BOWDOIN PRIZES 2019-2020

TRANSLATIONS AND DISSERTATIONS IN GREEK AND LATIN

TWO UNDERGRADUATE PRIZES

(A) A Prize is offered for translation into Classical Greek.
(B) A Prize is offered for translation into Classical Latin.

(A) A prize is offered for the best translation into Classical Greek of a passage from *A Room of One’s Own*, by Virginia Woolf.

(B) A prize is offered for the best translation into Classical Latin of a passage from Winston Churchill's speech of June 4, 1940, in the House of Commons (“We Shall Fight on the Beaches”).

Copies of these passages are available in the Department of the Classics, 204 Boylston Hall.

TWO GRADUATE PRIZES

(A) A Prize is offered for an original essay in Classical Greek.
(B) A Prize is offered for an original essay in Classical Latin.

Essays offered in competition for these prizes may be on any subject chosen by the competitor, and must contain at least 1,000 words. Parts of doctoral dissertations are eligible. Essays presented for other prizes are not admissible.

RULES

All submissions must be made under a pseudonym and must conform to the requirements and general rules as stipulated on the website of the Prize Office <http://prizes.fas.harvard.edu>. Only the pseudonym should appear on the translation. Your name should be submitted in a sealed envelope with the pseudonym written on the outside.

DEADLINE

All translations and essays in Classical Greek or Classical Latin must be submitted on or before **Wednesday, April 29, at the Department of the Classics, 204 Boylston Hall, no later than 5:00 p.m.**

Further details on this and other prizes may be found on the website of the Prize Office <http://prizes.fas.harvard.edu>. Questions about the Bowdoin Prizes in Classical Greek and Latin may be directed to the Department of the Classics.
BOWDOIN PRIZE FOR TRANSLATION INTO
CLASSICAL GREEK

All translations must be submitted on or before Wednesday, April 29, at the Department of the Classics, 204 Boylston Hall, no later than 5:00 pm.

Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One’s Own* (London and New York: Penguin, 2004), 125-26:

Intellectual freedom depends upon material things. Poetry depends upon intellectual freedom. And women have always been poor, not for two hundred years merely, but from the beginning of time. Women have had less intellectual freedom than the sons of Athenian slaves. Women, then, have not had a dog’s chance of writing poetry. That is why I have laid so much stress on money and a room of one’s own. However, thanks to the toils of those obscure women in the past, of whom I wish we knew more, thanks, curiously enough, to two wars, the Crimean which let Florence Nightingale out of her drawing-room, and the European War which opened the doors to the average woman some sixty years later, these evils are in the way to be bettered...

Still, you may object, why do you attach so much importance to this writing of books by women when, according to you, it requires so much effort, leads perhaps to the murder of one’s aunts, will make one almost certainly late for luncheon, and may bring one into very grave disputes with certain very good fellows? My motives, let me admit, are partly selfish. Like most uneducated Englishwomen, I like reading—I like reading books in the bulk. Lately my diet has become a trifle monotonous; history is too much about wars; biography too much about great men; poetry has shown, I think, a tendency to sterility, and fiction—but I have sufficiently exposed my disabilities as a critic of modern fiction and will say no more about it. Therefore I would ask you to write all kinds of books, hesitating at no subject however trivial or however vast. By hook or by crook, I hope that you will possess yourselves of money enough to travel and to idle, to contemplate the future or the past of the world, to dream over books and loiter at street corners and let the line of thought dip deep into the stream. For I am by no means confining you to fiction. If you would please me—and there are thousands like me—you would write books of travel and adventure, and research and scholarship, and history and biography, and criticism and philosophy and science. By so doing you will certainly profit the art of fiction. For books have a way of influencing each other. Fiction will be much the better for standing cheek by jowl with poetry and philosophy. Moreover, if you consider any great figure of the past, like Sappho, like the Lady Murasaki, like Emily Brontë, you will find that she is an inheritor as well as an originator, and has come into existence because women have come to have the habit of writing naturally; so that even as a prelude to poetry such activity on your part would be invaluable.
**Bowdoin Prize for Translation into Classical Latin**

All translations must be submitted on or before Wednesday, April 29, at the Department of the Classics, 204 Boylston Hall, no later than 5:00 pm.

**Winston Churchill, excerpt from his speech of June 4, 1940, to the House of Commons (“We Shall Fight on the Beaches”):**

Turning once again, and this time more generally, to the question of invasion, I would observe that there has never been a period in all these long centuries of which we boast when an absolute guarantee against invasion, still less against serious raids, could have been given to our people. In the days of Napoleon the same wind which would have carried his transports across the Channel might have driven away the blockading fleet. There was always the chance, and it is that chance which has excited and befuddled the imaginations of many Continental tyrants. Many are the tales that are told. We are assured that novel methods will be adopted, and when we see the originality of malice, the ingenuity of aggression, which our enemy displays, we may certainly prepare ourselves for every kind of novel stratagem and every kind of brutal and treacherous maneuver. I think that no idea is so outlandish that it should not be considered and viewed with a searching, but at the same time, I hope, with a steady eye. We must never forget the solid assurances of sea power and those which belong to air power if it can be locally exercised.

I have, myself, full confidence that if all do their duty, if nothing is neglected, and if the best arrangements are made, as they are being made, we shall prove ourselves once again able to defend our Island home, to ride out the storm of war, and to outlive the menace of tyranny, if necessary for years, if necessary alone. At any rate, that is what we are going to try to do. That is the resolve of His Majesty’s Government—every man of them. That is the will of Parliament and the nation. The British Empire and the French Republic, linked together in their cause and in their need, will defend to the death their native soil, aiding each other like good comrades to the utmost of their strength. Even though large tracts of Europe and many old and famous States have fallen or may fall into the grip of the Gestapo and all the odious apparatus of Nazi rule, we shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end, we shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender, and even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this Island or a large part of it were subjugated and starving, then our Empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British Fleet, would carry on the struggle, until, in God’s good time, the New World, with all its power and might, steps forth to the rescue and the liberation of the old.