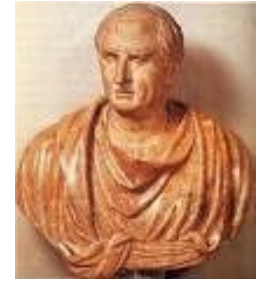


Gazette Tulliana

SOCIETE INTERNATIONALE DES AMIS DE CICERON
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IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT TULLIANA: NEW SITE, NEW LIFE, ANCIENT ACTIVISM

2021 represented the world's first attempt at a return to normalcy after the tragedies of COVID. Even if the pandemic is far from over and - indeed - even regains virulence over the coldest months of the year, nevertheless the SIAC did not slow down its activity and dedicated itself in particular to revamping the website, a process which will bear fruit at the beginning of 2022. In the next issue of the *Gazette* we will offer a detailed presentation about the site itself along with an interview with its creator, but, for now, it may be enough to note that, from a solid (but now obsolete) LAMP system, Tulliana.eu will switch to Wordpress, a format capable of managing content in a more rational and agile way. We are confident that our members will appreciate this innovation and will continue to trust us. The design was not easy and went through a careful evaluation of the various proposals sent by different companies; only after a thorough comparison did the management make the decision to adopt this technical solution. At the same time, we are keeping our promise to bring ourselves progressively up to par with the publication of the *Gazette*: once this 2021 issue has been released, in fact, we will go into production for 2022: here we confidently await your contributions and hope that the sad news that is gathering does not make cultural exchanges difficult again.

Andrea Balbo *Gazette* Editor
(tr. T. Frazel)

THE TWO SIAC SERIES IN DEVELOPMENT

The two series promoted by SIAC are in full development with De Gruyter. *Roma Sinica* will reach its second and third volumes in 2022 thanks to the works of D. Konstan (ed.), *Emotions across Cultures. Ancient China and Greece* and of A. Balbo, J. Ahn and K. Kim (eds.), *Empire and Politics in the Eastern and Western Civilizations, Searching for a 'Respublica Romanosinica'*, publications also made possible by the SERICA project, led by A. Balbo. The Cicero series continues with *Portraying Cicero in Literature, Culture, and Politics. From Ancient to Modern Times* edited by Francesca Romana Berno and Giuseppe La Bua and with *Amicus Lucretius. Gassendi, the De rerum natura and Christian hedonism* edited by Enrico Piergiacomini. The publication of these works is made possible by the contribution of the Patrum Lumen Sustine foundation, which, with foresight, supports the work of the director Ermanno Malaspina and the scientific committee.

The Editors (tr. T. Frazel)

SIAC series for DeGruyter are at <https://www.degruyter.com/serial/csrrtr-b/html> e <https://www.degruyter.com/serial/ros-b/html>

THE RETURN OF THE CERTAMEN

Inside, readers will find an extensive report on the *Certamen Ciceronianum Arpinas* 2021 by Stefano Rozzi. This is very important, because it represents the return, at least for the award ceremony, of the winners and their companions to the central square of Arpino. For those who have taken part in previous competitions and remember the tension of waiting, the cheerful confusion of Sunday morning, and the wonderful interaction between all of the competitors and their teachers, it was the occasion of a small return to the past, of a memory rediscovered thanks to that imponderable relationship that exists between places, the past and our senses. Seeing students and teachers together, in a moment of joy, truly represented a symbolic moment of human and cultural rebirth, a moment of "return to the possibility of breathing" and of recovering an intellectual homeland of a Europe that should find its unity in words such as *res publica*, *libertas*, democracy, tolerance, loyalty, but which too often forgets them in the name of fear, the will to power, hatred. We therefore greet this moment with great joy, in the hope that it will only be the first of a new series. *The Editors (tr. T. Frazel)*

Scientific section – Cicero as a model of intercultural interaction

CICERO AT THE FOREIGN STUDIES UNIVERSITY OF BEIJING

Our colleague and friend, Prof. Michele Ferrero, tells us about his experiences as a Latin teacher in Beijing, where he is actively engaged both in the promotion of classical culture and in translation.

Since 2009 I have been teaching Latin and other Classical Studies courses at the University of Foreign Literature in Beijing, the most prestigious institution in China for study of the languages and cultures of the world.

My department is called the *International Institute of Chinese Studies* and specializes in intercultural studies. Every one or two years we offer a course on the reading and analysis of some Western classics.

The course takes the form of a seminar and is open to all post-graduate students. After a brief presentation on the author's background and methodologies, the students prepare a section (a chapter or a portion) of the text for each session and present it to the other students, along with the usual explanations and answers to any questions.

As representatives of the ancient classical Western world I choose four texts: Plato's *Republic*, Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, Cicero's *De Officiis* and

Augustine's *Confessions*. All texts are read in Chinese translation. In this way, students can learn about the content of these pillars of ancient Western civilization: the Greek, Roman and Judeo-Christian traditions.

Augustine is actually a second choice – I would have preferred perhaps one of the Gospels in the Latin Vulgate translation (a significant example of early cross-cultural transmission and translation), but since the Bible is classified as a religious text, its direct use in a course is considered unsuitable in today's China.

The choice of Cicero's *De Officiis* as the representative of the non-Christian Latin tradition was motivated by two factors: it embodies the main elements of the Roman tradition and Chinese translations are available.

Some students have taken one or two semesters of Latin or other courses that I teach at the University of Foreign Literature in Beijing, while some have not studied Latin at all. So the texts are read in Chinese. With each lesson I spend some time introducing basic Greek or Latin terminology -- it's like studying Confucius in English and learning some specific Chinese words that are particularly meaningful or that may not be fully under-

stood in translation.

For the PhD students who specialize in intercultural research, Cicero is fascinating. He was successful in forging a Latin terminology for Greek philosophy, inculturating the Stoic tradition into the Roman tradition. Hence it is an early model of intercultural interaction and a fitting example of how the ancient Mediterranean world was very open to the encounter and exchange of cultures.

Most of the PhD students who have attended my course are researching Intercultural studies, and for some of them it could also be an opportunity for future work. For all of us, especially in these times of tension between China and the West, it is a great chance to practice accepting and understanding different ideas. Students are also expected to make a comparison with the Chinese tradition, especially Confucian teaching, which is the common cultural background of all Chinese students. For Cicero I suggest using the popular Loeb Latin and English bilingual edition of *De Officiis*. For the Chinese edition they can choose between two or three available in China.

Scientific section – Cicero as a model of intercultural interaction

CICERO AT THE FOREIGN STUDIES UNIVERSITY OF BEIJING

During the course, students prepare a PowerPoint presentation on the individual chapters. In addition to the text itself, I recommend that they read something about Roman history.

As some students have studied Latin, but others have not, we focus on the content rather than the language. Here, again, we meet the importance of good translations. Not everyone can speak all languages. Most people in Europe know Confucius through translations (by the way, the first translations of Confucius were in Latin, in the 17th century). Similarly Chinese students can access Cicero's wisdom and wit through good translations. The Stoic tradition of Cicero can easily be compared with some fundamental characteristics of the teaching of Confucius. For example, concepts like *Pietas*, the sense of duty; *Humanitas*; *Virtus* as the golden mean, desire for justice, the foundation of moral obligation. Students often spend time debating between the *Utile* and the *Bonum*, what is honest and what is profitable, an

idea also present in Confucius (利 Li vs 义 Yi).

However, there are also differences. For example, my students often point to a clear difference in relationships within the family. In Confucius, family relationships are the basis of all relationships. In Cicero, while writing to his son, no emphasis is placed on family relationships as models of social order. In the Roman republican tradition, laws are the instrument of social harmony, not family relationships.

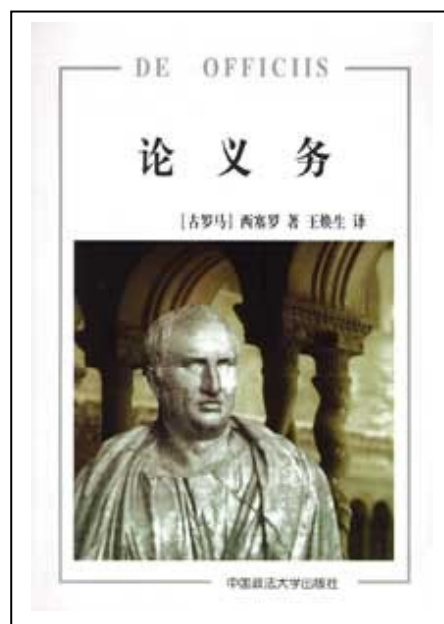
The role and importance of civil laws is an area in which China

and the West have visible differences and this, too, emerges during our studies. In the *De officiis* there are also many events in Roman history that mean little to our Chinese students, as the references to specific people in the *Dialogues* of Confucius probably mean little to Western readers. In both cases the reader seeks a more "universal" teaching and wisdom.

The Chinese translation of some of Cicero's technical terms is sometimes challenging. Examples of terms that are not easy to translate perfectly into Chinese are *rectum* and *honestum*. *Rectum* is "right", that is, perfect: an absolute. Its opposite is "bad", that is, not equal to the "absolute", common, ordinary: somewhere in between.

Yet the Stoics did not admit that there were degrees of right or wrong. *Honestum* is "morally right"; as a noun, 'moral goodness' (= honesty); its opposite is vile, 'morally wrong'. *Honestas* is "moral righteousness" - "moral goodness"; 'morality'; its opposite *turpitude*, "morally wrong", "immorality". *Honestus*, on the other hand, is always 'honorable'; and *honores* are always "offices of honor".

Even the concept of "glory" for



De Officiis of Cicero,
Chinese translation

Scientific section – Cicero model of intercultural interaction

CICERONE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN LITERATURE OF BEIJING

the Romans is somewhat similar to the Chinese idea of "saving face", but with obvious differences.

On the other hand, both Cicero and Confucius do not see the need for divine grace for human improvement. Both lack the concept of Original Sin, so redemption comes from study, knowledge and wisdom.

This sharing experience of Cicero with Chinese students is very enriching for both them and the teacher. My dream is one day to have an international class in which we can study Cicero and Confucius together and together build the foundations of a world where China and the West can have something more in common than business, commerce and a virus.

*Michele Ferrero
(tr. T. Frazel)*



Cenotaph of Matteo Ricci, Zhalan Cemetery, Beijing

INSCRIPTIONS 2022

To join SIAC, all you have to do is log into the Tulliana site, complete the membership questionnaire and pay the 25 euros membership fee. It is possible to use PayPal.

RULES FOR SENDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GAZETTE

Contributions should be sent to andrea.balbo@unito.it in Times New Roman 12 without formatting. Please do not exceed 2-4000 characters and place images in JPEG format only if you own the rights. Any modification of these instructions must be agreed directly with the publisher.

Scientific section – *Visiones*

OUR COLLEAGUE, GIANLUCA SPOSITO, PRESENTS HIS VISIONES PROJECT, A PLACE TO CONNECT ANCIENT AND CONTEMPORARY RHETORIC

Visiones (www.visiones.net) is the first (and currently the only in Italy) Center for the Study of Ancient and Contemporary Forensic Oratory. Started in October 2019 at the instigation of Gianluca Sposito, a lawyer and professor of "Legal Argumentation and Forensic Rhetoric" in the Department of Law of the University of Urbino, and of some university professors and lawyers who make up the prestigious interdisciplinary scientific committee (still in its expansion



Gianluca Sposito, lawyer and professor of *Legal Argumentation and Rhetoric* in the Law Department of the University of Urbino

phase), intends to bring to the attention of practitioners the opportunities that a deeper knowledge of classical rhetoric and its use in a modern setting can generate in contemporary forensic oratory, which requires profound rhetorical and psychological knowledge as well as knowledge of both non-verbal and paraverbal communication. Today the modern speaker (lawyer) is confronted with subjects formed in an era strongly conditioned by the overwhelming power of sight and speed, but he is technically incapable - because he is now no longer trained - to use the full and correct use of language and of rhetoric, and even of the visual itself (relegated to the role of mere support). Conversely, the forensic speakers of the 21st century must know how to value and use rhetorical thought, which can generate (both in oral and written modalities) a powerful 'view', if reasonably founded, using the word that makes itself an image ("*visiones*"), according to the teaching of classical rhetoric. And they must be able to be



'persuasive', in a technically and ethically correct way. The portal is structured in the form of a blog, with four sections dedicated to contemporary ("*Oratoria hodie*") and ancient ("*Oratoria heri*"), the reporting of books and articles ("*Litterae et consilia*"), events ("*Occasiones et eventa* ") and places of interest on the web ("*Internet loci*").

Gianluca Sposito
(tr. T. Frazel)

Scientific section – Reviews

PAOLO ACCETTOLA, CICERONIAN PLACES FROM THE EIGHTEENTH TO THE NINETEENTH CENTURIES

This book is above all an act of love that Paolo Accettola, an electrical engineer with a passion for the study and enhancement of his territory (the one that in Sora emphasizes the Liri valley and on places extremely important for the history of the territory such as the abbey of Casamari and, obviously, Arpino). The volume, through a rich iconographic apparatus that includes reproductions of drawings, engravings and paintings very often difficult to find, tells how foreign travelers, mostly French and English, but not only, have described and depicted the landscape of these lands from the eighteenth century up to the first stages of industrialization in the 1830s under pressure from the Bourbons.

The text is extremely well documented and can be read with pleasure; moreover, it offers significant context, which allows the reader to learn the role in territorial event of many people, for example, Gioacchino Murat. However, while focusing on

the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, he does not in the least forget the importance of Gaius Marius and especially Cicero, to whom a specific chapter is dedicated (pp. 196 to 207) with some further data on the location of the birthplace of Arpinate, which, on the basis of the examination of the shares of the land and of the images taken from the aerial photos of the RAF in the Second World War and of drawings found among the maps of the abbey of S. Domenico, would support the thesis of its location in the area of today's abbey, at the confluence of the Liri and Fibreno rivers.

The book is imbued with Cicero and affection towards Arpinate – he is cited continuously and is the true tutelary deity of the research. The volume is also accompanied by a rich bibliography and a precise, accurate index of people and places, in order to make the search and identification of specific characters much easier. We welcome this work with pleasure in the panorama of studies on the

Arpinate's native territory, hoping that it can serve as a stimulus for new research.

Andrea Balbo

(tr T. Frazel)



P. Accettola, *Artists and travelers of the XVIII-XIX century in Casamari and at San Domenico di Sora. From the landscape of the Grand Tour to early nineteenth-century industrialization in the Sora district*, Centro di Studi Sorani "Vincenzo Patriarca" - Monastero di San Domenico Abate, Sora 2019, ISBN 9788867810581, 254 pp.

Didactic section – The 2021 *Certamen Ciceronianum*

CICERO, FATHER OF EUROPEAN VALUES

The silence, the slow and silent footsteps on a creaking floor, the rustle of heavy and ancient pages, a whisper and a pencil falling to the ground in a deafening noise for those silent rooms. The tired face with eyes fixed on letters written with faded ink and the glasses that do not sit still on the nose. This could be the description of mine, of our work as Cicero's scholars, surrounded by a thousand books and boring, weighty just looking at himself. But there is another world made up of smiles, activity, jokes, study, sacrifice, passion and dedication, and the goal here is always Cicero. July 2021 – my little adventure begins and I would like to tell you about.

It all starts with a quick exchange of e-mails with Professors Balbo and Malaspina. Then, suddenly, the small notification on the screen: "It's all right, go too!". I had just returned from a 10,000-kilometer trip to Norway, but the idea of going to the celebrations of the fortieth *Certamen Ciceronianum* in Arpino overcame all fatigue. How could I miss such an appointment?

Friday 23 July I am already on my way to Rome, where I have an appointment with Prof. Balbo to take the next regional train to Frosinone together. With the doors open, we are not only welcomed by the 95 degree heat in Lazio, but also by the first of many other groups of organizers. With not even the time to under-

stand what we should do, we find ourselves in a car for Arpino.

The rapid approach from Frosinone already allows me to appreciate the particular beauty of the scenery: the green hills on which, perched for thousands of years, the ancient cities dominate, the scattered farmhouses with their exposed stone walls and the slow and narrow roads climbing to the top of the hills.

Although I have visited Rome and its surroundings dozens of times, I had never entered the wonderful hinterland of Lazio. The mind cannot help but fantasize a little about those places and imagine what our beloved Romans saw and thought.

After a quick stop at the hotel, we immediately go to *Piazza del Municipio* where the stage on which the protagonists of these days will go up is already visible. At 5:00 PM the event officially begins with a welcome ceremony opened by the Mayor of the city of Arpino, as well as the President of the *Centro Studi Umanistici "M. Tullio Cicerone"*, Renato Rea, followed by the Managing Director, Avv. Niccolò Casinelli.

The room in which we are seated has been entirely decorated with the photographs of all the winners of the *Certamen* from 1980 to 2019: a winning idea that, despite the difficult period experienced by everyone in the last two years, underlines a desire to continue a consolidated tradition for dec-

ades. With a view to connecting the fortieth meeting with previous events, prizes are awarded to people who have contributed substantially to the organization and implementation of this annual event.

After the ceremony, the entire group of participants moves to the Acropolis, a few kilometers away, flanked by some young local boosters from Arpino.

In front of the monumental Cyclopean gate we are welcomed by one of the local guides who accompanies the group on a journey through the history of this magnificent fortification (a large part of the wall is still preserved, a unique archaeological case of its kind).

The visit ends on the top of the *Torre di Cicero*, a fortification element dating back to the Angevin era, with a splendid sunset that slowly paints the hills red, and the Virgilian atmosphere is not long in making itself felt. The usual photos with such a panorama are a must.

After a dinner on the acropolis with a breathtaking view, the evening continues in the courtyard in front of the tower with a theatrical show, "Operation Rescue", a reinterpretation of the film "Monument Men," dedicated to the exploits of Pasquale Rotondi who during the Second World War saved about ten thousand works of art from destruction and looting.

Waking up on Saturday is ac-

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accompanied by the light that shyly filters through the shutters and by that scent of flowers carried by the wind that only Italy is able to give on summer mornings.

However, there is not much time to devote to poetry, today's schedule is really busy and full of activities. At around 9.30 we are on the tourist bus towards Veroli.

Among the most important attractions of this city we must absolutely mention the *Fasti Verolani*, a find of extraordinary value that emerged during the excavations of 1922, on which the events of three months, probably between the years 9 and 14 AD, are still legible.

Also noteworthy is the archaeological museum which incorporates some portions of the Cyclopean walls, as well as the interesting structures of the current *Piazza del Duomo* which was once nothing more than the forum.

This visit also ends with a splendid view from the museum terrace. The nature and history of these places never ceases to amaze, since lunch is also held in a restaurant on the banks of the Liri River.

Back in Arpino, with a long and pleasant walk through the upper town, we reach the Mastroianni Foundation where you can ad-

mire numerous sculptures by the master, as well as the photographic exhibition "Malkovich, Malkovich, Malkovich" by the famous Sandro Miller, a tribute to this last of the greatest masters of Photography.

The scorching heat does not prevent me from exchanging a few words and jokes with the sparkling young participants and winners of the *Certamen*.

This year, in fact, due to the health emergency it was not possible to host all the students and their respective professors who took part in the competition: the finalists were therefore invited, without knowing their respective rankings.

Among these the cheerful personalities of Maria Crimaldi, Anthea Solazzo and Pasqualina Sullo of Pomigliano d'Arco stood out accompanied by Prof. Luisa Campana. All three stressed that this experience first of all represents a return to normality.

Preparation for the competition was very long and tiring, even in the afternoons, but they were driven by a passion for the Latin language. Now they are enjoying the fruits of those days of study and work.

I was very impressed by some of their answers, in response to a general question of mine about their university or working future: "We will not make Latin

our life. However, without Latin, we would not be the people we are today."

Within this context, in addition to the joy and pleasure, I can only appreciate these considerations, since it is clear that the work to which we all are dedicated in both teaching and research, if it is carried out with passion and above all with the desire to share, can still give a lot to young people. I had another nice conversation during the approach to the main square for the ceremony with Alyssa Chiara Montan from Bergamo, a professional skater who did not let herself be intimidated by Latin and, despite her many sporting commitments, managed to arrive here in Arpino.

Anita Minerva of Rome also proved to be a fine connoisseur of the Arpinate and told me what in her opinion was the importance of Cicero even in today's world.

As we chatted, we finally reached the heart of the party and, without a doubt, the most awaited moment: the award ceremony. The square was crowded with people and in the center a space was reserved for the representatives of the institutions and the numerous associations and entities that financially and intellectually supported the *Cer-*

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tamen Ciceronianum. The organizational machine is almost perfect, the lighting highlights the flags of the participating states that fly behind the statue of Cicero, which is flanked by the large stage.

After a nice and moving re-enactment of the forty-year history of *Certamen*, the awards ceremony began.

Obtaining Honorable Mentions:

Cho Louis (Gymnasium Hochard – Amburgo), Köbnick Kai (Kufurst- Friedrich-Gymnasium- Heideberg), Barbi Elisa (IIS L. Pietrobono – Alatri), Bonfissuto Edoardo (Liceo Classico Augusto – Roma).

This was followed by the awards ceremony for the first ten winners, whose names and schools of origin are:

- 1) Wöhrman Arnold Wilhems Gymnasium - Monaco (D)
- 2) Crimaldi Maria Liceo Classico Imbriani - Pomigliano D'Arco (Na)
- 3) Romano Marco IIS M. Pagano - Campobasso (Cb)
- 4) Solazzo Anthea Liceo Classico Imbriani - Pomigliano D'Arco (Na)
- 5) Potenziani Giulia IIS L. Pietrobono - Alatri (Fr)
- 6) Minerva Anita Liceo Classico T. Tasso - Roma (Rm)

7) Montan Alyssa Chiara Centro Scolastico Tua Scuola - Bergamo (Bg)

8) Sullo Pasqualina Liceo Classico Imbriani - Pomigliano D'Arco (Na)

9) Marozzi Carlotta Liceo Classico F. Stabili - Ascoli Piceno (Ap)

10) Boneschi Martino Liceo Classico Cairoli - Varese (Va)

This year the test consisted in the translation of the incipit of the *Pro Cluentio*.

After being corrected, the candidates who were admitted to the next phase attended the seminar “Cicero's Reception and Influence from the Antiquity to Contemporary Age”, held in English by university teachers who have studied different aspects of classical and Ciceronian culture.

Subsequently, the participants had to prepare a paper which was evaluated by the jury. All the young people, with whom I spoke, appreciated this dip into the academic world and were happy to try their hand both with lessons in a foreign language and with complex and articulated topics, which, however, stimulated their curiosity.

The winner, Arnold Wöhrman, after the hectic days in Arpino, had the courtesy to dedicate some of his time to me to be able to tell his experience. Here is our complete interview.

1) *How did you prepare for the Certamen? What was your technique? Did you study by yourself or did your professor guide you with suggestions, reading or translations?*

There was no specific preparation. I was advised by my Latin teacher to re-read a previous exam text, which I did to get an idea of the difficulty level of the exam. I think the crucial preparation was the many years of Latin lessons before that.

Luckily, I had teachers who not only taught me Latin, but also gave me the pleasure of knowing it, increasing my motivation to study it to an advanced level.

For the second round of the competition, knowledge of the subject also played an important role. Since we were allowed to participate in Cicero's excellent

Reception and Influence seminar from antiquity to the contemporary age, I had the opportunity to further deepen my knowledge immediately before the exam.

2) *This year you had to translate the opening section of the Pro Cluentio. Did you know this passage? What did you think when you read it?*

I did not know the *Pro Cluentio*.

Didactic section – The 2021 *Certamen Ciceronianum*

CICERO, FATHER OF EUROPEAN VALUES

tio. At school we had only dealt with the speeches *In Verrem* and *In Catilinam*, and then read the philosophical texts of Cicero.

In the preparatory round, we had to translate a sort of methodical chapter of the oration, in which Cicero briefly analyzes the accusatory discourse and draws conclusions about his approach for the defense.

By doing so, he manages to weigh the two sides of the accusation differently from the beginning and at the same time to win over the judges by promoting, on the one hand, rigorous objectivity - even if it were to harm his position - but, on the other hand, assigning them such judgment and then praising them as a neutral and objective body of the progressive Roman judicial system as opposed to a primitive lynching jury.

I was immediately struck by the way Cicero strengthens his weak starting position; his client is, after all, accused of poisoning. From the beginning he uses intelligent rhetoric, providing a morally positive self-portrait of himself as a selflessly objective speaker, in turn expressing his appreciation of the fair and objective court.

Here we recognize in him both the good tactician and the ethical orator, who cares about impartiality. In this text Cicero not on-

ly convinces the judges to give Cluentius a chance, but he still manages to convince us moderns not to judge hastily; as prejudice and lack of objectivity are a problem independent of time and situation.

The extract from the text is therefore not only interesting as a mere speech addressed to the court, but it is also morally educational. What I also found fascinating - as always with Cicero - was the near-perfect structure of the content and syntax in the text, where language and content really go hand in hand.

3) *2021 is a special year, since you had to work online and then come to Italy. Can you describe the experience of the Certamen Ciceronianum? Have you met other young students interested in Latin and, maybe, Cicero, can you tell us about it?*

Many enriching conversations ensued. In addition, we enjoyed interesting guided tours of the culturally and historically rich region and overwhelming hospitality.

After many months of social distancing, it was an incredible gift to be able to travel to Arpino and meet the other winners in person. I was very impressed with their linguistic talent and their great interest in Latin, their

open-mindedness and enthusiasm. I have had many enriching conversations with them.

Furthermore, we had the opportunity to enjoy overwhelming hospitality and to participate in interesting guided tours in a region rich in culture and history.

4) *Do you think that, in this digital age, Latin is still important for the new generation? If so, why?*

Decidedly! Especially today! In times when new crises and challenges such as climate change, extremism and, of course, the Covid-19 pandemic are shaking humanity despite all the progress made, it is good to look to your cultural roots to reorient yourself.

The Romans have had a lasting influence on our world from a cultural and scientific point of view and, of course, also in terms of social and philosophical theory.

In Latin literature we find important food for thought and intellectual formative contents. From Cicero in particular, we can learn timeless things that provide us with advice on today's political, social and ethical challenges.

The practical benefits of the Latin language should also not

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be underestimated: working with Latin texts promotes important basic skills such as detailed perception, problem-solving and an analytical approach. Through Latin, I myself have dealt more intensely and deeply with the structure and possibilities.

5) *What do you think of the figure of Cicero as a politician, author, philosopher and man?*

I believe that, in summary, we can see in Cicero the very intelligent interpreter and implementer of the Platonic theory of the "philosopher-politician", who, aware of his immense abilities, wanted to make a State career. But as a statesman he also had to defend the Republic from anarchy and dictatorship, and in the end he really fought seriously for the *salus populi* and the common good.

As a politician and philosopher, finally, he strove to be a happier man, so he was and remains, despite all idealism, certainly still a man of real politics. On paper he convinces the reader, as the brilliant author he is, in terms of language and content, thanks to his comprehensible, clear and logical way of expressing himself, which - despite all the multiclause sen-

tences - does not make it difficult to understand his texts.

Cicero has deservedly gone down in history as a prominent figure, he has remained in the memory of humanity as a politician and State theorist and stands until today, not without reason, as a father of European values.

6) *Would you recommend participating in the Certamen to other students in Germany?*

Absolutely! Everything was a fantastic experience: first the study of Cicero's text, then the very interesting seminar and finally the meeting in Arpino! I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all those who made this great experience possible for us participants!

On Sunday the event closed with the greetings and departures of all the participants. Unfortunately I could not attend this last moment because of the times dictated by the means of transport. However, I would like to use this space to once again thank the entire organization of the *Certamen Ciceronianum* and Arpino city. An impeccable welcome, a program of visits and in-depth studies truly valid and

compelling, a heartfelt ceremony, exciting and engaging, the presence of young people from all over Europe make it possible for all of us to tighten even more around the figure of this great politician, philosopher, statesman but above all man who was Marcus Tullius Cicero. All that remains is to prepare for the next edition!

*Stefano Rozzi
(tr. T. Frazel)*



Foreshortening of Arpino city