

Jana Kolářová: Apocryphal Motifs in Sixteenth-Century Neo-Latin Christological Poetry

Biblical epic was a highly frequent genre in Latin humanist literature. Just as the Italian humanist Girolamo Vida depicted the entire history of Christ's life in his epic *Christias* (1535), Latin-writing humanists from the Bohemian lands also attempted to elaborate on this subject. Episodes from the life of Christ, however, were most often treated in individual poetic compositions. Their most common theme was the Nativity, while the Passion – Christ's death and Resurrection – was likewise a favored subject of poetic representation. Although authors usually adhered to the Gospel narrative, the Resurrection in particular gave rise to the popular motif of the *triumphus Christi*: Christ's descent into Hell and His victorious struggle with Death and the Devil, based on the apocryphal *Gospel of Nicodemus*. The present paper focuses on this apocryphal motif and its treatment in several Neo-Latin Bohemian texts of the sixteenth century.