



MURMURATORMENSTRUUS

NOVEMBER 2020

Salvēte / Χαίρετε,

It's very bittersweet to be releasing an MM for the last time in my term!

To all the current VJCLers reading this, I whole-heartedly encourage you to join VSCL when you graduate high school. It's very easy to qualify for membership with us. All you have to do is be past high school. You don't have to study Classics in college—or even go to college at all! Some of our most involved members have gotten a job immediately after high school or taken a gap year. If you're in 12th grade at this year's convention, [come to the VSCL reception at 5:30 PM on November 21st](#). The password is 'maiores' because we are the greater Classical Leaguers.

To both VSCLers and VJCLers, I hope you will enjoy this month's *Murmurator Menstruus*. On page 2 I have a guest article from Ariane Akhand (University of Mary Washington) on the parallels between Roman history and the anime *Jojo's Bizarre Adventure*. Afterwards, Wyatt Joyner and I co-wrote a concept article on what VSCL publications would look like if we talked about JP the way Roman historians talked about bad emperors. Finally, page 6 has the standard collection of memes that comes with every MM.

[Finally, please check out our merch!](#) Clicking that hyperlink will take you to the Redbubble where you can pick up some super SNAZZY VSCL merch for Classicists of all ages.

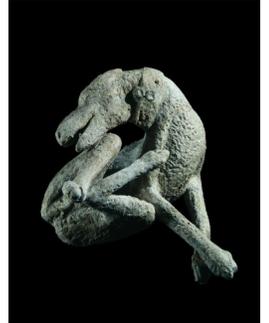
Ab īmō pectōre
Matt Nelson

Jojo's Bizarre Roman Empire

Ariane Akhand, University of Mary Washington

Danny = Pompeii Cast Dog

I think this is pretty straightforward. Danny gets thrown into the fire of an incinerator and dies. A giant, naturally-occurring incinerator throws fire on the Pompeii Cast Dog and the Pompeii Cast Dog dies. Not a lot of biography on either side, but a lot of heat.



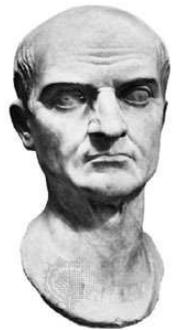
Jonathan = Marcus Aurelius

Just like Jonathan got bullied by his adopted brother Dio, Marcus Aurelius had to share control of the empire with his adopted brother Lucius Verus. Jonathan ends up surpassing Dio by learning to harness his internal power. Marcus Aurelius outlasts Lucius Verus in the minds of historians learning to harness his internal philosophy. Also Jonathan was pretty chill and Marcus Aurelius just liked to write his Meditations.



Speedwagon = Maecenas

Maecenas is the sugar daddy of Augustan-era literature and the Speedwagon foundation is the deus ex machina of Jojo's Bizarre Adventure. There's a pretty clear analogy in the world of comparative literature between the poetic theme of Maecenas granting a house to Horace and Speedwagon giving away a freakin' helicopter.





Jolyne = any of the Severae Iuliae

The anime starts with Jolyne in jail for a murder she didn't commit. This makes her a parallel to literally any of the Iuliae in the Severan dynasty because Roman historians were a bunch of misogynists who couldn't shut up about all the conspiracies, scandals, and crimes committed by imperial women but we don't have another great source for that time period.



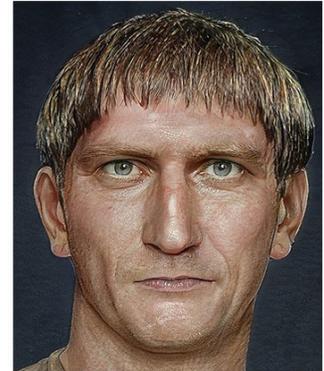
Jotaro = Maximinus Thrax

Tough guys. Maximinus Thrax (emperor 235-238 CE) was supposedly the tallest Roman emperor. He was apparently so strong that half the information on him in Cary and Scullard's history of Rome is that he was "a man of immense physical strength". Jotaro isn't a burly man of more than eight feet tall like Thrax, but he can punch. Punch fast. Very, very fast. ORAORAORAORAORA.



Josuke = Trajan

Josuke is universally liked in the series and the fanbase. Trajan is optimus princeps. We don't need a paragraph for all of these.



Rohan = Augustus

Rohan's character is just a long-running self-insert by the author of the series. Augustus basically did the same thing when emperor, both by manipulating history with his Res Gestae or ordering authors to only write good things about him. Rohan can also write events into someone's life and Augustus can write an event into a Roman's life – but only if it's execution or exile.



Treating James like Romans treated bad emperors

Matt Nelson (VSCL Editor) and Wyatt Joyner (former VSCL President)

Spending the entire year attempting to impeach our beloved president James “JP” Wilusz made me think.... What if we’re not being hard enough on him? I spent some quality time with our friends Tacitus and Suetonius and realized there was untapped potential to describe our beloved leader.

“He seemed too great to be a Parli so long as he was Parli, and had he never been President, no one would have doubted his ability to reign.”

Tacitus *Annales* 1.49

“The VSCLers were so glad of his impeachment, that at the first news of it some ran about shouting, “JP to the job market,” while others prayed to the recession and the Grad Schools to allow the man no abode except among the unemployed. ... Therefore hatred of the tyrant waxed greater, since his cruelty endured even after his impeachment. When the election left Zoom, many cried out that he ought rather to be carried to TikTok, and memorialized there; but he was taken to @virginiascl on Insta by the new board and reduced to memes by public ceremonies.”

Suetonius *Tiberius* 75

“Even Wyatt turned his eyes away, and did not gaze upon the memes which he created; with James it was the chief part of our miseries to see and to be seen, to know that our sighs were being recorded, to have, ever ready to note the pallid looks of so many faces, that savage countenance reddened with the hue with which he defied shame.”

Tacitus *Agricola* 45



“I think I may fairly attribute to mental weakness the existence of two exactly opposite faults in the same person, extreme confidence and, on the other hand, excessive fear. For this man, who so utterly despised Zoom, was wont at the slightest internet delay to shut his eyes, to muffle up his head, and if his connection got slower, to leap from his bed and hide under it. In his journey through Charlottesville, though he made all manner of fun of the miracles in various places, he suddenly fled from John Paul Jones Arena by night, panic-stricken by the Duke and UMBC players shooting three-pointers.”

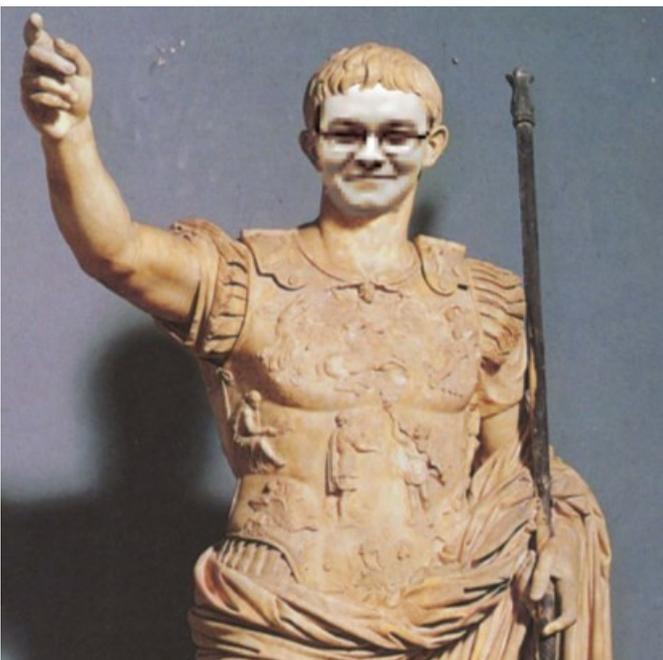
Suetonius *Caligula* 51

“Stained by every sort of baseness as he advanced in years, he held a prominent place in VSCL, winning the friendship of Wyatt by his devotion to Putamen and of Elliot by his passion for Among Us.”

Suetonius *Vitellius* 4

“But his besetting sins were luxury and cruelty. He divided his Chipotle feasts into three, sometimes into four a day, breakfast at Chipotle, luncheon at Chipotle, dinner at Chipotle, and desert at Chipotle; and he was readily able to do justice to all of them through his habit of taking emetics. Moreover, he had himself invited to each of these meals by different men on the same day, and the materials for any one of them never cost less than four hundred thousand sesterces.”

Suetonius *Vitellius* 12



Nugae

Me: mom can I elect a VSCL president

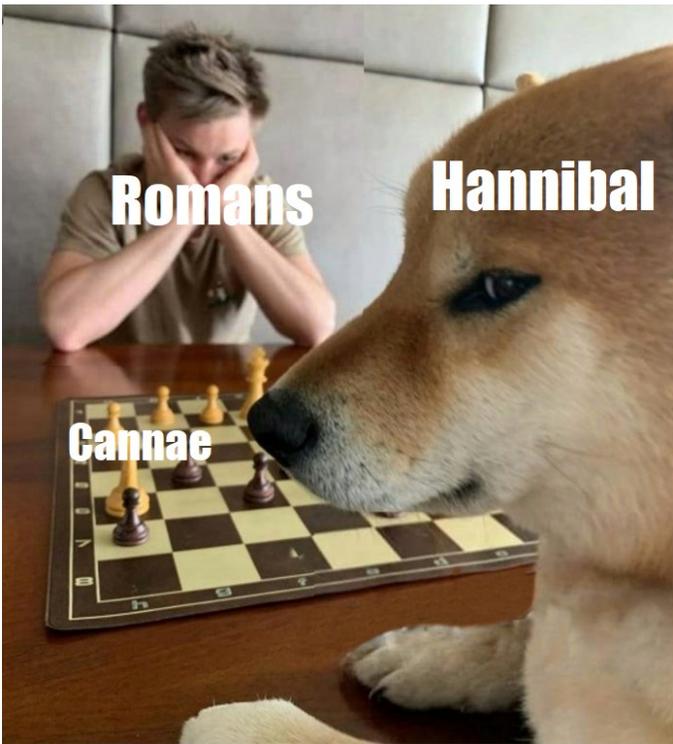
Mom: no we have a VSCL president at home

VSCL president at home:



online convention

VJCLers coughing during tests



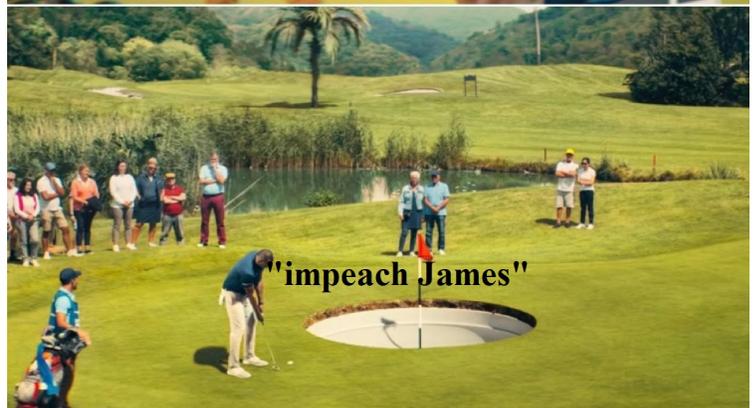
Romans

Hannibal

Cannae



VSCLers trying to be funny



"impeach James"