

AANLS NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR NEO-LATIN STUDIES

SPRING-SUMMER 2020

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(For past issues, see the Website)

Website: New Address

A redirect from the old website
address is still in place.

<https://aanls.apps01.yorku.ca/>

Upcoming

2021 AANLS Panel @ SCS
Chicago, Illinois
January 7-10, 2021



The World of Neo-Latin: Epistolography

Patrick M. Owens, Organizer
Hillsdale College

Patrick M. Owens

Hillsdale College
"Introduction"

Quinn Griffin

Grand Valley State University
"Epistolary Exemplarity: Cassandra
Fedele to Beatrice of Aragon"

Justin Mansfield

Independent Scholar
"The Letters of Jacobus Trigland
the Younger"

Olivia Montepaone

Università degli Studi di Milano
"Classics and Heterodox Ideas in
Celio Secondo Curione's Prefatory
Letters"

Aron Ouwerkerk

University Of Amsterdam
"Using the bookshelves at home:
the formation of the letter-writing of
Margaretha van Godewijck in the
Dutch Republic"

Emőke Rita Szilágyi

Hungarian Academy of Sciences
"Epistolae familiares as
Opportunity for Self-Fashioning:
Humanist Letter-Writing Habits in
Nicolaus Olahus' Correspondence"

Simon Smets

Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for
Neo-Latin Studies
"Narrative Design in Marsilio
Ficino's Letter Collection Book I"

Report on 2020 AANLS Panel in Washington, D.C.

by **Frederick J. Booth, Organizer**
Seton Hall University

Six presenters, ranging from graduate students to senior scholars, covered Neo-Latin topics ranging from Petrarch to Mussolini at the 2020 AANLS panel, "Neo-Latin in the Old and New Worlds: Current Scholarship," held January 4, 2020 at the Washington, D.C. meeting of the Society for Classical Studies. The panel attracted more than thirty attendees, which led to lively question and discussion periods after each presentation.



L-R, Carl Springer, Fred Booth, Bryan Whitchurch, Benjamin Driver, Nicolò Bettgazzi, and John Izzo (Photo Credit: Ann Kiernan).

First to speak was **Bryan Whitchurch**, Resident Classicist and Teacher at the Washington, D.C. Latin Public Charter School, whose topic was "Turks as Trojans: Intertext and Allusion in Ubertino Posculo's *Constantinopolis*." Dr. Whitchurch told the story of Ubertino Posculo, who was studying Greek in Constantinople when the city was captured by the Ottoman Turks in 1453. Captured, enslaved, ransomed, then seized by pirates and nearly sold into slavery a second time, Posculo began

continued on p. 2

composing the *Constantinopolis*, an epic poem recounting the fall of Constantinople, shortly after returning to Italy in 1455. Dr. Whitchurch argued that the epic poem consistently portrays the Turks as Trojans (Teuceri), not to evoke sympathy for the invaders, but rather to enflame his Venetian readership, who claimed Trojan lineage through Antenor.

Next was **Annette M. Baertschi**, Associate Professor of Greek, Latin, and Classical Studies and Director of the Graduate Group in Archaeology, Classics, and History of Art at Bryn Mawr College. In her paper, “Exemplarity in Petrarch’s *Africa*,” Dr. Baertschi explored the use of exemplarity in Petrarch’s unfinished Latin epic *Africa* (published posthumously in 1397). She explained that the *Africa* was conceived as a response to the more traditional medieval heroic poems, and designed to introduce a new kind of classicism and to promote Petrarch as the leading intellectual and scholar-poet of his era.



Annette Baertschi (Photo Credit: Ann Kiernan).

Carl P. E. Springer, SunTrust Bank Chair of Excellence in the Humanities at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, then discussed a Neo-Latin poem by Martin Luther in “Rhyming Rome: Luther’s *In Clementem Papam VII.*” Dr. Springer told the audience that when Luther first caught sight of the Eternal City as a young Augustinian friar in 1510 or 1511, he dropped to his knees and saluted it as “holy” (*Salve, sancta Roma!*). But after having become disillusioned with greed and corruption in Rome and Catholicism, Luther opined: “If there is a hell, Rome must be built over it.” Yet, in a short poem written during the papacy of Clement VII (1523-1534), Luther

called Rome “ours” (*nostrum . . . Romam*) years after he had been excommunicated.

Next, **John Izzo**, graduate student at Columbia University, described how the 1536 *Libellus de Medicinalibus Indorum Herbis*, an illustrated manuscript explaining the medicinal properties of various plants used by the Aztecs, employed intertextuality and allusions to Greco-Roman culture as tools to defend indigenous medical practices against European prejudices. His talk, “Aztec Physicians in Greco-Roman Garb” featured a number of slides of the manuscript’s pages, showing some of the work’s beautiful and detailed botanical drawings.

“Galileo the Immortalizer: Classical Allusions in the Dedication of *Sidereus Nuncius*” was presented by **Benjamin C. Driver**, a graduate student at Brown University. Galileo’s 1610 treatise memorializes his telescopic discovery of four of Jupiter’s moons and is dedicated to Galileo’s patron and former student, Cosimo II de Medici. Mr. Driver argued that, through his use of allusions to Cicero, Pliny the Elder, and Propertius throughout the dedication, Galileo was adapting ancient Roman discourse about divinization, and generating his own latter-day deification of Cosimo II.

Winding up the panel was “The *Pax Augustea* in Fascist Italy: A Catholic Response to the Augustan Bimillenary,” presented by **Nicolò Bettegazzi**, a graduate student at the University of Groningen. Mr. Bettegazzi investigated the reception of the emperor Augustus in the Latin literature of Italian Fascism, specifically in two poems by the Jesuit Vittorio Genovesi: *Roma Caput Mundi* (1935) and *Ara Pacis Augustae in Urbe restituta* (1938). He showed how Genovesi advocated the leading role of Christianity in ensuring the historical continuity between Augustus’ Empire and Fascist Rome.

Neo-Latin Fellowship Opportunity in Innsbruck, Austria



The Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Neo-Latin Studies in Innsbruck, Austria, offers fellowships (1-6 months) for younger (and older) scholars doing Neo-Latin research. For further information, see <http://neolatin.lbg.ac.at/general/lbi-fellowship>, or contact Prof. Dr. Florian Schaffner at florian.schaffner@uibk.ac.at

AANLS Finances

Diane Johnson

AANLS Secretary-Treasurer
Reporting

As of May 24, 2020, the AANLS has a balance of \$6,203.39, which includes earned interest of \$4.67 for the year. There was one expense in the month of January 2020: \$256.50 for equipment utilized at the AANLS session at the Society for Classical Studies meeting.

Neo-Latin News

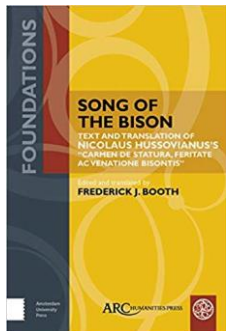
Neo-Latin News is the official publication of the American Association for Neo-Latin Studies (AANLS). It is published twice a year at the back of the journal *Seventeenth-Century News* and contains reviews of Neo-Latin texts and monographs. It is edited by Craig Kallendorf (kallendrf@neo.tamu.edu), Professor of English and Classics at Texas A&M University. Links to past issues can be found on the AANLS web site.

Future AANLS Panels @ the SCS Meetings

Jan. 5-8, 2022	San Francisco
Jan. 5-8, 2023	New Orleans
Jan. 4-7, 2024	Chicago
Jan. 2-5, 2025	Philadelphia

News from Members

Fred Booth has published *Song of the Bison: Text and Translation of Nicolaus Hussovianus's "Carmen de statura, feritate ac venatione bisonis"* (Arc Humanities Press, 2019).



In 1521, the young Polish diplomat Nicolaus Hussovianus was watching the bullfights at a papal celebration in Rome. He remarked that the spectacle reminded him of the bison hunts he had witnessed as a young man in the Polish-Lithuanian woods, and his employer then asked Hussovianus to write a poem about the bison hunts, to accompany the gift of a stuffed bison for Pope Leo X, an avid hunter. *Song of the Bison* is the first complete English translation of Hussovianus's Latin poem, which is claimed as a national epic by Lithuania, Belarus, and Poland. The exciting poem discusses not only Hussovianus's own experience in hunting and observing the European bison but also the political, social, religious, and aesthetic developments of sixteenth-century Europe, and ends with an urgent plea for unity among European states threatened by foreign invasions. The book is available to order through your local bookseller, via aup.nl, or via [Baker & Taylor Publisher Services](http://Baker&Taylor.com) for North America and Canada.

Volumes 2 and 3 of **Julia Gaisser's** translation of Pontano's *Dialogues* for the I Tatti Renaissance Library are scheduled to be published this August 2020. Volume 2 has her edition and translation of Pontano's *Actius*. Volume 3 has her translation of his *Aegidius* and *Asinus*, both using the editions of Francesco Tateo). Volume 1 (*Charon* and *Antonius*) appeared in 2012.

Rodney Lokaj reports that *inter alia*, he is currently preparing a critical edition and modern Italian translation of Pietro Bembo's 1530 treatise on philological method, the *Ad Herculem Strotium de Virgilio Culice et Terentii fabulis Liber*. The project hopes to tease out how indebted Bembo is to Pomponio Leto's edition of what was then thought to be Vergil's minor works and what the ultimate aims of Bembo's own treatise actually are.

Justin Mansfield reports that he is working with Dr. Gabriel Wasserman (Hebrew University, Department of Hebrew Literature) on an edition of Jacobus Trigland the Younger's *Diatribes de Secta Karaeorum* (1703), to be published by The Karaite Press (Daly City, California). This work of Christian Hebraism argues for the antiquity of the Karaite sect of Judaism and cites sources in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. The editors print the original text with a facing English translation and include copious linguistic and historical footnotes.

Mark Riley reports that he has been editing a couple of Jesuit plays. Nicolaus Avancini's *Semiramis* (1625) has appeared online at the Philological Museum (<http://www.philological.bham.ac.uk/>) with Latin text, translation, and notes. Avancini was perhaps the best of the Jesuit playwrights, or at least the most acceptable to a secular audience. He is also in the process of preparing Carolus Kolczawa's *Tyrannis triumphans, seu Anglia* (1704) for online publication. This immensely long play (12,000+ lines) dramatizes the events surrounding Richard III's rise and fall and the accession of Henry VII Tudor to the throne of England. In his opinion, it was written as a source for student exercises, memorization, and grammar practice, not as a play to be produced on stage. The little-known Kolczawa (Czech Kolčava) was a prolific writer of plays (6 vols.), short epics on various topics, and letters. All of these served as models for student compositions.

Spotlight on . . .

Doctor Schnabel

Doctor Schnabel was the name given to the figure depicted on a copper engraving by Paulus Fürst of Nuremberg in 1656. The figure wears a hat, round glasses, a beaked mask stuffed with fragrant herbs and spices, a long cloak of waxed cloth, and gloves, and he carries a wand with an hour glass and wings at the top that would have been used to communicate with patients.



Fürst placed two stanzas of macaronic poetry in German and Latin (highlighted in bold) on either side of the figure. The verses satirize the doctor as a greedy and unscrupulous predator:

Vos **Creditis**, als eine fabel
quod **scribitur** vom Doctor Schnabel
der **fugit** die **Contagion**
et **aufert** seinen Lohn darvon
Cadavera sucht er zu fristen
gleich wie der **Corvus** auf der Misten
Ah Credite, zieht nicht dort hin
Dann **Romae** regnat die Pestin.

Quis non deberet sehr erschrecken
für seiner **Virgul** oder stecken
qua loquitur als wär er stumm
und deutet sein **consilium**.
Wie mancher **Credit** ohne zweiffel
das ihn **tentir** ein schwartzen teuffl
Marsupium heist seine Höll
und **aurum** die geholte seel.

Did the "plague doctor" of the seventeenth century look like Doctor Schnabel? Professor Kathleen Crowther, University of Oklahoma, has some doubts (see <https://beforenewton.blog/2014/11/03/did-plague-doctors-wear-those-masks/>).

American Association for Neo-Latin Studies

Membership Form

Annual membership dues (January to December) 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: _____

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Telephone or e-mail (preferable): _____

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Research Interests: _____

_____ NO CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR

Any Suggestions for the AANLS:

Year(s) _____ Dues Enclosed: \$ _____

Please send to:
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