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Latin Advanced: Caesar Catch-up seminar 1/4

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



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The ethno-geographical excursus

- What are the effects of Caesar's excursus on the fauna and nature of Germania?
- How does he signal that this section is different than the main narrative?
- What arguments are brought by Krebs and Allen-Hornblower?
 - References to the political situation?
 - Differences in depiction between BG 4 and BG 6?

Methodological issues

- How would you pursue a terminology-based study like A-H's on *adsuescere* bringing together the animals depicted in BG 6 with the attitudes of the Suebi in earlier books?
- Aside: “By Book 6, they [the Suebi] are an isolated, primitive, and pure population of nomads who are exclusively devoted to war and hunting - northern barbarians whose traits place them firmly within the category of ‘hard primitivism’” (A-H, 685)
 - Is hunting always negative? Who hunts in the contemporary Roman world?

L. Quinctius Cincinnatus (Liv. 3.26)

Spes unica imperii populi Romani, L. Quinctius trans Tiberim, contra eum ipsum locum ubi nunc navalia sunt, quattuor iugerum colebat agrum, quae prata Quinctia vocantur. Ibi ab legatis—seu fossam fodiens palae innixus, seu cum araret, operi certe, id quod constat, agresti intentus—salute data in vicem redditaeque rogatus ut, quod bene verteret ipsi rei publicae, togatus mandata senatus audiret, admiratus rogitansque 'satin salve?' togam propere e tugurio proferre uxorem Raciliam iubet. Qua simul absterso pulvere ac sudore velatus processit, dictatorem eum legati gratulantes consalutant, in urbem vocant; qui terror sit in exercitu exponunt.

The one hope of Rome, L. Quinctius, used to cultivate a four-acre field on the other side of the Tiber, just opposite the place where the dockyard and arsenal are now situated; it bears the name of the "Quinctian Meadows." There he was found by the deputation from the senate either digging out a ditch or ploughing, at all events, as is generally agreed, intent on his husbandry. After mutual salutations he was requested to put on his toga that he might hear the mandate of the senate, and they expressed the hope that it might turn out well for him and for the State. He asked them, in surprise, if all was well, and bade his wife, Racilia, bring him his toga quickly from the cottage. Wiping off the dust and perspiration, he put it on and came forward, on which the deputation saluted him as Dictator and congratulated him, invited him to the City and explained the state of apprehension in which the army were.





Measured hearsay

neque quisquam est huius Germaniae, qui se aut adisse ad initium eius silvae dicat, cum dierum iter LX processerit, aut, quo ex loco oriatur, acceperit: (6.25.4)

Ipse, cum maturescere frumenta inciperent, ad bellum Ambiorigis profectus per Arduennam silvam, quae est totius Galliae maxima atque ab ripis Rheni finibusque Treverorum ad Nervios pertinet milibusque amplius quingentis in longitudinem patet (6.29.4)