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LATIN LITERATURE
notes compiled by Bill Smithfield based on
notes from Dr. Kaye Warren

I. EARLIEST WRITING

LAPIS NIGER- 'black stone', in Forum, 4-sided post, ca. 500 B.C., has word "RECEI" (archaic form of REX, also REGEI), written from top to bottom, oldest Latin writing

PRAENESTE FIBULA- brooch, ca. 400 B.C., "MANIOS MED FHOE FHAKED NUMASIOI" (modern: "MANIUS ME FECIT NUMERIO"), written right to left

Duenos bowl- Quirinal hill, "DEUNOS ME FECED" (FECED- weakened and unreduplicated form of FHEFHAKED)

records of official proceedings- LIBRI PONTIFICUM, LIBRI LINTEI (linen tablets, used by C. Licinius Macer and Q. Aelius Tubero, worked into ANNALES MAXIMI, end 100's)

FASTI CAPITOLINI- lists of magistrates, etc.

Twelve Tables- earliest written laws, 451-450

speeches in senate, funeral orations, speech of Menenius Agrippa, dev. of oratory

CARMEN SALIARE and CARMEN ARVALE- cult chants of priestly colleges

lays sung at banquets- deeds of great families, origin of lyric, epic (?), attested by Varro and Cato

Fescennine verse- origin of drama (?), sung at weddings, triumphs and funerals, ribald, from Fescennium (Erturia), FASCINUM- witchcraft

Sibylline Books- books of oracular statements in Greek hexameters, supposedly from Greece (time of Solon), 9 offered to Superbus by Cumaean Sibyl, 6 burned, bought 3, conferred with by 2 patricians, then 10 (50-50 pat./pleb.), later 15, kept in chest under Jupiter Capitoline, burned in 83 B.C., Augustus made a similar set kept in temple of Apollo on Palatine, destroyed by Stilicho

II. EARLY WRITERS

240 B.C.- start of Latin literature, Livius, Naevius, and Ennius fathers of Latin literature

Appius Claudius- APP. Claudius Caecus wrote aphorisms in Saturnian verse (some extant), great orator censor (312-308), Via Appia, Aqua Appia, blind

* Livius Andronicus (284-204)- L. Livius Andronicus, from Tarentum ODISSIA- Latin translation of Odyssey, 240, in Saturnian verse, have fragments

wrote hymn to cleanse Rome in 207
 produced a Greek tragedy and comedy for LUDI ROMANI in 240
 translated at least 9 Greek tragedies and comedies, have
 fragments
 president of the academy of poets (COLLEGIUM POETARUM) on
 Aventine in Temple of Minerva
 captured fighting in southern Italy in 272, prisoner of war,
 to Rome, slave of a Livius

* Naevius (270-201)- CN. Naevius, from Campania
 BELLUM PUNICUM- Saturnian verse, epic on 1st Punic War, tells
 background and calls Romulus Aeneas' grandson, has Dido
 LUPUS- tragedy on Romulus and Remus (FABULA PRAETEXTA)
 CLASTIDIUM- M. Marcellus wins SPOLIA OPIMIA by killing
 Viridomarus
 other works- DANAE, ROMULUS, HARISLUS, LEO, HESIONE,
 ANDROMACHE, TERENTILLA, APELLA, EQUOS TROIANUS, HECTOR
 PROFICISCENS, IPHIGENIA, LYCURGUS, TESTICULARIA, TRIPHALLUS
 enemy of the Metelli for "FATO METELLI ROMAE FIUNT CONSULES"
 Roman citizen, plebian, fought in 1st Punic war, 1st Italian
 native to write on Roman topics, 34 comedies, 7 tragedies
 epitat- IMMORTALES MORTALES...

* Plautus (255/254-184)- T. Macc(i)us Plautus, from Sarsina
 (Umbria)
 AMPHITRUD- Zeus disguised as Amphytryon rapes Alcemna making
 Hercules, with Mercury as Sosia Amph.'s slave
 CAPTIVI- captives of war (slave and master) switch places,
 slave turns out to be son of Hegio, their buyer, with
 Ergasilus, a parasite, most popular, least indecent and funny,
 intrigue
 MERCATOR- father and son both seek same girl, excellent farce,
 intrigue
 MOSTELLARIA- Haunted House, youth hides his friends from his
 father, funny farce, weak plot, intrigue, used in Taming of
 the Shrew
 PSEUDOLUS- a lover needs money to save his love from another,
 minor inconsistencies, intrigue
 STICHUS- about the happy and untrammelled life of slaves, a
 father tries to get his 2 daughters to leave their absent
 husbands who return rich, weak plot, intrigue
 TRINUMMUS- brother tries to get a dowry for sister, very minor
 intrigue, farce, no female
 BACCHIDES- a trick to get money, indecent, intrigue
 CASINA- very indecent, lyrical farce, intrigue
 MILES GLORIOSUS- Braggart Warrior, crude farce, 2 weakly
 connected parts, influenced Terence, hero- Pyrgopolynices
 AULULARIA- excellent comedy about a miser, Euclio, who loses
 his fortune due to too much caution and the violation of a
 daughter
 CISTELLARIA- slave girl thought to be of rich birth due to a
 chest and is allowed to marry a rich young man
 MENAECHMI- Sosicles and Menaechmus (brothers) split up, base
 of Comedy of Errors
 RUDENS- like CISTELLARIA, but better, woman recognized by a
 rope tied around her box
 other plays: ASINARIA, EPIDICUS, PERSA, POENULUS, CURCULIO,
 TRUCULENTUS
 all plays FABULA PALLIATA, most plays set in Greece with
 Roman people and customs, 1/3 of play dialogue (DIVERBIUM,

mostly in iambic senarii), 2/3 of play sung (CANTICA), copies Greek New Comedy (Menander), repeats plots and characters, credited with 130 plays, more at 40-45, have 20, Varro says 21 definitely his poor family, worked in a theater (actor or carpenter), later worked a flour mill, died in Rome



Q. Ennius (239-169)- from Rudiae in Calabria
 ANNALES- history, 18 books, to 171, left out 1st Punic War (BELLUM PUNICUM), "O TITE TUTE TATI TIBI TANTA, TYRANNE, TULISTI", have about 600 lines
 SATURA- 4 books, misc. works
 MEDEA- translation of Euripides
 HEDUPHAGETICA- gastronomy
 "SAXO CERE COMMUNUIT BRUM"- worst example of TMESIS
 ALEXANDER, HECUBA, AIAX, AMBRACIA, SCIPIO, EUHEMERUS, EPICHRMUS
 parts of 22 works survive
 produced dactylic hexameter
 "AMICUS CERTUS IN RE INCERTA CERNITUR"
 "UNUS HOMO NOBIS CUNCTANDO RESTITUIT REM"- Fabius Maximus Cunctator refusing to be drawn into open battle with Hannibal called the first "pure man of letters" in western world
 3 hearts: Latin, Greek, Oscan
 brought to Rome by Cato the Elder, thought he was Homer reborn, centurion, became citizen through army, lived on Palatine, died of gout

Q. Fabius Pictor (b. 254)
 oldest historian, wrote in Greek, most writing ca. 214 in 2nd Punic War, related to Fabius 'the Delayer', related to the Pictor who painted the Temple of Salus in Rome in 304



Cato the Elder (Censor) (234-149)- M. Porcius Cato from Tusculum
 DE AGRICULTURA- oldest extant prose in Latin, also called DE RE RUSTICA, 1st history in Latin
 ORIGINES- 7 books of history without names, to 149
 "REM TENE VERBA SEQUENTUR"
 1st major orator, ended speeches with "DELENDA EST CARTHAGO" called slaves "speaking tools"
 father a farmer, quaestor in Sicily and Africa, praetor in Sardinia (met Ennius), consul in 195, task master with slaves (had his slaves work all day and only eat and sleep at night), ultra-conservative

Caecilius Statius (219?-168/166)- from Cisalpine Gaul
 SYNEPHEBI- "The Young Companions"
 comedies, friend of Ennius, many of his plays translations of Menander



M. Pacuvius (220- 130)- from Brundisium
 PAULLUS- FABULA PRAETEXTA probably on L. Aemilius Paullus
 ANTIOPA- imitates Euripides
 NIPTRA- probably imitates Sophocles
 CHRYSSES-
 wrote at least 12 tragedies, nephew of Ennius, Laelian circle



Polybius (202/201-120)- from Megalopolis in Arcadia
 HISTORIA- 1st Punic War to 3rd Macedonian War in 41 books,

have 1st 5 books complete

Greek historian, son of Lycortas (member of Achaean League), taught sons of Scipio Aemilianus, went to siege of Carthage with Scipio in 147-8

- * Terence (195/185-159) - P. Terentius Afer, from Carthage
 ANDRIA - Woman of Andros, young man of Athens falls in love with a "foreign" girl, but is about to marry another, the "foreigner" turns out to be Athenian, mostly a translation of Menander, "HINC ILLAE LACRIMAE", 166
 HEAUTON TIMORUMENOS - Self-Tormentor, Menedemus torments himself by distrusting son, then repenting, son marries, Chremes brags on trusting his son, but mad at son for being in love with a prostitute, M.'s daughter-in-law is C.'s daughter, adaption of Menander, theme: mind your own business, 163
 EUNUCHUS - adaption of Menander's play by same name, most popular of Terence's plays (occasionally condemned as immoral), complicated double plot of love affairs, intrigue, disguised identity, and recognition, "NULLUMST IAM DICTUM QUOD NON DICTUM SIT PRIUS", influenced Taming of the Shrew, 161
 ADELPHOE (ADELPHI) - The Brothers, based on Menander, most intellectual of Terence, education of children, education vs. discipline, Aeschylus and Ctesipho, uses soliloquy, base of Fielding's The Fathers, played at funeral games of Aemilius Paullus, 160
 PHORMIO - adaptation of Apollodorus (Menander follower), Antipho and Demipho, farce with double plot of recognition and intrigue for money, "QUOT HOMINES, TOT SENTENTIAE", "to have a wolf by the ears", 161
 HECYRA - The Mother-in-Law, 165 and 160
 5 of 6 plays very popular, have all, better quality, but not as funny as Plautus
 brought to Rome by Terentius Lucanus, educated, freed, friend of Scipio Africanus the Younger (Aemilianus), died in or returning from Greece (probably getting plays of Menander)

- * Scipio Aemilianus (185-129) - P. Cornelius Scipio Aemilianus (Africanus Minor), son of L. Aemilius Paullus adopted by P. Scipio, son of Africanus Maior, consul in 148 and 133, murdered?, orator and literary patron (Scipionic circle)

Titinius

FULLONIA - fullers and weavers quarrel

BARBATUS - embroiderer

QUINTUS - attack on non-Latin speaking people

SIMULANS - father-in-law vs. bad son-in-law

wrote FABULAE TOGATAE, contemporary to Terence, have 15 titles

C. Lucilius (180-102) - from Suessa Aurunca

SERMONES - 30 books, have about 1300 lines

originator of a satire as a genre (only by Romans)

wrote like Old Comedy (attacked specific people)

publisher - Valerius Cato

- * L. Accius or Attius (170-ca. 86/85) - from Pisaurum
 DIDASCALICA - Greek/Roman poetry in 9 books
 ATREUS - "ODERINT DUM METUANT", quot often used by Caligula says Suetonius
 PRAGMATICA, PAREGRA, ANNIUS, SOTADICA, BACCHAE, PHOENISSAE,

BRUTUS, AENEADAE VEL DECIUS
tragedian, have 45 of his tragedy titles (on Greek themes),
wrote 2 FABULAE PRAETEXTAE, 1 of his plays opened the Theater
of Pompey

Gracchi (TI. d.133, C. d.121)- TI. and C. Sempronius Gracchus

Afranius (150-?)
wrote FABULAE TOGATAE, imitated Menander

Volcatius Sedigitus- 2nd century B.C. critic, flourished ca.
100
DE POETIS- PALLIATAE ranking: Caecilius, Plautus, Naevius,
Licinius Macer, Atilius, Terence, Turpilius, Trabea, Luscius,
Ennius

III. GOLDEN AGE

A. AGE OF CICERO

* M. Terentius Varro (116-27)- from Reate
DE LINGUA LATINA- 25 books, dedicated to Cicero
SATIRAE MENIPPEAE- prose and verse (Menippus- Greek
philosopher/writer, imitated by Varro), not true satire
ANTIQUITATES RERUM HUMANARUM ET DIVINARUM- 41 books, source of
Augustine's DE CIVITATE DEI
RES RUSTICA
"IDEM ATTI QUOD TITI"- "Sauce for the goose is sauce for the
gander"
74 works in 620 books
says 1st sundial in Rome in 263 B.C. (not 268 as in M.
Johnston)

Sisenna- L. Cornelius Sisenna
translated Milesian Tales into Latin, best historian before
Sallust
PRAETOR in 76 B.C., helped defend Verres

Hortensius (114-50)- Q. Hortensius Hortalus
1st pleaded on behalf of Africa (province) accusing the
governor of malversation in 95, consul in 69, leading orator
of the day until Verres (63), chief law rival of Cicero,
Cicero paid tribute to him in "Brutus", praised him in "DE
ORATORE", used Asian oratory (flowery, with examples),
excellent voice, gesture, memory, and wealth of language

* Atticus (109-32)- T. Pomponius Atticus
LIBER ANNALIS- epitome of Roman history in 1 book, missing
wrote a genealogical treatise of some Roman families
correspondence with Cicero 68-43
Epicurean, friend of Cicero, equite family, left Rome in 88
(Sulla and Marius) for Athens, generally neutral with both
sides, helped the Marians, Pompeians, protected Cicero's wife
(Terentia) during exile and Antony's wife (Fulvia) during
Mutina, friend of Augustus (Atticus' daughter married
Agrippa), Pomponia (sister) married Q. Tullius Cicero, acted
as Cicero's publisher, Nepos wrote biography of him

* M. Tullius Cicero (106- 43)-
Dec. 7th

Oratory, philosophy

Decimus Laberius (105-43)

wrote mimes, outspoken politically, thus Caesar had him act own stories on stage vs. P. Syrus

- * C. Julius Caesar (July 12, 102/102-March 15, 44)- from Rome
 COMMENTARII DE BELLO GALLICO- 8 books (8th by A. Hirtius),
 written winter of 52-51, extant
 COMMENTARII DE BELLO CIVILE- 3 books, unfinished, extant
 DE ANALOGIA- on grammar, written on trip across Alps, missing
 DE ASTRIS- on astrology, missing
 ANTICATONES- 2 books, reply to Cicero's panegyric on Cato the
 Younger
 Attic oratory (direct, simple, and restrained)
 Plutarch and Suetonius wrote biographies on Caesar, BELLUM
 AFRICUM (Caesar vs. Cato and Juba), BELLUM ALEXANDRINUM, and
 BELLUM HISPANIENSE written about Caesar's campaigns by unknown
 authors
- * Lucretius (99/95/94-55/51)- T. Lucretius Carus, from Rome
 DE RERUM NATURA- 6 books on Epicurean philosophy, to Memmius
 (patron?), didactic poem, epic, dactylic hexameter, Cicero
 helped edit, wrote it while insane from love philter (?),
 7415 lines, unfinished, mission to free men from fear of gods

and death, influenced by Democritus, Empedocles, Homer, Ennius, and Epicurus, some conjectures amazingly accurate
 Book I and II- atomic theory, starts "AENEA DUM GENETRIX" (to Venus), matter indestructible, of atoms (indivisible, eternal, infinite, size, shape, and weight varies
 Book III- mortality of the soul, soul is made of two atoms (ANIMA and ANIMUS)
 Book IV- sense perception, thinking, reproduction
 Book V- origin of the world, man, and evolution
 Book VI- natural phenomena, disease
 no gods, true happiness form no fear of gods or afterlife and pursuit of wisdom and virtue, man only has free will, insults women
 was a great influence on Vergil, aristocrat (?), committed suicide

* Cornelius Nepos (98-25)- from Ticinum
 CHRONICA- world history in 3 books
 EXEMPLA-
 DE VIRIS ILLUSTRIBUS- biographies, 24 extant, in 2 parts Roman and non-Roman

* Sallust (86-34)- C. Sallustius Crispus, from Amiternum
 BELLUM JUGURTHINUM- written via interview (idea from Thucydides), extant
 BELLUM CATALINAE- Cataline in 63, extant
 HISTORIA- 78 to 67, Sulla to Pompey, lost
 influence on Tacitus, Quintilian writes of his "famous brevity", distorted facts for the POPULARES, all monographs
 tribune in 52, member of POPULARES, kicked out of senate in 50 for charges against his character quaestor in 49, governor of Numidia, owned HORTI SALLUSTIANI (became imperial property)

A. Hirtius (d. 43)
 COMMENTARII DE BELLO GALLICO- 8th book
 lieutenant of Caesar in Gaul, consul with Vibius Pansa in 43, killed fight Antony

* Catullus (84-54)- C. Valerius Catullus, from Verona
 NUGAE- 'trifles' to Cornelius Nepos
 PASSER- death of Lesbia's sparrow
 ATTIS- Attis is castrated to become a Cybele follower and misses his old life
 Wedding of Peleus and Thetis
 love poems to "Lesbia" (Clodia)
 influenced by Sappho (original Lesbia), Callimachus, etc., have 116 of his poems (about 2300 lines in all), all are numbered
 'long' poems- 2 wedding poems (61-62), 1 lyric (63), 1 short epic (64), 5 elegies (65-68, 74), more objective and less emotional than 'short'
 'short' poems (107)- 4 types: Love- most to Lesbia, most important of his poems, sometimes jealous (76, 77), doubting her love (85, 92), praising her beauty (86), or violent passion (5, 51), Elegies- most famous on brother (101), Poems on travel- (31, 46), Misc.- anecdotes (10, 53), reproaches (30, 38, 40), invitations/greetings (9, 13, 28), consolation (96), hymn (34), drinking song (27), attacks on Caesar (29, 57), etc.
 wealthy family, client of Memmius, governor of Bithynia (57),

summer estate at Sirmio
 Clodia- probably met her ca. 62 at his home, affair for about
 5 years (mostly in Rome), sister of P. Clodius, married to Q.
 Metellus Celer (consul in 60)

Calvus (82-47)

P. Syrus- from Antioch (?)
 wrote Latin mimes, include husband, faithless wife, her lover,
 the maid
 probably a slave, then manumitted, height of career ca. 43 (?)

B. AUGUSTAN AGE

Vergil (70-19)- P. Vergilius Maro

C. Cornelius Gallus (69-26)
 elegies, first prefect of Egypt

Horace (Dec. 8, 65-Nov. 27, 8)- Q. Horatius Flaccus from Apulia

Strabo (64- 19 A.D.)- from Pontus
 GEOGRAPHICA- 17 books

Tibullus (60-19 A.D.)- Albius Tibullus

Livy (59-17 A.D.)- T. Livius, from Patavium

Seneca Rhetor (the Elder) (55/54-37/34 A.D.)- L. Annaeus
 Seneca, from Cordova

SEX. Propertius (50-16)- from Mevania

Ovid (March 20, 43-17 A.D.)- P. Ovidius Naso

IV. SILVER AGE

Seneca the Younger

Petronius
 Trimalchio (Satyricon): " If you have a penny,
 that is what you are worth."

Lucan

Statius

Quintilian

Martial

Juvenal

Tacitus

Pliny the Elder

Pliny the Younger

V. LATER WRITERS

Suetonius

Ammianus Marcellinus

Apuleius

Claudian

VI. CHRISTIAN WRITERS

Tertullian

Lactantius

Jerome

Augustine

Boethius

VII. MISC. NOTES

literary circles:

Scipio Aemilianus- Terence, Panaetus, Polybius, Laelius,
Lucilius, Q. M. Scaevola, Rutilius Rufus

Maecenas- Vergil, Propertius, Horace

Augustus- Livy, Paterculus

M. Valerius Messala Corvinus- Tibullus, Ovid (also client of
Cotta Messalinus, Fabius Maximus)

Alexandrian poets- modeled after Callimachus, Greek librarian
at Alexandria, include Calvus, Furius Bibaculus, and Cinna

only Republic political figure to not be a great orator- Marius

greatest satires: SATYRICON, APOCOLOCYNTYSIS, Consultation of
Religion

ARGELETUM- book and shoe street

Apicius- wrote cookbook, famous gourmet

Mausoleum of Augustus- from Marcellus to Nerva,

RES GESTAE (deeds, Augustus' deeds) on door

Theater of Pompey- first stone theater, 55 B.C.

Theater of Balbus- 13 B.C.

Theater of Marcellus- 13 B.C., by Augustus

ODEON- small theater

MIMI- comic opera, singing, dancing, satirical, usually short

PANTOMINI- ballet, 1 actor, many parts, chorus in back, often
about old legends or tales

LUDI SCAENICI- theater plays

FABULA PALLIATA- copy of Greek style plays

FABULA ATELLANA- slapstick farce with Maccus (clown, fool),

Bucco (clown with puffed out cheeks), Pappus (a silly old
man), Dossenus (clever hunchback), also Manducus (glutton)

FABULA PRAETEXTA- historical Roman drama

FABULA TOGATA- comedy of village life

actors- most slaves

gray wig- old man

black wig- young man

red wig- slave

purple wig- rich (?)

white clothing- old man

purple clothing- young man

yellow clothing- woman

SCAENA- stage
PROSCAENIUM- back of stage
PERIAKTIOI- Greek, 3 sided, revolving machine for scene changes
CAVEA- sitting area in front of stage
ORCHESTRA- dancing place
CUNEIF- wedges of seats
Columella- wrote on agriculture
Tacitus- wrote epigrams on life
Pliny the Younger- letters, library at Comum
according to Galen (medical writer)- human flesh occasionally
served in pork roast or stew