

Amicitiae immortales,
mortales inimicitiae debent esse—Livy 40.46

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Why Teach Latin?

"There are many reasons why I, as a grad student, love being a teacher of the Classics. I get the chance to introduce other people to something that I love and have a passion for! How great is that? I love seeing the wonder spark in students' eyes as they begin to discover for themselves how to fit those puzzle pieces together."

Mark Thorne, Graduate Student, Univ. of Iowa

For more testimonials, visit the AMICI website.

Amicitia

National Latin Teacher Recruitment Week

The good news: Latin is booming. More than 123,000 students took the 2002 National Latin Exam last year, and this year's numbers are projected to be more than 130,000. Tens of thousands of college and university students study Latin each year. The AP Latin Exams have demonstrated solid growth over the last decade.

The bad news: throughout North America there is a serious need for Latin Teachers. Each year, for lack of teachers, existing programs are cancelled, thriving programs are told they cannot expand, and schools that want to add Latin are unable to do so.

One remedy: National Latin Teacher Recruitment Week, March 3-7. This effort, a cooperative venture of the American Classical League, the American Philological Association, and various regional and state classical organizations, seeks to engage



all Classicists at all levels of instruction in the business of insuring that our Latin, Greek, and Classics pre-college classrooms have the teachers they need.

Inside this issue of *Amicitia*, you can find book-markers that you can reproduce and distribute to your classes, plus a host of ideas to generate discussion. In addition, the National Committee for Latin and Greek (www.promotelatin.org) has additional materials, easy to download and distribute to your classes:

Some Top Reasons to Teach

Latin at the Pre-Collegiate Level Testimonials from classics teachers on the thrill of teaching at the secondary level. Suitable for all level of students.

What Do You Make? An admittedly feel-good story about a teacher's value and worth.

Secondary Considerations. Testimonials on teaching at the secondary level. Designed with grad students in mind.

So take some time and talk to your students about why you love teaching Latin and the ancient world. Our students are our future.

Tenth Annual AMICI Latin Translation Contest

AMICI proudly announces its annual Latin Translation Contests for high school students in Iowa. Once again there will be three test levels: one for students in Latin I, another for those in Latin II, and a third for those in Latin III and above. Each test will consist

of a single prose Latin passage to be translated by the student. The passage will be approximately seventy-five words long, and difficult or unusual words will be glossed. The students will have 45 minutes to complete their translation. The contest

should be administered by someone other than the Latin instructor. The translations will be sent to Cindy Smith at Loras College for grading. Certificates will be awarded for first and second place for each high school. In addition,

(Continued on page 3)

Living Latin in Lexington, KY

"I have a much deeper appreciation of the continuity of Latin, a deep sense that Latin is truly a living language with a more than two thousand year history."

When most people are asked to speak Latin, they might recite "amo amas amat" or Caesar's famous dictum "veni, vidi, vici" or the opening of Vergil's *Aeneid* "arma virumque." When the more than sixty participants of the Conversational Latin Seminar at the University of Kentucky are asked, they are ready to strike up a conversation in Latin about the weather, their family, or the latest news. They are part of a growing trend across the world to provide avenues to speak Latin with other people.

Speaking Latin in my classes is something that I have done more and more over the last dozen years. My

students seemed to like speaking in Latin. But I had only tried it at the elementary level, and I realized that I was certainly not a proficient speaker yet. When I heard about the *Conventiculum Latinum* (the Latin name

for the seminar), I knew I had to try it.

What I found were people from as far away as Italy, Sweden, Australia, and Japan. There were, of course, high school and college Latin teachers, but there were also doctors, computer programmer, business types, ESL teachers, stay-at-home moms, retirees, undergraduates, and a couple soon to be married. What they all had in common was a desire to improve their ability to speak Latin with others. The vast majority of us were there to develop this part of our Latin "toolkit." But others—especially the group leaders—were quite fluent.

The setting was a pair of elegant homes on the edge of the UK campus. We met for three sessions per day, one in the late morning and two in the afternoon. For each one and a half hour session we broke up into small groups of 6-8 people. Our topics rotated among everyday activities, describing and interpreting famous paintings, and discussing Latin texts dating

from Horace and Jerome to Einhard, Erasmus, and Ruhkenius. In each session, time was spent introducing new vocabulary and idioms. Everyone was encouraged to participate up to his or her level of ability.

Yet all was not work. Twice during the ten-day workshop, each group wrote a script and performed its own version of a famous mythological story. In one performance, I played an ungrateful Jason in a melodramatic performance of Jason and Medea. In addition, there were opportunities for people to cook, eat, relax, and chat every evening.

What did I gain from the experience? Confidence in my ability to speak in class, a desire to become as proficient a speaker and writer as I am a reader, and a sense that Latin could be used to discuss anything and everything. Finally, I have a much deeper appreciation of the continuity of Latin, a deep sense that Latin is truly a living language with a two thousand year history.—John Gruber-Miller



Participants in the 2002 Lexington Conversational Seminar. Standing, far left, front: John Gruber-Miller

Where to Go This Summer to Speak Latin

Conversational Latin Seminar, Lexington, KY, July 22-31, 2003 (<http://www.uky.edu/AS/Classics/aestivumeng.html>). Application deadline: May 1, 2003, but often fills sooner.

NAILLS (North American Institute for Living Latin Studies) Seminar, Petaluma, California USA, August 7-14 2003 (<http://www.latin.org/>)

The fourth of an annual series of total-immersion Latin experiences in Northern California, in a rustic setting near the Napa Valley Wine Country. Participants will spend about three hours per day on intensive oral drills, and another two hours on readings. Readings will focus on the Latin praises of food and wine—with appropriate multimedia! Application deadline July 15, 2003.

Rural Washington Latin Seminar, Wenatchee, WA, June 21-29, 2003

This seminar will be of special interest to those who enjoy the outdoors and who would like to improve their Latin skills in friendly conversation while hiking through forests, mountains, and other rural settings. The last three days and two nights of the seminar will be dedicated to a trip to Stehekin, a village nestled among the peaks of the North Cascades. For more information, contact Prof. Stephen Berard [mailto:SBerard@wvc.edu].

Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* to be Read in 59 Countries and All 50 States

When people across the world look for a way to understand the present, they often turn to the classical past. That is exactly what New York actors Kathryn Blume and Sharron Bower did when they chose Aristophanes' comedy *Lysistrata* to provoke discussion about peace in our world.

On March 3, 2003, the Lysistrata Project will present worldwide readings of Aristophanes' bawdy ancient Greek antiwar comedy *Lysistrata*. More than 1000 play readings are scheduled in 59 countries and in all 50 U.S. states to voice opposition to the war on Iraq. Readings will raise money for charities working for peace and humanitarian aid in the Middle East and elsewhere.

In New York City, where the project originated, dozens

of teams of actors and directors will read *Lysistrata* in public spaces throughout the day. There are events in Russia, China and in the jungle in Hawaii, in Athens and in Iceland, homemakers' reading groups in the Midwest and Burmese dissidents in Thailand, on sidewalks and subway platforms, in parks and theaters, at high schools and churches and bars.

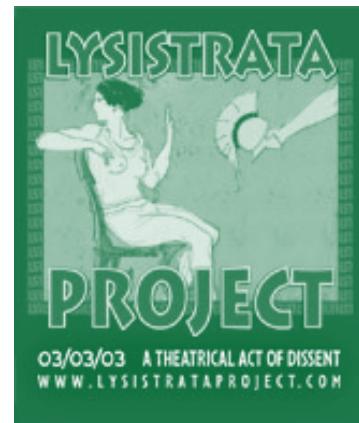
In Iowa, there will be more than a dozen readings of *Lysistrata* throughout the state, including Ames, Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Davenport, Des Moines, Indianola, Iowa City, and Mt Vernon.

Lysistrata tells the story of women from opposing states who unite to end a war by refusing to sleep with their men until they agree to lay down their swords. Powerless in

their society, with too many of their sons and husbands being slaughtered in battle, the women take the only tactic available to them: a sex strike.

"Aristophanes has always opposed the war [between Athens and Sparta]," writes Jeffrey Henderson, editor/translator of *Lysistrata*. "In his plays he argued for peaceful relations among Greeks and civic solidarity at home, and he attacked the motives of the pro-war majority at home."

Fast-forward 2,400 years: swords are now weapons of mass destruction. Faced with the prospect of massive loss of human life -- both Iraqi and American -- Lysistrata Project participants worldwide ask people to think about the effects of possible war in Iraq just as Aristophanes questioned war in his own time.



(Continued from page 1) a \$50.00 prize will be awarded to the best translation in the state in each category.

To enter your students in this contest, please fill out the application form below and send to Cindy Smith (see be-

low) or sign up on-line at the AMICI website (www.cornellcollege.edu/classical_studies/amici).

AMICI Latin Translation Contest, 2003



NLTRW Bookmakers (insert page)

These bookmakers have been designed to hand out to your students. Photocopy bookmakers onto card stock. Print on colored paper or white. If your only choice is white, you can liven it up using highlighters to color the words in white (NLTRW and Your Future is Our Future). In addition, bookmakers can be laminated for extra durability.

Teacher's Name _____	Preferred Date in March for administering the Exam _____
Person Administering the Exam _____	Date of Exam _____
School _____	Address _____
Phone _____	Mail completed form to:
E-mail _____	Cindy Smith Dept. of Classics Loras College 1450 Alta Vista Dubuque, IA 52004 563-588-7953
Number of Students taking	
Latin I Exam _____	
Latin II Exam _____	
Latin III Exam _____	

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Exploring our past in order to
understand the present

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Classical and Modern Languages

AMICI, CLASSICAL
ASSOCIATION OF IOWA



AMICI, Classical Association of Iowa

AMICI was founded in 1988 as a non-profit organization to promote the study of Latin and the ancient world in Iowa schools, colleges, and communities. The name of the organization is the Latin word *amici*, which means “friends,” and comes from the Latin root for “love.” AMICI sponsors a bi-annual newsletter *Amicitia*, an annual Translation Contest, and a speakers’ bureau. If you are looking for a Latin teacher, are looking for a speaker, or want to know more about Latin or the ancient world, contact one of our officers:

- Cindy Smith, college consul (563-588-7953; csmith@loras.edu)
- Mary Ann Harness, high school consul (515-226-2600; Harnessm@home.wdm.k12.ia.us)
- John Gruber-Miller, secretary-treasurer (319-895-4326; jgruber-miller@cornellcollege.edu)