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Neulateinische Studien

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## **Sheldon Bramall**

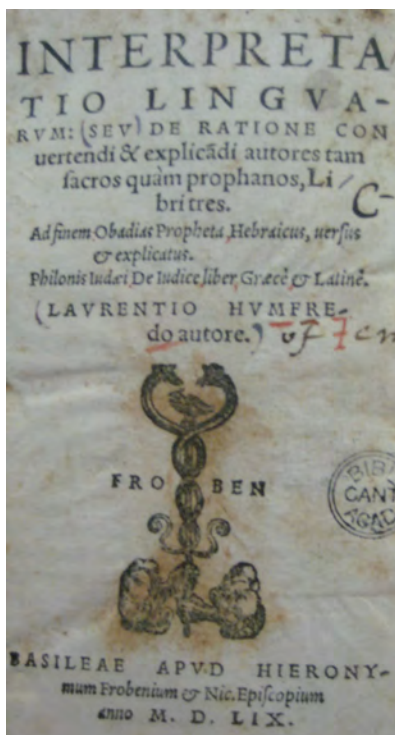
Ph.D (Cantab.), Fellow of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute

# **Of Rusty Swords and Hidden Treasures Rediscovering Renaissance Translation Theory in Lawrence Humphrey's *Interpretatio linguarum* (1559)**

Monday, **10.03.2014**, 18:00

SR3, Zentrum für Alte Kulturen (Atrium), Langer Weg 11

Lawrence Humphrey's *Interpretatio linguarum* (Basel, 1559) was the most comprehensive treatise on translation theory written in the sixteenth century. Troubled by what he saw as mistaken approaches to the art of translation, Humphrey set out to compose a major work that would sketch, for the first time, the various virtues and vices of the discipline. He aimed to outline the proper steps of a translator's formation, and what principles should be followed in transmitting both sacred and pagan texts.



Although translation was one of the most important literary activities in the European Renaissance, this *magnum opus* of translation theory has largely been ignored in early modern scholarship. This paper will thus be the first to set Humphrey's treatise within its context in sixteenth-century Neo-Latin translation. In the first place, I will explore what controversies drove Humphrey to write this work, and how he formulated his responses. But more importantly, Humphrey's text will be used to explore two interrelated issues: first, how Neo-Latin translation theory could differ from its vernacular counterparts; and second, how Renaissance theories of imitation and translation were closely related to each other, and how theorists attempted to distinguish between them.