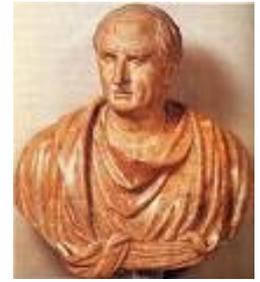


Gazette Tulliana

SOCIETE INTERNATIONALE DES AMIS DE CICERON
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CICERO'S FRIENDS
SOCIETÀ INTERNAZIONALE DEGLI AMICI DI CICERONE
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A NEW SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL

Dear Members of the SIAC, dear friends of Cicero, dear readers. Among the projects that the SIAC has always planned is that of a scientific and international high-profile journal devoted to Ciceronian studies. Given the connected setting and the centrality of the Tulliana.eu site, it was clear to everyone that this journal would appear exclusively on the Internet. Publishing developments, news of the university scientific assessment, and not least the economic crisis mean that an online journal is no longer considered a second best solution. There's more: a high-profile print journal dedicated to Cicero already existed: the glorious *Ciceroniana*, which from 1973 to 2009 published the Proceedings of the *Colloquia Tulliana* organized by the Center of Ciceronian Studies of Rome. But now the crisis and the certainly not astute cultural policy of successive governments in Italy threaten the existence of the Center. Demonstrating foresight and confidence in the future, last May 25th its Council (of which also included five members of the SIAC sit, including the Vice President, Prof. Leopoldo Gamberale) welcomed the proposal to continue online the experience of *Ciceroniana*. The new venture, headed by a Joint Scientific Committee of the SIAC-Center, will own the high profile electronic journal of we have discussed and which, with the help of all, we plan to put its first number on the Internet at the beginning of 2013, combining tradition and innovation.

*The Vice-President of the SIAC
Ermanno Malaspina (tr. T. Frazel)*

CICERO MILESTONE OF ADVOCACY



Last April 20th, the play, "Cicero, Milestone of Advocacy," dedicated to the relationship between the Arpinate and Roman law, was staged at the *Teatro Orione* of Palermo. It was written and recited in Latin and produced by the *Scuola Forense Nissena* with the objective both to demonstrate that some aspects of Roman *mos* and *ius* are similar to the laws and customs of the contemporary world and to highlight the link that still, after so many centuries, joining Latin to Italian, is generated and which is constantly present not only in law but in all areas of contemporary language. Thus Cicero, Prince of the Roman Forum, protagonist of decisive political events, a paradigm of Latin literature, back among the living, choosing the stage of a contemporary theater and, without yielding to ahistorical and illogical updating, without yielding now to vehemence now to irony, establishes a dialogue with the present, submitting to the attention of the viewers some events that touch on the public and private sphere of a man of his time, drawn from historical and literary sources or the fruit of invention, reconstructed in accordance with the institutions of ancient Rome (divorce, *pentitismo*, usury, prostitution, *Locatio ventris*). It follows the trial of Verres, taken with a selective method from the *Orationes Verrinae* and enriched by significant evidence of the power exercised by Verres with venality and unheard of violence. The result is an original show, unique in design and implementation, which uses different languages of communication (words, music, images), exceptional actors (lawyers who combine the *actio* of their profession with a love for theater) and a language that, while trying to remain faithful to Ciceronian balance and purity, for reasons of theatrical effective communication and contextual understanding of has undergone a syntactic simplification, which reveals that the original is valuable for the breadth, complexity, and rhythmic euphony of periods.

F. Fiandaca Riggi (tr. T. Frazel)

Scientific section - Publications on Cicero and Roman Thought

CICERONIAN PUBLICATIONS 2012

Elisabeth Begemann, *Schicksal als Argument. Ciceros Rede vom fatum in der späten Republik*, Stuttgart, Steiner, 2012, 397 pp.

Nikolaus Jakob, *Cicero und die Meinung des Volkes. Ein Beitrag zu einer neuen Geschichtsschreibung der öffentlichen Meinung*, in *Politische Kommunikation und öffentliche Meinung in der antiken Welt*, hrsg. von Christina Kuhn, Stuttgart, Steiner, 2012, pp. 167-190.

Jürgen Malitz, *Tranquillitas und ambitio. Römische Epikureer im 1. Jahrhundert v. Chr. in Athen, Rom, Jerusalem*, in *Normentransfers in der antiken Welt*. Hrsg. von Gian Franco Chiai, Bardo M. Gauly, Andreas Hartmann, Gerhard Zimmer, Burkard M. Zapff, Regensburg, Friedrich Pustet, 2012, pp. 93-116.

Walter Nicgorski (editor), *Cicero's Practical Philosophy*, University of Notre Dame Press, 2012, 336 pp. Contiene articoli di: Walter Nicgorski, J. G. F. Powell, Malcolm Schofield, Carlos Lévy, Catherine Tracy, Margaret Graver, Harald Thorsrud, David Fott, Xavier Márquez, J. Jackson Barlow.

Malcolm Schofield, *The neutralizing argument: Carneades, Antiochus, Cicero*, in *The philosophy of Antiochus*. Ed. by David N. Sedley. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012, pp. 237-249.

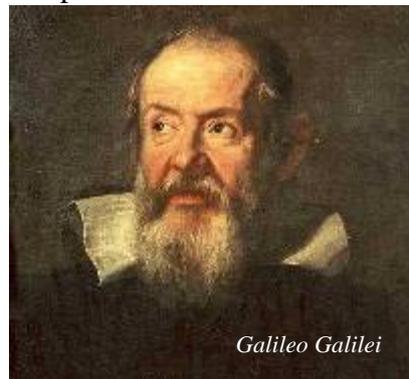
James E.G. Zetzel, *"Arouse the dead": Mai, Leopardi, and Cicero's commonwealth in Restoration Italy*, in *Reception and the classics. An interdisciplinary approach to the classical tradition*. Ed. by William Brockliss. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012, pp. 19-44.

Stefano Rozzi

A NEW EDITION OF A FUNDAMENTAL WORK OF GALILEO GALILEI

Galileo Galilei, *Lettera a Cristina di Lorena*, critical edition by Ottavio Besomi, with the collaboration of Daniele Besomi, Latin version of Elia Diodati edited by Giancarlo Reggi, Rome-Padova, Antenore, 2012 (Medioevo e umanesimo, 116), 223 pp., 24 € ISBN 978-88-8455-662-2.

This is a new critical edition of the *Lettera* in which Galileo affirmed the autonomy of astronomical science from religion and the literal interpretation of Scripture.



Galileo Galilei

Compared with the national edition of Antonio Favaro (Firenze, Giunti-Barbera, 1968), based on the *editio princeps* printed in Strasbourg by Elzevier in 1636 and the Vallicelliano manuscript (Siglum: V), Ottavio Besomi has taken into account the manuscript known as A (Firenze, Archivio di Stato, Bardi III 194 [n. 201]) that is the first draft of the *Lettera*. He has also compared the Latin version of Elia Diodati, printed in the *editio princeps*, to the vernacular original. The

latter has been revised, arranged and evaluated by our SIAC colleague, Giancarlo Reggi. It has post-medieval or post-Erasmanian *facies* to its style and language. Moreover, being the work of a humanist residing north of the Alps and of the Reformed confession, it has an openly polemical tone toward the Catholic ecclesiastical authorities, with some Protestant colorings.



Finally, Ottavio Besomi has reviewed sixty Galilean manuscripts and has established the family tree, making use of the computer support and aid of Daniel Besomi.

The Editors

MEMBERSHIP 2012

To join the SIAC simply log on to the site the site Tulliana, complete the questionnaire and pay the membership fee of 25 euros. You can use PayPal.

Scientific section - Latin in Brazil: an interview with Matheus Trevizam

Dear Matheus, can you summarize the main stages of your training as a Classicist?

I started my classical training when completing my Diploma of Arts in Brazilian and Portuguese Languages and Literatures at the University of Campinas, which is located in the state of São Paulo in Brazil. This university, which enjoys a high reputation, especially in language, grants a diploma at the conclusion of high-level studies in Modern Literature or Linguistics. On that occasion I met excellent teachers of Latin and Greek who made me realize the importance of knowing well "the past" to understand the time in which we live. In fact, Latin - required for at least a year - and Greek - optional - occupied their place in the curriculum of students of Literature or Linguistics at the University, although the education, from an institutional point of view, was not specifically addressed to Classical studies. So I took seriously the courses in Latin and (a little less) Greek during the path to obtaining the diploma. At the same time, I started doing research on Latin literature under the guidance of my teachers. My first research topic, to which I devoted a full translation into Portuguese and a little literary study, was Suetonius' *Life of Augustus*, for which I relied on a grant of a year offered by the "Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo" / FAPESP, a public institution of the Government of São Paulo deputized to finance research work at every level within this state of the Brazilian federation. Even during the "mes-

Matheus Trevizam is a new member of the SIAC. This young Brazilian researcher (Faculdade de Letras from Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte) held at the Sorbonne / Paris IV under the guidance of Prof. Carlos Levy a post-doctoral research post on «*Imagens da ruralidade em fins da república romana: o De re rustica, de Varrão reatino, e o Cato Maior (De Senectute) de Cícero*», thanks to a grant of one year - 2011-2012 - granted by CAPES, an institution of the Brazilian federal government for promoting science and technology. Matheus has agreed to speak with Philippe Rousselot about his studies and about the state of classical languages in Brazil.

trado" (the course for an academic degree for higher education), I had wanted to learn more about the poetry of Ovid, together with Virgil, the object of my absolute preference: on that occasion, my research topic was the *Ars amatoria*, which I have fully translated in prose and annotated in Portuguese. In addition, thanks to a rich critical bibliography, I presented it as a "mixture" of Roman erotic elegy genre and of ancient didactic poetry. When I finally arrived at the PhD, I wanted to continue my research on didactic poetry in Rome and I chose the *Georgics* of Virgil, a work which I compared with the literary construction of the *De re rustica* of Varro and the *De agricultura* of Cato the Censor; the first book of the Varronian dialogue and Cato's work on agriculture have been translated in full in my doctoral dissertation. Both these courses of study - "mestrado" and doctoral - were held at the University of Campinas and were funded by FAPESP.

What is the current situation of teaching and research in Classics at a university such as Belo Horizonte?

In the University where I work (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais), conditions are a bit special in comparison to the general situation in Brazil: the students can in fact get a degree in Greek or Latin even before beginning the "mestrado" (a peculiarity of some universities in south-east Brazil). Students can similarly integrate the 'mestrado' and PhD from the Faculty of Letters in a degree of "Literary Studies", in which some colleagues and myself - each according to their specific interests as Hellenist or Latinist - act supervisors for the Classical languages and literatures. In recent years we have had a significant increase in the number of students interested in preparing for the diploma in Latin, thanks to an openness to concomitant training in classical languages and in Portuguese, which has never existed and that, obviously, gives more immediate opportunities for employment in the teaching of our mother tongue to students in middle school and high school. There remain, however, some things to improve, like, for example, the career structure for those who aspire to conduct research or even the concrete conditions of

Scientific section - Cicero in South America

CLASSICS IN BRAZIL IN THE WORDS OF MATHEUS TREVIZAM

work, especially with regard to the enhancement and updating collections of Greek and Latin literary criticism in libraries. Some initiatives are already planned, but they need time to be completely consolidated.

Does there exist in Brazil a group of researchers of antiquity that can work in a dynamic, joint and effective way?

Certainly. In some Brazilian universities, especially those in the South-east and South, research on antiquity is increasing its importance and productivity more and more. This is evident not only due to the number of students in Classical languages and literatures entering or leaving the curriculum at every level, but also the quality of work produced and the commitment to disseminating it. It is not at all difficult to find regularly organized Brazilian scientific conferences or meetings on Greek and Latin language and literature. Conversely, the local or national agencies appointed to funding research seem everywhere to recognize the importance of antiquity; they significantly finance our research. For example, an institutional grant from CAPES - "*Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nivel Superior*," actually allowed me to stay in Paris during the academic year



2011-2012, as an invited researcher at the Sorbonne / Paris IV under the responsibility of Prof. Carlos Levy.

You finally settled on Cicero after going through Virgil, Varro and Cato. Can you explain the steps along this path?

As I said, Cato, Varro and Virgil were the subject of my doctoral dissertation, (Università di Campinas, 2006). What interested me when I chose to study them together were certain cultural and ideological issues raised in connection with the shared theme of work in the fields, but especially the different attitudes of each literary work: the theme of the decline of the countryside, for example, in a small compendium of agricultural economics (the *De agri cultura* of Cato, second century BC), then all three Varroian dialogues collected in the *De re rustica*, and the only didactic poem of Virgil. So, with

this research project, I had the opportunity to observe the role of the form and construction of discourse and the meaning in each work, thanks to the total difference of ways to communicate that content which, however, was marked by homogeneity. The idea of moving to the study of technical Latin literature relating to the cultivation of the fields across the road to the productions of Cicero is the expression of my desire to extend my look to a work normally put on the margins of the *philosophica* of Cicero, the *Cato Maior*. It reads mostly a "defense" of old age, not as a time of weakness or lack of joy, but as a stage of life worthy of being well lived like any other. The importance of the pleasure of agriculture and of cultivation for a "wise old man" is not limited in the *Cato Maior*, both for the expansion of the treatise and for his own wealth and "lyrical" pleasure.

Scientific section - Cicero in South America

CICERO AND CATO ON AGRICULTURE

What aspects of your research on Cicero seem promising to reveal new aspects of his work?

In my opinion, every occasion of serious reading of a text allows us to discover previously unobserved aspects of its structure. As my research project has as its object a comparison of the theme of "rurality" handled in the *De re rustica* of Varro and Cicero's *Cato Maior*, I hope to illuminate some aspects of the work of Cicero on which the criticism has not focused sufficiently: for example, the importance of the theme of the rural world for the construction of this philosophical dialogue. Too often there has been a tendency to overlook the presence of rural themes in the dialogue, which when compared to the other *philosophica*, was always getting a lower rating than works such as the *Academica*, the *Tusculanae*, the *De natura deorum*. For me this is a mistake. We must recognize first of all that beauty of this text is somewhat con-

centrated in its sections on countryside; Cicero was able, for example, to rely on a rich intertextual texture to compose the sections on rural life and activities of Cato the Elder: he has taken care with the composition of that activity. As our way of conducting post-doctoral research

has a comparative aspect, I believe, from the comparison between the different functions, expansions and presentations of rural activity on the part of these two Latin writers can improve our understanding of the texts in parallel.

Interview by Ph. Rousselot

Tr. T. Frazel

SIAC FINANCES RESEARCH

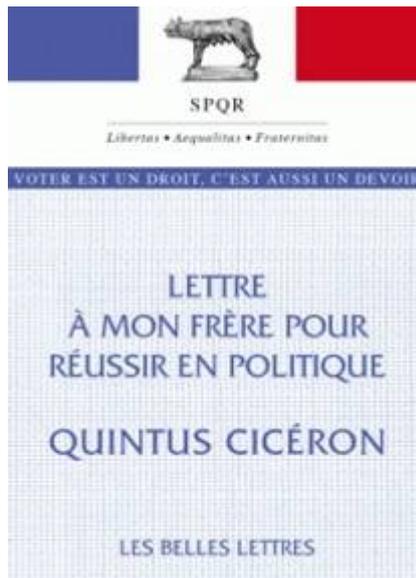
The SIAC, thanks to the availability of a private benefactor who wishes to remain anonymous, decided in summer of 2011 to co-fund a two year research grant on Cicero's *De inventione* together with the Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici dell'Università degli Studi di Torino. The grant was awarded by public competition held October 19, 2011 by our member Dr. Amedeo Alessandro Raschieri (the committee was chaired by Prof. Enrico V. Maltese) and commenced operations on 1 December of that year. In recent decades particular aspects of the work were investigated (for example, essays by A. Braet, G. Calboli, L. Calboli Montefusco, W. W. Fortenbaugh, A. Garcea, Ch. Guérin), but despite its importance for studies on ancient rhetoric, there still is no commentary that gives a comprehensive and unified account of all matters covered by Cicero in this work that is so fundamental to the practice of oratory and for subsequent theoretical considerations of ancient authors. The Raschieri project aims to fill this gap: he, under the leadership of G. F. Gianotti, responsible for the scientific research, and members of the SIAC, G. Magnaldi, C. Lévy, P. De Paolis, are preparing a running commentary, which, in addition to a conventional volume will be usable in a hypertext on the site tulliana.eu. Moreover, in view of its international collaboration from the SIAC, from September 2012 Dr. Raschieri will carry out his duties with the team from the Sorbonne University in Paris, directed by C. Levy.

The Editors

Didactic section - Cicero and elections in France and USA

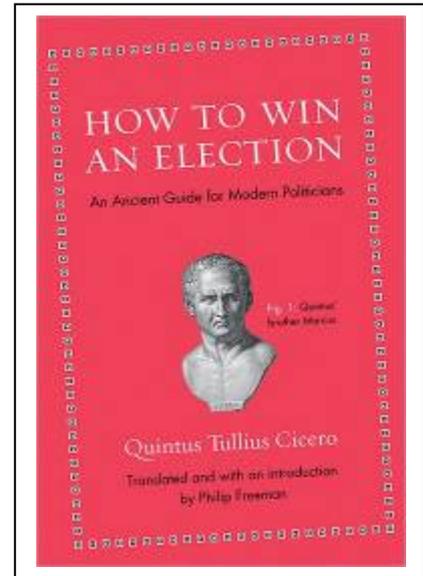
THE RECOVERY OF THE *COMMENTARIOLUM* *PETITIONIS* IN TODAY'S ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS

The electoral campaigns in France and the United States have given rise to a singular phenomenon: the return of great public interest in the *Commentariolum petitionis* of Quintus Cicero. The interest of this little volume is known. Our colleague François Prost, long before this publishing phenomenon, has given us at tulliana.eu a commentary and a translation worthy of note (2010). Equally, our associate Lex Paulson, with a small advantage, offered on February 1, 2012 one of his lively posts at «[Applied Classics](#)» titled «*Cicero Predicts the Iowa Caucus*». Realizing that the time was propitious for a re-edition of *Commentariolum*, the Belles Lettres moved with finesse and publishing it in January 2012 with the title "Lettre à mon frère pour réussir en politique", in the unusual 8x11 cm format of a booklet and a very accessible price of of 2.80 €. The cover is really worthy of note: the national flag with the *Lupa Capitolina* and the translation of the national motto in Latin inside strongly suggest an official government document. In the United States no less than the prestigious Princeton University Press published "How to win an election," with the subtitle "An Ancient Guide for Modern Politicians." The publisher took the opportunity to explain the meaning of the re-release in



Quintus Cicéron, *Lettre à mon frère pour réussir en politique*, Belles Lettres, ISBN-10 2-251-44431-9, janvier 2012, 120 p., 8 x 11 x 1 cm, 2,80 €

the summary: «A little-known classic in the spirit of Machiavelli's *Prince*, *How to Win an Election* is required reading for politicians and everyone who enjoys watching them try to manipulate their way into office». The revivals in the press are particularly numerous. It is particularly satisfying that a work so much fun is making the rounds in all the offices in Washington (John Kass, [Chicago Tribune](#)) and was published just in time for the primaries (Steve Levingston, [Washington Post](#)) and for the edification of the candidates («*Lie and be elected*», Peter



Quintus Tullius Cicero, *How to win an election, Hardcover, An Ancient Guide for Modern Politicians*, Philip Foreman trans. and Intro., Princeton University Press, Bilingual edition, February 2012, 128 p., ISBN-13: 978-0691154084, \$ 9, 95.

Monhagan, [Chronicle of Higher Education](#)). According to David Weigel ([Slate](#)) the text should be the handbook of the two American candidates in the race, who would do well to surround themselves with professional antiquarians (as confirmed by the Italian newspaper *Internazionale*: «*Romney dovrebbe leggere Cicerone*»). All agree that the two thousand years that separate us from the consular elections do not seem to have passed («*The past is never past*», Nick Owchar, [Los Angeles Times](#)). That's what the translator of *How to Win*, Prof. Philip Free-

Didactic section - Cicero and elections in France and USA

THE RECOVERY OF THE *COMMENTARIOLUM* *PETITIONIS* IN TODAY'S ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS

man, thinks according to the promotional article in the [Wall Street Journal](#) («'Dirty Tricks, Roman-Style', Campaign tips from Cicero's brother sound awfully familiar»). Nothing seems to have changed, not even the sex scandal bound to destabilize the opponent ([The Guardian](#)). Moreover, the *Commentariolum* gives the impression of a healthy frankness of cynicism. "Clear thinking, realism, is not such a terrible thing," Freeman said. "I'd rather have realism than idealism based on nothing" adds Philip Freeman. Democracy, brutal by nature, after all must adapt to these kind of shameless practices (Kip Cheroutes, «*Campaigning: Same as it ever was*», [Colorado Stateman](#)) which, in the end, show that in Rome there was a breath of democracy (Peter Stothard, «*The Ancient Art Of Fooling Voters*», [Wall Street Journal](#)). Less conciliatory, the Nigerian Joachim Macebong is upset («*Politicians with no idéologies*», [Daily Times](#), Nigeria) and Canada's Brian Bethune noted that the brochure could have been written by Karl Rove, the famous presidential (and electoral) adviser of George W. Bush ([Macleans.ca](#), Thursday).

What, in the mind of the journalist is not a compliment is curiously confirmed by Karl Rove himself, who defines Quintus Cicero as the "master political strategist." Democratic Senator Gary Hart, a former presidential candidate, was confused by the relevance of the text, so current that you might believe that it is a fake (K. Rove and G. Hart are quoted on the website of Princeton University Press, but without precise references). The number of comments in the Anglophone press underlines the rarity of reactions in France. At best, Dominique Dupart published a salacious letter "written by Cicero" to the the candidate President Sarkozy («*Le Président à l'antique...*», [Mediapart](#)). The campaign website of François Hollande, meanwhile, presents in his book "Agir en ligne" a document "*Cicéron en campagne pour François Hollande*" which turns out to be a long quotation (*De officiis*, I, 85-87). Worthy of note is the contribution, most witty and informed, by Guillaume Malaurie, in the [Nouvel Observateur](#): «*Hollande ou la revanche de Cicéron*». Among the magazines, the famous *Revue des deux mondes* devotes a section to the elections, featuring an article by Jean-Yves Boriaud, «*Se faire élire à Rome*»; Boriaud was the

translator for the *Commentariolum* of Arléa in 1996 (under the title *Manuel de campagne électorale*). Yet it is not the Belles Lettres edition to which Nayberg Louis refers in his contribution, "*Le cynisme et la politique, une vieille histoire*", that appeared on the [blog](#) of the Foundation for Political Innovation. The [Echos](#), surprisingly, prefer their readers to check out the *Commentariolum* of Philipp Freeman. From this episode in publishing history we can deduce once more that the American attitude is more reactive, sometimes sardonic, but always characterized by a spirit of seriousness that characterizes the much perceived proximity between Rome and the United States. As John Kass writes, "Though it sounds like the Chicago Way, it's really the Cicero Way". [The quotations are all from February to March 2012].

Philippe Rousselot.
(tr. T. Frazel)

Didactic section - Cicero and the Law

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE SICILIAN LAWYER MARIA BEATRICE SCIMECA

Maria Beatrice Scimeca is one of our Associates who works as a lawyer at Termini Imerese and for five years has chaired the Palermo section of the *Associazione Giuriste Italiane*. As a member of "civil society" about which the SIAC cares deeply, we have asked some questions about the importance that Cicero might have for the world of lawyers today.

Can you tell us something about your professional career by introducing yourself to our readers?

I am a civil lawyer at the Bar in Termini Imerese. I have been a *cassazionista* for twenty years. I believe strongly in associations: in addition to being president of the AGI of Palermo, for seven years I have been board member of the *Camera Civile* of Termini Imerese.

What role did Classical studies play in your forensic training and your profession as a lawyer?

I think that I acquired in high school the *forma mentis* and the method of study typical of a classical education. I refer not only to the strict and "schematic" method which when applied in translation, becomes a habit over time of *exercere quaestionem*, but also the ability to analyze and deepen the study of thought or of any other discipline in general.
Do you think that Greek and Latin rhetorical education can



still be important in the culture of the lawyer of today?

Drawing inspiration from great antiquity, choosing a model from which to draw inspiration, is a privilege. Of the Greeks, for example, I prefer the style of Lysias: insidious because it is necessary to persuade. But how to disregard or ignore the mark left in the development of oratory by the activity of Cicero? I think that Forensic should be taught in school, through the study of his works, like a good defense attorney should *probare, delectare, flectere*. That would introduce the study of the various "techniques" of rhetoric that can be found in the works of Cicero. It would not be a study limited to preparing of a criminal lawyer, the orator par excellence. I believe rather that such a preparation would also benefit the young litigator who, perhaps more tellingly, through his pleadings is called to argue us-

ing a style aesthetically valuable in an attempt to stimulate the emotions subtly of the judicial body and of the opponent: the quality found here is very "big".

Do you notice a worsening or an improvement in the relationship between Classics - and Cicero - and the legal world?

Sincerely, there is found a general indifference resulting from the palpable tendency towards cultural leveling. I do not want to say it, but a certain responsibility, in my opinion, is also attributable to the lovers of the classics: often entrenched in their own Institutes, clinging to their research, closed to other demands. I think that the activity of SIAC, for example, is very valuable because it opens a dialogue between different categories.

Let us turn to Cicero: could you explain the reasons for your interest in his work?

I could say that mine was a belated discovery that coincides with a personal and mature search for "temperance". Fidelity to the moral and social values of Cicero, then, is a goal in an age like mine where you realize that it is increasingly difficult to defend values that are no longer negotiable. Finally, Cicero represents for me an example of "style" and, nowadays, the so-called *decorum* seems anachronistic.

Didactic section - From civil society to the classic school

CICERO AND THE LAW

Cicero was often called "the defender of the Sicilians," thinking of the Verrines which he was so proud. By chance, in your opinion, the Arpinate has left a memory of some kind in the Sicilian cultural memory?

This question of yours, frankly, embarrasses me. I prefer to respond with a wish for the Sicilian people: to recover the ability to rebel against abuses, arrogance and misdeeds of corrupt public officials and embezzlers. We have lots of Verreses. The cohesive force and the pretense of justice that led the Sicilians to rely on an honest and upright man like Cicero to offer his defense in the famous trial of Verres has abated, however. **Three tips for young people who pursue the legal profession, of course, through the eyes of one passionate about Classical culture.**

Giving advice to young professionals is difficult but I try. The difficulties we encounter are numerous but they fire your profession; pursue justice by seeking the good; you always have respect for your partner, whoever he is: client, opponent or magistrate.

*Int. by A. Balbo
tr. T. Frazel*

THE XXXII CERTAMEN ARPINAS

The XXXII *Certamen Ciceronianum Arpinas* was held from 11 to 13 May 2012, one of the most important events in the now rich panorama of meetings aimed at students in their final high school years and dedicated to characters and themes of classical culture. The *Certamen*, in fact, in addition to its by now thirty years of activity, is characterized by a significant number of students from several European countries, from Belgium to Germany to Romania to Hungary. This year for the first time the number of students from the sixteen foreign countries present (160) exceeded that of the Italians (130). The test took place the morning of 11 May on the premises of the Istituto di Istruzione Superiore Tulliano di Arpino, the students were set a passage from of the first book of the *De Republica* (§ § 9-10), in which Cicero challenges the Epicurean view, that the wise man should not engage in the governance of public affairs except in case of emergency, arguing, on the basis of his personal experience, that those who have not had the experience of government in times of calm can not take over the reins at in times of danger. Students translated and commented on the passage, each in his own language, with final results that the Selection Committee, chaired by Piergiorgio Parroni of the Sapienza di Roma and made up of professors from universities and Italian classical high schools, assisted by translators for foreign languages more difficult to understand, and were evaluated as generally positive. Eleven awards and five honorable mentions were handed out, after a careful and complex task of comparative evaluation based on anonymous tests, evenly distributed among many of the countries participating in the competition, a testimony to the good preparation found all over; prizes were delivered, as is traditional, in a lively and exciting ceremony in the impressive Piazza Municipio of Arpino. The winner was a student of the Wilhems-Gymnasium di Monaco, Jakob Rappengluck, who had a smooth and effective translation of the Ciceronian passage, accompanied by an ample and well-informed commentary. Among the other winners we would like to note the ninth prize awarded to Gianluca Riccardino of the Liceo V. Alfieri di Torino, a junior member of the SIAC. The *Certamen* was accompanied by various cultural activities, among which is appropriate to report the IV Symposium Ciceroniano, dedicated to *Le Filippiche di Cicerone fra storia e modello letterario*, with papers by Arnaldo Marcone, Giuseppina Magnaldi and Davide Canfora.

P. De Paolis (tr. T. Frazel)

Didactic section - Cicero on the Internet

The boundary between word and image

CICERONE IN THE WORLD OF YOUTUBE

On Youtube, the most important Internet platform for the free viewing of videos, certainly does lack the presence of the great Cicero. I made a list of the many videos offered by various European and American countries. The search led first to many tribute video, which, combining topical images to short biographical notes, mark the milestones of life of the great orator: his studies, the consulate, the conspiracy of Catiline, death due to proscription. The works mentioned are usually, among the orations, the *Catilinarians*, among the philosophical writings, the *De republica* and the *Tusculanae*. With a soundtrack that mostly caters to the classical repertoire (in two cases, the "Air on the G String" by Bach), they roll through the great pictures symbolizing the consul-Cicero, the famous frescoes by Cesare Maccari in the Palazzo Madama, the busts - among which stands, repeatedly, the fine specimen of the Capitoline Museums - photos of manuscripts and early editions of Cicero's works. Also "tribute video" are those in which, besides the usual pictures, feature the most famous quotations and aphorisms in Italian or English, and without bibliographic references. Among the citations most "quoted" is the sentence "Where there's life, there's hope", taken from the *ad Atticum*. From Spain comes a video inserted into an encyclopedia channel, where along with images and scenarios of various kinds, a voice describes the complex personality of Cicero. The same type of video "documentary" is available in Russian. Interesting and full of positive acclaim is a video

comic book in Italian on the conspiracy of Catiline, where drawings of Mino Milani tell with bold strokes and dialogues inspired by the Latin text the best known story of the of Cicero's political career. Curious and worthy of mention is also a video, also of Italian origin, in which a girl offers a "popular" explanation on the chalkboard of the use of Ciceronian rhetorical *loci*. Another original youthful experiment is by German students who simulate a trip back in time and pretend to interview Cicero, asking for clarification and providing a unique lesson in Ciceronian facts, thoughts and works. The absolutely most "clicked" Ciceronian video, however, is of English origin, and features a collection of the most significant moments for the character of Cicero, played by David Bamber, in the American series "HBO's Rome". There is also a video that summarizes and comments on the main scenes of the English documentary for TV, *Murder in Rome*, the story of Sex. Roscius of Ameria. There are numerous videos that offer audio readings of Cicero's works. In English translation there are readings of the *Somnium Scipionis* and the first section of the first book of the *Verrines*, while in German you can hear the second *Philippic*. In Latin, with the sponsorship of the *Accademia Vivarium Novum*, it is possible to listen to all four orations in *Catilinam*, recited by Professor Felix Sanchez Vallejo. Also, for the *Catilinarians*, you can view a live recitation of selected passages in German. To confirm that the first *Catilinarian* is absolutely the work of Cic-

Quotations :

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgTwYvE3C64&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9nbdqbVYFt4&feature=related>

Reading of *In Catilinam*:1

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PZ18Wjqt1w&feature=related>

Comics "Cicero and Catilina":

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0zrwcw64uq4&feature=related>

Cicero in TV: "Rome":

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nOA-NRBsJvU>

A French homage to Cicero:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqCw85x3oQw>

Cicero biography, Spanish video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmnkOOPSuek&feature=related>

ero most widely known among young people, there are many outstanding performances and video performances, more or less professional, inspired by the famous opening words of the passage: *Quousque tandem abutere, Catilina, patientia nostra?* At the conclusion of this small study, we can see that, even in relation to Cicero, Youtube does not betray its protean nature, providing for students or for novices who want to approach for the first time the figure of the great Roman, helpful encouragement and inspiration of approach.

Barbara Del Giovane
(tr. T. Frazel)

Section Curiosities - A Cicero not only for a museum

CICERO AND LEONARDO DA VINCI AT THE LOUVRE

The exhibition, "La Sainte Anne, l'ultime chef-d'œuvre de Léonard de Vinci", which opened its doors at the Louvre until June 25, 2012, offered for friends of Cicero the surprise of coming across a large incunabulum of the *Ad familiares*, from the Heidelberg library and owned by Agostino Vespucci, an associate of Machiavelli in the second Chancery of Florence. The volume was open to the famous letter of December 54 to Lentulus (*Ad fam.* 1, 9), where Cicero recalls his life and his political action from previous years. In §15 it reads:

Qui me homines quod salvum esse voluerunt est mihi gratissimum; sed vellem non solum salutis meae quem ad modum medici sed ut aliptae etiam virium et coloris rationem habere voluissent. nunc, ut Apelles Veneris caput et summa pectoris politissima arte perfecit, reliquam partem corporis incohatam reliquit, sic quidam homines in capite meo solum elaborarunt, reliquum corpus imperfectum ac rude reliquerunt.

On this passage, and in particular on the word *aliptae*, Vespucci placed in the margin the following comment (it translates the quote on this caption of the exhibition):

Il pittore Apelle. Il pittore Leonardo da Vinci si comporta così in tutte le sue pitture. Così sono la testa di Lisa del Giocondo e quella di Anna madre della Vergine. Vedremo quello che farà per la sala del Gran Consiglio sulla quale si è già messo d'accordo con il gonfaloniere. 1503. Ottobre.

The painter Apelles. The painter Leonardo da Vinci handles himself well in all his paintings. Like the head of Lisa del Giocondo, and Anna's, the mother of the Virgin. We'll see what he will do for the hall of the Gran Consiglio which has already made an agreement with the standard-bearer. 1503. October.

This reading is particularly valuable, since this note to the text of the *Ad familiares*, discovered only in 2005, is the first mention we have of the *Sant'Anna*. The "obligation to meet the standard-bearer" refers to the fresco of the *Battaglia di Anghiari*, begun in 1503 at the Palazzo Vecchio, when, therefore, Leonardo put his hand to the *Sant'Anna*; the departure of the master to Milan in 1506 left the fresco incomplete, which in 1560 was attributed to another by Giorgio Vasari: it is just that fresco about which today is being discussed whether it is right to restore attribution to Leonardo. The debate is still alive between sup-

porters and opponents.

F. Prost (tr. T. Frazel)



Another Cicero at Louvre
F. F. Lemot, *Cicero orator* (1803-1804), aile Sully, escalier Henri IV, first floor. The statue was commissioned in 1800 for the *salle du Tribunal of Palais Royal* and placed in the recess before 1857.

SOME RULES FOR SENDING ARTICLES TO THE GAZETTE

Articles should be sent as attachments to e-mail address contributiongazette@tulliana.eu or by following the instructions given by clicking the button [Acta Tulliana](#) on the left column of the home page. Please use Word in Times New Roman 12 font and do not exceed 1500 characters, unless the Editors agreed otherwise.

Didactic section - Classics and Cicero as seen by the young

WE DO NOT FORGET

On Wednesday, June 13, the last day of school, we met, through the initiative of their teacher, Professor Patrizia Dotta, the students of Delta III of the Liceo Classico "V. Alfieri" of Turin, the class that recently collectively enrolled in the SIAC. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a series of short questions that we submitted to them on the perception of Classics and Cicero in particular.

It is often said that Classics is a constituent of the roots of Europe: on the threshold of the State Examination, what do you draw from these years of the study of classical languages and literatures? What values, what ideas, in your feeling, find their roots in classical antiquity?

"Classics," they respond in chorus, "understood as the set of humanistic studies concerning ancient cultures, is the absolute paradigm which shows how cultures are around today, not only in regard to the language, but the customs, beliefs, modern politics, laws, institutions. Classical culture lays the foundation for a comprehensive view of man and citizen, acting within the community, which participates in the construction of democracy, investigates using reason, respects natural and civil laws, which proposes a model common to all European citizens, based on cross-cutting values



such as respect for the principle of justice and solidarity, and respect for tradition, fundamental to the process of building Europe today. We can not forget. Memory resides in these values, these "rites". We must recover it through the study of our past and pass it on to posterity to keep alive the roots of our existence. [... Continues on www.tulliana.eu]

The full text of this interview is available at www.tulliana.eu, a text that we would like to recommend highly. Often we talk about school reform and children, but much less often these issues are faced with young people themselves, the real stars (or victims) of any change. Their words, as you will see, are not only absolutely not predictable nor homogeneous, but, rather, from Classics they open to the scenarios of today's world, the economic crisis, the value of the political class, conflict situations

worldwide, with a level of awareness that brings honor to the students and teachers who formed them. With this first interview, we hope to open a series of dialogues with our younger members: in the next issue of the *Gazette* the third year class at the Liceo Classico "Peano" of Tortona (AL) will reflect with us.

Int. by Alice Borgna and Anna Marcolongo (tr. T. Frazel)

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