



Lucy Nicholas

(visiting fellow at the LBI for Neo-Latin Studies)

Looking at the Sixteenth-Century through a Latin lens:

The prose and verse of Walter Haddon

Walter Haddon (c. 1514–1571) exists only in the shadows of modern scholarship. In the sixteenth century, by contrast, he was a renowned and influential figure, holding during the course of his career the posts of Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University, president of Magdalen College Oxford, and Master of Requests under Elizabeth I. He was also a highly acclaimed Latinist. Thomas Wilson wrote of him: “There is no better Latin man within England except Gualter Haddon”. Haddon’s written corpus comprises verse and prose – essays, orations and letters, but his work is as yet untranslated. Without knowledge of his output history is significantly impoverished, for Haddon’s Latin charts rich thematic terrain: morality, religious doctrine, classical learning, rebellion, monarchy, and education. Haddon’s Latin was a potent medium for contemporary comment, and his writing can shed important light on the Reformation, the early modern university, and the broader humanist movement. In addition to a consideration of the range of Haddon’s coverage, this talk will also address the rhetorical and poetical qualities of his Latinity. To the extent Haddon’s success in life is attributable to his accomplishments in Latin, it may also be possible to glean greater insights into the priorities of this era and the status of eloquence and versification more generally.

Date and Venue:

Tuesday, 27th August 2019, 6 pm
Zentrum für Alte Kulturen (“Atrium”), SR 5
Langer Weg 11, 6020 Innsbruck