

## **Living Latin in Rome with the Paideia Institute**

**Gianna Turk, Class of 2024**

For this project, I spent the summer studying both written and spoken Latin, culminating ultimately in my participation in the Paideia Institute's Living Latin in Rome program. Throughout the month of June, I met regularly with Professor Hartman and an instructor associated with the Paideia Institute. With Professor Hartman, I read and discussed selections from the *Maturini Corderii Colloquiorum*, a collection of medieval Latin dialogues. Our readings centered around fictional dialogues between students and professors of Latin speaking to each other in the language. This helped me get accustomed to a more colloquial form of Latin. With the second instructor, I honed my spoken Latin skills as we worked through parts of Hans Ørberg's *Lingua Latina*. I listened to audio recordings of each chapter to accustom myself to hearing the language, and then together we used spoken Latin to discuss what happened in each chapter. Additionally, we had casual practice conversations in Latin. All of this work prepared me for the Living Latin in Rome program.

From July 3rd to July 17th, I studied the poetry of Catullus, amongst other works, with the Paideia Institute in the Living Latin in Rome program. Throughout this time, we read and discussed many of Catullus's poems closely in small groups. We considered many aspects, including meter, word choice, and historical context. Outside of these readings, we went on several guided tours, in which we read Latin texts in locations pertinent to each. One example of this was a Caesar tour, where we read texts in Latin detailing the events of Caesar's last day as we stopped at relevant locations along the way. The program also included a weekend trip to Verona, where Catullus was born, and to Sirmione, where he had a summer villa. We had the opportunity to see the site that is believed to be the remains of his villa.

At the end of the program, we celebrated our work with an event where each participant in the program prepared a recitation of a piece of Latin of their choice. I chose a section from Catullus 64, which through ekphrasis details the story of Ariadne's desertion by Theseus, and I was joined by another participant in the program who read the following section. Though several chose works of Catullus, we heard a variety of pieces from Stoic philosophical texts to original compositions by members of our group. As someone new to the language, this experience widened my horizons more than I ever could have imagined.

I leave this project with a deep understanding of Catullus's poetry, as well as an eclectic introduction to other works of Latin literature. Through this work, I have come to understand the language more deeply, and connect with the history of it so palpably by studying it in the place where it once thrived. I am thrilled to now have experience with spoken Latin, and I hope to continue practicing. I am so grateful for this opportunity – it was truly life-changing.

**Faculty Mentor: Joshua Hartman**

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