



Ludwig Boltzmann Institut
Neulateinische Studien

cordially invites you to a talk by

Jonathan Meyer

Fellow of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute

Retrorsum ad futura

Hungary's enlightened prophet
and a neo-Latin novel of the future

Monday, **24.03.2014**, 18:00

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

Leopoldus II. in campo Rákos. Visio Eleutherii Pannonii is the first and perhaps only neo-Latin novel set in the future. Written under a pseudonym in 1790, the novel features a self-styled Hungarian prophet named Eleutherius Pannonius, “the free Hungarian,” who falls asleep in a cave in 1790 and wakes up twenty years later, to

find that Hungary has been transformed in the meantime into an earthly paradise.

This talk will explore some of the literary and political dimensions of this fascinating work. The novel, it will argue, is one of the earliest examples of the futuristic utopia, or uchronia--a genre invented in the enlightened milieu of the late eighteenth century by important pioneers in the vernacular. At the same time, it is also a political work in keeping with the neo-Latin novelistic tradition. Against the politically-charged background of the Hungarian diet, the novel presents a vision of Hungary that is at once progressive and conservative; and at a time when many in the diet were clamoring for Magyar as the official language of Hungary, Eleutherius Pannonius comes to the defense of Latin.

