MURMURATOR**MENSTRUUS**
APRIL 2020

Salvēte / Χαίρετε,

Happy start of May and beginning of spring everybody! I hope some of you caught a break with finals, given the circumstances. I didn't and that's why this is coming out when it is.

This month is possibly the most excited I've been for a *Murmurator Menstruus* since getting elected. This month I've lined up two great articles from two friends of mine.

On page 2, Princeton alum Tashi Treadway wrote an article on Roman monuments as tourist attractions in Germany. She actually got a Fulbright scholarship to teach English abroad in Germany for a whole year (er, what would have been a whole year) so she's basically an expert at this point.

On page 7, UPenn Classics student Alicia Lopez wrote a retelling of the Catilinarian conspiracy... written from the perspective of a Joe Biden press conference. I want to clarify this isn't the VSCL criticizing Biden or endorsing anyone else in the race—I just thought it was funny so I asked her to make an article of it. Check out her satire twitter or her work in UPenn's satire newsletter.

Page 8 is more memes even though I used all our good memes in the meme war because JP complains if there aren't memes

Next month I have another great humor article coming up! I'm looking forward to June so hit me up if you wanna write for the MM sometime before my term ends. I know you don't have anything else to do. You're stuck at home with me, my turtle, and Ralph Northam's displaced spirit.

Ab īmō pectōre
Matt Nelson

A (Virtual) Classicist's Guide to Roman Stuff Barbarland*

Tashi Treadway, Fulbright ETA 2019-20

*i.e. Germānia

Hi, I'm Tashi. I am here to give you a virtual guide to all things Roman in Germania. People always think of Italy or Greece when they plan their Classical vacation – like you are going to act like a normal tourist and see NON-Greco-Roman things. But we should also give some attention to some of Rome's provinces. We will start with Germania. Gaul is for another day…

Our tour begins in Trier, in south-west Germany on the border of Luxembourg. There are many Roman ruins in this small city. There are several baths – somewhat intact and half intact -, a big gate known as the Porta Nigra (next to a nice package-free grocery store), and a great museum full of antiquities (there is a specific path visitors follow… very German…very Roman).

Fig. 1: *Porta Nigra*

The next city is Aschaffenburg! Ever heard of that place? Probably not. It's a small city in Bayern (the southern state of Germany) and has a pretty neat medieval castle. BUT ALSO, there is a little house museum. It is a reconstructed Roman villa, modeled off of a house in Pompeii. I'm pretty sure it's based on the House of the Faun, because of dancing Faun statue in the compluvium. Come here to experience a more colorful Pompeii!

Fig. 2: *Kitchen*

Quick tip to tourism in Germany: if you can prove you are a student (say have an ID card), you can get the discounted prices to museums which are already relatively cheap compared to the USA. I went to this one museum and it was 20 dollars! And it was only like 5 rooms really.

Fig. 3: *Atrium*

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Now, let's head back west to Köln, a place known for the biggest and wildest Karneval. The Germans really know how to party, like Romans! There is a great classical collection in the Roman museum that I visited with my completely disinterested summer friends. (People don't understand classicists. We would rather go to the museum than the chocolate museum. Yikes.)

But what is even cooler is seeing the parking garages which have Roman ruins nestled between the levels. Too bad you can't get through the glass and park your car there. That would be a great graphic arts digital photo entry.

Left: *Ruins in parking garage*

Finally, we will go to some tiny town I somehow got lost in called Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler. It is not far from Bonn which is not far from Köln. Really, compared to the US everything is "not far". There is a little Roman villa you can explore. It is mostly just foundations now, but the museum people have painted some frescos and added creepy wax people in the house to make it more interesting. The history of the villa is that it started as a simple villa and grew into a simple hotel.

Editor's note: *That wax guy creeps me out*

Now, it literally only took me 30 minutes to walk through the museum. So, to make your visit a bit more worthwhile, I suggest you visit one non-Roman site. To get there, you leave the villa and climb up a really steep hill (or drive if you are brave enough to drive in Germany). You will find an old Cold War bunker. It is mostly complete. Though you can't wander freely inside the bunker. You must go on a tour which is only in German. Bonam Fortunam!

That completes this virtual tour, but this is only half of the cool Roman stuff. I didn't even mention the Pergamon museum in Berlin.

Before we go, let me leave you with some useful German sayings with Latin translations:

- Hallo – Salve
- Wo sind die Toiletten? – Ubi est latrina?
- Wo kann ich Bier trinken? – Ubi possum cervesam bibere?
- Ich komme um dieses Land zu besiegen! – Venio ut hanc patriam vinciam!
- Helfen Sie mir bitte! Mein Wagen ist in einem Graben. – Iuva mihi quaeso! Mea raeda est in fossā.

N.B. In German, w = v sound, opposite in Latin where v = w sound.

Note from the desk of Joe Biden

Alicia Lopez, UPenn '23

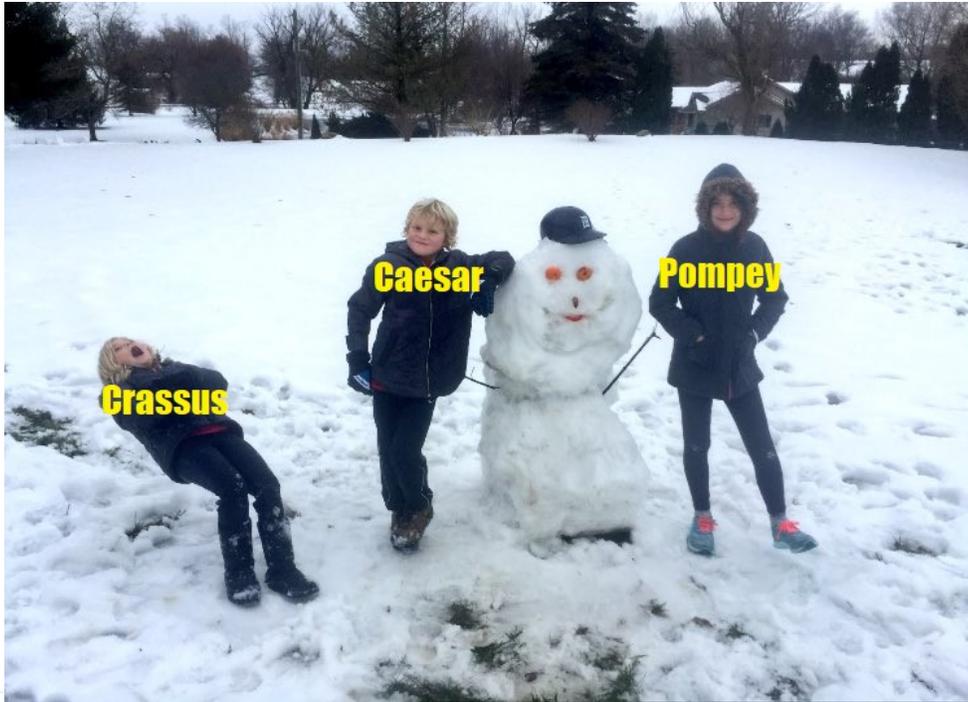Editor's note: *Alicia is not endorsing Donald Trump with this article*.

What's that hat you've got on? *pulls out blue team charioteer hat to prove he's relatable* C'mon, man we all know what's going on here. The Catilinarian Conspiracy. We all know Catiline: about 5'4'', bad man, good dressing. I love the stuff. Not as good as Caesar. Dressing, not the person. Caesar's my favorite dressing. Just the other day I was making a – well, actually, Jill was making a salad with all the kids and grandkids and our dog and three of the kids from next door and their cat and Uncle Jack, you remember Uncle Jack, yeah, his friend and we put Catiline dressing on.

Yeah so Catiline he was going to, um uh, to, yeah, so, he was going to uh, uh, to kill some officials and burn the city. I know this because I read it in one of the many charts that is delivered to me each morning so that I can stay up to date on everything from Roman history (the darn stuff just keeps changing!) to the latest deals at the CDC Pharmacy. So, um this other slick guy, Cicero, or as they say in some parts, probably like Virginia, Kickero, is an orator and in a surge of democracy that I am still so proud of, exposes Cataline's crimes in his 4 speeches, In Catilinam. Period.

Unfortunately, Kickero was a little too hasty. He executed the conspirators without a trial. C'mon, man, we know that's just not right. If any survivors of family members would like me to personally call them, my number is 302-***-****. The people were angry at Cicero and um, uh. *gestures teleprompter with hand* Keep it rolling. Yeah, so meanwhile, Catiline was running free in the hills when the Roman army surrounded the guy. Period. They killed him and the conspiracy was officially over.

I know this was a lot for everyone. It was a lot for me. Things are gonna get better from here. I promise. Things look bad now, in 63BC, I mean I it, for example, we have no running water, also women have no rights, but I'm sure by 2020 they'll have flying cars and a competent government. And won't that be cool? I know things look rough after this Catalinarian conspiracy but hang in there, folks. Don't drink bleach. It's going to get better. Thanks, VSCL for giving me the print space here so that people know where I am.

Nugae