

Classical Antiquity and its Heritage

Virtual Research Seminars

Spring 2021

Two Presentations on Neo-Latin Funerary Literature

Marc Laureys, University of Bonn: The funerary poetry of Robertus Obrizius

In the later 16th century the episcopal city of Arras was an important focal point in the literary networks of Flanders and Artois. In my paper I will focus on one of the most important Neo-Latin authors from Artois, Robertus Obrizius (ca. 1508 – 1584), parish priest of la Madeleine, and later canon of the cathedral of Arras. Most of his writings were published only after his death, among which also his *Coemeterium*, a collection of epitaphs, which I will discuss here. In his funerary poetry Obrizius shows, on the one hand, how he manages to vary time and again the traditional motifs of a posthumous eulogy and, on the other, how he creates through his epitaphs an ideal community, which ranges from Jesus Christ to himself. In my analysis of Obrizius's *Coemeterium* I intend to illustrate the sense of religious and intellectual collectivity that emerges from this collection of funerary poems, particularly against the background of the political and religious troubles in the Southern Low Countries during his lifetime.

Anders Kirk Borggaard, AU: Genre, content, and personal ambition in Neo-Latin funerary literature

It was common practice among humanists to compose Neo-Latin literature on the death of illustrious persons. All such works should ideally commemorate the deceased while praising his deeds and virtues, but each funerary genre came with its own set of conventions regarding contents, length, and literary style. The choice of genre therefore had a major influence on what could be said and done, including the ways in which the author could communicate his own views and ambitions through the work. In this paper, I will present some preliminary results of my investigations into the creative use of genres within the wider, social context of Neo-Latin funerary literature. Focusing on sources relating to two particularly important deaths in 16th century Northern Europe, those of kings Christian III (1503–1559) and Frederik II (1534–1588) of Denmark-Norway, I will demonstrate how humanists used different genres prescribed by contemporary poetics and rhetorical handbooks to address the death of the king as well as the life and rule which had now come to an end.

Wednesday 27 January 15-17

Zoom: <https://aarhusuniversity.zoom.us/j/61651427829>

Organiser:

Trine Arlund Hass

kftjah@cas.au.dk

