



Ludwig Boltzmann Institut
Neulateinische Studien

cordially invites you to a talk by

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Nova progenies

Virgil's Fourth Eclogue and the Tradition of
Christian Neo-Latin Pastoral

Monday, **28.04.2014**, 18:00

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

In the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, numerous neo-Latin poets produced individual compositions or cycles of poems on episodes from the life of Christ. One of the most common subjects for this kind of poetic treatment was the



Nativity story, which through its inclusion of shepherds as characters in the biblical narrative naturally attracted literary treatment in the genre of pastoral. This talk will consider the ways in which the neo-Latin Nativity eclogue engages with one particularly prominent and pervasive model from

classical literature, Virgil's fourth Eclogue (the so-called 'messianic eclogue'), traditionally interpreted as a conscious or unconscious prophecy of the birth of Christ. It will be argued that this variety of neo-Latin pastoral poetry, which enjoyed widespread popularity across Europe during the centuries in question, owes both its origin and much of its literary character to the inspiration of Virgil's poem.