

Latin Literature

Small Packet
for Beginners

CERTAMEN

LATIN LITERATURE

I. Early Period

Livius Andronicus translated the Odyssey into Saturnian verse in 240 B.C.—considered the first real Latin literature

Gnaeus Naevius (270-201) -- tragedies; epic about First Punic War

Quintus Ennius (239-169) Annals (epic history of Rome; first to use dactylic hexameter was a friend of Scipio Africanus

Plautus (254-184) wrote 20 comedies, e.g., Bacchides, Menaechmi

Tereñce (195-159) 6 comedies

Marcus Cato (234-149) Origines and De agri cultura; "Carthago delenda est."

Gaius Lucilius (180-102) originated satire

father of Latin prose

Accius - tragedy

Pacuvius - tragedy

Afranius - comedy

II. First Century B. C.

Lucretius, T. Carus (99-55?) 6 books De rerum Natura (Epicureanism) dactylic hexameter patron ~~Ennius~~

Cornelius Nepos— Universal history of Rome; biography of famous Greeks and Romans, especially Life of Atticus. Catullus dedicated his poems to Nepos.

Catullus (84-54) born in Verona; wrote lyric poetry (love poems to Clodia whom he called "lesbia"); wrote an epyllion (little epic) on the wedding of Peleus and Thetis; wrote a poem about Attis; served on staff of Memmius in Bithynia; visited brother's grave (Ave atque vale); disliked Caesar; disliked the old Roman writers; considered himself "doctus"; followed the Alexandrian Greeks; he and his friends were called "Neoterics."
Gaius Valerius Catullus

Sallust (86-34) two monographs, one about War with Jugurtha; the other about the Catilinarian conspiracy; was a friend of Caesar, Gaius Sallustius Crispus

Varro (116-27) poet and scholar; Antiquities, Human and Divine; De Lingua Latina.

Rome's greatest orator

Marcus Tullius Cicero (106-43) study separately essays on friendship, old age - Pro Archia De Amicitia De Senectute

Gaius Julius Caesar (100-44) study separately oratory
Civil War Com de B Gallico

III. Golden Age

P. Vergilius Maro (70-19) born in Andes near Mantua; died in Brundisium; buried in Naples; 10 Eclogues or Bucolics modeled after Theocritus; 4 Georgics, a didactic work about farming, requested by Maecenas, modeled after Hesiod's works and Days; 12 books of Aeneid; 4th Eclogue - predicted a "savior"
epic poem

Q. Horatius Flaccus (65-8) father a freedman tax collector; sided with Brutus in Civil war; was pardoned; given Sabine Farm by Maecenas; 4 books of Odes, numerous Epodes, 2 books of Satires; Ars Poetica; Carmen Saeculare; never married. Epistles.

CERTAIN Golden Age continued

page two

greatest work - on transformations in mythology

P. Ovidius Naso (43-17 A.D.) born in Sulmo; exiled to Tomi; love poems addressed to Corinna; 6 Fasti; 15 Metamorphoses; 21 Heroides; (in exile-- 5 Tristia and 4 Epistulae ex Ponto); also Ars Amatoria and Remedium Amoris and Amores

"Carmen et error a poem + a mistake caused his exile"

Albus Tibullus elegiac poetry; poems to Delia

Sextus Propertius elegiac poetry; poems to Cynthia

Sulpicia woman elegiac poet; belonged to same literary circle as Tibullus

Titus Livius (59-17 A.D.) Ab Urbe Condita; from Patavium (Padua) - *greatest writer of history in Golden Age - tells the old legends.*

IV. Silver Age

Seneca the Elder; an orator; wrote Controversia et Suasoria

➤ Seneca the Younger (4 B.C.- 65 A.D.) was a Stoic; tutored Nero and forced to commit suicide by him; wrote Moral Epistles; tragedies; Apocolocyntosis (Pumpkinification of emperor Claudius)

(Bellum Civile)

Lucan (39-65) wrote epic Pharsalia; nephew of Seneca

Persius 6 satires

Pliny the Elder admiral of fleet at Misenum; wrote Historia Naturalis; died in eruption of Mt. Vesuvius

➤ Pliny the Younger; ⁽⁶¹⁻¹¹⁴⁾ governed Bithynia under Trajan and corresponded with him; two letters to Tacitus describing the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius; other letters

Quintilian (40-95) Training of an Orator; held first state chair of rhetoric

Tacitus (55-120) Historiae; Annales; Agricola (about his father-in-law who governed Britain); Germania and Dialogus

Juvenal (60-140) bitter satire; "panem et circenses"

Marcus Valerius Martialis; epigrams; from Spain (40-104)

Suetonius (69-140) De Vita Caesarum (*biographies beginning with J. Caesar & ending with Domitian*)

Gaius Petronius "arbiter Elegantiae" under Nero by whom he was forced to commit suicide; Satyricon (first novel in Latin)

Aulus Gellius; Atticae Noctes (*short stories written to amuse his children on long winter nights*)

Apuleius; Golden Ass - "novel" about a man turned into a donkey - *also tells Cupid & Psyche story.*

V. Miscellaneous

Vitruvius; architecture

Celsus; medicine

Marcus Aurelius - in Greece, "Meditations"; was a Stoic

emperor 161-180 AD

Augustus Res Gestae (Monumentum Ancyranum)

Quintus Fabius Pictor--wrote in Greek an early history of Rome

Polybius--Greek brought to Rome after Pydna; enjoyed friendship of Scipio Aemilianus and belonged to the literary circle which gathered around him and included Terence, Laelius, a biographer. Wrote a Universal History of Rome in Greek.

Marcus Manilius Astronomica a didactic work on astronomy under Augustus and Tiberius

GREEK LITERATURE

Homer Iliad and Odyssey

Hesiod Works and Days

Pindar odes to Olympic victors

Sappho woman lyric poet from island of Lesbos

Herodotus "father of Greek history"; Persian Wars

Thucydides - Peloponnesian Wars (Athens defeated by Sparta)

Xenophon Anabasis (March of the 10,000)

Aeschylus

Sophocles three great writers of tragedy

Euripides

Aristophanes comedy Birds, Wasps, Clouds, Frogs

Menander Greek "new" comedy

Socrates died in 399 B. C. drank hemlock; wrote nothing; wife Xanthippe

Plato Republic, Apology

Aristotle

Roman/Greek Authors

Livius Andronicus – introduced Greek literature to Roman culture by translating the Odyssey into Latin; wrote Achilles, Aegisthus, Equus Trojanus, Hermione, Tereusare; teacher, actor, and playwright, “founder of Latin drama”

Lucan – Pharsalia (aka “The Civil War”)

Seneca – Dialogi, Quaestiones Naturales, Epistulae Morales; nine plays: Hercules Furens, Medea, Troades, Phaedra, Agamemnon, Oedipus, Hercules Oetaeus, Phoenissae, and Thyestes

Pliny the Younger – Epistulae: reflect his moderate character

Pliny the Elder – writings on Natural History

Vergil – Aeneid, Eclogues, Georgics

Horace – Odes and Epistles were about love; Ars Poetica about poetry; in his Satires, he rejected public life

Ovid – Metamorphoses; Amores, Ars Amatoria, Remedia Amoris and Medicamina Faciei Femineae were about love

Catullus – Lesbia poems about Clodia

Tacitus – Agricola (biography of his father), Germania (tribes north of the Rhine), Dialogus (discusses decline of oratory), Historiae (history of Rome between 69 and 96), Annales (history of Rome during the Julio-Claudian emperors)

Livy – The History of Rome

Apuleius – Apologia (defense against charge of using magic), De deo Socratis (about Socrates’ genius), Florida, Metamorphoses

Apicius – De Re Coquinaria (on cooking)

Varro – De Lingua Latina (on the Language of Latin), Rerum Rusticarum (on agriculture)

Cicero – Pro Caelio (defense of Caelius); Philippics (against Antony); letters to Atticus, Quintus, and Brutus; stoic writings on government and duty

Claudius – literary works lost

Suetonius – De viris illustribus, about literary figures; De vita Caesarum about the Julio-Claudian emperors; Lives made up of gossip and scandal

Ammianus Marcellinus – Roman history

Marcus Aurelius – Meditations: written in Greek on a military campaign

Plutarch – Lives (biographies)

Homer – Odyssey, Hymns, and Iliad

Herodotus – Histories (first true research into history); “Father of History”

Thucydides – History of the Peloponnesian War

Plato – The Republic (about ideal gov’t), Dialogues (teachings)

Aristophanes – Greek Dramas: Knights, Frogs, Clouds, Birds, Acharnians, Wasps, Plutus, Peace, Ecclesiazusae, Thesmophoriazusae

Sophocles – Greek dramatist: Oedipus Rex; Antigone; The Women of Trachis; Electra

Aeschylus – The Suppliants; The Persians; The Oresteia; Seven Against Thebes

Euripides – Alcestis; Andromache; the Bacchantes; the Cyclops; Electra; Hecuba; Helen; the Heracleidae; Heracles; Hippolytus; Ion, Iphigenia in Tauris; Medea; Orestes; the Phoenissae; Rhesus; the Suppliants; the Trojan Women

Plautus – comedies used to write “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum” (Poenulus, Amphitryon, Captivi, Persa, Miles Gloriosus, Aulularia, Trinummus, Rudens, Mercator, Curculio, Stichus and Asinaria)

P. Terentius Afer (Terence) – (“While there is life, there is hope.”) Roman comedy writer (Andria, Hecyra, Heautontimoroumenos, Eunuchus, Phormio, and Adelphi)

Juvenal – satires (criticized poverty, hypocrisy, etc.)

Persius – Saturae

Jerome – Latin scholar who translated the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into Latin

Cornelius Nepos – historian; biographies of “illustrious men” (De viris illustribus); Latin history; On the Great Generals of Foreign Nations

Maecenas – literary patron who was associated with Vergil, Horace, Propertius, and Varius.

Gnaeus Naevius – satirist whose works landed him in prison after the First Punic War, about which he later wrote a poem (*Bellum Punicum*)

Lucretius – *De Rerum Natura* (encyclopedic poem about sex, politics, death, etc.)

Sappho – (“Tenth Muse”) known for fragments of poetry, most of which was destroyed by Christian censors. Wrote on the island of Lesbos, popularized Sapphic meter, was admired by Catullus.

Callimachus – *Pinakes* (described the foundation of Greek literature); most of his supposed 800 books have been lost