

## Preface

It is always gratifying to see that serious, in-depth research in a field as complex as Latin linguistics continues to yield interesting and stimulating findings: work that answers hitherto unsolved questions, that rectifies, qualifies or completes previous postulates, that proposes alternative ways of exploring existing problems, that successfully applies new methodologies of analysis, etc. In short, Latin linguistics is an area of scholarship where it remains possible to make substantial progress in the search for answers to an array of controversial or still unexplored questions. This indeed was illustrated at the *21<sup>st</sup> International Colloquium on Latin Linguistics*, held in Santiago de Compostela (Spain) between May 30<sup>th</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022, from which some papers are collected here.

These biennial colloquia began in 1981 on the initiative of Harm Pinkster at the University of Amsterdam. Each gathering since then has had its own particular stamp, not least this one, where several circumstances made it truly unique. The first of these was the sudden death, a few months prior to the Colloquium, of the initial promoter of these meetings, Harm Pinkster, in November 2021. Harm had himself been scheduled to give a plenary session, and in addition to the immense grief provoked by the loss of our admired colleague and friend, his passing made it necessary that we pay a special tribute to him as a most distinguished linguist. For this reason, the plenary session that Caroline Kroon generously agreed to deliver in his honour, and as a tribute to him, features prominently in the present publication.

A second factor that influenced the organisation of the Colloquium – one of a very different order – was the COVID-19 pandemic, which affected the whole world, with varying degrees of intensity, between 2019 and 2022, together with the war situation in Eastern Europe towards the end of that period. All this meant that the Colloquium, which should have been held in 2021, had to be postponed for at least a year, in that we felt that a physical meeting had to be preserved, due to the unquestionable advantages of personal contact and association that such events entail. It was not an easy decision to make, but the experience and final balance of the Colloquium well illustrated the many advantages of this option. There were fewer participants than on other occasions, with a variety of health-related, economic and other issues making it impossible for many researchers to attend physically, which we sincerely regret. Thus, of the 150 participants initially registered, approximately 100 finally attended; of these, 79 presented papers in general sessions and workshops, as well as five plenary presentations given by P. Cuzzolin, G. Inglese, C. Kroon, A. M. Martín Rodríguez, and R. Risselada.

One very positive outcome of this situation was that there was more space than usual for academic communication and personal interaction, which are key aspects of any scholarly meeting of this kind.

The Colloquium was preceded by the traditional PhD Course, given on May 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> by C. Kroon, Ch. Lehmann, and O. Spevak, and coordinated by the latter, in which doctoral students from various universities in Belgium, Chile, Finland, France, Italy, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom participated. In addition, several young researchers competed for the seventh Bolkestein Award, which on this occasion went to Guillermo Salas (Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain). Both of these events demonstrate the vibrant presence of new generations in the field of Latin linguistics, which in turn serves to guarantee the necessary generational shift ahead, with a well-established and very promising body of younger researchers scholars poised to take the helm.

The contributions selected for publication in these two volumes have been carefully peer-reviewed. The division of contributions, both in terms of the subsections and the groupings of papers, reflect organisational criteria; we know how difficult it is to draw clear boundaries between the varied conceptual and linguistic issues with which we are working here, and we have tried to organise the material according to the disciplines and levels of analysis that are largely – but not exclusively – at issue in each case.

Thus, the first volume contains a series of papers that specifically show the interrelation of linguistic levels and which have been grouped into the following sections: Syntax and Semantics (section 1), Syntactic Constructions (section 2), Syntax and Pragmatics (section 3), and what we have termed Digital Linguistics (section 4), this latter section embracing the kind of research that specialises in the development and use of digital instruments and which draws on the current proliferation of databases in pursuit of various objectives, leading to the extraordinarily fruitful exploitation of corpus analysis and the diverse functionalities that such approaches offer.

The second volume brings together two somewhat more contrasting frameworks: that of Semantics, here in its special relationship with Lexicography, and of Discourse – dialogic or otherwise – which includes the study of a range of communicative strategies across different literary genres. Within this second framework, the section covering several of the presentations given as part of the workshop “Conversation and Dialogue in Latin”, organised by Rodie Risselada, Łukasz Berger, and Rodrigo Verano, is placed independently. The contributions presented at the other workshop – “Latin in the Linguistic Context of the Ancient Mediterranean” – organised by Calotta Viti, will be published elsewhere.

There are no contributions in either volume dealing specifically with questions of Latin Phonetics and Morphology while these fields usually receive somewhat less attention than other linguistic disciplines, in the case of this Colloquium the absence was particularly notable; in addition, of those contributions that did involve work in these areas, some authors did not propose their work for publication.

The Colloquium was hosted by the University of Santiago de Compostela, with the collaboration of the Faculty of Philology, the Research Group on Classical and Medieval Studies, and the Department of Classical, French and Italian Philology. The Colloquium received official financial support from the Regional Government (Xunta de Galicia), through the Office of Tourism of the Consellería de Presidencia, Xustiza e Turismo, and in turn through FEDER Funds of the European Union.

I would like to express our very sincere gratitude to the members of the Organising Committee, all from the Faculty of Philology of the University of Santiago de Compostela, more specifically from the areas of Latin Philology (J. Carracedo, M. E. Vázquez Buján), Greek Philology (M. T. Amado, A. Ruiz), and Indo-European Linguistics (J. V. García Trabazo).

I would also like to thank the generous and invaluable help of all the reviewers of the papers published, and, of course, my special thanks go to each of the respective authors: their dedication and the quality of their scholarship can be seen on every page.

The citations of Latin texts follow those established by the *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae* as provided in its *Index* (1990): <https://thesaurus.badw.de/en/tll-digital/index/a.html>, and addenda: [https://thesaurus.badw.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Files/TLL/addenda.pdf](https://thesaurus.badw.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Files/TLL/addenda.pdf). As for quotations from Greek texts, those set by *A Greek-English Lexicon*, compiled by Henry George Liddell and Robert Scott (1996), are observed.

Finally, I would like to thank the publisher, De Gruyter, for their careful publication of these selected papers, and particularly to Torben Behm for all his continued diligence and judicious work throughout this long and complex process.

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