



# 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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– *Quo vadis* and *Ben-Hur* in the United  
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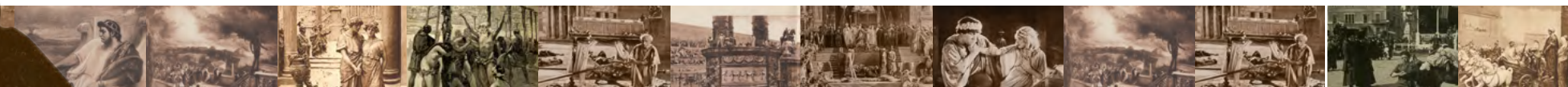
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**November, 15**  
**Istituto Polacco di Roma,**  
**Via Vittoria Colonna, 1**

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  
 Martin M. Winkler, George Mason University  
 Monika Woźniak, Sapienza University of Rome  
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