



# THE VILLA

NUMBER 3 OCTOBER 2016

## Saluti!

A lot of things have happened since the last edition of 'The Villa'. In October 2015, a group of enthusiastic Staring College students travelled to Campania for a fruitful and enlightening week. In May 2016 the Foundation SAVV and the President of the Vergilian Society launched a new initiative to promote 'our' beautiful studio casa in Cuma, an attempt to inspire new colleagues and hopefully new potential tour guides. Classics teachers from Belgium, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands were invited to join a study tour to Campania. And now, in October 2016, a new group of Staring College students will visit the villa.

As board of the Foundation we have completed our first calendar year, with the corresponding financial statements of our president, secretary and treasurer. Slowly but surely we find our way. With regret we say goodbye to our secretary Julia Verheijden, and we welcome our new secretary Florine Weekenstroo who will start October 2016. Julia, please accept our gratitude, Florine, welcome and good luck! You, our supporters, friends of the Foundation SAVV are incredible important to us. Your annual donations are vital and enable us to continue our support of the Villa Vergiliana, the Harry Wilks Study Centre as a place to meet and to study. We managed to deliver a flat screen, trolley and laptop to enable visitors to give state-of-the-art digital presentations. We supported, though modest if compared with the support of the Vergilian Society itself, the study trip for teachers in May. The Staring College has officially joined the group of Friends as well. As president of the board, I cannot thank you enough for your support. In case you have not yet donated in 2016, maybe reading this edition of 'The Villa' encourages you to do so. Happy reading with the varied contributions to this 'Villa'!

With kindest regards,

Otto Schepers, president of the SAVV  
Stichting Alumni Villae Vergilianaë

## CONTENTS

Saluti!

A new trip

A meet and greet...

Thanks!

...Reveries...

Reception from the Villa

Be a Friend!

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NL 31 RABO 0191667617  
in the name of  
Stichting Alumni Villae Vergilianaë



October 2015



May 2016





## An exciting initiative, great cooperation, a new trip

What a lovely place to study, to meet, to work, to experience the beauty of Campania. All participants of the study trip for Classics teachers in May 2016 will agree, no doubt. This trip was specially designed for Classics teachers and an attempt to inspire potential new study guides for the future.

The Foundation SAVV wants to inform you now about the future of the Villa Vergiliana. The future of the Villa as a study centre is far from certain. Occupancy grade of the Villa showed a decrease, mainly due to changing economic conditions. Prof. Richard Thomas, President of the Vergilian Society of America and Léon Herrman started a campaign to inform Classics teachers in Europe about the study centre. An information brochure about the Villa found, 'per cursum electronicum', its way to numerous schools in Europe. The Vergilian Society of America agreed with a one time travel grant of 13.000 dollars from the Harry Wilks Foundation, to be used for the study trip May 2016.

Almost 25 teachers from the Netherlands, Belgium and the United Kingdom applied enthusiastically. Be led by Léon Herrman and Merel Somhorst, they participated in a programme full of workshops, assignments, sight visits and activities in an attempt to create an inspiring atmosphere. The support and help of three alumni during this trip was highly valued by all participants and we thank the SAVV to fund most of their travel costs. We hope the participating teachers will come back once with their own school party of Vergilian enthusiasts. Needless to say, the SAVV is very happy with this successful initiative.

We invite you all to become a Friend of the SAVV. A small annual contribution is highly appreciated. You will find the details on page 6 of this 'Villa'.

We share dear memories and we can all give proof of that by showing our commitment to the Harry Wilks Study Centre in this way. Below a selection of the abundance of positive reactions of the participating teachers.







*“Completing assignments such as the filming project in Herculaneum or the production of our fresco’s (regardless of artistic confidence) has required us to ‘step out of our comfort zones’, helping me to understand how my students can sometimes feel.” Allison Merrington, United Kingdom*

*“It will certainly not be the last time I came to Campania!” Geert Buttiens, Belgium*

*“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.”*

**Juliana Costa-Veysey, United Kingdom**

*“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.” Daan van Loon, the Netherlands*

*“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.” Marian Heesen, the Netherlands*

*“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.” Adrian Mc Mahon, United Kingdom*

*“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.”*

**Lottie Mortimer, United Kingdom**

*“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.” Beth Ewen, United Kingdom*

*“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. “*

**Hannah Murray, United Kingdom**





# A meet and greet and maybe more...?

**Maria Laura Macchini** teaches Latin in a high school in Perugia, Italy. We meet in the Villa, where she tells me, she gladly wants to improve her English speaking skills. She offers room and board in her family house in Perugia. Perugia is a university city filled with history and beautiful medieval surroundings. It is also the centre for non-Italians following an Italian language course. The only thing she wants from you is to 'communicate in English on a daily base'. Speaking with her, her husband and her son in his early twenties. A stay for a minimum of two weeks, maximum two months. You will have your own room and a shared bathroom. Interested?

**Do you want to know more or do you want to contact Maria Laura and her family, send an email to:**  
[leonherrman@kpnmail.nl](mailto:leonherrman@kpnmail.nl)



## For the editor

Do you want to share a subject with all the Friends and **Alumni Villae Vergilianae**? A cherished memory, a story or a request? Send a mail 'for the editor' to:

[devillavergiliana@gmail.com](mailto:devillavergiliana@gmail.com)



## Thanks!

The board of the Staring College has also noticed our efforts as Friends of the Villa. We received a letter from the board which states their admiration for the commitment of former students and alumni to support a good cause. Subsequently, we are delighted to welcome the Staring College also as a Friend.







# ...Referies...

## Ode

*The clouds and the sun take turns illuminating a landscape that is shining in all lucid conditions. The sea, the colorful houses and the swirling garbage; it is impossible to plan, it came into being through human madness and natural power, sometimes with brutal force, more often in the course of the centuries. It all belongs together, inseparable, and it's like the Neapolitan traffic: a terrible chaos, but an irresistible delight to look at and never take your eyes off.*

*Looking, looking, looking.*

*Ruins here, ruins there, ruins everywhere. A pile of stones in most cases.*

*Poor memories of earlier times. But then, and then, looking more carefully... I see.*

*I see men in togas, women in a richly decorated temple, children playing in the streets unaware of the penis in one of the paving stones leading a sailor to its destination.*

*Then I see.*

*Then it comes to life.*

*Then I live.*

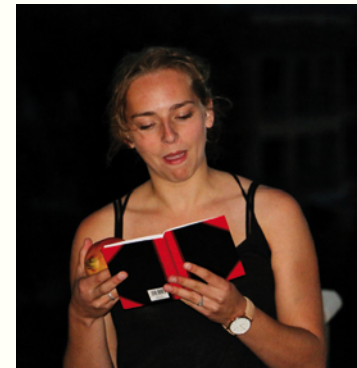


Tama Schreurs, Campania oktober 2015  
(free translation ed.)

## Ode

*I'm going on a trip, and I'll take with me;  
My wacky classmates,  
And my sociable, yet skilled teachers.  
And with this combination idiotic ideas come about naturally,  
Of which the highlight must have been the sacrificing of a piece of caramel waffle  
To the all mighty sun god Helios, at the top of Mount Vesuvius  
A mind-expanding event, if you ask me.  
The spontaneous and sparkling atmosphere in the group is contagious,  
And that is, I think, really something to be proud of as a class.*

Saskia Koeleman, Campania oktober 2015  
(free translation ed.)







# Recepe from the Villa

*The opnion of Biaggio about  
Minestrone!*

## Ingredients (4 persons):

1 big potato and 1 zuchini/courgette  
1 big carrot, 1 celery stalk and 1 red onion  
1/2 lb (230 gr) cabbage and 4 tbs tomato paste  
1/4 lb (115 gr.) cooked beans  
1 vegetable stock cube and 4 1/2 cup (1 ltr) water  
grated Pecorino or Parmesan, olive oil and salt



## Minestrone di Verdure

Even when it looks as if this time summer won't come to an end, autumn is not far away.

Time to boost your health with this delicious minestrone from Campania!

The ingredients are an approximation, use whatever leftover veggies you have!

Cut the vegetables into irregular pieces, add a glug of olive oil to a sauce pan and lightly brown the onion. In with the tomato paste/sauce, fry lightly. Then add the rest of the vegetables, a vegetable stock cube and water. Simmer until the vegetables are cooked, add the beans, salt and more water if needed. Let it stand for ten minutes, serve with a hearty dusting of grated cheese and enjoy!



## Join Us!



## BE A FRIEND AND SUPPORT THE VILLA!

Everybody can become a Friend of the Villa, teacher, student, alumnus, parent or sympathizer. As a Friend you will be kept informed of the latest news regarding the Villa, you can participate in fun activities and foremost you support the Villa and make it possible for future visitors to enjoy this mythical place even more. The next edition will inform you about our special alumni trip to Rome/Campania and about the school visit to the Villa in October 2016.

Any questions, send an email to: [devillavergiliana@gmail.com](mailto:devillavergiliana@gmail.com)

Become a Friend by wiring your donation to:

NL 31 RABO 0191667617 in the name of *Stichting Alumi Villae Vergilanae*.

Please do not forget to mention your email address in your bank transfer.

Students : € 15 p/year

Adults : € 20 p/year