

PREFACE

The first volume of the series *Monumenta Reformationis Lithuanicae / Monuments of the Lithuanian Reformation (Lietuvos Reformacijos paminklai)* devoted to Confessions of faith was published in 2011. It contained the earliest Protestant text of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, i.e. the *Confession of Faith (Confessio fidei)* written by Abraham Culvensis (circa 1510/1512–1545), the pioneer of Lithuanian Evangelical Thought. The text was written and addressed to Bona Sforza in 1543 and printed in 1547 together with the funeral speech (*Oratio funebris*) by Johann Hoppe published in Königsberg to commemorate Kulvietis' death.

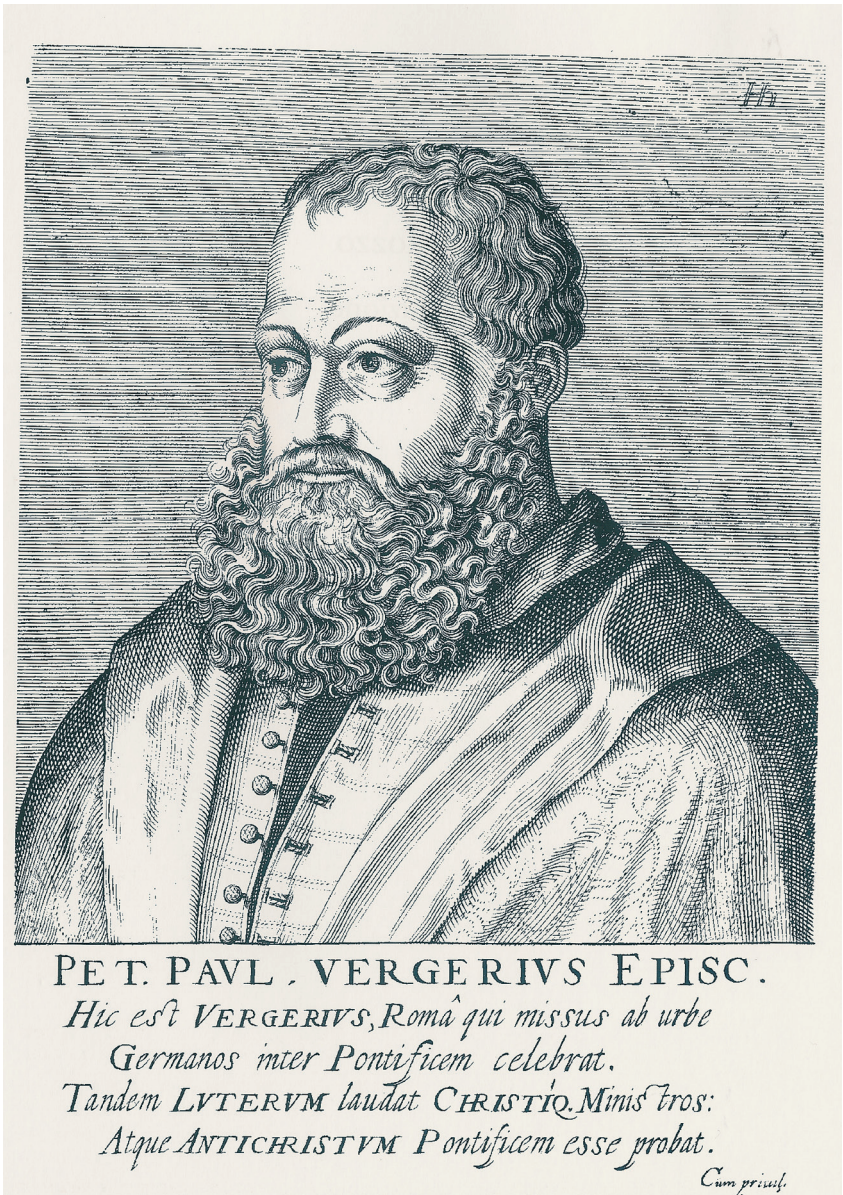
The second volume of the series presents a Lithuanian Reformation text written more than a decade later, and consists of the answer by Duke Mikalojus Radvilas the Black (1515–1565) to nuncio Luigi Lippomano (1556). This critical edition of the controversy marks the historical celebration of 2015 which is a 500th anniversary of Mikalojus Radvilas the Black who was the most prominent figure of GDL Renaissance and Reformation.

The reply to nuncio Lippomano is the most significant public text by Radvilas the Black reflecting his religious views. Kulvietis' contemporaries evaluated the text as an authentic Evangelical confession of faith which became the fundamental declaration of the state's Reformation. The first publication of this text by Radvilas was written in Latin in Königsberg in 1556 at the initiative of Italian Protestant Pier Paolo Vergerio in a publication called *Two Letters (Duae Epistolae)* which also included Lippomano's letter and poetic and prosaic texts as appendices. This was soon followed by the publication of the German and Polish versions of this text. The publication of the *Two Letters* presented the tradition of religious polemics which was deeply rooted in Lithuania in the 16th–17th century.

The publication was prepared on the basis of the only extant copy of *Duae Epistolae* in Lithuania stored in Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, shelf mark L-16/1–25. We kindly thank the library's director Dr Sigitas Narbutas and Dr Daiva Narbutienė, the head of the Rare

Books Department for the permission to publish the text. We also express our gratitude to Dr. Henning P. Jürgens from Leibniz institute of European History (IEG, Germany) and University of Trieste (Italy) Professor Silvano Cavazza for reviewing the publication and for numerous valuable remarks.

Vilnius, May 2014



PIER PAOLO VERGERIO (1498–1565)
Iš knygos / from: Jacob Verheiden, *Praestantium aliquot theologorum qui Rom.
Antichristum praecipue oppugnarunt effigies*, Hagae-Comitis,
[Ex officina B. C. Niulandii], 1602.