



NEWSLETTER

September 2026

In this issue we are delighted to share several upcoming events, along with a selection of notes and reflections on performances of Classical works, Classical languages, and the ancient world.

Forthcoming Events

Todd Lecture

Professor Rebecca Langlands

Professor of Classics at Exeter University

Time

Reception- Sounds Cafe from 4pm.

Lecture- 5:00pm doors for 5:15pm start

Location

Chau Chak Wing Museum

Exempla: the beating heart of philosophy

This lecture makes the case for the relevance of Roman exemplary ethics within a global history of philosophy. Roman moral *exempla* constituted a rich resource for rhetorical argument and moral teaching, but also formed part of a lived ethical practice, which influenced ancient philosophical traditions (including Greek, Roman, Jewish and Christian) in a multi-cultural antiquity. One influential Roman work was Valerius Maximus' *Memorable Words and Deeds*, which later became a central reference point for Renaissance humanism and the direct inspiration for some of the greatest art, literature and philosophy of this period. Valerius was considered an important ethical writer not only for his preservation of historical *exempla*, but also for the mode of his exemplary ethical writing, which shaped European thought. A global history of exemplarism has a particular urgency today, given the new appetite among contemporary philosophers, and political and education theorists for serious academic study of moral exemplarism. My ongoing research works towards a global history of exemplary ethics, exploring both the roots of European moral exemplarism in ancient Roman culture, and the

striking parallels with ancient Roman exemplary practices in non-Western traditions such as ancient Chinese philosophy or Classical Persian and Arabic literature.

Check the calendar. Our Website is being updated all the time so keep checking for updates.

<https://classics.org.au/events/calendar>

Chau Chak Wing Museum

Create your own goddess and reflect upon the journey of an Iron-Age votive statue in the Chau Chak Wing Museum in this creative workshop.

Thursday 3 September and Monday 14 September: 3pm – 5pm

<https://www.sydney.edu.au/museum/whats-on/talks-and-events/texting-the-gods.html>

History@Newcastle

CANSW members are invited to attend the lectures in the University of Newcastle Seminar Series S2, 2026

Monday 21 September, 4-5:00 PM (UTC +10)

Dr. Srishti Guha (Newcastle), Beasts of Empire: Animal Symbolism, Imperial Anxiety, and Colonial India in Punch Cartoons. L326 and Online

Friday 25 September, 4-5:00 PM (UTC + 10)

Dr. Ville Vuolanto (Tampere University, Finland), History of hope. Social aspects of hoping in the Roman World. L326 and online

Monday 12 October, 4-5:00 PM (UTC+11)

Dr. Michele Seah (Newcastle) Queenship Through the Lens of Showtime's The Tudors: Expectation and Reality. L326 and Online.

Monday 19 October, 4-5:00 PM (UTC+11)

Dr. Eureka Henrich (UNSW), Recovering Histories of Migration and Health in Postwar Australia, 1945-1970. L326 and Online.

Monday 26 October, 4:00-5:00 PM (UTC+11)

Dr. Olympia Nelson (USyd), Feasting and Fasting: Food and Emotion in the Byzantine World
Online only

Monday 9 November, 4-5:00 PM (UTC +11)

Dr. Peter Londey (ANU) The Thucydides Trap and other myths: how to stay safe reading the Peloponnesian War. L326 and Online

Physical Space: L326, Auchmuty Library Callaghan Campus, University of Newcastle (Australia)

Unless otherwise indicated, these events will be recorded. Presentation recordings will be available from our YouTube channel, History@Newcastle.

Zoom Meeting Information (note- this has changed since previous sessions);

<https://uonewcastle.zoom.us/j/83871793859?pwd=3alisWhacTHRklSPVa5WU6F1WcbcBV.1>

Meeting ID: 83871793859 Password: 916078

Year of the Trojan Horse

Go on your own Odyssey

A Greek tour discussed by Nicholas DeRenzo with the people that run The Great Courses

<https://www.afar.com/magazine/this-tour-of-greece-explores-the-odyssey-and-greek-history>

An Iliad with David Wenham

If you missed this performance, don't panic! The show is on the road to Melbourne in 2027 after sell-out season in Sydney.

18 March - 11 April | Playhouse

<https://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au/whats-on/2027/theatre/an-iliad>

Teaching Classics

Teaching Classical Languages Symposium

This event is a forum for discussing the latest and greatest Latin and Greek teaching strategies. This year's iteration took place at the university of Sydney Friday 17th August, and featured speakers from Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, New Zealand, and Japan. We were fortunate too that the head of Harrow school Steven Kennedy was present, and he was so impressed that he is thinking of running a similar event.

Check the CANSW website for details and forthcoming blog post.

<https://classics.org.au/events/teaching-classical-languages-symposium>

Ancient Greek gets a reprieve at Xavier

Positive news about the future of Ancient Greek in Victoria. The Greek Community of Melbourne (GCM) has just launched a long-term strategy to keep Classical Greek alive, accessible and sustainable across Victorian secondary schools, backed by new scholarships, a school outreach campaign and a partnership with Xavier College.

<https://neoskopos.com/en/2026/08/20/news/community/greek-community-of-melbourne-commits-to-the-future-of-classical-greek-education/>

Save Latin at Redlands

if you haven't already, please consider writing a letter to the principal at SCECGS Redlands to protest the discontinuation of Latin

A student petition is circulating and has over 400 signatures already.

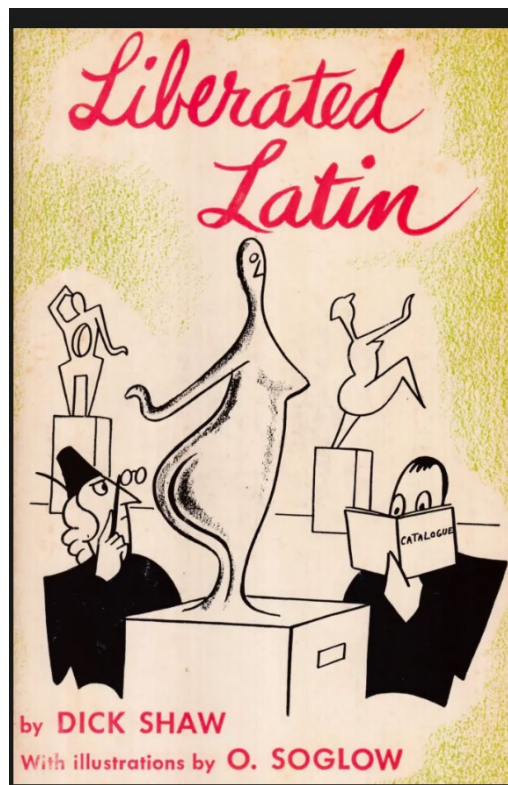
♪ CLASSICAL NOTES ♪

Bird flu in the ancient world?

Konstantine Panegyres, Lecturer in Classics and Ancient History, The University of Western Australia, discusses the very topical issue of avian influenza, with a Classical focus.

<https://theconversation.com/frequently-fumigate-the-hen-houses-how-ancient-greeks-and-romans-tried-to-treat-sick-birds-290252>

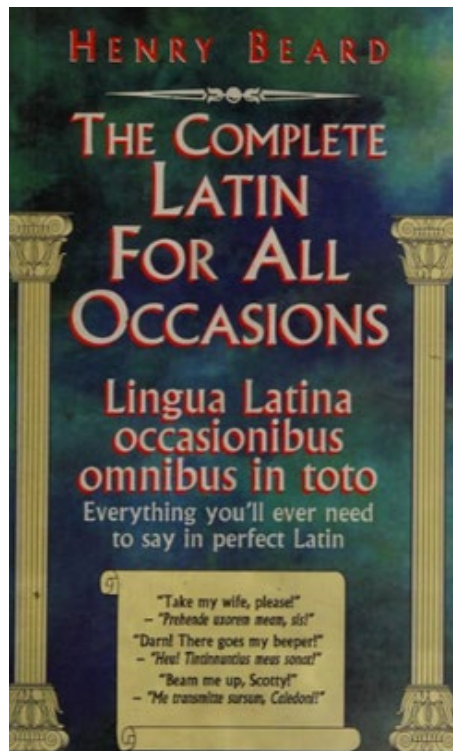
Latin cartoons



Steven Heller talks about *Liberated Latin*, illustrated by Otto Soglow, and published in 1952.

<https://www.printmag.com/daily-heller/the-daily-heller-revivifying-a-dead-language-thru-cartoons/>

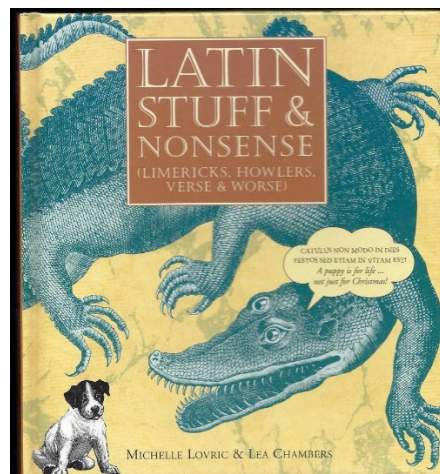
Fun with old Latin joke books



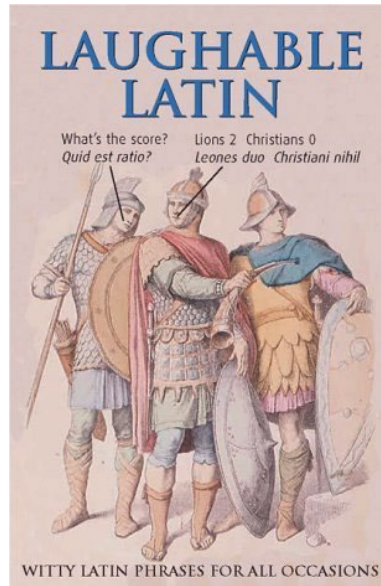
I think this one was the first to be published in this very niche, sub-genre:

Latin for All Occasions (*Lingua Latina Occasionibus Omnibus*) and **Latin for Even More Occasions** (*Lingua Latina Multo Pluribus*). These were published back in 1990 and 1991, respectively, and even have their own Wikipedia page

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin_for_All_Occasions.

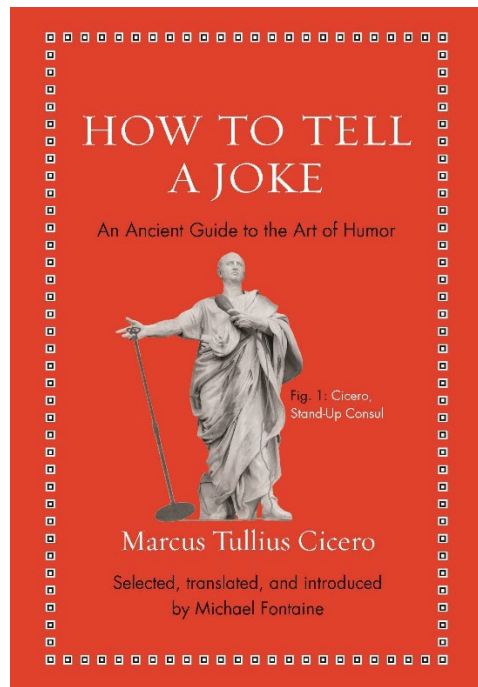


Latin Stuff and Nonsense came out in 1999 <https://www.amazon.com.au/Latin-Stuff-Nonsense-Michelle-Lovric/dp/076071682X>



Laughable Latin: Witty Latin Phrase for all Occasions was published in 2005

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Laughable-Latin-Witty-Phrases-Occasions/dp/1843170973>



How to tell a Joke: an Ancient Guide to the Art of Humour is a relatively recent addition to the line up, published in 2021. Check it out <https://www.dymocks.com.au/how-to-tell-a-joke-by-marcus-tullius-cicero-and-michael-fontaine-9780691206165>.

Why the Greek language captivated Australian student Samuel Wessells

<https://greekherald.com.au/community/1-people-community/interviews/why-the-greek-language-captivated-australian-student-samuel-wessells/>



Witch hunts and misogyny

‘Lucianne Tonti’s deeply personal history of witch hunts overstates the role of misogyny’

by Dr. Nicole Kimball.

<https://theconversation.com/lucianne-tontis-deeply-personal-history-of-witch-hunts-overstates-the-role-of-misogyny>

Penthesilea: forthcoming publication

Dr. Connie Skibinski (University of Newcastle) has been awarded a AAH Publication subsidy grant for her forthcoming monograph on the reception of Penthesilea. The title of her work is, ‘Re-imagining Warrior Women in Premodern Literature: Queen Penthesilea of the Amazons and the Trojan War.’

<https://humanities.org.au/power-of-the-humanities/2026-publication-subsidy/>

AMPHORAE and ASCS

The next ASCS Amphorae conference, Amphorae XVIII (2026), will be held at the University of Newcastle from 24-25 November. The next ASCS conference, ASCS 48, will be held at the University of Sydney from 1-4 or 1-5 February 2027 (exact dates TBC)



CANSW Membership

Now would be a good time for you to renew your membership. Please follow this link for the details:

<https://classics.org.au/association/membership>

Upcoming events

Events planned for CANSW will be posted on the Association's website.

<https://classics.org.au/events/calendar>

If you want to be added to the mailing list for the University of Sydney Classics and Ancient History seminars, please contact Dr Tamara Neal (t.neal@sydney.edu.au).

CANSW

Classical Association of New South Wales

<https://classics.org.au/>