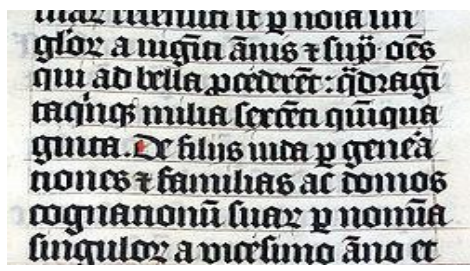


APRIL 2011

◆ LATIN LOVERS, OR LOVING LATIN ◆

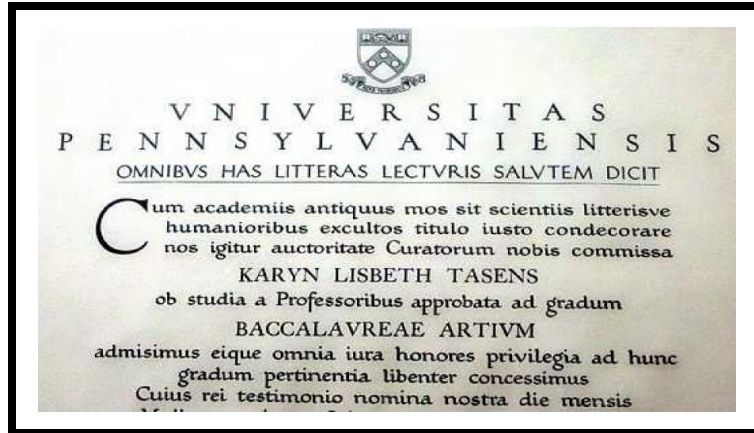
*Latin is a dead language,
As dead as it can be.
First it killed the Romans,
And now it's killing me.*

While some say the expression “Latin Lover” dates back to the Italians conquering and bringing Latin to Spain, we love studying the language’s history. An Italic language originally spoken in Latium and Ancient Rome, Latin spread to countries around the Mediterranean during the Roman conquest, and the vernacular dialects spoken in these areas developed into the Romance languages, including Aragonese, Catalan, Corsican, French, Galician, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian, Romansh, Sardinian, Sicilian and Spanish – all of which we translate here! Classical Latin, however, continued to develop after the fall of the Roman Empire through the Middle Ages and was used as the language of international communication, scholarship and science until the 18th century – not that long ago!



Perhaps all its complicated numbers of cases (7), genders (3), verb conjugations (4), tenses (6), voices (2), persons (6), aspects (2), etc. put even scholars in a bad mood (of which Latin has 3!), so Latin, though studied at educational institutions, is now considered a dead language -- except perhaps among clergy and some who think Latin is what’s spoken in Latin America. Ahem. Glad they called us to ask!

Still called the Latin alphabet, ours is the most widely used alphabet in the world with thousands of Latin terms still commonly found in the fields of law, medicine, philosophy, theology, biology and botany. Many and various institutions and organizations have Latin slogans; have a look at your *alma mater*’s diploma – did you graduate *cum laude*?



And do you recognize *E pluribus unum*? “Out of many, one”, handed down by a Congressional committee in 1776 appointed to design a seal for the United States of America.



The Romans used just 23 letters to write Latin. There were no lower case letters, and **K**, **Y** and **Z** were used only for writing words of Greek origin. **J**, **U** and **W** were added later to write in languages other than Latin. **J** is a variant of **I**, **U** is a variant of **V** and **W** was introduced as a 'double-V' to make a distinction between the sounds we know as 'v' and 'w' -- which had been unnecessary in Latin. Now the modern Latin alphabet has 52 letters, including both upper and lower cases plus 10 numerals, punctuation marks and other symbols such as **&**, **%** and **@**. While you might have found Horace’s *Odes* odious and Virgil’s *Aeneid* annoying in college, much more than *amo*, *amas*, *amat* and *veni*, *vedi*, *vici* can be useful even for crossword puzzlers and hey, even Duke Ellington knew an attribute: “*Speaks Latin, that satin doll.*”

Q.E.D.

◆ **THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHT** ◆

We recently translated a major international law firm’s Web site into Chinese, French, German and Japanese including Corporate Profile, Firm History, Pro Bono Work, Practice Areas



◆ **FEATURE** ◆ **Lingua Quiz!**

- “Inkhorn terms” are:
 - New words borrowed from a foreign language
 - Words deriving from musical horns
 - Terms describing kinds of ink
- Veritas* or false:
 - The “Living Latin” movement is an attempt to revive Latin as a spoken language
 - The “Living Latin” movement is a new dance like the salsa
 - Vatican City has an ATM with instructions in Latin
 - Finland and Germany have radio stations that broadcast in Latin
- Mix and match these Latin American countries and the languages spoken there :

(a) Venezuela	(1) Spanish
(b) Brazil	(2) Portuguese
(c) Peru	(3) Latin
(d) Haiti	(4) Quechua
(e) Suriname	(5) Dutch
(f) Puerto Rico	(6) English
(g) Saint Pierre and Miquelon	(7) French
(h) Belize	(8) Creole

ANSWERS:

- Named as if the terms spilled from an inkwell made out of a horn
- True; (b) = True; (c) = True; send us a photo if you see this one! (d) = True
- (a) = (1); (b) = (2); (c) = (1) + (4); (d) = (8); (e) = (5); (f) = (1) + (8); (g) = (6); (h) = (9) + (1)