Tacitus in Latin editions and commentaries of the *Annals* and *Histories* (15th 16th centuries): a study of the paratexts

Paratexts are a valuable source of information on how an author is perceived and understood by an era. Our contribution will focus on the paratexts of printed Latin editions and commentaries of Tacitus' *Opera maiora* in the 15th and 16th centuries. Thanks to the printing press, Tacitus' text, which was almost unknown in the Middle Ages and whose manuscripts were discovered late, was for the first time disseminated on a wide European scale: it is thus the first phase of Tacitus' fame that will be considered in our talk. We propose to delimit and question the image of the historian that these paratexts conveyed to humanist readers, by studying what historiographical, stylistic and political qualities are exhibited in them, and by situating them in contemporary debates.

Our corpus will include all Latin-language editions and printed commentaries of the 15th and 16th centuries, excluding the numerous works of Justus Lipsius, which deserve a dedicated study in their own right.

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