

'Neo-Latin Studies Today: tools, trends and methodologies'

IANLS Vacation School: 7-9th July 2016, Venice, Italy

Selected Abstracts

Enikő Békés: The networks of Janus Pannonius

The Beginnings of Hungarian Neo-Latin literature: 'The case of Janus Pannonius.' The aim of my presentation is to present the network system of a leading figure of Hungarian Neo-Latin literature, that of Janus Pannonius. Therefore I will not focus primarily on the literary analysis of his works, but rather on the function and nature of his artistic and political relationships. (This approach forms an important part of an ongoing project in Hungary; the Research Group on Humanism in East Central Europe aims at studying the region's history of scholarly networks, for more on this see: <http://hece.elte.hu/>) Janus Pannonius' literary activity is well known also for the international scholarship, consequently this paper will outline his most important connections with Italian humanists and to demonstrate the role of this network in the formulation of Hungarian Humanism and in the art patronage and cultural politics of King Matthias Corvinus.

Johann Ramminger: Working with Dictionaries

Neo-Latin is the paradigm par excellence of a homolinguistic communications environment for heterolinguistic participants. While neo-Latin texts can and did reach a public across language borders, their production was inevitably anchored in the linguistic competences of the writer and the primary readership envisaged for a specific text. The scholar interpreting such texts can draw from a number of instruments: · semantic information encoded in the texts themselves (esp. explanations given when a term is first used in a text), · modern dictionaries of Neo-Latin (Hoven, NLW), · of Classical Latin (the semantic environment which humanists aspire to), · of Medieval Latin (the environment which early humanists inherited), and · of national languages (often including NL information, e.g. OED, Grimm) which can pinpoint regional specifics, and · dictionaries available to the text producers themselves which may help explain details not found elsewhere. Not all tools need of course to be consulted in every instance: the paper will present case studies highlighting the advantages and limits of the tools mentioned above. Depending on the level of the participants, this talk can have as little or as much Latin as the audience can understand.

Raija Sarasti-Wilenius: Imitation as a pedagogical tool and/or as a Neo-Latin writer's working method

Reflecting on imitation and emulation not only helps us understand the Neo-Latin author's cultural background and his/her mindset, but it also raises interesting methodological questions for today's researcher: to what extent should we as modern-day critics emphasise the imitative or emulative aspect of any given Neo-Latin text (and thereby risk seeing it as derivative and/or in some way inferior to its model or models)? Or should we favour what we perceive to be "original" and "new"? How do we, in our articles and editions, go about making a balanced assessment of a Neo-Latin text? Must we in our analyses always point to each and every echo, allusion, or downright borrowing? Dr Sarasti-Wilenius will consider Neo-Latin imitation practices as well as formulate the problems these may pose for analysis and evaluation with a view to working out suitably balanced critical approaches.