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A modern Homer

Ludwig Mayr's *Chariton Polis* (1897) as a combination of classical tradition and modern ideas

The neo-ancient Greek hexametric poem *Chariton Polis* was published the year 1897. The author Ludwig Mayr (1851-1944) wrote the poetical description of the city of Graz with the clear intention of describing the modern city just like the poet of the Homeric epics would do it. For this purpose, Mayr imitated the language and the style of the ancient epics and applied typical Homeric images to the context of his poem. But beside the strong dependence on the Iliad and the Odyssey, it is also possible to identify various other influences in the *Chariton Polis*, just like the classical tradition of the *laudes urbium*. Furthermore, Mayr also takes into consideration the requirements of literary trends and cultural ideas of his time, although some of these very ideas challenged the status of the classic languages in the educational system in Austria in the late 19th century. Understanding how he masters this balancing act and how he combines differing traditions and ideas offers new perspectives on the *Chariton Polis* and its erudite author and can explain to a certain extent the extraordinary success of this neo-ancient Greek poem.



Date and Venue:

Wednesday, 20th April 2022, 6pm
Zentrum für Alte Kulturen („Atrium“), SR 4
Langer Weg 11, 6020 Innsbruck