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   Nota di contenuto Preliminary Material -- Foreword -- Acknowledgements --
                     Palaeocomparativism and Earliest Baltic Linguistics -- The Slav Theory
                     and Polyglossia in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania -- An Illyrian Theory of
                     the Baltic Languages -- The Latin Theory and Vilnius Latinizers --
                     Polyglossia and Linguistic Variations in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania
                     and the Quadripartite Theory -- The Idea that Prussian Derives from
                     Greek -- The Emergence of a Hebrew Theory -- Marcin Bielski's ideas
                     on the Lithuanian -- The Disappearance of the Baltic languages in
                     Edward Brerewood's Enqvireies (1614) -- Concluding Remarks: Was
                     there a Baltistics before Baltistics? -- Notes -- Sources -- References.

   Sommario/riassunto This book is a study of the relatively unknown field of Baltic linguistic
                     historiography associated with the 16th century. This has been the
                     saeculum mirabile of Baltic philology, not only on account of the first
                     books having appeared during that period, but also due to the diverse
                     linguistic ideas about the Baltic languages which were circulating
                     during Renaissance Palaeocomparativism: the Slavic and the closely
                     connected Illyrian theory, the Latin theory (with its variants: the semi-
                     Latin, the neo-Latin, and the Wallachian), also the Quadripartite theory.
                     Minor but significant linguistic ideas are also discussed here, for
                     example the emergence of a Hebrew theory and the Greek theory about
                     Old Prussian. The synoptic juxtaposition of the different ideas shows

very well the state of knowledge in Europe about the languages which later would be called 'Baltic' and the modernity of those ideas within European Renaissance linguistic debate leading to the rise of comparative linguistic genealogy.