



# DIURNA

NEWSPAPER OF THE 26TH LATIN SUMMER SCHOOL: DIES LUNAE, JANUARIUS XIII

## POTIO ET CIBUS

Morning tea is provided each day at the LSS. This will be near the indoor fountain in the New Law School Building. The prepared food is from the Swiss Bakerz, Oxford Street. Fruit and drinks will also be available. Please bring your own mug/cup if possible. The LSS ends with a free BBQ, to which all are invited, on Friday January 17, at 12.30, on Botany Lawn, followed by the closing meeting in the New Law School Lecture Theatre 101.

## NAME TAGS

Please remember to wear your name tag whenever you are on University grounds. This is part of security requirements and helps your tutor and fellow students get to know you.

## LSS COMPETITION

Entries for the LSS writing competition must be sent or handed to Robert Forgács (robert@forgacs.id.au) by morning tea on Thursday at the latest. As usual, there are several book vouchers donated by Abbey's Bookshop in York Street. The prizes will be awarded at the Closing Ceremony on Friday afternoon, when the winning entries will be read aloud by the successful entrants.

The task is to write a 400-word piece of prose, fiction or non-fiction, which includes the following seven Latin quotations in a meaningful way (they are taken from Alan Walker's recent study: 'Chopin, A Life and Times' and several Medieval carols):

1. Ecce femina, non homo
2. Fictio cedit veritati
3. Sint procul hodie invidiae, omnia maesta
4. In hoc anni circulo
5. Fons de suo rivulo nascitur
6. Sicut sol in caelo fulget
7. Voca sonora dicere

**THE KEYNOTE LECTURE** today will be given in the New Law School Lecture Theatre 101 by Associate Professor James Uden, of the University of Boston at 1.30 pm entitled 'Doctors, Authors, and Medical Cultures in Ancient Rome'

## SPECIAL AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 12.40 pm there will be guided tours of the Nicholson Museum in the Quadrangle. These tours will last 40 minutes and are restricted to a maximum of 20 students. Lists for these tours will be on the notice-board.

At 1.30 pm: on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday there will be a variety of lectures from which to choose. In addition, there will be scansion classes for beginners and advanced students on Tuesday, and for beginner students again on Thursday. Special Activities for school students are also offered as an alternative.

## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

For level 4 students from 2.50 pm to 4.00 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday



Kudos Foundation Inc.

<http://kudos.org.au/about.html>

Kudos grew out of a group led by then Professor of Classics at the University of Sydney, Kevin Lee, whose main purpose with the group was to find ways of raising funds from the corporate/private sector to support the Classics department at the University of Sydney. After his untimely death in May 2001, the group continued to meet in order to establish formal structures for supporting Greek and Latin studies in Australian educational institutions in general. In the past 20 or so years Kudos has helped fund three different positions at the University of Sydney and made grants-in-aid to Macquarie University and UNE. In 2020 Kudos will support two projects connected with the teaching of Latin and Greek in Australian Universities to be undertaken by Drs Anne Rogerson and Tamara Neal. If you are interested in furthering our work, please visit the website or contact the Chair, [Frances.Muecke@sydney.edu.au](mailto:Frances.Muecke@sydney.edu.au)

## FROM THE EDITOR

### Ancient Rome, Latin and St Petersburg: Some Reflections

I finally managed to visit St Petersburg in April last year. Despite having studied Russian with a private tutor, who was a native speaker, for eighteen months when I was an undergraduate, various factors had prevented me from travelling to Russia earlier. As many of you would know from personal experience, St Petersburg is a very beautiful city, Russia's 'window onto the West' in the words of its founder, Tsar Peter the Great. Established from 1703 onwards as Russia's most European city, it is obviously not representative of Russia as a whole. Although the Romans did not venture north of the Rhine and Danube (or not very far north), the influence of Ancient Roman culture and Neo-Classical culture is strongly in evidence in St Petersburg. Firstly, there is the Hermitage Museum, which has an excellent and very impressive collection of antiquities, including the mosaic of a boy accompanied by fruit and fish and inscribed with the word 'Iunius' which is featured on the Welcome Brochure and Guide to this year's LSS, as well as being featured in colour in the gallery of revolving photos on our website. The Museum also has an impressive array of classical statues, including a celebrated one of Jupiter.

Then the great palaces - The Winter Palace (which is where the Hermitage Museum is situated), Peterhof on the Gulf of Finland, and the Catherine Palace at Tsarskoye Selo and Pavlovsk Palace, which is not far away - all have their share of beautiful neo-classical sculptures typical of the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The celebrated cascade fountain, adorned with classical deities, at Peterhof can also be seen among the gallery of revolving photos on our website; it looks particularly beautiful in the snow which was still falling in St Petersburg shortly before Easter when we were there. Latin began to be studied in Russia from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards, under the increasing influence of Western culture, especially as transmitted through Poland. Those studying at Russian Orthodox seminaries (which were only founded in the 18<sup>th</sup> century) were obliged to use many textbooks written in Latin. Latin also featured prominently in secular education, in the elite Grammar Schools modelled on German *Lateinschulen*. Russia's greatest poet, Alexander Pushkin, attended such a school, which still exists, just outside of the grounds of the Catherine Palace at Tsarskoye Selo. Given his immense talent and linguistic ability, it is not surprising that he wrote a very lovely, free adaptation of Horace's celebrated final Ode from Book III, 'Exegi monumentum', which in A. Z. Foreman's translation into English begins:

I've reared a monument not built by human hands,  
The public path to it cannot be overgrown.

With insubmissive head far loftier it stands  
Than Alexander's columned stone.

No, I shall not all die. My soul in hallowed berth  
Of art shall brave decay and from my dust take wing.  
And I shall be renowned while on this mortal earth  
A single poet lives to sing.

Study of Latin and the cultivation of Neo-Classical culture was one of the victims of the Russian Revolution and the rise of Communism. Being associated with elitism and Imperialism, both went out of favour. Similarly, the study and use of the French language, which were an extremely important part of the aristocratic way of life in Russia during the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, were swept aside under Communism. However, since the end of the dominance of that ideology, it is clear that the visual culture inspired by classical ideals and treating classical subject matter is once more highly valued, and there has been much restoration of this heritage in St Petersburg at least. Cynics may comment that this is largely motivated by the wish to attract the tourist rouble, but there is more to it than that. Russian art historians, curators, and museum and palace staff, clearly value this important element in their heritage and wish to promote its wider appreciation. Latin inscriptions can also still be seen in the city, most notably on the equestrian statue of Peter the Great erected on the banks of the Neva by his successor Catherine the Great: the simple Latin text reads:

Petro Primo, Catherina Secunda, MDCCLXXXII  
*Robert Forgács*

