



MURMURATORMENSTRUUS

FEBRUARY 2020

Salvēte / Χαίρετε,

I hope you all are doing well, that your colleges are giving you the option to change your courses to P/F, and that your internships are clinging on to dear life. I'm back with another issue of the MM for you guys to read. Check out page 2 for an announcement of our impending meme war with the VJCL and page 3 for some suggestions on classical works to read in self-isolation.

As always, I'd like to invite y'all to submit to future months of the MM. I know in-person events aren't possible right now, but I'd love to hear from chapters on how they are spreading SCLove from a healthy distance of at least 6 feet apart.

Ab īmō pectōre
Matt Nelson

Everything is cancelled

Hey y'all,

Usually I put a list of upcoming events here, but Gov. Northam has asked people to avoid meeting in large groups to flatten the curve and prevent the transmission of COVID-19. As a result, it is not possible for VSCL/VJCL/CAV/other organizations to host the events I've advertised in the past. Unfortunately, this includes our remaining SCL social events and VSCL State Finals Certamen. The VSCL Officers and Woojin Kim are still hoping to have State Finals Certamen online, so keep an ear out if you're interested in helping with that!

While you're inside, you should also work on preparing memes for the meme contest the VJCL officers have challenged us to. It's going to take place on the VSCL and VJCL instas (@virginiascl and @officialvjcl). It will run from April 5th to April 11th, so please send memes directly to me anytime (although preferably before April 5th).

You can message me through GroupMe by finding me in the group chat or contact me as below:

Email: editor.vscl@gmail.com

Insta: @virginiascl or @nelson.el.jefe

If your name isn't obvious from your email or your insta tag you should probably give me a heads-up as to who you are so I don't freak.

Classical Reading List (For Quarantined SCLers)

1. The Aeneid by Vergil

Let's start with the good ol' familiar face of Aeneas. My Greek professor has told me in at least seven different emails that I'm living in "unprecedented times". This makes Aeneas super relatable, considering he lived through the "unprecedented times" of his city getting sacked, travelling through Thrace, Crete, Carthage, and Sicily, and founding a city in Italy.

2. The Batrachomyomachia by ?????

The Batrachomyomachia is a parody epic by an anonymous author. It's similar to the Iliad, but instead of depicting a war between the Greeks and Trojans, the war is between mice and frogs.

Oh, speaking of frogs... JP wanted me to ask you guys if you wanted to see a picture of a frog eating a rat.

3. This epitaph of somebody's dog

If you're a fan of movies where the dog dies (e.g. I am Legend, Marly & Me, Air Bud, A Dog's Purpose, etc.) you'll love this.

ὄλεο δὴ ποτε καὶ σὺ πολύρριζον παραθάμνον
Λόκρι, φιλοφθόγων ὠκυτάτα σκθλάκων,
τοῖον ἐλαφρίζοντι τεῶ ἐγκάθετο κώλω
ἰὸν ἀμείλικτον ποικιλόδειρος ἔχις.

*“Even you were once killed beside a copse with tangled roots,
Locrian, swiftest of yapping puppies,
What kind of cruel poison did the speckle-throated viper
Sink into your nimble paw?”*

see next page

4. The Punica by Silius Italicus

You have a lot of time on your hands (over two months, if you live in Virginia year-round) so let's go back to epic poetry. This is actually the longest extant epic poem in Latin, so it'll keep you busy. It actually totals over 12,000 lines while the Aeneid is only 9,896. That's 1.21 lines of Punica for every one line of Aeneid. I'm pretty sure that also means the Punica is 1.21x better than the Aeneid

Real talk tho, the best part of knowing about the Punica is seeing all the Classical authors who hated it. It's generally considered the worst epic poem of all time and Pliny the Elder even said that Silius Italicus "wrote with greater passion than talent". Brutal.

5. My Immortal, but you translate it into Latin in your head

Salvē mihi nomen est Ebēna Tenē'brae Dēmentia Corvus Via et habeō longam atram crīnem (sīc cēpī meum nomem) cum purpureīs fasciīs rubrīsque culminibus quod tendit ad medium tergum et gelidōs caerūleōs oculōs similēs liquidīs lacrimīs et multī dīcunt mē vidērī sicut Amy Lee (AN: sī nescis quae sit, exībis per inferōs hinc) . [[nōn sum cognāta Gerardī Viae sed volō quia est magnus futuēns calidus. Sum lamia sed dentēs rectī albīque mihi sunt. Habeō candidam albam cutem. Quoque sum saga et adsum apud schōlam nomine 'Porciverrucae' ubi sum in septimō annō (septendecim annōs nātus sum). Sum Gotha et gerō ferē atram. Amō Calidum Locum et vendō omnēs meōs vestēs dē illō. Exemplī grātiā hodiē gerēbam ātrum cestum cum similibus frimbriīs circum eō et ātram scoream stolellam, roseam retem, et ātrās caligās. Ambulābam extrā Porciverrucās. Ningēbat et pluēbat ergō nullus sōl erat, dē quō gaudēbar. Multī discipulī mē spectant. Supposuī medium digitum adversus eōs.

"Heu, Ebēna!" clamāvit vōx. Supervīdī, fuit..... Dracō Malfoius!

"Quid agis, Draco?" querita sum.

“Nihil” pudenter lōcūtus est.

At deinde audīvī omnēs meās amīcās vocantēs mē and necesse fuit mihi discedere.

(I deeply apologize for this translation. I used Whitaker's words to the best of my abilities.)