

NOTA BENE

News from the Harvard University Department of the Classics

Volume 28, no. 2: Academic Year 2022–2023

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Alumnus’s Envoys Visit 135 Years after His Graduation

For years Amy Brauer, Susanne Ebbinghaus, and Richard Thomas discussed bringing to Harvard objects from the collection of James Loeb. Thanks to the cooperation and participation of Florian Knauss, the current director of Munich’s museums, the Staatliche Antikensammlungen and Glyptothek, where the collection is housed, this dream came to life in the winter of 2023.



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Spring Break Trip to Macedonia

Every spring break, enrollees in Classical Studies 112—a course centered on an in-depth study of a region—visit the area that they’re studying. This year, Professors Emma Dench and Paul Kosmin debuted a new iteration of the course focused on Macedonia and led a trip to Northern Greece.

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Notes from the Chair

The academic year now drawing to a close has been an eventful one for the Classics Department. The spring semester has been especially busy, with the Department hosting no fewer than three major events in the span of just two months. In March we welcomed Rosalind Thomas, who gave the twenty-fourth installment of the Jackson Lectures. Her four fascinating lectures on archaic Lydia, making use of recent discoveries at Sardis, were delivered to packed audiences all the more eager to hear her in view of the nearly eight-year hiatus since the last visit of a Jackson Lecturer (the coronavirus pandemic lengthened the delay). An opening reception at a local tiki bar gave the event a special air of festivity. In April a dynamic and hard-working committee of graduate students hosted our semi-annual graduate student conference, organized around the theme of “Abundance and Scarcity in the Ancient Mediterranean World” and featuring a keynote address from Eric Cline, whose remarks about resilience in the face of climate-driven collapse resonated powerfully with our contemporary climate crisis. (Many thanks to Greta Galeotti, Phoebe Lakin, Emily Mitchell, Connor North, and Sammi Richter for orchestrating this event!) Also in April, we hosted a colloquium dedicated to the work of one of our distinguished alumni, John Schafer (PhD 2007), whose research on Seneca, Catullus, and Augustan literature has had a major impact on the field.

As Commencement approaches, we joyfully celebrate the achievements of all our graduates, about whom you can read in the following pages. Whether undergraduate or graduate student, each and every one of them has made significant contributions, intellectual and otherwise, to our community over the years. Though we are sorry to see them leave, we are excited and full of confidence about the next stages in their careers.

We are equally sorry to say goodbye to three marvelous members of our faculty, Calliopi Dourou, Eric Driscoll, and Rachel Philbrick. Calliopi has been our Preceptor in Modern Greek since 2016; she will be taking up a position as Assistant Professor at Hellenic College. Rachel and Eric joined



us two years ago as Lecturers in Latin and Greek, respectively. By their teaching, mentorship, and many other contributions, all three of these treasured colleagues have immeasurably enriched our programs. We wish them every success in their next endeavors.

Paging through this issue of *Nota Bene*, you will learn about many other notable happenings in the Harvard Classics community, including the travels of our students and a museum exhibition of artifacts from the collection of James Loeb. I would like to conclude these brief introductory notes by drawing attention to the recent achievements and awards of three of the most dedicated members of our staff and faculty. Teresa Wu, who has been a cornerstone of the Classics Department since 1996, has just won a well-deserved promotion to Director of Administration, as well as a Dean's Distinction award. Alyson Lynch, our Graduate Program Coordinator, will join this year's graduating classes at Commencement to receive her Master of Liberal Arts degree in Digital Media Design from the Harvard Extension School. And Ivy Livingston, our Senior Preceptor in Latin and Greek, has just been named the recipient of the Extension School's 2023 Carmen S. Bonanno Excellence in Foreign Language Teaching Award. With tremendous pride and admiration we congratulate not only Teresa, Alyson, and Ivy, but all of our graduates. Thank you, all, for everything you have done to make the Classics Department such a thriving, supportive community.

David Elmer
Department Chair

Class of 2023

Senior Concentrators



Gabriel Ashe-Jones



Connor Chung



Jaden Dey Deal



Angela Eichhorst



Clair Fu



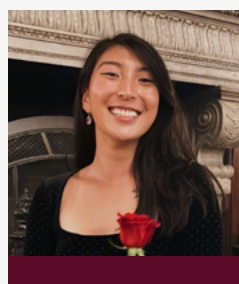
Esteban Gutierrez



Samuel Ho



Joseph Patrick Kester



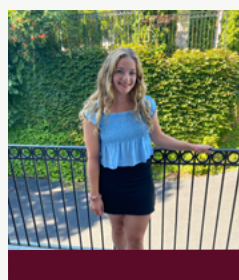
Amy Lu



Jack McLaughlin



Aoki Lee Simmons



Maria Angela Theodore



Ivor Zimmerman

Senior Honors Theses

Gabriel Ashe-Jones

Classical Languages and Literatures

“Transgender Rome”

ADVISORS: Naomi Weiss; Emily Mitchell

Connor Chung

History of Science; Classical Civilizations

“How Science Got a History: The Making of a Discipline and the Classical Ideal”

ADVISORS: Irene Peirano Garrison; Alex Csiscar

Jaden Dey Deal

Classical Civilizations; Women, Gender, and Sexuality

“Classics War, Cold War, Culture War:

Exploring the New Traditionalist Paradigm in the Battle for American Education”

ADVISORS: David Elmer; Michael Bronski

Angela Eichhorst

Comparative Study of Religion;

Classical Languages and Literatures

“The Power of a Name: Religious Experience, Representation, and Leadership through Feminine and Gender Non-Conforming Liturgy”

ADVISORS: Giovanni Bazzana; Joseph Kimmel

Clair Fu

Classical Languages and Literatures

“The Concept of Τύχη in Polybius and Zosimus”

ADVISORS: Alex Riehle; Connor North

Esteban Gutierrez

Government; Classical Civilizations

“*Ius Gentium*: Cosmopolitanism from Cicero to Du Bois”

ADVISORS: Jared Hudson; Richard Tuck

Samuel Ho

Classical Languages and Literatures

“*Asklepieia to Basileias*. Hospital to City”

ADVISORS: Mark Schiefsky; John Kee

Joseph Patrick Kester

Ancient History

“From Rome to Byzantium: Continuities in Roman and Byzantine Historiography”

ADVISORS: Rachel Love; Dimiter Angelov

Amy Lu

Classical Civilizations

“The Gods Are Dead: Furial Agency and Unseated Divinity in Statius’ *Thebaid*”

ADVISORS: Richard Thomas; Vivian Jin

Maria Angela Theodore

Classical Civilizations

“Ελληνικοί Χοροί: The Poetic Movement of the Soul: Bridging Modern and Ancient Dance”

ADVISORS: Greg Nagy; Felipe Soza

Ivor Zimmerman

Classical Civilizations

“Carp Diem: Fishponds and Roman Moral Decline”

ADVISORS: Jared Hudson; Greta Galeotti



Glass inkwell, 1st century CE. Glass, height 5.7 cm, diameter 6.3 cm. Met Museum 91.1.1334.

Senior Awards

Classical Reception Thesis Prize
for a thesis on classical reception

Connor Chung and Esteban Gutierrez

Pease Thesis Prize
for a thesis on Latin

Gabriel Ashe-Jones and Amy Lu

Hoopes Prize
for an outstanding undergraduate thesis

Gabriel Ashe-Jones and Connor Chung

Louis Curtis Prize
for excellence in Latin

Connor Chung, Clair Fu, and Samuel Ho

William King Richardson Scholarship
for distinction in both Greek and Latin

Clair Fu

Department Prizes
for academic achievement and contributions to the Classics community

Connor Chung, Clair Fu, Esteban Gutierrez, Samuel Ho, Amy Lu, Maria Theodore, and Ivor Zimmerman

Some Future Plans

Connor Chung will be working at a climate nonprofit this summer, before starting an MPhil in Economic and Social History at Cambridge in the fall.

Angela Eichhorst, who graduated in December, has joined AP-NORC's Public Affairs polling unit in Washington D.C., where she enjoys exploring the city and discovering new hobbies, like rock-climbing!

Clair Fu will remain in Boston and begin working as a Legal Practice Assistant at Skaddenarps, with the intention of applying to some form of graduate school in two years.

Esteban Gutierrez will pursue a J.D. at Columbia Law School as a member of the Class of 2026.

Samuel Ho will be starting medical school this fall at Stanford.

Joseph Kester will be pursuing a Master's in History at Yale this fall.

Amy Lu will be staying in Boston as a Wealth Manager for Bank of America Private Bank.

Jack McLaughlin will work as a Project Associate at Bayhill Ventures, a real estate startup in the Bay Area.

Ivor Zimmerman will be working as a predoctoral fellow at the Kennedy School next year and living on campus as a house aide for Kirkland House.

Senior Reflections

Several of our graduating seniors look back on their time as Classics concentrators. In their essays, our seniors touch on topics such as study abroad, their theses, and the Classics Department's community.

Connor Chung

Joint Concentrator in History of Science and Classical Civilizations

I came into college having absolutely no idea what I wanted to study. I'd had the privilege of some Latin in high school, so at the very last minute I decided to put my name in for a freshman seminar in the department. That same semester—also quite haphazardly—I found myself in an introductory History of Science class. I soon came to realize that these two fields weren't just fleeting interests but passions. I couldn't decide between them and eventually chose not to choose. As it turns out, joint concentrating in Classics and the History of Science was one of the best decisions I've ever made.

I really cannot overstate what an amazing intellectual experience a Harvard Classics concentration is. It's an opportunity to open the black box of civilization and ask what makes a society tick (or not). It's an opportunity to interrogate, pick apart, and reassemble the narratives that drive us. And it's an opportunity to think about what the past has to offer to the project of building a better future.

Thanks to some incredible professors, I was able to dive deep into everything from the economics of the ancient world to the enduring relevance of classical rhetoric in the language of science today. And on the other side of my joint concentration, as I studied the history and political economy of climate change, these humanistic perspectives proved incredibly useful—Classics is nothing if not deeply interdisciplinary.

I couldn't be more grateful for the faculty who put up with my half-baked ideas and poorly edited essays, for the department, which works so hard to build a welcoming community, and for the friends and peers who have made these past four years so wonderful. Harvard, *ave atque vale*.

Clair Fu

Concentrator in Classical Languages and Literatures

These past four years have been a rollercoaster of learning, friendship, and community as I fell more in love with Latin and Greek with each passing semester. Although I came to Harvard with a good grasp of Latin and some Greek, this department has expanded my reading repertoire of both languages and taught me how to look critically at why these texts continue to be read to this day. In all honesty, I was unsure about concentrating in Classics until the declaration deadline, but I declared and have never looked back.

From reading Tacitus and Thucydides, going to Homer Reading Group, and writing a thesis on the role of *τύχη* in Greek historiography, I have found my time as a concentrator challenging, fulfilling, and a source of joy. However, I could not have done it without the support of my classmates, graduate students, faculty, and Teresa, Ryan, and Alyson, who all provided sanity checks when I got overwhelmed and made jokes about how there ought to be a plaque above the couch where I always sit in Boylston.

Saying goodbye is hard, and leaving my corner of the couch is bittersweet, but no matter what I do, I will in my heart always be a Classicist.

Esteban Gutierrez

Joint Concentrator in Government and Classical Civilizations

Since arriving at Harvard in fall 2019, I have found an intellectual and personal home in the Classics Department. As a pre-frosh, I remember sitting in on Latin 112 with Richard Thomas during Visitas—a moment that helped

convince me to attend Harvard. Now, as a senior reflecting on my four incredible years in Cambridge, I am entirely grateful for the Classics Department, which has become such a crucial part of my Harvard experience. From thought-provoking classes to coffee chats in Boylston, I have loved every minute of my time in the department. Though nothing will ever be able to capture my appreciation fully, I wanted to express my deep gratitude to the department:

To Professor Hudson, who taught my first Classics class and was my senior thesis advisor, who helped me grow as a Classicist and provided endless support as I attempted to condense my endless thoughts on the classics and political philosophy into a thesis I am proud of. Without Professor Hudson, I would not be the person I am today.

To Dr. Morgan, who introduced me to the fascinating world of Tacitus and ancient slavery and made the experience fun even despite the whims of Zoom.

To Professor Elmer, who has inspired me to delve into the world of reception studies and always has given recommendations about vinyl records and photography.

To Professor Andrews, who made me realize my interest in material culture and encouraged me to travel far and wide in the future.

To Professor Nagy, who made the Homeric epics appealing to a senior and reignited my passion for ancient Greek.

To Professors Hudson and Weiss, who have served as our DUSes, were incredibly warm during office hours, and were always eager to offer advice on everything from course selection to law school applications.

To Xiaoxiao, who helped guide me through my junior tutorial and taught me so much about natural philosophy.

To Chris, who guided me through Longus and Theocritus as I grew my ancient Greek skills.

To Malcolm and Sarah, who always made me feel welcome in section, mentored me, and gave me academic and life advice.

To all the undergraduate and graduate students who have offered much support, advice, and camaraderie.

To Teresa, who made Boylston feel like home every time I stepped into the department, and who was always there whenever I needed help.

To Alyson and Ryan, who had answers to every question I had and supported me along the way.

Utterly, words fail to express my gratitude and love for all the members of the Classics Department who have made my time at Harvard so wonderful. As I depart for law school this fall, I am thankful for every person in my Classics journey who has made the road more enjoyable.

Samuel Ho

Concentrator in Classical Languages and Literatures

If you had told me at the start of college that I would be graduating as a Classics concentrator, I would have said you were crazy (at this point, I still would have thought Classics referred to Shakespeare and Hemingway). However, during my first year at Harvard, I made friends who introduced me to the Classics and who somehow convinced me to take Latin. Thus, during my sophomore fall, I took Latin 1 and combined that with Classical Studies 97a (my first two Classics courses) to leave the door open to even the slightest possibility of concentrating in Classics, and the rest is history. Studying Classics opened my mind to a new way of thinking as I grappled with two new languages and studied histories, cultures, philosophies, and more, all previously foreign to me. Classics has challenged how I see the world and has broadened my horizons to truth, beauty, and goodness waiting to be discovered. In an age that has become increasingly empirical and data-driven, studying Classics has kept me rooted in what it means to be human and has given me greater perspective. Classics has pushed me not only intellectually but also morally and spiritually, an experience foreign to my time in other academic disciplines. I can say with confidence that Classics has formed me into the man I am today and has equipped me with the tools to embark on a life-long journey of learning, discovery, and growth.

With that said, this experience would not have been possible without the vibrant Harvard Classics community. If it were not for the enthusiasm and support of this entire department, undergrads, grad students, and faculty alike, I would never have considered pursuing this area of study. As much as the academics shaped me, it will be experiences like the Classics lunches at the Faculty Club, the studying in Smyth with friends, the Classical Club dinners, and the class trip to Macedonia that I will never forget. Thank you to everybody in this department for making my time at Harvard so special. However,



Samuel Ho and Clair Fu lecturing at Philippi during this year's spring break trip to Northern Greece. Photo: Tejas Vadali.

it would be remiss of me not to mention a few special thank-yous. First, to all my TFs, thank you for all your work, which often goes unnoticed. Your instruction, especially in the introductory language courses, has opened so many doors for future learning. Professor Kosmin, thank you for being such an inspiring teacher and giving me such a memorable first impression of Classics and the department. Without you and your teaching, I would not be a Classics concentrator. Professor Love, thank you for assisting me in my transition to upper-level Latin. You have helped me see how far my Latin has come and how attainable future improvement is. Professor Dench, thank you for your enthusiasm both inside and outside the classroom, which has inspired me to view Classics as a lifelong discipline. Finally, Professor Schiefsky and John, thank you so much for all your guidance in my senior thesis as you helped me to combine my two primary academic interests of Classics and medicine into a culminating project that truly meant so much to me as the capstone of my undergraduate studies. As I prepare to begin my medical journey, I think back to this once-in-a-lifetime experience and the insights I gathered, and I know that I will continue returning to everything I learned during the process

throughout my professional life. Although I may be leaving, Harvard Classics will always stay with me. Thank you all for everything!

Joseph Patrick Kester

Joint Concentrator in Ancient History

Coming into college with a background in Classics, I decided to take a class on Byzantine history during my freshman spring. From then onward, I became fascinated with the long duration of Roman history, and how Romans across the centuries demonstrated continuity with their forebears. For my senior thesis, "From Rome to Byzantium: Continuities in Roman and Byzantine Historiography," I wanted to explore this idea of continuity further. My approach was to do a comparative study between the second-century Roman authors Suetonius and Tacitus and the eleventh-century Byzantine authors Michael Psellos and Michael Attaleiates.

I found several compelling stories in the course of my research, from Pliny the Younger's mentorship of Suetonius to Psellos' role in the palace intrigue that caused Romanos IV's fall from power. There were also lots of parallels in the biographies of these

authors, with Tacitus and Attaleiates bringing a provincial perspective that contrasts with the capital-oriented views of Suetonius and Psellos. Broadly speaking, I found that Byzantine historical writing, specifically with regard to its narrative strategies and its approaches to causality, reflects continuity between the Roman and Byzantine periods, which in turn supports the broader idea of continuity between Rome and Byzantium. Byzantines not only saw themselves as Romans but wrote like them too!

Like their Roman forebears, Psellos and Attaleiates routinely referenced the ancient Roman past in their works. In a guide for rulers of his own day, Psellos begins by giving an account of the kings of Rome. Attaleiates meanwhile traces the lineage of the emperor Nikephoros II all the way back to the days of the Roman Republic, linking him to legendary families like the Fabii and Scipiones, who were instrumental in saving Rome from crises. Across both authors, one sees consistent echoes in tone and subject matter that would not have been out of place in Suetonius and Tacitus. Attaleiates' work especially, with its emphasis on morality and heroic acts of bravery in the face of danger, is similar to Livy's account of early Roman history.

Yet in the course of my study, I realized that I was wading into a contentious debate that had been ongoing for centuries: how Roman were the Byzantines, *really*? As far back as the Middle Ages, Byzantine claims to being Roman have been rejected in Western sources. This bias has continued into the historiography, with authors emphasizing discontinuity between the Roman and Byzantine periods, from Edward Gibbon in 1776 to George Ostrogorsky in 1969. However, in the past decade there has been a noticeable shift, with the idea of continuity between Rome and Byzantium gaining traction. Yet, while recent historians have looked for evidence of continuity between Rome and Byzantium in the political, economic, and social spheres, a focus on historiography, specifically with regard to narrative strategies and approaches to causality, has been lacking. The aim of my thesis is to change that.

In closing, I would like to thank my two advisors, Rachel Love and Dimiter Angelov, for their invaluable assistance. Both of them were very generous with their time, always providing insightful feedback and excellent suggestions for resources. They helped make the thesis process rewarding and enjoyable, and I am sincerely grateful for all their help this past year.



Amy Lu with her thesis on the steps of Widener.

Amy Lu

Concentrator in Classical Civilizations

The British system for teaching undergraduate-level Classics is quite different from the way we do things here. Every week, your tutor sends you an essay question, along with a list of readings to orient you well enough in the topic to which that question applies. For instance, to answer a prompt on whether Latin love elegy is heterosexual, you would receive an assortment of suggested elegies, secondary readings on Latin elegists' conception of love, and theory pieces on heterosexuality itself. You would then have approximately five days to produce an answer.

Last spring, I had the opportunity to partake in this system myself during a semester abroad at Worcester College in Oxford. While it was certainly a tough adjustment at first, the pressure to formulate an opinion within strict time constraints turned out to be the perfect exercise for me. Before I left for Worcester, I was always the kind of student to painstakingly consider a prompt, meticulously plan an outline, and ploddingly contemplate every single sentence as if it were worth its weight in gold. The Oxford system afforded no such luxury. Instead, I scanned as many readings as was necessary to develop an argument and had no time to dawdle over putting words on the page. Then, after

receiving feedback and defending my answer in my tutorial session, I would open a new document and start the whole process over again from scratch.

During this time, I learned to value my thoughts, not their expression. The Oxford way does not encourage you to belabor a semicolon placement or fixate on a word choice but instead only demands that you have something to say—if you say it well, then that’s a bonus. This lesson was beneficial for handling my workload last spring, but it proved invaluable when it came time to start my thesis this past fall. In fact, my research process was quite similar to the method I had developed under the tutorial system: every week, I chose a research question within my broader thesis topic to try and answer, and my advising sessions consisted of an overview of what I learned. After accumulating a semester’s worth of notes, I was able to piece together an overarching narrative, which I then spent this spring polishing into a thesis.

Whether I spent the session sharing my notes or listening to feedback on a draft, Professor Thomas always finished our weekly meetings by asking me whether I was having fun. It’s an unusual question, one that students seldom ask themselves throughout their academic career, let alone encounter via someone else’s prompting. Perhaps even more surprising is that, without fail, my answer every time would be the same: yes, I was having fun. Don’t get me wrong: it was also very challenging and at times thoroughly frustrating. But looking back on my days at Oxford and in Boylston, I want to emphasize just how special—and fun—an opportunity it is to write in this department. It is an incredible privilege to be asked whether you have something to say and an even greater gift to have an eager audience.

Maria Theodore

Concentrator in Classical Civilizations

My mouse wandered over the submission button on March 10 at 10 AM—soon, the congratulatory Canvas confetti sprinkled over my screen. A year’s worth of work was complete with just a click. The compilation of my senior thesis was a special and demanding process, and I’d like to share a few key insights.

In spring 2021, while I was scrolling through my.harvard, Professor Nagy’s Comparative Literature 159: Poetry as Musical Performance piqued



Maria Theodore with her thesis on the steps of Widener.

my interest. His ease with sparking discussions of Sappho and eliciting ideas about modern poetic reperformance catalyzed my curiosity in reperformance through an artistic lens. As a modern Greek folk dancer for over a decade, I grew curious about how the reperformance of modern dance had evolved from ancient times. My thesis, “Ἑλληνικοὶ Χοροὶ: The Poetic Movement of the Soul: Bridging Modern and Ancient Dance,” takes inspiration from my own experiences and remaps them through the lens of folk dance and tradition—employing continuity/discontinuity, decontextualization, and the use and abuse of tradition. My thesis engages with visual elements, such as Byzantine iconography, and literary sources like Plato’s *Laws*, teasing out intriguing parallels from ancient and modern times. A unique piece, my thesis focuses on my personal relationship with dance and truly captures the ways in which studying Classics has allowed me to understand an aspect of my Greek identity in a new way. As my ideas flowed and my chapters formed, I felt that I could write endlessly on this topic. I enjoyed every aspect of the intellectual journey from crafting my own narrative to the more mundane tasks of writing, editing, and polishing. As I wrap up my thoughts, I would like to give a final thanks to my thesis advisors, Gregory Nagy and Felipe Soza, who were constant sources of support for me throughout the process.

Farewell to Our PhD Recipients

Nadav Asraf

Dissertation: "The Middle Category in the Aorist Tense in the Homeric Epics: A Study of Form vs. Function"

My time as a graduate student in the Classics Department has been one of the most inspiring and satisfying in my life, both academically and personally. I remember the various courses, sets of exams, prospectus, defense, and various teaching duties as milestones in this long journey, which is now coming to its end. I'm incredibly grateful to all the faculty and colleagues who have helped me in this journey, especially my primary advisor and mentor, Jeremy Rau, whose advice and support I cherish above all else. Many thanks also to Alyson, Teresa, and Ivy for their unparalleled support. Thanks to everyone who has made this journey rich and fulfilling.



Supratik Baralay

Dissertation: "Arsacid Asia: Sovereignty, Subjection, and the Making of the Silk Roads"

Each year I read the *Valete* section of *Nota Bene* to learn where my colleagues' thinking is at as they prepare to graduate. I'm always astonished that they were able to summarize years of intense intellectual growth as well as the emotional highs and lows associated with a place like Harvard, and especially its Classics Department, into a short piece of writing. Academic advisors offer mentorship then suddenly become colleagues. Friendships shift unpredictably. And yet, amidst all these changes, sources of stability become a refuge. For me this has been our graduate coordinator, Alyson Lynch. At first, I was shy to stop by your office but over time found myself needing the occasional check-in with you to ground myself, not least before Generals, before Specials, before my prospectus meeting, and, most recently, before my final conversation. I always received disarming kindness and sympathy from you. Over this past year, you've been more patient with me than I could have imagined, supporting me through the urgent logistical tasks with which I'm usually hopeless. I was no longer present in the department in person, and yet I didn't feel like I was out of mind. In the fall, I'll take up a position in the Princeton Society of Fellows, where I'll research and teach Classics and Photography. As I move on, I want to say thank you and that I will miss you.



Rebecca Deitsch

Dissertation: "Constructing Goddesses: Gender & Politics in Flavian Epic"

I can't believe that it is time to say goodbye to Harvard. You all have given me an amazing six years, and I have grown so much as a scholar, student, teacher, and individual during my time here! I could not have asked for better professors, mentors, and colleagues, and I will always cherish the friendships I have made. I have so many fond memories from campus: planning happy hours with my wonderful cohort, hanging out and chatting in the department, "working" in the grad lounge, carrying on late-night conversations outside of Perkins Hall ... I could go on and on. I will also remember summers spent excavating at Sardis, improving my Russian in St. Petersburg, and exploring museums and archaeological sites in Italy and England. I will miss Harvard more than I can say, and I am so grateful that I had the chance to meet you all. Now I am off to Gambier, Ohio, where I will be a Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics at Kenyon College!



Paul Johnston

Dissertation: "The Worlds of Roman Literature: Bilingual Culture, Imperial Power and Literary Tradition in the Ancient Mediterranean"

I haven't been on campus in Cambridge since March 2020: I spent the last three years of my degree firstly closer to home, in Wellington, New Zealand, and then closer to what it is we study here, in Athens, Greece. It is a strange feeling to now be officially ending my time at Harvard, having *de facto* departed already three years ago. There are a lot of things I already miss about Cambridge and Harvard, not least the warm and welcoming second floor of Boylston Hall, which was always a kind of second home while I was around. I am very excited to be making a much delayed and all-too-brief return visit for Commencement. I'm looking forward to being able to say goodbye properly this time! I am very grateful for everything the department has given me, both over my four years on campus, and my three abroad. My eyes have been opened and my world enriched in so many ways. My time at Harvard will always be a very special period in my life, one that I will undoubtedly look back upon fondly, whatever it is the future holds for me! Thank you to everybody who has been a part of it!

Felipe Soza

Dissertation: "The Antigonid Imperial System: Sovereignty and Politics of Empire in the Pre-Modern Mediterranean"

The time to say goodbye has finally come. I could not be more grateful for my years at Harvard and the people I have met along the way. I count myself lucky to have had the chance to be part of such an exceptional and formative community of scholars and friends. It has been quite the ride: not only courses, exams, and a dissertation, but a good bunch of travel, laughter, and happy times, which I will always treasure and cherish. I have even come to appreciate the weather! This fall, I am excited to be joining the Classics Department at Williams College in Western Massachusetts as an assistant professor, from where I hope to visit often—weather permitting, of course. Muchas gracias, a todos, por tanto.



Community News

Alyson Lynch, our Graduate Program Coordinator, has earned a Master of Liberal Arts degree in Digital Media Design from the Harvard Extension School!

Teresa Wu has been promoted from Department Administrator to Director of Administration! She has also received a prestigious Dean's Distinction award. This award recognizes a small number of exceptional staff members for their outstanding citizenship, collaboration, and exceptional contribution in support of the FAS.

Robert Shields has accepted an admissions offer from the University of Chicago's John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought, an interdisciplinary PhD program. He joined us for the 2022–23 academic year through the GSAS Research Scholar Initiative, a non-degree-granting post-baccalaureate program that provides research and training for individuals interested in pursuing doctoral studies.

Sallie Spence, an Associate of the Department, has just published *The Return of Proserpina: Cultural Poetics of Sicily from Cicero to Dante* with Princeton University Press. Her journey through this book takes us from “The Straits of Messina: Geography and Empire” in the first chapter to “Purgatorio, Etna, and the Empire of Love” in the last. The cover, in faded imperial purple, features an evocative view of a snow-capped Etna glimpsed between two columns of the Greek theater at Taormina. There will be a run on Sallie's presentation copy to Smyth next time our regional study, Classical Studies 112, returns to Sicily. Congratulations, Sallie, and thank you for your gift!

The **Thesaurus linguae Latinae** has inaugurated a series of podcasts about Latin words based on their profiles in the TLL: <https://tllpod.podbean.com/>. So far, you can hear the story of *horreum* (told by **Kathleen Coleman**), *pharos* (by Nigel Holmes, one of the editors at the Thesaurus), and *revomo* (by Adam Trettel, formerly a College Fellow and subsequently Lecturer in Medieval Latin in the Classics Department, who held the SCS-NEH TLL Fellowship in 2021–22). Tune in, and if you would like to contribute to the series, please get in touch with **Kathleen Coleman**, who will send you very simple instructions. Podcasts are fun to make!

Volume 112 of *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology* (2022), edited by **Jan Ziolkowski**, has been published. **Ivy Livingston** and **Ryan Pasco** served as Production Editors. See the [full list of articles](#) on our website.

Update on Summer Programs

This summer, five high schoolers and four undergraduates will participate in the third iteration of our Scholars-in-Training Summer Program. Through this program, Harvard Classics offers full scholarships that enable high school and college students to explore classical language and culture at Harvard in the summer. We especially welcome applications from members of groups historically underrepresented in the field of Classics and those who are interested in making contributions to access, inclusion, diversity, and outreach.

While at Harvard, Scholars in Training take courses like beginning Greek or Latin (intensive or non-intensive), an introduction to Greek civilization and culture, and intermediate Latin. Outside of their classes, our students participate in programming on the ancient Greco-Roman world and its receptions, including film screenings, panel discussions, guest lectures, and museum visits. Throughout all aspects of the program, participants benefit from mentorship by Classics faculty and graduate student instructors.

Our nine participants in the 2023 program will take part in an exciting slate of activities. This year, students will participate in writing workshops, meet with museum curators, and view Harvard's manuscript collections. We are particularly excited that Madeline Miller, best known for her novels *The Song of Achilles* (2011) and *Circe* (2018), will visit us this year! She will meet with our students to discuss her short story “Galatea.”

We are delighted that this summer we will be able to host more students than ever before. We have been able to expand our program thanks to generous and broad-based institutional support, including contributions from Harvard's Provostial Fund, the Dean's Discretionary Fund, the Center for Hellenic Studies, the Legacy of Slavery at Harvard Initiative, and the Harvard Summer School, in addition to the hard work of the program's organizers: the Director of Administration, **Teresa Wu**, Professors **Irene Peirano Garrison** and **Emily Greenwood**, and our Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Fellow, **Chris Rudeen**.

Several alumni of our summer programs have had admissions news. Riya Joshi, who participated in the program this past summer, recently accepted an offer at Princeton. Marcus Meshechok, another alumnus from last year, will start at the University of Pennsylvania in the fall.

Charnice Hoegnifioh, a junior at Yale majoring in both Classical Civilizations and Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry, has recently been awarded a Beinecke Scholarship in support of future graduate study. She conducted research with Irene Peirano Garrison in summer 2021 as part of Summer Research Opportunities at Harvard.



Attendees at our fall party for prospective concentrators listening to the faculty introduce themselves.



Fiona McFerrin-Clancy ('24) speaking to prospective concentrators about her experiences as a Classics concentrator.

Undergraduate News

On May 17, members of the Harvard Classical Club performed in an online stage reading of Seneca's *Medea* for Reading Greek Tragedy Online. The actors, **Blake Lopez** ('24), **Elena Lu** ('26), **Olivia Ma** ('26), **Fiona McFerrin-Clancy** ('24), **Mac Mertens** ('26), and **Lucy Nathwani** ('26), used a translation prepared by Elena Lu. Watch the [recording](#) on Youtube.

Undergraduate Awards

Gabriel Ashe-Jones ('23) has been named the undergraduate winner of the 2022 Winkler Prize for his essay "Borrowed Womanhood: A Transgender Reading of Catullus 63." This prize is given to "the author of the best undergraduate or graduate essay in any risky or marginal field of classical studies."

Connor Chung ('23) and **Samuel Ho** ('23) have been elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

Esteban Gutierrez ('23) has been awarded the Newbold Rhinelander Landon Memorial Scholarship Prize. This prize is awarded "in the junior and senior years to a student seriously interested in classical thought, with especial regard to ... traits of mind and character, and to ... intention of studying law, or in exceptional circumstances, following certain advanced courses to prepare ... for service to the state."

The John Osborne Sargent Prize for English translation of an ode of Horace has been awarded to **Josiah Meadows** ('23). Read his translation on page **28**. He was also chosen to deliver this year's Latin oration, which you may read on page **29**.

Dante Minutillo ('24) has been awarded the Lowell Scholarship Prize for the best performance in an examination on ancient Greek language and literature. He also won the 2023 Medieval Studies Undergraduate Essay Prize for his paper "Modes of Metaphrasis: Narrative and Purpose in the *Lives of St. Auxentius*."

The Bowdoin Prize for Greek translation has been awarded to **Dante Minutillo** ('24) and **John Rogers** ('26). **John Rogers** has also been awarded the Bowdoin Prize for Latin translation.

Charles P. Segal Student Travel and Research Fellowships have been awarded to the following undergraduates: **Ryan Durando** ('24), **Olivia Jaskolska** ('25), **Jane Josefowicz** ('25), **Vivi Lu** ('24), **Olivia Ma** ('26), **Jack McLaughlin** ('23), and **Julia Tellides** ('24).

Graduate News

In April 2023, **Greta Galeotti** completed her prospectus, entitled "Greek Dialects and their Poetic Use."

In March 2023, **Vivian Jin** completed her prospectus, entitled "Virgilian Vision and Voice."

In October 2022 **John Kee** completed his prospectus, entitled "Politics and Representation in Michael Choniates."

In August 2022, **Connor North** completed his Special Examinations in the late Hellenistic period, early Roman provincial governance, and the archaeology and epigraphy of the Hellenistic *polis*. In April 2023, he completed his prospectus, entitled "Wealth and the Problem of Expertise, 146–27 BCE."

In December 2022, **Andrew Ntapolis** completed his prospectus, entitled "Tradition and Resistance: Yannis Ritsos's Poetic Ideologies of Nation and the Self."

In May 2023, **Sammi Richter** completed her Special Examinations in gender and women in ancient Greece and Rome, classical art beyond mainland Greece, and cultural/historical investigations of multifaceted interactions between Eastern Mediterranean cultures via art and architecture.

In October 2022, **Philip Wilson** completed his prospectus, entitled "Ego in Arcadia: Violence and Charisma in Latin Pastoral."

On April 21–22, graduate students held a conference titled "Abundance and Scarcity in the Ancient Mediterranean World," with a keynote address from Eric H. Cline of The George Washington University. The conference was organized by **Greta Galeotti**, **Phoebe Lakin**, **Emily Mitchell**, **Connor North**, and **Sammi Richter**.

Graduate Awards

The graduate Bowdoin Prize for an original essay in ancient Greek has been awarded to **Nadav Asraf** for his composition “Περὶ τοῦ τῶν νέων γήρως.”

Will Edwards has been awarded a Summer School Tuition Fellowship for language study in summer 2023.

Greta Galeotti has been awarded a GSAS Merit and Term-Time Research Fellowship for a semester in the 2023–24 academic year.

The graduate Bowdoin Prize for an original essay in Latin has been awarded to **Phoebe Lakin** for her composition “Crepuscula Cantabrigiensia.”

Connor North has been awarded the Thomas Day Seymour Fellowship to spend the academic year at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

Sammi Richter has been awarded the John Williams White Fellowship to spend the academic year at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

Charles P. Segal Student Travel and Research Fellowships were awarded to the following graduate students: **Rebecca Deutsch, Greta Galeotti, Sarah Gonzalez, Vivian Jin, Phoebe Lakin, Hannah Lynch, Justin Miller, Davide Napoli, Alexander Reed, Sammi Richter, Philip Wilson, Jorge Wong Medina, and Kevin Wong.**

The following students received Dissertation Completion Fellowships for 2023–24: **Xiaoxiao Chen, Sarah Eisen, Julia Judge Mulhall, Justin Miller, Emily Mitchell, Davide Napoli, Malcolm Nelson, Jorge Wong Medina, and Susannah Wright.**

Graduate Teaching Awards

Emily Mitchell and **Alexander Vega** were nominated by the department for the Derek C. Bok Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching of Undergraduates.

The Harvard Certificate of Distinction in Teaching was awarded by the Bok Center to outstanding Teaching Fellows and Teaching Assistants in the spring semester of 2022. Recipients for Classics courses were **Visala Alagappan, Rebecca Deutsch, Sarah Eisen, Vivian Jin, Julia Judge Mulhall, Justin Miller, Emily Mitchell, Allison Resnick, Katherine Rose, Anthony Shannon, Felipe Soza, Alexander Vega, Umberto Verdura, and Jorge Wong Medina.**

The Harvard Griffin GSAS awarded Student Recognition of Teaching awards to outstanding Teaching Fellows and Teaching Assistants in the fall semester of 2022. Recipients for Classics courses were **Konrad Boeschenstein, Chance Bonar, Joe Currie, Greta Galeotti, Vivian Jin, John Kee, Phoebe Lakin, Justin Miller, Emily Mitchell, Davide Napoli, Connor North, Andrew Ntapolis, MG Prezioso, Allison Resnick, Sammi Richter, Clio Takas, Alexander Vega, and Jorge Wong Medina.**

Faculty News

Our departmental officers for the academic year 2023–24 will be **David Elmer** (Chair), **Irene Peirano Garrison** (Director of Graduate Studies), and **Naomi Weiss** (Director of Undergraduate Studies).

Kathleen Coleman has happily returned to her first author, *Stattus*, and published a chapter in a volume resulting from a conference held in Lisbon in 2017: “Commenting on the *Silvae*: Visuality, Versatility, Verisimilitude,” in *Editing and Commenting on Stattus’ Silvae*, edited by Ana Lóio (Brill, 2023), 126–163. **Ana Lóio**, who ran the original conference as well as editing the volume, will deliver a paper on the *Silvae* at Harvard on Monday, September 11. She is a very engaging speaker: mark your calendars!

David Elmer is excited to be returning to Croatia for the first time since 2019 to teach his summer Comparative Literature course, Cultural Geographies of Political Difference. At the moment, he is busily correcting the proofs for a volume of conference proceedings on the legacies of Milman Parry and Albert Lord, which he is coediting with Peter McMurray, an alum of Harvard Classics.

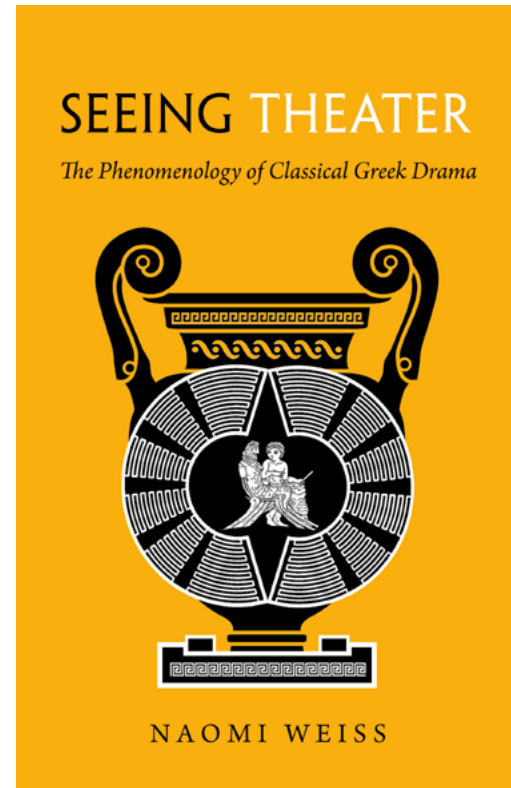
Irene Peirano Garrison has enjoyed a wonderful semester of leave, all the while continuing to serve as coeditor of *TAPA* together with Joshua Billings and collaborating on a variety of outreach efforts for the journal. She has spent the bulk of her time working on a new monograph on the history of the pedagogy of Latin (*The Latin Playbook: Philology, Politics and Pedagogy*, under contract with CUP), and delivered the 2023 Stocker Lecture at the University of Virginia on the topic of the gender politics of Latin grammar. In May, she traveled to Cambridge, UK, for a conference titled “The Functions of Criticism.” In June, she will travel to Graz for a workshop, “Philologies of Property,” and to the Scuola Normale in Pisa for the first meeting of the International Epic Network together with a group of Harvard students and colleagues. She is excited to cohost the first conference of CAR (Colloquium for Ancient Rhetoric) at CHS this June. This is a group she cofounded with Niek Janssen (Amherst) and Laura Viidebaum (NYU) as an interdisciplinary venue for the exchange of new work and ideas on ancient rhetoric and its reception. Next year, she looks forward to teaching Latin 112a and, together with Jared Hudson, a new course on Classics and the legacy of slavery at Harvard.

Emily Greenwood has enjoyed her first year at Harvard and is grateful to everyone for welcoming her into the community. She spent the fall semester on sabbatical and was a Visiting Professor in the Department of Classical Studies at UPenn, where she taught a very enjoyable graduate seminar and delivered the Penn Public Lectures on Classical Antiquity and the Contemporary World on the theme “The Recovery of Loss: Ancient Greece and American Erasures.”

This spring, Emily has thrown herself into teaching parallel courses on Black Classicisms at the undergraduate and graduate level and has appreciated working with Harvard students from different backgrounds, different undergraduate concentrations, and different graduate programs. Alongside her classes she gave several talks: a paper at an Oikos colloquium at Leiden University in January (via Zoom); a talk as part of the W. E. B. Du Bois Research Institute Colloquium Series at the Hutchins Center in February; the Poultney lecture in the Department of Classics at Johns Hopkins University, a keynote paper for the annual Francophone, Italian, and Germanic Graduate Society conference at UPenn, a paper at a Symposium on “Sites of Memory: Toni Morrison and the Archive” at Princeton, and a lecture to the Division of Literature and Languages at Reed College (all in March); and a paper at the Poggioli Colloquium in Comparative Literature, with Ben Gregson as respondent (in April). She also had the honor of serving on the poetry jury for the annual OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean literature. Her latest publications are an essay on Thucydides in the volume *History from Loss: A Global Introduction to Histories written from defeat, colonization, exile, and imprisonment*, edited by Marnie Hughes-Warrington and Daniel Woolf (Routledge, 2023), and a chapter on “Rhetorical History: Speeches in Thucydides” in the *Cambridge Companion to Thucydides*, edited by Polly Low (Cambridge University Press, 2023). She is looking forward to a long, slow summer.

Ivy Livingston has been named the recipient of the 2023 Harvard Extension School Carmen S. Bonanno Excellence in Foreign Language Teaching Award. In March, she released version 1.0.0 of Heder, an online reading and vocabulary environment for Latin, Greek, and Russian texts intended for use by teachers, students, and independent learners alike. Heder can be accessed at hederaproject.org.

This year, **Irene Soto Marín** has been working on her monograph project. In addition, she has three forthcoming articles for the *Handbook of Roman Rural Archaeology*, as well as a review for the *Journal of Roman Archaeology* and an article on Axumite Coinage for the exhibition “Africa and Byzantium” at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York in October. Last November she was invited to present the second chapter of her book project titled “Egyptian Coinage in the Longue Durée” in Yale’s Egyptology Lecture Series, and in early May she participated in the conference “Urban Transitions in 3rd and 4th Century Egypt,” hosted by the University of Basel at the Istituto Svizzero in Rome. This summer she will be codirecting excavations at the ancient site of Karanis in the Fayyum Oasis of Egypt, will be a guest lecturer for the Classical Association of New England’s Summer Institute in July, and will be preparing for her fall courses, Introduction



The cover of Naomi Weiss's new book. Illustration by David Palacios; design by Kevin Barrett Kane.

to Roman Numismatics and Ancient Global Economies. Irene has also just been elected to the Board of Directors of the American Society of Papyrologists.

Naomi Weiss has been celebrating the recent publication of her new book, *Seeing Theater: The Phenomenology of Classical Greek Drama* (University of California Press). In addition, she has been starting work on two collaborative projects. Along with her coeditor, Anna Uhlig (UC Davis), she has launched a new Cambridge Elements series with Cambridge University Press entitled *Ancient Greek and Roman Drama and Performance*. And with Sarah Olsen (Williams College), she is beginning to prepare a new commentary on Euripides’ *Orestes* for the Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics (“Green and Yellow”) series. Smaller ongoing projects include an article on Aristotle’s use of tragic poetry in his biological works and a chapter entitled “Rethinking Tragic Form with Luis Alfaro” for a volume on Alfaro edited by Young Richard Kim (University of Illinois Chicago). In all these projects she looks forward to integrating readings of plays that she originally developed in the classroom, especially in the graduate seminar she taught this semester on the interactions between Greek tragedy and comedy in the fifth century BCE, but also in her Gen Ed course, Tragedy Today, which she will teach again in spring 2024.



Seated woman with mirror, late 4th century BCE. Terracotta, height 18.9 cm. Munich, Staatliche Antikensammlungen, SL 294. © Staatliche Antikensammlungen und Glyptothek, München.

Alumnus's Envoys Visit 135 Years after His Graduation

Susanne Ebbinghaus and Richard Thomas

For years Amy Brauer, Curator of the Collection in the Division of Asian and Mediterranean Art, Susanne Ebbinghaus, George M.A. Hanfmann Curator of Ancient Art and Head of the Division of Asian and Mediterranean Art, and Richard Thomas, George Martin Lane Professor of the Classics and Trustee of the Loeb Classical Library, discussed bringing to Harvard objects from the collection of James Loeb. Thanks to the cooperation and participation of Florian Knauss, the current director of Munich's museums, the Staatliche Antikensammlungen and Glyptothek, where the collection is housed, this dream came to life in the winter of 2023.

What do tired Herakles, a woman looking into a mirror, a dog nursing her puppies, a merry donkey, a contemplative youth, and a monkey holding an owl have in common? Made of clay and at least two thousand years old, they appealed to James Loeb, the founder of the [Loeb Classical Library](#). Along with bronzes, painted pottery, and gold jewelry they comprise the exhibition "[A World Within Reach: Greek and Roman Art from the Loeb Collection](#)," which was on view in the University Research Gallery of the Harvard Art Museums from January 28 to May 7, 2023.

A graduate of the class of 1888, James Loeb (1867–1933) concentrated in the Classics in his Harvard College years. He also took classes in economy, finance, and law in preparation for joining his family's banking house, Kuhn, Loeb & Co.

Above: Diadem with Herakles knot, winged goddess, and sea monsters. Hellenistic, Black Sea area, 1st half of 2nd century BCE. Gold with garnets, diameter 23.1 cm. Munich, Staatliche Antikensammlungen, SL 589. © Staatliche Antikensammlungen und Glyptothek, München.

Below: Dog nursing her puppies, early 5th century BCE. Terracotta, 4.5 × 7.7 × 11.3 cm. Munich, Staatliche Antikensammlungen, SL 120. © Staatliche Antikensammlungen und Glyptothek, München.

In retrospect, he deemed these less useful. Health problems led to his retirement at the age of thirty-four, and he dedicated the rest of his life to the study of the ancient world, to music, and to philanthropy. Although he is best known for establishing the Loeb Classical Library with the aim of making ancient Greek and Latin authors accessible to a wider audience, Loeb also had a keen interest in material culture. This appears to have been kindled during his undergraduate years at Harvard, by teachers such as Charles Eliot Norton (1827–1908), John Williams White (1849–1917), and Harold North Fowler (1859–1955). Loeb's move to Munich in 1905 was at least in part motivated by his desire to pursue studies with Adolf Furtwängler (1853–1907), the preeminent classical archaeologist of the time, who, unfortunately, would die shortly after Loeb's arrival. Loeb was a generous donor to institutions founded by his teachers, notably the Archaeological Institute of America, where he endowed the [Charles Eliot Norton Memorial Lectureship](#), and the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, which received a bequest of \$500,000 from Loeb, a long-term trustee. Loeb also endowed the Charles Eliot Norton Fellowship, which allows Harvard students to spend time in Greece.

Loeb never achieved his wish to excavate in Greece, but he was collecting ancient Mediterranean antiquities by the late 1890s, and perhaps already before then. He lent some of his early purchases to Harvard's Fogg Museum (the first of the three museums comprising the Harvard Art Museums) and until his life shifted to Germany more permanently, he intended to leave his collection to the University. Over the years, he built a collection of well over a



thousand objects. He bequeathed most of these to the Museum Antiker Kleinkunst in Munich, now part of the Staatliche Antikensammlungen und Glyptothek. The museum's director, Johannes Sieveking (1869–1942), was a trusted consultant and published many of Loeb's acquisitions. As Florian Knauss remarked in a recent lecture at the Harvard Art Museums, Loeb was a knowledgeable collector, writing in the introduction to one of his collection catalogues: "Those who do not have an innate eye for the authentic and the beautiful had better not become involved with the collecting of artworks."¹ Mirte Liebrechts, whose dissertation at Radboud University in Nijmegen, Netherlands, explores the early years of the Loeb Classical

¹ In the introduction to *Bronzen, Terrakotten, Vasen der Sammlung Loeb*, edited by Johannes Sieveking (Munich, 1930).



"Tell Me, Oh Muse": Olivia Ma and Blake Lopez reading poetry in the exhibition gallery. Photograph: Caitlin Clerkin.

Library, noted that while Loeb was hesitant to lend his name to his publication series and often remained anonymous as a philanthropist (as in the case of the Institute of Musical Art, ultimately named The Juilliard School after another donor), he attached his name—if not proudly then at least with some confidence—to his collection of antiquities.

It is highly appropriate that the collection bears Loeb's name, since it clearly shows his imprint. In line with contemporary taste and the expressed values of his teacher, Charles Eliot Norton, Loeb's collection comprises more Greek than Roman works. While marble statues were certainly within his financial reach, he preferred objects of a smaller scale. In a letter to the art historian Aby Warburg (1866–1929), and his wife, Mary (1866–1934), an artist, he wrote of a bronze sculpture by Mary that it was "a great masterpiece, in spite of its small size, nay, because of its small format."² Those who have seen the exhibition at the Art Museums or encountered examples

from Loeb's collection in Munich will attest to the exquisite quality of his figural bronzes and gold jewelry. Perhaps even more striking, however, is the deep humanity of his terracottas, many of them depicting ordinary people. Loeb admired the ingenuity of the ancient clay workers and was entranced by the distinctive personalities he perceived in gazing at the "little terracotta people." To him, it was as if they had stepped "down, all of a sudden, from the ancient world stage and into our modern time. Speechless yet eloquent [they had the ability to] lead us back through the centuries" to happier periods of the past.³ Loeb even planned to write a book on the topic, and he set about modeling his own sculpture in clay. The collection was his refuge in difficult times (he suffered from bipolar disorder).

Loeb thought collectors should share their artworks through loans to museums and surely would have approved of the transatlantic travel of an important part of his collection. "A World Within Reach" featured over sixty objects

² Warburg Institute Archive, GC, James Loeb to Aby and Mary Warburg, August 8, 1927.

³ *Die Terrakotten der Sammlung Loeb*, 2 vols., edited by Johannes Sieveking (Munich, 1916), v.



Cover of *James Loeb, Collector and Connoisseur* (2023).

generously lent by the Staatliche Antikensammlungen und Glyptothek. Curated by Amy Brauer and two current and former Frederick Randolph Grace Curatorial Fellows, Caitlin Clerkin and Frances Gallart Marqués, the exhibition offered the opportunity to explore the imaginations of people from the ancient world through encounters with objects from their homes, sanctuaries, and burials. By their arrangement in three thematic sections reflecting enduring concerns in human relationships—power, desire, and wonder—the objects invited visitors to connect past and present and gain new perspectives on their own worlds. The exhibition included short videos made by teens in Cambridge Community Television’s 2022–23 School Year Production Program that were inspired by ancient Greek and Roman objects in the collections of the Harvard Art Museums. Poetry readings in the galleries by Frances Campos (’26), Ari Cheriyan (’25), Theo Glaeser (’26), Tara Guetzloe (’26), Olivia Ma (’26), Blake Lopez (’24), and Vivi Lu (’24) brought Loeb’s two spheres of interest together. The exhibition was made possible by a

generous bequest from the late Nanette Rodney Kelekian (1926–2020), Radcliffe Class of 1947, who like Loeb had a soft spot for Greek terracottas, the topic of her senior thesis.

Loeb’s collecting was at the center of the conference “James Loeb, Collector and Connoisseur,” held in Munich and Murnau in summer 2019 and recently published as a Loeb Classical Monograph edited by Jeffrey Henderson and Richard Thomas. This was the second conference in a series of four, preceded by “The Loeb Classical Library and Its Progeny” (2017, published in 2020), and to be followed this summer by a conference on the history of psychiatric medicine, and another in 2025, on Loeb and his contributions to the world of music, each to result in volumes rounding out—or squaring off—the series. The fruits of a partnership between the Loeb Classical Library Foundation and the Munich-based James Loeb Society, these convenings aim to highlight the legacy of a quiet giant whose initiatives and philanthropy continue to touch so many of us today.

Justin admiring the amazing preservation and engineering of the Baths of Caracalla in Rome.

Il Breve Viaggio

Justin Miller, PhD Candidate in Ancient History

This past summer (2022), I travelled to Italy to expand my knowledge of linguistic stereotyping in the ancient world, and particularly through the Roman lens (with all its complications). The plan was to stop in Rome for about a week, and then go to the south of Italy, to see what's going down "quaggiù." After Rome, I would travel to Naples for about a week, followed by a whirlwind tour of the beautiful and strategic island of Sicily. From the investigation of the linguistic identity of early Jewish and Christian burials in Rome and Naples, to finding Phoenician letters on the postern gates of the walls of Erice and on the current foundation of the Norman Palazzo in Palermo, all while enjoying the lovely people of Italy and taking a daily *paseggiate*, to composing extremely long and unwieldy sentences to write for Nota Bene about my voyage, I was struck by the country's charm and antiquity.

I had to overcome immense perils and trials, however, as the sun beat down upon me with all its might, and the current Italian civil war against refrigerated air-conditioning gathered a new offensive. I often found myself, glistening, struggling to mostly stay in my solid state. Nevertheless, I persevered and even metamorphosed one seething midday, when all was ominous, into the Mediterranean version of myself which cared only for grappa and a well-shaded vista. As the tourists poured in, I could hear passersby saying, "l'America sta qua," and I couldn't help but feel unoriginal in a land so familiar with the remix. So, in order



to continue to tread the all-ready well-trodden paths, for safety bringeth survival, I shall offer a series of vignettes on each place visited and interesting marvels I saw there. My method was the completely feasible task of cramming in as many museums and sites as possible before I myself became irrevocably a part of those selfsame museums and sites.

Rome: I can confirm, as of my departure (whose precise specifications I have long since forgotten), that, in fact, the eternal city of Rome is still eternal. For it is always comforting when epithets are accurate. Its eternity is ever present in its monuments and in its enduring sense of continuation despite the cosmic forces of nonexistence which seek to end its everlasting

journey on the nonstop Roman express. My favourite word from this city was the endless exclamation of “Daje!” which can be shouted forevermore from any limitless space in this infinite city. The museum at the Baths of Diocletian held one of the best exhibits. On the top floor, there was an assemblage of some of the earliest Christian and Jewish gravestones in the city, showing a linguistic development in the need to find a vocabulary acceptable to commemorate the dead in a non-pagan way. The Etruscan Museum has sided with the faction of air-conditioning and is also one of the most impressive museums in all Rome, holding the Pyrgi bilingual tablets. The Jewish Museum and Synagogue, as well as the Roman Folk Museum, are two of the greatest and lesser-known attractions Rome has to offer. The new synagogue is stunning, and the tour helps detail the complicated history of Jews in the city of Rome throughout the ages. Of a personal and special interest to me was to visit the headquarters of the Maronite Catholic faith in Rome, as well as the small Lebanese Maronite diaspora which lives around there (there is a delicious Lebanese restaurant called *Mandaloun* in the same building). Thanks to Rome’s continuous but little known contact with Lebanon, my grandfather’s dialect is replete with fun Italian words like *makina* for “car” and *signura* for “an attractive young woman.” Dear old Pasquino said hello, as did Er Pinto.

Naples: I love this city, Spaccanapoli, Secon-digliano, the whole nine yards (epi-metres). Maybe it’s because I am enamoured of the Napuletan’ dialect, or because, deep down, Naples is really the Ciudad Juárez of Europe. The most necessary phrase I learnt here, although I will leave it untranslated on account of its sauciness, was *nun me ne fotto ‘u cazz’*, which in addition to showing the origin of the American Italian “ugatz,” also aided in providing a mentality to drive the streets of Naples itself. I visited the spectacular triplet of sites of Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Stabiae. Because of their preservation, these are some of the most fantastic sites I have ever seen of the ancient Mediterranean world. I went to the Museum of Naples only to be told that the epigraphy room was “ancora chiusa” but was still taken aback by its comprehensive collections. While

driving in Naples, I also encountered difficulties which were created by unexpected street closures owing to some festival/saint’s day or other with cries of “ ‘a strad’ è chiusa.” Indeed, it seems many things were *chiused* (closed) in Naples, but there were some surprising revelations to be had, nonetheless. Here, I discovered that the Jewish community, contrary to Rome, preferred a heavily Oscanified Latin for gravestones rather than Greek. I saw an ancient note referring to Pompeii as Sodom and Gomorra from a wall in Pompeii. I found an illegible (but I have hope) ancient Greek inscription on a *bomos* being used as a support for a modern wall in Spaccanapoli (1 Via San Biagio Dei Librai). I was yelled at in Napulitan’ by a gas station attendant and felt a part of the culture, and I ran into crowds of youths the likes of which were not thought possible in a modern Italy. Lastly, I enjoyed a visit to the Museum of Torture, a true delight of Naples and a testament to the incredible limits of human mercy throughout European history.

Palermo: This city is really a racket for the “Taxi Drivers.” I did, however, have a conversation here in Arabic with someone from Tunisia who was working for Deliveroo. I found some Phoenician letters by the old Phoenician postern gate, and fortunately had this confirmed by a publication of Punic Palermo I was able to acquire only with the extreme kindness of the editors at Sellerio publishers. I had some great conversations with locals, who were always happy to accept my broken Italian in stride. The Norman Palazzo’s beautiful Norman-Arab style was increased by the sighting of a very cute fluffy cat upon the grounds. Here, as in all of Sicily, I was pleased to find that the prickly-pear cactus grows. Unlike in Greece, at least the people here know to eat the delicious fruit of the cactus, which I call *tuna* but they call *ficudinnia* (from *fico di India* “Indian fig”). They have not, unfortunately, figured out how to eat the blade of the cactus, which I call *nopal*, but there is still a chance they may figure it out one day. *Nun c’è megghiu sarsa di la fami*, as they say here.

Marsala: The museum at Lilybaeum and accompanying sites was the first official Phoenician/Punic site I had visited, and it was truly astonishing. To see the remains of a Phoenician ship was bittersweet, given that the ship

itself was only preserved because it underwent disaster. The ferry trip to Motya is a must. The site is now on my all-time top best sites ever. You can sip some wine made locally on the island after gazing at salt being manufactured in much the same way as it has been for over a millennium. A whole Phoenician/Punic site in modern Europe at a time of renewed migration to Italy from the Middle East is as topical as are Italian rappers of Arab descent Ghali and Mahmood. To see the works of Phoenician and Punic artisans made me cry. To see some of the sarcophagi being used as plant pots also made me cry. So, I decided that I had had enough wine, which, as mentioned before—but perhaps too subtly—is delicious. The Sicilian here uses *nuddu* for *nessuno*, which is a direct continuation of Latin *nullus*. So that's something.

Erice: After searching for some time along the perimeter of this acropolis town, I finally found the Phoenician letters/signs I was looking for. It was quite Pausanian, for I was helped by a local who came to check on me after becoming concerned with my wanderings. I also had the world's first BBQ chicken arancino by a local chef who had been featured on Food Network. A Sicilian riddle (Na Nimimagghia Siciliana): A prima jo stava dintra a lu patruni, ora lu patruni sta dintra di mia! (La Sosizza).

Selinunte: Hard to get to, but definitely worth it. The site is huge, so come with lots of time; if necessary, borrow from Rome's eternal storehouse. Nu Pruverbiu Sicilianu: Cu tardu arriva, trova la tavula scunzata.

Syracuse: Come see the Fountain of Arethusa and where the tyrants of Syracuse used prisoners of war in slave labour to build something truly awe-inspiring. Ponder the bay where the Athenians faced a military disaster and think about what would have been different if Archimedes understood just how great (and eternal) Rome really was. Also, just relax at the beach. It's been a long, hot day. While walking along Ortygia, take notice of the many signs advertising cocaine which cover the walls and reflect on the choice of pictures used in the advertising, clearly signs that this is potentially one of the safest neighbourhoods in all of the world. A Sicilian Proverb (nu Pruverbiu Sicilianu):



Justin trekking the perimeter of the Temple of Heracles in Agrigento's Valle dei Templi in Sicily, while excited and relieved that this temple's attribution was thanks to Cicero for once rather than Pausanias.

L'occhiu di la Siracusana / fa nesciri la serpi di la tana.

Catania: Go to Etna. Go to the Bialelli store. Drink the venom of Typhon produced locally on Etna. The whole city is covered in black stone, and the elephant guardian (u Liotru) watches over it with its upturned trunk. The old theatre and odeion, as well as the fact that this seems to be the city of Stesichorus, create a dreamy atmosphere amidst the lava basalt. Afterwards, go eat some horse, it is a delicacy here, and gastronomically available in some of the city's most local of venues. I didn't try it, so I can't vouch for it. In the local dialect here, *dagala* means a growth of flora which has occurred after an eruption of lava from Etna and comes from Arabic (the root DXL related to "entering").



Rebecca at the Forum Transitorium.

Exploring Domitian's Rome

Rebecca Deitsch, PhD in Classical Philology

This January, thanks to the Charles P. Segal Student Travel and Research Fund, I was able to spend a few days in Rome exploring archaeological sites and museums relevant to my research. My dissertation focuses on the representation of goddesses in the Flavian period, especially during the reign of the emperor Domitian, so it was important for me to see the sites and objects that feature in my arguments. A highlight of my trip was visiting the Forum Transitorium (also known as the Forum of Nerva), which was a key part of Domitian's building program and helped to convey his message of moral reform. The Forum includes a frieze depicting Minerva striking Arachne. As you

can see from the photo above, I was very excited to be there!

January was an excellent time to be a Flavian enthusiast in Rome, since the Capitoline Museums were hosting an exhibit called “Domiziano Imperatore. Odio e amore.” I saw, all in one place, objects that would usually be spread all over Europe, from London to Paris to Copenhagen. My favorite was a small chalcedony cameo showing a woman, likely Domitian's wife Domitia Longina, being carried on the wings of a peacock (British Museum inv. no. 1899,0722.4). The peacock is the symbol of the goddess Juno, and the imagery suggests both an assimilation of the empress to the goddess and the idea of deification. This cameo forms part of my analysis of the political function of goddesses in the Flavian period, so I really valued the opportunity to look at it in person.

I returned from Rome with a much better understanding of the material that I discuss in my project, and this proved invaluable as I edited my dissertation and prepared for my defense. A hundred photos cannot compare to the experience of seeing sites and objects with one's own eyes!



Ryan stands amidst a haven of neoclassical sculpture at the Galleria Borghese.

Next page, above: Heart-shaped lock on the fence surrounding the entrance to the Roman Forum.

Next page, below: Tourists at the Trevi Fountain.

Contemporaneity in Classical Rome

*Ryan Durando ('24), Joint Concentrator
in Classics and History of Art and Architecture*

The Romanness of Rome is remarkable. Around every corner lies a thousand-year-old marble temple, a fresco that has somehow outlived generations, or a funny little graffito carved into stone by someone who, thousands of years ago, sat exactly where I was sitting. These encounters with Rome's past were ever present throughout my time in the Eternal City.

One day for lunch, I stopped in the Jewish Quarter to try the acclaimed fried artichokes. As I sat at my table, situated on the cobbled street outside the restaurant, I noticed numerous people stopping down the road to look at something just outside my line of sight. I was curious, so after enjoying my artichokes, I ventured over myself. I cannot convey how wondrous it was to be surprised by two magnificently picturesque ancient structures: the striking Portico di Ottavia and the enormous Theater of Marcellus. It was just the perfect, most Rome-like surprise.

Moments such as this, in which the past and present meet, occurred again and again during my week in Rome. It was as if the historical Rome was mediating my contemporary experience. For example, I remember being

“But that is the power of the past: it raises the stakes of the future.”

struck by the volume of graffiti spray-painted across the city, but then I recalled how prevalent graffiti were in ancient Rome, and I was comforted by the continuity. Not only have structures and sculptures survived into modernity, but traditions and practices have also persevered. It is only fitting that this graffiti inheritance continues.

Indeed, there is an immediacy to the historical in Rome. The past is not displaced by modern conventions but is an integral aspect of contemporary Rome, acting as an ordained source of inspiration for and consolation from the “now.” When visiting the Trevi Fountain, I stood behind a man wearing a t-shirt that read: “It’s time we start treating our planet as if we’re planning to stay.” This statement felt so much more significant at the Trevi Fountain than it would have, had I read it somewhere on campus or at a coffee shop in Boston. But that is the power of the past: it raises the stakes of the future. In Rome, the past doesn’t displace the present but rather forces us to acknowledge our own time and place in history.

I ventured to Rome searching for a better understanding of how the classical past is received by and renewed in the contemporary era. I left Rome invigorated, having experienced the coalescence of time, which is nowhere more beautifully, sublimely composed than in Rome.

Accordingly, I must express my sincerest gratitude to the Charles P. Segal Research and Travel Fund for making this enlivening adventure possible. I look forward to revisiting Rome in my memories as I continue my studies of the classical world.





Spring Break Trip to Macedonia

Every spring break, enrollees in Classical Studies 112—a course centered on an in-depth study of a region—visit the area that they’re studying. This year, Professors Emma Dench and Paul Kosmin debuted a new iteration of the course focused on Macedonia and led a trip to Northern Greece.

Right: Sarah Eisen, PhD candidate in Classical Archaeology, discussing the rock-cut shrines at Philippi.

Previous page: Our group walking through the ruins of Pella, led by Joseph Kester ('23) and Theo Harper ('26).



Over this past spring break, the members of CLS-STDY 112, Regional Study: Macedonia, along with a handful of graduate students, our professors Emma Dench and Paul Kosmin, and, of course, two departmental administrative staff members, Teresa and Ryan, took a trip to Northern Greece. Throughout the semester, we traced themes in Macedonian history, from religion to foreign relations to power struggles, studying how they manifested themselves in worlds ancient and modern. Much of the framework for how we analyzed these themes over the course of the semester was centered around individual sites and figures. Towards the beginning of the course, each student selected a site to research in depth in preparation for a presentation on-site in Greece, which made us all the more excited to pack our bags.

Over the course of ten days, we had a jam-packed schedule with several archaeological sites and museum trips every day. On Saturday, March 11, we landed in Thessaloniki and were greeted by Evan Katserelis, our program coordinator, who took on a gamut of responsibilities, from translating, to giving out much-needed snacks, to keeping us on schedule. The first stop on our itinerary was Veria, a historic city southwest of Thessaloniki, where we got dinner and then passed out from our long journey. On our first true day in Greece, we visited Pella and Vergina, the capital city and tomb of Philip II respectively. The following morning we drove cross-country to Epirus, visiting first the sanctuary site of Dodona, where, just as the ancient Greek oracles had interpreted the sacred oak tree and read aloud travelers' fates, Professor Kosmin, fluent in these ancient ways, prophesied our

futures as well. From Dodona, we made our way to Ioannina, a city tucked in the mountains just northeast of the sanctuary site, where we visited the museum of Ali Pasha located on a lake island within the city. We stayed in Ioannina for the evening and spent the better part of the following day on the Epirote coast visiting several ancient sites before making the long drive back to Thessaloniki.

Our first day in Thessaloniki was a busy one: we saw the Arch of Galerius, drove to Pydna, where Connor gave a transportive recollection of the famous second-century BCE battle fought there, and finished the day at the sanctuary site of Dion. On Thursday, we traveled to the eastern boundary of Macedonia, visiting the city of Philippi and taking in its history from Macedonian to Roman to early Christian times. On Friday, our last day, we visited Olynthus, a Chalcidian city that Philip II razed to the ground and grabbed lunch in nearby Kassandra before returning to Thessaloniki for our final dinner.

For the students, the trip to Macedonia was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and, for many, their first time in Greece. To study our sites in depth over the course of the semester and then to visit these locations in person and present our research was an unparalleled academic venture. We not only learned from but also grew closer to our peers, graduate students, and professors throughout the duration of our time in Greece. CLS-STDY 112 is a unique opportunity at Harvard that we are incredibly grateful to have been a part of, and we wholeheartedly encourage any students reading this to apply for next year's course, which will also focus on Macedonia!

Article by Julia Tellides ('24), Joint Concentrator in History and Classical Civilizations, and Tejas Vadali ('25), Joint Concentrator in Classical Civilizations and Near Eastern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. Photos by Tejas Vadali.

John Osborne Sargent Prize for a Latin Translation

Every year, the Department of the Classics awards a prize for the best metrical translation of a lyric poem of Horace by a Harvard College undergraduate, visiting undergraduate under the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, or Extension School Bachelor Degree candidate. Participants may choose whatever meter and style of English they wish. This year's winner is Josiah Meadows ('23), who translated Horace Odes 2.3 into iambic pentameter with rhyming couplets.

Horace *Odes* 2.3

Aequam memento rebus in arduis
servare mentem, non secus in bonis
ab insolenti temperatam
laetitia, moriture Delli,

seu maestus omni tempore vixeris
seu te in remoto gramine per dies
festos reclinatum bearis
interiore nota Falerni.

Quo pinus ingens albaque populus
umbram hospitalem consociare amant
ramis? Quid obliquo laborat
lympa fugax trepidare rivo?

Huc vina et unguenta et nimium brevis
flores amoenae ferre iube rosae,
dum res et aetas et Sororum
fila trium patiuntur atra.

Cedes coemptis saltibus et domo
villaque, flavus quam Tiberis lavit,
cedes, et exstructis in altum
divitiis potietur heres.

Divesne prisco natus ab Inacho
nil interest an pauper et infima
de gente sub divo moreris,
victima nil miserantis Orci;

omnes eodem cogimur, omnium
versatur urna serius ocus
sors exitura et nos in aeternum
exilium impositura cumbae.

Translation by Josiah Meadows ('23)

An equal mind in circumstances steep
remember, mortal Delli, to keep,
and likewise when they are devoid of pain,
from happiness excessive it restrain.

You will succumb to death's impending doom,
yea, whether all the time you live in gloom
or lying in a meadow faraway
you sip Falernian wine on holiday.

For why do lofty pine and poplar white
to form a welcome shade their boughs unite?
Or why does fleeting water with a gleam
attempt to hurry down its winding stream?

Now wine and oils pleasant to the nose
and brief-bloom flowers of the lovely rose,
while time allows command them here to bring,
while clement is the Sisters' sable string.

You'll leave your purchased town house and your oaks
and villa, which the yellow Tiber soaks;
of your abundant riches built up high
your heir will take possession when you die.

And whether born from Inachus of old
a wealthy man, or from a race untold
in poverty you dwell beneath the sky,
of Orcus still a victim you will die.

We all are driven to a single place;
for all a lot is shaken in the vase;
it will come out and place us on the boat;
to banishment eternal we will float.

Latin Oration

Every year, one graduating senior is chosen to deliver a salutatory address in Latin at Commencement. Josiah Meadows ('23) was chosen as this year's Latin orator. Read his speech below.

DE FRVCTIBVS INSTITVTIONIS HARVARDIANÆ

ORATIO SALVTATORIA CANTABRIGIÆ
NOV-ANGLOVM IN COMITIIS ACADEMICIS
HABITA A. D. VIII. KAL. IVN. ANN. DOM.
MMXXIII. REIPVB. AMERICANÆ CCXLVII. COLL.
HARV. CCCLXXXVII.

Præses admodum colende, præses designata, socii inspectoresque honoratissimi, professores tutoresque doctissimi, condiscipuli sodalesque carissimi, vos denique quotquot adestis auditores spectatissimi—salvete omnes!

Per quattuor propè sæcula, anniversario ritu in hanc aulam convenimus ad hunc diem festum celebrandum. Quandoquidem permulti clari oratores in hæc rostra escendere ut hoc in conventu celeberrimo dissererent, grato ac summisso animo ad hoc officium accedo. Nunc dicere licet mihi aliquid commune esse cum viris illustribus qui ante nos fuere atque hinc stetere, uti cum Winstonio Churchill et Johanne Kennedy ac Forresto Gump.

Ne vetus consuetudo majorum has sollennitates Latinè incipiendi pereat, egregiâ Romanorum linguâ vos salvere jubemus. Forsitan quispiam quærat 'quamobrem nostrâ ætate orationem Latinam habere oporteat?' Cui respondebo: lubentèr hanc arripimus occasionem Yalenses facundiâ vincendi, cum isti in comitiis suis Latinè loqui omnino nequeant. Si qui alumni Yalenses in nostrum numerum fortè correpserint, profectò inter se murmurant, "What in the world does this mean?"

Hoc quadriennio feliciter peracto, vobiscum, auditores ornatissimi, de fructibus doctrinæ Harvardianæ disserere velim. Imprimis, per hanc institutionem Harvardianam cives artis rhetoricæ periti fiunt. Ad academiam nostram advenimus imaginibus Demosthenis, Ciceronis, divique Chrysostomi—principum eloquentiæ—de

altis Theatri Sandri fastigiis nos intuentibus. Vigiliæ eorum sempiternæ haud ignari, in dicendi exercitatione eos æmulari conati sumus. Quàm gravia erant ea de quibus disputavimus! Quorum unum præbebo exemplum: eo die quo domus attributæ nuntiantur, unusquisque nostrum, novâ fidelitate permotus, laudibus domum suam extollit. Certavimus de magnificentia domus Eliotianæ, Dunsterianæ, Adamsianæ, Vinthropianæ. Ii quoque qui ad aulam quadratam (eheu quàm longè remotam!) quasi in exilium ejecti, præstantiam domuum suarum vehementer defendunt. Haud rarò autem dicuntur tanquàm Socrates *inferiorem causam efficere superiorem*.

Sed non solum dicere, verum etiam cogitare didicimus. In jure et rebus politicis, cogitavimus communia; in medicinâ et physicis, naturalia; in literis et poësi, pulchra; in astronomiâ et mathematicis, æterna; in philosophiâ et theologiâ, τὸ ἀγαθόν. Denique, in disciplinâ celeberrimâ rerum œconomicarum, cogitavimus de ... pecuniâ?

Quæ quidem exercitatio cogitandi haud facilis fuit. Quidam nostrum sedulò animos intendimus in Renati Cartesii philosophi decretum, *Cogito, ergo sum*. At paulò post, dictum simile didicimus: *Covido, ergo Zoom*.

Sed in inquisitione atque investigatione veri, inruptam copulam amoris invenimus, ut versibus Horatii poetæ inscriptum est in portâ à cohorte academicâ anni MDCCCLVII ædificatâ, cujus juvenes, cum horrido bello civili coorto adversus sese armis dimicassent, tamen in amicitia usque ad supremam diem permanserunt. Quamvis decorum est in solitudine ingenii facultates exercere, multò suavius est in amicitia investigare Veritatem Christo et Ecclesiæ. Hic enim coluntur ὁμόνοια ἐλευθερίῳ, neque ullo alio totius orbis terrarum loco artiore fidei et amicitiae vinclo junguntur homines qui humanitati, virtuti, pietati student. Ex hoc constat summum institutionis Harvardianæ beneficium. Quamobrem magnoperè vos hortor, comites, ut has amicitias tum quoque colere pergatis cum Almam Matrem reliqueritis, et quanquam hodiè id vobis dico, grates Deo Optimo Maximo, sapientiæ fonti inexhausto, persolvens ac dulciter de hisce splendentibus annis cogitans quibus ætate florentes fructi sumus, utinam ne supremum tempus sit quo dicimus, valete. Dixi.

English Translation

Read Josiah's translation of his speech below. [A recording](#) of his address at Commencement 2023 is available on Youtube.

THE VALUE OF A HARVARD EDUCATION

A SALUTATORY ORATION DELIVERED IN CAMBRIDGE OF NEW ENGLAND AT THE CEREMONIES OF COMMENCEMENT ON THE 25TH DAY OF MAY IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2023 OF THE UNITED STATES THE 247TH AND OF HARVARD COLLEGE THE 387TH.

Esteemed president, president-elect, honored fellows and trustees, learned members of the faculty, beloved fellow classmates, and finally, to all the distinguished guests present—greetings!

For nearly four centuries, we have met in this Yard each year to celebrate this joyous occasion. Seeing that many eminent orators have ascended this rostrum to address this august assembly, I approach this duty with gratitude and humility. One may now say that I share something in common with the illustrious men of history who stood here, such as Winston Churchill, John F. Kennedy, and Forrest Gump.

Lest the long-established custom of our forebears of opening this ceremony in Latin perish, I salute you in the magnificent tongue of the Romans. But perhaps some may ask why it is necessary to deliver a Latin oration in our age. The answer is simple: we gladly seize this opportunity to beat the Yalies in eloquence, incapable as they are of speaking Latin at their commencement. If a few Yale alumni have infiltrated our audience today, they are surely murmuring amongst themselves, “What in the world does this mean?”

This four-year period having happily come to a close, I would like to speak to you, distinguished guests, on the value of a Harvard education. First of all, a Harvard education produces citizens who are skilled in the art of rhetoric. Ever since we arrived at this university, the busts of Demosthenes, Cicero, and St. Chrysostom—the princes

of eloquence—have stared at us from the gables of Sanders Theatre. Mindful of their ever-vigilant gaze, we strove to emulate them in the practice of rhetoric. How weighty were the matters we debated! Let me offer an example: on Housing Day, each one of us, filled with a new sense of loyalty, sings the praises of his house. We sparred over the merits of Eliot, Dunster, Adams, and Winthrop. Even those exiled to “the Quad” (alas, so far away!) vehemently defended the superiority of their houses. However, some may accuse them, just as they accused Socrates, of “making the weaker argument the stronger.”

But not only did we learn to speak, we learned to think. In law and politics, we contemplated the social; in science and medicine, the natural; in literature and poetry, the beautiful; in astronomy and mathematics, the eternal; in philosophy and theology, the Good. Above all, in the most popular field of economics, we contemplated ... money?

This exercise in thinking was no simple task. Some of us spent great effort meditating on the principle of the philosopher René Descartes, “I think, therefore I am” (Cogito, ergo sum). But soon, we learned a similar dictum: Covidio, ergo Zoom (“Covid, therefore Zoom”).

Yet through our common quest to discover the truth, we found the “unbreakable bond” of love, as inscribed in the verses of the poet Horace upon the Class of 1857 Gate—a class whose young men, though taking up arms against each other at the outbreak of a dreadful civil war, nevertheless remained in friendship until their dying day. Though it is noble to exercise the faculties of the mind in solitude, it is far sweeter to pursue the Truth in friendship for Christ and the Church. For here unanimity and liberality are cultivated, and in no other place in this world does a firmer bond of loyalty and friendship exist between people who are so dedicated to the pursuit of humanity, virtue, and piety. Herein lies the highest value of a Harvard education. Therefore, I exhort you, comrades, to continue cultivating these friendships even after you depart from our Alma Mater. And though I say it today, rendering thanks to Almighty God, the inexhaustible fountain of wisdom, and smiling upon these shining years we have enjoyed together in the bloom of our youth, let this not be the last time we say, farewell.