



L



POSTSCRIPT

NEWSLETTER of the
LATIN and GREEK INSTITUTE
of the CUNY Graduate Center
and Brooklyn College

G

I

Vol.1 No.3

Spring 1980

It's spring, and the poets celebrate the renewal of love, travel and work.

It ver et Venus, et Veneris praenuntius ante
pennatus graditur, Zephyri vestigia propter
Flora quibus mater praespargens ante viai
cuncta coloribus egregiis et odoribus opplet.

Lucretius, 5.737-740.

Iam veris comites, quae mare temperant,
impellunt animae lintea Thraciae;
iam nec prata rigent nec fluvii strepunt
hibernā nive turgidi.

Horace, Odes, 4.12.1-4.

Vere novo, gelidus canis cum montibus umor
liquitur et Zephyro putris se glaeba resolvit,
depresso incipiat iam tum mihi taurus aratro
ingemere, et sulco attritus splendescere vomer.

Vergil, Georgics, 1:43-46.

vēr, -is, N. spring; pennātus, -a, -um
winged; Zephyrus, -ī, M. west wind; vesti-
gium, -ī, N. footstep; propter here Adv.;
viāī-viae (Gen.); cunctus, -a, -um all;
ēgregius, -a, -um extraordinary.

temperō (1) make calm; animae here breezes;
linteum, -ī, N. sail; prātum, -ī, N. mea-
dow; rigeō be stiff; fluvius, -ī, M.
stream; strepō roar.

cānus, -a, -um gray; ūmor, -ōris, M. mois-
ture; līquor melt; putris, -e crumbling;
glaeba, -ae, F. clod, soil; iam tum just
then; arātrum, -ī, N. plough; ingemō (+
Dat.) groan over; sulcus, -ī, M. furrow;
vōmer, -eris, M. ploughshare.

Whether it's spring or not, for Ibykos love is always in season.

Ἴβρι μὲν αἶ τε Κυδώνιαι
μηλίδες ἀρδόμεναι ῥοάν
ἐκ ποταμῶν, ἵνα παρθένων
κῆπος ἀκήρατος, αἶ τ' οἰνανθίδες
αὐξόμεναι σκιεροῖσιν ὑφ' ἔρνεσιν
οἰναρείοις θαλέθοισιν· ἐμοὶ δ' ἔρος
οὐδεμίαν κατάκοιτος ὦραν,
ἰλλ' ἄθ' ὑπὸ στεροπᾶς φλέγων
Θρηάκιος βορέας, αἰσ-
σων παρὰ Κύπριδος ἀζαλέαις μανί-
αισιν ἐρεμνὸς ἀθαμβῆς
παιδόθεν ἐγκρατέως φυλάσσει
ἡμετέρας φρένας.

ἦρ, -ου, τό spring; Κυδώνιος, -α, -ον Cydonian;
μηλίδς, -ίδος, ἡ (Cydonian apples = quinces);
ἄρδω water; mid., drink; ῥοά, -ᾶς, ἡ stream;
ποταμός, -οῦ, ὁ river; ἵνα where; παρθένος,
ου, ἡ virgin; κῆπος, -ου, ὁ garden; ἀκήρατος,
-ον pure; οἰνανθίς, -ίδος, ἡ young vine shoot;
αὐξω increase; pass., grow; σκιερός, -ά, -όν
shady; ἔρνος, -εος, τό sprout; οἰνάρειον, -ου,
τό vine leaf; θαλέθω bloom, flourish; ἔρος,
-ου, ὁ love, desire; κατάκοιτος, -ον at rest;
ὦρα, -ας, ἡ season; ἄτε just as; στεροπή, -ῆς,
ἡ lightning flash; φλέγω flame, make flash;
ἀτσω dart; ἀζαλέος, -α, -ον parching; μανία,
-ας, ἡ mad passion; ἐρεμνός, -ή, -όν dark;
ἀθαμβῆς, -ές fearless; παιδόθεν from childhood;
ἐγκρατέως strongly.

Of Adjectives and Nouns

One of the earliest points made about Latin adjectives is their readiness to do the work of nouns. English, too, has the capacity to use adjectives as nouns, but who will deny that such a use seems literary, removed from daily life? "The beautiful and damned," "the free and the brave," "a word to the wise" are phrases which vibrate too much on the prosaic tongue, perhaps in part because they are too indeterminate in gender, and so not precise enough for useful speech. Consider: Boni nostram laudem merent. In translating this sentence we could say, "The good deserve our praise," but are we not more likely to render, "[the] good men"? Thus we readily turn boni back into an adjective, while implicitly assuming the ellipsis of--say--viri. Perhaps we have no choice, if we are to render the force of the masculine plural ending. Dull, but precise; or is it? Lacking a context, cannot the masculine plural be construed as the plural common gender? Recall liberi "children"; were not little Romans of both sexes? (Or were males alone counted?!) Perhaps we should consider "good people" or "good persons." Precise, but still dull.

The English adjective-as-noun seems to be plural common gender ("the old," "the rich") or singular neuter ("the red and the black"). In this view, then, English does not have the resources to translate--let us say--bonus . . . meret as "the good deserves," since bonus, a singular, more than likely has a personal referent (whether male or female), not a neuter one. But one thing is certain about this English construction: however its gender or number may be construed, an adjective is changed into a noun by placing a magical "the" before it. The Latin construction, indeed the language, has no such noun-marker; consequently, might not many apparent cases of adjective-as-noun equally well be termed adjective used as adjective, with the ellipsis of the modified noun? (Perhaps bona, a neuter plural, cuts short these speculations, since no possibly ellipsed neuter plural noun springs to mind.) And so by all means let us continue to render bonus, bona, boni, bona, etc. as "good man," "good woman," "good men/people," "good things," etc.--dull, but precise, and perhaps in keeping--largely!--with the ellipsis theory.

Contrarily, one of the miraculous features of English is the absolute ease with which it turns nouns into adjectives: "the Iran crisis," "the organization man," "garage door," "Brooklyn Bridge." Latin, too, has the power to use nouns as adjectives, but who will deny that we try not to believe it? In Caesar's phrase, tantum exercitum victorem, we squeeze an appositive noun out of victorem, rather than see it as an adjective. But with Vergil's populum late regem, we cannot possibly deny regem the status of adjective; and for two reasons: the collective noun populum and the singular regem do not jibe; late, an adverb, modifies regem. Render it as "ruling." But why, if English uses nouns as adjectives so readily, should we translate regem not as "king" but as "ruling"? Because, although under the right (rare) circumstances "king people" might be made to work, "widely king people" is a mere impossibility, showing that nouns-as-adjectives in English still mysteriously retain their identity as nouns. Martial's virginis pater chartae supplies a good case for the English noun-as-adjective to shine: "the father of the virgin poem" [by metonymy]; no need for "virginal" here. The strangest noun-as-adjective in Latin is the indeclinable frugi, the frozen dative singular of frux. Is a dative of purpose lurking in Cicero's frugi homo "honest man"? Probably not, if we compare Horace's tam frugi tamque pudica [said of Penelope]. Will we be so perverse as to render "so for fruit"? Or give in and admit that Latin--perhaps the more literary Latin, removed from daily life--did make sparing use of the noun-as-adjective?

Who	What	Where
<p>Lynn Garafola L73 will be married on May 4th. Alan Shweky L74 is working as a law assistant for the New York State Supreme Court in Brooklyn. Susan Fuller L75 was married in October. She's working on her doctoral dissertation in medieval German and now living in Rhode Island. Paul Rorem L76 has a post-doctoral fellowship for research at the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies in Toronto.</p>	<p>HANSEN & QUINN COMES OUT</p> <p>The abundant materials developed for the Institute's Greek program by Hardy Hansen and Gerry Quinn are now available in book form. Fordham University Press has just released <u>Greek: An Intensive Course in a two-volume format</u>. You say you've used this text and are pleased with its sensible and thorough presentation? Then why not whisper sweet somethings into the ear of a colleague or friend?</p>	<p>ADVANCED LATIN IN JEOPARDY</p> <p>The new advanced Latin Institute might be held this summer. If you or someone you know is interested, call the Institute at 790-4284. The planning has been done, the readings chosen, the personnel primed and the seats dusted off. A good number of students have already applied, but more applicants are needed to meet CUNY Graduate Center requirements for minimum program size.</p>
<p>Maureen Meehan L77 was back in Mexico from December thru April. Neil Jacobowitz L78 is working as a copy editor for a law publishing firm. On April 11, 1980 Joan Dayan L78 successfully defended her dissertation. Her Ph.D. in comparative literature will be awarded in May. Marilyn Pettit L78 is a teaching assistant in history this semester at NYU. Steve Eddy L78 is an assistant production editor at Basic Books.</p>	<p>Cornelius Nepos (c.99-c.24 B.C.), Roman historian, once a standard author in beginning Latin, is now famous for being mentioned by Wallace Stevens in "The Man on the Dump."</p>	<p>The proposed topic is Roman Love Poetry and the Rise of European Love Lyric; classes will run for seven weeks (7 July to 26 August). Fred J. Nichols (Comparative Literature, CUNY Graduate Center) and John Arthur Hanson (Classics, Princeton) have worked out the course format as follows:</p>
<p>Tom Lawrence G78 will marry on August 9th and is preparing to enter graduate school at Assumption College in Worcester, Mass. Jon Van de Grift L78,G79 has a Kress Foundation grant for an iconographic analysis of Bacchic and Arcadian imagery in Roman art. Kate Butcher G79 visited the Institute on April 17th, on her return from a trip to Alaska, Hawaii, and Denver. Odysseus would be jealous. Isaac Mann G79 was married as planned on Sunday, March 16th. His wife is an intern at Maimonides Hospital in Brooklyn. Jessica Wasserman G79 will be assisting in teaching literature to high school students and will be in charge of a hiking group this summer at Northfield Mt. Herman in Massachusetts. Jim Lovelace L79</p>	<p>is enjoying a fellowship at the U. of Texas, Austin where, he reports, the ancient philosophy program is very impressive. Peg Escher L79 has a fellowship at NYU. Alan Richardson L79 was one of two people (out of 11) who passed the Latin exam for his departmental classical language requirement at Princeton. Jon Fleming L79 has been quite busy since November as associate editor of <u>Paper Trade Journal</u>. He writes to share the great good news of his acceptance into the Columbia School of Journalism for the coming year. Jon also reports that Kenny Morrell L79 is back in Germany and, among other things, working in Bonn as a waiter in a French restaurant.</p> <p>UBI HABITANT? We need addresses for Ann Marie Dimino L76 and Harold Veaser L77. Can you help?</p> <p>RAISE YOUR HAND if you did not receive the winter issue of <u>Postscript</u>. Let us know; we'll send it right out.</p>	<p>First week: Intensive review of Latin grammar with an orientation toward reading Latin poetry.</p> <p>Second, third, and fourth weeks: Chronological survey of the Latin love lyric, distributed as follows (100 ll. per day):</p> <p>Ancient (6 days): Catullus, Propertius, Ovid; Medieval (3 days): <u>Pervigilium Veneris</u>, Goliardic poetry; Renaissance (6 days): Pontano, Johannes Secundus, Celtis, Milton.</p> <p>Fifth, sixth, and seventh weeks: Non-chronological survey of three topics (200 ll. per day): the persona of the poet; the Apollo-Daphne myth; the self-reflexive love lyric. This last would serve to synthesize the main themes of the course.</p> <p>There are two good reasons for studying lyric poetry: you understand it and wish to know more; you don't understand it and wish to be enlightened.</p>

Horace, I.5

Pyrrha,
What sleek-limbed youth, awash in perfume,
Presses you close among the roses
Beneath that pleasant, trellis'd bower?

For whom do you bind back your golden hair
You of simple elegance?
I know how often he will weep
For broken faith and estranged gods.
A sea embittered with black tempest
Will astound his callow eyes.

Such credulous fools
As now enjoy you, golden, loving, free,
Think you ever so,
Ignorant of false gold.

Woe to those wretches before whose eyes
You shine, untouched, untasted:
As for me,
On Neptune's votive wall
My dripping garments hang, in thanks,
To the potent god of the sea
For my salvation.

tr. Joseph Salemi L75

Sermo Abditus

CFCHD YQLSYCLPSY RCAC TCACLLDSU
ACHRNDO SC UDPS TMARYDISY RNPDSU.
--C. GQARPDSU XNREESU

Last issue's puzzle answers:

Μῆνιν ἄειδε, θεά, Πηληϊάδεω Ἀχιλῆος...

Ὅμηρος

ΑΠΛΟΓΡΑΦΙΑΙ

ΜΑΝΘΑΝΕΙΝ: μανθάνει θανεῖν.
ΜΗΤΕΡΑΩ: μητέρα ἐράω.
ΜΕΜΝΗΜΑΙΑΣ: μέμνημαι μαίας.
ΑΙΕΙΜΙΜΟΣ: αἰεὶ εἶμι μῖμος.
ΑΣΤΥΓΕΩΡΓΟΣ: ἄστυ στυγέω γεωργός.
ΗΔΥΔΩΡΟΝ: ἡδὺ ὕδωρ δῶρον.

TECHNOPAEGNIA (artful play-
things), dreamt up by the
Alexandrians, are noted for
being better to like at than
to read. Ecce ara!

ΔΩΣΙΑΔΑ

ΒΩΜΟΣ

Εἰμάρσενός με στήτας
πόσις, μέροψ δίσταβος,
τεῦξ', οὐ σποδεύνας Ἰνίς Ἐμπούσας, μόρος
Τεύκροιο βούτα καὶ κυνός τεκνώματος,
Χρύσας δ' αἴτας, ἄμος ἐψάνδρα
τὸν γυιόχαλκον οὔρον ἔρραισεν,
ὄν ἀπάτωρ δίσενος
μόγησε ματρόριπτος·
ἐμὸν δὲ τεῦγμ' ἀθήσας
Θεοκρίτοιο κτάντας
τριεσπέροιο καύστας
θώουξεν αἶν' ἰύξας,
χάλεψε γὰρ νιν ἰῶ
σύργαστρος ἐκδὺς γῆρας.
τὸν δ' αἰλινεῦντ' ἐν ἀμφικλύστῳ
Πανός τε ματρὸς εὐνέτας φῶρ
δίξωος Ἰνίς τ' ἀνδροβρώτος Ἰλιορραιστᾶν
ἦρ' ἀρδίωον ἐς Τευκρίδ' ἄγαγον τριπόρθητον.

QUID SCRIPSERUNT?

_____ genetrix, hominum divumque voluptas . . .

(cunctorum, Aeneadum, omnium, Romanorum)

Lucretius

Suave, mari _____ turbantibus aequora ventis . . .

(saevo, lato, magno, aequo) Lucretius

Ibant obscuri _____ sub nocte per umbram . . .

(longa, sola, sera, pavidam) Vergil

vitaque cum _____ fugit indignata sub umbras.

(gemitu, gaudio, luctu, lacrima)

Vergil