



Ludwig Boltzmann Institut
Neulateinische Studien

cordially invites you to a talk
by

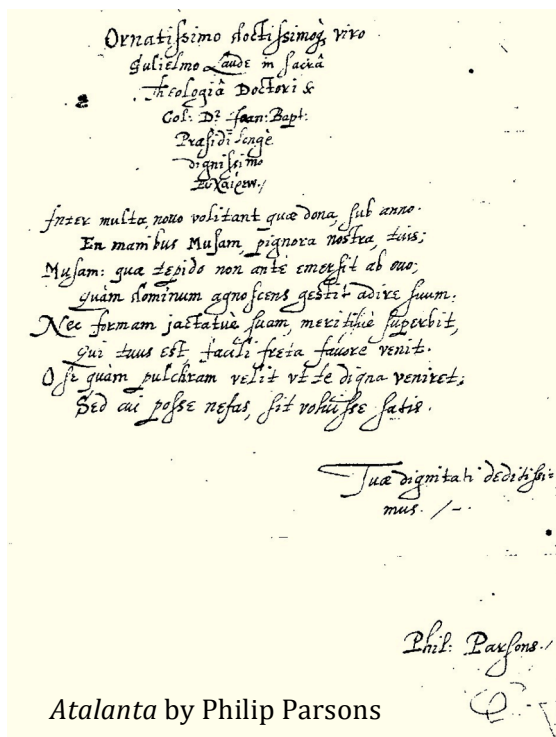
Elizabeth Sandis, MPhil Oxon.

Fellow of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute

Adapting Ovid's *Metamorphoses* for the university stage: comic dramatisations of educational achievement in seventeenth- century Oxford

Tuesday, 16.09.2014, 18:00

Zentrum für Alte Kulturen („Atrium“, Langer Weg 11, SR 5)



Investigations of extant manuscript plays from St John's College, Oxford reveal that, during the presidencies of John Buckeridge (1606-11), William Laud (1611-21), and William Juxon (1621-33), overlapping generations of students produced a linked series of adaptations transforming Ovid's *Metamorphoses* from page to stage. Each example skilfully combines emulation of the Roman poet's style, language, and themes with their own innovations of character, plot, and turn of phrase. However, I suggest that what sets these compositions apart from other traditions of Ovidian adaptation, is the way in which excerpts from the poem have been reimagined as three-dimensional theatrical spectacles, aspiring to a degree of audience interactivity through witty reinterpretations of the text. Moreover, further examination of the evidence reveals a deeper connection between the authors than their shared membership of St

John's College: the playwrights are also all *alumni* of the same school, the Merchant Taylors' in London, and in each case the time of composition comes at an early stage in their Oxford career. These findings, when combined with close textual analysis of the plays, provide important insights into performative pedagogical culture at Oxford in the early modern period.