

Latin Advanced Autumn 2011

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Introduction

- This is a 20 credit module, meaning 200 hours of study...
- ...of which 30 hours will be spent in class
- This means there is significant self-study on this module – it is easiest to manage if you keep up with the pace of the classes
- Set aside sufficient time to do your translation prep!!

On-campus time table

- Tuesday 14.15-15.05 LR 2
- Tuesday 16.15-17.05 LR 2
- Thursday 16.15-17.05 LR 2
- Distance learners have a set schedule for when to submit translations and commentaries to David for feedback – if you have to adjust the schedule, speak to David directly

Assessment: Advanced

- **ASSESSMENT**
- ***Course Work (50%):***
 - One 1,500 word critical analysis (25%): **1st Nov.**
 - One 1,500 word critical analysis (25%): **13th Dec.**
- ***Examination (50%)***
 - One two-hour exam

Assessment: Further Advanced

- **ASSESSMENT**
- ***Coursework:***
 - One 1,000 word critical analysis (20%): **1st Nov.**
 - One 2,000 word essay (30%): **13th Dec.**
- ***Examination (50%)***
 - One two-hour exam

Further Advanced: Essays

- Please note that essay titles given for assignment two are provisional until confirmed by the external examiner next week!

Essential purchase: Set text

- Watson, L. and P. Watson (2003) *Martial. Select Epigrams*, Cambridge.
 - The 'Green and Yellow' series
 - Varied selection of epigrams to cover different themes
 - Good introduction
- Please also see the electronic resources linked through Moodle: there's a lot of literature on Martial available through TSD!

Epigram

- Epigrams in Greek from 8th century onwards
 - Prose and verse
- “Epigramma” = “inscription”, from tombstones or votive gifts at temples
 - => brevity!



The Ischia cup

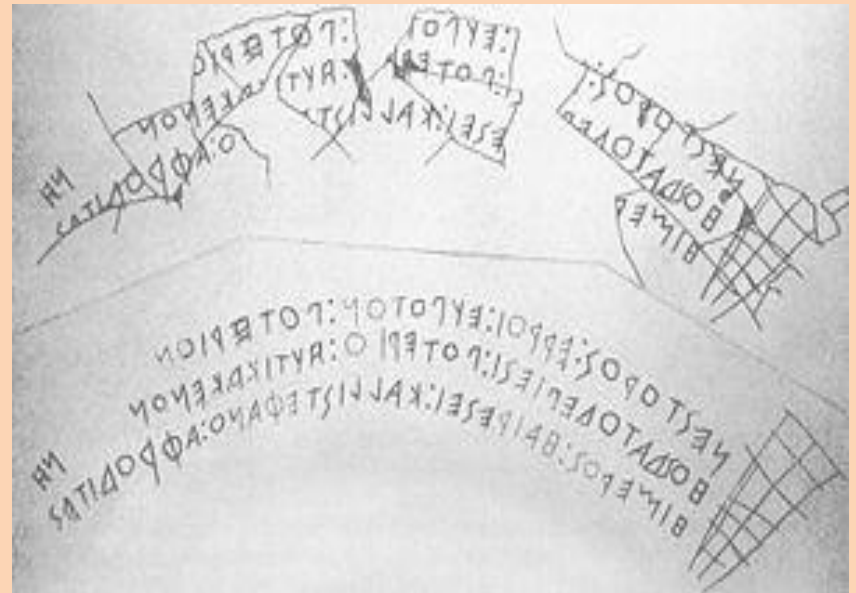
Tradition of inscription

- Throughout literary history, epigram writers keep up the pretence that their texts should work as inscriptions
- Applied to all types of objects, gifts in the widest sense
- E.g. Mart. Book 14:
Collection of epigrams on gifts given at table
That your oiled tresses may not injure your splendid silk dress, let this pin fix your twisted hair, and keep it up.
Mart. 14.24

The Ischia Cup

“Once upon a time there was this cup of Nestor’s, from which you could drink well. Whoever drinks from this cup, however, will be seized straightaway by desire for beautiful-crowned Aphrodite.”

Beside these she set a cup, a magnificent work Nestor had brought from home, studded with gold. There were four handles on it, around each one a pair of golden doves was feeding. Below were two supports. When that cup was full, another man could hardly lift it from the table, but, old as he was, Nestor picked it up with ease. (Hom. *Il.* 11.632-637)



The Ischia cup epigram

“Once upon a time there was this cup of Nestor’s, from which you could drink well. Whoever drinks from this cup, however, will be seized straightaway by desire for beautiful-crowned Afrodite.”

- Comical contrast between old and young
- The user of this cup is different from Nestor in that he is young enough to feel desire
- Twist in the final line
- Elegiac distich (the most common metre for epigrams) accommodates this twist well

Epigram and the elegiac distich

Numquam **se** cenasse domi Philo **i**urat, et hoc est:

Non cenat, quotiens | nemo uocauit eum.

(Mart. 5.47)

Philo swears that he has never dined at home, and it is true: / he simply does not dine, | | when invited by no one.

- Not always a comical twist – but in nearly all elegiac epigrams the tension between first and second half-line will be important for the interpretation

The Golden Age of Greek Epigram

- During 5th C BC epigram becomes gradually more literary
 - Elegiac distich the metre of choice
 - Expressing philosophical and political content in near-proverbial fashion
 - Didactic element – cf. links with satire
- The Hellenistic Age – 323-31 B.C.
- The Greek Anthology – epigram collection from the Byzantine period, incorporating much earlier epigrams:
 - The Garland of Meleager (2nd/1st century B.C.)
 - Callimachus
 - Philodemus

...and in Rome?

- We can trace a similar development of the genre:
- Starts off with funerary inscriptions
 - Earliest extant 3rd C BC L. Scipio Barbatus
- Q. Ennius mid-second century B.C.:
 - His epigrams clearly linked to the prominence of Greek epigram in this period
 - Transition to fictitious inscriptions
 - Comments on his own writing
- Elegiac verse gradually becomes the norm, leaving behind not only Latin verse forms like Saturnine, but also iambics and hexameter

Roman epigram: general

- Draws on a rich tradition of Greek epigram
 - Particularly such as represented by the *Greek Anthology* – *Garlands of Meleager* and *Philip*
- Also draws on other literary genres
 - E.g. Martial loves to play with Ovid

One difference

- Scoptic epigram
- Common in Roman epigram from early on (4th/3rd C BC)
- Attacks, criticises or ridicules individuals or stock characters
 - o Wannabes, bad poets, greedy or mean people
 - o Staggering number of scoptic epigrams in Catullus and Martial
- o Only in the *Garland of Philip* (1st/2nd century A.D.) on the Greek side

Who is this Martial guy anyway?

- Martial's works span the years **85-102 AD**
- Fall mostly into the reign of Domitian (81-96); Domitian is frequently mentioned and addressed in the Epigrams
- Later epigrams written under Nerva (96-98) and Trajan (98-116)

Martial himself? 38/41-104 AD

- 1st person poems the basis for most assumptions about Martial's biography - caution needed!
- Likely to have been from an equestrian background, provincial, Spain
- Some stages of the *cursus honorum* - tribune
- House in Rome and villa at Nomentum
- Returns to Spain in 98 AD - reasons?

What We Do Know

- Twelve Books of Epigrams (85-102 AD)
- Liber Spectaculorum, 'The Spectacles', written for the opening of the Colosseum in 80 AD
- Xenia
- Apophoreta

Our Selection and Next Week

- From across all twelve books of the epigrams
- Next week:
 - Tuesday: 1-5
 - Thursday: 6
 - ...and we will also continue the general introduction to Martial