

# MEI NUCESQUE

A newsletter for Classics at the University of Dallas

## Classics Club Kicks Off the Semester

At its first two meetings this February, the Classics Club has been looking forward to putting on some fun and edifying events this spring. As yet largely constituted of freshmen, the club hopes to expand its membership and to reproduce some of the events—especially the poetry recitations—that last semester’s leaders put together, as well as create some new ones. Among the items on the Club’s agenda are watching the film *The Eagle* at a local theater, hosting at least one lecture or other chance to hear from one of the Classics professors outside of the classroom, and even sponsoring a Latin poetry composition contest. The club’s new officers—Secretary Jillian Schroeder, Vice President Chris Burns, and President Matt Bellet—look forward to filling the shoes of such great aspiring Classicists as the goddess-like Kimberly Read; Daniel Orazio, breaker of horses; the brilliant Deandre Lieberman; and, of course, the glancing-eyed, flowing-haired, and swift-footed Matt DeGrood. Best wishes to all the Classics Club members currently studying in Rome!

## Latin Grammar Corner

The subjunctive to use when you’re frustrated

If a Roman had just stepped into some mud and soiled his only clean pair of shoes, he might express his frustration with a rhetorical question. His words might be *quid nunc faciam?* or “What am I to do now?” (Maurer 22). Or, a magister perplexed by the stubbornness of a student might exclaim, *quid de te faciam?*—“What am I to do with you?” The mood of the verbs in these questions is subjunctive, but how does one classify the use of the subjunctive here? These sentences are examples of the deliberative, one of the several uses of the subjunctive in independent clauses (among which are also the hortatory, the jussive, and the optative uses). The deliberative often indicates that the speaker is probably perplexed or at least doubtful about something, and therefore has a problem worthy of deliberation. The person is not speaking interrogatively, for he or she is not really directly asking for an answer (Sweet).

-Matthew Bellet

Sources:

Latin Vulgate.com. The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ According to St. Luke. 10 Feb. 2011. <<http://www.latinvulgate.com/verse.aspx?t=1&b=3&c=3>>. Maurer, Karl. “Latin Grammar Handout.” Web. 31 Jan. 2011. <[http://udallasclassics.org/maurer\\_files/LatinGrammar.pdf](http://udallasclassics.org/maurer_files/LatinGrammar.pdf)>. Sweet, David. Intermediate Latin II. Class lecture. 24 Jan. 2011.

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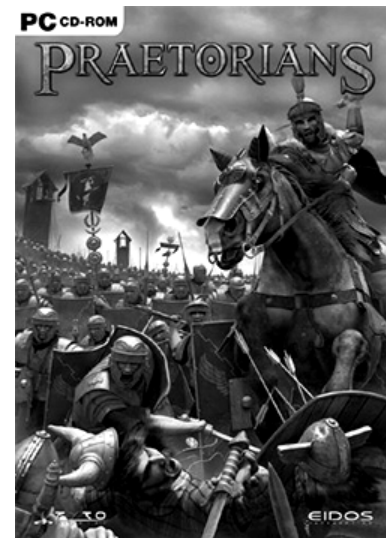
## LATINAM?

## Interesting Etymologies of Company Names

Adapted from Wikipedia.org

- Acer.** Born as Multitech International in 1976, the company changed its name to Acer in 1987, the Latin word for “sharp, acute, able and facile.”
- Arm & Hammer.** Based on the arm and hammer of Vulcan, the Roman god of fire and metalworking. It was previously the logo of the Vulcan Spice Mills in Brooklyn. When James Church, the son of Church & Dwight founder Austin Church, came to Church and Dwight from Vulcan Spice Mills, he brought the logo with him.
- ASICS.** An acronym for *Anima Sana In Corpore Sano*, which, translated from Latin, means “Healthy soul in a healthy body.” Originally the citation is *mens sana in corpore sano* [from Juvenal 10.356], but MSICS does not sound as good.
- Asus.** Named after Pegasus, the winged horse of Greek mythology. The first three letters of the word were dropped to get a high position in alphabetical listings. An Asus company named Pegatron, using the spare letters, was spun off in 2008.
- Eidos.** Named from the Greek εἶδος word meaning “species, shape, form” and other things. The company became well-known for its Tomb Raider series of games.

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It was Eidos Interactive that released *Praetorians*, a successful video game based on the campaigns of Julius Caesar. Source: <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Praetorians\\_\(game\)#Marketing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Praetorians_(game)#Marketing)>. Image source: <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Praetorians\\_Coverart.png](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Praetorians_Coverart.png)>.

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Nike. Named for the Greek goddess of victory, Νίκη .

Verizon. A combination of veritas and horizon.

Volvo. From the Latin word *volvo*, which means "I roll". It was originally a name for a ball bearing being developed by SKF.

Xerox. Abbreviated form of xerography, deriving from the two Greek words ξερός (dry) and γραφή (writing). The company was founded as The Haloid Company in 1906, launched its first Xerox copier in 1949, and changed its name to Haloid Xerox in 1958.



## Roman Festivals in February

From Wikipedia.org

- February 13 to 22– Parentalia, in honour of the ancestors
- February 13 to February 15– Lupercalia, in honour of Faunus
- February 17– Quirinalia, in honour of Quirinus
- February 21– Feralia
- February 23– Terminalia, in honour of Terminus
- February 27– First Equirria

"All the more strange, then, is it that we should wish to know Greek, try to know Greek, feel for ever drawn back to Greek, and be forever making up some notion of the meaning of Greek, though from what incongruous odds and ends, with what slight resemblance to the real meaning of Greek, who shall say?"

— Virginia Woolf

Quotation source:

<<http://www.udallasclassics.org/whyClassics.html#y>>.

## Greek Grammar

Selections from: Smyth, Herbert Weir, and Gordon M. Messing. *Greek Grammar*. Cambridge, (Mass.): Harvard UP, 1984.

1105. The demonstrative *ὁ, ἡ, τό* is used as a relative pronoun in Homer only when the antecedent is definite (cp. that): τεύχεα δ' ἐξενάριξε, τά οἱ πόρεχάλκεος Ἄρης "he stripped off the arms that brazen Ares had given him" H 146. The tragic poets use only the forms in *τ-*, and chiefly to avoid hiatus or to produce position: "κτείνουσα τοὺς οὐ χροῖ κτανεῖν" slaying those whom it is not right to slay" E. *And.* 810. (ὄ ~ ὄς E. *Hipp.* 525.) On the use in Herodotus, see 338 D. 3.

1106. The demonstrative force of *ὁ, ἡ, τό* survives chiefly in connection with particles (*μέν, δέ, γέ, τοί;* and with *καί* preceding *ὁ*).

1107. *ὁ* is a demonstrative commonly before *μέν, δέ*, and especially in contrasted expressions: *ὁ μὲν . . . ὁ δέ* the one, this . . . the other, that, as in

"οἱ μὲν ἐπορεύοντο, οἱ δ' εἶποντο" the one party proceeded, the other followed" X. *A.* 3.4.16.

1108. The reference may be indefinite; in which case *τις* is often added:

"τοὺς μὲν ἀπέκτεινε, τοὺς δ' ἐξέβαλεν" some he put to death, and others he expelled" X. *A.* 1.1.7, οἱ μὲν τινες ἀπέθνησκον, οἱ δ' ἔφ ευγον some were killed, but others escaped C. 3. 2. 10.

1111. Note the adverbial expressions: *τὸ (τὰ) μὲν . . . τὸ (τὰ) δέ* on the one hand . . . on the other hand, partly . . . partly (so also *τοῦτο μὲν . . . τοῦτο δέ* 1256); *τὸ δέ τι* partly, *τῆ μὲν . . . τῆ δέ* in this way . . . in that way, *τὸ δέ* whereas (1112), *τῶ τοι* therefore.

After reading Pindar for the first few weeks of the semester, I have encountered various forms of the demonstrative pronoun *ὁ, ἡ, τό*. I list five helpful sections concerning the demonstrative from Smyth's *Greek Grammar* and want to highlight 1106 and 1107 in particular. The last six words of Pindar's *Pythian Odes* are *τὸ μὲν δώσει, τὸ δ' οὐπω* "One things he gives, another not yet" (Pind., *Pyth.*, 12.32). Here, the contrasted expression is evident in the *τὸ μὲν...τὸ δ'* construction (1107). Look out for the *μὲν...δὲ* construction with the demonstrative pronoun.

-Robert Landreaux

