



# CLASSICS NEWSLETTER

*This is the newsletter for anything to do with ancient Mediterranean cultures, including Greece, Rome, Egypt and the Persian empire.*

## The Roman Pantheon:

Jupiter, Hades, Neptune - these are the Gods that we associate with Ancient Rome, the major players that get special mentions in all the historical legends. But the Romans also worshipped hundreds of obscure deities whose significance is often lost in the sprawling complexity of the Roman Pantheon...

### ***Cardea - Goddess of door hinges***

- Name is thought to mean "door pivot."
- Worshipped as a protector of children, particularly from vampires and witches.
- Believed to prevent evil spirits from crossing thresholds.

### ***Janus - God of gates and transitions***

- A representation of "duality" - war and peace, life and death, youth and adulthood.
- Believed to rule over life events such as weddings, births and deaths.

### ***Ultio - Goddess of revenge***

- An altar and golden statue set up for her in the temple of Mars
- Seen by the Romans as an embodiment of righteous retribution, rather than spiteful revenge.

### ***Vesta - Goddess of fire and the hearth***

- Actually one of the most worshipped Roman deities - her temple was looked after by a group of women called the "Vestal Virgins."
- Celebrated on "Vestalia" (7th June)

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### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Anyte of Tegea - The Female Homer
- Classics in the News - discovery of well-preserved mummified remains in Pompeii
- Memes, Jokes & Puzzles!

### Did you know...?

Back in 133 BC, Rome became the first city in the world to reach 1 million inhabitants. London didn't reach that number until 1810!

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# Anyte of Tegea - The Female Homer

According to the ancient author Antipater of Thessalonica, the Greek poet Anyte of Tegea was one of the 'Nine Earthly Muses' - nine outstanding and respected ancient female poets - and even the female equivalent of the legendary Homer. This is because Anyte was renowned and admired throughout the ancient world for her epigrams on nature and country life, as well as for her epitaphs written primarily for young women and animals. In antiquity, she was called "Anyte the lyric poet" and the 2nd century Greek geographer Pausanius mentions Anyte's epic poetry in his works.



Unfortunately, none of her lyric poetry nor her epic poetry has survived but despite this, no other female Greek poet has more poems available today in their entirety than Anyte.

Born between 340 and 320 BC, Anyte of Tegea challenged the literary traditions of her time and created her own. This is perhaps why her legacy and reputation, just like her poems, have stood the test of time. Anyte was well known for her inclusion of rural themes, vivid descriptions of nature and focus on women and children in her epigrams. These themes and aspects were previously a rarity in Greek poetry, as Greek poets typically wrote from a masculine and urban perspective and often about supernatural subjects, like the Olympian gods.

Furthermore, Anyte often wrote memorial epitaphs for young, unwed women. In ancient Greece, marriage was viewed as the most important milestone in a woman's life



so dying unwed was considered a great tragedy. However, these epitaphs were not actual inscriptions on tombstones but instead they were published so that they could be accessed by a wider readership. Anyte was also one of the first poets to write epitaphs for animals. These proved so popular that she was often asked by families whose pets had passed away to write one of her unique epitaphs for them. Another genre of poetry that Anyte was among the first to establish was ekphrastic poetry, which concerns works of art such as sculptures and paintings.

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There are various myths and legends surrounding Anyte, as not much is actually known about her life. For example, she is believed to have run a school for the study of poetry in the Peloponnese, although the exact location is unknown. However, a more famous myth about Anyte is that the Greek god of healing, Asclepius, appeared to her in a dream and instructed her to deliver a message to a blind man called Phalysius. She woke to find a sealed writing tablet by her bed before going to visit Phalysius. She told him to take the seal off and read the message on the tablet. In doing so, Phalysius' blindness was cured and he built a temple to Asclepius, before obeying the message on the tablet which was to give Anyte 2,000 gold coins.

Regardless of the myths about Anyte, what is certain about her is that she was not afraid to break away from the poetic conventions of her time in order to write about what she saw was important: the natural world and its relationship to humankind. She has been an inspiration - and indeed a true Muse - for thousands of poets who have come after her and hopefully, she will always continue to be.

Simran Rakar 13MP

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## Here are some examples of Anyte of Tegea's epigrams and epitaphs:

*I mourn for the maiden Antibia, to whose  
father's house many suitors came, drawn by  
Report of her beauty and wisdom. But deadly Fate  
Whirled away the hopes of all of them.*

*In place of wedding songs and bridal room,  
Your mother set upon this marble tomb  
A maiden with your grace and form instead,  
So, Thersis, we could greet you though you're dead.*

*You died, Maira, near your many-rooted home at  
Locri, swiftest of noise-loving hounds;  
A spotted-throated viper darted his cruel venom  
into your light-moving limbs.  
(For a dog)*

*This is the site of the Cyprian, since it is agreeable to her  
to look ever from the mainland upon the bright sea  
that she may make the voyage good for sailors.*

*Around her the sea  
trembles looking upon her polished image.  
(Aphrodite is looking out to sea)*

*No more, exulting in the calm seas, shall I rise from  
the depths and thrust through the waves;  
No more shall I rush past the beautiful prow of a  
fair-rowlocked ship, delighting in the figure-head.  
The dark waters of the sea dashed me to land and I  
lie here upon this narrow shore.  
(For a dolphin)*

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# Memes!

## Did you know?

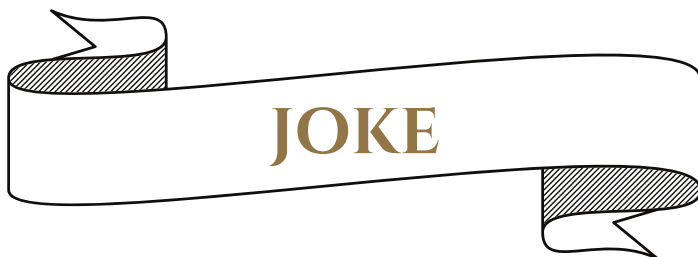
Vestal Virgins (Roman priestesses) were chosen when they were less than 10 years old!

#1543

(credit to Anon)

Following the plotlines in the Cambridge Latin Course like it's a soap opera.

Edgy 13 year old Latin students be like:



Latinists never die, they just decline.



Using the Drake format to make a meme



Using the Haterius format from Cambridge Latin Unit 3

Meme sent in by Jeevan Lallie, 12S

At the Battle of Pelusium, Persians used Cats as shields. The Egyptians didn't shoot their arrows for fear of wounding the sacred animals.



#127

(credit to fightingthe-gravity)

Learning how to say "I want to beat you with a stick" before learning "Hello" (thanks, Ecce Romanī!)

latin-student-problems.tumblr.com

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## Classics in the News...

### Mummified remains of former slave are the best-preserved ever discovered in Pompeii

The remains of former slave Marcus Venerius Secundio were recently found in a tomb at the necropolis of Porta Sarno, one of the former main entrances into Pompeii. This discovery was made by archaeologists from the Archaeological Park of Pompeii and the University of Valencia and based on their excavation, they believe that Secundio died at around the age of 60 and some years before the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79AD. This excavation also offers a fantastic insight into Secundio's extraordinary social progression through both his tombstone and his remains.

Previously, the only known record of Secundio was in the archives of the banker Caecilius Iucundus (yes, that Caecilius!). In these archives, Secundio was only identified as a public slave. However, we now know of Secundio's remarkable rise through Pompeii's social ranks upon being freed thanks to his tombstone, which chronologically lists his biggest achievements. Firstly, he became a custodian of the Temple of Venus in Pompeii before joining the ranks of the Augustales, a priesthood dedicated to emperor worship. It is perhaps Secundio's role as custodian of the Temple of Venus that led to his greatest accomplishment, which is the greatest indicator of his eventual high status - an organiser of entertainment events in both Latin and Ancient Greek. According to Gabriel Zuchtriegel, the director of the Archaeological Park of Pompeii, Secundio's tombstone is the first clear evidence of plays in Pompeii being staged in ancient Greek and also reflects Pompeii's open and lively cultural climate.

Furthermore, what archaeologists also find fascinating about the discovery of Secundio's remains, which include white hair, bones and a partly visible ear, is that he was not cremated, as was customary for Pompeian adults, but entombed and even mummified. "Only small children were buried, so this tomb burial is something extremely exceptional and could be a sign of the importance and wealth he achieved in the city as well as how well integrated he was," said Zuchtriegel.

Discovered alongside Secundio's well-preserved remains were two glass urns, one with the name Novia Amabilis (who may have been Secundio's wife), and a coin celebrating Greek athletic games organised by the emperor Nero. Zuchtriegel intends to eventually open the site to visitors so that they can experience for themselves how, according to Italy's culture minister Dario Franceschini, "Pompeii never ceases to amaze."

For more information, have a look at the source for this article:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/aug/21/levelling-up-pompeii-grave-at-site-shows-how-a-former-slave-went-far>



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# Classics Puzzles

by Simran Rakar 13MP

## Classics Anagrams

Unscramble the following anagrams to reveal the names of 5 historical and mythological people from the ancient world:

VACATION

TREACLE

LEARNED

ELM TYPO

CLEMENS RATTY

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## Metamorphosis in Mythology wordsearch

C	E	R	U	M	U	A	D	A	H	H	R	D	A
I	R	S	E	C	T	A	U	N	A	C	M	R	M
C	P	R	O	M	E	T	H	E	U	S	C	H	S
A	O	M	E	M	R	A	R	A	C	H	N	E	Y
R	N	U	S	H	N	P	C	P	S	R	S	N	A
U	I	O	O	H	C	E	R	E	S	R	A	A	D
S	N	O	H	T	H	C	I	S	Y	R	E	N	D
O	S	I	N	S	N	H	H	U	C	Y	S	C	C
E	I	R	E	P	M	I	N	I	S	H	A	I	I
R	N	O	C	R	H	E	S	T	A	S	D	R	O
S	O	O	S	E	S	S	I	M	T	O	I	R	U
C	D	O	O	S	U	E	H	P	R	O	M	T	N
D	A	O	R	S	E	O	U	O	R	I	N	A	S
S	T	H	S	S	N	P	A	N	D	O	R	A	O

ADONIS  
ARACHNE  
ECHO  
ERYSICHTHON  
ICARUS  
MIDAS  
NARCISSUS  
ORPHEUS  
PANDORA  
PROMETHEUS

The names hidden in this wordsearch all relate to Greek myths involving some kind of 'metamorphosis' or transformation. You may recognise some of them and if you're curious about the ones you don't, have a

look at this website to find out more:

<https://classictales.co.uk/metamorphoses>