Petrus Scriverius as the publisher of the Poemata of Janus Dousa*

SCRIVERIUS AND DOUSA

A conspicuous feature of philology as it flourished in Holland during and after the second half of the sixteenth century is that it is so often associated with the historical study of more or less recent events. Names which come to mind include Hadrianus Junius, Janus Dousa Pater, Janus Dousa Filius, Paulus Merula, Dominicus Baudius, Hugo Grotius, Daniel Heinsius, and Joannes Meursius.¹

This duality – or rather versatility – is also a feature of Petrus Scriverius (1576–1660), who not only produced by no means worthless editions of Vegetius (1607) and Martial (1619), but also made an even greater reputation for himself with works relating to the country’s history. At the same time, however, he set himself apart from other writers in a similar vein by his above-average attention to the activities of the humanist movement of his own time. The result of this is a large number of editions of works by predecessors and contemporaries: letters from Erasmus (1649), the collected works of Janus Secundus (1619, 1631, 1641 and 1651),² poetry by Georgius Benedicti (1601), Janus Dousa Pater (1609) and Josephus Scaliger (1615), and poetry and letters by Baudius Dominicus (1683).³ Curiously enough, his own poems had to wait

* Iani Douzae a Noortwyck Poemata plerique selecta. Petrus Scriverius Ex Auctoris schedis et liurariis magnam partem descriptit, sparsa collegit, ac inuentim edidit. Accedunt Iosephi Scaligeri, Justi Lipsii, aliorumq. ad Douzam Carmina. Lugdun. Batavorum, Ex officina Thomae Basson, M. D. C. IX. Page-numbers and the numbers of poems from this work are indicated by the abbreviation Scr. followed by the relevant number.

1 Of the philologists named, Junius, Dousa Pater, Grotius and Heinsius were officially appointed historians of Holland, a post which Baudius, too, did his best to achieve. See P. L. M. Grooten, Dominicus Baudius. Een levensschets uit het Leidse humanistenmilieu 1561–1613 (Nijmegen and Utrecht 1942), pp. 110 et sqq. Heinsius was also a historian to King Gustav Adolf of Sweden. Merula and Meursius held posts with the States-General and also with the States of Gelderland (Merula) and King Christian II of Denmark. Dousa Filius worked with his father in his duties as librarian and as historian to Holland (the two posts being united in Dousa Pater’s appointment). When Dousa Filius was appointed librarian the task of writing history was expressly reserved for his father. See P. C. Molhuysen, Bronnen tot de geschiedenis der Leidse universiteit, 1 (The Hague 1913), p. 42 (1 March 1583) and p. *122–3; and *266–8. Also B. A. Vermaseren, ‘De werkzaamheid van Janus Dousa Sr († 1604) als geschiedschrijver van Holland’, Bijdragen en Mededelingen van het Historisch Genootschap 69 (1954/1955), pp. 49–107.

2 See also G. Joos, ‘De uitgaven der Latijnsche werken van Janus Secundus (1511–1536)’, Revue belge de Philologie et d’Histoire 18 (1939), pp. 5–18.

3 That Scriverius was interested not only in Neo-Latin poetry but also in the literature of
On 26 July 1593 Scriverius enrolled at the university in Leiden, having been attracted thither, as he himself later wrote, by the fame of Scaliger, who was expected there shortly. And indeed it was not long before he was admitted to the purposely limited circle of Scaliger’s pupils. At the same time he felt honoured most of all by his introduction to the university’s first curator and actual founder, Janus Dousa, whose fame as a Latin poet was at its zenith. Proof of their mutual and enduring respect may be seen in the poems with which they extolled one another. It was Scaliger and Dousa who were the first to be allowed to write in Scriverius’s *album amicorum*, and among his fellow students Scriverius naturally remarked the other members of what Leiden circles liked to call the *Pleias Dousica*. In his somewhat melancholy retrospective account of his student days he names them: Janus Filius, recently appointed librarian, but soon after to depart abroad and not to return to Leiden until shortly before his premature death in 1596, so that Scriverius may scarcely have had time to get to know him well; then there were Georgius, Stephanus, and Franciscus, whose edition of Lucilius Scriverius provided with three accompanying poems, and finally Theodorus, Dousa’s only son still living, with whom Scriverius maintained contact during the intervening years, witness his poem in the Logothetias edition produced by Georgius in 1614. I shall return to this relationship below.


5 Opera anecdotae, p. 123: ‘Longe alta et quondam felicior hora refulsit, / Scaligeru Gallis huc veniente suis, / Post tristes abitus Lippi; cum fama tenellum / Me quoque Pegaseas quaeare suavit aquas’.

6 Dousa, Echo, fols. 71 r., 92 v., 95 r.; Scriverius, Opera anecdotae, pp. 250, 259, 429, 468.

7 *Album amicorum* of Petrus Scriverius (The Hague, Kon. Bibl., MS. 133 M5, fols. 1 r.–2 v.).

8 Leiden, Univ. Libr. MS. Vulec. 103 II, no. 4 contains two poems by Vulcanius under the title *Pleias Dousica*. The second of these is also to be seen in London, BM, MS. Burney 371, fo. 103, while the first was published in the work by Franciscus Dousa to which reference is made in note 10 below. The term also occurs in Scriverius, Opera anecdotae, pp. 125, 162.

9 Opera anecdotae, p. 123: ‘quondam felicior hora’.

10 C. Lucili, Suessani Aurunci, Satyraphorum Principis, Eq. Romani, (qui magnus avunculus Magno Pompeio fuit) Satyram quae supersunt Reliquiae. Franciscus Iani F. Dousa collegit, dispositiv, et Notas addidit (Leiden 1597), g 3 r.–4 r.

11 Georgii Logothetiae Acropolitae Chronicon Constantinopolitanum, Complectens captae a Latinis Constantinopolitis et annorum ciriter sexaginta Historiam, a Balduino Flandro Augusto ad Balduinum