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JOSEF M. BROŽEK

## FROM „PSICHILOGIA“ TO „PSYCHOLOGIA“: GRAPHICALLY DOCUMENTED ARCHIVAL STUDY ACROSS THREE CENTURIES

Strangely enough, the history of the term „psychologia“ and its direct predecessor, „psichiologia,“ have not received as much attention as they deserve. The present paper is focused on archival history of the title of the work of Marcus Marulus, a Dalmatian humanist (1450–1524), „Psychology (Psichiologia): On the nature of the human soul, Book one“, cited in the biography written by a younger friend, Franciscus Natalis. Table 1 lists the transcribed titles while Table 2 reproduces photographically the titles as they appear in the 16<sup>th</sup> century autograph held in Split and in another Split ms., as well as in the later mss. held in Venice and Budapest. The Zagreb scribe left out the puzzling word altogether and a later hand entered the term „ethologia“.

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### „Psichilogia“ : A puzzling predecessor of „psychologia“

The term „psychologia“ appeared in the 16<sup>th</sup> century as a learned equivalent of the title of treatises traditionally labelled in Latin „De anima“. Lapointe informs us that it was a Marburg professor, Rudolphus Goclenius, who in 1590 used the term, written in Greek letters, as a title of a Latin publication, „Psychologia, hoc est de hominis perfectione“ – On the improvement of man.<sup>1</sup>

However, depending heavily on the report of Kruno Krstić,<sup>2</sup> Lapointe does not fail to note that a variant of the term appeared as the title of a work entitled

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1 François H. Lapointe, „Who originated the term psychology?“ *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences* 7 (1972): 328–335.

2 Kruno Krstić, „Marko Marulić – the author of the term „psychology,“ *Acta Instituti Psychologici Universitatis Zagrebiensis* No. 35–48 (1964): 7–17.

„Psichologia“ and written by Marcus Marulus (1450–1524, Marulić in Croatian), an early Dalmatian humanist. The date of origin is specified as „circa 1520“, which is a reasonable estimate. The work itself got lost in a plague that ravaged Split but its title is registered in the list of Marulus's writings cited in biography written by Marulus's younger colleague, Franciscus Natalis (Božičević, in Croatian). The biography is available in several manuscripts as well as in printed versions.<sup>3</sup>

Information obtained in the archives of Dalmatia (Split—two mss.), Croatia proper (Zagreb), Italy (Venice), and Hungary (Budapest) is presented in Tables 1 and 2.

**Table 1. Spelling of „psychology“ in manuscripts**

| SOURCE and DATE:                                      | SPELLING:    |
|---|--------------|
| Scientific library, Split<br>XVI. century (autograph) | psichologia  |
| Capitulary archives, Split<br>XVII. (?) century       | psichiodogia |
| Bibl. Marciana, Venice<br>XVII. (?) century           | psychologia  |
| Academy, Zagreb<br>XVII–XVIII. (?) century            | (ethologia)  |
| Kovachich coll., Budapest<br>XVIII. century           | psychologia  |

**Table 2. Photocopies of the title „Psychology on the nature of the human soul Book 1“**

|         |                            |
|---------|----------------------------|
| Source: | Scientific library, SPLIT  |
|         | Capitulary archives, SPLIT |
|         | Bibl. Marciana, VENICE     |
|         | Academy, ZAGREB            |
|         | Kovachich Coll., BUDAPEST  |

<sup>3</sup> Miroslavus Marcovich, Ed., *M. Maruli Davidiadis Libri XIV* (Merida, Venezuela: Universidad de los Andes). Contains „Vita Marci Maruli Spalatensis per Franciscum Natalem Concivem Suum Composita“, pp. 267–270.

Table 2. Photocopies of the title

“Psychology on the nature of the human soul Book 1”

Source: Scientific library, SPLIT

*Psychologia de ratione animae humanae*

Capitulary archives, SPLIT

*Psychologia de ratione animae humanae lib. I.*

Bibl. Marciana, VENICE

*Psychologia de ratione animae humanae lib. I.*

Academy, ZAGREB

*De ratione animae humanae lib. I. Psychologia*

Kovachich Coll., BUDAPEST

*Psychologia de ratione animae humanae lib. I.*

### Comment on Tables

The data registered in the tables attest that the copiers of the biography were puzzled by the expression „psychiologia“, as was I when I first encountered it, some three decades ago. Erroneously, I viewed it – as did others – as an error, as a faulty spelling. The fact that it is a correct transcription of a Byzantian neologism will be discussed in a separate communication.

Clearly erroneous is the transcription in the ms. held in the Split capitulary archives: „g“ incorrectly replaced the letter „l“. In the autograph, by accident also held in Split, the letter „l“ is very clear. Of course, we can not be sure how clear (or, more probably, how unclear) the letter „l“ was in the ms. that the copier faced.

In the Venetian manuscript, the replacement of iota by ypsilon, following the initial letter psi, is readily understandable. It corresponds to the spelling of „psyche“ that the copier is likely to have known.

The most dramatic confirmation of the theory that the Byzantian neologism was simply too confusing is provided by the behavior of the author of the Zagreb manuscript: The copier was so confused that he simply omitted the term „psychiologia“. It was a different hand that, at some later time, had added the

term „ethologia“ which came to be used in Great Britain for „science of character“ (ethos, beginning with letter eta).

The Budapest ms. utilizes „standard“ Latin spelling.

### **Closing comment: Joys and frustrations**

Years ago, in 1975 – to be precise, in the context of Symposium on Archival Research in the History of Psychology W. D. Balance spoke of the frustrations and joys of archival research.<sup>4</sup> The present study was both blessed by joys and cursed by frustrations.

I experienced severe frustration at the very start of the study. I decided to begin the „field work“ in Dubrovnik. For one, I love Dubrovnik. More importantly, not only did I know that a copy of Marulus's biography was held in the library of the Franciscan monastery. I knew also the call number of the collection of manuscripts of which the Marulus biography was a part as well as its serial number in the bound volume. The number was 17. With excitement I opened the volume and searched for „my“ manuscript: I found items 14, 15, 16... and 18! I could not believe my eyes: Item 17 was missing... An unknown, unkind hand removed it.

The greatest, joyful surprise awaited me in Zagreb, in the Library of the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences: Unexpectedly, we found a copy of the biography of which I was not aware. This, so to speak, „balanced the accounts“.

I prepared a preliminary account of the archival study for presentation as the presidential address at the 1974 annual meeting of APA's Division 26. To my distress, the outline and the data unexplainably disappeared. This delayed the completion of the report by 25 years.

### **Notes**

The archival studies carried out in the early 1970s in Dalmatia, inland Croatia, Hungary and Italy, and reported in this paper were made possible by fellowship awarded jointly by the US National Academy of Sciences and the Council of the Academies of Sciences and Arts of Yugoslavias. The early papers, dealing with evidence in print, were published in the United States, „Marcus Marulus, 1450–1524, Author of *Psychologia: Early References and Dating*,” *Proceedings*, 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention, APA (1973), 929–930, and in Italy (Milano), „*Psychologia of Marcus Marulus, 1450–1524: Evidence in printed works and estimated date of origin*,” *Episteme* (1973): 125–131.

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<sup>4</sup> W. D. G. Balance, „Frustrations and joys of archival research,” *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences* 11 (1975): 37–40.

OD „PSICHILOGIE“ K „PSYCHOLOGII“: GRAFICKY  
DOKUMENTOVANÉ ARCHIVNÍ ZKOUMÁNÍ  
V INTERVALU TŘÍ STOLETÍ

**Souhrn**

Raná historie výrazu „psychologie“ je nejasná. Přítomný článek zachycuje graficky jeho vývoj od 16. do 18. století na základě rukopisů chovaných v knihovnách a archivech v dalmatinském Splitu (2 rukopisy), chorvatském Záhřebu, italských Benátkách a maďarské Budapešti.

Jde o výraz, který se vyskytuje jako titul spisu raného dalmatinského humanisty Marko MARULIĆE (1450–1524). Je uveden v životopisu, který napsal Marulićův mladší přítel, Franciscus Natalis (což je latinizace chorvatského jména BOŽIČEVIĆ). Titul životopisu byl „Vita Marci Maruli a Francisco Natali conscripta.“ Titul Marulićova spisu, ztraceného v Splitu během moru, zní „PSYCHIOLOGIA DE RATIONE ANIMAE HUMANAЕ LIB. I“.

Slovo PSYCHIOLOGIA je latinkou přepsaný výraz v byzantské řečtině.

Zatím se mi nepodařilo vyjasnit jeho původ. Byl výraz vytvořen Marulićem samým či je převzat z jiných, nám neznámých pramenů?

Tím se ovšem historie výrazu „psychologie“ značně komplikuje.

**Poznámka**

V tisku: *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences* 25. 2. 1999. Se souhlasem nakladatele: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York.

