

Advanced Latin Prose: Columella

Including Further Advanced and
Higher Advanced Latin Prose

Module information

- Module tutor: Dr Magdalena Ohrman (m.ohrman@tsd.uwtsd.ac.uk)
- Distance tutor: Dr David Noy (d.noy@tsd.uwtsd.ac.uk)
- In this module, students on Advanced, Further Advanced and Higher Advanced on- and off-campus are taught together

Distance learners

- Distance learners are supported by our designated distance tutor, Dr David Noy
- There are a series of non-assessed translation and commentary exercises (cf. module syllabus) during the semester, equivalent to class room time
 - Do remember, David is also available to answer questions about sections of text not necessarily part of non-assessed assignments!
- Additionally, distance learners are very welcome to join the on-campus group live online, using Skype or BlueButton

On-Campus Classes

- Tuesdays 11.15-12.05
- Wednesdays 11.15-12.05
- Fridays 15.15-16.05
- All in this room (Cyril Williams)
- Vidcasts of these classes will be uploaded weekly

“The last considerable technical writer of our period is Columella, who wrote twelve books on agriculture (the tenth book is in verse, ingeniously supplementing Vergil’s *Georgics* with an omitted topic, gardens). He too writes neatly, but unlike Celsus his work is based upon experience and designed more for use than for entertainment.” (Mayer, 2005, 66)

Set pensum

- Advanced Latin: Prose will translate:
 - Col. 1 praef.-2; 6; 7.1-5; 12 praef.–19.
- Further Advanced Latin: Prose will translate:
 - Col. 1 praef. – 2; 6; 7.1-5; 12 praef.–42.
- Higher Advanced Latin: Prose will translate:
 - Col.1 praef. – 2; 6; 7.1-5;12 praef.–42;12.46-54.



Critical Commentary

Postgraduate Students & Higher Advanced Undergraduates

- To be submitted by 2nd December no later than 3 pm. To be returned by 13th January.
 - PG students please note the specific deadline!
- Write a critical analysis of 3,000 words on one of the given passages below. You may choose either the format of a lemmatic commentary or a thematic, critical essay on an issue you identify as important in the given passage.
 - Bk. 1. praef. 28-33
 - Bk. 7.3
 - Bk. 12.praef. 1-10.
 - Bk. 12.7-8

Exam

- The exam will last 2 hours and will occur during the exam period, which runs **8 to 16 January 2014**.
- The Registry will provide a precise schedule for examinations nearer to the time, and we will notify you as soon as possible.
- The exam for Columella consists of seen and unseen translation
 - Further and Higher Advanced students will have seen translations both from the sections covered in class and from the material independently studied
- **Change: From this semester, the use of a dictionary is permitted... ...but note that the type and length of text changes also...**

The Moodle Page

- The Moodle page for Columella is set up with sections: you will need to click on each blue heading (e.g. assessment) in order to open them
- The Moodle page contains information about the set pensum for each group, module syllabi ('About the module'), an overarching bibliography ('Module resources'), and assessment links ('Assessment')
- The content will grow each week, with at least one discussion session vidcast each week, and provision of prose composition exercises

Why Columella: Textile Reflections



Why Columella?

- Diversity of texts covered in Advanced Latin Prose: Cicero (rhetoric), Suetonius (historiography/biography), inscriptions... ...and now didactic
- A new edition (Rodgers 2010) prompts new interest in a much neglected text
 - Taking advantage of the interest in didactic (poetry) that has been steadily rising for the past decade
 - Taking advantage of the increasing discussion of the intersection of poetry and prose in didactic texts
 - Cf. Diedrich 2007, Hutchinson 2009, etc.

Problems with Columella

- A full OCT edition only appeared four years ago...
...what does that tell us?
- Columella is a very widely used source, but has received very limited attention from a literary point of view: why?
- Research on Columella has had a very philological focus: cf. Lundström and pupils
 - Publications in Latin or Swedish
 - *Eranos*
 - To think about during the module: why was this text a suitable text for philologists like Lundström?

Challenges in Columella

- There is no full-scale commentary on the *Res Rustica*
- There is no online translation of the full text
- ...this means, however, that there is plenty of work for us to do
- ...and plenty of work for us regardless of our interests: philology, literary analysis, connection to economic history...

Emphasis on Tools

- Working with a text like Columella means using philological (and historical) tools / parallel sources more actively
 - Dictionaries
 - Scholarship in multiple languages
- It also means that it becomes more of a shared project – do use the module forums (some of which will be added for specific issues!)

For next session

- Please read the first six paragraphs of the praefatio
- Please inform yourself (if you haven't already) of the biography of our author
 - ...and be ready to discuss where this information comes from!