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b) Panel 6. Turning Points in the Reception of Classical Antiquity

c) Title of the paper: Hesiod's "Works and Days" in the German School Tradition of the 16th Century

d) Length of the paper: 20 minutes

e) Outline of the content:

This paper is conceived as a survey of the reception of Hesiod's *Works and Days* in Germany and the German speaking areas in the 16th century. 30 years after that Demetrius Chalcondyles lectured on Hesiod at the University of Padua, a Latin translation of the poem was published in Leipzig. *Works and Days* established itself as a compulsory reading in the German universities, even when teaching Greek as the "language of schismatics" was discouraged. The educative nature and protreptic character of the poem, which emphasized the work ethic more than any other Greek school text, made it suitable for conveying moral instruction and advice on social conduct. German scholars gave lectures on Hesiod, translating passages from the poem and setting out the comments of the Byzantine exegetes on them. *Works and Days* exemplified the potential of teaching Greek literature not only for the formation of a better style, but as a key to fully understanding the Scriptures and the writings of the early Church Fathers.

The paper will study the theories of the structure and intention of the poem which had been championed in the 16th c. as well as the attempts to make a coherent paraphrase of it. The presence of *Works and Days* in the didactic tradition will be traced from the collections of early Greek gnomic poetry through the Latin translations in prose and verse and the schoolbooks which taught the rudiments of Greek grammar to the more complex school commentaries based on the editions of the Byzantine scholia. A special topic of discussion is the specific scholarly contribution of Jacob Ceperinus, Joannes Oporinus, Joannes Ulpianus from Franeker, Philipp Melancthon, Georg Henisch und Stephan Reich.