

THE *STULTIFERA NAVIS* BY JAKOB LOCHER.
THE RECEPTION OF SATIRE AND GERMAN HUMANISM

Paola Rosa Filisetti
(Università di Trento – Universität Augsburg)



The *Stultifera Navis* (Basel 1497), a Neo-Latin poem written by Jakob Locher (1471-1528) is primarily known as the translation of the German poem *Narrenschiff* (Basel 1494, “The Ship of Fools”) by Sebastian Brant (1457-1521). The *Narrenschiff* is a satire on human foolishness in the form of an allegory, wherein a ship laden with fools sets sail for *Narragonia*, a proper “paradise for fools”. By representing several categories of human vices in a fictitious naval voyage setting, Brant attacks each type of misconduct undertaken by mankind to show a path towards moral redemption and eternal bliss.

Brant’s poem enjoyed tremendous popularity in the German-speaking regions of Europe. It was Locher’s work, however, that gave a definitive impulse to its European dissemination. While it started under Brant’s auspices and control, Locher’s poem is an original work under many respects. What are the literary features, argumentative techniques and rhetorical devices involved in the writing of the work? How do they differ from the German version? A close reading of selected text passages will explore the intertextual relationship between the *Stultifera Navis* and the *Narrenschiff* focusing on the way in which Locher appropriates tropes and motifs from a tradition that goes back to Classical literature, with specific regard to such authors of Classical satire as Horace, Persius, and Juvenal. Building on this comparative approach, the analysis will shed light on Locher’s *Autorschaft* and the influence of the *Stultifera Navis* within the lively German networks of Basel in the wake of Europe’s Humanism movement.

Wann: 24. Juni 2024 – 18:00 Uhr
Wo: Innrain 52a, Ágnes-Heller-Haus, 1. Stock, Seminarraum 8