

BOOK REVIEW

Lectiones Memorabiles Vol. I: Selections from Catullus, Cicero, Livy, Ovid, Propertius, Tibullus and Livy. By MARIANTHE COLAKIS. Mundelein, IL: Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, 2015. Pp. xii + 341. Paper, \$29.00. ISBN 978-0-86516-829-9.

This reader is one of two volumes based upon the International Baccalaureate Latin syllabus. The readings selected for this volume focus on the Vergil, Love Poetry and Women curricular options in that program. The two volumes could be used separately or in tandem. Some passages are part of the Standard Level (SL) syllabus and some are part of the Higher Level (HL). Included are c.372 lines from *Aeneid* 1 and 11, c. 215 lines from *Georgics* 4 (Orpheus and Eurydice), 15 complete poems of Catullus as well as 100 lines of *Carmen* 64 (on Theseus and Ariadne), 6 elegies of Propertius, 9 elegies of Tibullus, Ovid's *Heroides* 1, Livy 2.13 (the stories of Muscius Scaevola and Cloelia), a selection from Cicero's *Pro Caelio* (on Clodia), and Horace's *Carmen* 1.37 (on Cleopatra).

There are general introductions to the theme of each curricular option, biographical introductions to each author and specific introductions to the *Aeneid* and the *Georgics*. The meter is identified for poetic passages and bolding is used in these introductions to draw student attention to key words and phrases, like *princeps*, *Pax Romana* and *pietas* for the *Aeneid*. Briefer background introductions and summaries are provided for each Latin reading, which are accompanied by detailed grammatical commentary and contextual explanation. Many of the notes in this commentary provide literary, historical or cultural background which will help the student more fully understand the text. For example, a note at *Aeneid* I. 293–293 explains that *dirae portae* are the doors of the temple of Janus in Rome and only opened during wartime. While the student certainly needs such background information, more grammatical help would also have been useful for a passage like this one, where the adjective *dirae* is separated by a full line from the noun *portae* which it modifies. Such grammatical displacement is the bane of students grappling with such Latin texts. The easier we can make it for students to read these texts, the better they will understand and appreciate them. Because students using this reader are assumed to have access to a Latin dictionary, little

or no vocabulary is provided in these commentaries or in the back of this book. More lexical aids would have made this reader that much more accessible and useful. It is unfortunate that no macrons are used for the Latin text as they might have been helpful to students working with meter for the first time.

In appendices there are a timeline of Roman historical, political and literary events, an introduction to Latin meter, and a glossary of rhetorical terms, figures of speech and metrical devices. Terms which appear in this glossary are printed in capital letters when they mentioned in notes to the readings. Sample scanned lines from the passages found in the reader would have been useful enhancements to the section on Latin meter. Maps of the Mediterranean, the Ancient World and the Wanderings of Aeneas are found in the introductory materials. The reader also contains 15 black-and-white illustrations, including a number of book plates as well as artwork like Cortona's *Venus Appearing to Aeneas as a Huntress* (c.1635), Poynter's *Lesbia and Her Sparrow* (1907) and Lewis's *The Death of Cleopatra* (1876).

While the passages have been chosen for this reader according to the International Baccalaureate curriculum, they offer a well-rounded sampling of Latin literary, especially poetic, texts suitable for any Latin 3 or 4 high school class or an intermediate survey course at the college level. The readings in the "Love Poetry" and "Women" sections could also serve as the core texts for a college level course on those topics.

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