

ESF Exploratory Workshop on

**Latin Identities:
Post-Reformation Sources in Europe**

Dublin (Ireland), 16 – 18 September 2010

Convened by
Anna Chahoud
Trinity College Dublin

Hosted by



SCIENTIFIC REPORT

1. Executive Summary

The Exploratory Workshop was held in Trinity College Dublin over three days (16–18 September 2010). The Long Room Hub – the Trinity College Centre for Advanced Studies – hosted the event in its recently opened building on Fellows Square, Trinity College. Dr Jennifer Edmonds, Executive Director of the Long Room Hub, welcomed the participants to Trinity College, congratulating them on the initiative, which the Long Room Hub was pleased and proud to host and support. The organiser, Prof. Anna Chahoud, thanked all participants for their enthusiastic response to her call, and Dr McLaughlin in particular for putting forward initial suggestions and facilitating contacts.

Participants numbered ten academics from institutions from five European countries (Ireland, Great Britain, Belgium, Denmark, and Sweden). The language of the workshop was English. The leisurely schedule of the workshop and the ample spaces offered by the venue allowed informal interaction between participants right from the very start. The general atmosphere was excellent throughout, which was all the more remarkable—and entirely to the credit of the participants, including the ESF Rapporteur Professor Marko Tadic—because many of the participants had not met each other before. The Rapporteur’s presentation of the aims of the ESF, which opened the proceedings, set a welcome note of encouragement and support that was greatly beneficial to the collegial atmosphere and enthusiasm that characterised the workshop for its entire duration.

The scientific objective of the workshop was primarily a focus on minority areas of reception of classical culture in the post-Reformation period and non-canonical genres of neo-Latin literature, with a view to creating an interdisciplinary research network comprising historians, linguists and literary critics, who would bring their respective expertise together in order to provide new source material for the reconstruction and correct evaluation of intellectual life in the Counter-Reformation period, as well as contributing to the study of the development of Latin literary language in early modern Europe. The interdisciplinary approach of the project, its wider European perspective, and the deliberate emphasis on apparently marginal intellectual discourse, were saluted as valid aims for the workshop by the ESF anonymous reviewers, whose constructive advice was kept in mind through all stages of the preparation work and of the workshop proceedings.

The agenda of the workshop included:

- (a) Identification of unpublished or untranslated Latin texts – literary texts, historical sources, documents – that would enrich our knowledge and understanding of the role of classical influences in the formation of European literature, and supply a primary-source context for cultural, political and religious debates in early modern Europe;
- (b) Discussion of methodologies for the correct evaluation of both the literary quality and historical value of Latin texts; the support offered by new technologies and the opportunity to engage with existing Digital Humanities projects in the participants’ countries;
- (c) Creation of an academic web portal of post-Reformation Latin sources: to this purpose participants were asked—and responded most favourably and fruitfully—to bring to the table ideas for texts deserving of inclusion. An envisaged immediate output of the workshop was the digitization of at least one unpublished manuscript, to be selected among the material presented and discussed at the workshop.

By ESF original recommendations, the workshop was not open to the public, intended as it was as a scoping exercise towards the setting up of a European network for original Neo-Latin studies that would complement existing strengths locally and internationally. The workshop was therefore designed as a series of conversations and brainstorming sessions, which format, however, did not preclude the possibility of extensive formal presentations. The themes set by the organiser for each session were: Contexts, Figures and Genres of Neo-Latin Counter-Reformation literature; War Narratives: Military History and Epic Poetry; Polemical Writings; Methodology: Intertextuality, Linguistic and Stylistic Analysis.

Presentations were consistently of impressively high standards, accompanied by well-organised handouts and/or visual material of exceptionally good quality. Participants came with fully digitised texts—including rare unedited manuscripts, some of which autographs—and original publications, which with extraordinary generosity were made available to all participants and to the organiser for the initial setting up of the proposed web portal.

The roundtable on the third day succeeded in identifying avenues for follow-up activities. The ESF Rapporteur's contribution to the discussion was invaluable. He praised the organiser and participants for the quality of the initiative and its potential for expansion in terms of further interdisciplinarity (to include such areas as history of ideas, history of science, sociology, politics and psychology) and of overall European spread.

2. Scientific Content of the Event

Thursday 16 September

Proceedings opened with Professor **Anna Chahoud**'s introductory remarks. She emphasised the urgency of identifying criteria to assess the literary quality of Neo-Latin texts alongside their value as historical sources, and the need to gather a substantial enough collection of data to allow proper evaluation of which features can correctly be regarded as specific to a certain context, rather than characteristics set by genre or by individual authorial choices.

In her presentation on 'Justus Lipsius, Letter Writer', Dr **Jeanine De Landtsheer** drew on her expertise on the Dutch humanist's correspondence convincingly to argue for a digital repository of 'The Contemporaries of Lipsius' and for a searchable digital edition of Lipsius' written exchanges with his colleagues. The proposal met with unanimous enthusiasm as one that would provide an invaluable resource for historians, philologists and literary critics alike.

Dr **Gráinne McLaughlin** explored the connections between genre and authorial display of acculturation and innovative engagement with an established tradition. She focused on Irish writers of the 17th and 18th centuries, drawing attention to the anonymous *Poema de Hibernia* (National Library of Ireland, Gilbert Collection MSS 141-2) and its complementarity with the Danish source *Mavors Irlandicus* and the Scottish *Grameid* by James Philp.

The discussion focused on the connection between national/religious identity and literary/stylistic choices, and on what translation methodology is suitably to be applied to modern Latin texts (a central question that would come up again in the course of the workshop).

Friday 17 September 2010

Session 3, chaired by Dr **Pádraig Lenihan**, was centred on war narratives. Dr **Kjeld Galster** made a strong case for the translation and digital publication of *Mavors Hirlandicus* (Copenhagen 1718), a Danish eye-witness' source for the Jacobite campaign in Ireland in

1689–91. A copy of this work belongs to the Royal Library in Copenhagen. Dr Galster kindly made the digital version – 178 images – available for download by all participants.

Dr **Elena Dahlberg** explored the notion of Latin as a ‘propaganda language’ in Sweden, through a close reading of Latin war poetry written in the Carolean period (1654–1718), when the proliferation of Latin poetry coincided with Lutheran religious zeal. Quite apart from its historical value, this production exhibits heavy classical influences in respect of diction and metre, the debt to Horace being particularly significant.

In her talk ‘Latin Identities: Neo-Latin Epic Verse’ Professor **Estelle Haan** set her reading of Girolamo Vida’s *Christiad* within the framework of a reading-response approach, aimed further to investigate the Virgilian intertexts at work in the Italian humanist’s poem. Her wider call was for a serious engagement of literary theory with neo-Latin epic. She also announced her current work on an unknown and unedited Latin poem from early 17th-century England, which would be relevant for inclusion in the Network’s envisaged digital repository.

Session 5 on ‘Polemical Writings’ consisted of a joint presentation by Dr **Crawford Gribben**, Dr **Jason Harris**, and Dr **Gráinne McLaughlin**, in which they explored formal techniques of political and theological polemic in 17th-century Scotland and Ireland, such as bilingual puns, verbal coinages, allusiveness and other forms of virtuosity.

Professor **Hans Helander** brilliantly carried out the onerous task of offering methodological conclusions with a lecture on ‘Linguistic Registers, Literary Influences, and Ideologies’. He demonstrated the high degree of intertextuality, especially in the form of subtle non-verbal allusions, recognisable in 17th-century Latin literature of Swedish provenance or intended for a Swedish readership. He also outlined some recurring motives in encomiastic writing, from the idealisation of the Gothic past to Biblical themes to disparaging characterisations of foreign nations.

The discussion centred on the dimension given to largely topical works by classical influences from canonical Latin writers; on the extensive knowledge required to detect and interpret non-verbal allusions (which databases cannot pick up, but appropriately marked texts would); on the desirability of searchable specialised lexica relevant to neo-Latin texts.

Saturday 18 September

The final roundtable, devoted to forward planning, was chaired by Anna Chahoud and will be discussed in Section 3 below. Proceedings closed after a visit to the Trinity College Old Library (Long Room), with its worldwide famous Book of Kells exhibition, and to the Chester Beatty Library, which hosts a unique collection of Western and Eastern manuscripts, including an entire section devoted to religious texts.

3. Assessment of the results, contribution to the future direction of the field, outcome

The workshop was by all accounts successful in two respects. All contributions engaged fruitfully in addressing vital issues of methodology specific to Neo-Latin texts: how does one identify, classify and evaluate characteristics of Latin written in a given area of early modern Europe? What research tools are necessary for such an inquiry, especially into such neglected aspects as orthography and syntax, or specialised areas of lexicon such as medical Latin? What skills are required to produce a meaningful and accurate translation that would make texts available to a wider public of specialists and non-specialists alike? The linguistic dimension of this study recommends, as indicated by the Rapporteur, the development of language technologies for neo-Latin.

Even more importantly, the workshop helped the organiser and participants to detect a deeper and broader dimension to their inquiry: the possible connection between Post-Reformation Latin and Baroque. Unlike Humanism and Renaissance, the Rapporteur noted, this movement appeared simultaneously everywhere in Europe. Opening up the network to include e.g. the study of Jesuit drama and poetry in the 1600s (a suggestion of De Landtsheer) or of bilingual writers of Eastern Europe (Tadic), and scholars from peripheral areas (as in Prof.'s Helander's own Neo-Latin Network) would not only enrich the participants' current research, providing the full picture they were originally seeking for their subject, but also create an altogether new and polyfunctional resource.

Engaging with the Rapporteur's recommendations, participants agreed to continue to work in conjunction towards the following objectives:

- a) Formalise a network for the study of **Neo-Latin in Baroque Europe**, to promote communication among participants and to attract international interest, to avoid overlap of research and to foster complementary projects (including PhDs);
- b) Increase the project's critical mass, planning (in the short term) a **Research Conference** and envisaging (in the long term) the building of a Network of Neo-Latin Centres;
- c) Create a **repository of digital resources** that would be publicly accessible and open to constant updating, connecting with existing infrastructures (e.g. CLARIN or DRIVER) and digital library initiatives available locally in the participants' respective countries; digitisation should be conducted with due attention to standard requirements such as TEI, insertion of metadata, lemmatisation, morphosyntactic marking, mapping of names and places, etc. so as to broaden the appeal and usability of the presented material across disciplines;

The organiser committed herself to **apply for further funding** to achieve such objectives, with priority given to the ESF Research Networking Programme.

4. Final Programme

Thursday 16 September 2010 (Long Room Hub Building, Meeting Room)

Morning	<i>Arrival</i>
12.30-14.00	<i>Buffet lunch</i>
14.00-14.10	Welcome by Convenor Anna Chahoud (Classics, Trinity College Dublin)
14.10-14.20	Welcome by Host Jennifer Edmond (Long Room Hub, Trinity College Dublin)
14.20-14.40	Presentation of the European Science Foundation (ESF) Marko Tadic (ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities)
14.40-16.00	Session 1: Latin in Post-Reformation Europe: Contexts & Figures Chair: Anna Chahoud (Trinity College Dublin)
15.00-15.45	Justus Lipsius and His Contemporaries Jeanine De Landtsheer (Catholic University of Louvain)
16.00-16.15	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>
16.15-17.00	Session 2: Latin in Post-Reformation Europe: Genres Chair: Gráinne McLaughlin (Trinity College Dublin)
18.00	<i>Dinner – The Blackboard, Clare Street</i>

Friday 17 September 2010 (Long Room Hub Building, Meeting Room)

9.30-11.00	Session 3: War Narratives Chair: Pádraig Lenihan (University of Galway)
9.30-10.15	Presentation of digitised MS <i>Mavors Irlandicus</i> (1689–91) Kjeld Galster (Royal Danish Defence College, Copenhagen)
10.15-11.00	Neo-Latin war poetry Elena Dahlberg (University of Uppsala)
11.00-11.15	<i>Coffee / Tea Break</i>
11.15-12.00	Session 4: Epic Verse Chair: Estelle Haan (Queen's University Belfast)
12.00-13.30	<i>Buffet Lunch</i>
14.00-15.00	Session 5: Polemical Writings Chair: Crawford Gribben (Trinity College Dublin) Joint presentation with Jason Harris (University College Cork) and Gráinne McLaughlin (Trinity College Dublin)
15.00-15.30	<i>Coffee / tea break</i>
15.30-17.00	Session 6: Methodology of Analysis: Linguistic Registers, Literary Influences, and Ideologies Chair: Hans Helander (University of Uppsala)
18.00	<i>Conference Dinner – Eden, Temple Bar</i>

Saturday 18 September 2010 (Arts Building, Classics Seminar Room B6002)

9.30-11.00	Planning the research project: Latin Manuscripts and Texts in Post-Reformation Europe – Research questions, practical issues and follow-up activities Chair: Anna Chahoud (Trinity College Dublin)
11.00-13.30	Visit to Trinity Long Room & Chester Beatty Library
13.30-15.30	<i>Lunch – Chester Beatty Library Restaurant</i>
16.30	<i>End of Workshop and departure</i>

5. Final List of Participants

Convenor:

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Statistical Information on Participants

Country of Origin (Individuals)

Belgium:	1
Denmark:	1
Ireland:	4
Italy:	1
Russia:	1
Scotland:	1
Sweden:	1

Country of Origin (Institutions)

Belgium:	1
Denmark:	1
Republic of Ireland:	5
Sweden:	2
United Kingdom:	1

Age bracket and M/F repartition

Participants under 50/over 50:	4/6
Participants male/female:	5/5

Relevant Scientific Specialty

Neo-Latin Literature (Dahlberg, De Landtsheer, Haan, Harris, Helander, McLaughlin)
Latin Philology and Linguistics (Chahoud, Helander)
Literary Criticism and Theory (Dahlberg, Haan, Helander, McLaughlin)
Early Modern European History (Galster, Gribben, Harris, Lenihan)
Irish History and Culture (Harris, Lenihan, McLaughlin)
Scottish History and Culture (Gribben)
Military History (Galster, Lenihan)
History of Ideas in Early Modern Europe (De Landtsheer, Gribben)
History of Classical Scholarship (Chahoud, De Landtsheer)
Textual Criticism and Editorial Techniques (Chahoud, De Landtsheer, Haan, Helander)