Quaeris quid sit amor?

Having received Andreas Alciatus's epigrams, the Augsburg printer Heinrich Steyner added illustrations and published them in 1531 with the title Emblemata. With this combination of text and illustration - which had not been Alciatus's intention - a literary genre had been created which was to enjoy very considerable popularity throughout Europe until far into the eighteenth century. Alciatus's collection was reprinted many times and inspired numerous other works, including Johannes Sambucus's Emblemata, published in 1564. In the southern Low Countries Christopher Plantin became the leading producer of emblem books, publishing, besides reprints of earlier works, the first edition of Hadrianus Junius's Emblemata in 1565. Later, especially when after 1585 there was an increase in emigration from the south to the north, reprints of Alciatus's, Sambucus's and Junius's emblem books were also published in the north of the country. With the appearance of Quaeris quid sit amor the North was even to witness a change of direction in emblem books, for this work was the first of its kind to be devoted wholly, in both text and illustration, to the theme of love (amor).

Ascription

At the end of the introductory poem 'Aen de ioncvrouwen van Hollandt' in Quaeris quid sit amor we see the name Theocritus a Ganda. For many years it has been assumed that this was a pseudonym of Daniel Heinsius, the principal reason being the inclusion of this poem (and, incidentally, of those which follow it) in Heinsius's volume Nederduytsche poemata.3

* I take this opportunity of thanking Mr. E. Braches for his valuable help in the preparation of this article. The initiative for the research described in Appendix A was his.


2 For the full title see Appendix B, I.1.

An opponent of the identification of Theocritus à Ganda with Daniel Heinsius, which has a tradition of over 350 years' standing, is John Landwehr, writing in two publications. In his article Landwehr claims that Theocritus à Ganda is not Daniel Heinsius but Jacob de Vivere (Jacobus Viverius). However, Paul R. Sellin shows himself a supporter of the traditional view, and, broadly speaking, I am inclined to agree with him. His argument is nevertheless capable of amplification:

The attribution of the entire Quaeris quid sit amor to Daniel Heinsius is based on the fact that all the texts contained in it also appear in Heinsius's *Nederduytsche poemata*. Theocritus à Ganda's identification with Heinsius is the result of the inclusion, without a signature, of the poem 'Aen de ioncvrouwen van Hollandt' in *Nederduytsche poemata*. After all, if we assume that Theocritus à Ganda is not Daniel Heinsius, why should Heinsius have included (or allowed to be included) in this collection 'Aen de ioncvrouwen van Hollandt' — and the poems which follow it — without a signature? Furthermore, who else, besides Heinsius, might have had cause to use the pseudonym Theocritus à Ganda? Theocritus is the latinized form of Θέοκρίτος, which itself is a translation of the Hebrew given name 'Daniel'. At the same time, A Ganda means: coming from Ghent, so that Theocritus à Ganda may be rendered as Daniel of Ghent. And Ghent was Heinsius's birth-place.

Basing my conclusion on these facts, I believe the entire collection of poems in *Quaeris quid sit amor*, including 'Aen de ioncvrouwen van Hollandt', to have been written by Heinsius.

**Dating**

Landwehr dates *Quaeris quid sit amor* c. 1607. His main reason for this is that


4 At this time it is not unusual for Heinsius to give his place of birth on the title-pages of his publications. For examples of this, see: Sellin, Collection, pp. 334-5. In fact my observations on the identification of Theocritus à Ganda with Daniel Heinsius have been made superfluous by the pronouncement by Jacobus Viverius, quoted by A. K. H. Moerman in: Open, vol. 4, No. 10 (October 1972), p. 623: '... DANIEL HEYNSIUS (onder den Name van THEOCRITUS À GANDA, bij den gemeenen man bekent)...' ['... Daniel Heinsius (known to the common man by the name of Theocritus à Ganda)...']