilagen*, Greifswald 1857, Th. 1, p. 290.

<sup>25</sup> The majority of books with the "Donum Alberti Hoefler, 1883" bookplate was found among the 19<sup>th</sup> century items.

Ahlwardt, an 18<sup>th</sup> century professor of logic, mathematics and philosophy<sup>26</sup>, who also appears as an advisor on a dissertation included in his set. *Ahlwardiana* constitute about 50% of the entire old print collection from Greifswald preserved in Toruń which, at the same time, makes up for 50% of all books of Alhwardt that were deposited in Pansin in 1943<sup>27</sup>. Several books bear an autograph of a Greifswald Arabist, Wilhelm Ahlwardt (NCU Library call number 274720 — 18<sup>th</sup> century edition of *Reineke de Voss*), who enriched the collection of the University Library in Greifswald by contributing, among others, rare Pomeranicas and literature in Low German. As the entire Greifswald collection, the *Ahlwardiana* set also includes books that were owned once by other collectors, such as, Nicolaus Köppen of Wolgast. The NCU Library also has 20 books of this Greifswald professor, theologian and Orientalist living at the turn of the 17-18<sup>th</sup> century<sup>28</sup>. His collection includes a well-known work of Sebastian Brandt, *Das Narrenschiff*, published in Basel, in 1498<sup>29</sup>. Some books of the described set contain stamps of other libraries, such as, Szczecin's and Königsberg, which can be an indication of co-operation between the Greifswald library with the mentioned libraries.

**4 0 0 J a h r e n e u e**  
**U n i v e r s i t ä t s b i b l i o t h e k**  
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<sup>26</sup> G. L. Kosegarten, *op. cit.*, p. 293, P. Ahlwardt died in 1792.

<sup>27</sup> Letter, Bundesministerium des Innern Aussenstelle Berlin..., *op. cit.*, (see cit. 1) Anlage III.

<sup>28</sup> Ch. G. Jöcher, *Allgemeines Gelehrten-Lexikon*, 3. Ergänzungsband, Hildesheim 1961 (Nachdruck of 1810 edition), cols. 676-678; *Deutsches Biografische Archiv*, Fische I, 685, 104-118.

<sup>29</sup> *Katalog inkunabułów Biblioteki Uniwersyteckiej w Toruniu*, comp. M. Strutyńska, Toruń 1995, no. 48.

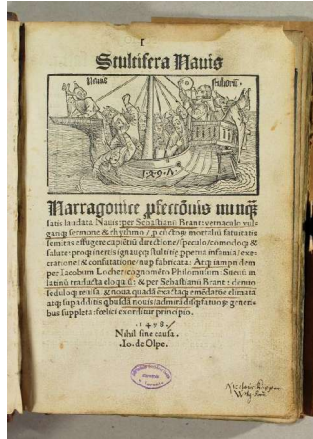


Fig. 8. Title page of S. Brandt's *Das Narrenschiff*, Basel 1498 [NCU Library call no. Inc.II.91].

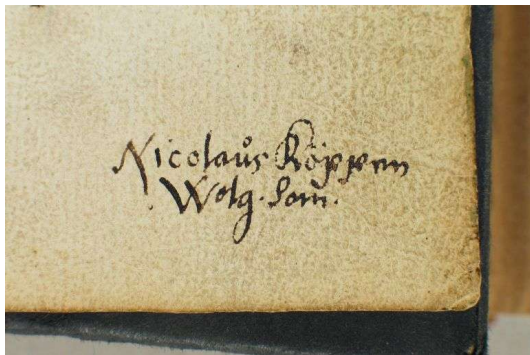


Fig. 9. Ownership note of N. Köppen from the title page of the work of Sebastian Brandt [NCU Library call no. Inc.II.91].

Books from the University Library in Greifswald are well preserved in Toruń. Many items have solid bindings from the period [Fig. 3]. For example, there is an unusual 16<sup>th</sup> century binding made of manuscript parchment, which contains an original joining of the cover with the book

block. It belongs to *Pasquillorum tomi duo...*<sup>30</sup>, published by Curio Caelius Secundus in Basel, in 1544.



Fig. 10. Parchment binding of C.C. Secundus' *Pasquillorum tomi duo...*, Basel 1544, in a conservation box [NCU Library call no. Ob.6.II.4051].

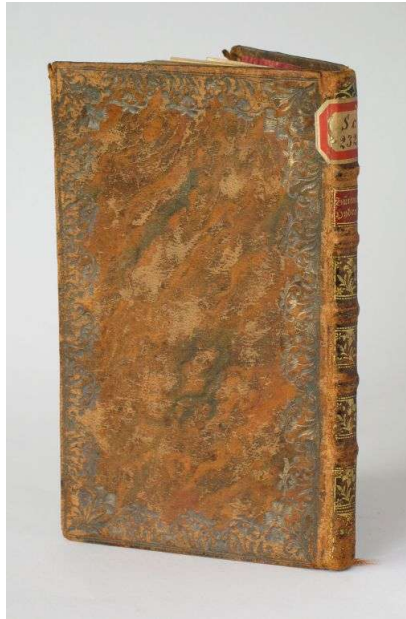


Fig. 11. Spine sewing of C.C. Secundus' *Pasquillorum tomi duo...*, Basel 1544 [NCU Library call no. Ob.6.II.4051].  
Another interesting example is a cover from the turn of

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<sup>30</sup> *Verzeichnis der im deutschen Sprachbereich erschienenen Drucke des XVI. Jahrhunderts*, hrsg. von der Bayrischen Staatsbibliothek in München in Verbindung mit der Herzog August Bibliothek in Wolfenbüttel, Stuttgart 1985, [further cited as VD 16] C 6433- records only 2 copies of this work.

the 18-19<sup>th</sup> century, made of brown marbled leather with tinges of yellow and green, containing a pressed frame with floral motifs. It has a partially rubbed off gold tooling embellishing the border and the spine, which also contains a small signboard. The edges of the book are also gilded



*Fig. 12.* Bottom cover with the spine — view of gold tooling [NCU Library call no. 273013].

However, a substantial portion of books, especially from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, contains a characteristic standard binding made of cardboard covered with green, brown or blue marbled paper. Many items bear a gilded super ex-libris on the upper cover. These covers were a distinguishing feature (often, the only one) among the Greifswald books.





Fig. 13. Examples of bindings of Greifswald books. Top covers show super ex-libris of the Greifswald library.

In the described collection, there are also items that require conservation and some have already been exposed to it. Some examples of books repaired at the Collections Preservation Department of the NCU Library include, the earlier mentioned 16<sup>th</sup> century primer, *A-B-C-Book*<sup>31</sup>, and a 17<sup>th</sup> century naval atlas of Pieter Groos, containing 7 maps<sup>32</sup>.

The collections of Greifswald provenance represent a significant element of the cultural heritage. They have been catalogued and presented to the public for a long time. They continue to be searched for and read by users, as evidenced by numerous queries, especially from Germany. The NCU Library fully understands the need for speedy information about their current place of storage. Thanks to electronic mail, supplying this information is a lot easier. The ideal solution would be to provide on-line access to a catalogue of old prints kept at the NCU

<sup>31</sup> NdB and VD 16 do not record this edition, see cit. 14.

<sup>32</sup> C. Koeman, *Atlantes Neerlandici*, Vol. IV, Amsterdam 1970, p. 192-.

Library. However, achieving this task remains in the future since works in this area have only just begun.

The above report, based on empirical studies, provides a definite description of the collection of Greifswald provenance, located in the NCU Library in Toruń<sup>33</sup>.



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1604 Greifswald 2004**

<sup>33</sup> *Handbuch der Historischen Buchbestände in Deutschland...*, p. 60: *Inzwischen verstärken sich die Hinweise darauf, daß zumindest Teile davon in der Universitätsbibliothek Toruń aufbewahrt werden.*

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