

Call for Papers

16th NeoLatina Symposium, July 2014 “Angelo Poliziano. Poet and Scholar”

Having been concerned with the great poets of Renaissance Italy several times over the last few years, in 2014 the *NeoLatina* focuses on the poetical work of Angelo Poliziano (1454-1494). We call for submissions that pay particular attention to Poliziano's poetics, comprising both conception of poetry and poetic technique.

Born not too far from Florence in Montepulciano, Poliziano gained access to the court of Lorenzo de' Medici at the age of seventeen through presenting a skilled translation of books II-V of the *Iliad* into Latin hexameters, thereby obtaining the unofficial title of *homericus adulescens* (Ficino). Poliziano's encyclopedic knowledge, extensive reading and a skilful hand at writing poetry combined to challenge the attention of the contemporaries and led him to the Florentine professorship of Rhetoric and Poetics in the year 1480, at the age of twenty-six. He replaced the contemporary academic opening lecture in prose by poems in Latin hexametric verse, intending to introduce his audience into the thought of the ancient writers in question and, at the same time, seeking to emulate and surpass them. In subsequent years, Poliziano dedicated himself more distinctly to the studies of philosophy, lectured and commented on Aristotle and entered into a vivid exchange of ideas with the leading philosophers of his time, especially Marsilio Ficino and Pico della Mirandola.

Poliziano's poetical work is multifaceted. It involves Greek, Latin and vernacular poetry, epigrams, elegies and *silvae*. The major works are the unfinished *Stanze per la giostra*, a vernacular poem on Giuliano de' Medici's victory in a tournament, the vernacular *Fabula di Orfeo*, which preceded and highly influenced Monteverdi, and the four Latin *Silvae*, which count as Poliziano's masterpieces.

Introductory literature:

- Maier, Ida: Ange Politien. La formation d'un poète humaniste (1469-1480), Genève 1966.
Godman, Peter: Poliziano's Poetics and Literary History, in: *Interpres* 13 (1993) 110-209.
Bettinzoli, Attilio: *Daedaleum iter. Studi sulla poesia e la poetica di Angelo Poliziano*, Firenze 1995.
Leuker, Tobias: *Angelo Poliziano. Dichter, Redner, Stratege*, Stuttgart/Leipzig 1997.
Séris, Emilie: *Les étoiles de Némésis*, Genève 2002.
Orvieto, Paolo: *Poliziano e l'ambiente mediceo*, Roma 2009 (with a detailed bibliography).

Please submit working titles by 15th of January 2014 to Prof. Thomas Baier (thomas.baier@uni-wuerzburg.de). Proposed papers should not exceed 20 minutes in length. They will be followed by 10 minutes of discussion. Papers may be given in German, English, French, Italian and Latin.

Organiser: Institut für Klassische Philologie der Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg
in collaboration with The Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Neo-Latin Studies
(Innsbruck)
Conference date: 3rd to 5th of July 2014.
Conference venue: Würzburg, Toscanasaal and Philologische Bibliothek (Residence)