# POMPEIIANA

# NEWSLETTER

VOL. XXIII, NO. 9

MAI. A. D. MCMXCVII



# Verusne Hercules Se Attollet, Si Libet?



Hercules revenit in televisione, et imberbis.

Spectaculi titulus est Hercules: Itinera Fabulosa, et huius Herculis recentis persona agitur ab actore Californiensi cui nomen est Kevinus Sorbo.

recens autem in Graeciā eius "Itinera Fabulosa" non facit sed in Novā Zealandiā, ubi etiam nunc silvae primitiviores sunt – etiamsi non calidae sunt quia ibi sol rare fulget in caelo sereno.

Sunt nonnullae repugnantiae in hoc spectaculo quas etiam ei qui Latinae studere recentissime inceperunt subito animadvertent. Primum, cum scriptores herŏos nomine Latino (Hercule) non nomine Graeco (Heracle) utantur, omnia alia nomina classica tamen quae in spectaculo audiuntur Graeca sunt.

Huius spectaculi scriptores quidem argumenta, monstra, nomina classica includere temptant, sed se non obligant ut solum depingant illas res quae in litteris fabulisque antiquis narratae sint. Actuum maior pars ad fabulas antiquas minime attinet quamquam deorum monstrorumque Graecorum nomina interdum nominantur ut spectatores possint intellegere so Herculem non Tarzanum spectare.

Quamquam hace Herculis itinera fabulis in litteris classicis fidelia non sunt, rarae mentiones factae de dels monstrisque Graecis faciunt hoc spectaculum meliorem quam spectaculum quod in televisione insequitur: Xenn: Bellatrix Regis Filla.

Xenae fabula agi videtur eodem tempore cum Herculis fabulă, sed huius spectaculi scriptores non simulant se comiungere res cum litteris classicis. Hoe spectaculum videtur esse in televisione ut turbatricibus placeat. In hoe spectaculo feminae monstrant se — exigue indutas et facta athletica agentes — quoque posse praestare in silvis incultis.

Possetne Xena Herculem vincere? Nullo modo! Hercules erat semideus (pater erat Iuppiter, mater Alcmena), sed Xena mortalis est.

Possitne Lucia Exlex (actrix quae Xenae personam agit) actorem Kevinum Sorbonem vincere? Kevinus ipse, "Sine dubio," inquit, "Lucia me facilius vincere possit."

In fabulis classicis Hercules vigintorum virorum viros habebat et non facile fallebatur. Hercules constanter fortis et semper callidus erat. Hercules antiquus diem malum raro de rebat

In spectaculo cui titulus est Hercules: Itinera Fabulosa Herculis vires et calliditas inconstantes sunt. In aliis actibus Hercules unum mortalem cum difficultate vincit, et in aliis vigintos adversarios simul facile vincit. In aliquibus acti-



bus inimici facile possunt obrepere Herculem a tergo et eum obstupefacere—quod Herculi antiquo accidisse numquam poterat.

Qua ex parte actor Kevinus Sorbo herooi Herculi similis est? Minima parte.

Kevinus corpus musculosum habet, sed imberbis est – barba erat herčos antiqui nota propria. Kevinus musicam quoque scribit, ei saltare placet, carmina srcibit – quae omnia sunt actiones minime Herculeae.

#### Ferias Agamus - Let's Party



Latin Students at Carmel H. S., Carmel, Indiana, construct effigies for Missus Argeorum out of straw.

The two Roman festivals for May can provide excellent culturally enriching outdoor activities for Latin classes.

Missus Argeorum - May 15

On this festival, Romans commemorated early human sacrifices by throwing thirty grass human effigies from the Sublician Bridge. Fortuitously, the Ides of May fall on a Thurnday this year so the festival can be celebrated during the school week.

Preparations:

As always, A) start by having a volunteer research the reading to be read during the commemoration. B) A second volunteer should agree to bring in a bale of straw. C) The teacher should arrange to use a non-carpeted work area that can be swept up easily afterwards. D) A volunteer should bring in a skein or two of yarn. E) The teacher should locate ten to fifteen pairs of small safety scissors that can be used during

the effigy construction. F) The teacher should identify a nearby bridge over a small creek or river that can be reached quickly from the school grounds.

Construction of the Human Effigies:

If the Latin class period is short, the straw effigies can be constructed a day in advance or even after school. The bale of straw should be opened in the work room. Each student should have access to a scissors and some

Each student should have access to a seissors and some of the yarn. Enough straw should be taken to make a body about one foot long and about as thick as a student's arm. This should be tied together "at the waist" with yarn. A smaller bundle should then be made which will attach across the chest of the effigy to form arms. Finally, the straw below the waist should be separated and tied with yarn to form two legs.

The ceremony on the bridge:

On the day of the commemoration, each student (Continued in Pagina Decima)

#### Recent Archaeological Revelations

#### **Excavating the Teutoberg Forest**

By Sandra Dayton, Urbana, Illinois

The year 2009, will mark the Bimillenium of the Roman defeat known in ancient times as Bellum

This battle was between Romans, led by Publius Quinctilius Varus, and Germans, led by Arminius. It has been classified as one of the fifteen decisive battles of the world. Rome lost three legions (XVII, XVIII, XIX) and over 20,000 men. The Roman defeat prevented Augustus from trying to conquer Germany. Today, archaeologists are trying to establish the exact

Today, archaeologists are trying to establish the exact location of the battle. We have had the accounts of Suctonius, Tacitus, and Strabo. We know well the cry of Augustus, "Quinctili Vare, give me back my legions!"

We know that the disaster occurred in 9 CE somewhere in the vicinity of the Teutoberg Forest in Germany, But over 700 locations have been suggested. One site, on the northern edge of the Teutoberg Forest near Osnabrück, was first proposed by Theodor Mommsen, a nineteenth century historian. This is the location where German archaeologists have been digging during the last few years.

There are three major reasons for supporting this site as the correct location. One is that the terrain matches that of the literary sources. The legions were traveling through "fraude locorum." It was marshy on one side of the route and mountainous on the other.

The second reason is the number of artifacts found. A large number of Roman weapons such as slingshots were found. A wood and dirt rampart was discovered. Carbon 14 tests have dated this rampart to the first half of the first century CE.

(Continued in Pagina Decima)



Having heard the history of the festival, students hurl the effigies off the bridge.



Travel in the Ancient World

#### Gades et Valete!

By Michael A. Dimitri

Ptolemeio Liviae, Matri Patriae mundique, S.P.D.

Doleo maxime! I appreciate your notifying me of the passing of your husband and our beloved Imperator Augustus. He served Rome longer and with more spirit than the rest of us combined, and perhaps, having accomplished as much as his mortal nature could tolerate in this life, he has moved on to a more divine existence. I am sure his delification pleases him as much as it pleases me to worship him, now a god.

It is with the same great sadness and hope for the future that I announce my retirement to you. You, as much as the divine Augustus himself, know how long and how energetically I have served Rome and your family in establishing a new world order. I believe my loyalty and successes speak for themselves. I humbly ask that you accept my resignation and that I be allowed to discontinue my service at this time.

When I began this great adventure, I was a young man; I am now nearly sixty years old. I have been instrumental in securing trade routes from Rome to India and back across North Africa to Hispania. This letter makes the great circle around Mare Nostrum, as well as my career, complete.

Gades, as you know, was a Phoenician colony so closely allied with Carthage that it was even one of Hamilcar's main military bases against Rome! Yet, Domina, there has been a complete change since that terrible time. Through the efforts of your husband, his father, the divine Gaius Julius, and (on a much humbler scale) through my own efforts, Gades is now a shining example of a Roman city! The city has stopped using Phoenician letters on its coins and has adopted the Roman alphabet. It now boasts of having 500 Equites!

I have arranged further exports of gold, silver, tin, and timber from Hispania through the port here. Currently, Q. Ptolemeio Hispanicus, a local young man with no Roman blood, whom I have adopted as my son and successor, is preparing to lead a voyage along the western coast of the African continent. We are told the land is much larger than our cartographers indicate. We have also heard of gems more abundant than the stars in the sky! I hope, Mea Domina, that during your divine rule this great territory may also come beneath the protective aegis of Rome!

And now, it is time for me to begin the final journey of my life. Although I had planned to return to Rome, I have decided to spend my remaining years in Gades iocosae with its warm climate, sunshine, and fun-loving inhabitants. Et lam, vale.

#### Did You KnowThat...

By Meredith Cregg, Latin IV student of Mrs. Nilsen, St. John Vianney High School, Holmdel, New Jersey

Claudius (Emp. A.D. 41 – 54) suffered from what is now known as Little's Disease, a spastic ailment that comes from premature birth? This caused the tic and stutter that Claudius had.

Claudius was called a monster by his family, and they tried to cure him with severe beatings? Claudius' grandfather ordered that he not be seen in public.

Claudius' imperial record was better than any of the twelve Caesars except Augustus? Claudius was the only outsider in two thousand years to conquer Britain.

Claudius came to power when the Practorian soldiers searched for a successor for Caligula? These soldiers knew they'd be out of a job if they did not come up with an emperor. Their search led them to Claudius, who was hiding behind a curtain, and he was declared emperor.

Claudius did not take the monarchy all that seriously? He mockingly made such strange laws as one requiring guests to break wind in his presence if the need arouse, because to refrain from doing so might be injurious to their health.

British author, Robert Graves, wrote two books on Claudius? These provide a better insight than Claudius' own relatives that Claudius was not a fool after all, and perhaps a man of genius.

Claudius allowed himself to be poisoned with mushrooms? His fourth wife and niece, Agrippina, did so to allow her son, Nero, to become emperor.

#### Mors Reginae

By Susannah Barton Tobin, Latin IV A.P. student of Dianne Close, The Windsor School, Boston, Massachusetts

Queen Dido Elissa of Carthage died suddenly at her home last night. She was twenty. The Queen, whose short life had enough sorrow and joy for an existence four times as long, founded the city of Carthage three years ago, after fleeing her birthplace of Tyre.

Her brother, Pygmalion, killed Dido's first husband, Sychaeus, in a shocking murder-homicide that rocked Asia Minor. Shortly after learning of her husband's death, Dido gathered her forces, and, armed with a new-found supply of Tyrian gold, set sail to escape Pygmalion's tyrannical rule.

Upon landing at Carthage, Queen Dido survived attacks from various barbaric tribes on either side of her fledgling city and galvanized the building of a city rich in resources. A natural leader, Dido inspired Vergil's famous phrase, "dux femina facti."

Though her people loved and admired the young Queen, Dido missed her husband and did not find a new love until the hero Aeneas stopped in Carthage. There are few details about the relationship between Dido and Aeneas, but sources say that the two were married in a secret ceremony early last year. The two were very much in love, and Aeneas' son, Ascanius, is said to have adored his new mother. Amid rumors that Aeneas was leaving Carthage, Dido, in an attempt to satisfy the prophecy that Aeneas would found a new city and continue the Trojan race, offered to share Carthage with him and his followers. Aeneas, however, told her that the gods were forcing him to leave her and set sail for Italy, his new and true home.

Acneas left Carthage early yesterday morning, trying to avoid a tearful good-bye, but a witness says that Dido stood sadly in her palace window, watching her beloved "husband" leave forever. At this time, it is unclear how or why Dido died, but the flames of her funeral pyre could be seen miles away by the ships heading for Italy.

Queen Dido Elissa is survived by her sister Anna and, of course, her "husband" Aeneas, who could not be reached for comment. In describing her sister, Princess Anna said, "She was a great woman who died too soon. She will be missed by all the Carthaginians, but, most of all, by me."

There will be no wake, and the funeral will be private. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the temple of Amor Prodings.



From her Viewpoint

#### A series of fictional letters written from Roman women to men

by Donna Wright

FLAVIA IULIA S.D. PATRUO SUO PRINCIPIQUE OPTIMO DOMITIANO

My dearest uncle, please, I beg you, reconsider your request. What you are asking me to do, I feel, is a crime. I think the gods will forgive me and will forgive you, too. I fear Rome will be cursed. I fear that you, too, as emperor will be cursed if I take the life of this child I carry. This child represents you and so represents Rome. Ever since I was a child, I have always obeyed your commands. I accepted my fate when you decided not to emulate the divine Claudius in taking a niece for a wife.

When I became the wife of your cousin Sabinus, you seemed relieved that this was an opportunity for you to seduce, with impunity, a helpless young woman.

My beloved father, Titus, who first gave me the title Augusta, hoped that Sabinus and I would carry on the tradition of a happy marriage. Sabinus' own parents had weathered so many storms in the time of Nero. But in your jealousy toward your cousin, and in your boredom for your own wife, you latched on to me and forced me to live with you. My shame is great, but your power is greater. I only ask that you do not force me to end this child's life no matter how evil its existence may seem. The child did not choose to exist. He is innocent. I fear for both our lives. I am sure I have said too much. Perhaps I should destroy this letter.



(Post scriptum: In AD 91, Julia, the daughter of the emperor Titus died from an abortion. Her uncle, the emperor Domitian, declared her a goddess.)

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THE NATIONAL LATIN EXAM - SINCE 1977

#### Oedipus

By Muhasen Deb, Latin I student of Gale McCall, West Genesee High School, Camillus, New York

Lost in a world of darkness, a blind man trying to find answers to the unknown question. My face

disgraced throughout the land and damned forever.

The land which I walked on was black as the night, and hate filled the air more than ever. Like a bird with only one wing

it searches for land and help where it can find answers to its problems. In time, its wing may heal,

but the scars will remain forever.

As I walk alone in my dark and misunderstood hell,
I began to see that every step I take
eets looser and looser.

gets longer and longer,

For the fire of hate which rages inside me
is like a bull charging his prey;
and just as the bull gets close,

the prey gets away.

Let the awful fate which has been placed on me never happen to any other man; for the pain is too much to carry and the suffering is torture.

#### Don't Cry for Largo Argentina

By Prof. Frank J. Korn, Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey

Piazzas in Rome are customarily glamorous places. In a city of old, narrow, shadowy side streets, the open spaces often feature splashing fountains, sidewalk cafes, strolling musicians, and a baroque church of two. Piazza Navona, Pizza del Popolo, and Piazza della Rotonda come quickly to mind as examples.

One city square ("largo") in Rome, however, has no such attractions. It is called Largo Argentina and offers only crawling traffic and urban din. All day long buses wheeze, belch and rumble their weary way into this terminal for a dozen routes. The architecture of the Largo's undistinguished shops, banks and bars is, at best, nondescript.

But weep not for this stepsister of Rome's renowned plazas; for Largo Argentina enjoys other, more subtle, bragging rights, chief of which are ruins from the era of the Roman Republic. Among the oldest relies in Rome, these were rediscovered and excavated as recently as 1930, when some new buildings were being planned for the area.

When Mussolini learned of this discovery, right behind his Fascist headquarters in the Palazzo Venezia, he ordered extensive digging at once. The Fascists' theory was that the ruined grandeur of Rome's past would somehow enhance their own imperial splendor. Thus, archeology became a form of propaganda: "Rome can—and will—be Caput Mundi again one day."

When II Duce's excavators were finished with their efforts, they had brought to light—some twenty-five feet below the current street level—the spectral remains of four temples from the fourth century before Christ. Archeologists soon realized that these shrines were so ancient, and had been submerged beneath the stratification of Rome so long ago, that even Caesar Augustus had never seen them. Now they bask in the Italian sunlight as they did when they were new.

Erected to as yet unidentified deities, the temples are all orientated to the east, in keeping with the ancient rite. Of these bouses of pagan worship – three of them rectangular, one circular – there remain staircases, some columns, and sections of mosaic floors. In front of one of them there still stands an altar, bearing an inscription from ca. 200 B.C. This was apparently a replacement of a yet older altar.

#### The Great War

By Sara Oostendorp, Latin IV student of Marilyn Swart, Holland Christian H.S., Holland, Mich.

Sharp rushing waters
Bearing Greeks onto our shore
Fear rippling Dardanelles
World hushed to listen
Rising tides on moaning sea
Siege begins
One undying scream
Simois draining of blood
Silence as the currents pause
Hector's blood spills
Slaughtered Prince of Troy
Inflamed city tumbles
Gentle rocking – sea's tide
Rumble of Ilium
Smoldering ashes
Warriors lost the winds.

#### Obituaries From the War

By Jennifer Holt, Latin III student of Kelly Meineck, Heathwood Hall Episcopal School, Columbia, South Carolina

Achilles, son of Peleus and Thetis, the water nymph and the Greek hero, died Tuesday. A victim of an arrow shot into his heel, the one place he was vulnerable. We express our deepest regrets to the family.

Iantiphour, son of Priam, was killed last Wednesday by Agamemnon because of his ancestry. This Trojan soldier fought bravely in battle. We express our deepest sympathy to the family.

Creusa, wife of Acneas, mother of one, was taken during the final battle of the Trojan War. Popular rumors say that her ghost appeared to her husband Acneas, telling him how she was murdered. We grieve with the family over this unexpected loss.



Excavated ruins of one of the ancient temples in Largo Argentino

This sunken archeological park is also the address of Rome's largest stray cat colony. When a kindly neighborhood zignora arrives each day to feed them, the felines rouse themselves from their lethargy to get on the bread line. They are an odd tribe—showing scars from nocturnal brawls, some exchanging scowls and screaming curses at different frequencies.

The legendary "Cat Lady" presides screnely over the scene, bearing plastic bags of meat scraps, bread, and last night's spaghetti from sympathetic neighbors.

The umbrella pines which soar over this tangle of ruins serve as crowded tenements for flocks of swifts. When the cars are sated, these tiny creatures nervously swoop down to dine on the meager leftovers.

In one corner of the excavation site rises a tower of dark brown brick, all that is left of the residence of Bishop Hans Burckhardt. As Papal Master of Ceremonies under Pope Innocent VIII, the bishop built a town house here in 1503, which he called the Casa Argentina (from the Latin name Argentonatum for his native city of Strasbourg). From this, the area took its name.

Overlooking the excavations is the Teatro Argentina, built in 1730. This stands above the area of the quadriporticoed entrance to the Theater of Pompey, where on the Ides of March in 44 B.C. Julius Caesar fell to the daggers of senatorial assassins. Because of the renovations taking place at the Caria (Senate House) at the time, the legislative body was conducting its sessions over here, a few blocks from the Forum. (Remains of Pompey's theater complex can be found in the basements of several nearby buildings.).

On the peach-colored facade of Teatro Argentina is this inscription to the appropriate Muses:

#### ALLE ARTI DI MELPOMENE D'EUTERPE E DI TERPSICORE

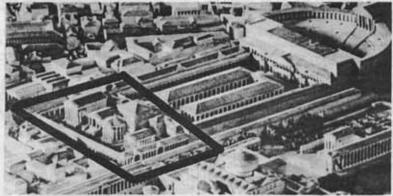
During its heyday, this was the center of the city's most prestigious cultural events. In 1816 Rossini's "Barber of Seville" was hissed off the stage in its premier performance. On the following night, while Rossini sat fidgeting in a nearby pastry shop, a new audience had a much different opinion. They acclaimed his work as a masterpiece and carried him triumphantly on their shoulders through the streets, toasting the surprised composer into the wee hours. In the course of one day, right here in Largo Argentina, Rossini passed from shame to fame.

Today the Teatro Argentina is noted for concerts given by the Academy of Saint Cecilia.

So then (or "allora" as the Romans say), do not be misled by the ceaseless traffic lumbering about, nor by the soot-covered ruins shackled with weeds, nor by the shabby tower guarding nothing but the past. Don't bemoan the absence of cafes and churches and fountains. Sing no sad songs for poor old Large Argentina.

Those who look more carefully will find here one of the most curious and interesting crossroads of the Eternal City, a site of romantic mystery and nostalgia, of great archeological and cultural importance.

Perhaps more so than in any other part of town, the current of continuous historic life flows eternally through this homely square.



Location of the ancient temples of Largo Argentina in relation to the Theater of Pompey on the model of Rome.

#### Medusa

By Meggan Peterson, Latin student of Sharon Gibson, Brownsburg, High School, Brownsburg, Indiana

Medusa
Pulchra, amabilis
Amata est, gravidata est, invisa est
Livida Minerva arripuit huius pulchritudinem
Vastata, irritata, detruncata
Foeda, turpis
Mortalis

Medusa
Beautiful, lovely
Loved, impregnated, envied
The jealous Minerva seized her beauty
Devastated, angered, bebeaded
Repulsive, hideous
Mortal

#### Sopranos Spike Altos - Siren Island

By Mallory Nixon and Mike Musgrave, Latin students of Mrs. Nancy Mazur, Marion L. Steele High School, Arnherst, Ohio

In volleyball action yesterday at the Siren Beach Volleyball Classic, the Sopranos dominated from the outset. It was all downhill after the first set with the final score being 15-9, 15-3. The victory improves the Sopranos record to 17-5, only three games behind the first place Contrattos. The Altos sit alone at the bottom of the cellar, 15 games out of first. This loss eliminates any post-season chance for the Altos. Spikin' Susie led the victors with 18 kills. Bumpin' Beatrice highlighted many unbelievable plays while Settin' Samantha was a perfect 21-21. There was a slight problem with the fans, many of whom ended up dead for no apparent reason.

The Life of Girls and Women in Ancient Rome

#### Empresses and Other Women in High Places

By Stephen A. Stertz

The number of influential, powerful, and outspoken women in Roman political life is substantial although only a few can be given adequate coverage here.

Under the Republic, Cornelia, a daughter of the general Scipio Africanus the Elder, hero of the Second Punic War, was married to Sempronius Gracchus, and had twelve children to bring up after his death. She was so well-known for her purity and forcefulness that the Egyptian king, Ptolemy Philometer, proposed marriage to Cornelia, but she refused. Nine of the children died. Her one daughter was married to Scipio Africanus the younger. Her two surviving sons, Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus, lost their lives in 133 and 121 B. C. respectively as a result of violence following their land reform proposals. Cornelia is said to have pointed to her sons when asked about her lack of jewelry, saying "these are my jewels." Later a statue was erected in her bonor.

Livia, wife of the first Roman Emperor, Augustus, was forced in 38 B.C. to divorce her first husband, Tiberius Claudius Nero and marry the future Emperor, then called Octavian. Her son by her first husband, Tiberius, succeeded Augustus as Emperor in A. D. 14. Livia had so much influence with Augustus that she tried to become co-ruler when Tiberius ascended the throne; she was, however, unsuccessful to the point that her son refused to visit her in A. D. 29 when she was dying at a very advanced age.

Augustus himself had a daughter and granddaughter named Julia, both of whom became infamous for adulterous life-styles and were subsequently exiled. The elder Julia had another daughter, Agrippina, whose nine children included both the Emperor Caligula and another Agrippina, the mother of Nero. The elder Agrippina was known for her courage, accompanying her husband Germanicus on his military campaigns; later she was banished to a barren island by Tiberius who was apparently afraid of her popularity. The younger Agrippina, Nero's mother, was notorious for her loose morals and cruelty as well as her attempts to wield political power. Nero unsuccessfully tried to kill her by putting her on a ship specially designed to sink, but she survived the attempt. She was finally assassinated by order of Nero

Pompčia Plotina, the wife of the Emperor Trajan, had a much better reputation and enjoyed considerable influence at the imperial court, and when her husband died in A. D. 117, the next emperor, Hadrian, is said to have owed his position as Trajan's successor to her influence.

Julia Domna, a Syrian, was married in A. D. 175 to the emperor Septimius Severus, becoming the mother of emperors Caracalla and Geta. She was a great patroness of literature and the arts and had considerable political power after her husband's death. After the death of Caracalla, she lost power and was eventually banished to Syria, where she is said by historians to have committed suicide by starvation. She was famous for her beauty and notorious for her personal behavior.

Her sister Julia Maesa was de facto ruler of the Roman Empire during the rule of her young son Severus Alexander, A. D. 222-235.

In the mid-fifth century A. D., Galla Placidia Augusta, daughter of the Emperor Theodosius, husband of Constantius III, and mother of Valentinian III was regent while her son was too young to rule. A captive of the Goths at one point, she, too, loved power, but was best known for her Christian piety.



Sphinx



By Erek Mikaelian, Latin student of Polly Rod, Tuller School, Tucson, Arizona

Lying in the middle of a barren land, Nothing around but the wind and the sand; A rigid reminder from long ago, Of a golden community that we'll never know. Cara Matrona,

I don't know if you will remember me, but I wrote to you about five years ago just after I had settled Pompelis after being manumitted by my master Corsicae. At that time. I was only twenty-three years old. I had just organized my first collegium of twenty skilled workers, and the biggest thing in my life was a successful visit to Thermae Stabianae for a quadrans.

Now I guess that you could say that "I have arrived" in life, or that "My ship has come in," and "I have sampled the sweet taste of success."

I am now a general contractor working Romae, and, as a recognized Redemptor, I own ten different work crews, each with its own specialty, and each under the management of its own Praepositus. I'm proud to say that not many quality building projects are considered for which my name is not mentioned—if only I might have the time to take on the project. I even have a Librarius who does nothing but coordinate the posting of bonds for our projects and oversee the writing of the building contracts.

My role in the business, of course, has become somewhat flexible. And this has created a new problem with which I hope you will be able to help me. Matrona, dealing successfully with wealthy Equestrians and Patricians and with my own Praepositi places a whole new set of demands on my time. I find myself longing for the simple days back Pompeiis. I have to get up during Quartae Vigiliae in order to conduct my own Salutatio with my Praepositi and with special workers from my various collegia who are recommended to me. Members of my work crews whom I have grown to respect because of their valued skills want me to witness their wills or ask to see me for legal advice. This takes up most of Hora Prima. Then I myself have to hurry to attend the Salutationes of influential Patricians whom I am cultivating to ensure my success as a contractor. By Hora Tertia Pm usually expected to appear in court as a witness for one of my Equestrian clients who has gotten himself into some kind of trouble. After court I may have to attend an engagement party for one of my Praepositi or I might be expected to attend a wedding celebration for a client.

Matrona, I don't have any time to enjoy my own success. Some days are so hectic that I secretly curse my Dominus Corsicae for freeing me. Now that "I have made it," why am I not happy? Can you help me again? Redemptor Maximus, Romae Alias, Lawatus Pompeits.

Care Maxime.

Donec eris felix, multos numerabis amicos. Welcome to the world of success. It is a two-edged sword, isn't it?



I know that you enjoy your new status Romae and that you really wouldn't trade it all to be a servur again Corsicae even if the thought crosses your mind on some days.

There are many responsibilities that come with wealth, influence and success, and you have just began to be aware of them. Just remember aequam servare animum.

Now that you have the leisure, take some time for yourself. You don't want to burn out too soon. As the old saying goes, "Cito rumpes arcum qui numquam laxus est."

There will be many more days ahead when you will feel trapped – a fronte praecipitium a tergo lupi. But if you plan some quiet time for yourself, you will get through them. I would suggest that you consider buying a little getaway villa for yourself, perhaps back in Campania, where you can go to relax once in a while. A few relaxing mundinae ruri will help you keep your city obligations in perspective.

This will mean, of course, that you may have to rely even more on subordinates. It may even mean that you might have to pass up a contract or two. But that's all right. The happiness you seek lies in mediocritati aurea.

A truly successful man knows when he has enough money and power, and he doesn't constantly strive for more. The maxim, "Radix omnium malorum est cupiditas," is especially true Romae.

You're still young, and you don't mention a family. Maybe it's time to share your life with someone else and to enjoy the dulcia basia liberorum.

I hope you will take my advice now, as you did before. By the way, I, too, have heard of your collegia. If your schedule allows, I would like to hire you to help me with a remodeling job on my villa near Alba Longa. But there is no rush. Primo, take a break!



#### Orpheus

By Susan Horvath, Latin student of Thomas M. Høyes, William H. Hall High School, West Hartford, Connecticut

The musician, tranquil and calm, Stroked his lyre, close to his palm. All of the animals, stones, and trees Never ventured far from his knees. He captured their hearts and ears with lovely song, And then the rivers chose to follow along. The son of Apollo and Calliope the muse, When he was born, it was joyful news He married Eurydice - he loved her dearly, And when she passed, he was devastated, clearly. He went to retrieve her from ghastly Hell, But no foreshadowing Hades would tell. He played his lyre and charmed the guards. There was no sign that he would go but a few yards. He was told by Persephone and Hades not to take a glance

At his faithful lover; he was taking a chance.

He could not resist – he needed a look

And there went Eurydice, with Hades' swift hook.

Back down to the Underworld – sentenced for life,

How could this happen, his beautiful wife?

He was now unbearably sad and alone,

The entertainer was not afraid to emit a moan.

He faded down the River Hebrus like a wallowing

stick.

Head and lyre murmuring sad music,



#### Arachne



By Anty Thomson, Latin student of Mrs. Nancy Mazur, Marion L. Steele, Amherst, Ohio

Long ago there was a woman named Arachne and she loved to weave. She had a field in her backyard and went there everyday. She sat in the same spot to think of designs to weave.

Arachne had a favorite plant in the field called the Chicory, which looked like a circle with a spider weblike design inside.

When Minerva, who was considered the goddess of weaving, heard that Arachne was producing work as beautiful as her own, she decided to visit the field where Arachne had been working. In Arachne's absence, Minerva destroyed her weaving, leaving nothing but a whole bunch of strings. This happened day after day until, one day, Arachne set up a trap to see who her enemy was. Minerva was caught in the trap but, with her divine powers, she was able to get free.

Arachne then challenged Minerva to a weaving contest. When everyone preferred the weaving of Arachne, Minerva got mad. Remembering that Arachne's favorite plant was the Chicory with a spider web-like design inside, Minerva decided to turn Arachne into a spider to get rid of her competition.

After Arachne had been changed into the spider, Minerva decided to go a step further. She also changed the Chicory plant so that it no longer resembeled the plant that Arachne had once loved,

#### College Conundrums

By Sarah Byrne, Latin III student of Mrs. K.A. Sullivan, Oakmont Regional High School, Ashburnham, Massachusetts

On the agenda of many high school juniors this summer will be to choose several colleges to apply to in the fall. Extempore you need a modus operandi with which you will find your way ad astra per aspera. In toto there are thousands of colleges from which to choose. Ex libris of your guidance counselor and also from campus visits, e pluribus unum college must be chosen. Deo volente, you will find the right college for you.

While reading through the brochures and viewing books provided by colleges, you will realize that they are all made out to be mirabile dictu prima facie. Some things, however, are incognito in these brochures. Colleges are almost never as wonderful as they may seem in these brochures. Haec olim meminisse iuvabit that for the college, esse quam videri is most important. A campus visit should be made to see quod est demonstrandum. If you do go on a tour, remember that your guide's story about how great the college is crescit eundo. A lapsus linguae of your guide that another college is a less expensive facsimile of the school must be placed in memorium, especially when considering your financial situation. In absentia of financial aid from an expensive college, parents will either veto that college and opt for a less expensive one, exempli gratia the one mentioned by your guide, or else face paying off your loans ad infinitum. You must be willing to bargain with colleges, to get quid pro quo, or you may end up without any aid at all. If you are unwilling to "bargain for bucks," you'll have to win several scholarships. Each scholarship contest essay that you write would have to be a magnum opus if you have any chance of winning, and you'd have to win several of these contests if you're planning to go to one of the schools, ne plus ultra. In writing an essay as well as choosing a college, one must nosce te ipsum as the best essays are usually ex animo.

Then, in medias res, you realize that it is a sine qua non that an addendum be made to your ad hoc list of "wants" from a college. You've begun to think serious-

ly about what dorm life would be like, and you realize that you could get stuck with a persona non grata for a roommate. At first you might think that she is just a rara avis, but quot homines, tot sententiae. She may decide to paint her side of the room orange and hang up tacky "Power Ranger" curtains, but de gustibus non est disputandum. You might start to think de facto that that your roommate is, ergo, a bona fide example of someone who does not possess mens sana in corpore sano when she howls at the moon and keeps you awake media nocte. You would then wonder if you should hang a "Cave Canern" sign on your door to warn unsuspecting visitors. Your roommate's oddities would have to be taken cum grano salis or your alter ego would take over and you would kill her. As her shrill howls keep you up night after agonizing night, you would realize that if you were to kill her, no one would know the corpus delicti. With your "roomie" post mortern, you would finally requiescat in pace. Ah, but memorandum, de mortuis nil nisi bonum, so you would not be able to curse her if she were dead. Instead of going through all this needless torture you decide to add "SINGLE ROOM" to your list of "wants".

At college you will find a tabula rasa where past res gestae will not get you far. You will become a novus homo because of your lack of experience, so find someplace where you're on terra firma, but can also experience new things. Know that in some colleges you will find multum in parso. A small college can offer a lot of exciting experiences. Ab initio you know that your task to find a college would be difficult, and it has been ab ovo usque ad mala. Once you have accepted a college, alea iacta est. If you find later that you have made a mistake, errare humanum est. You can transfer to another college. However, it is better if mistakes are avoided. So verbum sat supienti. Festina lente. Make good choices. Don't send in forms hoping for deus ex machina miracles, and, most importantly, remember dum spiro, spero.

#### Stupid Cupid - Like Totally!

By Punita Sunder, Latin II student of Larry Steele, West Mid-High, Norman Oklahoma

Through many generations, myths have come down to us from many different points of view. Some story-tellers take the side of the protagonist who falls in love with a beautiful princess and eventually lives happily ever after. Others prefer to take the antagonist's opinions, carefully defending each of his/her misdeeds as an act of justice. Yet others choose a third point of view, as shown in this modern version of Psyche and her lover, Cupid.

One day, this guy, Cupid (he's, like, a goddess' son or something) sees this girl, Psyche and falls in love with her because he thinks she's a babe. That's totally rad, but she's a mortal, and he can't ask ber out so that's a bummer. But one day, Psyche's family has some problems: her dad's getting a divorce and she runs into her room and starts crying.

Anyway, she feels herself being carried up and over some mountains and fields; she finally ends up in this really big house which is totally awesome. So she hears this voice which tells her the house and its servants will be hers only if she marries the owner of the voice. Psyche thinks it couldn't possibly get worse than this, so she agrees to the marriage even though she can never see her husband. Her husband even forbids her to leave the house. Isn't that, like, so stupid?

One day, Psyche sees her sisters crying when she's walking in the fields and wonders what has happened. Her sisters tell her that their father has died and they all go crying back to Psyche's house. When the sisters see Psyche's house, they get really jealous. When Psyche tells them about her weird husband, the sisters tell her to light a lamp and look at her husband at night; because of their jealousy, they tell Psyche that her husband may be a monster.

Psyche takes an oil lamp and looks at her husband. What she sees is this really fine guy with this really great body. She stands there looking at him, and spills hot oil on him. She figures that someone so fine could only be a god. Then he wakes up. Cupid sees how untrusting Psyche is and he flies away.

Psyche goes to Mount Olympus and looks for Cupid, but Cupid's mother, who is mad at him because he married a mortal, makes Psyche do all these really hard things, like sorting grain. Cupid sees how mean his mother is being to Psyche and rescues her. Cupid's mother finally realizes how unhappy her son is without Psyche and finally allows Psyche to become a goddess and the two get married and live happily ever after.

#### Tempus

By Jeni Nowobilski, Latin II student of Margaret Curran, Orchard Park High School, Orchard Park, New York

> Tempus breve, sacrum lude, ride, ama. Carpe diem! Gaudium.

Time short, sacred play, laugh, love. Scize the day! Joy

#### Aestas

By Faye Justicia-Linde, Latin III student of Mrs. Curran, Orchard Park High School, Buffalo, New York

> Aestas, Calida, aprica Curro, nato, tudo Hoc tempus fugit. Libertas

Summer Hot, sunny I run, I swim, I play This time flies. Freedom

#### Vita Civis Plebis

By Alysia Ferguson, Latin II student of Donna Wright, Lawrence North High School, Indianapolis, Indiana

I wake in the morning. The sun rises until it is superior to even the shops on the top of the hills. It pierces through the small crack between the curtain, calls to me, wakes me up, opens my eyes. I rub them.

I sit up. My body is quick in its own way. A single, thin blanket lies across my bare legs, and I am suddenly aware of the cold. The small oil lamp that I have grown accustomed to using for heat must have gone out some time during the night.

As I lightly step out of my bed, I can feel the cold stone upon my heels—a sensation which I follow until even my toes feel numb. I continue taking small, cautious steps until I feel the light fabric of the curtain between my fingertips. I follow its edge until my fingers can move upward no further and I swiftly pull the curtain to the right. A sudden warmth comes over my body and I am able to see. The smell of a new morning passes in front of me and I see recognizable people, acquaintances who move in front of the door to my insula.

"Ah, so they are out early today," I say softly to myself. I know that I must hurry. A surplus of goods means a loss of money which I am unable to afford.

The son of a freedman, I possess little. My father was the longtime slave of a very distinguished senator. When the man was found assassinated one morning in his villa, the slaves (whom he had freed in his will) were somewhat forgotten. My father began life as a baker which was the only trade 1 learned. He married a woman who died while giving birth to me.

I will not marry.

I open my shop. A bakery sells to everyone, for there are none who can do without bread. Some buy. Some steal. Some slaves of senators pay much more than is expected.

I make a small profit, not enough to support a family. Thus, I do not regret my koneliness. I do, however, feel a hint of sadness when I see a man walk by with two young children, I find myself speculating about his life. From the looks of his attire, he appears to be a senator. I was once in love with a senator's wife.

I do not close my shop until nearly dark. Many people prefer to shop late, and I am more than willing to work late. While on my walk home, I hear several carriages pass by me. Nighttime in Rome is much more full of life for me than the daytime.

#### Aphrodite

By Anna Fecker, Latin I student of Mrs. Tigert, Turpin High School, Cincinnati, Ohio

When Zeus murdered Cronus, he threw him into the

From the blood and the water, a goddess was to be.
Aphrodite, the goddess of love, rose from the foam;
Zeus brought her to Olympus, right up to his throne
Where Hera quickly realized the goddess was too
beautiful to live all alone.

The gods were called together and promised gifts and treasure,

For Aphrodite was to marry the one whose gifts gave her most pleasure.

When Hephaestus' turn came, Hera told him what to say:

That he would be gone at work all day. So Aphrodite married Hephaestus and with great pleasure

Told each god when to come with his gifts and his treasure.

#### Diamante: Hephaestus and Ares

By Hyacinth D'Costa, Latin III student of Dr. Marianthe Colakis, Berkeley Preparatory School, Tampa, Florida

> Hephaestus industrious, ugly creating, molding, toiling kindness, Cyclopes, cruelty, Panic destroying, fighting, idling vain, handsome Ares

110.



- I. PARTICEPS, Iohannes Grishamus
- MMMI: ODYSSEA ULTIMA, Arthurus C. Clarcus
- III. PUGILLARIA, Nicolaus Scintillae
- IV. VIII NUNDIAE IN SALUTEM OPTIMAM, Andreas Veilus
- V. PACIS DONUM, Iosephus Cardinalis Bernadinus
- VI. OS AD FENESTRAM, Dionysius Proculterrides
- VII. IN BELLO PRO PACE, C. N. Hetzner
- VIII. RABINUS: VITA NOSTRA, LEGATUM EIUS, Lea Rabinus
- IX. SANCTUARIUM, Nora Roberti
- X. CRABONIS NIDUS, Patricia Cornuelus

#### Licetne Adire Ad Valetudinarium?

Based on a game by Lori Daigle, Latin I student of Mrs. Fine, Archbishop Blenk H.S., Gretna, Louisiana

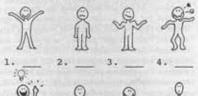
cough	A.	angina
 fever	B.	catarrhus
 sore throat	C.	quassatura
cramp	D.	vertigo
flu	E.	tussis
dissiness	F	capitis dole

oitis dolor concussion G. spasmus 106. febris headache H.

#### Vitae Varietates

By Cynthia Chiang, Latin IV student of Frances Newman, University High School, Urbana, Illinois Under each drawing place the letter of the Latin adjective which best describes it.

108.





10. 11.





anxius K. impatiens inobservatus cogitabundus confusus M. instinctus

desperatus D. N. maestus E ebrius O. mortuus excitatus musculosus G.

felix obesus O. H. funestus R. nescius furiosus somniane

gracilis T. tostus

#### **Ubinam Gentium Sumus?**

C

Based upon a game submitted by Ruth Veldman, Latin I student of Darrel Huisken, Covenant Christian School, Grand Rapids, Michigan

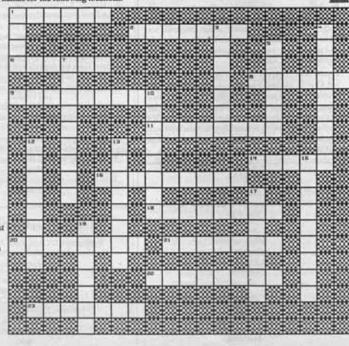
Write in the Latin names for the following locations

#### ACROSS

- Sweden Greece
- Africa
- France
- Finland
- 11. Germany
- 14. Crete 16. England
- 18. Russia
- 20. Snain
- 21. Tunisia
- Ireland 23. Holland

#### DOWN

- China
- Japan 4. Portugal
- Italy Country on the east coast of the
- Adriatic Sea 10. Egypt
- 12. Switzerland
- Prussia
- 17. Sicily
- 19. Capri





L	FELES NON SALTANT	10%
n.	CATERVA DUPLEX	-
III.	MENDAX, MENDAX	1
IV,	SANCTUS ILLE	
V.	VIR SEXTUS	_
VI.	EXCOGITARE ABBATES	
VII.	DIABOLI PROPRII	
VIII.	IEDORUM REDITUS	
IX.	ILLE AFFECTUS PRISCUS	
X.	AEGER ANGLICUS	

# A Greek Riddle

By Brendan Teague, Latin II student of Nancy Tigert, Anderson H.S., Cincinnati, Ohio

Unscramble the names of the Greco-Roman deities. Unscramble the bracketed letters to solve the riddle.

(A4)	FULLOW	
2	SACHBUC	
3.	TULOP	
4.	RUCERMY	
5.	AHER	
6.	RAMS	
7.	PERITUJ	
8.	SECER	
9.	VERNIMA	
10	STAVE	
11.	NADIA	
12	NETTIPEN	AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY OF

Games not named after a mountain located between



# Macedonia and Thessaly:

Listen to the Animals 1111 A Pompeilana, Inc. learning game. Use of Oxford Classical Dictionary required.

	Animalia		Voces
1.	Accipiter	A.	balat
2.	Anguis	B.	barrit
3.	Anser	C.	blaterat
4.	Apis	D.	bombilat
5.	Asellus	E.	bubulat
6.	Bos	F.	canit
7.	Bubo	G.	crocit
8.	Camelus	H.	cuculat
9.	Canis	1.	gingrit
10.	Corvus	J.	gruit
11.	Cuculus	K.	hinnit
12.	Elephas	L.	latrat
13.	Equus	M.	loquitur
14.	Gallus	N.	mintrit
15.	Grus	O.	nsugit
16.	Leo	P.	oncat
17.	Lupus	Q.	pipat
18.	Mus	R.	rugit
19.	Ovis	S.	sibilat
20.	Psittacus	T.	ululat



#### Geography of Gaul

By Matt Williams, Latin IV student of Mrs. Carol Berardelli, North Penn H.S., Lansdale, Penn.

ACROSS Latin word for the

SW part of Gaul The Rhone River 8 Germany The Marne River 9.

The Pyrences 13. 15. Paris

Ancient Spain

DOWN

16.

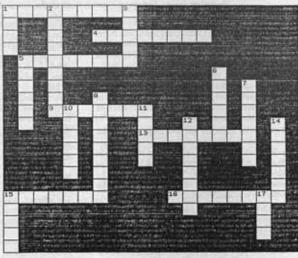
The Saône River Modern Bosnia & 2 Albania

The Aisne River Geneva 6. The Celtic part of

Gaul 7. The land of the Belgae The island of 8. Britain The chief city of the 10.

Mandubii The Alps 11. Switzerland 12. The Garonne River 14,

15. The Loire River 17. The Jura Mountain Range



#### Picture This!

Based on a game submitted by Missy Jardine and Megan Cavanaugh, Latin III students of Nancy Tigert, Anderson H.S., Cincinnati, Ohio

Place the letter of each Latin phrase under the picutre which best illustrates its meaning.









113.

112.









11.

12.



10.

Mens sana in corpore sano. B. Memento mori. Aspirat primo fortuna labori.

Nullum sacculum magnis ingeniis clausum est.

Quos amor verus tenuit tenebit. Trahimur omnes laudis studio.

Labor omnia vincit.

Cedant arma togae. Suum cuique.

Qui loquitur celerius nihil scit.

Potest ex casa magnus vir exire. Ut sementum feceris ita metes.

# Those Matchless Deities

By Matt Doyle, Latin Student of Polly Rod, Tulier School, Tucson, Arizona

h the symbols with the Roman deity with whom

SALES AND SHOP	issociated.
1.	Diana
2	Vulcan
3,	Mercury
4.	Cupid
5.	Faunus
6.	Mars
7.	Minerva

Owl, shield

Eagle, oak B. Winged cap D. Goats, satyrs E. Hearth fire

Pomegranate Stag Gold arrow Vesta Dogs Jupiter Anvil, forge

# Troiani Belli Dramatis Personae

Based on a game by Megan Erbacher and Keri Zellmer, Latin students of Linda Braun, Thomas Moore Prep-Marian, Hays, Kansas

1.	Athena	A	Mother of Aeneas
2.	Hera	B,	Prince of Troy
3.	Aphrodite	C.	Helped Ulysses steal
4.	Eris		the Palladium
5.	Zeus	D.	Agamemnon's brother
6.	Paris	E.	Greek spy
7.	Helen	F.	Powerful sorceress
8.	Odysseus	G.	Wooden horse dedicated
9.	Diomedes		to this deity
10.	Laocoon	H.	Mother of Hector
11.	Sinon	I.	Goddess of Discord
12.	Cyclopes	J.	Illegitimate son
13.	Circe	K.	King of Troy
14.	Hermes	L	King of the gods
15.	Thetis	M.	Queen of Sparta
16.	Telegony	N.	Human sacrifice
17.	Menelaus	O.	One-eyed giants
18.	Hecuba	P.	Speared the horse
19.	Priam	Q.	King of Ithaca
20.	Iphigenia	R.	Most vengeful loser of the beauty contest
		5.	Messenger god

T. Mother of Achilles



Submitted by Casey Stewart, Latin I student of Mrs. Davidson, Anderson H.S., Cincinnuti, Ohio

UNUS EX NOBIS, Iohanna Osbornea

MONICA SANCTA, Semperclarus

MUNDUM QUEM INTELLEGO, Anima

MURUM MIRACULUM, Locus Irriguus in Desertis

IOANNA DULCIS, Qui Pendent de Armentario Equitante

CIRCUMSILIRE IN CAMERA, Piscis

VII. INHABILIS, Septem Maria Tres

VIII. ROSALIA, Melior Quam Ezra

IX. ACCENDE IGNEM MEUM, Fores Illae

PUSTULESCERE IN SOLE, Feminae Violentae

#### Mottoes of the National Guard

Mottoes submitted by Latin teacher Emerita, Gertrude Johnson, Frankfort, Indiana.

Circle the Latin mottoes suggested by the following English translations

1. To Conquer Is To Live

Just Like an Oak

It Does Not Know (How) To Yield

Deeds Not Words Faithful and Brave

Let Them Have It!

Equal To The Burden

Always To Aid

We Serve

We Save

115.

11 By Counsel and Courage 12.

It Shows The Way 13.

We Arm For The Fatherland

14. I Strike, I Protect



SINRATEOILISNOC

A Modern Myth

#### Felus

By Angela Skeeles, Latin II student of Mrs. Nancy Mazur, Marion L. Steele High School, Amherst, Ohio

There once was a young spy named Felus who lived in Athens. He was very curious as well as stealthy. When he enrolled in the army, he was soon chosen to fill the role of a spy. During the Trojan War the Greek commander gave a very dangerous and difficult task to Felus. There was a rumor that Vulcan was working on a secret weapon that he was to show the other gods in Pluto's kingdom. Felus was to sneak into the Underworld and carry back information about the weapon to the Greeks. This was a very dangerous task, but young Felus was daring and anxious to test his skill. Athena heard of this plan and she gave him her helmet of invisibility to use so he would not be seen. She also gave him special shoes to wear with padding on the bottom, so the gods could not hear him.

Felus set out upon his risky journey. He slipped silently through the Underworld without being seen, and only took off the helmet when he had to cross the river Styx. Finally, he found the gods grouped around Vulcan's fiery forge. As he was trying to see what was going on, some sparks flew from the forge and landed in Felus' eyes. He let out a yowl, and when he jumped, Athena's helmet flew off him. The gods all saw him and were extremely angry that a mortal had attempted to spy on the gods. His rashness amazed them. Jupiter decided immediately that Felus had to be destroyed, but Athena begged him to have mercy on the cunning youth whom she favored.

Jupiter bowed to the wish of his favorite child. Felus was changed into an intelligent and cunning animal to be called a Felex. His coat would be dark like the Underworld and his eyes would glow because of the sparks that had flown into them. He would walk sliently without being heard and his sense of hearing would be keen. He would, however, never talk again because of his terrible deed. He could spy on anything, but he would never be able to report what he had seen.

Because of Felus' treacherous plan against the gods, and because of his transformation by them, he and other black cats are known for bad luck or evil.

#### Artemis

Jessica Ritter, Eighth Grade Latin student of Mary Jane Koons, Sandy Run Middle School, Dresher, Pennsylvania

I am the Goddess of moon and hunt.

Being that is not an easy stunt.

I am the twin sister of Apollo.

As he is a hunter great, in his footsteps I follow.

My parents are Zeus and Leto

And whatever Zeus says no one can veto.

I never thought of marrying, until I met Orion

But Apollo tricked me into killing him and now I am

a-cryin'.

My symbols are the stag and moon.

I protect young animals from noon to noon.
The daughters of Niobe all died by my hand
'Cause Leto was insulted by their mother so grand.
I am always adorned in silver metals;
I prefer it to any flower petals.
You can probably tell by my hunting dress
That my name is Artemis.

#### Pluto and Proserpina

By Josh Pascoe, Latin Student of Betty Whittaker, Carmel Junior High School, Carmel, Indiana

Pluto loved a girl named Proscrpina.
So one day he went and seized her,
And he took her to his Underworld,
To be his wife for ever and ever.
Demeter got so mad she searched the world.
There was famine and all veggies died,
So Zeus sent Hermes to find his daughter,
In the land of the dead.
Pluto agreed to send her back to home,
But first he told her to eat some of these li'l seeds—She had not eaten all month long.
She ate six seeds from that pomegranate,
So every six months she stays with her mom,
And every aix months she stays with Pluto.

And now she is the goddess of the dead,

But also the goddess of fertility on the earth,

The Lives and Works of Roman Authors

#### Suctonius - Rome's Tabloid Historian

By Andrew Adams, Professor of Classics, North Central College, Naperville, Illinois

Gaius Suetonius Tranquillus is remembered today as the biographer of the Caesars, beginning with Julius Caesar and ending with Domitian (emperor from A.D. 81 to 96). He was a prolific writer, composing in both Greek and Latin, on Roman manners, customs, poets, famous men, etc. The only major work of Suetonius surviving today, however, is the Vita Caesarum, the Lives of the Caesars, and even the first paragraphs of this are missing, as Julius Caesar is already 15 years old when his biography begins.

We know that Suctonius was born about A.D. 70, and that he reached the age of about 70. He had legal training and became a secretary of the emperor Hadrian (A.D. 117-138); thus Suctonius had access to state archives and emperors' records (for example, he mentions owning some of Nero's poetry in the emperor's own handwriting).

The Lives of the Caesars has huge flaws, by modern history-writing standards. Suctonius too often does not cite his sources; he is not concerned with dating events; and he was a superstitious man, ready to believe is nomens and portents. His approach to each emperor is monotonous—he forces each Caesar into his outline. Yet Suctonius was (and is) popular and widely-read. If he lacks an historian's eye, he is loaded with details

of the private lives of the Caesars. Suctonius provides us with insights into the inhabitants of the Palatine Hill that can be found nowhere else. He delights in telling personal or unsavory anecdotes about these personalities. From Suctonius we learn, for example, that when Augustus had insomnia, he sent for storytellers to put him to sleep, and that Nero had an offensive body odor and enjoyed breaking into shops at night. It is no surprise that the BBC made heavy use of Suctonius in the 1970's mini-series, I, Claudius.

We also learn from Suctonius that Caligula killed a relative because he thought this relative was taking antidotes to poison, and therefore was insulting the emperor with his precautions; that Nero publicly married a boy; and that Domitian would spend hours catching and killing flies.

The informal, gossipy Suctonius, therefore, joins the scholarly Tacitus as they become Rome's two best-known historians of the Empire. Were these two alive today, Tacitus would be writing articles for an encyclopedia, and Suctonius would be working for The National Enquirer.

Difficulty level (on a scale of 1-10): 6; the sentences are sometimes long, and the author presumes an intimate knowledge of Roman society.

#### A Modified Myth

#### The Omega Labor

By Stephanie Jones, Latin II student of Dr. Marianthe Colakis, Berkeley Preparatory School, Tampa, Florida

There lived in Greece a much-loved hero named Hercules. He was very strong and courageous. His twelve labors completed, Hercules decided to settle down for a while and perhaps remarry. However, Hercules should have known better, for his enemy Hera still held a grudge against him. After Hercules remarried, Hera caused him to go into a terrible rage and he killed his new wife, Phila. Hercules knew he would have to go through purification once again, so he went to the Delphic Oracle for advice. He was told that he would have to perform a series of tasks which would be counted as one labor for a king named Tacitus in Thebes. The king was mistakenly thought to be a very timid and shy person because of the fact that he did not talk much. But that was far from the truth. When Hercules arrived at King Tacitus's palace, a lively conversation began and the king and Hercules quickly became good friends. Hercules was sent off to the first task after a couple of days.

The first task consisted of doing away with a huge, terrible water monster named Magnus Piscis that was destroying ships in various harbors on the coast of Greece. When Hercules arrived at the latest place that the monster had been terrorizing, it had already left, The damage it had done was extensive and Hercules realized that his task was not going to be easy by any means. Reluctantly he set off in pursuit of Magnu Piscis. Hercules reached his destination and immediately saw the monster, for its size was enormous. It had a single head with jaws and teeth the size of the largest shark's and it breathed ship-destroying fire. The monster's body was fairly small compared to its head and looked like that of a fish with fins and scales. Hercules thought and thought and finally came up with a way to overcome the creature. Hercules knew that Magnus Piscis must surface to breathe. He decided to lure the creature into the underwater caves along the rocky shore where it would get stuck and drown. Having completed the first task. Hercules went back to Thebes.

King Tacitus gave Hercules a day's rest before he sent him out on the next task. He was to capture a goat named Triceps that was ravaging marketplaces and eating all the food sold there. People were starving. The home of this goat was far away from Thebes, therefore, it took Hercules a day to get there. He spent the night with a kind old man in one of the villages the goat had been plundering. Following directions, he set off to find the goat's cave. It was empty, so Hercules set out for another nearby village. Before long, Hercules came upon an empty market. It was then Hercules knew he had found the goat because fruits

and vegetables were strewn over the ground. Suddenly a gigantic goat, bigger than any Hercules had ever seen, appeared. It had three hornless goat beads on a goat body. When Triceps saw Hercules, it charged him but the agile Hercules stepped aside. It would be difficult for Hercules to grab hold of this creature because it had no horns, but Hercules skillfully swung a rope around one of its necks and rode Triceps back to Thebes where he presented it to King Tacitus.

It took Hercules another day to get back to Thebes and he was given a day's rest before executing the next and final task. This task was to rescue King Augeas's cattle from a man who had stolen them. He was no ordinary man for he had five eyes - two in the front of his head, one on each side, and one in the back. His name was Quinquoculus. He lived in the mountainous region in northern Italy. After Hercules' arrival, he found the man's home situated on top of a steep and treacherous mountain. Hercules wondered how Quinquoculus had led the cattle up the mountain and how he was going to get them down. Hercules climbed the mountain easily, in spite of the chafing winds. He found Quinquoculus chopping wood, but was quickly discovered. Quinquoculus made good use of his many eyes when it came to protecting his home. Even Hercules could not escape detection. The meeting, however, was peaceful, and Quinquoculus explained that he had taken the cattle for food. Hercules was led down the mountain to the hiding place in the valley. Quinquoculus gave him the cattle in exchange for money to buy food. Hercules went to Elis to give the cattle back to King Augeas and then returned to

With this thirteenth labor having been completed, Hercules was purified and free to live as he pleased. He fell in love with a woman named Deianira and married her. The years of his heroic deeds came to an end when Hercules died as a result of his wife's mistake. She was told by the Centaur Nessus that his poisonous blood was really a magical love potion. Because Deianira wanted to keep Hercules from falling in love with another woman, she covered him with a cloak soaked in the deadly blood. After Hercules's death, he was taken up to Olympus to live with the gods. He and Hera were reconciled and Hera even adopted Hercules. In Olympus, Hercules lived happily amongst the gods.

#### Bibliography

Carpenter, Thomas H. and Robert J. Gula. Mythology: Greek and Roman, New York: Longman, 1977.

#### Visit Rome With Chariot Tours

By Latin students of Mrs. Cynthia Ware, Conestoga High School, Berwyn, Pennsylvania

Friends, Romans and countrymen, lend me your ears. Chariot Tours is proud to announce its excellent tour of Rome. Rome is the bustling, cosmopolitan center of the Empire. You'll see the Amphitheatrum Flavium, the Circus Maximus, the Pantheon, the Thermae, Templa, Horti, Arcus, Statuae, Macella and more.

From the Capitolium to the Palatium, from the Horti Sallusti to the Campus Martius, you'll see why Rome is called the "Urbs Actema." As one of our leading citizens has said recently, "To count up the glories of Rome is like counting the stars in the sky. The temples of Rome are so fine that the gods themselves might live in them. Streams that flow over my head on arches are grander than even the rainbow's highest arch. Rivers are channelled within the walls, lakes vanish in the baths, rivers flow in the gardens and the walls echo the sounds of water."

Be sure not to miss the excitement at the Amphitheatrum Flavium, Admission is free to this, the largest of the five amphitheaters in Rome. This immense architectural marvel was opened by Emperor Titus in 80 AD. Be among some 50,000 people to witness the gladiatorial shows, fights between men and wild animals, staged naval battles and executions of Christians. Exotic animals are brought in from all over the world for the hunting spectacles and, if you're lucky, you might encounter an elephant or a rhinoceros. Nighttime shows are especially fantastic because a massive iron chandelier is suspended above the arena. Rain or shine, you are protected at the amphitheater by the velarium, a huge canvas awning. Experience the ecstasy in hearing the proclamation "Ave, Caesar! Morituri te salutant." (Hail Emperor, those who are about to die salute you), in shouting "Ingulat" (Cut his throat), and seeing the Emperor turn pollice verso (thumbs down) - scaling the loser's fate.

A favorite event in Rome is the theater. Like the amphitheater, tickets are free. See the plays of Plautus, Terenoce and Naevius, including "Triphatlus" and "Girl from Tarentum." As the Roman people prefer comedies over tragedies, they have developed the techniques of mime and pantomime. The Theatrum Marcelli, which seats 60,000, was begun by Caesar, and completed by Augustus in 17 BC, to honor Marcellus, husband of the Emperor's daughter, Julia. At various times through the week, you can enjoy Fabulae Palliatae, Roman plays copied from Greek scripts; Fabulae Atellanae, slapstick farce about country life; Fabulae Praetextae, tragedies based on history, legends or current events; or Fabulae Togatae, comedies based on village life. With two thumbs up from Siskelius et

Ebertus, the Roman stage is not to be missed.

A definite must-see on your journey is the Pantheon, the greatest and most perfect of the circular temples of Rome. It's dome is often considered "the pride of the city." After the original building, erected in 27 BC by Agrippa, the son-in-law of Augustus, was destroyed by fire, the temple was rebuilt by Emperor Hadrian between AD 118 and 128. The word "pantheon," meaning "all gods," indicates the purpose of the building-a temple dedicated to all the gods. The Pantheon is unlike the majority of Roman temples in that the cella was designed as a great circular room over 150 feet across. Around the walls are recesses for the statues of the gods. Take careful notice of the especially magnificent places of honor reserved for the protecting deities of the Julian family, Mars and Venus, to whom the original structure was dedicated. All the light for the interior is provided by a great circular oculus, 27 feet in diameter. This opening symbolically allows the gods to look down from their lofty perches in the heavens into the temple raised in their honor. Even the critics agree: "A sojourn in Rome would hardly be complete without a visit to the Pantheon. For this is one of the great spatial experiences to be had anywhere on earth. There is a mystical calm here, a sacred repose which soothes and elevates and refreshes. There truly is in the Pantheon a sense of the divine quality in everything that exists; a sense of awe, a solemnity-of eternity."

The Circus Maximus is home to Rome's most popular sport, chariot racing. So come, spend a day at the races-betting on teams, cheering for your favorite, the Veneti, Prasini, Russati, or Albati, and buying snacks from vendors. The stadium, with the capacity for 250,000 spectators, was built by Tarquinius Priscus and later enlarged and reconstructed by Julius Caesar. Each race consists of seven laps around the course, with, most often, four racehorses harnessed to tiny, two-wheeled chariots. What a splendid sight as the chariots line up for the start! The horses are decorated with pearls in their manes; their harnesses are studded with silver and the ribbons of their color. Pay close attention to the technique of the charioteersdeliberately smashing into the opposing chariots, hoping to destroy them. Maybe you'll even catch a glimpse of Diocles, Rome's most famous charioteer, with 1,462 wins and 92 major money prizes to his name. Join the intensity, the passion, the danger. Visit the Circus Maximus

Be sure to ask about our side trip to Compania, once the site of Pompeii and Herculaneum — beautiful cities at the foot of Mount Vesuvius which buried them.

#### Poems

By Ashley Nathanson, Latin II student of Nancy Tigert, Turpin High School, Cincinnati, Ohio

#### Physical Cinquain

Equus Ingens Fortis Voco Audio Specto Voco equum Equus

Horse
Huge Brave
I call I hear I see
I call the horse.
Horse

#### **Emotional Cinquain**

Timor Tristis Territus Habeo Teneo Iaceo Careo timore. Timor

Fear Sad Frightened I hold I grasp I lie situated I lack fear. Fear



#### Cucumeres Cum Feniculo Cocti

As Pompeiiana readers know who have been following this column all year (and perhaps trying the various recipes), health-conscious Americans can do no better than to include as many Roman dishes as possible in their weekly diets.

This final recipe for 1996 – 1997 offers a different and delicious alternative way to enjoy cucumeres: cooked!

#### Res Commiscendae:



2 cucumbers, peeled and sliced

1/4 t. ground pepper

1 T. mint (freshly chopped)

1 T. honey

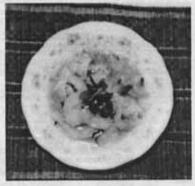
1/2 cup chicken broth

1 t. white wine vinegar

1 t. fennel

Place the sliced cucumbers in a pot. Add the pepper, mint, honey, chicken stock and vinegar. Bring to a boil. Sprinkle with fennel. Then cover and simmer until the cucumbers are lightly cooked (about 10 minutes).

#### Bonum Appetitum!



Attention Magistri, Magistrae, Studentes:

Plan now to have your Roman culinary adventures included in next year's fall issues of the Pompeliana NEWSLETTER. Before the end of this school year, mail documentary photographs and texts describing your recipe preparations to:

Ancient Recipes '97-'98 Pompeilana, Inc., 6026 Indianola Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46220-2014

#### Happynose

By Matthew Chemosky, Latin V student of Michael J. Gravino, Ward Melville High School, Setauket, New York

Fabullus was hungry for food Catullus was not in the mood but invited him later, when Fabullus would cater. Wouldn't you think that was rude? Fabullus soon learned from Cat's pen that a smell would entice him and when the scent did not fade, he'd ask to be made, all nose with eyes only for men.

#### Quid Est?

By Teri Bartlett and Robin McKelvey, Latin student of Nancy R. Benn, Hollidaysburg Area Sr. High School, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania

Id semper erat et semper erit. Id numquam incipit, numquam subsistit. Comparatum cum aetemitate, id numquam erat. Si autem spectes, id videas in primă palmae tuae parte.

#### What Is It?

It always was and always will be. It never starts, it never stops. Compared to eternity, it never was. But if you look, you might see it on your wrist.

#### Teutoberg Forest (Continued a Pagina Prima)

Other artifacts recently found are medical instruments. These indicate that a large military contingent such as a Roman legion was here.

The third and most conclusive evidence so far that the battle was here is the thousands of Roman coins found in this area. None are more recent than the year 9 CE. Archaeologists call this kind of evidence "terminus ante quem," since the absence of later coins establishes 9 as the end of a time period.

An important aspect of this site is not only what has been found, but what has not been found. No important traces of German weapons have been unearthed. This indicated a German victory since the victors would have taken their weapons with them.

The most fascinating part of the excavation is that new artifacts continue to be found. By the time you read this, perhaps they will have discovered the burial mound erected by Germanicus Caesar in 15 CE.

#### Bibliography

Bishop, Michael, "mcbishop@zetnet.co.uk," message and the January 23, 1997 bibliography on the Internet at romarch@rome.classics.lsa.umich.edu

#### How Well Did You Read? 118

- After which European city's Latin name was Largo Argentina named?
- 2. What is the modern name for the disease which caused Emperor Claudius to stutter?
- 3. How did Psyche betray Cupid's trust?
- 4. Why does Redemptor Maximus attend the saturationes of influential patricians?
- 5. Why is it logical that no German weapons are being discovered at the current Teutoberg site?
- In which country is Hercules: The Legendary Journeys filmed?
- What kind of Roman plays were called Fabulae Palliatae?
- 8. Who tricked Deianira into killing her husband?
- 9. What was the name of the Roman emperor who enjoyed torturing flies?
- 10. What is the Latin name of the formal animal sacrifice which was offered to Ceres?

Ferias Agamus (Continued a Pagina Prima)



#### The "sacrificed" effigies float down stream.

should take the effigy a/be constructed and go to the bridge. The history of the festival should be read aloud. Finally, on command of the teacher, all the students should shout in unison, "Vae Victis!" before throwing the effigies into the water.

Since straw effigies are bio-degradable, they are environmentally friendly and should cause no harm.

#### Ambaryalia - May 29

Once again, this festival falls on a school day this year (Thursday). This festival honors Ceres with a Suovetaurilla—the sacrifice of a pig, a sheep and a bull which have been led around a field three times, and with the influx of the three natural liquids (milk, honey, wine) into the soil.

#### Preparations.

A) Assign a volunteer to prepare the historical reading. B) The teacher will need to identify a grassy area near the school on which the commemoration can be held. C) If your school is rural and it can be arranged, volunteers could plan to bring manageable live animals to the field for the day of commemoration: a cow or calf (bulls being potentially dangerous), a pig or piglet, and a sheep. D) Volunteers should volunteer to make three small cakes, in the shapes of a bull, a pig and a sheep. E) A volunteer should bring in a small

#### Looking for Rare or Out-of-Print Books?

The Advanced Book Exchange Free INTERNET Book Searches 500+ book dealers worldwide 1 million rare and out-of-print books http://www.abchooks.com hand sickle. F) Volunteers should bring in a small carton of milk, a small container of grape juice and a packet of honey. G) A girl should volunteer to dress as Ceres. H) If there is a chariot or litter available, volunteers should agree to prepare it for the day and provide the muscle power to transport "Ceres" around the field. I) A boy should agree to dress as a priest of Ceres. J) Three students should agree to dress as camilli or camillar.

#### The Commemoration:

On the day of the festival, Ceres should dress in her costume and all props should be taken to the field.

If live animals have been provided, they should be led in procession around the field three times. If live animals cannot be provided, students carrying the three animal cakes should take the place of the animals in the procession. Ceres, accompanied by her priest (carrying the sickle) and the camilli/camillae (carrying the milk, wine and honey), should lead the procession either in her chariot, on a litter, or on foot, All the other participants should follow the animals around the field. As the procession turns each corner of the field, all should shout in unison, "Io, Ambarvalia".

After the third circumambulation, all should surround Ceres, her priest and the camillicamillae. The history of the festival should be read aloud.

The priest should then plunge the sickle into the earth, and pour the three natural liquids into the opening in the ground.

When he finishes, all should once again shout "Io, Ambawalia" before feasting on the animal cakes to conclude the celebration.

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#### Magistri Magistraeque!

Enclosed in this issue of the Pompeiiana NEWSLETTER is a special renewal card marked with a red

> NOTA BENE

Please take this opportunity to renew your classroom subscription for next year so your students can start the year with their personal copies of the September 1997 issue.

In the fall, of course, you may adjust the number of student copies you order once your final enrollment is identified.

#### Mandata Aestiva

Teachers, don't forget to place your school orders for Pompeiiana's Latin Cultural Drill Tapes (\$149.00) and The Life and Training of a Roman Legionnair video (\$129.00). Items ordered now through your school can be ready and waiting for your use in the fall.

#### **Fundus Locandus**

If you have been seeking a change of life, a return to your rural roots, this may be your chance. A beautiful 250 acre farm is available for lease near the third milestone from the *Porta Vessolana*. Terms: 20% of grain harvest, 10% of fruit; 15% of income from pastured animals. See M. L. Tiburtinus, Pompeiis.

#### Mollimenta in Cyberneticis Machinis Utenda

Those who are trying to do more with classical studies via computers may be interested in the following on-line sources for FREE software provided courtesy of Professor William Magrath, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana:

Apple QuickTime: free products for graphics and video (Mac + Windows)

http://qtvr.quicktime.apple.com/

MacUser Web edition: magazine on Mac hardware/software and sites.

http://www.zdnet.com:80/macuser/

NCSA Software development: produce free copies of Mosaic, Telnet, etc.

http://www.ncsa.uius.edu/SDG/Software/Brochure /Macsoftdir.html RealAudio: free and commercial downloads for audio

and video players. http://www.realaudio.com/

#### Subsidia Latina Graecaque in Interrete

Professor William Magrath of Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana, provides the following resources on the Internet for classicists:

Latin Conversations in "real time" http:// www.uscrs.intellinet.com/ "magreyn/mugit.htm Spectacular simulations of Pompeli Forum buildings: http://

jefferson.village.virginia.edu/pompcii/page-1.html SPQR: An Ancient Adventure in Rome: http://path finder.com/@@G1g5AYAdJNnQleV/twep/rome/ Electronie Resources for Classicists

http://www.tlg.uci.edu/~tlg/index/resources.html Forum for Latin Teachers:

http://pen.k12.va.us/ "mkeith/Forum.shtml
A Course Syllabus for Greek Mythology:
http://www.frinity.edu/ "mgarriso/MythSyllabus.html
Using Web and TV resources to instruct HS Latin:
http://www.dl.ket.org/latin1/index.htm
Innovative college course on classical mythology:

Innovative college course on classical mythology: http://www.classics.rhodes.edu/GRS/courses/GRS2 11/GRS211.project.01.html

Amazing list of course materials on Classics: http://www.colleges.org/ctts/clscourses.shtml Ludus Sanae Mentls (a quirky site on Latin): http://pw2.netcom.com/~nemesise/latin.html Archive of 400 Classics Texts: http://classics.mit.edu//index.html

By David Stofka



TO MY FELLOW GRADUATES, LIET US TAKE PRODE IN OUR ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PAST FOLE YEARS







By Catherine Clark

Piedmont, California



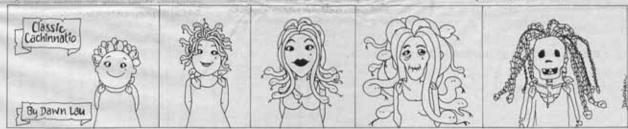
By Bethany Daniel

Columbus, Mississippi



By Dawn Lau

Pymble, Australia



By Nick Lazzara

Chesterfield, Missouri





By Juan Carlos Garcia

Miami, Florida

By Sam Means

Bethesda, Maryland

By Erin Gwilt Yorktown, Virginia

Having rid the Mediterranean Sea of pirates, Caesar at last énjoys a pracéful day at sea. assix 0

0

Then gNow Sam DWW7063 Carthago Hurting people Delenda est!



# Latin . . . Your Best Educational Investment

#### Pompeiiana, Inc.

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Executive Director: Dr. B. F. Barcio, L.H.D.

Administrative Assistant to the Editor: Donna H. Wright
Publication Assistants: William Gilmartin, Betty Whittaker

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LS.S. # 08925941

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Students submitting work should include the name of their Latin teacher and the name and address of the school they attend.

What may be submitted

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- 2. Special interest photos or news reports of Latin activities.
- 3. Latin reviews of Movies or Movie Stars, Musical, Sports, or Political Figures. (English translations required for proofing.)
- Summaries or reviews of articles published elsewhere, complete with references to original author, title of publication, date, and page numbers.
- 5. Learning games and puzzles, complete with solutions.
- 300-400 word, cleverly written essays about anything Roman. These may be serious or tongue-in-cheek parodies.

Pompeiiana attempts to publish as much submitted work as possible. It does not pay spontaneous contributors.

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(These solutions are mailed with each Order sent in care of a teacher member. Copies are also sent to all Adult and Contributing Members)



THAT OLD FEELING

THE ENGLISH PATIENT

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20. K		20. M

AQUELTANTE KIH DANUM MANIA PYR NAE SPANY

> Those Matchless Deities G 3. C H D

#### Carmina Optima ONE OF US, Joan Osborne

116.

- SANTA MONICA, Everclear
- THE WORLD I KNOW, Collective Soul
- WONDERWALL, Oasis IV. SWEET JANE, Cowboy Junkies
- VL BOUNCIN' AROUND THE ROOM, Phish
- VIII CUMBERSOME, Seven Mary Three
- VIII ROSALIA, Better Than Ezra
- LIGHT MY FIRE, The Doors IX.
- BLISTER IN THE SUN, Violent Femmes

117. 1 0 0 0 7

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118.

#### How Well Did You Read?

- Strasbourg (Argentorutum)
- Little's Discar
- She secretly looked at him while he slept.
- To win favor so he can be awarded more building contracts.
- Because, as victors, the Germans would have retrieved their own weapons after the battle.
- In New Zealand
- Roman plays copied from Greek scripts.
- The centaur Nessus
- Nero
- 10. A movetaurilia.

# Will the Real Hercules Please Stand Up!

Hercules has returned - on television and without his beard.

The name of the show is Hercules: The Legendary Journeys, and the character of this modern Hercules is played by a California actor named Kevin Sorbo.

The modern Hercules, however, does not pursue his "Legendary Journeys" in Greece, but in New Zealand, where the forests are still rather primitive-even if they are not warm because the sun rarely shines there.

There are several inconsistencies in this show that even the newest students of Latin will notice immediately. First of all, although the writers use the Latin name of the hero (Hercules) and not the Greek name (Heracles), nevertheless all the other classical names heard on the show are Greek

The writers of this show do indeed try to include classical themes, classical monsters and classical names, but they do not feel obligated to portray only those events described in ancient literature and mythology. Most episodes have little to do with ancient stories although the names of Greek gods and monsters are mentioned occasionally so viewers can know that they are watching Hercules and not Tarzan.

Although these modern journeys of Hercules are not faithful to the tales of classical literature, the occasional references to Greek gods and monsters do make this show better than the show which follows it on television: Xena: Warrior Princess.

The action of Xens does appear to take place in the same age as Hercules, but the writers of this show make no pretence of tying the action to classical literature. This show seems to be on television to please feminists. On this show women show that they too can be in charge in a primitive forest while performing athletic maneuvers in skimpy outfits.

Could Xena have defeated Hercules? No way! Hercules was semi-divine (his father was Jupiter and his mother Alcmena), but Xena is a mortal.

Could Lucy Lawless (the actress who portrays the character of Xena) defeat the actor Kevin Sorbo? Kevin himself has said, "Lucy could probably beat me up pretty easily,"

In classical mythology Hercules had the strength of 20 men and he was not easily tricked. Hercules was consistently strong and always clever. The ancient Hercules soldom had a bad day.

On the show Hercules: The Legendary Journeys Hercules' strength and eleverness are inconsistent. In some episodes Hercules has trouble defeating a single mortal, and in others he easily defeats twenty opponents at once. In some episodes enemies can aneak up behind Hercules and knock him outsomething which could never have happened to the ancient Hercules.

How much does the actor Kevin Sorbo resemble the hero Herculea? Not much.

Kevin does have a muscular body, but he has no beard-the trademark of the ancient hero. Kevin also writes music, likes to dance and writes poetry-all of which are very non-Herculean activities.

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