Late-antique Roman poets display a newly energized engagement with the classic poems of Virgil.

Through a series of close readings this paper explores the various uses made in particular of Virgil’s epic the *Aeneid* both by poets writing within the tradition of pagan imperialism (Claudian, Rutilius Namatianus) and by poets who divert Virgilian messages to a Christian theology of history (Prudentius, Paulinus of Nola). The paper also examines the ways in which the Virgilian texts are used to articulate more personal and private hopes and trajectories.

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