

# AANLS NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR NEO-LATIN STUDIES

SPRING 2009

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*Independence Hall, Philadelphia, in Winter. Lithograph by J. T. Bowen after a drawing by J. C. Wild, 1840.*

## Philadelphia 2009: AANLS Roundtable by Diane Johnson

Of the seven roundtable discussion groups hosted by the APA at its meeting in January 2009 in Philadelphia, “The World of Neo-Latin” was among the most animated.

Terence Tunberg and Diane Johnson had brought a variety of scholarly materials to spark discussion, along with copies of the AANLS newsletter and membership forms and *Neo-Latin News*. No sooner had the session started than AANLS members Frank Coulson, Fred Booth, and Albert Baca joined Terry and Diane to contribute to a discussion that covered a variety of topics of great interest to students of Neo-Latin. It wasn't long before the conversation attracted other participants ranging from established scholars to graduate students: curious bystanders, browsers at the nearby book exhibit, and individuals who had attended the session of papers sponsored by AANLS earlier that morning joined in. With all places at the table occupied by animated participants, the hour allotted for the roundtable session passed in the twinkling of an eye. Among the *many* items of interest to Neo-

Latinists that arose during the session, these generated the most lively discussion:

- The status of Neo-Latin scholarship: do our colleagues in Classics and the vernacular languages have any idea what our research is about?
- Advice for students interested in doing graduate work in Neo-Latin studies: in which departments will their interests be best represented?
- Using Neo-Latin texts in the classroom: which authors and genres are most effective?
- Accessing Neo-Latin texts.
- Increasing the visibility of Neo-Latin scholarship: should we try proposing sessions at conferences such as those of the Modern Language Association and the Renaissance Society of America?

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## NEXT AANLS Panel January 2010, Anaheim, CA

Thanks to Ed George for organizing our upcoming panel (now accepted): *Neo-Latin in the European and American Contexts: Current Research*. Panelists are **Jane Chance** (“Coluccio Salutati’s *De laboribus Herculis*”); **W. J. C. M. Gelderblom**, (“One Kiss Can Make a Difference: The Genesis of Johannes Secundus’ *Basia*”); **Mark Riley** (“John Barclay as a Writer of Characters”); and **Anne-Marie Lewis** (“The Personification of America in Stephen Parmenius’ *De Navigatione*”). More details will follow, in late summer, in the next edition of AANLS NEWS.

## Robert Ulery's Presidential Panel on Humanist Latin at CAMWS, April 2009

by Diane Johnson

It was standing-room only for the Presidential Panel, *Vox Humana non solum Romana*, of Robert Ulery (Wake Forest University) at the CAMWS conference this year. Some fifty scholars attended the early-afternoon session devoted to humanist Latin and its pedagogy.



Robert Ulery. Photo by Diane Johnson.

Although the sessions of the first two days of the CAMWS conference had taken place at the Marriott in downtown Minneapolis, the papers for the afternoon of Friday, April 3 had been scheduled in the impressive Hubert H. Humphrey Center on the campus of the University of Minnesota. Across the river from the Center I discovered the impressive Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum, housed in the extraordinary stainless steel and brick building by architect Frank Gehry.



Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum. Photo by Diane Johnson.



Terence Tunberg. Photo by Diane Johnson.

By the time I reached the panel's assigned room there weren't many seats left. A number of alumni and alumnae of the Conventiculum Lexingtonianum, as well as scholars whose interest had been piqued by Robert Ulery's provocative title, had come to hear the paper by Terence Tunberg (University of Kentucky) on the use of spoken Latin in the Humanist Age. Terry's paper was packed with data illustrating the sociolinguistics of Latin in Western and Central Europe during the fifteenth through the eighteenth centuries.

After discussing reasons for the sour and negative reception given the active use of Latin during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Terry turned to an examination of spoken-Latin usage by university faculty and students, Latin outside of the university, the impact of spoken Latin on the vernacular languages, and finally about the phenomenon of Ciceronianism and how it affected communication in Latin. A lively question-and-answer period followed Terry's presentation; the audience was really engaged with the concepts that had been presented, and I for one would have been delighted to have had a longer time for listening to their responses.

The other two papers in the session dealt with literature from the early years of the Reformation, a fact noted by Robert in his introduction when he drew connections between the Lutheranism of Minnesota's founding fathers and the

Reformation humanists of sixteenth-century Germany.

The paper delivered by Diane Johnson (Western Washington University) concerned the peculiarly Evangelical slant given the treatment of the female characters in Eobanus Hessus' *Heroides Christianae*. Although Eobanus openly acknowledged that he was modeling his elegiac letter collection on Ovid's *Heroides*, he had something very different in mind in his treatment of these twenty-one female Christian saints.

Carl P. E. Springer (Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville) explicated a scatological Latin poem Martin Luther had written attacking the poetic abilities of Simon Lemnius, a young humanist who had dared to attack some of Luther's acquaintances and had favored the Roman Catholic establishment over Reformist intellectuals. In addition to examining the circumstances behind the poetic attacks, Carl drew attention to the rhetorical figures used by Luther in his Latin poem and showed that this author had displayed a sophisticated control of Latin verse composition.



Carl Springer. Photo by Diane Johnson.

The session turned out to be one of the warmest, most engaging, and most rewarding I attended at the CAMWS conference.

**Diane Johnson** is Secretary-Treasurer of the AANLS.

## Neo-Latin and the Web

by Lee Piepho

If I may be permitted a bit of self-promotion on behalf of a larger cause, I'd like to announce that my translation and edition of *Adulescentia*, the Latin eclogues of Baptista Mantuanus (known as "Mantuan" in England since the sixteenth century), has just gone on line as a hypertext in the Philological Museum. For those of you who don't know it, the Museum is a web site overseen by Dana Sutton and based at the Shakespeare Institute at the University of Birmingham. (<http://www.philological.bham.ac.uk/>)

As a "pre-techie" I want to say how impressed I've become with the hypertext format. Besides being word-searchable, the links in the text allow a reader to move easily between relevant parts of the Latin and English texts, the notes, and the general introduction to my edition. Moreover, Professor Sutton (who has been a generous and patient editor) has provided useful links between portions of Mantuan's poems and two of his major Neo-Latin sources, the eclogues of Petrarch and Boccaccio.

The Philological Museum serves primarily as a home for Humanistic texts by British writers. But as the inclusion of my edition suggests, Professor Sutton is open to including editions of texts that like Mantuan's *Adulescentia* were central to making early modern British culture. I can imagine, for instance, him being interested in an up-to-date English version of at least portions of Marcellus Palingenius' *Zodiacus Vitæ* (*Zodiac of Life*). Like Mantuan's eclogues Palingenius' poem formed part of grammar school curricula in England, and Rosemund Tuve long ago suggested how important a

place it held in English literary culture.

Beyond specific suggestions I'd like to emphasize how important the Web seems to be now in bringing together various aspects of early modern literature. Along with other sites like Anniina Jokinen's Luminarium (<http://www.luminarium.org/>) Professor Sutton's Philological Museum strikes me as helping us to weave together again the vast *respublica litterarum* that once unified literary culture in Britain and continental Europe.

*Lee Piepho is Shallenberger Brown Research Professor of English Literature at Sweet Briar College in Sweet Briar, Virginia.*

## News from Members

From **Angela Fritsen**: The 14th Congress of the International Association for Neo-Latin Studies is taking place in Uppsala, Sweden, August 2-7, 2009. A number of AANLS members will be present. The preliminary program should be published on the web in June. Abstracts are already online: [http://www.ianls.org/uppsala\\_2009\\_abstracts.htm](http://www.ianls.org/uppsala_2009_abstracts.htm).

**Frank T. Coulson** organized panels at the International Congress of Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo, MI on "Latin manuscripts at the Vernacular" and "The Reception of the Classics in Medieval Germany," in which he gave a paper on the reception of Ovid. He continues to serve as editor for the series Text and Context at the Ohio State University Press, in which Paul White's monograph *Ovidian Postscripts* appeared in April, 2009 and Marjorie Curry Woods' *Classroom Commentaries: Teaching the Poetria Nova across Medieval and Renaissance Europe* will appear in Fall 2009.

## Spotlight on . . .

### Johannes Kepler and Galileo Galilei: Neo-Latin Writers

The year 2009, which has been designated International Year of Astronomy, marks two significant astronomical (and Neo-Latin) milestones: the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication, in 1609, of *Astronomia Nova* by the German astronomer Johannes Kepler and the first use of the telescope to observe the heavens by the Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei.

Kepler not only wrote his study of planetary motions in Latin, he also corresponded at some length (in Latin) about ancient astrological topics such as the horoscope of Augustus and the prophecy of Nigidius Figulus in the first book of Lucan's *Pharsalia*. His letters and those of his correspondents appear in the volumes of his collected works.

Galileo, famous for his controversial advocacy of a sun-centered theory of the universe, also wrote up his scientific discoveries in Latin. The results of his first observations by telescope of the mountains and craters of the Moon, the stars, and the four Moons of Jupiter were published in the year following his observations in the short pamphlet *Sidereus Nuncius* (1610).



*Drawings of the Moon in Galileo's Sidereus Nuncius (1610).*

# AANLS

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR NEO-LATIN STUDIES

## 2009 Membership and Dues Form

Annual membership dues are \$20.00 U.S. (\$10.00 U.S. for students). Please make check or money order in U.S. funds payable to AANLS.

**Please print out this form and mail, with dues, to the address below.**

Name and Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

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Any Suggestions for the AANLS:

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**Please let us know:**

**\*\* Are you willing to have your name, affiliation, e-mail address, and Neo-Latin area of interest listed on the AANLS website in the Members' Directory? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_**

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