

# MEI NUCESQUE

A newsletter for Classics at the University of Dallas

## Roman Festivals

- April 1 – Veneralia, in honor of Venus  
 April 4 –10 – Ludi Magalenses/Megalasia, in honor of Cybele  
 April 12 –19 – Ludi Cereales games in honor of Cerealia  
 April 15 – Fordicidia, in honor of Tellus  
 April 21 – Parilia, in honor of Pales  
 April 23 – Vinalia urbana, in honor of Venus and the previous year's wine harvest  
 April 25 – Robigalia, in honor of Robigus, with foot races  
 April 28 – May 1 – Ludi Florales (Floralia), games in honor of Flora

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman\\_festivals#Aprilis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_festivals#Aprilis)

## Classics Club Events\*

- Tuesday, April 6 – *I, Claudius*: Episode 9 --  
 7 pm, Lynch Auditorium  
 Tuesday, April 13 – *I, Claudius*: Episode 10 –  
 7 pm, Lynch Auditorium  
 Tuesday, April 20 – *I, Claudius*: Episode 11 --  
 7 pm, Lynch Auditorium  
 Tuesday, April 27 – *I, Claudius*: Episode 12 --  
 7 pm, Lynch Auditorium

\*Event times, dates, and episodes are subject to change. If you would like to get updates about the Classics Club, please contact Kimberly Read at [kread1@udallas.edu](mailto:kread1@udallas.edu).

## Goddess of the Month

Venus



Originally a Goddess of Gardens and Vinyards, Venus became the major deity of love and beauty after the influx of Greek deities. On August 18 the Vinalia Rustica was observed. A second festival, that of the Veneralia, was celebrated on April 1 in honor of Venus Verticordia, who later became the protector against vice. On April 23 a festival, the Vinalia Priora, celebrated the opening of one of her temples.

## Latin Poetry

Odi et amo. quare id faciam, fortasse requiris.  
nescio, sed fieri sentio et excrucior.

Catullus 85

## Greek Grammar Corner

### Participles:

Participles in Greek are verbal adjectives. They appear in three main types.

#### 1) Attributive:

The participle is used as an adjective in the attributive position. Just like other adjectives, they can be used as substantives with the definitive article.

e. g. ἥδ' ἔστιν ἡ σώζουσα... (Sophocles, Antigone 189)  
Trans: She is (our) saviour...

#### 2) Circumstantial:

Participles of this type describe the circumstances under which the main verb occurs.

e. g. ὅς γῆν πατρώϊαν καὶ θεοὺς τοὺς ἐγγενεῖς  
φυγὰς κατελθὼν ἠθέλησε μὲν πυρὶ  
πρῆσαι κατάκρᾶσ,... (Sophocles, Antigone 199-201)  
Trans: He who, after he came back to his ancestral land and his native gods as an exile, wished to burn them with fire from top to bottom,...

Future participles with ὡς show purpose or intent.

e. g. ὅστις ἀμφικίονα  
ναοὺς πυρώσων ἦλθε... (Sophocles, Antigone 285-286)  
Trans: whoever came in order to burn (our) pillared temples

#### 3) Supplementary:

Some certain verbs, like τυγχάνω, show purpose or intent.

e. g. ἦ κὰν δόμοισι τυγχάνει τανῦν παρῶν;  
(Sophocles, Oed. Tyr. 757)  
Trans: Does he happen to be present now in the house?

Contributed by Bill Farris.

## Roman Life

The Romans took three meals a day. The first, eaten soon after rising, was called the *ientaculum*, which primarily consisted of bread, plain or seasoned. Lunch (*prandium*) was a simple meal, eaten in the late morning, that usually consisted of unheated food such as bread, fruit, nuts, cheese, olives, and salad in various combinations. Dinner (*cena*) was eaten toward sunset. For the poor, this meal might consist of *puls* (a wheat porridge served hot), various vegetables, fruit, and very rarely, meat. If wine was included with the meal, it would have been of inferior quality (fairly close to vinegar).

The wealthy, however, obviously enjoyed much more luxurious meals. It would be impossible here to list all the possible foods that might be part of a wealthy Roman's dinner, but the following menu will give you a general idea.

- *gustatio* ("hors d'oeuvre"): boiled eggs, olives, salad, etc.
- *prima mensa* ("first table" or "main course"): some kind of meat or fish, e.g., wild boar, chicken, sows udder, turbot, etc.
- *secunda mensa* ("second table" or "dessert"): apples or other fruit, oysters, snails, various pastries, etc.

Eggs were apparently a traditional hors d'oeuvre for the Romans, as apples must have been a common dessert, for we have the Roman saying: *ab ovo ad mala* ("from egg to apples"), which is the equivalent of our "from soup to nuts." Of course, such a meal would have been accompanied with a good wine.