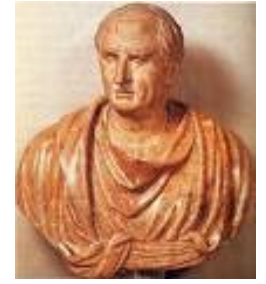




Gazette Tulliana

SOCIETE INTERNATIONALE DES AMIS DE CICERON
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CICERO'S FRIENDS
SOCIETÀ INTERNAZIONALE DEGLI AMICI DI CICERONE
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FROM 2009 TO 2010 WITH CONFIDENCE

After 2008 devoted to the creation and launching of the SIAC, 2009 was the year during which we went to meet the public, launched tulliana.eu, and gathered a significant number of friends of Cicero. More than eighty members and more than ten countries: it is a fair promise for the future. Two institutions gave us their support, the Department Augusto Rostagni of Turin and RARE of Grenoble. Among the sites in progress, we are under discussion with the National Institute of Audiovisual (INA) to develop our multimedia capacities. Under the impulse of A. Balbo, the teaching and didactic site takes form little by little. Lastly, the teams structured themselves around the editorial committee, whose members work on the translation or putting the texts on line. Of course delays or disappointments are not absent: our wonderful project "Voice and Gestures in Cicero" marks time, and we still miss support for the administration of the project. But it is necessary to take these difficulties as a sign of good health for the finances of our Company are healthy, its members are motivated, and the first signs show that we are read and known beyond the circle of the members. We approach the year 2010 with confidence and enthusiasm.

*The President of the SIAC
Philippe Rousselot*

THE SIAC PROPOSES TWO RESEARCH PROJECTS ON LITERATURE AND DIDACTICS



One of the institutional tasks of the SIAC is to promote research within Ciceronian studies and Roman thought, in close connection either with the world of university research or with that of the school. The association is giving life to two plans that will get the attention of students and teachers in all the world. The first one, as seen from its title, "Voices and Gestures in Cicero," is dedicated to the Arpinate's theory of oratorical delivery from several points of view (preparation of a *corpus* of Ciceronian passages dedicated to *actio* with translation, audio/video recording of some works of Cicero to put in downloadable format on Tulliana, the study of the fortunes of *actio* in later oratory up until our day). This plan has generated remarkable interest, but it has need of a coordinator now. The SIAC invites as many people as interested in contributing to its

direction to send an e-mail to <mailto:president@tulliana.eu>. The second project is entitled "Cicero at school" and was devised by the didactic section of the SIAC. It proposes that teachers to send a contribution or a testimony on how they teach Cicero in the schools in which they work. We would like to give life to a series of contributions subdivided for every state, so as to construct a kind of "databank" of ideas relating to the ways of introducing Cicero in various institutions. Teachers will be able to contribute didactic units, ideas, reflections, proposals for analysis or interpretations of texts or as much as their imagination suggests. It will be task of the section to assess all of them and to present - it is hoped within the end of the scholastic year in June, 2010 - the initial picture of the situation. For information on this second project write to <mailto:andrea.balbo@alice.it>. AB

New publications about Cicero

RECENT BOOKS ABOUT CICERO

Jon Hall, *Politeness and politics in Cicero's letters*, Oxford - New York, Oxford University Press, 2009, xi - 275 p. \$85.00. ISBN 9780195329063.

Emanuele Narducci, *Cicerone: la parola e la politica*, Roma, Editori Laterza, 2009. xviii - 450 p. € 30.00. ISBN 9788842088301. (reviewed on *Gazette Tulliana* - Summer 2009)

Aron Sjöblad, *Metaphors Cicero lived by. The role of metaphor and simile in De senectute*, Studia Graeca et Latina Lundensia 16, Lund, Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University, 2009. 205 pp. ISBN 9789162877996.

For Thomas D. Frazel's book about Cicero's *In Verrem* see p. 4.

Rules for submitting papers to the *Gazette*

Articles should be sent as e-mail attachments to the address contributiongazette@tulliana.eu or by following the instructions displayed at the click of the button *Acta Tulliana*, on the left column of the home page. You are requested to write in character size 12, and the font Times New Roman.

MORE ON BARACK OBAMA: THE NEW CICERO?

The recent parallel between Barack Hussein Obama and Marcus Tullius Cicero constitutes, as Philippe Rousset brought to light (*Gazette Tulliana*, March 2009), "a lively case of the phenomenon of reception" that has rendered the orator of Arpinum a "positive stereotype." Such a parallel has shown itself, perhaps for the first time, in "The new Cicero" of Charlotte Higgins (*The Guardian*, 26 November 2008, with theses re-proposed - in various measures - by Christophe de Voogd, in *NonFiction.fr*, 20 January 2009, and Ed Lake, in *TheNational.ae*, 22 January 2009). To assume however that Obama has been inspired to the Ciceronian style seems a very arduous enterprise, unless by doing so I cling to the 'classical' roots of the long, rich and complex American oratorical tradition. On the other hand, at least ideally, the two *outsiders* of political legacies seem - as acutely observed by Catherine Steel (cited by Higgins) - by "compensatory talent" to have rendered it possible to create a solid and effective intellectual genealogy. Not only that: both

have succeeded in strengthening their own images by inserting them into the center of detailed and complex "narrations of history". The "great history" (respectively of Rome and the United States) has thus succeeded in merging itself with their personal history, whereby both politicians, thanks to re-workings of the past, have aimed at overcoming the divisions of the present. Obama, proposing himself to the American nation as a candidate in (and of) "great history", understands how to overcome by "Storytelling," and thus seems to move - but not necessarily in an intentional way - in the wake of a precept that the Arpinate had aimed at every orator: *tenenda praeterea est omnis antiquitas exemplorumque vis* (*de or.* 1 5,18). *Luca Fezzi*

SIAC MEMBERSHIP

If you want to become a member of the SIAC you should link to the site Tulliana, draw up the accompanying questionnaire and pay 25 euros as contribution. You can use Paypal.

THE SITE OF THE RARE

The Team «Rhetoric from Antiquity to the Revolution» (RARE) from the University Stendhal Grenoble 3 has recently launched its website.

The RARE, directed by Francis Goyet, is a partner of the SIAC. Since 1999, the goal of the RARE team is study and research about the vast field of rhetorical comments in neo-Latin and vernacular, of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

We wish our partners the greatest success in their activities

New publications about Cicero - News

LAWS AND SAUCES. AN INTERESTING BOOK ON CICERO'S WITTICISM

Benjamín GARCÍA HERNÁNDEZ, *'De iure uerrino'. El derecho, el aderezo culinario y el augurio de los nombres*, Madrid, ed. Dykinson, 2007, 240 pp.

This “tasty” book deserves being read by anyone who is eager to value the refinements of Ciceronian language, for it contains a “juicy” reading of many passages from the *Verrines* and other speeches.

Benjamín García Hernández (G.-H.) is a renowned expert in Latin lexicology. Nevertheless, his huge learning remains consciously hidden in this book, in order to provide a pleasant reading even for those who ignore both the theory and the terminology of Lexicology and Semantics. And all this is done with no detriment of depth and originality in the interpretation of such passages.

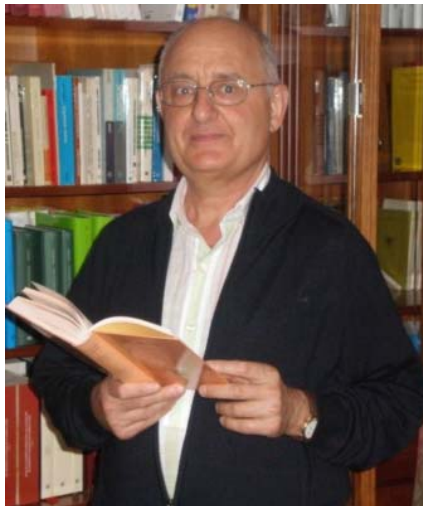
The theme of the book is ambiguity in language, double sense, which is shown in a series of passages related to Gaius Verres. Even if some of the puns commented had been previously pointed out by other scholars (e.g., *ius* as both «sauce» and «law», *uerres* as both «Verres» and «pig»), others, as far as we know, were not (e.g., *similes sui* as both «similar to him» and «similar to a pig»), and even in those previously reviewed a personal elucidation

is many times offered.

G.-H. has not only commented on those wordplays. He has also sorted out more general subjects in his book. Chapter VI analyses the causes of Cicero's taste for puns and concludes that they can be found in a national comic movement that, having started with Cato and Lucilius, did later characterize the Roman *urbanitas*. In chapter VII, by comparing Plautus' “noms parlants” with Ciceronian jokes on names, G.-H. establishes that the humorous exploitation of proper names is mostly popular, while Cicero's role was mainly the adaptation of witty use to the rules of oratory.

To sum up, this is a brave, entertaining, imaginative book, which will undoubtedly enrich future reading on the *Verrines*.

J. Uría



Benjamin García Hernández
See the complete review in [Hispanica](#)

NEWS FROM THE SIAC

Dr Walter Nicgorski, University of Notre Dame, member of the advisory board of the SIAC, presented a paper on «Cicero, eloquence, wisdom, and power», the 16 april 2009, at «President Barack Obama & the Lessons of Antiquity» Conference, Grand Valley State University, organised by the Hauenstein Center. This conference is on line, on Tulliana, at [Multimedia](#).

PhR

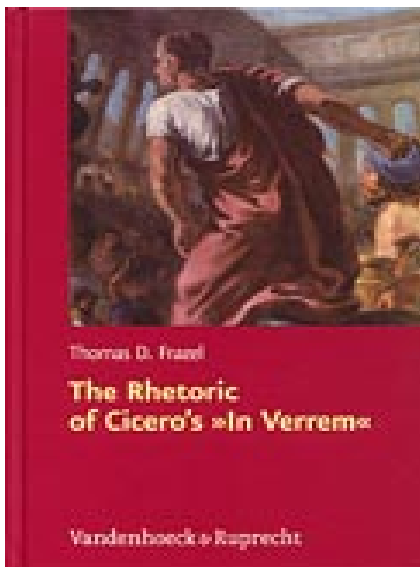


DIDACTIC CONTRIBUTIONS

The didactic section of the SIAC communicates that there are three didactic contributions on Cicero available on our site. Two are in Italian, by S. Audano, [Dal commento scientifico al commento didattico: una proposta operativa dalla de signis \(in Verrem iv, 117-118\)](#), S. Casarino, [Come leggere a scuola il Somnium Scipionis](#) and, in French, M. Bubert, [Les sentiments d'un père de famille romain: une lecture à rebours](#).

Books of SIAC members

A NEW AND INTERESTING BOOK ON THE RHETORICAL ASPECTS OF CICERO'S *IN VERREM*



Frazel, Thomas D., *The rhetoric of Cicero's "In Verrem"*, Göttingen : Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2009, 264 p., ISBN : 9783525252895

After his studies in Los Angeles and Chicago, Thomas Frazel currently works in the Department of Classical Studies in Tulane University (New Orleans, USA). He researches on Latin literature and ancient rhetoric. He is particularly interested in the relationship between the compositions of ancient authors' and their education. See his works in [Ciceronian bibliography](#).

Thomas Frazel kindly gives us an account of his goals and intentions. "In *The Rhetoric of Cicero's In Verrem*, I argue that Cicero drew upon his Greek rhetorical practice, not simply the familiar "Arts of Rhetoric," as he composed the *In Verrem*. I wanted to draw attention to so-

me important, but far too often overlooked, aspects of Cicero's rhetorical strategies for this oration. My specific work on the *In Verrem* thus led me to much broader conclusions about Cicero, his training, and his compositional process in general. I was inspired by Cicero's claim in *Brutus* that the *In Verrem* and, indeed, all of the works of his maturity owed much to his life-long practice with Greek rhetoric. We could summarize my argument as "From the Classroom to the Courtroom" and regard it as a confirmation of Cicero's very assertions in *Brutus*.

But what were Cicero's Greek exercises? He gives us no specific information at all. I made a hypothesis that the corpus of Greek "preliminary exercises" (*progymnasmata*) might shed light in this darkness. Taking the *In Verrem* as a test, I examined it in relation to the *progymnasmata*. Remarkably, the *progymnasmata* at once revealed both the distinctive structure of the oration (always a vexed question) and its particular themes. How was this so? For the extant *progymnasmata* are all written by authors living later than Cicero. The writers of *progymnasmata*, however, attest that they had many predecessors. I then pieced together Cicero's detailed comments about his rhetorical exercise (very often in

Greek) and compared them with the process of practice described by the *progymnasmata*; here, too, we see Cicero following the patterns of Greek exercise. We should thus henceforth include the *progymnasmata* in our discussions of Cicero and Greek rhetoric.

For the bulk of the book, I detail how Cicero uses the *progymnasmata* to portray Verres as a temple robber and a tyrant and I explore the cultural implications of such depictions. Of particular interest to some readers might be my discussion of the way that Cicero presents the various objects that Verres stole from Sicily: Cicero characterizes these objects as sacred goods, not as "art works."

Cicero, in this way, guides our perception of Verres so that we see him solely as a temple robber and a tyrant, not a connoisseur. We can discern this same rhetorical strategy even in the attack on Verres' thefts of grain and tax receipts: Verres, the temple robber, offends the gods and makes barren the fields of Sicily.

The *In Verrem* continually fascinates scholars of Roman politics, economics, and social relations. I would hope that any detailed study of the complex rhetoric of this oration would enrich other research on the *In Verrem* as well".

Thomas Frazel