

# Sortes ~ Summer 2016

## *President's Letter*

As I approach the end of my three-year term as President of the Vergilian Society I feel optimistic about the state of the Society, and about its future. A lot of people, particularly the wonderful and devoted members of the Executive Committee, but also the Trustees, and many others besides, have rolled up their sleeves and applied themselves to the challenges that have faced us over the last few years. My thanks to all.

Our tours are doing reasonably well, though the numbers are down, and we still feel the effects of the downturn in the global economy, greater competition from other programs, and, perhaps, a reluctance from some quarters to visit parts of the Mediterranean. We are proceeding with a rich array of tours for 2017, and hope you will all spread the word about these, and decide to join one yourself: A Journey through Roman Times: From Mantua, Birthplace of Vergil, to Diocletian's Palace in Croatia (directed by Beverly Berg, July 1–13); Latin Authors in Italy: A Study Tour for Teachers (directed by Steven L. Tuck, Amy Leonard, July 8–19); Roman Villas and Gardens: A Vergilian Society Tour of Roman Britain (directed by Phil Stanley and George Perko, July 17–29); Gladiators and Roman Spectacle: Rome, Pompeii, Cumae and Beyond (directed by Steven L. Tuck, July 23–August 5). These are wonderful tours, and we really need to get the word out, so please help in publicizing! See below for tour details.

The Society's Symposia are doing very well indeed. This is now the fourth year since we opened up the Symposia Cumana to competitive bids, and this year's offering, "Music in the Time of Vergil" was a resounding success, with terrific papers and stimulating discussion. We were even treated to an aulos performance on the roof of the Villa. Congratulations to Professor Timothy Moore for running a magnificent symposium. Next year's symposium has now been announced, on "Vergil and Elegy", June 27–30, 2017, co-directed by Professors Micah Myers and Alison Keith. The call for papers has gone out and proposals should be directed by December 1, 2016 to Professor Myers at [myersm1@kenyon.edu](mailto:myersm1@kenyon.edu)

We look forward with equal excitement to the very first Symposium Campanum, "The Alternative Augustan Age", co-directed by Professors Josiah Osgood and Kathryn Welch, to be held at the Harry Wilks Study Center at the Villa Vergiliana from October 13–16 this fall. It too promises to be an intellectually exciting gathering. We have already scheduled the second iteration of this new symposium, for October 5–8, 2017 on "Recent Work in Vesuvian Lands: New Projects, Practices and Approaches", directed by Professor Steven L. Tuck, to whom proposals should be sent by October 1, 2016 at [tucksl@miamioh.edu](mailto:tucksl@miamioh.edu).

In the last year or two the Vergilian Society has looked beyond the US for school groups that might profit by using the Villa and its Harry Wilks Study Centre as the base for study visits to the Campi Phlegraei and the Bay of Naples. We have worked closely with Léon Herrman, a Latin teacher from the Netherlands and generous supporter of the Society, who led a group of European and UK Latin and Classics teachers to the Study Center in May. Thank you, Léon, and we hope to see some of your students back as study leaders in the coming years! You can read reviews from some of the participants on the Society's website: <http://www.vergiliansociety.org/villa/school-groups/>. Here too, please help spread the word about the Villa and Study Center. All enquiries about scheduling should be directed to Dr. Antimina ("Mina") Sgariglia, Administrative Director of the Harry Wilks Study Center: [minasgariglia@gmail.com](mailto:minasgariglia@gmail.com)

As for the Society's scholarly and publishing enterprises, we are indeed fortunate that Professor Christine Perrell of Emory University agreed to do a second term as editor of *Vergilius*, an office she fills with enthusiasm and critical acuity, and to good effect, as readers of recent issues of *Vergilius* will attest. Christine is eager to get the best submissions on Virgilian topics, so please keep *Vergilius* in mind as you produce or hear about outstanding Virgilian scholarship. Submissions should be directed to [cperkel@emory.edu](mailto:cperkel@emory.edu).

In spite of all of this progress, we continue to need your help. I am writing now to ask for your financial support in our Annual Appeal. Your generous gift is critical to the continuation of the present programs and initiatives that you value. Please consider a donation to the Society. Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to

Dr. Keely Lake, Secretary of the Vergilian Society, at Wayland Academy, 101 N. University Ave, Beaver Dam, WI 53916. Online donations can be made under "Special Contributions" on the Society's website at <http://www.vergiliansociety.org/memberships-and-donations/>. Your annual gifts have a huge and direct impact on all the vital work of the Society, particularly in the funding of scholarships, upkeep of the Villa, publishing of Vergilius, and support of general operations. Please join me in donating what you can to ensure that our work continues.

Richard F. Thomas  
President, Vergilian Society  
[rthomas@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:rthomas@fas.harvard.edu)  
(617) 496-6061

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### Vergilian Society President's Annual Appeal 2016

I am supporting the work of the Vergilian Society with a donation in the amount of:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s)

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Please make checks payable to the Vergilian Society and mail to Dr. Keely Lake, Secretary of the Vergilian Society, at Wayland Academy, 101 N. University Ave, Beaver Dam, WI 53916

Or donate online via PayPal at <http://www.vergiliansociety.org/memberships-and-donations/>.

The Vergilian Society is a 501c3 non-profit organization

Thank you very much for your on-going support of the Vergilian Society!

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*More beautiful updates at the The Harry Wilks Study Center at the Villa Vergiliana.*



Call for Papers: Symposium Cumanum 2017  
Vergil and Elegy, June 27-30, 2017  
Co-Directors: Micah Myers (Kenyon College) and Alison Keith (University of Toronto)

The Vergilian society invites proposals for papers for the 2017 Symposium Cumanum at the Villa Vergiliana in Cuma, Italy.

In the final book of the *Georgics*, Aristaeus' lament reaches his mother as one of her fellow nymphs is in the midst of song (4.345-51):

inter quas curam Clymene narrabat inanem  
Vulcani, Martisque dolos et dulcia furta,  
aque Chao densos divum numerabat amores.  
carminibus quo captae dum fuis mollia pensa  
devolvunt, iterum maternas impulit aures  
luctus Aristaei, vitreisque sedilibus omnes  
obstupere;

Deploying elegiac diction alongside Homeric allusion, Clymene tells of the *inanis cura* of Vulcan and the *doli* and *dulcia furta* of Mars (345-6). She then transitions to catalogue poetry (*numerabat*), in which she sings (*carminibus*) of the *densi divum amores* beginning from Chaos (347-8). The nymphs are enraptured by the music as they weave *mollia pensa* until the *luctus* of Aristaeus strikes Cyrene's ears, interrupting Clymene's performance. More than Aristaeus' *luctus* infringing on the love poetry of Clymene, the passage intimates the deep level at which elegy — in its capacity as poetry of both love and lament — is part of the matrix of Vergilian art. All of Vergil's works have points of contact with elegiac poetry. Likewise, Vergil's poetry itself becomes a touchstone for elegy (Propertius 2.34, Tibullus 2.5, Ovid *Amores* 1.1, to name only a few examples). But Clymene's song suggests Vergil's more profound engagement with elegiac diction and thematics, especially in light of Anchises' catalogue in another subterranean scene (A. 6.681-2: *omnemque suorum/ forte recensebat numerum*; A. 6.868: *ognate, ingentem luctum ne quaere tuorum*), in which the parade of great Romans parallels *densi divum amores*, the grief of Aristaeus interfaces with the grief of Aeneas' descendants, and the death of Marcellus parallels the loss of Aristaeus' bees.

In the nearly thirty years since the appearance of Conte's *Rhetoric of Imitation*, questions of intertextuality and intergeneric interactions have continued to be a prominent feature of classical scholarship, and Vergilian studies in particular (especially Hinds' *Allusion and Intertext*, Depew and Obbink's *Matrices of Genre*, and Stephen Harrison's *Generic Enrichment in Vergil and Horace*). Hellenistic poetry catalyzed generic mixing, creating a new aesthetic that influenced even the earliest Roman poetry. But the elegiac revolution at Rome during Vergil's lifetime was more than a function of literary connoisseurism; it responded to the Roman political and cultural revolution. Vergil's poetry reveals a deep recognition of the innovative and dynamic contemporary shift that elegy represents. Vergil's engagements with elegy circumscribe this revolution, as his own work became recircumscribed by elegiac poets, both in the Augustan period and in later traditions. For example, the elegiac component of Vergil's poetics is a central, albeit largely neglected, facet of his late Medieval and early modern *Nachleben*.

This conference seeks reassessments of the relationship between Vergil and elegy: from Vergil's reception of Greek and Roman antecedents, to the role of Latin love elegy in Vergil's works, as well as elegiac responses to Vergilian poetics from antiquity to the present.

Papers are invited on topics including (but not limited to):

- The influence of Greek elegy upon Vergil.
- Vergil's engagement with elegy in terms of generic enrichment and mixing.
- The elegiac component of Vergil's poetics and the role of elegy in the *Eclogues*, *Georgics*, and *Aeneid*.
- Elegiac poems that circulated under Vergil's name.
- Maecenas, Messalla, and the politics of poetry and genre.
- "Silver Latin" interrogations of Vergil's elegiac engagements.

- Late Antique, Medieval, and Renaissance incorporations of Vergilian poetics into elegy.
- Material culture, Vergil, and elegy.
- Ecphrasis and elegy.

Papers will be 20 minutes long with ample time for discussion. The symposium will include three days of papers, discussion, and visits to Vergilian sites.

Participants will include Sharon James, John Miller, K. Sara Myers, Damien Nelis, James O'Hara, Alessandro Schiesaro, and Sarah Spence.

Interested scholars should send an abstract of no more than 300 words to [myersm1@kenyon.edu](mailto:myersm1@kenyon.edu) by December 1, 2016.

Call for Papers: Recent Work in Vesuvian Lands:  
New Projects, Practices, and Approaches, October 5-8, 2017  
Director: Steven L. Tuck, Miami University

The Vergilian Society invites proposals for papers for the 2017 Symposium Campanum at the Villa Vergiliana in Cuma, Italy.

This symposium is an opportunity for scholars to present papers on recent scholarship on Pompeii and Vesuvian lands. Our notion for the symposium is informed by three major premises, which we expect to be the major themes for the three days for the conference:

The uniqueness of the evidence that Pompeii provides about the ancient world. In addition to addressing this at Pompeii itself we hope some papers will extrapolate outward from that evidence to explore what the Pompeian evidence reveals about the larger ancient, especially Roman, world with a conscious awareness of the extrapolation that takes place.

An emphasis on contextualizing evidence both within Pompeii and without rather than presenting material in a vacuum or in isolation. We encourage scholars to submit proposals for synthetic papers that explore more than one type of evidence or explore under-considered implications for Vesuvian material. We particularly wish to encourage abstracts from under-covered areas that can provide a holistic view of Vesuvian material: comparatively more on areas outside Pompeii such as extramural villas, industrial complexes, and rural life.

Papers will be 20 minutes long with ample time for discussion. Ideally we would like to circulate drafts prior to the symposium to facilitate dialogue. The symposium will include three days of papers, discussion, and visits to Vesuvian sites.

Interested scholars should send inquiries or an abstract of no more than 300 words to [tucksl@miamioh.edu](mailto:tucksl@miamioh.edu) by December 1, 2016.

The Vergilian Society invites applications for the direction of classical summer and winter programs for 2018 and beyond. We are particularly interested in innovative and exploratory programs at different levels, wholly or partially held at the Villa Vergiliana at Cumae. Tours or workshops involving Campania are particularly sought after for 2018, as well as those with an emphasis on France, Germany, Sicily or Malta, or Turkey. But prospective directors are invited to submit applications for programs that encompass any area(s) of the Greco-Roman world. The Chair of the Villa Management Committee will supply prospective directors with details regarding compensation, minimal enrollments, and shared direction. Please contact Steven Tuck, Chair of the Villa Management Committee, via email if you would like to propose a tour or discuss the possibility. Proposals are due by October 1, 2016.

CHAIR VILLA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (2014-2016): Steven Tuck, Dept. of Classics, Miami University, 105 Irvin Hall, Oxford OH 45056, [tucksl@miamioh.edu](mailto:tucksl@miamioh.edu)



## Vergilian Society Translation Contest: 2016

In its second incarnation, the Vergilian Society Translation Contest for 2016 set a passage from Aeneid 10 for translation, along with five short-answer questions and a brief essay based on the passage; contestants had one hour to complete the contest. Eighty students from solicited entries from eighty students enrolled in twelve schools spread across the country, from Nevada to Virginia, Wisconsin to Georgia. Each paper was evaluated by two different jurors, who achieved a remarkable rate of consensus in their judgement.

Five entries earned the top prize of fifty dollars and a student's membership in the Vergilian Society; four merited a second prize (twenty-five dollars and a student's membership in the Society; and seven students submitted papers deemed worthy of a Certificate of Commendation. Prize-winners and commended students are listed below, along with their schools and their teachers. The Vergilian Society congratulates the students and teachers so enumerated, and furthermore thanks all those who participated in the contest for 2016.

### First Prize

Bradford Case	(Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology [Virginia]; Christine Conklin)
Nicholas Catapano	(Regis High School [New York]; David Bonagura)
Adithya Suresh	(Charlotte Latin School [North Carolina]; Karen McQuaid)
Bill Tang	(Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology [Virginia]; Christine Conklin)
Akhil Waghmare	(Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology [Virginia]; Christine Conklin)

### Second Prize

John Calvelli	(Regis High School [New York]; David Bonagura)
Andrew Huang	(Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology [Virginia]; Christine Conklin)
Michael Rodriguez	(Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology [Virginia]; Christine Conklin)
Nirmaan Shanker	(Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology [Virginia]; Christine Conklin)

### Certificate of Commendation

Robert Fuller	(Charlotte Latin School [North Carolina]; Karen McQuaid)
Ryan Golant	(Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology [Virginia]; Christine Conklin)
Amanda Hansen	(The Meadows School [Nevada]; Tom Garvey)
Samuel Hsiang	(Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology [Virginia]; Christine Conklin)
Junyoung Hwang	(Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology [Virginia]; Christine Conklin)
Matthew Sun	(Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology [Virginia]; Christine Conklin)
Grace Thomas	(Covington High School [Kentucky]; Kelly Kusch)

Respectfully submitted,

James V. Lowe  
2nd Vice President

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If you hope to bring your secondary students to the Villa, don't forget the amazing opportunity of applying for an Exchange Program Grant. Details can be found here:

<http://www.vergiliansociety.org/request-for-applications-exchange-program-grant/>

## 2017 Vergilian Society Summer Study Tours

Vergilian Society tours are designed to appeal to the needs of a wide range of travelers including high school and college students and instructors; they are particularly suitable for instructors bringing a group of students. We specifically welcome nonprofessionals interested in the ancient Mediterranean.

### A Journey through Roman Times: From Mantua, Birthplace of Vergil, to Diocletian's Palace in Croatia

Directed by Beverly Berg, Linfield University July 1-13, 2017

This program begins in Mantua and ends in Split. It includes 4 nights Mantua, 1 night Aquileia, 1 night Trieste, 3 nights Pula, 3 nights Split.

Cisalpine Gaul and Istria were beyond the pale when Vergil was born, but in the Augustan era both were integral parts of Italy, and in later Roman times the area included several of the empire's largest and most thriving cities. We study the process of Romanization from earlier cities such as Verona, Brescia, and Pula to late antique and early Christian sites such as Aquileia, Porec, and Split. Highlights include Verona, a lovely city of pink marble with an amphitheater, the arch of the Gavii and theater, and Split with Diocletian's magnificent palace and basilica, one of the great architectural complexes of late antiquity, and Mantua, the birthplace of Vergil. Our day includes homage to statues of Vergil, Roman-inspired Renaissance churches, the Palazzo Te with its frescoes picturing Ovidian themes, and the museum of San Sebastiano. Inquire from the director about a pre-tour visit to Ravenna.

Price: \$2,595; single supplement \$300.

### Latin Authors in Italy: A Study Tour for Teachers

Directed by Steven L. Tuck, Miami U.; Amy Leonard, Grady High School July 8 – 19 2017

This tour is designed for high school teachers to provide experience reading Latin authors on site and to explore pedagogical techniques while on the sites where Latin authors lived and wrote in Italy. Classroom sessions and thematically relevant site visits will illuminate the lives and works of authors commonly taught in advanced Latin classrooms including but not limited to the AP curriculum: Caesar, Vergil, Martial, Cicero, Pliny the Younger, Ovid, Catullus, Statius, and the Res Gestae. Authors will be drawn from the most commonly used Latin texts: Ecce Romani, Cambridge Latin course, Latin for the New Millennium, etc. as well as the recommended prose authors on the AP Latin site. We anticipate that this broader design will also broaden appeal beyond just AP teachers.

Teachers will complete the tour with first hand experience on sites and museums with images and experiences to inform and inspire their classes, reading experiences in a range of authors, and valuable classroom pedagogy sessions directed by an experienced high school teacher. Morning study sessions will enrich both beginning and advanced courses with particular attention to the essential abilities in the AP syllabus. Another feature of this program will be evening reading group sessions at the Harry Wilks Study Center. These after dinner 1.5 hour sessions have been a popular feature of our previous workshops and offer teachers a chance to read more Latin with other teachers and to make the most of the opportunity the study tour presents.

We will spend two nights in Rome and one on Capri. The remainder of the days will utilize the Harry Wilks Study Center as our base for meals and rooms as well as hosting the classroom sessions. Sites include Rome (Campus Martius including the Ara Pacis and Pantheon, Colosseum and Forum/Palatine visit), Lavinium, Sperlonga, Cumae, Capua, Capri, Pompeii, Vesuvius, Stabiae, Puteoli, Solfatara, and Lake Avernus. The tour will begin and end in Rome.

Cost: \$2,795

## Roman Villas and Gardens: A Vergilian Society Tour of Roman Britain

Directed by Phil Stanley and George Perko July 17 – 29, 2017

This two-week tour of Britain traces the culture, art, and history of this Roman province through the extant remains. With Julius Caesar's first expedition to Britain in 55 BC and his second in 54 BC, Britain was brought into Rome's sphere of influence. However, it was not until Claudius' invasion in 43 AD that this island became a Roman province. The first provincial capital was at Colchester. Later the capital was moved to Londinium (London). For the next two centuries Rome's power expanded over the entire island and Roman customs and art were introduced into the Celtic world of Britain. We will visit several Celtic sites, such as Badbury Rings, the Cerne Giant, and Maiden Castle in Dorchester. One of the major accomplishments of Rome in Britain was the urbanization of the island. They set up a hierarchy of habitation centers: the provincial capital, Londinium; four *coloniae* [Colchester, Gloucester (*colonia Nervia Glevensium*), Lincoln (*colonia Lindum*), and York]; and a number of towns throughout the island like Verulamium (St. Albans), Caerwent, and Dover. Wherever the Romans went, they introduced their bath structure. At Bath significant portions of the extensive Roman bathhouse have been found and preserved. They also introduced the villa system which thrived especially in southern Britain during the 3rd and 4th centuries AD. An important element in any villa was its gardens. Pliny the Younger in his letter to Gallus described his seaside villa at Laurentum. His description of the grounds was used by several gardeners in 18th and 19th century England to lay out the estates of the nobility. In these gardens elements of the Roman garden are present. Several gardens especially embody this Roman quality: Port Lympne Garden, Hidcote Manor Garden, and Hever Castle Garden. Stourhead Garden was developed with Vergil's *Aeneid* in mind and is described in a Vergilius article ("Henry Hoares' Virgilian Garden," Vergilius 42[1996] 3-13). A significant part of Roman life in the provinces was focused on the legions and auxiliaries stationed there. In the north there is Hadrian's wall with its forts and mile stations. Towards the end of Rome's occupation of this island several coastal forts were built, known collectively as the Saxon-shore defenses. Two of these are at Dover and Portchester.

Cost: \$3882 per person. Includes hotels, breakfasts, ground transportation in England, entrance fees to museums and sites, one lunch and 4 dinners.

## Gladiators and Roman Spectacle: Rome, Pompeii, Cumae and Beyond

Directed by Steven L. Tuck, Miami University July 23 – August 5, 2017

In many ways the Roman world was organized around the concept of the spectacular. Public spectacle and grand spectacle entertainments are critical to understanding ancient Rome. These spectacles include the lavish feasts, funerals of elite Romans, and triumphal processions as well as the spectacle entertainments that occurred in the amphitheaters, circuses, and theaters of the Roman world. These reinforced Roman identity, created a sense of belonging and served as an outlet for imperial generosity. Even Roman houses exploited the desire for spectacle to create stages for Roman elites to perform for audiences. This twelve day study tour explores the fascinating concept of spectacle in the Roman world. It includes the topics of gladiatorial combat, animal hunts, prisoner executions and other spectacles, the spaces where they occurred, their origins and uses in the Roman world. Days will include lectures, reading of ancient sources on site (and in translation), firsthand investigations of the spaces and objects of spectacle, and some free time to explore on your own. After explorations in Rome we move to our headquarters for this tour at the Villa Vergiliana, the overseas center for the Vergilian Society located in the heart of Campania, where gladiatorial combat and amphitheaters originated. The tour begins and ends in Rome.

Cost: \$2,795

See detailed itineraries, tour descriptions, application, and scholarship information on the Vergilian Society website at <http://www.vergiliansociety.org>

Vergilian Society - Societas Vergiliana  
Annual Membership Renewal

Your Vergilian Society Membership includes: *Vergilius*; the *Sortes Vergiliana*e (delivered electronically); opportunity to stay at the Villa as a Visiting Scholar or Vergilian Society Fellow; support for the Harry Wilks Study Center at the Villa Vergiliana at Cumae, Italy; priority consideration for Vergilian Society tours; and eligibility for VS scholarships and fellowships. Contributing Members receive a 5% discount and Life Members a 10% discount when staying at the Villa as a Visiting Scholar. (Discounts are for individual members only and are not extendable to include any group brought by the members to the Villa.)

Membership Categories:

K-12 Student (all benefits except Vergilius) \$10 _____	Student \$25 _____
New Member \$35 _____	Retired \$35 _____
Regular \$50 _____	Regular, requiring mailing outside U.S. \$60 _____
Regular, three year option \$135 _____	Three year option, requiring mailing outside U.S. \$165 _____
Supporting \$65 _____	Supporting, three year option \$180 _____
Contributing \$125 _____	Contributing, three year option \$375 _____
Life \$800 _____	Life Benefactor* \$1500 _____
Institutional** \$150 _____	High School Exchange student \$50 _____

\* Life Benefactor indicates those who intend to will a portion of their estate to the Vergilian Society and the Villa Vergiliana. Those wishing to upgrade a current Life Membership to Life Benefactor may contact Keely Lake, Secretary.

\*\* An Institutional Membership allows for groups from that institution (space permitting) to use the Villa for groups on overseas trips.

Please note that the society also requires that all who stay at the Villa to be at least "New Members."

I wish to make special contributions to support:

Vergilian Society General Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cookbook Offer: La Cucina Sgariglia contains recipes used at the Villa Vergiliana, with notes by Angela Lloyd, drawings by Marshal Lloyd, and edited by Susan and Hartley Schearer.

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ cookbooks at \$15 each, totaling \$ \_\_\_\_\_

As a convenience to our members, you may obtain the following:

American Classical League membership, including Classical Outlook, and ACL Newsletter (\$55) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The Classical World, including membership in the Classical Association of the Atlantic States (\$35) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Please complete this form and return it with your check

(made out to The Vergilian Society and payable in US currency)

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Thank you so very much for your on-going support of the Vergilian Society.

Keely Lake

101 N. University Ave.

Beaver Dam, WI 53916

The Vergilian Society E-mail: vergsoc@yahoo.com



# ***SYMPOSIUM CUMANUM 2016***

## **Music in the Time of Virgil**

*Organized by Timothy J. Moore, Washington University in St. Louis*

***Villa Vergiliana, Cuma – Bacoli, Italy***

***June 22 - June 24, 2016***

### ***PROGRAM***



#### ***Sponsored by***

*Vergilian Society*

*Washington University in St. Louis*

*Harry Wilks Study Center*

#### ***With the support of:***

*Presidenza del Parlamento Europeo*

*Consolato Americano di Napoli*

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*Association of American College and University Programs in Italy*

*Regione Campania*

*Provincia di Napoli*

*Città di Bacoli, Comune di Monte di Procida, Comune di Pozzuoli*

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*Dipartimento Studi Umanistici, Università degli Studi di Salerno*

*MOISA: International Society for the Study of Greek and Roman Music and its Cultural Heritage*



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**MOISA**  
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SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF  
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## **Tuesday, June 21**

by 7:00 pm: Arrivals

7:30: Dinner

## **Wednesday, June 22**

7:30: Breakfast

9:30-11:00: **Welcome**

11:00-11:30: **Opening  
Lecture**

Francesco Sirano, Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici di Napoli,  
“Music to Cuma: Tradition and Actualization in the Age of Augustus, An  
Archaeological Updating.” Introduction: Richard Thomas, Harvard  
University

11:30-11:45: Break

11:45-12:45: **Keynote  
Address**

Andrew Barker, University of Birmingham, Emeritus,  
“An Augustan Greek on Rome's Musical Past (and Present)”  
Paper to be read by Angelo Meriani, Università degli Studi di Salerno  
Introduction, Timothy J. Moore, Washington University in St. Louis

12:45-2:00: Lunch

2:00-3:00: **Session 1**

### **Music in the *Eclogues* I**

Presider: Deborah Beck, The University of Texas at Austin  
Kevin Moch, University of California at Berkeley,  
“*Certamen Magnum*: Rethinking the Role of Competitive Song in Vergil's  
*Eclogues*”  
Gary P. Vos, University of Edinburgh,  
“Vergil's Linus (*Ecl.* 6.67): A Musical Genre's Swan Song?”

3:00-3:15: Break

3:15-4:15 **Session 2**

### **Music in the *Eclogues* II**

Presider, Daniela Castaldo, Università del Salento  
Rodney Cross, Macquarie University,  
“*Musica rustica*: The Nature of Ancient Roman Pastoral Music”  
Eleonora Rocconi, Università degli studi di Pavia,  
“Singing Contests in Vergil's *Eclogae*: Folk Music and Literary  
Conventions”

4:15-4:30: Break

4:30-5:30: **Session 3**

### **Music in the *Georgics***

Presider: Eleonora Rocconi, Università degli studi di Pavia  
Francesca Boldrer, Università di Macerata,  
“La musica nella poesia didascalica latina: da Lucrezio a Virgilio”  
Julia Scarborough, Wake Forest University,  
“Suppressed Musical Imagery in Virgil's *Georgics* and *Aeneid*”

5:30-5:45: Break

5:45-6:45: **Session 4**

### **Music in the *Aeneid* I**

Presider, Armand D'Angour, University of Oxford  
Timothy Power, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey,  
“Vergil's Citharodes: Iopas and Cretheus Reconsidered”  
Lauren Curtis, Bard College,  
“War Music: The Acoustics of Trauma on Virgil's Italian Battlefield”

7:30: Dinner

**Thursday, June 23**

7:30: Breakfast

9:00 – 10:00:

**Session 5**

**Music in the *Aeneid* II**

Presider, Margaret Musgrove, University of Central Oklahoma

Lissa Crofton-Sleigh, Santa Clara University,

“*Clamorque virum clangorque tubarum*: The Destructive Trumpet in Vergil’s *Aeneid*”

Deborah Beck, University of Texas at Austin,

“The Dog that Didn’t Bark: Musical Similes in Vergil’s *Aeneid*”

10:00-10:15: Break

10:15-12:00:

**Session 6**

**Music in Horace and the Elegists I**

Presider: Lauren Curtis, Bard College

Richard Tarrant, Harvard University,

“The Food of Love: Music in Horace’s Amatory Odes”

Selina Stewart, University of Alberta,

“Sappho and Augustan Melody”

Samuel Holzman, University of Pennsylvania,

“Horace’s Lydian Remix: Anatolian Music Appropriation in the Age of Augustus”

12:00-1:30: Lunch

1:30-2:30: **Session 7**

**Music in Horace and the Elegists II**

Presider: Angelo Meriani, Università degli Studi di Salerno

Kamila Wyslucha, University of Wrocław,

“Musical Settings of Elegy as Depicted by the Augustan Poets”

Ian Goh, Birkbeck, University of London,

“The Deadly Rattle of Delia (Tib. 1.3.24)”

2:30-2:45: Break

2:45-4:15: **Session 8**

**Music in Ovid’s Metamorphoses**

Presider: Timothy Power, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

April Spratley, University of Florida,

“The Sound of Violence: The Transformation of the Tibia in Ovid’s Metamorphoses”

Margaret Musgrove, University of Central Oklahoma,

“Two Singers in Ovid’s Metamorphoses”

James Lloyd, University of Reading,

“Marsyas in the Time of Vergil: Shifting Views of Rome’s Musical Past”

4:15-4:30 Break

4:30 – 5:30: **Session 9**

**Beyond Literature I**

Presider, John Van Sickle, City University of New York

Peter Kruschwitz, University of Reading,

“Remembering Augustan Performers”

Daniela Castaldo, Università del Salento,

“Musical Themes in Decorations of Private Art During the Augustan Age”

5:30-5:45: Break

5:45-6:45:

James Lloyd, University of Reading, Performance on reconstructed

## Performance

*auloi/tibiae* (Cave of the Sibyl)

Introduction: Peter Kruschwitz, University of Reading

7:30 Dinner

## Friday, June 24

7:30: Breakfast

9:00 – 10:00: **Session 10**

### **Beyond Literature II**

Presider: Richard Tarrant, Harvard University

Angeliki Liveri, Vienna/Athens,

“Musical Themes in the Aeneid of Vergil. Archeological Evidence in Campania during the Augustan Age”

William A. Johnson, Duke University,

“Pantomime and Satoshi Miyagi's Medea”

10:00-10:15: Break

10:15-11:15: **Session 11**

### **Nachleben I: Antiquity**

Presider: William A. Johnson, Duke University

Harry Morgan, University of Oxford,

“Music, Sensuality and Stagecraft in the Pseudo-Vergilian Copa”

Ferdinand Stürner, Universität Würzburg,

“The Songs of Teuthras in Silius Italicus: Augustan Musical Theory in Post-Augustan Epic?”

11:15-11:30: Break

11:30-12:30: **Session 12**

### **Nachleben II: The Twentieth Century**

Presider: James Lowe, John Burroughs School

Philip Barnes, John Burroughs School,

“The Eclogues in Brazil: Singing an ‘Oráculo’ for the New Republic”

Maria Venuso, Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II,

“Dancing Vergil Today: Mark Morris Rewrites Dido’s Drama”

12:30-1:30: Lunch

1:30 – 5:00:

## **Excursion**

Excursion to Monte di Procida and the Naples Archaeological Museum

7:30 Dinner





5/5/2016

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# Iter Vergilianum

*.. a journey into the footsteps of Aeneas – written contributions to ‘Sortes’*



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## Alison Merrington

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How to describe a visit to the Villa Vergiliana Study Centre! The experiences of each day surpassed those of the preceding one.

On arrival we pause at the gloomy environs of the Lacus Avernus to imagine birds plummeting mid-flight – victims of the sulphurous fumes. Then, passing under a Roman arch, finally we catch sight of the Villa. It is mellow yellow in colour with fruitful grounds spread round it. Lemon trees, vines and tomato plants grow in profusion mingling with the scarlet poppies and a tumbling amphitheatre. Somewhere a goat bleats and a cock crows.

Although a haven of tranquility, the Villa is just a short bus journey from the chaos of the city of Naples and its nice cultural heritage. A particular highlight for me was studying the treasures of the National Archeological Museum: particularly the monumental sculptures ‘rescued’ from the Baths of Caracalla. As a classicist no visit to the Villa would be complete without time spent at the acropolis at Cumae imagining Aeneas’ arrival in Italy as described in Aeneid VI. Following pious Aeneas footsteps we ascended to the temple and surveyed the superb view – spotting the Villa in the distant hills. Then we imagined Aeneas’ descent into the underworld. Of course Vesuvius looms over the area both literally, dominating the horizon, and metaphorically captivating the imagination. Its destructive force – catastrophic for Pompeii and Herculaneum in 79 A.D. is what draws most of us to the area. Out of destruction has emerged the most fascinating time capsules preserving every day features – door knobs; graffiti; house names as well as extraordinary mosaics and frescos of amazing vitality still in situ in Poppaea’s Villa at Oplontis.

Our group attempted to experience the impact of the eruption upon its inhabitants by carrying out a photographic assignment. By dramatizing three stages of the eruption; the initial realization of the impending catastrophe; the attempt at flight and then the ultimate ending-death, we could empathise with the final moments of the inhabitants of Herculaneum.

Pliny the Younger gave a vivid account of his uncle’s final days. This account is vividly brought to life if recounted at the top of Vesuvius overlooking the bay where the events took place. The panoramic view alone makes the climb worthwhile. Of course, the volcano is only dormant and may erupt at any moment. A visit to Solfatara reveals that the Antagean Fields are still fiery. Sulphurous fumes still issue forth leaving a tarnish on the rocks. Smoke vomits out of the earths’ core. The temperature scorches at incredible temperatures. Shoulders burn as they touch bare rock.

Apart from the wonderful heritage sights and the amazing food produced daily by the villa’s team, what has been special about this trip? In short; many things. It has been valuable to discuss different pedagogic techniques. Completing assignments such as the filming project in Herculaneum or the production of our mosaics (regardless of artistic confidence) has required us to ‘step out of our comfort zones’, helping me to understand how my students can sometimes feel. However, having completed the projects it has deepened my understanding. Discussing our extremely varied experiences of teaching classics in four different countries has broadened my cultural understanding. Most importantly, I have bonded with 23 great friends and can’t wait to come back to Villa Vergiliana.

Alison Merrington – Esher High School, Esher, United Kingdom



## Daan van Loon

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I remember receiving an email from a colleague at my school concerning a studytrip for classicists. I had not thought that this innocent email would result in this; me, sitting on a sofa in a lovely villa near Naples, next to a Brit and a Brazilian, writing this review. It has been an amazing week; I had not been in the region before and it has surpassed my expectations. As my background is more one of a historical linguist as opposed to a true classicist, my exploits in Italy have been minimal. I had been to Rome in the past, but I was not prepared for the beauty of the surroundings of the Villa Vergiliana.

It would be unfair to the wonderful cultural sites I have seen in the past days just to dwell on the legendary quality of the food served at the villa. It would not be right to ignore the majestic view from the top of Mount Vesuvius, by only mentioning how the social dynamics of the group enhanced the experience immensely. I won't go on about how the weather was lovely as well, with the danger of sounding like a enormous optimist. It might be hard to contain the experience in only a short review, but I hope I will be able to express my gratitude and admiration to the organisation that has made this trip possible.

The guidance of Léon Herrman was inspiring, his words really made the scenes come to life. His way of drawing us into the historical background was something I will try to confer to my students in the future. The question “can you see?” was raised several times by him, and I think, in the end, we all saw. We saw dead birds dropping from the sky at the Lacus Avernus, we saw the ships of Aeneas arriving at the akropolis of Cuma, the cave of the sybil (twice!), the infernal qualities of the Sulfatara and much, much more. We, all of the participants, were students again for a couple of days, following our knowledgeable leader.

I will be returning home again tomorrow, and I do not want to go home at all. Sitting here, listening to all the stories of the other classicists has been truly inspiring. We traded stories on teaching techniques, the pros and cons of academic life and how to transfer our knowledge, and it was a really full villa of knowledge the past few days, to others, be they student or other. As a young teacher, I can confidently say that I have been through one of the most formative experiences as a classical languages teacher here at the villa.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Vergilian Society for enabling me to spend the week here. I did not know what to expect, but have been blown away by the tremendous ambiance of the villa, the organisation and the participants. I will certainly be returning here someday, one way or the other.

Daan van Loon – Insula College, Zeist, the Netherlands

## Merel Somhorst

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These last few days I've had the privilege to join a wonderfully enthusiastic, dedicated, learned and eager group of teachers on a beautiful studytrip. With the Harry Wilks Study Centre in Cuma - our beloved Villa Vergiliana – as our home base, we visited archeological sites such as Herculaneum, the Villa Poppaea, Paestum and the acropolis of Cuma. We wondered at the mysteriousness of the Piscina Mirabilis, we concurred the windswept Vesuvius and through all this traced the footsteps of Aeneas, Vergilius, Plinius, Romans, Greeks... of history.

For me it was very special to be back here, after having visited the Villa as a student myself ten years ago, now I returned as co-study leader. There were three workshops I particularly would introduce/explain/coach/instruct: First making three film stills set in Herculaneum, secondly creating your own Grand Tour portrait at the Villa Popaea and last making your own Roman Mural or Fresco. I had myself experienced how students deal with similar assignments, had seen the enthusiasm, creativity, and the freshness of their approach. In the weeks before our trip I worried if a group of educated adults would be as 'easy'... I need not have worried! Every single person of our wonderful group made an effort to do their best in each assignment. Even if they secretly (as some told me later) did not feel very comfortable or confident at the start. I hope they all felt inspired to do these or similar exercises with their own students.

These past few days have marveled me. It has been an incredible experience to see a group of people growing closer together. By shared interest and expertise but also by interest in the cultural differences between members from different countries. I have felt honored to learn from them and feel even more honored to realize that they might have learned from me.

The Villa, the familia; Baggio, Maria, Simon, Anna and of course wonderful Mina, have made all of us feel so at home, so welcome, so taken care of. There could not have been a more beautiful place to come home to after a long day of marvelous sites, engaging stories and countless impressions.

I am so happy León asked me to help him on this trip. It was great to again experience his engaging, humorous and lively way of teaching and telling stories that bring ruins to life. It has been even more special to be able to assist him in teaching this time. With the help of our other colleagues on this trip, Otto and Wietse, these past days have felt so well arranged. They worked so hard to solve problems, prepare assignments or presentations, answer questions, etc. and they always did it with a smile. Not to mention all the preparations they did in advance and the work they do to document all the fruits of this week; the photographs, stories and assignments. As a team we were very well attuned; helping, arranging, looking after, guiding, listening, assisting, teaching. I would not have wanted to do this without them.

I want to thank the Vergilian Society of America for giving me – for giving all of us - the opportunity to go on this journey. An experience I will never forget. I look forward to the next time I will be in the Villa Vergiliana. Because I am certain I will return to this beautiful place. As I hope many other members of this group will do with their students.

Merel Somhorst – co study leader, Foundation Alumni Villae Vergilianae, the Netherlands

## Maria Laura Macchini

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Raccontare in 500 parole l'esperienza che ho appena concluso è difficile perché mi si affastellano nella mente tante emozioni, idee, riflessioni, ricordi: cercherò di selezionarne alcune, le più urgenti e importanti.

E' stata prima di tutto una gioia per i sensi, tutti ugualmente sollecitati. Un esempio? Gli occhi, colpiti dalla bellezza dei paesaggi ora solari e magnifici, ora malinconici o inquietanti. Quando il martedì mattina saliamo al Vesuvio, è nuvoloso e molto ventoso. L'autobus ci ha portato quasi sulla cima ma l'ultimo tratto lo si deve fare a piedi. Il vento per fortuna ci spinge da dietro. La vista è superba: possiamo ammirare tutto il golfo, da Capo Miseno a Sorrento. Come in una carta vediamo Cuma all'estremità destra, Pozzuoli, Napoli enorme, Ercolano, Pompei, Stabia... Il cratere è impressionante. Leggiamo la lettera di Plinio il giovane che racconta di come lo zio abbia sacrificato la sua vita in nome della scienza. Egli vuole osservare da vicino l'eruzione che come un grande pino si innalza dalla montagna: si imbarca da Capo Miseno per andare in un luogo da cui molti avrebbero voluto fuggire! Infreddoliti ascoltiamo quelle parole in silenzio mentre il vento continua implacabile: riviviamo quei terribili momenti.

L'udito è una componente essenziale per apprendere, riflettere, emozionarci. Le nostre esplorazioni, infatti, sono quasi tutte accompagnate dalla lettura di brani di autori antichi o contemporanei che hanno la funzione di evocare atmosfere, far rivivere emozioni, chiarire concetti. Durante la visita alla "Piscina mirabilis" una pagina del romanzo di R. Harris "Pompei" evoca il giovane protagonista Attilio, fiero del suo ruolo di "aquarius": ed io lo vedo intento ad apprezzare la solidità dell'edificio, la sua stupefacente grandezza, il suo perfetto funzionamento scandito dallo sgocciolio. Lo stesso effetto è provocato dalla lettura di alcuni versi dell'Eneide davanti l'antro della sibilla a Cuma o sulle rive del Lago d'Averno. L'ascolto sollecita l'immaginazione e questa fissa le conoscenze e la memoria.

Anche il tatto ha un ruolo fondamentale: la superficie ruvida della pietra o la massa pastosa della calce del nostro "affresco" provocano in noi ora brividi di freddo, ora piacevole rilassamento.

Non ultimi gusto e olfatto: per la squisitezza del cibo della cucina di casa Sgariglia (superbe le zeppole con fiori di zucca e ricotta!), per il profumo del mare, dei limoni del giardino della Villa o delle rose di Paestum, così come per l'aspro sentore delle capre dell'orto della Villa, dell'umidità nei sotterranei dell'Anfiteatro Flavio di Pozzuoli, dello zolfo della Solfatara. E' facile qui immaginare perché il luogo fu connesso all'Ade: la terra gorgoglia, ribolle e fuma. La crosta terrestre infatti è così sottile che affiorano vapori e getti caldi di zolfo e altri elementi. Per dimostrarlo, la nostra preziosa guida, Leon, ci divide in due gruppi. Un gruppo fa un salto e gli altri sentono come la terra trema! O ancora, ci accovacciamo in quello che viene chiamato "Inferno" o "Purgatorio" per provare il calore dei soffioni.

Si vuole promuovere una conoscenza attiva, empirica. Questa è un'altra componente essenziale del viaggio. Mi colpisce durante ogni visita il fatto che le notizie fornite sui luoghi, sulla loro storia, sulle vicende ad essi legate, non sono mai accademiche né pedanti ma hanno l'obiettivo di coinvolgere e interessare. Inoltre si punta sempre all'essenziale: pochi elementi ma significativi. Il problema della didattica nella scuola italiana

è invece la dispersione in una miriade di nozioni e particolari che perdono di vista l'obiettivo: formare intelligenze critiche.

Per me è una grande opportunità: mi trovo nei panni di uno studente e constato come vengano costantemente promossi l'apprendimento, le domande, l'osservazione attiva e inoltre il divertimento. Le attività sono sempre volte a sollecitare l'immaginazione, i sentimenti, così che "sentiamo" prima di imparare, o meglio, "sentiamo" per capire e apprendere!

Ad Ercolano, ad esempio, facciamo un'attività che vuole farci rivivere l'eruzione del vulcano. Veniamo divisi in 3 gruppi, ogni gruppo deve scattare tre foto che rappresentino la sorpresa del primo avvistamento della nube subito dopo lo scoppio; una seconda foto che ritragga il tentativo di fuga; una terza che raffiguri la morte. La nostra squadra sceglie di farlo attraverso particolari: dita tese verso il cielo, corpi protesi nella fuga, accartocciati nella morte. I miei capelli sono un prezioso anche se inattuale elemento! E ancora a Oplonti, nella villa di Poppea, in piccoli gruppi 2-3 persone cerchiamo la location per il nostro ritratto del Grand Tour! Fronti pensose, libri aperti, sguardi contemplativi o sognanti, schiene appoggiate a colonne, pareti cremisi o ocra, sono un perfetto sfondo.

Ma non perdiamo mai di vista la bellezza di un luogo che riusciamo ad apprezzare concedendoci un tempo sufficientemente lungo per mangiare, chiacchierare, leggere, riflettere, bighellonare. I grandi alberi che a Paestum si alternano ai resti magnifici dei templi, i ciuffi d'erba che crescono sui cornicioni, le pietre sparse a terra in un disordine armonioso sono gli elementi di un paesaggio che entra attraverso gli occhi, passa filtrato dalle immagini dei quadri dei pittori del '600 o delle incisioni di Piranesi e va dritto al cuore. Un grazie alla Fondazione per aver permesso tutto questo, ma un grazie speciale va a Leon Hermann, una guida e un maestro speciale, ai suoi tre studenti, aiutanti e compagni di viaggio preziosi!

Maria Laura Macchini – Liceo A. Pieralli, Perugia, Italy



## Adrian McMahon

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My time in Campania and at the Villa Vergiliana was a thoroughly enriching experience that I will not soon forget. It was such a privilege to be part of this study tour which took us to so many magnificent, thought provoking places. There were several highlights to mention. Approaching the unassuming entrance to the Piscina Mirabilis in Bacoli I could never have imagined that such a wonder of Roman architecture and technology was below my feet. The scope and scale of this project really does invite students to wonder about what innovations still remain undiscovered to us. Herculaneum surprised me in how compact and well-preserved it is, it really did give you a real feel for what life was like. Seeing the victims huddled in the boat houses was the first time we were confronted with the human aspect of the eruption. I feel students would really embrace and connect to this part of the tour, and the group task was well placed here. Walking the streets of Pompeii was another high point, at once awe inspiring and strangely familiar. In taking part in this trip I learned of the practicalities (weather, amenities) as well as the theoretical aspects of bringing students to these places. The choice as well as the sequence of the locations we visited was inspired, successfully weaving the geography of the region with Virgil's narrative. This is definitely a consideration I wouldn't have fully appreciated had I not taken part. There is an overwhelming amount of potential things to see, artefacts to muse over. Leon carefully chose and explained only a handful at each location, making the trip accessible, stimulating and encouraging our independence. I feel that trips such as this have the danger of bombarding and potentially isolating students but Leon's itinerary was inclusive and engaging.

It was really interesting to hear the perspectives of the other participants. The mix of experiences, ages and backgrounds led to a variety of interpretations. It's rare that teachers of various countries get an opportunity to interact and it was fascinating to learn how each country teaches the classics and how this impacts their viewpoints. Although I was admittedly daunted by the prospect of the group tasks, they were incredibly valuable at immersing us in the culture and fostering cooperation within the group. Any shyness quickly evaporates when you're tasked with acting out running from an erupting Vesuvius, believe me! I would definitely adopt similar tasks if I were to organise my own trip. With the creative tasks (like the poetry writing) there was no expectation of greatness, just a commitment to trying. I believe this unjudgemental atmosphere was the reason that this task in particular was so successful. I felt people revealed themselves, showcasing incredible creativity which in turn led to a greater sense of connection in the group. Another important learning for me was how to contextualise and explain certain points on our journey. Leon was masterful at drawing us in and connecting ideas in a way that never felt didactic. His imagination, wit and ability as a 'storyteller' were inspiring and gave me food for thought as an educator. Finally the family and staff at the Villa Vergiliana epitomised Italian hospitality. Warm, inviting and amazingly organised, the family and the Villa offered the perfect retreat after a long day of exploration. The Villa itself was an idyllic, tranquil backdrop to our Vergilian adventure.

Adrien McMahon – Cardinal Newman Catholic School, Hove, Ireland

## Geert Buttiens

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I am very grateful to have had the chance of being involved in this five day study trip and of discovering several new places in Campania. The Villa Vergiliana offered us a very warm welcome and a homelike feeling, very different from the often rush-managed hotels in the city. After a day full of discoveries it is very nice to have a rich, abundant dinner in which you feel the love and pride of the 'familia'.

My first impression of the villa was the view from the room: an extraordinary scenery with the Roman amphitheatre and the sea at the background. Especially the amphitheatre was an ideal setting to learn more about my Dutch roommate and about his passion of Celtic heritage and linguistic connections between different languages, as we were contemplating and exchanging ideas about it, sitting on the steps. We spent some time on telling how each of us is teaching Latin and Greek and about the recent innovations on that theme. To bring home new ideas thanks to the colleagues from different countries will certainly be useful for our lessons.

The first night we spent making the first layer of what was supposed to become our own Roman fresco. We left this first attempt wondering if it would be cracking or not, discovering in the morning that it had cracked indeed... Thanks to the patience of Wietse and Otto who cared about the upper layer, we later could show our (modest) painting skills. For the first time in my life - at the age of 54 - I faced the challenge of drawing my own wall painting, based on one of the beautiful frescoes I saw the day before in the Archeological Museum of Naples. After all I'm quite proud of what I realised!

One of the most impressive buildings I never heard about before is the Piscina Mirabilis of Bacoli. I also enjoyed the site of the Cuman Akropolis with the House of the Sybil. Lots of Vergilian and Plinian texts I usually read with my students can apparently be linked to specific places. Being aware of that makes them much more 'living'. Standing on the windy top of Mount Vesuvius and on the ruins of Herculaneum one can imagine much better what happened on the time of the eruption as it is described by Plinius. Somehow you get much more aware of the fear and the feelings of people desperately running for their life. History always comes closer when you've been on the places where it took place.

At the end of the trip I'd like to thank with all my heart Leon and his very kind 'assistants' Merel, Otto and Wietse and of course the American Vergilian Society for offering me this unique chance. It will certainly not be the last time I came to Campania!

Geert Buttiens – Don Bosco Instituut Haacht, Belgium

## Lottie Mortimer

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Although very excited, I wasn't quite sure what to expect when I departed for Campania. However, I had an amazing trip and my time at the Villa Vergiliana will undoubtedly influence my future teaching in a variety of ways.

One thing that this trip consolidated for me was the importance of place and how to utilise location. It was something that I explored during my undergraduate degree, but so far seemed to have neglected to integrate into my teaching. When studying history, we have a tendency to study it in isolation, detached from its surroundings. Our visit to the temple of Apollo at the Acropolis at Cumae is a fantastic example of the influence of landscape on history, the entrance being changed to face a new arch/aqueduct. It would be difficult to gauge from a map, what is obvious by sight line.

It was also fascinating to engage with the geography and geology that underpins the region. It is easy to see why the Romans were drawn to the region. I still find the Sulfatara a rather mystical place today as the landscape is so alien and in places rather treacherous. In future I wish to include more of this geography to deepen understanding.

The national archaeological museum of Naples was another highlight for me. It was rather overwhelming to be surrounded by so many of the pieces of art that I had studied from books. Léon showed us some of the highlights. The piece that particularly struck me was the Farnese Bull. I don't think that I have seen such a magnificent sculpture. It is so detailed and every detail on it is there for a reason.

The trips to Pompeii and Herculaneum were one of the aspects of the trip that I was looking forward to the most, especially since I have been teaching the classes for the GCSE Classical Civilisation Pompeii and Herculaneum paper. As I wandered round both sites, I came up with many ideas on how I can improve my teaching of the module. One example of this was an idea to approach learning about the various villas in a way compared to real estate today. Also as someone who teaches from the Cambridge Latin Course, it was almost a pilgrimage to find the House of Caecilius and we were devastated to find that it was closed. Nevertheless, we still peered through the covering, managing to catch sight of the atrium and impluvium.

However, the experience that I will treasure most is one in which my students wouldn't share if I were to bring them here. The U.K. is a very insular country and it has been very special to be able to exchange cultures with our Italian, Dutch and Belgian friends. It was particularly moving to listen to their poems in their languages. I can't imagine getting another opportunity to listen to Portuguese or Flemish poetry again. It is currently a very contentious time in the UK with our upcoming decision whether to leave the EU. This trip has reinforced for me how important it is to work with people from other countries. It has been so insightful to learn about the teaching of Classics from a pan-European perspective and I hope that others will continue to get such opportunities in the future.

Lottie Mortimer – Sussex University / Farlington School Horsham, United Kingdom

## Beth Ewen

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Our 'journey in the footsteps of Aeneas' has been long and perilous including 78,000 steps, 32 miles and 395 flights of stairs from Lacus Avernus to Pompeii. The first day of our travels took us to a variety of locations from the busy centre of Naples and visit to the National Archaeological Museum to the serenity found at the acropolis of Cumae. This was however triumphed by the slightly windy but idyllic setting of the top of Mount Vesuvius the next day, my first ever experience of being on a volcano and followed in the afternoon by the Volcano Solfatara, a site which did not just express itself to you visually, but assaulted your sense of smell as well. Of all the places that I have been I shall not forget walking in the footsteps of those unfortunate enough to have lived in Herculaneum and Pompeii. Words cannot describe the emotions that confronted me as I moved my way through these cities and I was thankful to have such terrific guides to keep me and my mind from wandering aimlessly.

Staying at the Villa Vergiliana has made this trip a completely immersive experience of culture. It is situated in a tranquil location where there is evidence of past Roman life at every turn, such as the garden which is currently being excavated. For me, this was essential in complementing the sites we visited as it consistently provided us with a more traditional experience and a better understanding of the rural life of the Romans. I cannot write a review without mentioning the unbelievable cuisine that we were served every night. Multiple courses of true Italian cooking were presented to us, and often our taste buds overruled our head as we feasted on traditional and authentic cuisine.

I have already mentioned the wonders that my eyes have beheld since during my trip to Italy, however I feel that it is important to state that such wonders would not have been as appreciated without the hard work of Leon and his team of past students. With so much to see and so little time, it would have been impossible without the hard work and planning that was clearly spent months before the trip into organising an itinerary and selecting the highlights of each place that would be visited. During the visits no questions were too big or too small to be asked creating the perfect atmosphere for studying and a very approachable group of guides. I would now feel confident in taking the role on myself with a group of students following their example.

Before leaving for Italy I was quite daunted by the prospect of the assignments which asked me to express myself creatively, both whilst in a group and individually. It made me consider my teaching practice and how students may also feel when confronted with projects outside of their comfort zones. Fortunately, through the inspiration created by the atmosphere of the place and the group I was able to create my own fresco and poem reflecting on my trip. Whilst this last project had struck fear into my heart throughout the week, words did come to all and experiences were shared. For someone who does not consider themselves a sentimental person, I am surprised to say that the sharing of our poems was a moving and bonding activity which I would consider one of the highlights of my week.

It is with a heavy heart that I have had to say goodbye to the villa and those who I have met here. Heavy with sadness but also with joy in the knowledge of the experiences that we have shared and the hope that we might one day return together. I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to Vergilian Society and all those who have made this the most magical study trip possible.

Beth Ewen – Sussex University, United Kingdom



## Juliana Costa-Veysey

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I first saw the advertisement for the Vergilian Society's iter Vergilianum - a journey in the footsteps of Aeneas in the Classics Library. After I overcame my disbelief, I emailed Leon who impressed me with his prompt and polite response. Other emails followed, all informative and perfectly-timed.

I arrived earlier than the rest of the group with Lottie but I was rewarded for the early start with a visit to Lake Avernus and a pit-stop at the Arch Felice. I was almost as struck by the topography of Naples as by the Classical features- in a way, I thought that the environment reflected Campania and its uninterrupted and yet ever changing history from ancient times to today. I was fascinated by Leon's explanation of lake Avernus, which was a combination of the poetic and the historical, challenging our perception of what is authentic and historical. Just as some of us might smirk at the Roman belief of a bottomless lake, the Romans can get their revenge by never quite revealing the location of the sybil.

Arriving at the villa was breathtaking and remained so every time we returned to it from our trips- the narrow road opened into the beautiful sight of the villa, with its fruit trees and amphitheatre overgrown with poppies. The meals were indescribably magnificent, the love and care in its preparation and serving, the freshness of the ingredients sourced from the villa and the camaraderie shared with all will stay with me for a long time.

I really enjoyed climbing the Vesuvius, as I felt connected with what I feel is the catalyst for the region's best and worst fortunes; it also reminded me of Petrarch's 'Ascent of Mount Ventoux' in which he quoted lines from St Augustine that have inspired me since I was very young "People are moved to wonder by mountain peaks, by vast waves of the sea, by broad waterfalls on rivers, by the revolutions of the stars. But in themselves, they are uninterested'. And this to me captures the reason why we should look to the classics, to the difficult climbs, to what stretches us. The trip made me come out of my comfort zone- writing poetry or painting frescoes, as I originally imagined, were just a means of learning how to teach my pupils and to make the learning of the Classical world more enjoyable for children of different abilities and inclinations. However, I noticed that although I am willing to give children the chance to experiment and build their confidence on a daily basis, I am not as kind to myself as perhaps I should be.

I thought when I first enrolled for this study trip, that it would be a great opportunity for me to see the sights that I have studied and described to my students for so long, in order to improve my subject knowledge but It was also a transformational journey, much like that in Dante's Commedia - with Virgil as our firm-footed guide.

Juliana Costa-Veysey – Notre Dame School, Cobham, United Kingdom

## Hannah Murray

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I leave Campania with a heavy heart after a hugely memorable five days. I have visited some Classical sites for the first time as well as getting much that was fresh and new out of ones I thought I knew, having visited them previously. Many new friendships have also been forged under the magnificent dominating presence of Vesuvius.

It is only now at the end of the tour that I realise how cleverly and perfectly planned our itinerary was by the incomparable Léon. Standing on the shore of the Lacus Avernus on our way back from the airport was the frame into which the rest of our trip was set. The atmosphere and history of the place was captured brilliantly in his talk and the recitation of the relevant passage in Aeneid VI. After just this first visit I was making mental notes on this exemplary way to enable pupils to get the most out of a site visit.

It is hard to identify a highlight, but I think it has to be the Piscina Mirabilis into which we descended on the second day. This cathedral-like underground structure is a beautiful testament to the unimaginably advanced techniques of Roman engineering. When we later walked down the streets of Herculaneum, wandered round the cavernous area below the Flavian amphitheatre at Pozzuoli or looked over the bay to Cape Misenum from the Acropolis at Cumae, thoughts kept returning to the water supply which sustained so many thousands of Romans in the area. The visit to Paestum was truly divine. Another insightful opening talk by Léon put the site in its context and again he encouraged us to see it through our students' eyes, considering what their initial thoughts and confusions might be. I shall not forget sitting reading my guidebook amongst the Spring flowers in the sunshine with the three beautiful temples as the backdrop.

I feel hugely thankful to the Vergilian Society of America for enabling me to join this study tour. And then there is the 'dream team' of Léon, Merel, Otto and Wietse! What a fertile atmosphere they have created - much laughter to counter the more serious work of visiting sites and truly incredible thought and planning in producing the exemplary booklet, our daily programme and fun evening activities. One unexpected outcome of the trip has been valuable discussions on the teaching of Classics in schools. I have been struck by the healthy state of Latin in the Netherlands and Belgium - oh to have four hours of Latin a week with a class! I return to Oxford ready to evangelise about Villa Vergiliana and all it represents, and sincerely hope to return, this time bringing a school party so I can share with my pupils and colleagues what I have experienced. And for the rest of my life whenever I teach or read about the Sibyl and Aeneas I will remember the jokes and giggles our party had.

Hannah Murray – Faculty of Classics, University of Oxford, United Kingdom

## James Tuck

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There were many highlights to our tour. One of the most impressive visits for me was the Museum at Paestum. The flowers growing in the fields surrounding the buildings, as well as the glorious sunshine added to the ambiance of the scene. We saw various temples to Ceres or Hera to Poseidon, and questioned the evidence on which the assumptions were based. Similarly, some of the temples were assigned very precise dates. The mystery surrounding the swimming pool of one temple remained unresolved. Was it like St. Mary de la Mer in Spain where the image of the goddess was carried through the streets into the sea, though in this case it ended up into a swimming pool within the temple. Possibly. Though one suspects it may have had a more practical use as a normal swimming pool for the rest of the year.

The atmosphere during my stay at the villa was fantastic. The food was excellent and the company was even better. Leon was an excellent 'tour guide' who provided useful background information with humour.

The group was very international with the majority of scholars from the UK and the Netherlands, with others from Ireland, Belgium, Brazil and France. There were many funny moments which are too numerous to mention. Most involved a bizarre but well-dressed Englishman, some intentionally, others not.

The lemons in the garden of the villa were very large, abundant and beautiful and inspired frescoes and poetry.

We also visited the Acropolis of Cumae with a beautiful view over the bay, where it was easy (with the thanks of Leon's evocative commentary) to envisage ships of Aeneas' fleet coming into the harbour and seeing the golden roof of the temple shining in the sunlight, acting as a lighthouse to safely guide the ships. We learned that the temple had been adapted during the reign of Augustus with the extension to the temple acting as a viewing platform where one could see the arch of the aqueduct, also built during the reign of Augustus, thus linking the two prominent landmarks which linked Augustus to Aeneas. One had read the text many times, but coming here and standing on the top of the acropolis with lizards crawling over the bare stone, one was able to really imagine the scene as if one were transported back in time several thousand years.

Another highlight was the poetry reading on the roof-top of the villa with the setting sun providing the perfect backdrop glistening on the sea with a view of the amphitheatre in the grounds of the villa. The poetry was wide-ranging and inspiring, from the humorous to the moving and profound. One member of the group even sung a song based on a father and daughter who died in the eruption of Vesuvius which was so moving that it brought several members of the group to tears.

Finally, the intellectual discussions in the library late at night accompanied by original music from one member of our very talented group was my idea of Elysium and was the perfect end to a wonderful week.

James Tuck – Sussex University, United Kingdom

## Ben Lovett

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I have been teaching history at Meoncross School for more than 3 years. As Head of History, I have responsibility for the design, structure and delivery of the subject throughout the school for 11-18 year old students.

2 years ago as Head of History, I made the decision to expand the History curriculum to include GCSE Ancient History. I have no background in this area and no formal training so everything I learnt, planned and delivered from scratch. It was a real challenge with limited support, but very satisfying to open myself to the world of Classics, as well as to open our students minds to this new world.

Last year, our school saw the founding of a Sixth Form Centre, to allow students to stay on to pursue their studies with us rather than move on to college before university. As part of this, we have further expanded our curriculum to teach and deliver A Level (16-18 year old) Classics. This is a significant move forward and a further step in the right direction for the ground up establishment of a Classics Department.

The opportunity therefore, to take part in a Classics study tour funded by the American Vergilian Society has been of enormous assistance. The trip is the first ever formal support offered to our school in the support of Classics. It paves the way for further expansion and interest in Classics at our school, giving us direction and encouragement to continue to allow this subject to flourish.

The guidance of Leon Herman has shown us the method of guiding students into and around the past. His technique of tempting the student with imagination through use of ancient sources is impressive and a worthwhile skill that I intend to follow, whatever period of study. A good example is the use of Plinys letters, read in Latin at the summit of Vesuvius and translated for us on the spot made for a vivid picture to be formed.

An aspect of the study tour around the ancient ruins of Naples that we must mention is the support given by the energetic and sincere Alumni team. Their seamless teamwork and guidance enabled us to work together to enjoy the study tour immensely and they should be very proud of this achievement, not only for themselves but as representatives of the Society and their country. Their inspiration, taken from Leon, is further utilised to bring much enjoyment on each visit, their expertise being invaluable.

As a small educational establishment that prides itself on individualised learning, The Meoncross School continues its expansion into the teaching and learning of Classics with a new member of staff being appointed for September 2016. It is hoped that the History and Classics department, with the experience of the Vergilian Study Tour, will grow in strength further to include the reintroduction of Latin and perhaps even Greek language as part of its ever growing curriculum. We can only hope.

I must thank Leon and his young team for allowing us the unique experience and for bringing a wide range of teachers together from all over the EU for what is a memorable visit into the lives of the Ancient Romans and Greeks around the Bay of Naples.

Ben Lovett – Meoncross, Fareham, United Kingdom

## Siebe van der Horst

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A real classicist remembers the first time he or she entered the Forum Romanum, imagining Cicero delivering a speech or the pontifex maximus preparing an offer, or the first time he or she saw the Akropolis, walking on an Athenian street, turning a corner and being impressed by the beauty of the Parthenon. I will remember the first time I visited the Villa Vergiliana, being able to see the most beautiful places of Campania, following in the footsteps of Aeneas and admiring the most striking examples of Ancient culture. As a teacher of Latin and just having rounded off my lessons for my highest classes, which, last year, had to prepare various parts of the Aeneid for their final exams, I just can not help but smile when I realize I stay in Cumae, a few hundred meters from the place where the Trojans, led by Aeneas himself, landed on Italian shores, on their way to become the ancestors of Roman civilization. If I look closely between the lashes of my eye, I can see Aeneas wandering past the villa on his way to Apollo's temple, built on the place where Daedalus landed after having flown away from Crete and still mourning the tragical death of his son. (This morning, I saw Daedalus himself flying as well. I assure you.) I can see Aeneas going to the Sibylle's cave and being led by her to the Underworld, in order to meet the spirit of his dead father Anchises, who will show him the great figures and achievements of the Roman future. I just saw him, at the shores of Lacus Avernus, the entrance of the Underworld. I just saw Pliny as well, giving his men orders to fetch some water from the Piscina Mirabilis at Cape Misenum and to prepare a ship in order to start his rescue operation which ultimately will lead to his death at Stabiae. I try to warn him, but he does not listen. How come I see these figures I am so familiar with by years of study and teaching? Did I drink too much Monte Vesuvio-wine? Have I been in the Campanian sun for far too long? Did I eat too much pasta for dinner? (It may be, because I ate a lot, deliciously prepared by the villa's friendly staff. Grazie.) No. It is because of the great atmosphere in the villa and in the region of Campania. For a real classicist, after reading Vergil, Pliny, Tacitus or another great classical author in the villa's library and after visiting the places these stories take place in, just around the corner, it is just impossible not to see Aeneas, Pliny or other Romans before your eyes, as if you can touch them. I will remember the first time I visited Villa Vergiliana.

Siebe van der Horst – Scala College, Alphen a.d. Rijn, the Netherlands

## Marian Heesen

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Tonight, as I am busy writing this, I have been staying at the Villa from May 1st. The actual date is May 4<sup>th</sup>, but it feels like I have been here for weeks. Due to a wonderful group of people, a dreamlike setting, a very interesting program and an excellent management team, time has changed: it has flown, but at the same time has thickened. So many activities in so few days!

In my school I am a history teacher as well as the coordinator for international activities. When I saw the invitation to take part in this study trip I was really thrilled. I am always looking for interesting study trips to destinations that connect to the curriculum of our students. But also it has been a long time wish for me personally to visit Campania. This is why I am very happy I could join this group.

Being an historian initially I felt a bit unsure about taking part: I assumed all other members of the group to be classicists. This fear proved to be not very useful. The group was very mixed: different disciplines, different countries, different ages, all brought together under the roof of this beautiful villa. I decided to prepare well and read the texts of Vergil, Plinius and the poetry Leon sent us. Of course I know these texts, but reading them for historical purposes is different from reading literature. This was the first border I crossed, and there were a few more to come. At daytime we were very busy visiting Cuma, Herculaneum, Vesuvius and the unbelievable Sulfaterra, in the evenings we were made to do some challenging assessments. Teachers, always telling students what to do and not to be afraid, now did experience how difficult it can be to do difficult things such as making a fresco, making a poem or dying in the streets of Ercolano. We crossed some borders indeed!

My stay in the villa will also stay in my mind because of the exquisite cuisine of the Sgariglia family. The meals were elaborate and very, very nice. And to be sure, I have not known anybody who stayed in a villa with an amphitheatre on the premises.

Tomorrow I will go home, and back at school I will tell my fellow teachers about the Villa Vergiliana. We will try to work out some plan to involve a study trip in our program of internationalization at our school. I really hope this will be possible. I would propose a trip including visits to archeological sites, to geographical and geological phenomena. We would also want to visit an Italian school; we think it important to bring our students in contact with society and people of modern Italy as well.

For now, I want to thank the Vergiliana society for giving me the opportunity to get to know Campania and the villa. Thanks to our tour leaders Leon and Merel this trip has been absolutely fabulous!

Marian Heesen - Haarlem – The Netherlands - Lyceum Sancta Maria



## Kaat Couderé

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Having the opportunity of spending five days in Campania was great! I've been reading the text of Vergilius with my students for the last twenty years, so this journey was really fitted to me. I like arts, I like archeology. Every year I come with my students to Italy and guide them through the remains of antiquity. It was a strange but good feeling to stand at the other side of the line and just listen to what someone else has to tell about the old stones. Léon was doing a great job, we all were always very attentive. It was fantastic to see the stones, the artefacts and the landscape coming to life with the text of Vergilius or Plinius. Every night, it was raining, but every day there was the sun again with that typical 'Southern-Italy-feeling'.

After a bad start – a chaotic departure at Brussels Airport (as a result of the terrorist attacks) and lost luggage in Napels – I met my fellow travelers at a coffee-bar in the airport. During the next days I experienced they as friendly, nice and sympathetic people with the same enthusiasm and interest in antiquity. There was immediately a good connection.

Although I've often been in Italy, I've have visited now places I've never seen. A place I always will remember as it was so remarkable, is the piscine mirabilis. The atmosphere there was so special, like a secret under the ground. A fantastic building with arches and high columns just... to fill with water! Another special moment was when we were standing on the top of the acropolis of Cumae. There is not so much to see, only some old stones, no buildings. But by the poem of Vergilius, the temple of Apollo was rebuilt and I saw the ships of Aeneas coming to the coast.

Of course, for a Latin teacher these is all very interesting. But even more important perhaps was to meet people of different countries – UK/ The Netherlands/Italy/Belgium – all with the same passion. Beside visiting all the interesting places, it was for me as five days of holiday. We were talking (of our school systems but also about our children)and laughing and having a good time.

And last but not least, I must mention the fantastic and warm welcome in the Villa Vergiliana. The food was amazing and very abundant, not exactly a weight-loosing-diet!

I could mention a few minor points for those days, such as seeing the sea all the time, but never having the opportunity of feeling the water and the sand at your feet, or the bed I slept in that was not really of a good quality. But these things have no importance comparing with the good things I described. So I really want to thank the Association for this wonderful experience.

Kaat Couderé – O.L.V. van Lourdescollege, Mariakerke, Belgium

## Muriel de Martelaere

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A very special journey. What made it special was the link we made with the texts of Vergilius and the background of mythology. It started at the Lacus Avernus with the story of birds who couldn't cross it and the cave of the sybilla. The second day, we were very impressed by the majesty of the piscina Mirabilis. And then imagine that all this beautiful structure was destined to be under the water all the time!

Napels Museo Nazionale Archeologico is one of the most interesting I ever saw. Some sculptures eg. "Toros Farnese", Hercules became more understandable with Léon's very clear explanations. The Gabinetto Segreto was also very surprising.

Further this day, we visited the Amphitheatrum Pozzuoli with the particular underground area. It was difficult to imagine how the animals must have been hellish down there in ancient time. And at last the acropolis of Cumae. There, an excerpt of the Aeneas was read by one of the participants, explaining how Aeneas arrived there. Igniting our imagination, it was as if he had just arrived on the golden shores of Cumae.

For me, the most expected moment came on Tuesday with the climb to the top of the Vesuvius. I wasn't disappointed at all. I was impressed by the depth of the crater. The view we had of the bay was amazing with such a clear weather. Again we listened to an excerpt in Latin and translated in English. What an experience. As a logical continuation, after that, we visited Herculaneum. There we fulfilled our first assignment: take three pictures in group, of the situation of the frightened, running and dying people of Herculaneum: in an original manner to realise how they felt in this short moment of discovering what would happen to them.

We met the story of Nero at the Villa Poppaea where beautiful frescoes surprised us. And the last excursion brought us to Volcano Solfatara, with the smell of sulfur, the trembling earth and the hot smoke coming out. But this interesting day was not finished yet: we had to work at the frescoes we prepared the first evening. The result was not too bad. At the end of the evening we could admire the pictures we made in Herculaneum and Villa Poppaea. What a day!

The last day of our stay, we went to Paestum. The Greek temples we saw here were extremely well conserved, making it easy to imagine the ancient Greeks walking into this area. Also the museum was interesting.

About the Villa Vergiliana: we appreciated the kindness of our hostess, the quality of the meals, the way we had the opportunity to know each other better and better, share our experiences of school, lessons, organisation of exchanges and journeys for students. The rooms and accommodation were clean, but the showers were cold! I also think that if I would come with students, I would appreciate to have a separate bathroom.

What I missed: being so close to Naples, I'm a little bit sad that we couldn't visit the city at all. We were in the museum and maybe the program should have allowed us to cross the city by bus and to have a walk between the most important buildings of the old city.

Muriel de Martelaere – St. Pietersinstituut, Gent, Belgium

## Wietske Veenstra

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The program of the trip promised me an exciting trip to Campania. I wasn't disappointed. Arriving on Sunday at the airport we were welcomed by our guide Léon. On the way to the Villa we visited the Lacus Avernus where our guide gave us a first taste of how our week was going to be. He took us back to Roman times by telling us interesting stories about the location.

After our visit to the lake we arrived at the Villa. I was amazed by the grandeur of the Villa; the impressive stairs to the entry, the high ceilings and at the same time the feeling of 'coming home' in your own house (although my house isn't even one-tenth of the whole Villa). We were treated a wonderful three-course dinner finished by coffee and tea in the upstairs room. In the next days we visited numerous wonderful location with amazing interesting stories behind it. We retraced the footsteps of Aeneas at the acropolis of Cumae. We climbed mount Vesuvius and visited Herculaneum. We admired the great building skills of the Romans at the Piscina Mirabilis, the amfitheatre of Pozzuoli and the Villa Poppaea in Oplontis.

For the workshop 'painting your own fresco' we found inspiration in the Museo Archeologico in Naples. At the volcano Solfatara we discovered the aromas. On the last day we got a chance to see the Greek temples in Paestum and visit the museum.

Everyday started with an excellent breakfast with a large choice of products. Depending on the program, lunch was either served in the Villa or packed in a bag. Like the dinner and breakfast it was very good and diverse.

My week couldn't have been better. The Villa offered me a place where I could relax, and enjoy the company of others. The staff was extremely friendly. Thanks to our guide Léon I learned a lot and I could spend a week focusing on the wonderful sites instead of watching out for my students like I normally do or having to plan and find out where everything is myself.

My first visit at the Villa was amazing and hopefully it won't be my last!

Wietske Veenstra – Gerrit Komrij College, Winterswijk, the Netherlands

## Dana Olde Nordkamp

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When I received an invitation to stay at the Villa Vergiliana with a study group, I was really delighted. But then came the doubt. I don't know much about Latin or Greek language like the most of the group. I was educated in arts, theoretically and practically.

By now, at the end of the week, all my doubts are disappeared and I really wished my stay could have been a month longer... or a year. This short stay of only 5 days made me so eager to learn more about the language and culture, I bought 5 books to take home and study.

This location is really amazing. In this area you will find all the great things in history, just around the corner. You can actually walk in five minutes from a Greek temple to a Roman Amphitheatre. In Herculaneum you will walk from the 21th century, down history to 79 AD. Just follow the path and end up 20 meters under the nowadays surface of the earth, and walk past the bathhouses where the people would try to hide from the eruption of mount Vesuvius.

The nice surroundings, the sun, the beautiful nature with birds waking you up every morning, the view over the sea, it must have been that perfect when the Greek and Romans lived here. I can understand why they did come to make all those beautiful, impressive things. I only pity the Roman and Greek for not having the joy of the family Sgariglia, they are really great! Never I have been so lucky to sit at a table and are invited to eat all their delicious local meals. It's a feast. Everything is so tasteful and nice, I ate lots more than I do normally. I just had to eat it, even when my stomach was full. And I wasn't the only one, everyone at the table did the same. I couldn't get enough of all these delicious dishes, so I bought the book with all the recipes from the family. Looking forward to trying this at home and surprise my friends and family with really good food. Probably I can convince them to come with me to the Villa so I can show them the really inspiring place and let them take a trip down history.

At this moment, I strongly feel I should share this place with all its beauty in so many ways. I would like to bring the same joy, inspiration and lovingly admiring for all of the beauty over here to all my friends and family. I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to experience this all. I would thank the people who invited me and all the ones who made this trip so successfully.

Thank you all!

Dana Olde Nordkamp – Gerrit Komrijcollege, Winterswijk, the Netherlands

## Sarah Dineen

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Despite studying Classics at Exeter University in the UK (1982-5), training to teach (1985-6) and working as a Latin teacher from 1994 to the present day I have never had the opportunity to visit the Naples region of Italy – until now! It has been the most wonderful few days - the visits to the historical sites (of course) but also the hospitality at Villa Vergiliana, the fun and laughter with fellow classicists and the inspiring leadership by Léon Herrman have all exceeded my expectations.

The highlights of the trip for me include the visit to the Piscina Mirabilis, the day at Pompeii, listening to Wietse and Léon reading and translating Pliny's letter at the top of Mount Vesuvius and completing Leon's various assignments (despite being slightly anxious about these before coming!).

I would like to thank the Vergilian Society of America for giving me the chance to visit this fascinating area. It has been such a privilege to explore the historical sites with other classics teachers and Leon's teaching has not only brought the places to life but has also provided a wealth of ideas to use in the classroom and when leading similar trips myself.

I am returning to the UK inspired about the value and importance of my Latin teaching and keen to enthuse my students to visit this area too. Thank you.

Sarah Dineen – Kings School, Winchester, United Kingdom

## Wietse Jelsma

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Dear Reader,

I am writing my “Sortes” review here on the fourth of May 2016 in the grand hall of the Villa, the best place for inspiration one could say. Not that I would need any after a few days with an amazing group of newly made friends. After nine years I have the luck to visit the Villa once again!

I feel thankful and proud at the same time, being part of the group that assisted my old prof, Leon Herrman, in guiding, or “luring”, new teachers to the Villa. As a board member of the SAVV, Stichting Alumni Villa Vergiliana, I think it is great, attempting to get more students to Villa. I hope that it will keep this old and wonderful source of most sought inspiration alive. Where else, could one better wonder how it would be like, writing an epic story. I hope this trip has inspired our “first-time Villa students” in becoming the teachers they are, that bring their own young bright minds to this place.

It all started at the Lacus Avernus, after a short flight to Napoli and a brief meet & greet at the airport, where Leon told us where the cave of the Sybil wasn't. It left us wondering the whole trip where it would be. At dinner I was reminded of the great dinners we had so many years ago, Biagio and Maria haven't lost their touch, it was amazing!

The next morning down in the Piscina marvelling at the grandeur of the roman civil engineers. A much needed stop at the wonderful museum in Naples was included in the program as well. Leon walked us quickly through the museum, most of the teachers had trouble keeping up as the statues were asking them for just another quick glance, afterwards enough time to explore. That afternoon to the Acropolis, still no Sybil cave there, one of the best places to imagining Vergil sitting there and writing his story.

Early in the morning up the Vesuvius we went. An amazing view there, reciting Plinius, sparking the imagination of how it would have been “racing on speedboats” to save some people, what more could you ask for. Herculaneum was great, especially with the fun assignment of Merel that forced everybody in to looking at everything at a different angle. Grand tourists in the Villa Oplontis, posing as golden age travellers must have looked like in the old days. Another great assignment from Merel who gave such good direction and then let everybody free to give their photo a their own twist.

Next day, after making our own frescos, to Paestum or Poseidonia. Admiring the best preserved ancient Greek Temples in Italy! It brought back many memories as I had to do one of my student presentations there. Wannabe Olympic swimming pools turn out to be sacred places, as temples aren't properly named to their respective gods. The Diver at Paestum was out for a swim in the museum of Naples, we saw him there, the other tombs were painted way sadder than this icon. No wonder they are not iconic. Best thing for last, our poems, recited on the roof in the fading sunlight over the bay. Sad and happy poems walked hand in hand, so did tears and laughter.

Last day, travel day, back to the UK, Belgium, Italy and the Netherlands. All back to our boring lives compared to what it must have been. These few days were a blur, the memories to this great place will stay forever though. I hope I gave a quick impression of how I experienced these days with the teachers and Otto, Merel and Leon. Great group, an amazing time and still wondering about the Sybil cave.



I think it's a great and honourable thing to inspire new people and let them have a taste of what the best Italy has to offer. Thank you all for making this possible. I hope many new students will come in the next few to the Villa, we all have enclosed in our hearts.

Wietse Jelsma, Foundation Alumni Villae Vergilianae, Lochem, the Netherlands

## Otto Schepers

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What a week. As I compare my leaving-the-airport-towards-the-Villa to the current state of flying back to the Netherlands, I can honestly say that my view has broadened and I enjoyed this thoroughly enriching experience. In itself an impressive program, environment and atmosphere, this week was made extraordinary by the interesting and inspiring people that joined. It reminded me of how important the Villa is in creating exactly the right circumstances for a group to study, teach and inspire one another.

About ten years ago I visited the Villa Vergiliana as a student of Léon Herrman. All my classmates on that trip had good memories of the Villa, and – as this seems to be a recurring feeling year after year - this is one of the reasons for the Alumni Villae Vergilianae Foundation to be established. This study trip – in the footsteps of Aeneas – though different in a technical sense, was surprisingly similar in terms of atmosphere and inspiration. We visited various highlights of the region, heard many stories, saw the horror in Herculaneum, relived the arrival of Aeneas on the shores of Cumae, made our own timeless fresco's and were touched by the emotionally heavily laden poems on the rooftop of the Villa. All were aimed at showing as much as possible to the teachers, study-trip coordinators and researchers, to promote this region and the Villa. It was once again clear-cut that the Villa provides a fruitful environment for teaching & researching in the arts & classics.

If I were to pick one item that stood out to me, it would be the way that the group dynamics worked on this study trip, the way this influences teaching and learning from one another. After just a few days all were naturally inspired to produce poems and fresco's. All participants felt the urge to come up with words, songs or drawings that reflected the way they thought about the trip. As a result, I was touched by the way people acknowledged their learnings and expressed their gratitude. I believe just a part of it is written in the reviews; no words can describe all the emotions that I heard.

I want to wrap up the review by expressing my special thanks to Léon Herrman, I felt very honoured and privileged to be invited to aid this trip. Furthermore I want to thank the Vergilian Society of America and the Alumni Villae Vergilianae Foundation for their generous financial support; I am sure that the goal of creating brand awareness of the Villa is met, though only time can tell. Wietse and Merel also need to be mentioned as teammates for the good cooperation. Lastly, thanks to Francesco for driving the bus safely, Mina, Baggio, Simon, Anna and Maria for making us feel at home!

As ten years ago, it was a pleasure to stay in the Villa Vergiliana and enjoy its inspirational environment. Thank you.

Otto Schepers – Foundation Alumni Villae Vergilianae, the Netherlands

## Léon Herrman

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I felt honored and privileged to run this special study tour for teachers on behalf of the Vergilian Society of America. It was great to find in Merel Somhorst the perfect co-study leader and to experience the immense support from the alumni team, embodied by Wietse and Otto. Together with the study group we managed to create an inspiring and challenging atmosphere. I want to express my thanks to the board of the Vergilian Society of America for their confidence, for their very generous financial support drawn from the Harry Wilks Study Fund and for the effective cooperation. I want to express my thanks to the Foundation Alumni Villae Vergilianae as well for covering some expenses for the alumni team and for their continual willingness to support education in the Harry Wilks Study Center in the Villa Vergiliana. Thanks to the Sgariglia family for their warm welcome, to Mina for her readiness to assist in all kinds of unexpected events (and there were some!). And of course many thanks to the participants, showing from the very start an eagerness to explore, to discuss, to learn, to participate in all activities we planned. I loved working for this group, I loved working with this group – the group may recall my words before our collective poetry moment on the roof of the Villa.

Participants joined this tour with several purposes. The first intention was to get acquainted with the Campania region. This is not the most difficult target – we visited many relevant sites and museums. You will find them recounted in the reviews of others.

The second goal was reflection on the approach of such visits with students, in order to come to a better understanding of difficulties and confusion students may experience during their visit. Recalling my introductory words in front of the Athena temple in Paestum and the discussion on the spot later I think we succeeded in this reflection. By defining Paestum as a “Greek Colony” our students will use their foreknowledge of the concept “Colony”, a concept which is necessarily different for each nationality due to the colonial history of his/her nation. You might discuss the concept “Greek” in this sentence as well – it makes no sense to define a city as Greek when you see lots of Roman brick stone as well. I remember our visit to the Museo Nazionale Archeologico where we discussed which sculptures and mosaics are the easiest accessible and most challenging for our students. Which questions and confusions arise in a student’s brain being confronted with the Toro Farnese? I raised questions concerning this approach several times each visit and I was extremely happy that gradually the awareness of the importance of this attitude started to grow.

Classicists feel professionally intensely connected with texts, with words, phrases, expressions and literature. Language is the object of our studies, which does not necessarily mean that teaching is only effective when mainly language is used as the vehicle to communicate our ideas and knowledge. Our students however are not necessarily as profoundly interested in language as we are; they are often less well-equipped in language skills than we presume. In their age they learn by many other ways. For that reason – our third and hidden objective – we designed four assignments especially for the teachers. My students are familiar with such assignments and it was great to see all fellow travelers having to come out of their comfort zone of traditional teaching and devoting themselves to these assignments with whole their hearts – despite of initial doubt and sometimes even fear. We all produced a beautiful series of film stills around the theme ‘Dying in Herculaneum’, everyone went home with a beautiful grand tour portrait composed in the Villa Poppaea. I saw all ‘my’ teachers cooperating, helping each other, creating the right setting, discussing the pros and cons of a picture, doing their best to create a good result together. Once out of their comfort zone they seemed to enjoy themselves immensely – sometimes even without realizing this. It goes without saying that the learning results of assignments like these go far beyond understanding

antiquity. For students it is an exercise in cooperation, showing respect, looking and listening, task orientated working etc. The value of that may never be underestimated.

Of course we also used our source texts of Vergil at the Lacus Avernus and at the Cuma acropolis, Pliny on top of the Mount Vesuvius. I clearly remember Wietse reading out for us the key lines in Latin and giving me the chance to deliver a fairly liberal translation of the story involved.

The fresco assignment was a third challenge – a workshop carefully and elaborately prepared by Otto and Wietse who experimented with different recipes for our murals at home in The Hague. An individual assignment, and once again all teachers started the assignment with determination and (some) confidence. Our admiration for the ancient fresco painters increased as the evening expired – the results were documented in a photo session where everyone posed with his / her own fresco.

Writing a poem and reciting it in a circle on the roof top of the villa at the end of the day was the most challenging task for all – may be because we assume that our expertise is at stake. For many of us this appeared – however – one of the best moments of the week. Everyone shared thoughts, observations and emotions in various poetic forms. In just a few days this group created a safe working and learning environment, without judgment, with due respect for everyone. I compliment all participants for this achievement. Recalling that precious, valuable, intense and breakable moment I feel extremely proud of my study group!

Our fourth objective was increase of the brand awareness of the Harry Wilks Study Centre. The announcement written and designed by Richard Thomas was a first step, this study trip a second. Fellow travelers have the name, the concept and the unique combination of various qualities of this location imprinted in their heads and hearts – they will spread the word further, no doubt. In the course of next year we will see if increasing occupancy of the Villa is an outcome of this study trip as well. I will add some personal notes particularly on this issue in a message to the board of the Vergilian Society of America.

Contacts with other professionals from other countries are always stimulating and may put your own thoughts or worries in perspective. Nice and sunny weather is always helpful for a cheerful mood. The lovely dinners, the laughter and the fun favor the learning climate. Luckily we had all these bonuses as well. Lost luggage from Brussels could not spoil the good mood; a missed flight and an impressive Pompeian attempt to reenact the workshop ‘Dying in Herculaneum’ on an individual basis were all overcome.

I want to end this reflection with a special compliment to Merel Somhorst. I highly admire her professional qualities: the naturalness in giving words to different aspects of our creative assignments is impressive, the thoroughness of her preparations deserves respect, in her role as study leader and colleague I found proof of a stable, intellectual, professional and very friendly and trustworthy companion. Combined with the energy, optimism and work ethics of Otto and Wietse the three of them were an unbeatable team! Thanks to all,

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