



# Quo vadis

inspirations,  
contexts,  
reception

Henryk Sienkiewicz and his vision of Ancient Rome

Rome, November, 14-15, 2016

Casa del Cinema | Villa Borghese |  
Largo Marcello Mastroianni 1  
Istituto Polacco di Roma |  
Via Vittoria Colonna 1

## International Conference

Organized by:

The Polish Academy of Sciences  
– The Scientific Center in Rome

The Department of European, American  
and Intercultural Studies | Sapienza  
University of Rome

in collaboration with  
The Royal Netherlands Institute  
in Rome

November, 14  
Casa del Cinema, Villa Borghese,  
Largo Mastroianni, 1

- 9.30 Welcome & opening
- 10.00 Film screening: *Quo vadis?* (1901)  
(courtesy: Archives Françaises du Film,  
“Restauration CNC”, in collaboration with CSC –  
Cineteca Nazionale)  
Maria Wyke, University College London  
– Projecting the word: Guazzoni’s *Quo vadis?* (1913) as adaptation  
of Sienkiewicz’s novel
- 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.30 Session 1: **The novel and its time**  
-13.30  
Adam Ziółkowski, University of  
Warsaw – *Quo vadis* and archeological  
discoveries in Rome in 19th century: the  
case of Ostrinum  
Adrianna Adamek -Świechowska,  
University of Warsaw – *Quo vadis* by  
Henryk Sienkiewicz. The ideological  
assumptions of the moment  
of the work’s genesis  
Ewa Skwara, Adam Mickiewicz University  
of Poznań – TUNICA, TOGA, STOLA.  
Costumes in *Quo vadis* by Henryk  
Sienkiewicz
- 15.30 Session 2: ***Quo vadis* and film adaptations**  
-17.30  
Jon Solomon, University of Illinois  
– *Quo vadis* and *Ben-Hur* in the United  
States, 1896-1912  
Jonathan Stubbs, University of Cyprus  
– A more permanent world: *Quo Vadis*  
(1951), runaway production, and the  
internationalisation of Hollywood  
Monika Woźniak, Sapienza University  
of Rome – “My wife, the lady Pomponia”  
or how do the Romans speak in English,  
Italian and Polish film adaptations  
of *Quo vadis*  
Anja Bettenworth, University  
of Cologne – Fraternal twins: Jerzy  
Kawalerowicz’s *Quo vadis* in film and  
television
- 19.30 Martin M. Winkler, George Mason University,  
-20.30 Fairfax, VA – “THIS IS THE BIG ONE!”  
QVO VADIS in Hollywood.
- 20.30 Film screening: *Quo Vadis* (1951), directed  
by Mervyn LeRoy (in Italian)

Agnieszka Kuniczuk-Trzciniowicz, University  
of Warsaw – A page from a novel – a novel  
on pages. The rough draft of *Quo vadis*  
among other manuscripts by Henryk  
Sienkiewicz

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**November, 15**  
**Istituto Polacco di Roma,**  
**Via Vittoria Colonna, 1**

9.30 Session 3: **Quo vadis: Dialogue**  
 -11.30 **between the arts**

Renata Suchowiejko, Jagellonian  
 University of Kraków– Jean Nougues’ and  
 Feliks Nowowiejski’s  
*Quo vadis*: Sonic Painting and Cultural  
 Contexts

Piotr Urbański, Adam Mickiewicz  
 University of Poznań – How to convert  
*Quo vadis* into an opera?

Ivo Blom, University of Amsterdam  
 – Moving Pictures. Enrico Guazzoni’s  
 Appropriation of Lawrence Alma-  
 Tadema and Jean-Léon Gérôme  
 in *Quo vadis*? (1913)

Jerzy Miziołek, University of Warsaw –  
 Sienkiewicz and Siemiradzki:  
 The ‘dialogue’ between the art  
 of painting and the art of writing

11.30 Coffee break  
 -12.00

12.00 Session 4:  
 -13.30 **Quo vadis in popular culture**

Raffaele de Berti, Elisabetta Gaggi, University of Milan – The success of *Quo vadis* in Italy in the first quarter of the 20th century: illustrated editions and movie paratexts

Giuseppe Pucci, University of Siena  
 – *Quo vadis* in comics

Katarzyna Biernacka-Licznar, University of Wrocław – Graphic Layout in the Italian Editions for Children of *Quo vadis* by Henryk Sienkiewicz

15.00 Session 5: **Literary connections**  
 -17.00 **and reflections**

Bartłomiej Szleszyński, The Institute of Literary Research PAS, Warsaw – *Quo vadis*: crowds and spectacles. Henryk Sienkiewicz’s novel as a critique of mass culture

Aminadav Dykman, University of Tel Aviv – *Quo vadis* in Hebrew and Yiddish

Ruth Scodel, University of Michigan  
 – *Quo vadis* and Roman History in America, 1897-1905

Luca Bernardini, University of Milan  
 – *Quo vadis* and beyond: Henryk Sienkiewicz in Italy

17.00 Closing remarks  
 -17.30

20.00 Film screening: *Quo vadis* (2001), directed by Jerzy Kawalerowicz (subtitles in Italian)

**Scientific committee:**

Jerzy Axer, University of Warsaw  
 Tadeusz Bujnicki, University of Warsaw  
 Luigi Marinelli, Sapienza University of Rome  
 Piotr Salwa, The Polish Academy of Sciences, Scientific Center in Rome  
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