

**TRANSLATION KEY**  
FOR  
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AND SCRIBES**

**Richard A. LaFleur**  
University of Georgia

TRANSLATION BY  
**Robert I. Curtis**

EDITED BY  
**Richard A. LaFleur**

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## CAPVT I

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### ABCs

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN0[PQ]RSTVX

AABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRTVX

#### Love is Everywhere . . .

Marcus loves Spe(n)dusa.

#### . . . But So Is Envy:

We love--we envy!

#### Good Luck to the Baker!

Here lives success. (Or: Felicitas lives here.)

#### Celer's House

Aemilius Celer lives here.

#### Profit Is Good . . .

Greetings (Hail), Profit!

#### . . . But Cleanliness Is Next to Godliness

Bathe well.

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. Hail and farewell.
2. Hail, Maria.
3. Nothing from nothing, nothing into nothing.
4. Into nothing from nothing.
5. You err much (You are greatly mistaken.)
6. You love nothing, when you love an ungrateful man.
7. Nothing in excess.
8. I do not love you.
9. Whom he loves, he loves; whom he does not love, he does not love.
10. Why are you asking me?
11. If you rule, command.

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## CAPVT II

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### Modestina's Comb

Modestina, farewell. (Or: An honorable and excellent maiden).

#### Repent—the End is Near

Sodom, Gomorrah!

#### I've Got a Cold!

Phlegm holds (grips) me.

#### A Curse

Be sick! Be sick! Be sick!

#### Good Health to Tita

Greetings (hail), Tita.

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. Life is variable.
2. Fortune is blind.
3. Thence anger and tears.
4. Moreover, what is (it) to love?

*Sayings of Cato to his own son*

5. Preserve modesty.
6. Practice carefulness (diligence).
7. Care for (your) family.
8. Fight for (your) country.
9. Judge fairly.
10. Judge very little (= Do not judge).

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### CAPVT III

#### INSCRIPTIONES

##### Self-Portrait?

He is Rufus. (It's Rufus.)

##### Quite a Charmer!

To Ceius and to many (men) Venusta (is) a (young) girl. (Or: "To Ceius and to many men the girl [is] attractive.")

##### Boy Meets Girl . . .

Staphilus (was) here with Quieta.

##### . . . Boy Loves Girl

Rigulus (Regulus) loves Idaia.

##### Beware of the Beast

Labyrinth: the Minotaur lives here.

#### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. But you do not always have me.
2. He ought to fear many men whom many men fear.
3. Rumor does not always err.
4. The wolf does not worry about the number.
5. What is wisdom?

##### *Cato's Admonitions*

6. Pray to God.
7. Be nice.
8. Be pleasant.
9. Do not be slanderous.
10. Be prudent.

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## CAPVT IV

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### **Hands Off!**

(I belong) to Claudius; I am not yours (your lamp)!

#### **Marcus Junius Owns Me**

I am the apartment of Marcus Junius.

#### **Gladiators Have Sex Appeal!**

Celadus, the Thracian: heart-throb of the girls.

Celadus, the Thracian, (is) the glory of the girls.

#### **Shoplifters, Watch Out!**

Thief, avoid an evil (deed)!

#### **And Other Villains Better Watch Out Too!**

Defecator, beware an evil (deed)!

#### **The Joys of Capitalism**

Profit (is) a delight!

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. To have a bad neighbor is a great evil.
2. Wars, dreadful wars!
3. Evil men do not think about judgment.
4. Many (men) care about fame, few (care about) conscience.
5. True friendships are everlasting.

*More Cato*

6. Preserve a gift.
7. Prepare for business (i.e., life in the forum).
8. Walk with good (men).
9. Preserve an oath.
10. Be moderate in wine.

### LITTERATURA

#### **No Kisses for You!**

Why do I not kiss you, Philaenis? You are bald.

Why do I not kiss you, Philaenis? You are red (ruddy complexioned? red-haired?).

Why do I not kiss you, Philaenis? You are one-eyed (blind in one eye).

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## CAPVT V

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### Balbus for Mayor

Genialis asks (that you elect) Bruttius Balbus duumvir.  
This man will preserve the treasury.

#### ... Or Maybe Polybius?

I beg that you make Gaius Julius Polybius duumvir.

#### Give Me a Head with Hair!

Epaphra, you are bald!

#### Strike Three – You're Out!

Epaphra is not a ballplayer.

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. To be free from blame is a great comfort.
2. Lord, help me.
3. To love is human, moreover to forgive is human.
4. He gives words into the winds.
5. The spirit lives in the eyes.
6. Enough (of) eloquence, too little (of) wisdom.
7. They are silent: they praise enough.
8. Wine gave spirits (courage).
9. Tomorrow I trust, today nothing (= not at all).
10. Work overcame (mastered) the subject matter.
11. In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and God was the Word.

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## CAPVT VI

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### Watch Out—He Bites!

Beware of the dog!

#### Dedication to Tiberius

Pontius Pilate, prefect of Judaea, (dedicated) the temple to Tiberius.

#### Asellina for Secundus!

Asellina asks (that you make) Ceius Secundus duumvir for interpreting the law.

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. We hold another's vices in (our) eyes, our (vices) are behind (our) back.
2. Teach your sons.
3. The Lord gives wisdom.
4. You are not able to get away from your fortune—it controls you.
5. For what reason today and not tomorrow?
6. What is not today, will be tomorrow.
7. Rejoice in God.
8. Life is long if it is full.
9. If you want to, you can.
10. Who, therefore, will be able to be safe?
11. If you will be late, you will err.
12. "And an unhealthy mind," as Ennius says, "always errs."

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## CAPVT VII

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### Epitaph of a Young Boy

To the spirits of the dead of Marcus Cocceus Nonnus, of six years (= six years old): here he is buried.

#### For Cafatius, An Interpreter of Lightning

Lucius Cafatius, son of Lucius, (of the) Stellatina (tribe), haruspex, interpreter of omens from lightning

#### Hail to the Dictator

(His) freedmen (dedicate this) to Lucius Cornelius Sulla Felix, son of Lucius, dictator.

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. There will be vices, as long as (there are) men.
2. Often there is wisdom even under a dirty (little) pallium.
3. The people is able to be strong (can prevail) there, where laws are strong.
4. Name and omen.
5. The remedy of injuries is forgetting.
6. A healthy mind in a healthy body.
7. The dishonesty of a few (men) is a disaster for all (men).
8. We are dust and shadow.

*Further counsel of Cato to his son*

9. Love (your) parents.
10. Love (your) spouse.
11. Hold onto a good reputation.

### LITTERATURA

#### Apophoreta: Wooden Boxes

If anything still remains in the residue of our (little) box, it will be a gift. Is there nothing?—the box itself will be (a gift).

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## CAPVT VIII

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### Two Talented Gladiators

Rusticus Malius (fights) 12, crowns 11; Marcus Terentius (fights) 3, crowns 3.

#### Extreme Literacy!

Lesbianus, you defecate and you write: greetings (or: good health)!

#### Epitaph for Primigenia

Sacred to the spirits of the dead. Gaetulicus, the son, has set up (this monument) for Octavia Primigenia, the best (or: his excellent) mother. May the earth be light to (upon) you. She lived 60 years.

#### Lollius for Aedile

I ask that you make Gaius Lollius Fuscus aedile, (a man) worthy of the republic.

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. Victory is always there where harmony is.
2. Learn good things from good (men).
3. Hannibal, I believe, was at the gates.
4. Unjust governments never remain perpetually.
5. We give the praise of virtue to necessity.
6. The gods worry about great (things), they neglect small (things).
7. Victory does not love rivalry.

*More of Cato's advice to his son*

8. Now, (my) very dear son, I will teach you.
9. Learn literature.
10. Cherish (your) relatives.
11. Revere (your) teacher.
12. Read books.

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## CAPVT IX

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### To the Nephew of Augustus

To Marcus Claudius Marcellus, son of Gaius, patron.

#### To Another Marcellus

Fortunata longs for Marcellus.

#### No Loitering!

This place is not for idle (men, = idlers). Loiterer, depart!

#### Things Every Farmer Needs

Eupemus: Manure from the farm and a wheel.

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. Man always thinks one thing, fortune another (thing)
2. Love of country will conquer.
3. The only and unique nobility is virtue.
4. Money alone rules.
5. Get to know your mind.
6. There is no perpetual good for man.
7. Without anger and zeal.
8. A prophet does not have honor in his own country.
9. He who too much (too often) says to many men "I do not love", loves (is in love).
10. Dare to be wise.
11. That stupidity of mine sees nothing.
12. Nevertheless, those times will not change my character.
13. That man received the cross (as) the price of (his) crime, this man (received) a crown.
14. They praise those (things), but they read these (things).

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## CAPVT X

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### Let's Vote!

Proletarii (or: ointment makers/sellers) and poor men, make Modestus aedile!

#### Yankees for Vettius!

Ballplayers, make Aulus Vettius Firmus aedile, I ask that you make (him aedile),  
(a man) worthy of the republic, I ask that you make (him aedile)!

#### Lady of the Night

Lucilla made (was making) a profit from (her) body.

#### Getting Together

Secundus meets with Primigenia.

#### Not Getting Together

Serena loathes Isidorus.

#### Abandoned

Sarra, you do not act nicely: you, weak, leave me alone.

#### Hateful Death

Learn: while I live, you, disagreeable Death, are coming.

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. While the Fates allow, live happy (happily).
2. Anger impedes the mind.
3. Listen to the other position.
4. To escape desire is to conquer a kingdom.
5. Clothes make the man.
6. He will find a way or he will make (one).
7. Never does nature say one thing, wisdom (say) another.
8. What is truth?
9. Labor (hard work) fosters noble minds.
10. Old age itself is a disease.
11. To live is to think.

*More imperatives of Cato to his son*

12. Flee (avoid) the courtesan!
13. Flee (shun) gambling!
14. Sleep (only) what is sufficient.
15. Educate (your) children.

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## CAPVT XI

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### But What Was the Subject?

For (in fact) you are teaching me!

#### Easy Does It!

I love you, Facilis: make access for me!

#### Enjoy the Day!

The bones of Prima Pompeia (lie) here. Fortune promises many (things) to many (men), it gives (them) to no one. Live for the days and hours, for nothing is one's own. Salvius and Heros give (the tomb)

#### A Waste

You are dead: you are trash.

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. You are good, and in your goodness teach me.
2. If (it is) agreeable to you (it is) not disagreeable to me.
3. You are a beast of many heads.
4. There is a god in us.
5. Even without law conscience is (our) punishment.
6. History, in truth, (is) the witness of the times, the light of truth, the life of memory, the teacher of life, the messenger of antiquity.
7. Neither life nor fortune is perpetual for men.
8. We judge differently concerning those than (we judge) concerning ourselves.
9. You will learn the truth and the truth will free you.
10. In demented love no one sees (i.e., clearly).
11. Men believe that which they wish.
12. (Your) country is wherever you are well (happy).
13. Shame and love do not come into the same (thing; i.e., they are inconsistent).

### LITTERATURA

#### Man Overboard!

I give a naval battle to you, you give epigrams to us;  
You wish, I think, Marcus, to swim with your book.

#### Apophoreta: A Wide-brimmed Hat

I will be a spectator with you in the Pompeian theatre,  
For the wind is accustomed to deny awnings to the people.

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## CAPVT XII

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### Deception

Restitutus has often deceived many girls.

#### Kilroy?

Paris has been here.

#### The Imperial Physician's "Throne"

Apollinaris, physician of the emperor Titus, defecated well here.

#### The Duenos Bowl

Duenos made me.

#### The Pantheon

Marcus Agrippa, son of Lucius, consul for the third time, made (this).

### FROM SOME ROMAN EPITAPHS

#### Annihilation

I was not, I was, I am not, I do not desire.

#### CIL 8.2885

You had not been (existed); now you are; again now (soon) you will cease to be.

#### A Young Girl's Burial

While I lived, I played.

#### To Priscus

To the spirits of the dead. Priscus lived fourteen years, nine months. Tiberius Claudius Moschus and Claudia Nicopolis (dedicated this) to (their) very devoted son.

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. Love has conquered even the gods (of the upper world).
2. There has been no great talent without a mixture of madness.
3. I saw (have seen) a new sky and a new earth.
4. No one has ever seen a god.

5. And if I shall have walked in the middle (midst) of the shadow of death, I shall not fear evil (things), since you are with me.
6. We do not have a king except Caesar.
7. What I have written, I have written.
8. Truth never perishes.

## LITTERATURA

### I Get Your Point!

You are now a (h)oplomachus, previously you had been an eye-doctor.  
You did as a doctor what you do as a (h)oplomachus.

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## CAPVT XIII

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### Epitaph for a Patron

To Gaius Veranius Rufus, son of Quintus, duumvir—Verania Clara, freedwoman of Quintus, (dedicates this monument) to the best (or: her excellent) patron, to him and his own (family members). (Alternately this might mean “to herself and her family,” but see notes in text).

#### Hanging Out with the Guys

##### CIL 4.1321

Polybius Comicus Restitutus stood here with (his) brother.

##### CIL 4.8480

Arruntius was here with Tiburtinus.

##### CIL 4. 8792b

Antiochus remained here with his (own) Cithera.

##### CIL 4.4066

Daphnicus (was) here with his (own) Felicula.

#### ... And Without Her

Vibius Restitutus slept here alone and desired his (own) Urbana.

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. Indeed the way for our vices into the mind is through the eyes.
2. Vice itself is the punishment of it(self) (= its own punishment).
3. He feared his own shadow.
4. Many (men) find a plan but learned (men) carry (it) out.
5. One's own thing (business/life) is beautiful to each person.
6. You will love your friend just as (you love) you yourself.
7. Even one hair has its own shadow.
8. One's own character creates (his) fortune (lot in life) for each one.
9. A greedy man himself is the cause of his own misery.
10. As many men as (there are), (there are) so many opinions: to each man (there is) his own way (of living; i.e., opinion on how to live one's life).

**LITTERATURA**

**Apophoreta: A Parrot**

I, a parrot, will learn the names of others from you.

I have learned to say this by myself (on my own), “Hail, Caesar!”

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## CAPVT XIV

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### Holconius for Mayor!

##### CIL 4.103:

Phoebus with his (own) customers asks (that you make) Marcus Holconius Priscus (and) Gaius Gavius Rufus duumvirs.

##### CIL 4.202:

The fruit-sellers as a group with Helvius Vestalis ask (that you make) Marcus Holconius Priscus duumvir for interpreting the law.

#### Magic Squares

##### CIL 4.8297:

Rome, once upon a time, Milo, love.

##### RIB 2.4.2447.20:

Arepo, the sower, holds the wheels by (his) effort (or: with care).

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. Send (throw it) into the water.
2. I am a Roman citizen!
3. From head to feet.
4. Praise nurtures the arts.
5. Therefore, death removes (us) from bad (things), not from good (things).
6. Nor is anyone able to (neither can anyone) avoid either death or love.
7. You have fallen from favor.
8. The force of conscience is great.
9. Leisure without literature is the death and burial of a living man.
10. While foolish men avoid vices, they rush into their opposites (opposing vices).
11. Death in flight is shameful, in victory (it is) glorious.
12. Live with yourself.
13. Glory gives not small strength to the mind (i.e., the quest for glory is empowering).
14. That one (= death) comes secretly with silent step.
15. To live happily (is) to live honorably, that is with virtue.

### LITTERATURA

#### Something Fishy?

Salt (fish) without salt (fish).

You will cook liver, you will rub (it), and you will apply pepper or liquamen or salt. You will add oil. (You will add) liver of rabbit or of kid or of lamb or of (a young) chicken; and if you will have wished you will form a fish in a small form. You will add green oil on top.

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## CAPVT XV

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### **Pompeian Idol?**

Here two rivals sing; one girl holds the fasces.

#### **The Guy's an Ignoramus!**

Stronnius knows nothing.

#### **Two Epitaphs**

Valerius Philologus, freedman of Marcus. Qutia (Cutia) Silvana, wife. I await my man (husband).

To the spirits of the dead.

The earth holds the body, the stone (holds) the name, and air (holds) the soul.

Quintus Ammerus, slave.

#### **Augustus and His Heirs Apparent**

##### **Obverse:**

Caesar Augustus, son of the Divine, Father of (his) Country.

##### **Reverse:**

Gaius and Lucius Caesars, sons of Augustus, Consuls Designate, Princes of the Youth.

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. After a calamity the memory is another calamity.
2. The first appearance (initial impression) deceives many (men).
3. Give (your) right hand to a miserable man.
4. Doctor, attend to you yourself (heal your very self).
5. Divine nature has given fields, human skill (technology) has built cities.
6. I am a good shepherd; a good shepherd gives his own spirit (life) for (his) sheep.
7. Virtue has much (of) authority also (even) among the wicked.
8. Great, indeed, is the force of humanity.
9. You see three things from two (things).
10. No one of mortals is wise at all hours (times).
11. They make a wasteland, they call (it) peace.
12. (For) as many (thousands) of heads (men) are living, (there are) just as many thousands of interests.
13. You are wearing out (your) cloak in the summertime.
14. The shadow of a great name stands (remains)

## LITTERATURA

### Sold to the Highest Bidder

Two praetors, four tribunes,  
seven lawyers, ten poets  
were recently seeking a marriage of (to) a certain (woman)  
from a certain old man. That one did not delay:  
he gave the girl to Eulogus, the auctioneer.  
Tell (me), Severus, he did not do (it) stupidly (act foolishly), did he?

### If They're Not All Bad . . .

“There are thirty bad epigrams in (your) whole book.”  
If there are just as many good ones, Lausus, the book is good.

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## CAPVT XVI

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### A Lover's Spat?

Virgula to her (own) Tertius: you are unattractive.

#### A Real Princess!

Cestilia, queen of the Pompeians, sweet soul, farewell (be well)!

#### Hey, Sweetheart!

Crescens: greetings, sweet and pleasant soul!

#### A Silence Fell over the Guests

All became silent.

#### Epitaph for a Child

Atimetus, homeborn slave of Augustus, lived eight years, three months. Earinus and Potens (set up this monument) to (their) son.

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. An innocent defendant fears fortune, not a witness.
2. Sometimes it is pleasant even to be insane.
3. In (matters of) love insanity is always sweet.
4. The mind makes an enduring marriage, not the body.
5. Today we have seen marvelous (things).
6. Learn (about) all (men) from one crime.
7. We are not all able (to do) all things.
8. He who longs for nothing, of course, has all things.
9. An agreeable word multiplies friends and softens (personal) enemies.
10. All art is an imitation of nature.
11. Love is curable by no herbs.

### LITTERATURA

#### Host-gifts: Mushrooms

It is easy to send silver and gold and a mantle and a toga;  
it is difficult to send mushrooms.

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## CAPVT XVII

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### No Dinner!—How Rude!

Lucius Istacidius:  
with whom (at whose house) I do not dine, to me that (man) is  
uncouth!

#### No Love!—How Cruel!

Cruel Lalage, (you) who do not love me.

#### Drink and Be Merry

Titus Cissonius, son of Quintus, (of the) Sergian (tribe), veteran of the Fifth Gallic  
Legion:

“While I lived, I drank freely; you who are living, drink!”

Publius Cissonius, son of Quintus, (of the) Sergian (tribe), the brother (i.e., of  
Titus), made (this monument).

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. Blessed (is) the man who finds wisdom.
2. What is able to happen to anyone is able to happen to all (men).
3. And God saw all (things) which he had done, and they were exceedingly good.
4. Broad (is) the gate and wide the road which leads to ruin and many are those who enter through it.
5. A timid man even sees dangers which are not (there; i.e., which do not exist).
6. The passage of time does not either assuage or subdue nothing (i.e., there is nothing that the passage of time does not assuage or overcome).
7. Man will not live in (by) bread alone but in (by) every word which goes forth from the mouth of God.
8. I have begun to be a friend to myself.
9. For the root of all evils is desire.
10. Blind men are leaders of the blind.
11. A friend (is he) whom you love as (you love) your own soul.
12. Not all (men) who have a lyre are lyre-players.
13. Torments are unremitting for him who fears himself (his very self).

### LITTERATURA

#### The Character of Catiline

Lucius Catiline, born from a noble class, was (a man) with great force both of mind and body, but (a man) with an evil and corrupt character. From youth civil wars, slaughter, plunders (acts of plunder), (and) civil discord were pleasing to this man, and there (in those activities) he occupied his early manhood. His body (was) tolerant of starvation, of cold, of wakefulness beyond what is believable for

anyone. His mind (was) daring, deceitful, changeable. (He was) an imitator and concealer of anything (at all), desirous of another's (property), extravagant of (with) his own, intense in his desires, (he had) enough (of) eloquence, too little (of) wisdom. (His) disordered mind desired immoderate, incredible, and always exceedingly lofty (things).

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## CAPVT XVIII

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### **She Loves Me, She Loves Me Not . . .**

**CIL 4.4637:**

Cornelia Helena is loved by Rufu.s

**CIL 4.7679:**

(I ask that you make) Gavius aedile.  
Marcellus loves Praenestina and is not cared for.

#### **Dining Room for Rent**

Lodging is rented here – a triclinium with three couches and conveniences.

#### **Victory and Loss in the Arena**

**CIL 4.8055a-b:**

Oceanus, a freedman, won 13 (times). Aracintus, freedman, (won) 4 (times).

**CIL 4.10236:**

Marcus Attilius  
Marcus Attilius, (fights) one, crowns one, (he) won.

**CIL 4.8056:**

Severus, freedman, (won) 13 (fights); Albanus, a left-hander, freedman, won 19.

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. It is foolish to fear what cannot be avoided.
2. A wild boar is often held by a not large (i.e., a small) dog.
3. These things are not always what they seem.
4. We do not dare (things) not because they are difficult, but they are difficult because we do not dare (them).
5. Anger is necessary against the enemy.
6. The road from earth (lit., the lands) to the stars is not easy.
7. Mortal deeds never deceive the gods.
8. The wounds of a shameful reputation are never healed.
9. Fortunes are accustomed to be altered (to change) suddenly; life is varied.
10. Give and it will be given to you.

## LITTERATURA

### If a Tree Falls in the Wood . . .

Cinna is said to write little verses against me:  
(but) he does not write, whose poems no one reads.

### Apophoreta: Nuts

Gambling, nuts (= a triviality), seems (to be) a small (thing) and not ruinous;  
nevertheless, that (= gambling) has often destroyed buttocks for boys (= boys' buttocks; i.e., caused some lads to get their butts whupped!!).

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## CAPVT XIX

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### Love Is Bliss

No one is beautiful except (he) who has loved.

#### Under the Big Top

Gladiatorial company: animal hunt and awnings

#### Mother and Son: May They Rest in Peace

To the spirits of the dead: Decimus Apuleius Ionicus made (this monument) for Eutychia, his (own) sister and for Eutyches, her son. Mother and son have been placed in this burial niche.

#### Let's Practice Pronouns!

Which (thing – neut. sg., nom. and acc.)  
what?  
which (one - fem. pl.), (things - neut. plu., nom. and acc.)  
which (ones - fem, acc. pl.)

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. No one is a good man except (he) who is good to all (men).
2. Who is a good man? (He) who (preserves) the decrees of the senators, who preserves the laws and rights.
3. The play has been done (is complete/over): applaud!
4. Fortune has given to brave (strong) men.
5. The principles of the law are these: to live honorably, not to injure another, to grant to each (person) his (own) (thing).
6. For many (men) are called, but (however) few (men) are chosen.
7. No one is miserable unless because of his (own) vice.
8. For nothing has been at the same time both discovered and perfected.
9. Nothing is certain for man.
10. If God (is) for us, who (is) against us?
11. What district in the world (is) not full of our labor?

### LITTERATURA

#### Love Is Blind

“Quintus loves Thais.” “Which Thais?” (He loves) “The blind Thais.”  
Thais does not have (lacks) one eye, that one (= Quintus) (does not have/lacks) two.

#### Seeing Is Believing

Catullus, you say that I (am) an heir to you (= your heir).  
I will not believe (it), Catullus, unless I shall have read (it).

**Apophoreta: Ovid's Metamorphosis on Parchment**

This bundle, which has been constructed in (by means of) a multi-layered tablet  
(in multiple pages) for you,  
carries the fifteen (books of) poems of Naso.

**In the Beginning**

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and God was the Word. This was in the beginning with God: all (things) have been made through him (himself) and without him (himself) nothing has been made which has been made. In him (himself) there was life and life was the light of men, and the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not understand it (= the light).

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## CAPVT XX

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### The Arch of Titus

The Senate and Roman People (dedicated this monument) to the god Titus  
Vespasian Augustus, son of the god Vespasian.

#### A Shared Bowl

Lucius, Lucianus, Iulius, Diantus, Victor, Victoricus: a communal bowl.

#### Ginga

The joys which she had given, Fortune suddenly seized  
and turned the hopes of the parents into bitter lamentations;  
for the boy, small and snatched away from the threshold of life,  
Ginga, is buried in this tomb, wounds of (i.e., a source of pain to) his undeserving  
father.

Ah, the grief and groaning and mocked prayers of your (family)!  
Nevertheless, you do not proceed to the spirits of the dead but to stars of the sky.

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. Truth hates delays.
2. Therefore, I will not estimate the worth of men by (their) fortune, but by (their)  
character; each one gives character to himself, chance allots his situation in life.
3. A good tree makes good fruit(s); moreover, a bad tree makes bad fruit(s).
4. A woman either loves or hates – nothing is third.
5. From the dissatisfaction of men Fortune has been made (has become) a goddess.
6. Natural reasoning permits (one) to defend oneself against danger.
7. There is no journey without an end.
8. But who will guard the guards themselves?
9. Victory is in (at) hand for us (= in our hand).
10. We are freed from superstition, we are freed from the fear of death.
11. Unwelcome are the benefits to which fear is a companion.
12. He is free from danger who, even when he is safe, is on his guard.
13. The hand washes the hand.

### LITTERATURA

#### Apophoreta: A Scythe

Sure peace has bent me into the peaceful functions of the (our) leader.  
Now I am a farmer's (property), before I was a soldier's.

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## CAPVT XXI

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### Forever Friends

We have been here, two dear companions without end;  
if (you seek) our names, (they were Gaius and Aulus).

#### An Ass' Life

Work, little ass, in the way in which I have worked, and it will be of use to you.

#### Flavius Martialis Lies Here

To the spirits of the dead. Titus Flavius Martialis is buried here. "What I have eaten, (what) I have drunk, I have with me; what I left behind, I have lost." He lived 80 years. In front (= width), 5 feet; in depth, (?) feet.

#### The Ideal Woman: Epitaph for Claudia

Stranger, what I say is brief: stand near and read thoroughly.  
Here is the unlovely tomb of a lovely woman;  
(her) parents gave (her) the name "Claudia."  
She cherished her husband in her heart.  
She created two sons; of these she leaves one  
on earth, the other she places under the earth.  
(She was) of charming speech and moreover of pleasant bearing.  
She kept the house; she made the wool. I have spoken—depart.

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. I see tranquility again.
2. You are in the same boat.
3. Lofty (things) fall by hatreds, small (things) are lifted up by love.
4. Peace is produced by war.
5. When individuals commit murder, it is a crime; it is called a virtue when it is done in the name of the state.
6. It is not fitting to know all (things).
7. Nothing is correctly taught or learned without example.
8. Now, moreover, (there are) indeed many parts of the body, however (there is but) one body; the eye is not able to say to the hand, "I do not need your help," or, again, the head (say) to the feet, "You are not necessary to me."
9. How miserable it is, when a plan is overcome by chance.
10. All (men) are safe, when one (man) is defended.
11. Thus is the crowd: it judges few (things) from truth, many (things) from opinion.
12. A man who avoids work is not strong and vigorous.
13. For truth is able to labor; it is not able to be overcome.
14. (That) which is pleasing to many is protected from the greatest danger.

## LITTERATURA

### Gourmet ... or Gourmand?

Tucca, it is not enough (the fact) that you are a glutton:  
you desire to be called (one; i.e., a gourmet) and you desire to seem (to be one).

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## CAPVT XXII

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### Dedication to Mars Medocius and the Emperor Severus Alexander

To the god Mars Medocius of the countryside, and to Victory of our Alexander Pius Felix Augustus, Lossio Veda Caledo (the Caledonian), grandson of Vepogenus, set up the gift at his own expense.

#### The Vindolanda Tablets: A New Year's Letter to Cerialis

...s to his (own) Cerialis, (sends) greetings. I, brother, by a sacrifice have dedicated the day of the kalends, just as you had wished.

#### From a Lover's Ring

Good life! I love you; love me; preserve faith.

### TWO EPITAPHS

#### Lucius Annius Octavius Valerianus

Sacred to the spirits of the dead. Lucius Annius Octavius Valerianus.  
I have departed, I have escaped. Hope and Fortune, farewell:  
there is nothing to me (i.e., I have nothing to do) with you, make sport of others.

#### Umbricia Iusta

To the spirits of the dead of Umbricia Iusta, daughter of Aulus; she lived 15 years, 7 months, 10 days. Aulus Umbricius Magnus and Clodia Felicitas, (her) parents, (dedicated this monument) to a matchless daughter. What a daughter ought to do (ought to have done: to convey the perfect force of **dēbuit**) for (her) parents, death has obstructed: the parents have done (this) for (their) daughter.

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. For what is faith if not (other than) to believe what you do not see?
2. Money alone is the director of all things.
3. A patient and strong (man) makes himself (his own very self) happy.
4. Prove words by things (actions/deeds).
5. One day opens (creates it), one day destroys (it).
6. All safety is in the sword.
7. Your looks calculate your years.
8. Moreover, faith, hope, (and) charity now remain—these three; moreover greatest of these is charity.
9. (There is) a limit to all things.
10. (The) Roman thing (= state) stands (firm) by (its) ancient character and (its) men.
11. Good laws, he says, are produced from bad behaviors (character).

## LITTERATURA

### **Apophoreta: Wax**

This wax will provide nocturnal fires for you:  
for the lamp has been removed by your boy (= slave).

### **Apophoreta: Strigils**

Pergamon has sent these (strigils). Scrape yourself with the curved iron:  
(your) fuller will not so often scrub towels for you (= your towels).

### **The Packs on Our Backs *De Vitiis Hominum* (= *Concerning the Vices of Men*)**

Jupiter placed upon us two satchels:  
he gave (one satchel) full of (our) own vices behind (our) back,  
he suspended in front of (our) breast (a satchel) heavy with others' (vices).  
Because of this fact we are not able to see our own evils;  
(but) as soon as others misbehave, we are censors.

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**CAPVT XXIII**

**INSCRIPTIONES**

**The Oracle Speaks**

**CIL 1.2174:**

Do you believe what they say? They are not so: do not be foolish.

**CIL 1.2177:**

The horse is very beautiful, but you are not able to be carried by that (animal).

**CIL 1.2182:**

I command; and if this one will have done (it) for him (her), he will always be glad.

**CIL 1.2183:**

You, happy (and) willing, shall seek; (at) what (or: because it) will be given, you will always rejoice.

**CIL 1.2185:**

Now do you keep asking, now do you consult me? Time already passes (or: has already passed).

**CIL 1.2187:**

After all hopes have fallen, do you then consult me?

**CIL 1.2189:**

Why do you seek a plan after (the appropriate) time (i.e., when it is already too late)? What you ask is not (does not exist).

**Vatia for Aedile—Not! Some Negative Campaign Ads**

**CIL 4.575:** Macerio (and) all the sleepy guys, together with (?), ask (that you make) Vatia aedile.

**CIL 4.576:** The petty thieves ask (that you make) Vatia aedile.

**CIL 4.581:** I ask that you make Marcus Cerrinius Vatia aedile. All the late-night-drinkers ask (likewise). Florus with Fructus wrote (this)....

## PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. It is difficult to maintain moderation in all (things).
2. No one ever loses faith, except (he) who does not have (it).
3. Gratifying are labors completed (i.e., that have been completed).
4. No day is long for (some one) doing (something; i.e., for an active person).
5. Whatever has been said well by anyone is mine.
6. A judge who oppresses an innocent (man) condemns himself.
7. He flees a long way whoever flees his own (people).
8. I think (that) nothing (is) difficult for one loving (= a lover).
9. Nothing is hard for lovers; no labor is hard for one desiring.
10. For they who remove friendship from life seem to remove the sun from the world.

## LITTERATURA

### Just Say “No”!

Galla, you never give, you always promise to (someone) asking.  
If you always mislead, Galla, now I ask (you), say “no.”

### At Trimalchio’s Door

We arrived with Agamemnon at the door, on the post of which a sign had been hung up with this inscription:

Whatever slave shall have exited outdoors without the owner’s order will receive one hundred blows.

Moreover, at the very entrance was standing a doorman dressed in green, bound (girded) with a cherry-colored belt, and was shelling a pea (collective sg.: peas) in a silver plate. Above the doorway, moreover, a golden cage was hanging in which a multi-colored magpie was greeting those entering. But while I am amazed at all (these things), I, having been knocked flat on my back, almost broke my legs: for to the left, to those entering, not far from the office of the doorman, a huge dog, tied by a chain, had been painted on the wall and above (was) written in square lettering “Beware of the dog.” And indeed my colleagues laughed (at me).

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## CAPVT XXIV

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### A Love Triangle

Chloe (sends) greetings to Eutychia. Eutychia, you do not care for me.  
With your hope (being) strong, you love Rufa (or: Rufus).

#### Gaius Cuspius Pansa for Aedile!

(I ask that you make) Gaius Cuspius aedile.  
If any glory should be given to (a person) living modestly,  
worthy glory ought to be given to this young man.

All the goldsmiths ask (that you make) Gaius Cuspius Pansa aedile.

## TWO EPITAPHS

#### For a Boy:

To the spirits of the dead of Marcus Luceus Verus. He lived 7 years, 13 days, 2 hours.

#### And for a ...God:

If you hurry, go—I do not hold (you)—but if you have leisure, stay!  
With my body (having been) consumed, with my soul alive, I am a god.

## PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. Time must always be given: the day reveals the truth.
2. For no one is able to know all things.
3. Crime must be concealed by crime.
4. No one evil (= no evil man) (is) happy.
5. “All (things),” he says, “must be hoped for by a man (a man must hope for all things), while he lives.
6. Seek and it will be given to you; search and you will find; knock (on the door) and it will be opened to you; for every one who seeks receives, and (he) who searches finds, and it will be opened to (him) knocking (to him who knocks).
7. Therefore, return to Caesar (those things) which are Caesar’s and (return) to God (those things) which are God’s.
8. You do a thing done (something that has already been done).
9. Peace is sought by savage arms.
10. A good (thing) which is suppressed is never extinguished.
11. Spirits of the dead are something (i.e., are real): death does not end all things.
12. It must be contended by us (we must struggle) with luxury, with madness, with crime.

## LITTERATURA

### Laws of the 12 Tables

#### Table IV.i: Deformed Children

A boy conspicuous in (= in consequence of) deformity, as in accordance with the Twelve Tables, (must be) quickly killed.

#### Table IV.ii: Sale and Emancipation of Children

If a father puts a son up for sale three times, the son shall be free from the father.

#### Table IV.iii: Divorce

He ordered that (she = his wife) have for herself her own things (property); in accordance with the XII Tables, he took away her door keys.

#### Table IV.iv: Illegitimate Children

After ten months of the death (i.e., of a woman's husband) a son will not be admitted to legitimate hereditary succession.

#### Table VIII.x: Penalties for Arson

(He) who has burned a house or a pile of grain next to a home, bound and flogged, is ordered to be killed by fire, provided that he did it knowing and aware (of what he was doing). If in truth (it was done) by accident, that is by carelessness, either he is ordered to repair the damage or, if he is not adequately solvent, he is punished less severely.

#### Table X.i: Disposal of the Dead

A law in the XII (Tables) says, do not bury nor burn a dead man in the city.

### If Only She'd Had Robitussin!

Aelia, if I remember, there had been four teeth to you (= you used to have four teeth):

one cough expelled two (teeth) and one two (more).

Untroubled you are now able to cough in all days (every day):

in your case a third cough has nothing that it can do.

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## CAPVT XXV

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### The Vindolanda Tablets:

##### **I Hope You're Well—Just Got Some Great Oysters!**

...(I hope) that you are well, which (thing) is the principal reason of my letter. A friend has sent me 50 oysters from Cordonovi (or: Cordonovae). So that you may confirm (?) more quickly... To Lucius the decurion from  
....

##### **A Mother's Epitaph for Her Daughter**

Salvidiena Hilara, freedwoman of Quintus, living, to Salvidiena Faustilla, her delight, learned in all skills: you have left behind your mother grieving, mourning, wailing. She lived 15 years, 3 months, 11 days, 7 hours. Evil Fate snatched (her) a maiden. My darling, you have left your miserable mother.

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. Nothing is unlimited except Oceanus: they say that fertile lands lie in the Ocean and beyond Ocean again other shores.
2. A wise (man) will love; others will desire.
3. He seeks a benefit who says that he has given (i.e., something to someone).
4. Shameless is the man who knows how to receive a benefit and does not know how to return (one).
5. An unprincipled (man) knows how to demand a service, does not know how to return (one).
6. A faithful friend (is) a remedy of life and of immortality.
7. Perhaps in the future it will help to remember even these things.
8. Wicked poisons lie hidden under sweet honey.
9. It is dangerous to believe and not to believe.
10. What is not learned in youth, is not known in old age. (Recalls the best-selling book, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten!*)
11. A word (= a thing said) is enough for a wise (man). ("A word to the wise is sufficient!")
12. Learn all (things): you will see afterwards that nothing is superfluous; limited knowledge is not pleasant.

### LITTERATURA

#### **Laws of the 12 Tables: Types of Punishment**

Tullius writes that there are eight kinds of punishments in the laws: a fine, chains, beatings, compensation in kind, degradation (by a censor), exile, death, slavery.

### Live Yesterday!

Postumus, you say that tomorrow you will live, always tomorrow:  
tell me, Postumus, when does that “tomorrow” of yours come?  
How far off (is) that “tomorrow” of yours? When is it? Or from where must it be  
sought?  
It doesn’t lie among the Parthians and Armenians, does it?  
Already that “tomorrow” of yours has the years of Priam or of Nestor.  
Tell me for how much that “tomorrow” of yours can be bought?  
You will live tomorrow? Postumus, it is already too late to live today:  
that man is wise, Postumus, who(ever) has lived yesterday.

### Murder, She Wrote

Wicked Chloe has written on the tombs of seven husbands that  
“She has done (it).” What can be more obvious?

### Apophoreta: Three-leafed Writing Tablet

Then you will think that our three-leafed writing tablets (are) not worthless gifts,  
when your girlfriend will write to you that she will come.

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## CAPVT XXVI

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### More Than a Little in Love

To (my) most loving Sejanus.

#### Epitaph to His Wives

Gaius Rubellius Clytius to Marcia Hellas, daughter of Lucius, (and) to Cassia Sulpicia Crassilla, daughter of Gaius, most dear wives and to their (own) descendants.

(You) who read this inscription (you SHALL) remember that you are mortal.

#### From the Catacomb of Priscilla

Manius Acilius V[...], very distinguished man, (and) Priscilla, very distinguished (woman).

#### Hail and Farewell

Hail, Pudens! Gaius Minicius Chrestus, freedman of Gaius, to Pudens:  
Farewell!

Nothing is greater nor more useful than death.

#### Epitaph for Hateria Telete

Hateria Telete lived twenty-seven years:

You, father, and mother, hold back (your) pain with tears,  
for you cannot rescue (me) snatched by fate.

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. One night awaits all (men) and the road of death must be tread once.
2. All laws and all rights allow (one) to defend force by force.
3. The good opinion of men is more secure than money.
4. There is a certain pleasure to weep (= in weeping).
5. Most weighty is the anger of an honest man.
6. Most weighty is the rule of custom.
7. Necessity knows no other thing (nothing else) than to win.
8. Friendship seems to me (to have) arisen from nature rather than from need.
9. A friend (is) more necessary than fire and water.
10. And rather late than never.
11. Do they who love, themselves create delusions for themselves?
12. When he who accuses judges, force, not law, prevails.
13. Nothing, moreover, is more outstanding than god; therefore, it is necessary for the world to be ruled by him.

## LITTERATURA

### Epitaph for a Poet

You were naughty in (your) verse, modest in (your) mind.

### How to Look Pretty!

You have all your girlfriends (girlfriends who are all) either old or ugly and fouler than old (women).  
You lead and drag these companions with you through dinner parties, colonnades (i.e., colonnaded public buildings), theatres. Fabulla, in this way you are beautiful, in this way (you are) a (young) girl.

### Hating Pays Dividends

Auctus, the wealthy consider anger a kind of profit:  
It costs less to hate than to give.

### The Fox and the Grapes: *Concerning the Fox and the Grapes.*

A fox compelled by hunger was seeking a bunch of grapes in a tall vine, jumping with utmost strength. When he was not able to touch it, departing he says, “You are not yet ripe; I do not wish to take a bitter (bunch of grapes).” (They) who diminish by words what (things) they are not able to do, will have to (should) ascribe this example to themselves.

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## CAPVT XXVII

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### A Jewish Burial

Here has been placed Flaes, the Hebrew.

#### Aurelia Philematium and Lucius Aurelius Hermia: Forever Faithful

Lucius Aurelius Hermia, freedman of Lucius, butcher from the Viminal Hill.  
This (one), who has preceded me by fate, with a chaste body,  
a singular wife, a loving (woman) caring for my spirit,  
lived faithful to her faithful man. With equal spirit,  
never in avarice (or: in bitterness) did she depart from (her) duty.  
Aurelia, freedwoman of Lucius.

Aurelia Philematio, freedwoman of Lucius.  
I living was called Aurelia Philematium,  
chaste, modest, ignorant of the crowd, faithful to (my) husband.  
(My) husband was a fellow freedman; that same (man), whom, alas, I am  
without,  
in fact was in truth above and beyond a parent (= guardian).  
He himself received me, at the age of 7 years, to his bosom.  
I, 40 years old, am put under the power of death.  
That one, with my duty (being) constant, flourished in the eyes of all.

#### To Jupiter Optimus Maximus

To Jupiter Optimus Maximus and to the other immortal gods and goddesses  
Tiberius Claudius Demetrius, from Nicomedia his home, an outstanding man (= a  
formal title), procurator of our Augusti and likewise ducenarius for oversight of  
the lower country district, (dedicated this).

#### The Pillar of Nautes

With Tiberius Caesar being Augustus, the Parisian sailors at public expense  
set up (this monument) to Jupiter Optimus Maximus

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. (One's) dinner-table produces more friends than (one's) intellect.
2. Nothing is able to be purchased better than a reliable friend.
3. Fire proves (tests the quality of) gold, misery (proves) strong men.
4. A good name is better than much wealth.
5. A later day is the pupil of an earlier (day).
6. (He) who overcomes a proneness to anger overcomes the greatest enemy.
7. When an evil man pretends that he is good, then he is the worst (most wicked).
8. An evil mind thinks (even) worse in secret.
9. No punishment is greater for a man than misfortune.
10. Generally the hatreds of (one's) closest (relatives/associates) are the most bitter.
11. When (a person of) older age does wrong, (a person of) lesser age learns badly.
12. We ought neither to write so much nor to read so much.

## LITTERATURA

### Love is Blind—Really!

Asper sensibly esteems Formosa, but (he is) blind;  
Therefore, as the situation is, Asper loves more than he sees.

### French Toast sans Eggs?

Sweets in another way (= a different dessert):  
You break (up) scraped (you scrape and crumble up) wheat (bread) , and  
you will make rather large bite-size portions; you pour it (=moisten it) in milk,  
you fry (it) even (or: and you fry it) in olive oil, you pour over honey and you will  
serve (it).

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## CAPVT XXVIII

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### A Fugitive Slave

Hold me lest I flee, and return me to my master Viventius in the courtyard of Callistus.

#### TWO EPITAPHS:

##### For Egnatia Florentina:

Egnatia Florentina is buried here; may the earth be light for you.  
What a daughter ought to do for a parent,  
this the father did too early for (his) daughter.

##### And for Gaius Annidienus Marcellus and Ulpia: Urinate Elsewhere!

To the spirits of the dead of Gaius Annidienus Marcellus, Gaius Annidienus Frequens, military officer of Augustus, for (his) most devoted and unequalled father and for himself and his freedmen and freedwomen and the descendents of them (= their descendents). To the spirits of the dead of Ulpia Demotis, freedwoman of Marcus. Let not anyone make urine here. From a vision of the nurse.

#### EXHORTATIONS, GOOD. . .

##### God Bless Us!

We live here. May the gods make us happy.

##### What a Doll!

May you, (little) girl, thus be well, may you thus hold Pompeian Venus favorably inclined! MVNN (?) Be well! Be well! Be well! Be well!

#### . . . AND NOT SO GOOD

##### No Vote for Barca!

Numerius Veius Barca, may you waste away!

##### Go Hang Yourself!

May you be fixed (nailed) on a cross!

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. For laws are silent among arms (in time of war).
2. Courage (or virtue) alone shows perpetual, untroubled joy.
3. The guards of the world (are) the sun and moon.
4. (He) who yields to his own (family) is not conquered, but conquers.

5. Let us come from fables to facts (= things done).
6. The words of wise (men) are heard in silence more (clearly) than the shouting of a leader among foolish (men).
7. Internal strife of (among) citizens is an opportunity of (for) the enemy.
8. Disaster is an opportunity of (for) courage.
9. The mind and spirit and plan and thought of the state have been placed in the laws.
10. And do not send your pearls before swine.
11. It is useful that there are many accusers in the state, so that audacity may be restrained by fear.
12. I do not live so that I may eat, but I eat so that I may live (I do not live to eat, but eat to live)..

## LITTERATURA

### Some Yummy Comestibles!

#### Host-gifts: Luna Cheese

The cheese of Etruria stamped with the sign of the moon will supply a thousand lunches for your boys.

#### Asparagus

You will dry asparagus; you should dip (them) upright into warm (water); you will serve (them) rather firm.

### Apophoreta: A Stenographer

Although (= granted that) the words race, the hand is faster than they (are): The tongue (has) not yet (finished) its (work), the right (hand) has finished (its) work.

### An Unexpected Birthday Celebration

Do you know that the sad trip has been removed from the girl's mind?  
Now it is permitted (to her) to (now she may) be at Rome on her birthday.  
Let that birthday be celebrated by us all,  
which now by chance comes to you not even expecting (it).

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## CAPVT XXIX

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### A Hero and . . . the Laundry Guys

I sing of arms and the man who first from the shores of Troy

I sing of fullers and an owl, not arms and the man.

#### Gladiators, Wild Animal Hunts, and . . . “Air Conditioning”

Celer wrote (this). Twenty pairs of gladiators of Decimus Lucretius Satrius Valens, Perpetual Flamen of Nero Caesar, son of Augustus, and ten pairs of gladiators of Decimus Lucretius, son of Valens, will fight at Pompeii the sixth, fifth, fourth, third, and day before the Ides of April (so: April 8-12). There will be the usual animal hunt and awnings. Aemilius Celer by himself wrote (this) by moon (light).

#### Do Not Desecrate

Let (those things) which you wish so happen to you that you do not desecrate this sacred (place).

#### Epitaph to a Devoted Wife

To Vernasia Cyclas, the best wife; she lived twenty-seven years; Vitalis, freedman of Augustus, bedroom (= private) secretary. To a very faithful, most loving, most devoted (wife).

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. Not even a fly.
2. Reading nourishes innate talent.
3. While the fates permit us, let us satiate (our) eyes with love: a long night comes to you, and a day (that is) not going to return.
4. Tomorrow let him love who has never loved and let him who has loved love tomorrow.
5. To love (your) parents is the first law of nature.
6. It is dishonest to accept (that) which you may not be able to (which you cannot) return.
7. Just as smoke (arises) from fire so reputation (here: infamy) arises from misdeed.
8. Little books books have their fates in accordance with (their) reader's ability.
9. Women live by (under) a harsh law.
10. Nothing is loftier than the love of truth.
11. Let those perish who have said our things before us.
12. Therefore, let him who desires peace prepare for war; let him who desires victory train soldiers diligently.

## LITTERATURA

### Pliny Replies to a Letter from His Wife

Gaius Pliny (says) greetings to his Calpurnia.

You write that you are exceedingly affected (upset) by my absence and have one solace, (the fact) that instead of me you hold my little books, (and) you even often arrange (them) in my place. It is pleasing that you need us, (it is) pleasing that you find comfort in these remedies; likewise I repeatedly read your letters and repeatedly take them into my hands as if (they were) new. But I am aroused to a desire of (for) you the more for this reason: for (a person) whose letters have so much (of) charm, how much (of) sweetness there is in this person's conversations! Nevertheless, you write me as frequently as possible, although this delights me so (much) that it tortures (me; = that it is torture). Farewell.

### What Good's a Sober Friend?

Aper is abstemious, sober; what (is this) to me?  
So (i.e., for such behavior) I praise a slave, not a friend.

### Endless Love?

My life, you propose to me that this love  
of ours will be sweet and perpetual between us.  
Great Gods, make (it) that she can promise (this) truly  
and that she says it sincerely and from (her) heart,  
so that it is permitted to us to extend for (our) entire life  
this eternal pact of sacred friendship.

### His Only Begotten Son

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have life eternal. For God did not send his Son into the world that he may judge the world but that the world may be saved through him. He who believes in him is not judged; however, he who does not believe has already been judged, because he did not believe in the name of the only begotten Son of God. Moreover, this is the judgment: because light came into the world and men loved darkness more than light, for their works were evil. For everyone who does evil (things) hates the light and does not come to the light, so that his deeds are condemned. However, he who makes truth (= acts in accordance with divine law) comes to the light so that his deeds are revealed, because they have been done in God.

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## CAPVT XXX

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### The Temple of Saturn

The Senate and Roman People restored (the temple) consumed by fire.

#### THREE CANDIDATES FOR AEDILE

##### Woolworkers for Firmus!

The felt makers ask (that you make) Vettius Firmus aedile.

##### Barbers for Trebius!

The barbers (ask that you make) Julius Trebius aedile.

##### Fronto Is an Honorable Man

If modesty is thought to be of use at all in life,  
this Lucretius Fronto is worthy of a good political office.

#### Trust in God

I shall trust in God: I will not fear what man does (may do) to me.

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. You should expect from another (that) which you have done to another.
2. Often the highest innate talents lie hidden in obscurity.
3. And no one ought to be called happy before both death and the last funeral rites.
4. While we drink, while we call for garlands, perfumes, (and) girls, old age, not perceived, creeps up (creeps up unnoticed).
5. Certain peace is better and safer than hoped-for victory; the former is in your hand, the latter in the hand of the gods (this sentence actually reverses the usual meaning of **hic** and **ille**).
6. No one has been (become) very disgraceful suddenly (i.e., moral degradation is a gradual process).
7. Moreover there is nothing so swift as slander, nothing is more easily sent out, nothing is more quickly received, (nothing is) more widely scattered.
8. You inquire what I teach?—that it must even be learned by an old man (that even an old man must learn).
9. Nothing is more miserable than when what (that which) you have done is shameful.
10. Presence diminishes fame.

## LITTERATURA

### How MANY Kisses?

You ask, Lesbia, how many of your kissings  
are enough and more than enough for me.  
As great a number of Libyan grains of sand  
lies in silphium-bearing Cyrene  
between the oracle of fiery Jupiter  
and the sacred tomb of ancient Battus  
or as many stars, when night is silent,  
see the secret loves of men;  
for you to kiss so many kisses,  
is enough and more (than enough) for insane Catullus,  
(kisses) which neither meddlesome (men) would be able  
to total up nor an evil tongue be able to bewitch.

### MARTIAL AND THE LADIES

#### Some Literally Lovely Libations

Let Laevia be toasted by six cyathi, Justina by seven),  
Lycas by five, Lyde by four), Ida by three.  
Let every girlfriend be counted by poured Falernian,  
and not any (girl) comes, you, Sleep, come to me.

#### Apophoreta: Writing Tablets

Although the girl has not yet read these (writing tablets),  
she has learned (knows) what the Vitellians (= writing tablets) desire.

#### But Nobody Reads Yours!

I do not know, Faustus, what you write to so many girls:  
I do know this, that no girl writes to you.

#### Cold as Ice

I shall say why you are worthy and unworthy of your name:  
you are cold and you are black: you are not and you are "Chione."

## TWO LETTERS

### From Seneca to Lucilius

Seneca (says) greetings to his Lucilius.

Daily prepare something (of aid) against poverty, something of aid against death, and not less against other plagues; and when you have surveyed many (things), select one which you may digest on that day. I myself also do this; from rather many (things; i.e., several things) which I have read I seize upon something. This is today's which I found in (the work of) Epicurus—for I am accustomed even to go across into the foreign camp, not as a deserter, but as an explorer: “Happy poverty,” he says, “is an honorable thing.” In truth that is not poverty, if it is happy; not he who has too little, but he who desires more, is a pauper. For what does it matter how much (there is) to that one (how much that man has) in (his) cashbox, how much lies in (his) granary, how much (livestock) he pastures or (how much) he earns at interest, if it threatens (something) belonging to another, if he counts up not (things) gained but (things) that must be gained. You ask what is the limit of riches?—first to have what is necessary, next (to have) what is sufficient. Farewell.

### From Pliny to Calpurnia

Gaius Plinius (says) greetings to his Calpurnia

It is incredible by what great desire of (for) you I am held. The reason first is (our) love, then (the fact) that we are not accustomed to be apart. That is why I spend a great part of (my) nights awake in (over) a mental picture of you (awake from thinking of you); that is why during the day, in which hours (during the hours in which) I was accustomed to visit you, as is very truly said, (my) very feet lead me to your room; (that is) why, at last, distressed and sad and similar to (one) excluded from an empty doorway, I withdraw. One time is free from these torments, when (lit., at which [time]) I am worn out in the forum and in the legal disputes of friends. You judge what my life is, for which (there is) rest in labor, (and) solace in distress and worries.

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## CAPVT XXXI

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### **Bathe, Drink, and Be Merry!**

He lived fifty-two years. To the spirits of the dead of Tiberius Claudius Secundus; here he has all things with him:

Baths, wines, (and) Venus corrupt our bodies;  
but baths, wines, (and) Venus make life (complete/perfect).

Merope, freedwoman (or slave) of Caesar made (this) for (her) dear mate and for herself and for her own and their descendants.

#### **Pyrrhus Laments the Death of Chius**

Pyrrhus (says) greetings to his colleague Chius: I take it badly (the fact) that I have heard (that) you are dead. And, so, farewell!

#### **Epitaph for Chryse**

Chryse sleeps here.

#### **Elect the Breadman!**

I ask that you make Gaius Julius Polybius aedile: he produces good bread.

#### **Reward for Safe Return**

I have fled: Hold me. When you will have returned me to Zoninus, my master, you (will) receive a solidus.

#### **Doles Dish of the Emperor Licinius**

Licinius Augustus, may you always prevail! As (for) ten (years) so (for) twenty (years). At Naissus.

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. When they are silent, they shout (i.e., by their silence they declare their feelings).
2. You should love your parent (father), if he is just: if (it is) otherwise, you should bear (him).
3. The same aids (remedies) are not suitable for all sick men.
4. You should bear, not blame, what cannot be changed.
5. Fortune is glass-like: when it shines it is then broken.
6. When you seek a true (thing, i.e., the truth), you should give freedom to the tongue.
7. When fear comes, sleep has a rare place (= rarely has a place).
8. Nothing is miserable, except when you think (it so).
9. When you accuse another, look into your own life first.
10. He carries a stone with one hand, he shows bread with another (hand).
11. He did not seek public offices, although they were open to him on account of either popularity or merit.

12. No land is an (a place of) exile, but is another fatherland.
13. For when solitude and life without friends is full of treachery and fear, reason itself advises to acquire (= that one acquire) friendships.

## LITTERATURA

### No Christmas Presents?

Sad Athenagoras did not send presents to us  
which he is accustomed to send in the middle of the month of winter.  
Whether Athenagoras is sad, Faustinus, I shall see:  
certainly Athenagoras has made me sad.

### Mr. Prettyman

I hate you, Sabellus, because you are pretty.  
A pretty man is a foul thing—and (so is) Sabellus.  
I, in the end, prefer war rather than Sabellus.  
Sabellus, would that you may rot, prettily! (or: Would that you may rot, pretty Sabellus!)

### Host-gifts: Perfume: Keep This Perfume!

You should never leave behind to an heir perfume nor wines:  
let that one have (your) money, give all of these things to yourself.

### Never Pity a Snake: A Snake (Is) Harmful to a Compassionate Person

(He) who bears aid to evil men, sorrows after a time.  
A certain man lifted a snake rigid with cold  
and comforted (it) in (his) lap, himself compassionate against himself (i.e., to his own detriment);  
for when it (= the snake) was revived, it immediately killed the man.  
When another (snake) asked this cause of the misdeed (the cause of this misdeed), he responded: "Let not anyone learn to provide help to the immoral.

### The Augustan Peace

There was everywhere a sure and continuous either peace or settlement of the entire human race, and at last Caesar Augustus in the seven hundredth year from the city having been founded (from the founding of the city) dared to close the (temple doors of the) double Janus, (which had been) closed twice before him (Augustus), under King Numa and with Carthage (when Carthage was) conquered for the first time. Hence having been turned to peace, with many weighty and severe laws he curbed (reformed) an age inclined to all evils and flowing in luxury; on account of these so many huge deeds he was called Commander in Perpetuity and Father of the Country. It was even discussed in the Senate whether he might be called Romulus because he had founded an empire; but the name of "Augustus" seemed holier and more respectful, so that clearly even then, while he inhabits the earth (i.e., while still alive), he might be consecrated (viewed as divine) by (his) very name and title.

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## CAPVT XXXII

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### **The Vindolanda Tablets: A Soldier's Letter to His Brother**

Sollemnis (gives) the most (abundant) greetings to his brother Paris. I want you to know that I am quite well, which I desire that you likewise have done (i.e., have been faring well). Most impious man, you who have sent me not (even) one letter; but I think that I, who am writing to you, act more humanely.

#### **Stay Away from Mr. Lucky!**

Thyrsa, do not love Fortunatus: farewell!

#### **No Freebies!**

I loathe paupers. Whoever asks for something without payment is foolish. Let him give (pay) the money and receive the item.

#### **I'm Hungry!**

Whoever shall have called me to dinner, let him be well!

#### **“NOT YOURS,” SAID THE POT**

##### **Shoplifters, Beware**

Do not carry me away (steal me): I am Helvetius'.

##### **Touch Me Not!**

I am Epaphroditus' – do not touch me!

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. He sleeps well, who does not sense (is not aware of) how badly he sleeps.
2. All (men) wish to learn; no one (wishes) to pay a fee.
3. Who (is) rich?—he who will desire nothing. Who is poor?—the avaricious man.
4. If you wish to be loved, love!
5. A humble (man) is able to fall neither far (down) nor grievously.
6. To wish the same thing and not to wish the same thing, this, in the end (ultimately), is firm (true) friendship.
7. When he himself (on his own) conquers himself, a wise (man) is minimally (not at all) conquered.
8. As long as he is wealthy, a barbarian himself (even a barbarian) is pleasing.
9. We all, when we are well, easily give proper advice (plans) to sick men.
10. He who gives quickly gives a benefit twice (worth as valuable) to a poor man.
11. He who wishes to act wickedly never does not find (always finds) a reason.
12. A poor man will be offensive even to his (own) neighbor; but in truth, many (are) the friends of the rich.

13. Do not judge so that you may not be judged.
14. Do not judge and you will not be judged; do not condemn and you will not be condemned; forgive and you will be forgiven; give and it will be given to you.
15. Therefore let there be the highest severity in speaking of the law (i.e., in your judicial decisions), as long as this (severity) is not varied due to favor (influence) but is kept fair (i.e., applied equally in all cases).

## LITTERATURA

### FIVE ELEGIACS BY MARTIAL

#### **Plagiarize Me, for a Fee!**

Fidentinus, rumor reports that you recite to the people our little books not otherwise than (i.e., just as if they were) your own.  
If you want them to be called mine, I shall send you the poems for free:  
if you want them to be called yours, buy them so they are not mine.

#### **No Kisses!**

Postumus, you give kisses to some, to others you give (your) right (hand).  
Are you saying, "Which do you prefer?--choose." I prefer the hand.

#### **Chateau Mouton Rothschild, or Boone's Farm?**

You mix Veientan (wines) for me, to yourself you serve Massican (wines):  
I prefer to smell these cups (the latter) than to drink (the former).

#### **Promises, Promises!**

You promise all (things), when you have drunk the whole night;  
in the morning you give nothing. Pollio, drink in the morning!

#### **My Apophoreta: Good Bathroom Reading?**

You can finish this little book in whatever place you wish:  
the entire work is completed by (in) two verses.  
If you ask why titles have been added, I will teach (you):  
so that, if you shall have preferred, you may read the titles alone.

### **The Dog and His Reflection: A Dog Carrying Meat through the River**

He rightly loses what is his own (property) who seeks another's (property).  
A dog, when he was carrying meat across a river, (while) swimming,  
saw his own image in the reflection (of the water),  
and thinking that another prey was being carried by another (dog),  
wished to snatch (it) away; but (his) greed was disappointed  
and he let go of the food which he was holding in his mouth  
and moreover he was not able to touch (obtain) what he was seeking.

### **Hannibal Vows Eternal Enmity with Rome**

“My father,” he says, “Hamilcar, with me (being) a little boy, as having been born not more than nine years, setting out into Spain from Carthage as general, offered sacrificial animals to Jupiter Optimus Maximus. While which (= this) sacred matter (rite) was being performed, he asked (from) me whether I wished to set out into camp with him. When I had accepted this gladly and had begun to seek from him that he not hesitate to lead (me), then that man says, “I shall do (so) if you will have given to me a promise which I demand.” At once he led me to the altar, at which he had set about to sacrifice, and, with the others having been removed, he ordered (me) holding this (= altar) to swear that I never would be in friendship with the Romans. I have, continuously right up to this time, so preserved this oath given to (my) father that it ought to be a doubt to no one but that I will be in (of) this same mind for the remaining (all the rest of) time.

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## CAPVT XXXIII

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### TWO LOVERS' GRAFFITI

##### **A Woman Hurries Her Driver**

If you were to consider the fires of love, muleteer,  
you would hurry more, so that you might see Venus.  
I love a charming youth: I ask (you), spur on (the horses), let us go.  
You have drunk: let us go; seize the reins and shake (them) out,  
convey (me) to Pompeii, where love is sweet.  
You are my. . . .

##### **And a Lover Curses His Would-be Rival**

If anyone by chance will desire to violate my girl,  
may love burn that man in the deserted mountains.

##### ***Sculptrix*: Terentia's Farewell to Her Brother**

I have seen the pyramids without you, sweetest brother,  
and here, as much as I could, I sad(ly) poured forth tears for you,  
and I am engraving this lament in commemoration of our grief.  
Thus, Trajan, let the name of Decimus Gentianus,  
priest and companion to (your) triumphs, and censor within (for) six lustrations,  
(and) consul, stand out on a towering pyramid.

##### **Epitaph to Clodia Charis**

To the spirits of the dead Lucius Arulenus Zosimus made (this monument) for  
Clodia Charis his very sweet wife. Who, if she had reached to the limit of life,  
would have not envied men nor gods. She lived barely fifteen days with him  
(i.e. Zosimus).

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. If (things are going) badly now, it will not be so also in the future.
2. From an end, (there are) other (i.e., new) beginnings.
3. Even slaves are men and have equally drunk one (i.e., the same) milk, even if an evil fate will have oppressed them.
4. Fortune is able to destroy riches, not the spirit.
5. You should not praise anyone before (his) death.
6. If you (will) speak an insult, you will hear (one).
7. Money has made no one rich.
8. Alas—how difficult is the guardianship of glory!
9. You should not carry logs into a forest.
10. If he shall proceed (he proceeds) to say to me what (things) he wishes, he will hear those things which he does not wish (to hear).
11. You would overcome better (accomplish more) by planning than by a proneness to anger.

12. If you should not be wise through yourself (i.e., on your own, by nature), you would hear (listen to) a wise man in vain.

## LITTERATURA

### If My Epigrams Offend You, Don't Read Them!

I would excuse (offer excuses/apologies for) the naughty truth of (my) words, that is the language of epigram, if the model were mine (i.e., if I had set the standard and been the first to write in this way): (but) so (in this way) Catullus writes, so Marsus, so Pedo, so Gaetulicus, so whoever is thoroughly (widely, popularly) read. If anyone, nevertheless, is so ostentatiously prudish that in his presence it is not right to speak (real, uncensored) Latin on any page, he can be contented by a letter or rather by (just) a title. Epigrams are written for those who are accustomed to watch the Floralia. Let Cato not enter my theater, or, if he shall have entered, let him watch.

### From "Robberski" to "Robber"?

Cinnamus, you demand that you be called "Cinna":  
I ask, Cinna, is this not a barbarism?  
If you had been called "Furius" before,  
would you, by that method of yours, be called "Fur"? (To convey the intended wordplay one might substitute the names "Robberski" or "Robertson" and "Robber.")

### A Good Face Beats a Good Family

I prefer a free-born woman, but if, nevertheless, that one is denied,  
the second-best option for me is a freedwoman.  
A slave-girl is in the last place: but if she will surpass (surpasses)  
each in beauty, this one (i.e. the slave-girl) will be to us freeborn.

### More Kitchen Tricks

In order that you may make (in order to make) salted meat sweet:  
You will make salted meat sweet, if you first cook (it) in milk  
and afterward in (put it into) water.

In order that you may make (in order to make) bad honey good:  
You will make bad honey good for selling, if you will have mixed together  
one part of bad (honey) and two (parts) of good.

### King Romulus' Drinking Habits

They say that the same Romulus, having been called to dinner, did not drink much there, because on the next day he had business. They say to him: Romulus, if all men should act in this manner, wine would be cheaper. To these men he replied: not at all, in truth, (it would be) expensive, if (each one) should drink as much as each wishes (will wish); for I drank as much as I wished."

### **The Vastness of Rome's Imperial Power**

The Roman people from king Romulus to Caesar Augustus through seven hundred years in peace and war managed so much of (so many) accomplishments, that, if anyone should compare the magnitude of (its) empire with the years, he would think (it) out of proportion to the period of time. So widely did it (= Roman people) extend (its) arms (i.e., military control) throughout the world (lit., the orb of the lands) that they who read about the affairs of that (people) are learning about the deeds not of one people but of the (entire) human race. It (= the Roman people) was buffeted in so many labors and dangers that Courage and Fortune seem to have contended to establish its empire.

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## CAPVT XXXIV

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### The Arch of Constantine

To Emperor Caesar Flavius Constantine Maximus Pius (devoted) Felix (fortunate) Augustus, the Senate and Roman people dedicated the arch in honor of (his) triumphs, because at one time by just arms with his own army, by inspiration of a divine power, (and) by the magnitude of (his) mind, he avenged the republic as much from a tyrant as from his (Maxentius') every faction.

#### Enjoy!

Enjoy (this) happily!

## HANGING OUT IN POMPEII

#### Time on Their Hands

Romula lingers here with Staphylus.

#### Tired of Waiting

Gaius Julius Primigenius (was) here: why do you delay?

#### Oops!

We have urinated on the bed, I confess; host, we have sinned.  
If you (will) say, "Why?"—there was no chamber pot!

#### Once Burned, Twice Shy

Whoever loves (he) ought not to use hot springs,  
for no one (having been/who has been) burned can love flames.

#### Go Hang Yourself!

Samius to Cornelius: hang yourself (lit., be hanged)!

#### Way Too Many Graffiti

O wall, I am amazed that you have not fallen down in ruins,  
(you) who support so many boring things of writers.

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. Moreover, not to know what happened before you were born, this is to be always a boy.
2. Hale, Emperor, they (who are) about to die greet you!
3. A man dies as often as he loses his (family members).
4. (As we are) being born, we are dying.

5. To die for one's country is sweet and noble.
6. We measure great men by (their) courage, not by (their) fortune.
7. Decency cannot be taught, it can (only) be born (i.e., it is an innate quality).
8. "You talk in one way," you remark, "(but) you live in another."
9. Grasp the (subject) matter, (and) the words will follow.
10. You know (how) to conquer, Hannibal; you do not know (how) to use (your) victory.
11. He who flees judgment confesses (his) crime.
12. Man is outside his body when he becomes angry.

## LITTERATURA

### Where's the Beef?

Yesterday, I admit, you gave good perfume  
to (your) guests, but you sliced nothing (i.e., no meat).  
It is a funny thing to smell good and (at the same time) be hungry:  
he who does not dine and is anointed with perfume, Fabullus,  
this (man) seems to me (to be) truly dead.

### Beware of Heirs Bearing Gifts

Gaurus, he who gives gifts to you, (who are) wealthy and old,  
if you are wise and aware, is saying this to you, "Die!"

### A Haunted House

There was in Athens a spacious and roomy house, but with a bad reputation and dangerous. Throughout the silence of the night (there was) a sound of iron, and if you listen more attentively, a noise of chains was echoed at first far away, then from very nearby: soon a ghost appeared, an old man consumed with wasting and filth, with a flowing beard, with dreadful hair; he was bearing and shaking shackles on his legs (and) chains on his hands. Then grim and horrible nights were spent awake by the inhabitants through (on account of their) fear; sickness and, with (their) growing terror, death followed the wakefulness. For by day also, although the image had disappeared, memory of the image wandered in (their) eyes, and fear was (lasted) longer than the causes of (their) fear. Thence the house (was) deserted and condemned because of solitude (i.e., its abandonment) and the whole (house) was abandoned to that monster.

### A Polylingual King

Quintus Ennius said that he had three hearts, because he knew (how) to speak in Greek and in Oscan and in Latin. Mithridates, moreover, the celebrated king of Pontus and Bithynia, who was overcome by Gnaeus Pompeius in war, was conversant in the languages of 22 nations, which he had under his sway, and he spoke with men of all these nations never through an interpreter, but when it was necessary for anyone to be addressed by him, he accordingly spoke in the tongue and speech of the man himself no less expertly than if he were his fellow countryman.



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## CAPVT XXXV

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### All Things Must Pass

Nothing can endure for perpetual time;  
when the sun has shined well, it is returned to the ocean;  
Phoebe, which was recently full, wanes;  
the ferocity of the winds often becomes a light breeze.

#### THREE EPITAPHS

##### I Was Helvia Prima

Traveler, you who walk about with an untroubled mind  
and direct (your) gaze to the tomb of us (= our tomb),  
if you seek who I am: behold (I am) ash and burned remains,  
before (my) sad death I was Helvia Prima.  
I delighted in (my) husband Cadmus Scrateius,  
and we lived in harmony with an equal nature.  
Now I have been given to Dis, (going) to remain through long eternity,  
brought down by both the fatal fire and the water of the Styx.

##### The Thread of Fate

Oh, it has been distressing to say how harsh Fortune (has been) to you,  
who sent you in such tender years down to Tartarus.  
She allowed you to perceive the light for barely ten years.  
But if the sisters had led (spun) out longer threads,  
that stone would more justly embrace (your) father's bones.

##### A Christian Burial

Eucharis is (my) mother, and the devoted father to me is Celsus.  
I pray, Oh brothers, (that) when you come to this place to pray  
and you entreat the Father and Son in all your prayers:  
let it be of (= in) your mind to remember dear Agape,  
so that all-powerful God may preserve Agape into the ages (= always).

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. A good man is he who provides help to (those) whom he can (help), (who) does harm to no one.
2. To love and to be wise (at the same time) is hardly conceded (even) to a god.
3. Alas—how he must be feared who thinks that it is safe to die!
4. A wise man will command (his) mind, a foolish man will be a slave (to it).
5. Hard hearts are overcome by a gentle prayer.
6. Chance much more easily harms the (those) high in rank.
7. Whoever has pleased himself much, that man does not please me.
8. It is so typical for men to pardon themselves (in) all things, to forgive others nothing.
9. One man is a slave to (his) passion, another to avarice, another to ambition, all (are slaves) to hope, all to fear.

10. I would prefer a very unjust peace to a very just war.
11. Poets sing about things to be marveled at, but not to be believed.
12. He who forgives one fault encourages more.

## LITTERATURA

### Catullus Bids His Brother a Last Farewell

(Having been) conveyed through many nations and through many seas,  
I arrive, brother, at these miserable rites (of the dead; or: at this burial),  
so that I might present you with the final duty of the dead  
and in vain address (your) silent ash.  
Since fortune has taken you yourself away from me,  
alas, miserable brother, unfairly (having been) taken from me,  
now, nevertheless, meanwhile these things which by the ancient custom  
of (our) parents have been handed down in a sad duty to (your) burial,  
receive, flowing much with a brother's tears,  
and always, brother, hail and farewell.

### On the Death of a Friend's Daughter

Gaius Pliny (says) greetings to his Aefulanus Marcellinus.

I, very sad(ly), write these things to you, with the younger daughter of our Fundanus having died. I have seen nothing ever more genial, more endearing, more worthy not only of a longer life but nearly (even) of immortality than this girl. She had not yet completed fourteen years, and already there was to that one (= she had) the wisdom of an old woman, the dignity of a married woman, and, nevertheless, a girlish charm with the modesty of a maiden. How that one used to cling to (her) father's neck! How she both lovingly and modestly embraced us, (her) father's friends! How she esteemed (her) nurses, how (she esteemed her) paedagogi, how (she esteemed her) teachers, each one according to her service (i.e., the service provided to her)! How studiously, how intelligently she was in the habit of reading! How moderately and carefully she used to played (games). With what moderation, with what patience, even with what steadiness did that one endure (her) final (ill) health. She obeyed (her) doctors, she cheered up (her) sister (and) father, and she sustained her very self (though) deprived of the strength of (her) body (and) the vigor of (her) mind. This (i.e., the strength of her mind, her spiritual fortitude) endured all the way up to the final (moment; i.e., right up to her death) for that one (her), nor was it broken either by the length of (her) illness or by a fear of death, as a result of which she has left behind for us more and graver reasons both of (for our) longing and (our) sorrow. Oh obviously grim and bitter death! (And) oh the time of (her) death more unmerited than the death itself! She had already been engaged to an outstanding young man, already the day of marriage had been chosen, already we had been invited. What (great) joy has been changed by what (great) sorrow!

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**CAPVT XXXVI**

**INSCRIPTIONES**

**SOME LOVING, AND UNLOVELY, SCRIBBLINGS FROM POMPEII**

**Love Me, Do!**

Secundus himself (says) greetings to his Prima everywhere: I ask, mistress, that you love me!

**Love Is Sweet as Honey—You Wish!**

*1<sup>st</sup> hand:*

Lovers, as bees, live a honeyed life (a life as sweet as honey).

*2<sup>nd</sup> hand:*

I would wish!

*3<sup>rd</sup> hand:*

Lovers, lovers, lacking concern (=carefree)!

**Please Do Not!**

Defecator, avoid an evil (thing), or, if you will have despised (this warning), may you have Jupiter angered (at you).

**“She Loves Me.”—“She Loves You NOT.”**

*Severus:*

Successus, the weaver, loves the tavern-keeper’s slave-girl, Iris by name, who indeed does not love that one (= Successus), but that one asks that that one (asks that she, i.e., Iris) feel pity. (Your) rival writes; farewell (here more like “god riddance!”).

*Successus responds:*

Envious (one), because you are being burst (are bursting, i.e., with desire), do not want to (i.e., try to) calm (or: pursue) the rather beautiful girl—and (you being one) who is a very wicked and pretty (fellow).

*Severus retorts:*

I have spoken, I have written: you love Iris, who does not care for you! Just as (I said) to Successus above. . . . Severus.

**Aegle Votes Sabinus**

I ask that you make Gnaeus Helvius Sabinus aedile, (a man) worthy of the Republic; Aegle asks.

## PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. Life itself (is) brief, but for wicked men it becomes longer.
2. You will become ash and shades and a story: live mindful of death, the hour flees.
3. When(ever) you may scorn death, you will have overcome all fears.
4. He who always fears is condemned daily.
5. The tongue of a condemned man has a voice, it does not have power.
6. Profit cannot be made without the financial penalty of another (person).
7. (That) which the gods wish is quickly done.
8. Whatever is done with courage is done with glory.
9. (That) which no one learns about (knows) is almost not done.
10. Alas, I think, I am becoming a god!
11. Time establishes cities, an hour dismantles (them); long a forest, (it) becomes ash in a moment.
12. Bad is the cause which requires pity.
13. He who is not able to feel compassion is asked (for help) in vain.

## LITTERATURA

### THREE ELEGIACS BY MARTIAL

#### **Pretty Is as Pretty Does**

Atticus, you make speeches beautifully, you plead cases beautifully;  
you make beautiful histories, (you make) beautiful poems;  
you compose mimes beautifully, (you compose) epigrams beautifully;  
you are a beautiful scholar, a beautiful astronomer,  
and you sing beautifully and, Atticus, you dance beautifully;  
you are beautiful in the art of the lyre, you are beautiful in the art  
of (playing) ball.

Although you do nothing well, nevertheless you do all things beautifully.  
Do you wish that I say (want me to say) what you are? You are a  
great busybody!

#### **Murder My Wife!**

Fabianus, Lycoris has buried all the girlfriends that  
she had: let her become a girlfriend to my wife.

#### **Put Up or Shut Up!**

Laelius, although you do not publish your own (poems), you criticize my  
poems.

Either do not criticize our (poems), or publish your own!

#### **A Heart Destroyed**

Lesbia, my mind (heart) has been brought down to this place by your fault  
and (my heart) itself has so lost itself by its dutifulness (loyalty),  
that now it can neither wish you well, if you should become the best woman,  
nor cease to love (you), if you should do all (the worst) things.

## Creating the World

In the beginning God created heaven and earth. Moreover, the earth was empty and deserted and darkness (was) upon the face of the deep and the spirit of God was carried above the seas. And God said, “Let light be made,” and light was made. And God saw the light that it was good, and He divided light and darkness. And He named light “day” and darkness “night”; and there was made a single day in the evening and morning. God also said, “Let the sky be made in the middle of the waters and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the sky, and divided the waters which were under the sky from those which were above the sky and so it was done. And God called the sky “heaven,” and there was made in the evening and morning the second day. God said truly, “Let the waters, which are under heaven, be gathered together into a single place and let dry (land) appear,” and so it was done. And God called the dry (land) “earth” and He named the collections of waters “seas,” and God saw that it was good.

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## CAPVT XXXVII

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### Pacatus Hung Out Here

Pacatus stayed here with his (own companions) in Pompeii.

#### More Responses from the Oracle

**2175:** Let not certain (things) be made from an uncertain (thing); if you are wise, you should beware.

**2176:** Let not false (things) be made from a true (thing), with the judge (being) false.

**2179:** He fears all (men); it is better to pursue that which he fears.

**2180:** Many men are (deceitful); do not believe (them).

**2181:** An unreliable enemy (may evolve) from a reliable (man), unless you beware.

**2186:** I am helpful to many men: when I have helped, no one (gave) thanks.

**2188:** Do not spurn what you flee, what you cast away, what is given to you.

**CIL 11.1129a.1-2:** Why do you now consult? You should rest and enjoy life. You have death far away from you.

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. He sins less to whom it is permitted to sin.
2. Desire loves nothing more than what is not permitted.
3. He says, "Either let him drink or let him go away."
4. While life is pleasing, the circumstance of death is best (i.e., it is better to die in a moment of happiness than when suffering and unhappy).
5. An exile, when there is nowhere a home for him, is (like) a dead man without a tomb.
6. He who overlooks an offence invites (further) wrongdoing.
7. An angry man, when he has returned to himself (= come to his senses), is then angry at himself.
8. Go home and hang yourself!
9. Go to the Underworld!
10. That man by war, this man by peace, increased the state: Romulus ruled 37 years, Numa 43.
11. Easy (is) the descent to Avernus—nights and days the door of gloomy Dis lies open.
12. Rivers return to the place from where they go out so that they may flow again.
13. Neither will a wave which has passed by be called back again, nor can an hour which has passed return.
14. The journey is long through instruction, (it is) brief and productive through examples.
15. For arms are of little value abroad, unless there is (wise) planning at home.

## LITTERATURA

### More Apophoreta: Bedroom Lamp

(I), a lamp, (am) aware (have secret knowledge) of (your) sweet little bed:  
it is permitted that you do (you may do) whatever you wish, I will be silent.

### Toothpaste

What is (it) to you (what are you doing) with me?—let a (young) girl use me!  
I am not accustomed to polishing bought (i.e., false) teeth.

### Cicero Writes to His Wife

Tullius (says) greetings to his Terentia.

If you are well, it is well; I am well. I would wish that you would most diligently care for your health, for it has been both written and announced to me that you have suddenly lapsed into a fever. You made (it) pleasing to me (i.e., I am grateful) because you quickly made me more certain (informed me) about Caesar's letter. Likewise, hereafter, if anything will be necessary, if anything (of) new shall have happened, you will make (it) that I know (i.e., keep me informed). Take care that you are well. Farewell. Given on the fourth day before the Nones of June.

### The King Is Dead

In addition to this, he himself (was named) Father of the Country and perpetual dictator. Most recently ([there is] doubt whether with himself willing) the emblems of kingship were offered (to him) in front of the rostrum by the consul, Antony. All which (all these things) were amassed, as if headbands for a sacrificial victim destined for death. For hatred overcame the clemency (i.e., the favor his previous clemency had gained him) of the princeps (an honorary title held by Caesar) and the very power of his political favors was grievous (a serious concern) for free men. Nor was (his) domination endured any longer, but Brutus and Cassius and other fathers (= senators) agreed on the slaughter of the princeps. How great (is) the force of fate! The conspiracy had spread widely, even a little book (a document of some kind) had been given to Caesar on that same day, nor had he been able to obtain favorable omens with (even) a hundred victims. Nevertheless, he came into the senate house, thinking about (his) Parthian expedition. There the senate attacked him sitting on (his) curule chair, and with 23 wounds he was given to the ground (= laid low, slain). Thus that man, who had filled up the orb of lands (= world) with the blood of fellow citizens, himself finally filled the curia with his own blood.

### Cicero Congratulates One of Caesar's Assassins

Cicero (says) greetings to Basilus.

I congratulate you, I rejoice for myself. I care for you, I am looking after your things (watching out for your interests). I wish to be esteemed by you and to be made more certain (kept informed) about what you are doing and what is being done (what is going on).



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## CAPVT XXXVIII

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### The Vindolanda Tablets: The British Cavalry

. . . the Britons. (There are) very many cavalrymen. The cavalrymen do not employ swords, nor do the little Britons mount (their horses) so that they may (in order to) throw (their) javelins.

## TWO EPITAPHS

#### Requiem for Laggus

Laggus, (my) son, rest well. Your mother asks you that you receive me to you: farewell. Fifteen feet square.

#### Forever in My Eyes and in My Heart

Here is buried Varius, Frontonianus by cognomen,  
whom Cornelia Galla, (his) charming wife, has laid (to rest),  
restoring sweet comforts of (their) old life;  
(she) has set up a marble face (likeness), so that the dear image  
would be able to satiate (her) eyes and spirit a longer (time).  
This consolation will be seeing (i.e., her seeing his face will be a comfort;  
or, construing **visus** as genitive, “this will be the consolation of/for  
seeing [only]”): for a (true) pledge of love  
is concealed in (her) heart by the unforgetting sweetness of (her) mind,  
nor will (the memory of her husband’s) lip(s) (kiss) be able to perish by an  
easy forgetting;  
but while life remains, (her) husband is in (her) whole heart.  
Nor (is it) surprising, since such character . . . which woman . . .

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. An absent love vanishes and a new (love) enters.
2. Let them hate, so long as they fear.
3. Patience is the remedy for any grief (at all).
4. Pain of the mind (mental anguish) is much more grievous than (pain) of the body.
5. Flattering speech has its (own) poison.
6. Alas, how miserable is it to be injured by that man about whom you cannot complain.
7. To command oneself is the greatest power.
8. We men never die better than when we have lived happily.
9. Anger produces hatred; concord nourishes love.
10. Indeed the spirit (is) ready, the flesh (is), in truth, weak.
11. He is king who will fear nothing; he is king who will desire nothing; each one gives this kingdom to himself.
12. They come to look; they come so that they themselves may be looked at.
13. It is permitted to repel force with force.
14. Just as it is ugly to me, so it is splendid to you.

15. As very many things, it was easier with respect to saying (easier to say) than with respect to the matter (itself; i.e., easier to say than to do).
16. There are men who think that death is the departure of the soul from the body.

## LITTERATURA

### Do You Really Care

Cerinthus, is there for you (=do you have) devoted concern for your girl,  
because now the heat (of passion) is arousing my weary body?  
Ah, I would not have hoped to overcome grim illnesses  
otherwise than if I should think (i.e., if I did not think) that you also wish  
(it).  
But what advantage would it be to me to overcome illnesses, if you  
are able endure our evils (suffering) with an unresponsive heart?

### THREE ELEGIACS BY MARTIAL

#### Read Me, Don't Sell Me

You demand that I give to you, Tucca, our little books.  
I shall not do it: for you wish to sell, not read, (them).

#### Insomnia?

Do you marvel why Afer does not go to sleep?  
Caedicianus, do you see with whom he goes to bed?

#### Busybody

In whatever place you run up to meet me, Postumus, you shout  
Immediately, and this is your first word, "How are you doing?"  
You say this, if you will have met me ten times in one hour:  
I think, Postumus, you have nothing which you are doing (nothing  
to do)!

### So Just Say You've Got Nothing to Say!

Gaius Plinius (says) greetings to his Fabius Justus

For a long time you have sent (lit., are sending) no letters to me. You say, "There is nothing which I may write (nothing for me to write about)." But write this very thing, that there is nothing which you may write (about), or just that from (=with) which (our) ancestors were accustomed to begin (a letter): "If you are well, it is well; I am well." This suffices for me; it is in fact a very important thing. Do you think that I am joking?—I am asking (this) seriously! See to it that I know how (or: what) you are doing, since I am not able not to know (I can't manage not knowing) without the utmost worry. Farewell!

### **Trojans and Aborigines Found the Roman State**

In the beginning, as I have received (heard), the Trojans, who, fugitives with Aeneas as leader, were wandering about in unfamiliar countries, and with them the Aborigines, a rustic race of men, without laws, without authority, free and unrestrained, founded and held the city Rome. After these men came together into single city walls, (people) of different race, of dissimilar language, some living by one custom others by another (custom), it is incredible to relate how easily they united: in so brief a time the multitude, scattered and wandering, by mutual agreement had become a state. But after their state, having been increased in citizens, customs, (and) fields (territory), seemed sufficiently prosperous and sufficiently strong, just as most things of mortals turn out, jealousy arose from riches.

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## CAPVT XXXIX

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### Protect Yourself!

He who does not know how to protect himself, does not know how to live:  
A very small evil becomes a very great one by disregarding (it).

#### To a Son

To Cadius Carianus, of 21 years (21 years old). Alleicea Avita, (his) mother, took care that (this monument) be made for (her) son.

Say, I ask, (you) who pass by: "May the earth be light to (upon) you."

#### To a Son and Duumvir

To Aulus Umbricius Scaurus, son of Aulus, (of the) Menenian (tribe), Scaurus, duumvir for interpreting the law. To this (man) the decuriones decreed a place for a monument, and two thousand sesterces toward the cost of the funeral and an equestrian statue to be placed in the forum. Scaurus, the father, to (his) son.

#### To a Wife and Physician

Sacred to the spirits of the dead. Cassius Philippus, husband, (dedicates this) to Julia Saturnina, of 45 years (45 years old), a matchless wife, the best doctor, the most virtuous woman, on account of (her) services (merits). She is buried here: may the earth be light to (upon) you.

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. Alas, how miserable it is to become old by fearing.
2. Fire is nourished by wind (and) by wind it is extinguished.
3. It is proper that no one be greedy, least of all an old man.
4. Poverty commands that man experience many things.
5. The remedy of injuries is forgetfulness.
6. Courage by daring increases, fear (increases) by delaying.
7. Wisdom is learned by deliberating.
8. Opportunity often passes away (is lost) by deliberating.
9. The ears endure injury more easily than the eyes.
10. He who does an injury to one man threatens many men.
11. The highest authority is lost by ruling badly.
12. For a greedy man a reason of (=for) saying no (to a person in need) is never lacking.
13. It is necessary that very small things be the beginnings of very greatest things.
14. No one has arrived at (has attained) the highest place by being fearful.
15. It is commonly said that it is necessary that a man prone to lying (be a man) having a good memory (that a liar have a good memory).

## LITTERATURA

### Two More Apophoreta

#### Umbrella

Accept (these) umbrellas which may overcome (umbrellas to protect against: relative clause of purpose) excessive sun:  
although there may also be wind, your awnings will protect you.

#### Barber's Iron Tools

These arms (=tools) are suitable for you for clipping hair;  
this (is) useful for long fingernails, that (is useful) for cheeks.

### Bringing Water to Rome

From the founding of the city through 441 years the Romans were satisfied with the use of the waters which they were drawing either from the Tiber River or from wells or from springs. The memory of springs still exists and is cultivated with sanctity; they are believed to bring good health to sick bodies, just as (the fountains of) Camenae and Apollo and Juturna. Now however the Aqua Appia, Anio Vetus, Marcia, Tepula, Julia, Virgo, Alsietina, which same (one) is called Augusta, Claudia, (and) Anio Novus, now flow into the city. With Marcus Valerius Maximus (and) Publius Decius Mus (being) consuls (= in the consulship of . . .), in the 30th year after the beginning of the Samnite war, the aqua Appia was led into the city by Appius Claudius Crassus, censor, to whom afterward was (who afterward had) the cognomen Caecus, who also took care for (took charge of) the building of the Via Appia from the Porta Capena all the way up to the city Capua.

### To Everything There Is a Season

All things have a time (have their season) and in their times (all things) together pass under heaven: a time of being born and a time of dying, a time of planting and a time of plucking (out) what has been planted, a time of killing and a time of healing, a time of destroying and a time of building, a time of weeping and a time of laughing, a time of mourning and a time of dancing, a time of scattering stones and a time of gathering (stones), a time of embracing and a time to become far (to refrain) from embraces, a time of acquiring and a time of losing, a time of guarding and a time of discarding, a time of rending and a time of sewing, a time of being silent and a time of talking, a time of loving and time of hate, a time of war and a time of peace.

### Harvesting the Day

You should not have asked ([it is] a sacrilege to know) what end the gods have given to me, what (end they have given) to you, Leuconoe, nor should you have tried the Babylonian numbers. How (much) better to endure whatever will be, whether Jupiter bestows (or: has bestowed) more winters or (this) last (winter), which now weakens the Tyrrhenian Sea with (its) opposing pumice (cliffs). You should be wise, you should strain the wine, and you should prune back (your) long hope to a brief space of time. While we speak, envious time will have fled: harvest the day, trusting as little as possible (in) the next (day).

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## CAPVT XL

### INSCRIPTIONES

#### Love and Let Love

Let whoever loves fare well; let him perish who does not know how to love.  
Let whoever forbids (anyone) to love perish by twice as much.

#### Congratulations to the New Mayor!

United Pompeians have made Paquius Proculus duumvir for interpreting the law,  
(a man) worthy of the Republic.

#### The Vindolanda Tablets: A Birthday Invitation

Claudia Severa (says) greetings to her Lepidina. Three days before the Ides of September, sister, for a solemn day, my birthday, I ask with pleasure that you see to it that you come to us, (going) to make the day more pleasant for me by your arrival, if you will be present. Greet (say hello to) your Cerialis; my Aelius and (our) little son greet (you/him). I shall hope for you, sister. Farewell, sister, my soul (soul-mate), so I may be well, dearest, and hail.

### PROVERBIA ET DICTA

1. Will this man, born for (his) country, die in any place except in (his) country.
2. I fear that, while I wish to diminish the labor, I will (may) increase (it).
3. He says, "We did not come with dinner having been (when dinner has already been) completely eaten, did we?"
4. He (is) most noble who (is) the best (man), isn't he?
5. What is more hard than a rock, what is softer than a stream? Nevertheless, hard rocks are cut through by a gentle stream.
6. We fear that this book seems to have little (of) honey and much (of) absinthe.
7. When thirst is burning (parching) your throat (lit., the throat for you), you don't ask for golden cups, do you?
8. It is a disgrace, isn't it, that you offer a plan to others, (that you) are wise in public life, that you are not able to help yourself?
9. Often a silent face (expression) has a voice and words.
10. Reason (is) the mistress and queen of all men.
11. The master is a slave when he fears (those) to whom he gives orders.
12. Of what sort the master (is), of such a sort also (is) the slave (such as the master is, so also is his slave = like master, like slave).
13. As many shells (are) on the shore, there are so many sorrows in love.
14. There is nothing so (characteristic) of a narrow mind and so (characteristic) of a small (mind) as to love riches.
15. The Lord says to Cain, "Where is Abel, your brother?"; who (=and he, i.e., Able) responded, "I do not know—I am not my brother's guardian, am I?"
16. (Are there) such great angers (angry passions) in divine minds (in the hearts of the gods)?



## LITTERATURA

### The Dangers of Writing Satire

“Whenever, as if with sword unsheathed, Lucilius blazing (with anger) has roared, (his) listener, whose (lit., to whom his) mind is cold with (his) crimes, turns red, (his) vital organs sweat (his heart sweats) with silent guilt: thence (there are) anger and tears. Therefore, turn over these things in your mind with yourself before trumpets (i.e., before war trumpets sound): it is too late for a helmeted man (soldier) to be regretful of the war.” I shall test what is conceded against those men whose ash is covered (who are entombed) on the Latin and Flaminian (way).

### To an Utterly Unlovely Lady

Greetings, girl with a not very smallest nose  
nor with a lovely foot nor with dark little eyes  
nor with long fingers nor with a dry mouth  
nor certainly with highly refined language (or, in a double entendre: and certainly  
with a quite inelegant tongue),  
girlfriend of the debtor from Formiae.  
Does the province say that you are beautiful?  
Is our Lesbia compared with you?  
O unwise and witless age!

### “Happy Birthday” to the Emperor, and His Majesty’s Reply

Gaius Pliny to the emperor Trajan

I hope, lord, that you may celebrate both this birthday and very many others as happy (happily) as possible; and with eternal praise you, both safe and strong, will augment the flowering glory of your virtue by other works beyond the others (i.e., with new accomplishments added to the old).

Trajan to Pliny

I acknowledge your wishes, my very dear Secundus, by which you pray that I may celebrate very many and very happy birthdays with the state of our republic flourishing.

### The Achievements of the Emperor Augustus

Having been born eighteen years (= at eighteen years of age), I prepared an army by private plan and at private expense, through which I championed into liberty (= I liberated) the republic oppressed by the domination of a faction. On account of which (or: these things) the senate, by honorific decrees, admitted me into their order, with Gaius Pansa and Aulus Hirtius (being) consuls (= during the consulship of Gaius Pansa and Aulus Hirtius), granting a consular place (i.e., a consul’s prerogative) for speaking (my) opinion, and gave to me imperium (= supreme command). It (= Senate) ordered that I, with me being proprietor (i.e., serving as proprietor) at the same time with the consuls, see to it that the republic not incur anything of detriment (any harm). Moreover, the people in the same year appointed me consul, when each consul had fallen in war, and triumvir for stabilizing the republic. I drove into exile those men who murdered my father,

having punished their crime by legitimate trials, and afterward I overcame (them) twice in battle (as they were) bringing war upon the republic. I often waged civil and foreign wars in the whole orb of the lands (= the whole world) on land and sea, and as victor I spared all citizens seeking pardon. I preferred to preserve (rather) than to destroy foreign nations, whom it was possible to pardon safely.

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