

Newsletter

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Pompeiana, Inc.

December, 1981



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COVER PICTURE: The Saturday banquet at the First Latin Weekender Conference.

POMPEIIANAE PRAEFECTUS SALUTEM DICIT LITTERARUM
CLASSICARUM STUDIOIS!

Since publishing its last issue of the Newsletter, Pompeiiana has successfully sponsored its Fifth National Chariathon for Latin in which 23 teams participated around the famed "spina" of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. A new track record was set by the CAVE CANEM team of Crown Point High School, Crown Point, Indiana, which pulled its chariot around the 4,000-ft. course in 9 minutes, 14 seconds. Last year's record, also set by a team from Crown Point, was 10 minutes, 6 seconds. Castle High School, Newburgh, Indiana, broke its own donation record by donating the most money to this year's chariathon:\$500.

Pompeiana's second Latin Weekender Conference was a great success with participants from Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Indiana taking part in the 40-hour marathon of Latin culture. The final Indianapolis-based Latin Weekender Conference will take place on March 5-7, 1982. Ten participants have already reserved places. There is still space for 20 more participants (teachers and/or students) but those interested are encouraged to send in their deposits as quickly as possible to guarantee space for themselves.

The demand for personal appearances of Marcus Loreius Tiburtinus and his tribune brother Fabius has been staggering this fall. These 1st century A.D. brothers were able to obtain released time from the Elysian Fields to travel to Chicago, Illinois; Cincinnati, Ohio; Oshkosh, Wisconsin; Holland, Michigan; Uvalde, Texas; Greenfield, Indiana; and Butler University in Indianapolis. And they tell me--with great excitement--of the pleasure they had in meeting so many dedicated Latin teachers and enthusiastic Latin students in each of these cities!

Requests for Pompeiana's AV presentations have also reached new highs. We have been able to keep up with most requests, but have had to delay the mailing of CLASSIC AND EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURE IN INDIANAPOLIS and CLASSICAL FORMS IN THE HOMES OF NEW ENGLAND because of the excessive demand. We will attempt to fill all orders, but these two presentations may arrive a little late. If you are one of the schools put on "hold," we ask your patience and understanding.

B. F. Barcio

IO SATURNALIA!

RETROSPECT

The First Noels

If you tend to overdo the merrymaking between Christmas and New Year's, just blame the ancient Romans. They started it all...



You may find it comforting to know that Christmas excesses are not a twentieth century aberration. Long before the birth of Christ, the Romans staged a yearly midwinter festival honoring Saturn, god of harvests and prosperity. Saturnalia, as the celebration was called, was marked by a surfeit of feasting, gift-giving, and general merry-making. Early Christians continued to observe this pagan holiday, and it was only a matter of time before the celebration of the nativity of Jesus and the festivities of the Saturnalia fused into the Christmastide we know today. The blending of pagan and Christian festivals was given further impetus in the fourth century when Pope Liberius adopted December 25--which coincided with the last day of the Saturnalia--as the day for observing the birth of Christ.



As Christianity evolved throughout the Roman Empire, the tradition of gift-giving that originated with the Saturnalia took on a variety of forms. In Italy, the bearer of gifts became La Befana, an ugly old witch who slid down chimneys and distributed bags of goodies to good children and lumps of coal to bad ones.



According to legend, La Befana was a selfish old woman obsessively concerned with keeping a clean house. When the three kings knocked at her door and invited her to go with them to find the baby Jesus, she indignantly refused. That evening, as she sat alone in her spotless cottage, angels revealed to her who the baby was, and she set out immediately in the hope of catching up with the Magi.



She never did. But on her journey she stopped at every home where a child lived, and left a gift. She still wanders the world on the eve of Epiphany, in hope of finding the Christ child. The name Befana, of course, comes from Epifania, January 6, when Italian children wake up to find gifts or coal (or both) in their socks near the hearth.

Saint Francis of Assisi designed the first creche scene in 1223 for his parish in the town of Greccio. In those days, few books were available and even fewer people could read. To bring the nativity to life, Francis constructed a manger scene in his church, with a live donkey and ox and life-size figures of Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds kneeling before the infant in his crib.



Ironically, the creche often nestles underneath a decorated Christmas tree whose festive greenery comes to us directly from the Saturnalia festivities. Evergreen branches or garlands that decorated doorways in ancient Rome were meant to ward off evil spirits and to procure blessings.



The Yule log has a similar history. During Saturnalia the log was burned on the hearth in honor of the Lar, the pagan household god responsible for the welfare of the family. Although the Catholic church tried to prohibit this pagan ritual, the log became a fixture in Christian homes at Christmastide. In some areas of Italy where the baby Jesus brings Christmas gifts, holiday games revolve around the log.



Another familiar Christmas custom is the practice of hanging a sprig of mistletoe over the doorway or from the ceiling. Mistletoe has always been associated with folklore and superstition. To the early Christians, mistletoe was the forbidden fruit of the Garden of Eden. But according to ancient Roman lore, enemy soldiers who met under the mistletoe plant would put down their weapons and embrace. Perhaps we have adopted a bit of both versions, for anyone who has stood under the mistletoe knows instantly that he or she has come into contact with the forbidden fruit, and that an embrace is practically unavoidable.



(Excerpts from an article in the December 1981 issue of *Attenzione Magazine*.)

PAREMUS SATURNALIAM DISCIPULIS!

1. December is a good time to have students re-vamp or make their first Roman costume. Perhaps first-year males could wear the basic tunic and females the tunic with palla. Second-year males could add the toga and females the stolla.
2. Use the instructions for some of the "pila" games found in Harper's Dictionary of Classical Antiquities.
3. Plan a meal, anything from a simple Caesar salad, with each student contributing a plasticware tub of ingredients, to an evening, reclining celebration. A local restaurant may be willing to cooperate with you on a modified Roman menu.
4. Have a simple gift exchange in class. Draw Latin names and require the gift to be home-made and related to Latin. (We have each student put his English, his Latin and his favorite Latin word on the draw slip. Whoever draws his slip then has several possibilities for making a gift. The exchange itself takes an entire class period and definitely invites picture-taking!)
5. Let the students decorate original, religious, Classical mosaic designs. (Don't let your room be out-decorated by the French and Spanish rooms.)
6. Have a song fest--but make the advanced students translate the standard songs. Forget the versions done by previous groups. Students can work in groups of three or four on these and learn a lot along the way.

(Ideas from Mrs. Nancy Mack, Wayne High School, Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Reprinted from LATINIANA, the publication of the Indiana Classical Conference.)

Io Saturnalia!



SALVATORIS NATIVITAS

Secundum Lucam

II: 1-14

Factum est autem in diebus illis exiit edictum a Caesare Augusto ut describeretur universus orbis. Haec descriptio prima facta est a praeside Syriae Cyrino; et ibant omnes ut profiterentur singuli in suam civitatem. Ascendit autem et Ioseph a Galilaea de civitate Nazareth in Iudaeam in Civitatem David, quae vocatur Bethleem, eo quod esset de domo et familia David, ut profiteretur cum Maria desponsata sibi uxore praegnante. Factum est autem, cum essent ibi impleti sunt dies ut pareret. Et peperit filium suum primogenitum, et pannis eum involvit et reclinavit eum in praesepio, quia non erat eis locus in diversorio.

Et pastores erant in regione eadem vigilantes et custodientes vigiliis noctis super gregem suum. Et ecce angelus domini stetit iuxta illos, et claritas dei circumfulsit illos, et timuerunt timore magno. Et dixit illis angelus: nolite timere; ecce enim evangelizo vobis gaudium magnum, quod erit omni populo: quia natus est vobis hodie salvator, qui est Christus Dominus, in civitate David. Et hoc vobis signum: invenietis infantem pannis involutem et positum in praesepio. Et subito facta est cum angelo multitudo militiae caelestis laudantium deum et dicentium:

GLORIA IN ALTISSIMIS DEO,
ET IN TERRA PAX HOMINIBUS
BONAE VOLUNTATIS.



MUSIC IN ANCIENT ROME

By Peter Fuchs, Jr.

Archbishop Curley Senior High School

Music played an important part in ancient Rome's cultural life. Like much of Rome's culture it was greatly influenced by Greece. The whole theory of composition in those countries and at that time was different from modern day compositions. Likewise the instruments used were different. A study of ancient Roman music affords us today a glimpse into the culture of Rome, which remains fascinating to students of history.

...In ancient times, in both Greece and Rome, the presence of "flute" players was deemed essential for the proper performance of religious sacrifice. As payment for their performances, these musicians were always provided with free dinners from the meat of the sacrificial animals. So that the expression "to live the life of a flute player" meant to be a parasite at someone else's table.

In reality the "flutes" were not flutes at all, but various types of wind instruments, principally the syrinx and the tibia. The syrinx is familiar to us all as the famed instrument which the god Pan played. The tibia--the word means shin-bone in Latin--was indeed made from the shin bone of small animals. It was a reed instrument, with finger holes, that sounded like a clarinet. It was the counter-part of a Greek instrument called the aulos.

...Besides the syrinx and the tibia, the Romans also had the lyre, a harp-type instrument. In later times, the primitive lyre was replaced by the more professional cithera. This improved version of the traditional lyre held the highest place in musical events. The cithera is often portrayed in Roman sculpture.

Ancient ingenuity brought forth another instrument of a more complex nature: the Organum hydraulicum, or hydraulic (water) organ. It was described by Archimedes, Appolinus and Athenaeus. The latter states that "Plato had an idea of this type of instrument..." It produced the tones through the organ pipes by hydraulic air compression. Nero possessed hydraulic organs and was an expert on the hydraulic mechanisms of each.

As the Roman Empire declined, more and more attention was given to entertainment, while serious pursuits were neglected. Ammianus Marcellinus complained that no one was studying philosophy any more, the libraries were shut up like tombs, and people wanted only bigger and better spectacles, replete with hydraulic organs, lyres as large as carriages, and tibiae almost too heavy for the performers to carry.

Once the Empire had become Christian, it was inevitable that the instruments which were so much a part of pagan practice should be looked upon with great disfavor. When Theodosius, in A.D. 392, prohibited pagan worship, his edict put an end to all such instruments as were bound up with pagan ceremonies. The functions were extinct, and the instruments connected with them vanished into history.

...Music, like any other art, is always part of the culture wherein it resides, and Roman music is no exception. It was an important element in Roman life. Although we may not know exactly how it sounded, we can imagine the spirit of this music, the very spirit of the Roman people, whose artistic and cultural climate produced it.

(Excerpts from an article in Classics Chronicle, Volume IV, Number 1, October, 1981. Advisor, Mary Machado.)



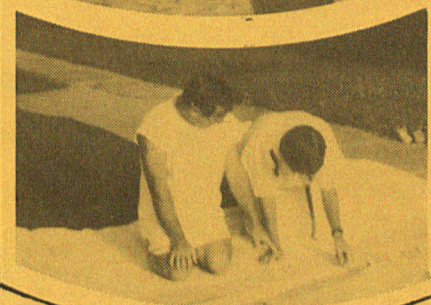
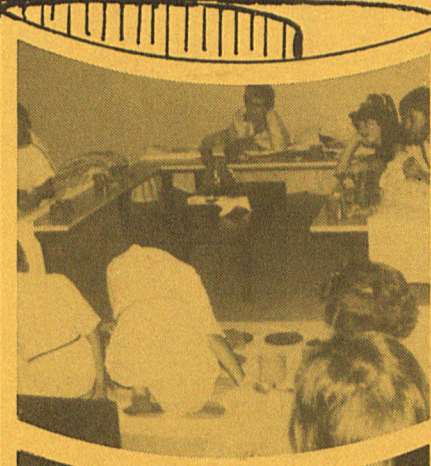
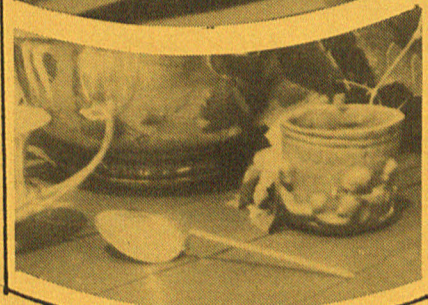
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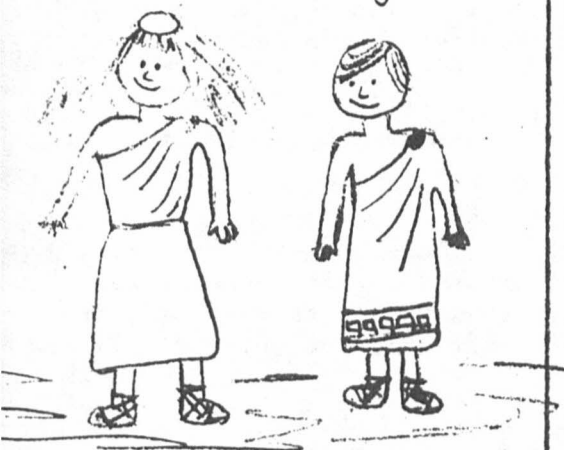
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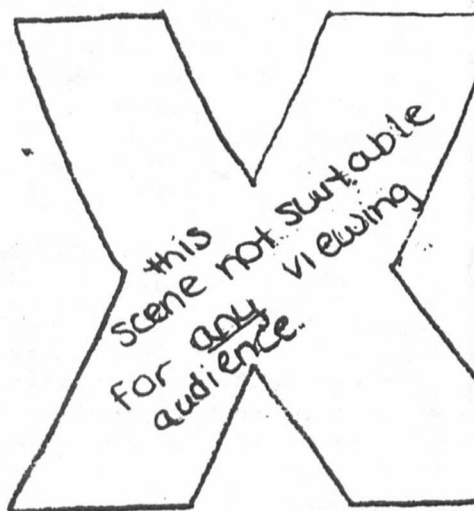
FABULA

① Lucretia was the wife of L. Tarquinius Collatinus

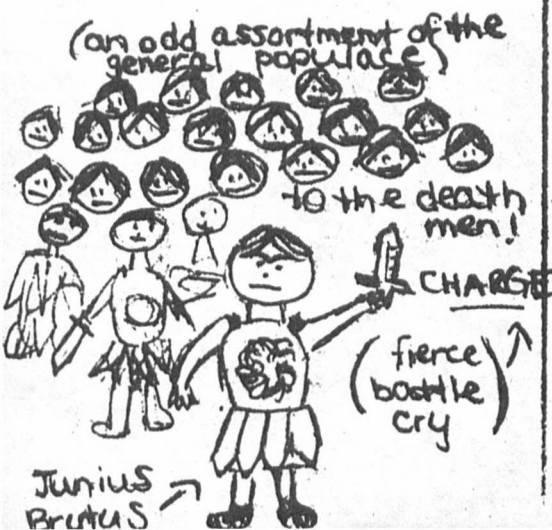
(the happy couple dressed in the latest in wedding togas.)



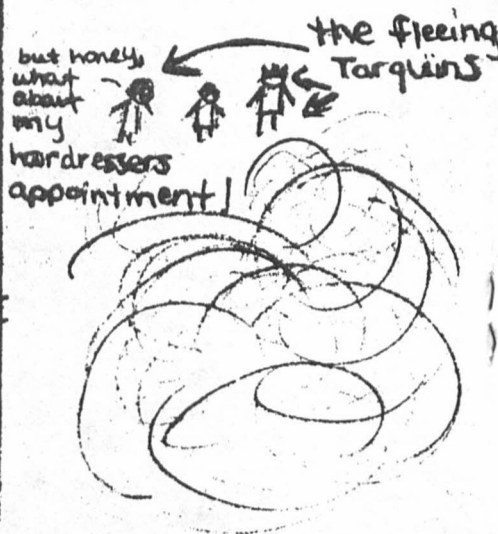
② The fair Lucretia was raped by the son of Tarquin II, Sextus



③ A civil uprising led by Junius Brutus followed



④ And the Tarquins were forced to flee Rome



LUCRETIAE

③ Lucretia then extracted an oath of vengeance from her husband and father



④ ... and in shame Lucretia committed suicide



⑤ thus marking the beginning of the Republic in

509
 B.C.

Latin II class

E.O. Smith School
 Storrs, Conn.

Student:
 Kim Parker

MIRABILE DICTU!* LATIN LIVES AGAIN

By T. R. Reid

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON--It is not often in these troubled, violent times that a news item is so cheering it brings to mind the happy phrase, "Nunc est bibendum!"--the Latin equivalent of "I'll drink to that!" -- we happened across one such item just the other day.

What's the happy news? We'll get to that eventually, but first, it is worth a second to take a closer look at "Nunc est bibendum."

Literally, the phrase can be translated, "Now is the drinking," or, to render it more smoothly for English speakers, "Now's the time for drinking."

So what's the good news?

It doesn't quite rank with the Battle of Actium in historic value, but it's something: schools around the country report sharply increasing enrollment in Latin classes. So many high school kids want to take Latin that there is actually -- mirabile dictu! -- a shortage of Latin teachers.

Before we start our burst of bibendum (drinking) over this felicitous development, it is necessary to add the caveat that the boom stems from dreary utilitarian interests that have little to do with the esthetics of the Latin language. According to U.S. News and World Report, some specialists did some studies and discovered that Latin gives kids a stronger grasp of English and thus improves scores on college entrance exams. The kids want Latin.

Some of these budding Latinists may get bogged down in perpetuum on the rigors of hic, haec, hoc or the complex mysteries of the ablative absolute and the partitive genitive. That having been said, though, the better part of them will probably come to know the sheer Horatian joy of this delightful language and its literature.

Just think! American high school students once again will gasp at the spectacular alliterations of Ennius ...sigh at the haunting love songs of Tibullus... and snort at the ludicrous medieval poets who wrote Latin that rhymes...

Students who thought cowboy talk was invented by John Wayne will discover that great scene in the Aeneid where a horseman, hearing the bad guys in rapid approach, urges his sidekick to "facere vestigia"--i.e., "Make tracks."

If the next generation has a few years with the mater linguarum (mother language), the reading public might be spared some of the inanities that crop up today in the work of otherwise talented American writers...

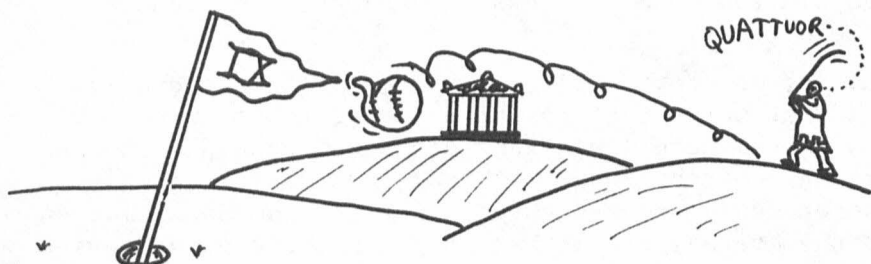
Latin, in short, will introduce American teenagers to a vast world that is terra incognita to those who know only modern languages. And a freindship with the lasting contributions of the ancient world will give a notoriously short-sighted generation an appreciation for the eternal truth that ars longa, sed vita brevis (art is lasting, but life is short).

(Excerpts from an article that appeared in the Miami Herald/Sunday, August 30, 1981.)



Forever relating their Latin studies to all phases of their school life in Carmel, IN, students at Carmel H.S. ride their 1st place winning "Greyhound Triumph" float in their school's Homecoming Parade.

GOLF PLAYED
IN
ROMAN TIMES



Golf, as we know it today, probably originated in Scotland where it was becoming so popular during the 15th century that laws were passed forbidding people to play because it was taking up too much of their time.

In England, there is evidence that a game like golf was played in the middle of the 14th century. And in the British Museum there is a picture in a book from the 16th century that shows three players, each with a ball and a club, putting at a hole in the ground.

But in tracing the beginnings of golf we have to go back hundreds of years before that.

In the early days of the Roman empire, there was a game known as "Paganica." It was played with a leather ball stuffed with feathers and a bent stick for a club.

(Excerpts from the Tell Me Why column, by Arkady Leokum, in The Indianapolis Star. Submitted by Bob McGillvary, Carmel High School, Carmel, Indiana.)

CONUNDRUMS

1. After three strikes, you are _____.
2. Tim didn't answer the question because he didn't _____.
3. What Glenn does on a date _____.
4. If we don't diet, there will be _____.
5. What Luis will say if he fails the Latin test. _____.
6. Amy accused Huey of being _____ boy.
7. Someone who lives in the country. _____.
8. What the quarterback said to the center. _____.
9. What your shadow does to you. _____.
10. What you have when you're unhappy. _____.
11. Third person masculine singular nominative. _____.
12. What Steve does at the pawn shop. _____.
13. Star of "Happy Days." _____.
14. Female deer. _____.
15. One plus one. _____.
16. Not against 'em. _____.
17. "I wish I was _____."
18. A morbid thing. _____.
19. Darius pours his Coca-Cola over _____.
20. Ann fell and scraped her _____.
21. What to do if someone hits you. _____.
22. Spanish for crazy. _____.

aes	amamus	aut	do	fallo
fons	forum	fui	hāc	haec
hī	hic	indixi	loco	mortuus
nec	nī	novit	suum	tu
tum	vos			

Special thanks to the Second-Year Latin Students of Mrs. Cynthia Hazard, A. Crawford Mosley High School, Panama City, Florida.

*** LATIN TEACHER OPENING ***

There will be an English/Latin position open at Morristown High School, Morristown, Indiana, for the 1982-83 school year. Anyone interested should contact:

Mr. Richard Parker, Principal
Morristown High School
Morristown, Indiana 46161



A N N O U N C I N G

The Classical Association of New England sponsors a placement service for secondary school teachers of Latin and Latin in combination with other subjects. The service, operated by the New Hampshire Classical Association and the Classical Association of Massachusetts, invites registrants from any area of the U.S.A. and Canada. For a registration form, write to:

Professor Richard Desrosiers, Classics
University of New Hampshire
290A Murkland Hall
Durham, New Hampshire 03824.



A.C.L./N.J.C.L. NATIONAL LATIN EXAM

The Fifth National Latin Exam, sponsored jointly by the American Classical League and the National Junior Classical League, will be open to all students enrolled in Latin I, II, III, and IV whose teachers are members of the American Classical League.

The exam will be administered the second week in March in each school. Categories will include grammar, mythology, derivatives, literature, Roman life and history. Awards--gold and silver medals and certificates--will be sent to the principal the first week in May.

Any requests for information should be sent to ACL/NJCL National Latin Exam, P.O. Box 95, Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121, accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Application forms may be obtained from American Classical League, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio 45056.

The deadline for receipt of application will be Monday, January 11, 1982.

(Published at the request of Martha G. Abbott, Publicity Chairperson.)



The JCL delegation from Bay St. Louis High School, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, on the steps of the Parthenon reconstruction in Nashville, Tennessee.

The following list of National JCL Convention meeting-places was prepared by Magister Bernard Szymczak, Anoka Senior High, Anoka, Minnesota, and Miss Mildred Sterling, Waco, Texas, and is published by Pompeiana at their request.

- 1953-Organizational, Oxford, Ohio
- 1954-Incarnate Word High School, San Antonio, Texas
- 1955-University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa
- 1956-Miami University, Oxford, Ohio
- 1957-Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado
- 1958-University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- 1959-St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota
- 1960-University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- 1961-Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana
- 1962-Montana State College, Bozeman, Montana
- 1963-University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas
- 1964-University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois
- 1965-University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
- 1966-Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY
- 1967-University of Arizona, Tuscon, Arizona
- 1968-Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan
- 1969-Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 1970-Ohio University, Athens, Ohio
- 1971-Oklahoma University, Norman, Oklahoma
- 1972-Virginia Polytechnic & University, Blacksburg, VA
- 1973-C Claremont Colleges, Claremont, California
- 1974-University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire
- 1975-Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana
- 1976-Rochester University, Rochester, New York
- 1977-Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida
- 1978-North Texas State University, Denton, Texas
- 1979-Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan
- 1980-University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee
- 1981-Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

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1303	Catapult Contest '73		1311	Pompeii Revisited	
			1312	Roman Costumes	
			1313	Roman Religion	
			1315	The Villa of the Papiri	
1305	1st National Catapult Contest		1316	World of Ancient Greece Today	
1306	Latin...Your Best Ed-al Investment Filmstrip/cassette		1317	In Search of Caesar	
			1318	Origins of Greek Civilization	
			1319	Forum Romanum	

NEW PRESENTATIONS CREATED OVER THE SUMMER:

MICHELANGELO

A short introductory filmstrip/cassette which will help you lead into a treatment of his work, especially if you are planning a trip to Italy. (56 frames, 6-minute cassette)
by Sharon Gibson, Brownsburg H.S., Indiana.

PHILIP'S TOMB AND RECENT DISCOVERIES IN MACEDONIA:

An excellent introduction for those who will have the opportunity to view the SEARCH FOR ALEXANDER exhibit currently touring the country. Also valuable for those who wish their students to have an updated acquaintance with current archaeological advances in the classical world. (100 frames, 25-minute cassette) by B.F. Barcio

(Because of increased postage and printing costs, Pompeiana, Inc. is forced to raise its student membership dues to \$1.50 and its Adult Membership dues to \$7.50. Those wishing the \$15 Contributing Membership for the '81-'82 school year will receive as a membership bonus a free set of Pompeiana's ROMAN EMPERORS posters (a \$10 value in itself!)

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