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Suetonius' Life of Vergil: Text, Commentary, and Analysis of Authorship

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Suetonius' Life of Vergil:
Text, Commentary, and Analysis of Authorship

Honors Thesis

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To

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Introduction

Vergil and the *Life of Vergil*

      The text of the *Life of Vergil* presented here comes from J.C. Rolfe's edition of *Suetonius* (Vol. II) published in the Loeb Classical Library. Gaius Suetonius Tranquillus' *Vita Vergili* presents a biography of the poet Vergil (70 BCE – 19 BCE), including details about his personal life, his possessions, and his literary works. Vergil was born to modest parents in Mantua. He began composing verses of poetry when he was a young boy, writing his first couplet about his schoolteacher. Suetonius lists Vergil's earlier, lesser known compositions in *Vita Vergili*, including: *Catalepton*, *Priapea*, *Epigrammata*, *Dirae*, *Ciris* and *Culex*. Vergil became a man of great importance with his later works, such as the *Bucolics*, the *Georgics*, and the *Aeneid*.

      The *Bucolics* or *Eclogues* was a collection of ten pastoral poems written by Vergil in 39-38 BCE. Vergil is said to have dedicated the *Bucolics* to Asinius Pollio, Alfenus Varus and Cornelius Gallus for once saving his life. Following the *Bucolics*, Vergil completed the *Georgics* in 29 BCE. The subject matter of the *Georgics* is farming, and four categories of farming are separated into four books: 1. crops, 2. trees and shrubs, 3. livestock, and 4. bees. Vergil is said to have dedicated the *Georgics* to Maecenas for saving him once. Finally, Vergil wrote the *Aeneid*. The *Aeneid* is an account of Aeneas escaping from Troy and coming to Italy to found what will become the Roman people. Not only does it give the history of the city, but it also provides the ancestral lineage of Augustus and his relation to Aeneas. The *Aeneid* was published after Vergil's death with only a few edits made to his original work. More information about Vergil's works can be found in the *Oxford Classical Dictionary*.

The *Vita Vergili* presented here consists of the 46 chapters generally believed to have been written by Suetonius; other sections following chapter 46 are included in Aelius Donatus' *De Vita Vergili*, where Suetonius' *Vita Vergili* was preserved. I address the issue of authorship and attribution in an appendix following the commentary and translation.

Suetonius

Gaius Suetonius Tranquillus (69 – 122-141 CE) was a public servant serving under Emperors Trajan and Hadrian. Suetonius' reputation grew as he rose up the ranks of the imperial service, first holding the position of head of research, then of library commissioner, and finally of the director of the emperor's correspondence. Evidence of Suetonius and his works appear in the writing of later writers, mostly due to them using his work directly or using his work as a reference. Suetonius' surviving works are his biographies of the past emperors of Rome, called *De Vita Caesarum*, and biographies of celebrated Roman figures, *De Viris Illustribus*, in which there are subsections of biographies about grammarians and rhetoricians, *De Grammaticis et Rhetoribus*, and about poets, *De Poetis*, in which *Vita Vergili* was included.

Suetonius' Latin Style

Suetonius has a distinct style of writing that may seem to be difficult to understand if some attention is not brought to certain asepcts. Here I will outline the more notable occurrences where Suetonius' distinctive style can be seen so that the reader may have a better understanding while approaching the text. Detailed analysis of his style and excerpts of the text are discussed in detail in the appendix.

Suetonius attempts to keep the grammatical subject of the text consistent for the main clauses in the text, and in the biography of Vergil, Vergil himself is usually the subject. Furthermore, Suetonius will not name Vergil explicitly as the subject, but instead he will continue putting his finite verbs in the third person singular form (usually perfect). Such a practice can become confusing once Vergil dies, but even here Suetonius continues using him as the subject. Also, when Vergil is referred to in the sentence, Suetonius will put the pronoun *is* rather than repeating Vergil's name.

Suetonius writes in long sentences that are packed with information, but there is a reason for his method. He will start a sentence about one general idea and prolong that idea by using constructions such as participial phrases and subordinate clauses. He will not interrupt a full idea with a period, and so there are passages with an abundance of participles or subordinate clauses. This stylistic aspect is directly caused by his need to keep the subject the same for the main clause. He will use participial phrases agreeing with a case other than the subject (Vergil) to include more information about it without drifting from his style or breaking from the natural flow of the text. He will use subordinate clauses to name a new subject when needed.

Structure of the *Life of Vergil*

Suetonius' method of composition is stated in Chapter 9 of *De Vita Augusti*. Instead of presenting the information in a chronological order, Suetonius says he will present the information by category. The key transitions of categories within the text are noted by significant transition words at the beginning of chapters which best summarize the content. Suetonius does also present the events chronologically, usually only at the start of the biography at his subject's birth, and then towards the end of the biography at his subject's death. Suetonius uses this sceme

to present information in *Vita*, with each topic indicated by the words at the beginning of transitional chapters, just as in *De Vita Augusti*.

Outline of *Vita Vergili*

Chapter 2: *natus est* – (Chronological)

      Vergil's birth

Chapter 6: *initia aetatis*

      Vergil's life up to his arrival in Rome

Chapter 8: *corpore* – (Change to Categorical)

      Vergil's physical characteristics

Chapter 12: *bona*

      Vergil's possessions

Chapter 17: *poeticam*

      Vergil's poetry

Chapter 30: *Aeneidos*

      Vergil's *Aeneid*

Chapter 35: *anno aetatis quinquagesimo secundo* (Return to Chronological)

      Vergil's death in his 52nd year

Chapter 37: *heredes*

      Vergil's heirs and legacy

Chapter 43: *obtrectores* (Return to Categorical)

      Vergil's critics

Abbreviations Used in Commentary

Reference Works and Sources

AG   *Allen and Greenough's New Latin Grammar*, edited by Anne Mahoney. Newburyport,

      MA: Focus Publishing, 2001

OCD   *Oxford Classical Dictionary*. 4th ed., edited by Simon Hornblower and Anthony

      Spawforth. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012

OLD   *Oxford Latin Dictionary*, edited by P.G.W. Glare. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1982

Grammatical Notes

(1)	first conjugation	conces.	concessive
abl.	ablative	conj.	conjunction
abs.	absolute	contr.	contracted
acc.	accusative	C-to-F	contrary-to-fact
act.	active	dat.	dative
adj.	adjective	decl.	declension
adv.	adverb	demon.	demonstrative
anteced.	antecedent	dir.	direct/directly
appos.	apposition/appositive	f.	feminine
circumst.	circumstance/circumstantial	ff.	following
cl.	clause	fut.	future
compar.	comparative/comparison	gen.	genitive
compl.	complementary	ger.	gerund

gerv.	gerundive	pl.	plural
impv.	imperative	plupf.	pluperfect
indecl.	indeclindable	pos.	positive
indef.	indefinite	poss.	possession/possessive
indic.	indicative	ppp.	perfect passive participle
indir.	indirect	pred.	predicate
indir. disc.	indirect discourse	prep.	preposition
inf.	infinitive	pres.	present
introd.	introducing	pron.	pronoun
irreg.	irregular	prot.	protasis
lit.	literally	ptc.	participle
locat.	locative	purp.	purpose
m.	masculine	reflex.	reflexive
n.	neuter	relat.	relative
negat.	negative	sing.	singular
nom.	nominative	subj.	subject
num.	number	subjv.	subjunctive
obj.	object	subst.	substantive
pass.	passive	superl.	superlative
periphr.	periphrastic	tmp.	temporal
pers.	person/personal	voc.	vocative
pf.	perfect	w/	with
phr.	phrase	w/out	without

Vita Vergili

1. P. Vergilius Maro Mantuanus parentibus modicis fuit ac praecipue patre, quem quidam opificem figulum, plures Magi cuiusdam viatoris initio mercennarium, mox ob industriam generum tradiderunt, egregieque substantiae silvis coemendis et apibus curandis auxisse reculam.

P. Vergilius Maro   Publius Vergilius Maro, born 70 BCE

Mantuanus, -a, -um   of Mantua, a town on the river Mincius in northern Italy (OCD 919)

parens, -tis (m./f.)   parent; *parentibus* = abl. of quality (AG #415)

modicus, -a, -um   undistinguished, of moderate means (OLD 7)

sum, esse, fui, futurus   be

praecipue (adv.)   especially

pater, -ris (m.)   father; *patre* = abl. of quality (AG #415)

quem … figulum   indir. disc. ff *tradiderunt* w/ ellipsis of *esse* (AG #580); *quem* (relat. pron.): anteced.
    patre; **quidam, quaedam, quiddam**: some (person or thing), *quidam* = nom. subj. of
    tradiderunt; **opifex, -ecis** (m.): artisan, craftsman, *opificem* = pred. acc. w/ *quem* (AG #393);
    figulus, -i (m.): potter, *figulum* = pred. acc. w/ *quem* (AG #393)

plures, plura   more; compar. adj. of magnus; *plures* = nom. subj. of *tradiderunt*

Magi … generum   indir. disc. ff. *tradiderunt* w/ ellipsis of *esse* (AG #580); *Magi cuiusdam viatoris*:
    "a certain court officer named Magus": **Magus, -i** (m): Magus, an otherwise unknown person;
    viator, -oris (m.): summoner, court officer; **initium, -i** (n.): beginning, *initio* = abl. of time (AG
    #423); **mercennarius, -a, -um**: one hired for pay, *mercennarium* =pred. acc w/ *quem* (AG #393);
    mox (adv.): soon afterwards; **industria, -ae** (f.): diligence, *industriam* = obj. of prep. *ob*: because
    of; **gener, -eri** (m.): son-in-law, *generum* = pred. acc. w/ *quem* (AG #393)

trado, -ere, -idi, -itum   relate, pass on information (OLD 10)

egregieque … auxisse reculam   indir. disc. ff. *tradiderunt* (AG #580); **egregie** (adv): especially;
    substantiae silvis coemendis: "by purchasing a substantial woodland", abl. of means w/ gerv.
    (AG #507); **substania, -ae** (f.): substance, *substantia* = gen. of quality to denote indef. value
    (AG #417a); **silva, -ae** (f.): forest; **coemo, -emere, -emi, -emptum**: purchase; *apibus curandis*:
    "by beekeeping", abl. of means w/ gerv. (AG #507): **apis, apis** (f.): bee; **curo** (1): undertake;
    augeo, -ere, -xi, -ctum: enlarge; **recula, -ae** (f.): small estate

2 Natus est Gn. Pompeio Magno M. Licinio Crasso primum conss. Iduum Octobrium die in pago qui Andes dicitur et abest a Mantua non procul.

nascor, -i, natus   be born; Vergil is the unexpressed subj.

Gn. Pompeio Magno M. Licinio Crasso primum cons[ulibu]s.   "in the first consulship of Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus and Marcus Licinius Crassus" = 70 BCE; the Roman year is designated by the names of the *consules ordinarii* using abl. abs. (AG #424g); **primum** (adv.): first, Pompey and Crassus served together as consuls again in 55 BCE

Iduum Octobrium die   "on the day of the Ides of October" = the fifteenth day of October; **Idus, -uum** (f. pl.): Ides; **October, -ris, -re**: of October, the tenth Roman month; **dies, -ei** (f.): day

pagus, -i (m.)   district; *pago* = obj. of prep. *in*

qui (relat. pron.)   anteced. *pago*

Andes, -is (m.)   Andes, a village near Mantua, now Pietola; *Andes* = pred. nom. (AG #284)

dico, -ere, -xi, -ctum   call, name

absum, -esse, afui, afuturus   be distant

Mantua, -ae (f.)   Mantua, a town in northern Italy

procul (adv.)   far; *non procul* = litotes (AG #326)

3 Praegnas eo mater somniavit enixam se laureum ramum, quem contactu terrae coaluisse et excrevisse ilico in speciem maturae arboris refertaeque variis pomis et floribus, ac sequenti luce cum marito rus propinquum petens ex itinere devertit atque in subiecta fossa partu levata est.

praegnas, -atis   with child, pregnant

eo [Vergilio]   Suet. often uses demon. pron. in place of Vergil's name

mater, -ris (f.)   mother

somnio, -iare, -iavi, -iatum   dream

enixam [esse] se …   indir. disc. ff. *somniavit* w/ ellipsis of *esse* (AG#580); **enitor, -iti, -ixus**: give birth to, *enixam [esse]* = inf. in indir. disc.; *se* = Vergil's mother, acc. subj. in indir. disc.; **laureus, -a, -um**: laurel; **ramus, -i** (m.): branch

quem … coaluisse … excrevisse … floribus   new subj. *quem* in indir. disc. ff. *somniavit* (AG#580); *quem* (relat. pron.): anteced. *laureum ramum*; **contactus, -us** (m.): contact; **terra, -ae** (f.): earth, ground; **coalesco, -escere, -ui, -itum**: grow firm; **excerno, -cernere, -crevi, -cretum**: to accumulate; **ilico** (adv.): immediately; **species, -i** (f.): appearance; **maturus, -a, -um**: mature, ripe; **arbor, -ris** (f.): tree; **refercio, -cire, -si, -tum**: cram, stuff full; **varius, -a, -um**: various; **pomum, -i** (n.): fruit; **flos, -ris** (m.): flower

sequenti luce   "on the following day", tmp. abl. abs. (AG #420.1); **sequor, -qui, -cutus sum**: follow; **lux, -cis** (f.): light, daylight

cum marito … petens   ptc. phr. modifying *praegnas mater*; **maritus, -i** (m.): husband; **rus, -ris** (n.): countryside; **propinquum, -a, -um**: neighboring; **peto, -ere, -ivi, -itum**: seek, travel to

iter, -ineris (n.)   path, road

deverto, -tere, -ti, -sum   turn aside

subiecta fossa   "in the ditch on the ground before her"; **subicio, -icere, -ieci, -iectum**: lay before (the eyes) (OLD 4); **fossa, -ae** (f.): ditch

partus, -u (m.)   birth; *partu* = abl. of separation (AG #400)

levo (1)   free from, relieve of (w/ abl.) (OLD 6); "gave birth"

4 Ferunt infantem ut sit editus neque vagisse et adeo miti vultu fuisse, ut haud dubiam spem prosperioris geniturae iam tum daret.

fero, ferre, tuli, latum   report (OLD 26)

infantem … vagisse … fuisse   indir. disc. ff. *ferunt* (AG#580); **infans, -ntis** (m./f.): infant; *ut sit editus* = tmp. cl. (AG #543) w/ pf. subjv. in indir. disc. (AG #580); **edo, -ere, -idi, -itum**: give birth, passive = be born; **vagio, -ire, -ivi**: cry, *vagisse = vagi[vi]sse* (AG #181); **adeo** (adv.): such; *miti vultu* = abl. of quality (AG #415a); **mitis, mite**: mild; **vultus, -us** (m.): expression; **sum, esse, fui, futurus**: be, have

ut … daret   result cl. (AG #537); *haud dubiam spem* = litotes (AG #326); **haud** (adv.): hardly; **dubius, -a, -um**: doubtful; **spes, -i** (f.); hope; **prosperus, -a, -um**: favorable, (compar. = -ior); **genitura, -ae** (f.): upbringing; **iam** (adv.): already; **tum** (adv.): then; **do, dare, dedi, datum**: give, provide

5 Et accessit aliud praesagium, siquidem virga populea more regionis in puerperiis eodem statim loco depacta ita brevi evaluit tempore, ut multo ante satas populos adaequavisset, quae arbor Vergili ex eo dicta atque etiam consecrata est summa gravidarum ac fetarum religione suscipientium ibi et solventium vota.

accedo, -dere, -ssi, -ssum   be added (to elements already present) (OLD 15)

alius, aliud   another

praesagium, -i (n.)   premonition; *praesagium* = nom. subj.

siquidem (adv.)   accordingly, seeing that; causal conj. used to introduce reason for the previous
    statement (AG #224f)

virga … depacta   ptc. phr. acting as subj.; **virga, -ae** (f.): branch; **populeus, -a, um**: poplar; **mos,**
    moris (m.): custom; **regio, -nis** (f.) district; *in puerperiis:* "among those who gave birth";
    puerperium, -i (n.): childbirth; **eodem** (adv.): the same; **statim** (adv.): immediately; **locus, -i**
    (m.): place, specific spot; **depango, -ngere, depegi, -ctum**: drive down (into)

ita (adv.)   so, such

brevis, breve   brief

evalesco, -escere, -ui   grow physically strong

tempus, -oris (n.)   period of time

ut … adaequavisset   result cl. (AG #537); *multo ante satas* = ptc. phr. modifying *populos* to express
    past time (AG #496); **multo** (adv.): much; **ante** (adv.): previously; **sero, -ere, sevi, satum**: sow;
    populus, -i (f.): poplar tree; **adaequo** (1): be as high as (+ acc)

quae (relat. pron.)   anteced. *virga populea*; *quae* = subj. of *dicta [est]*

arbor, -ris (f.)   tree; *arbor* = pred. nom. after *dicta est* (AG #283)

ex eo   "after him"; anteced. *Vergilio*

dico, -ere, -xi, -ctum   to name, call (w/ pred.) (OLD 9); ellipsis of *est*

etiam (adv.)   even

consecro (1)   consecrate, pray to

summus, -a, um   highest, greatest

summa gravidarum et fetarum [feminarum] religione   "with the greatest religious awe of pregnant
    women and women who recently gave birth", abl. of manner (AG #412); **gravida, -ae** (f.):
    pregnant woman; **fetus, -a, -um**: nursing woman; **religio, -nis** (f.): religious awe

suscipientium … solventium vota   ptc. phr. where English might use relat. cl. (AG #496), agreeing w/
    two gen., "woman who"; **suscipio, -ipere, epi, eptum**: take up, make; **ibi** (adv.): there; **solvo,**
    -ere, -i, -lutum: fulfill (OLD 20); **votum, -i** (n.): vow, prayer

6 Initia aetatis Cremonae egit usque ad virilem togam, quam XV anno natali suo accepit iisdem illis consulibus iterum duobus, quibus erat natus, evenitque ut eo ipso die Lucretius poeta decederet.

initium, -i (n.)   beginning

aetas, aetatis (f.)   age, life

Cremona, -ae (f.)   Cremona, a colony on the Po in northern Italy (OCD 407); *Cremonae* = locat. (AG #427.3)

ago, agree, egi, actum   spend, pass (time), live (OLD 31)

usque ad (adv.)   continuously up until

virilem togam   "toga of manhood", formally marked a young man's coming of age and entry into public life

quam (relat. pron.)   anteced. *virilem togam*

XV anno natali suo   "when he was 15 years old"; **annus, -i**: year; **natalis, -e**: of one's birth; **suus, -a, -um**: his, her, its

accedo, -dere, -ssi, -ssum   accept, enter upon

iisdem … duobos   tmp. abl. abs. (#AG 420.1) w/out a ptc. (AG #420.1); **idem, eadem, idem**: same; **ille, illa, illud**; that person, thing; **consul, -is** (m.): consul; **iterum** (adv.): again, a second time; **duo, -a, -um**: two; Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus and Marcus Licinius Crassus were first consuls together in 70 BCE when Virgil was born and again for a second time in 55 BCE

quibus (relat. pron.)   "when"; anteced. *iisdem…consulibus duobus*

nascor, -i, natus sum   be born

evenio, -ire, -i, -tum   it happened

ut … decederet   subst. cl. of result ff. *evenit* (AG #568); *eo ipso die*: "on that very same day"; **Lucretius, -i** (m.): T. Lucretius Carus, the poet famous for writing *De Rerum Natura* (OCD 888); **poeta, -ae** (m.): poet; **decedo, -dere, -ssi, -ssum**: depart from life, die (OLD 7)

7 Sed Vergilius a Cremona Mediolanum et inde paulo post transiit in urbem.

Cremona, -ae (f.)   Cremona; *a Cremona* = abl. of place from which (AG #426.1)

Mediolanum, -i (n.)   Mediolanum, the principal north Italian road-centre (OCD 949), now Milan;

      Mediolanum = acc. of place to which (AG #426.2)

inde (adv.)   from there

paulo post   "a little time afterward"

transeo, -ire, -ii, -itum   cross over, move

urbs, -bis (f.)   city (Rome); *urbem* = obj. of prep. *in*

8 Corpore et statura fuit grandi, aquilo colore, facie rusticana, valetudine varia; nam plerumque a stomacho et a faucibus ac dolore capitis laborabat, sanguinem etiam saepe reiecit.

corpus, -oris (n.)   body; *corpore* = abl. of quality (AG #415); modified by *grandi*

statura, -ae (f.)   stature, size; *statura* = abl. of quality (AG #415); modified by *grandi*

grandis, -e   large

aquilius, -a, um   dark-colored

color, -ris (m.)   complexion; *colore* = abl. of quality (AG #415)

facies, -i (f.)   face; *facie* = abl. of quality (AG #415)

rusticanus, -a, -um   lacking sophistication (OLD 7)

valetudo, -inis (f.)   health; *valetudine* = abl. of quality (AG #415)

varius, -a, -um   changing, varying

nam (adv.)   for

plerumque (adv.)   on most occasions, usually

stomachus, -i (m.)   stomach

faux, -cis (f.)   throat (this noun almost always only appears in the plural)

dolor, -is (m.)   pain

caput, -itis (n.)   head

laboro (1)   suffer from (+ abl.)

sanguis, -inis (m.)   blood

etiam (adv.)   even

saepe (adv.)   often

reicio, -icere, -ieci, -iectum   vomit (OLD 5)

9 Cibi vinique minimi; libidinis in pueros pronioris, quorum maxime dilexit Cebetem et Alexandrum, quem secunda "Bucolicorum" egloga Alexim appellat, donatum sibi ab Asinio Pollione, utrumque non ineruditum, Cebetem vero et poetam. Vulgatum est consuesse eum et cum Plotia Hieria.

Cibi vinique minimi   "he ate and drank very little"; **cibus, -i** (m.): food, *cibi* = gen. of description; **vinum, -i** (n.): wine, drink, *vini* = gen. of description; **minimus, -a, -um**: smallest

libidinis … pronioris   "he had a libido rather disposed towards boys"; **libido, -inis** (f.): libido, *libidinis* = gen. of description; **puer, -i** (m.): boy, *pueros* = obj. of prep. *in*; **pronus, -a, -um**: disposed, (compar. = -ior)

quorum (relat. pron.)   anteced. *pueros*

maxime (superl. adv.)   very much, especially

diligo, -lexi, -lectum   value, cherish

Cebes, -tis (m.)   Cebes

Alexander, -i (m.)   Alexander

quem (relat. pron.)   anteced. *Alexandrum*

secundus, -a, -um   second

Bucolica, -ae (f.)   The Bucolics, a collection of ten pastoral poems written by Vergil in 37 BCE

egloga, -ae (f.)   excerpt; *secunda egloga* = abl. of place in which w/ omission of *in* (AG #429)

Alexis, -is (m.)   diminutive of *Alexandrum; Alexim* = pred. acc. w/ *quem*

appello (1)   address

donatum … Pollione   ptc. phrase modifying *Alexandrum*; **dono** (1): give; *sibi = Vergilio*; **C. Asinius Pollio**: a Roman who was consul in 40 BCE (OCD 192), *Asinius Pollione* = obj. of prep. *ab*

uterque, utraque, utrumque   each of two, both

ineruditus, -a, -um   uneducated, illiterate; *non ineruditum* = litotes

vero (adv.)   truly

et (adv.)   even

poeta, -ae (m.)   poet;

vulgo (1)   make known, publish; *vulgatum est* = impers. pass.

consuesse eum … Hieria   indir. disc. ff. *vulgatum est* (AG#580); **consuesco, -suescere, -suevi, -suetem**: have sexual intercourse, *consuesse = consue[vi]sse* (AG #181); *eum [Vergilium]* = acc. subj. in indir. disc.; **Plotia Hieria**: daughter of Plotius Hierius

10 Sed Asconius Pedianus adfirmat, ipsam postea maiorem natu narrare solitam, invitatum quidem a Vario ad communionem sui, verum pertinacissime recusasse.

Quintus Asconius Pedianus   (3 CE – 99 CE) a Roman senator and historian (OCD 188)

adfirmo (1)   present as true, assert

ipsam … solitam [esse]   indir. disc. ff. *adfirmat* (AG#580); **ipse, ipsa, ipsud**: himself, herself, itself,
    ipsam = Plotia Hieria, acc. subj. in indir. disc.; **postea** (adv.): after; **maior, maius**: older, elder,
    (compar. of magnus), *maiorem* = appos. w/ *ipsam*, "after being older in age"; **natus, -us** (m.):
    age; **narro** (1): say; **soleo, -ere, -itus sum**: used to

invitatum [esse] … recusasse   second indir. disc. ff. *narrare* (AG #580) w/ *Vergilem* as implied acc.
    subj.; **invito** (1): invite; **quidem** (adv.): indeed; **Lucius Varius Rufus**: (74 BCE – 14 BCE) a
    Roman poet and good friend of Vergil (OCD 1581); **communio, -onis** (f.): sharing (sexual); *sui*:
    "of Hieria", obj. gen.; **verum** (adv.): however; **pertinace** (adv.): tenaciously, (superl = -issime);
    recuso (1): reject, *recusasse = recusa[vi]sse* (AG #181)

11 Cetera sane vitae et ore et animo tam probum constat, ut Neapoli Parthenias vulgo appellatus sit, ac si quando Romae, quo rarissime commeabat, viseretur in publico, sectantis demonstrantisque se subterfugeret in proximum tectum.

cetera … probum   indir. disc. ff. *constat* (AG #580); **cetara** (adv.): in other respects, otherwise; **sane** (adv.): certainly (OLD 3); **vita, -ae** (f.): life; **os, oris** (n.): speaking; **animus, -i** (m.): mindset, soul; **tam** (adv.): so; **probus, -a, -um**: proper

consto (1)   agreed upon; impers. use: "It is agreed upon…"

ut … appellatus sit   result. cl. (AG #537); **Neapolis, -is** (f.): a maritime city in Campania, now Naples (OCD 1031), *Neapoli* = locat. (AG #427.3); **Parthenias, -ae** (m.): little maiden, virgin, an epithet of Vergil; **vulgo** (adv.): commonly, publically; **appello** (1): address as, call

si … viseretur in publico   protasis of iterative subjv. condition (AG #518c); *quando = aliqundo;* **aliquando** (adv.): at any time; **Roma, -ae** (f.): Rome, *Romae* = locat. (AG #427.3); *quo* (adv.): to which place, where; **rare** (adv.): uncommonly, (superl. = -issime); **commeo** (1): visit, travel to; **viso, -ere, -si, -sum**: look at; **publicum, -i** (n.): parts of a city frequented by the public (OLD 5)

sectantis … subterfugeret … tectum   apodosis of iterative subjv. condition (AG #517a); **sector, -ari, -atus**: follow, pursue, *sectantis* = pres. act. ptc. used subst.; **demonstro** (1): point out, *demonstrantis* = pres. act. ptc. used subst.; **subterfugio, -ugere, -ugi**: slip (+ reflex. acc.) away from (+ acc.); **proximus, -a,** -**um**: nearest; **tectum, -i** (n.): covered house

12 Bona autem cuiusdam exsulantis offerente Augusto non sustinuit accipere.

bonus, -a, -um   good; *bona* = n. pl. subst.: "possessions"

quidam, quaedam, quiddam   certain

exsulo (1)   be banished, live in exile;

offerente Augusto   concess. abl. abs. (AG #420.3); **offero, obferre, obtuli, oblatum**: offer for a person
to take (OLD 8); **Augustus, -i** (m): Augustus, the first emperor at Rome (OCD 216)

sustineo, **-ere, -ui**   be able, have the necessary courage (OLD 6)

accipio, -ere, -cepi, -ceptum   take, accept

13 Possedit prope centiens sestertium ex liberalitatibus amicorum habuitque domum Romae Esquiliis iuxta hortos Maecenatianos, quamquam secessu Campaniae Siciliaeque plurimum uteretur.

possideo, -ere, -edi, -essum   own, possess

prope (adv.)   nearly

centiens sesterium   "ten million sesterces"; *centiens = centiens centena milia* (AG #634); **centiens** (adv.): a hundred times; **mille**: thousand; **sesterius, -i** (m.): sesterce

liberalitas, -atis (f.)   generosity

amicus, -i (m.)   friend

habeo, -ere, -ui, -itum   own, possess

domus, -i (f.)   house

Roma, -ae (f.)   the city of Rome; *Romae* = locat. (AG #427.3)

Esquiliae, -arum (f. pl.)   the Esquiline Hill, one of the seven hills of Rome (OCD 558); *Esquiliis* = abl. of place where w/out prep. (AG #429.1)

hortus, -i (m.)   garden; *hortos* = obj. of prep. *iuxta*

Maecenatianus, -a, -um   of or belonging to Gaius Maecenas, a principal supporter of Augustus, whose inspiration influenced Vergil to express support for the regime (OCD 907)

quamquam … uteretur   concessive cl. (AG #527e); **quamquam** (adv.): although; **secessus, -us** (m.): solitude, leisure; **Campania, -ae** (f.): Campania, a region of Italy by the river Liris (OCD 283), *Campaniae* = locat. (AG #427.3); **Sicilia, -ae** (f.): Sicilia (OCD 1401), present day Sicily, *Siciliae* = locat. (AG #427.3); **plurimum** (adv.): to the greatest extent; **utor, -i, usus**: spend one's time in (+ abl.)

14 Parentes iam grandis amisit, ex quibus patrem captum oculis, et duos fratres germanos, Silonem inpuberem, Flaccum iam adultum, cuius exitum sub nomine Daphnidis deflet.

parens, -ntis (m./f.)   parent

iam (adv.)   already

grandis, grande   grown-up; *grandis* = adj. modifying unexpressed subj. Vergil

amitto, -ittere, -isi, -issum   lose (by death) (OLD 9b)

ex quibus (relat. pron.)   anteced. *parentes*

pater, -ris (m.)   father

captum oculis   "had been blinded"; pf. ptc. of capere w/ abl. (OLD 22); **capio, capere, cepi, ceptum**: seize; **oculus, -i** (m.): eye

duo, -ae, -o   two

frater, -ris (m.)   brother; *fratres* = second obj. of *amisit*

germanus, -a, -um   having the same father and mother, full sibling

Silo, -onis (m.)   Silo; *Silonem* = pred. acc. w/ *fratres* (AG #393)

inprubes, -ris   being young

Flaccus, -i (m.)   Flaccus; *Flaccum* = pred. acc. w/ *fratres* (AG #393)

adolesco, -escere, -evi   grow into an adult

cuius (relat. pron.)   anteced. *Flaccum*

exitus, -um (m.)   death

nomen, -is (m.)   name; *nomine* = obj. of prep. *sub*

Daphnis, -idis (m.)   Daphnis, a mythological Sicilian herdsman and son of Apollo featured within Vergil's *Bucolics V* (OCD 202)

defleo, -ere, -eui, -etum   mourn the loss of (OLD 2c)

15 Inter cetera studia medicinae quoque ac maxime mathematicae operam dedit. Egit et causam apud iudices unam omnino nec amplius quam semel;

ceterus, -a, -um   other

studium, -i (n.)   study; *studia* = obj. of prep. *inter*

medicina, -ae (f.)   medicine; *medicinae* = dat. of ref. (AG #376)

quoque (adv.)   also

maxime (superl. adv.)   especially, very much

mathematica, -ae (f.)   mathematics; *mathematicae* = dat. of ref. (AG #376)

opera, -ae (f.)   work, labor

do, dare, dedi, datum   give; *operam dare*: "make an effort for", "give attention to" (+ dat) (OLD 22b)

ago, agere, egi, actum   drive, urge; *causam agree*: "plead someone's case" (OLD 42b)

causa, -ae (f.)   cause, case

apud (prep. + acc.)   before, in view of

iudex, -icis (m.)   judge; *iudices* = obj. of prep. *apud*

unus, -a, -um   one, single; *unam* = adj. modifying *causam*

omnino (adv.)   only, altogether

nec amplius quam semel   "not more than once"

16 nam et in sermone tardissimum eum ac paene indocto similem fuisse Melissus tradidit.

et … eum … fuisse   indir. disc. ff. *tradidit* (AG #580); **sermo, -nis** (m.): speech, diction; **tardus, -a,**
  -um: slow, slow-witted, (superl = -issimus, -a, -um); *eum [Vergilium]* = acc. subj. in indir. disc.;
  paene (adv.): almost; **indoctus, -a, -um:** unlearned, (subst.: "uneducated man"); **similis, -e**:
  similar to (+ dat); **sum, esse, fui, futurus**: be

Gaius Maecenas Melissus   a comic poet, grammarian, freedman of C. Cilnius Maecenas (OCD 908)

trado, -ere, -idi, -itum   relate, pass on information (OLD 10)

17 Poeticam puer adhuc auspicatus in Ballistam ludi magistrum ob infamiam latrociniorum coopertum lapidibus distichon fecit:

"Monte sub hoc lapidum tegitur Ballista sepultus;

Nocte die tutum carpe, viator, iter."

Deinde "Catalepton" et "Priapea" et "Epigrammata" et "Diras," item "Cirim" et "Culicem," cum esset annorum XVI.

poeticam … auspicatus … magistrum   tmp. ptc. phr. (AG #496); poetica, -ae (f.): poetry; **puer, -is** (m.): boy; **adhuc** (adv.): while still; **auspicor, -ari, -atus**: begin, have one's first experience; **Ballista, -ae** (f.): Ballista, an otherwise unknown man, *Ballistam* = obj. of prep. *in*: against; **ludus, -i** (m.): school; **magistrum, -i** (n.): teacher, *magistrum* = app. w/ *Ballistam*

ob … coopertum lapidibus   ptc. phr. modifying *magistrum*; **infamia, -ae** (f.): bad reputation, *infamiam* = obj. of prep. *ob*; **latrocinium, -i** (n.): highway robbery; **cooperio, -ire, -ui, -tum**: cover, *lapidibus cooperire*: "to stone (to death)"; **lapis, -dis** (m.): stone

distichon, -i (m.)   couplet, two-line verse

facio, -ere, feci, factum   make, create

mons, -tis (m.):   mountain; *monte* = obj. of prep. *sub*;

tego, -ere, texi, tectum   cover

sepelio, -ire, -ivi, -ultum   bury; *sepultus* = prf. pass. ptc. modifying *Ballista*

nocte die   "by night and by day"; two words put together w/o the use of a conj. (AG #323); **nox, noctis** (m.): night; **dies, -ies** (f.): day;

tutus, -a, -um   safe; *tutum* = adj. modifying *iter*

capio, -ere, cepi, -ptum   seize, make, begin

viator, -is (m.)   traveler; *viator* = vocat.

iter, itineris (n.)   journey

deinde (adv.)   afterwards

Catalepton … Culicem   Suetonius lists various works by Vergil, all of which are the dir. obj. of *fecit*; *Catalepton*: "Trifles"; *Priapea*: "Priapus Poems"; *Epigrammata*: "Epigrammata"; *Diras*: Dirae, "Curses"; item (adv.): also; *Cirim*: Ciris, "The Sea-Bird"; *Culicem*: Culex, "The Gnat"

cum esset … XVI   cum circumst. cl. (AG #546); **annus, -i** (m.): year, *annorum XVI* = gen. of quality (AG #345)

18 Cuius materia talis est. Pastor fatigatus aestu cum sub arbore condormisset et serpens ad eum proreperet, e palude culex provolavit atque inter duo tempora aculeum fixit pastori. At ille continuo culicem contrivit et serpentem interemit ac sepulchrum culici statuit et distichon fecit:

cuius (relat. pron.)   anteced. *Culicem*

materia, -ae (f.)   subject matter, topic (OLD 7)

talis, -e   such as this; a description of the plot of "The Gnat" follows

pastor, -ris (m.)   shepherd

fatigatus aestu   ptc. phr. modifying *pastor*; **fatigo** (1): tire, grow exhausted; **aestus, -us** (m.): heat

cum … condormisset   cum circumst. cl. (AG #546); **arbor, -oris** (f.): tree; **condormio, -ire, -ivi**: be
        fast asleep, *condormisset = condormi[vi]sset* (AG #181)

cum … serpens … proreperet   second cum circumst. cl. w/ new subj. (AG #546); **serpens, -ntis**
        (m./f.): serpent, snake; *eum = pastorem*; **prorepo, -pere, -psi, -ptum**: crawl forth

palus, -udis (f.)   swamp, marsh; *palude* = obj. of prep. *e*

culex, -icis (m.)   gnat

provolo (1)   fly forth

duo, -ae, -o   two (AG #134 for declension)

tempus, -oris (n.)   temple (of the head); *duo tempora* = obj. of prep. *inter*

aculeus, -i (m.)   stinger

figo, -gere, -xi, -xum   fix

pastor, -ris (m.)   shepherd; *pastori* = dat. of disadv. for culex; *pastori* = dat. of adv. for pastor

continuo (adv.)   immediately

contero, -terere, -trivi, -tritum   crush, smash

interimo, -imere, -imi, -emptum   kill

sepulchrum, -i (n.)   grave

statuo, -uere, -ui, -utum   set up

distichon, -i (m.)   couplet, two-line verse

facio, -ere, feci, factum   make, create

18 (con't)

"Parve culex, pecudum custos tibi tale merenti

Funeris officium vitae pro munere reddit."

parvus, -a, -um   small, little

pecus, -udis (f.)   flock

custos, -odis (m.)   protector, shephard

mereo, -ere, -ui, -itum   deserve; *tibi tale merenti*: "to you so deserving"

funeris…reddit   "[I] perform this service of a funeral as a gift for my life"; **funus, -eris** (n.): funeral;
   officium, -i (n.): service, duty; **vita, -ae** (f.): life; **munus, -eris** (n.): something freely bestowed as
   a gift (OLD 5d), *munere* = obj. of prep. *pro,* "in exchange for"; **redo, -ere, -idi, -itum**: render,
   perform (OLD 9)

19 Scripsit etiam de qua ambigitur "Aetnam." Mox cum res Romanas inchoasset, offensus materia ad "Bucolica" transiit, maxime ut Asinium Pollionem, Alfenum Varum et Cornelium Gallum celebraret, quia in distributione agrorum, qui post Philippensem victoriam veteranis triumvirorum iussu trans Padum dividebantur, indemnem se praestitissent.

scribo, -bere, -psi, -ptum   write

etiam (adv.)   also

de qua ambigitur   "about which there is a doubt (of authorship)"; **ambigo, -ere**: (impers. pass.) there is
        a doubt

Aetnam   Aetna, a Latin poem that attempts to explain the volcanic activity of Mt. Etna (OCD 31)

mox (adv.)   soon

cum … inchoasset   cum circumst. cl. (AG #546); **res, rei** (f.): affair; **Romanus, -a, -um**: Roman;
        inchoo (1): begin making, make a first draft of, *inchoasset = inchoa[vi]sset* (AG #181)

offendo, -dere, -di, -sum   be displeased (+ abl.) (OLD 7b)

materia, -ae (f.)   material, subject matter; *materia* = abl. going w/ *offensus*

Bucolica, -ae (f.)   The Bucolics, a collection of ten pastoral poems written by Vergil in 37 BCE

transeo, -ire, -ivi, -itum   move on (to a new subject) (OLD 5)

maxime (superl. adv.)   especially, very much

ut … celebraret   purp. cl. (AG #531); **Gaius Asinius Pollio**: a Roman soldier who was consul in 40
        BCE**; Publius Alfenus Varus**: a Roman jurisconsult and writer around the 1st century BCE
        (OCD 63); **Gaius Cornelius Gallus**: (70 BCE – 26 BCE) a Roman poet, orator and politician
        (OCD 394); **celebro** (1): praise, celebrate (OLD 6)

quia … praestitissent   causal cl. w/ subjv. vb. indicating authority of another (AG #540.2); **distributio,**
        -onis (f.): division; **ager, -gri** (m.): territory; *qui…dividebantur*: relat. cl. interrupting causal cl.;
        qui = anteced. *agrorum*; **Philippensis, -e**: of or belonging to Philippi, a town in N. Greece (OCD
        1162); **victoria, -ae** (f.): victory, the victory at Philippi occurred in 42 BCE; **veteranus, -a, -um**:
        experienced, (subst. = "veteran soldier"), *veteranis* = indir. obj.; *triumvirorum iussu:* "by the
        order of the triumvirs"; **triumvir, -i** (m.): triumvir (pl. = Augustus, Antony, and Lepidus); **iussus,**
        -us (m.): order; **Padus, -i** (m.): the Po River (OCD 1090), *Padum* = obj. of prep. *trans*; **divido, -**
        idere, -isi, -isum: divide into parts, distribute (to recipients); **indemnis, -e**: uninjured; *se =*
        Vergilium; **praesto, -are, -iti, -atum**: render, keep (w/ pred. acc.) (OLD 13), unexpressed subj. =
        Pollio, Varus, and Gallus

20 Deinde scripsit "Georgica" in honorem Maecenatis, qui sibi mediocriter adhuc noto opem tulisset adversus veterani cuiusdam violentiam, a quo in altercatione litis agrariae paulum afuit quin occideretur.

deinde (adv.)   afterwards

scribo, -bere, -psi, -ptum   write

Georgica, -orum (n.)   The Georgics, "Agricultural Things", a poem written by Vergil in 29 BCE

honor, -ris (m.)   honor

Gaius Cilnius Maecenas   a Roman knight, friend of Augustus, and patron to poets such as Vergil

qui … tulisset … violentiam   causal rel. cl. (AG #535e); **qui** (relat. pron.): anteced. *Maecenatis*;
> **sibi mediocriter adhuc noto**: "to him [Vergil] still being only moderately well known";
> **mediocriter** (adv.): moderately; **adhuc** (adv.): still; **notus, -a, -um**: known, familiar; **ops, opis** (f.): help, aid; **fero, -rre, tuli, latum**: carry, bear; **adversus** (prep. + acc.): against (OLD 7);
> **ueteranus, -a, -um**: experienced, m. subst.: a veteran soldier; **quidam, quadam, quiddam**: certain; **violentia, -ae** (f.): violence, aggressiveness

a quo (relat. pron.)   anteced. *veterani cuiusdam*

altercatio, -nis (f.)   dispute, altercation

litis agrariae   "an lawsuit over land"; gen. of charge (AG #352)

lis, -itis (f.)   quarrel, lawsuit

agrarius, -a, -um   agragrian

paulum afuit quin occideretur   "he was almost killed", lit.: "it lacked a little but that he was
> killed"; *quin* w/ subjv. (AG #558); **paulus, -a, -um**: little; **absum, abesse, afui**: be absent, be distant (OLD 6a); **occido, -dere, -di, -sum**: kill, cause the death

21 Novissime "Aeneidem" inchoavit, argumentum varium ac multiplex et quasi amborum Homeri carminum instar, praeterea nominibus ac rebus Graecis Latinisque commune, et in quo, quod maxime studebat, Romanae simul urbis et Augusti origo contineretur.

nove (adv.)   lastly, finally; superl = -issime

Aeneis, -idis (f.)   The Aeneid, an epic poem depicting the legend of Aeneas (OCD 23)

inchoo (1)   begin making, make a first draft

argumentum, -i (n.)   narrative, story (OLD 6); *argumentum* = appos. w/ *Aeneidem*

varium ac multiplex…instar…commune   adjs. modifying *argumentum*; **varius, -a, -um**: varied;
       multiplex, -icis: complex; **quasi** (conj.): as, like; **ambo, -ae, -um**: both, the two; **Homerus, -i**
       (m.): Homer; **carmen, -inis** (n.): poem; **instar** (indecl.): likeness, model (of); **praeteria** (adv.):
       moreover, in addition; *nominibus…commune*: "sharing in Greek and Roman names and matters";
       nomen, -is (m.): name; **res, rei** (f.): affair; **Graecus, -a, -um**: of or concerning the Greeks;
       Latinus, -a, -um: of or concerning Latium, i.e. of the Romans; **communis, -e**: shared by

in quo…origo contineretur   relat. cl. of purp. (AG #531.2); "in which narrative"; *quo*: anteced.
       argumentum; *quod maxime studebat:* "a thing which…", relat. cl. interrupting relat. cl. of purp.
       (AG #531); **maxime** (superl. adv.): especially; **studeo, -ere, -ui**: direct one's effort to, strive
       after; **Romanus, -a, -um**: of or pertaining to Rome; **simul** (adv.): at the same time; **urbs, -bis** (f.):
       city; **Augustus, -i** (m.): Augustus; **origo, -inis** (f.): beginning, origin; **contineo, -nere, -nui,**
       -ntum: contain

22 Cum "Georgica" scriberet, traditur cotidie meditatos mane plurimos versus dictare solitus ac per totum diem retractando ad paucissimos redigere, non absurde carmen se more ursae parere dicens et lambendo demum effingere.

cum … scriberet   cum circumst. cl. (AG #546); **Georgica, -orum** (n.): The Georgics, "Agricultural Things", a poem written by Vergil; **scribo, -bere, -psi, -ptum**: write

trado, -ere, -idi, -itum   report, pass on information (OLD 10); *traditur* = personal pass. w/ *solitus* (AG #582)

cotidie … solitus [esse]   indir. disc. ff. *traditur* (AG #580); **cotidie** (adv.): every day; **meditor, -ari, -atus**: ponder, think out, *meditatos* = pf. pass. ptc. modifiying *plurimos versus*; **mane** (adv.): early in the morning; **plurimus, -a, -um**: very many (superl. of multus); **versus, -us** (m.): line of writing; **dicto** (1): say aloud, *dictare* = compl. inf. w/ *solitus* (AG #546); **soleo, -ere, -itus sum**: be accustomed

per … redigere   indir. disc. ff. *traditur* (AG #580); **totus, -a, -um**: whole; **dies, -ei** (m./f.): day; **retracto** (1): revise (OLD 6b), *retractando* = abl. of means w/ gerv. (AG #507); **paucus, -a, -um**: few, a small number (superl. = -issimus, -a, -um); **redigo, -igere, -egi, -actum**: reduce in number, *redigere* = compl. inf. of *solitus*, dir. obj. is *versus*

absurde (adv.)   absurdly; *non absurde* = litotes (AG #326), "jokingly"; modifying *dicens*

carmen … se … parere … effingere   indir. disc. ff. *dicens* (AG #580); **carmen, -inis** (n.): poem, *carmen* = dir. obj. of *effingere*; *se [Verglium]* = acc. subj. in indir. disc.; **mos, moris** (m.): manner; **ursa, -ae** (f.): mother bear; **pario, -ere, peperi, -tum**: produce; **dico, -cere, -xi, -ctum**; say, *dicens* = pres. act. ptc. modifying unexpressed subj. Vergil; **lambo, -ere, -i**: lick, *lambendo* = abl. of means as gerv. (AG #507); **demum** (adv.): at the end (OLD 3); **effingo, -ngere, -nxi, -ctum**: finish

23 "Aeneida" prosa prius oratione formatam digestamque in XII libros particulatim componere instituit, prout liberet quidque, et nihil in ordinem arripiens.

Aeneida … formatam digestamque … libros   tmp. ptc. phr. acting as dir. obj. of *componere*; **Aeneis, -idis** (f.): The Aeneid; **prosus, -a, -um**: in prose; **prius** (adv.): first; **oratio, -onis** (f.): manner, style; **formo** (1): compose, form; **digero, -rere, -ssi, -stum**: arrange, organize (OLD 4); **liber, -bri** (m): book, volume

particulatim (adv.)   one by one, bit by bit

compono, -onere, -osui, -ositum   compose (OLD 8); modified by *particulatim*

instituo, -uere, -ui, -utum   set about (+ inf.) (OLD 5b); Vergil is unexpressed subj.

prout liberet quidque   "just as any bit was pleasing"; **prout** (conj.): according as; **libet, -ere, -uit**: (impers.) be pleasing; **quisque, quidque**: anyone, anything

nihil … arripiens   ptc. phr. modifying unexpressed subj. Vergil; **nihil** (indecl.): nothing; **ordo, -dinis** (m.): order; **arripio, -ere, -ui, arreptum**: adopt (style), seize eagerly (OLD 5)

24 Ac ne quid impetum moraretur, quaedam inperfecta transmisit, alia levissimis verbis veluti fulsit, quae per iocum pro tibicinibus interponi aiebat ad sustinendum opus, donec solidae columnae advenirent.

ne … moraretur   negat. purp. cl. (AG #531); **aliquis, alquid**: anything, anyone, *quid = aliquid*;
>   **impetus, -us** (m.): vigor, vigorous effort; **moror, -ari, -atus**: impede, delay (OLD 6)

quidam, quaedam, quiddam   something, certain (subst. neut. pl.: "certain things")

inperfectus, -a, um   incomplete; *inperfecta* = pred. adj. w/ *quaedam* (AG #285.2)

transmitto, -ittere, -isi, -issum   pass along

alius, -a, -um   other, another

levis, -e   light, weak, mild; superl. = -issimus, -a, -um

verbum, -i (n.)   word

veluti (adv.)   so to speak (OLD 4)

fulcio, -cire, -si, -tum   support

quae   anteced. *alia*

per iocum   "in jest", "by way of a joke"; iocus, -i (m.): joke

quae … interponi … opus   indir. disc. ff. *aiebat* (AG #580); *quae* = acc. subj. in indir. disc.; *pro*
>   *tibicinibus*: "just as props for support"; **tibicen, -inis** (m.): prop used in shoring up a building;
>   **interpono, -ponere, -posui, -positum**: insert, include; aio, aiere: say, affirm; *ad sustinendum*
>   *opus*: "for the purpose of supporting the work"; **sustineo, -ere, -ui**: support, maintain,
>   *sustinendum* = gerv. w/ *ad* to show purpose (AG #506)

donec … advenirent   impf. subjv. in tmp. cl. implying expectancy (AG #553); **donec** (conj.): until;
>   **solidus, -a, -um**: solid; **columna, -ae** (f.): column; **advenio, -nire, -ni, -ntus**: arrive

25 "Bucolica" triennio, "Georgica" VII, "Aeneida" XI perfecit annis.

Bucolica, -orum (n.)   The Bucolics, a collection of ten pastoral poems written by Vergil in 37 BCE

triennium, -i (n.)   three years' time; *triennio* = abl. of time within which (AG #423)

Georgica, -orum (n.)   The Georgics, "Agricultural Things", a poem written by Vergil in 29 BCE

VII   Roman numeral seven; *VII = septem annis,* abl. of time within which (AG #423)

Aeneis, -idos (f.)   The Aeneid, an epic poem depicting the legend of Aeneas (OCD 23)

XI   Roman numeral eleven; *XI = undecim annis*, abl. of time within which (AG #423)

perficio, -icere, -eci, -ectum   complete, finish

annus, -i (m.)   year

26 "Bucolica" eo successu edidit, ut in scena quoque per cantores crebro pronuntiarentur.

Bucolica, -orum (n.)   The Bucolics, a collection of ten pastoral poems written by Vergil in 37 BCE

is, ea, id   such

successus, -us (m.)   success, successful outcome

edo, -dere, -didi, -ditum   publish

ut … pronuntiarentur   result cl. ff. *eo* (AG #537); **scena, -ae** (f.): stage; **quoque** (adv.): also; **cantor,**
   -ris (m.): male singer, *cantores* = obj. of the prep. *per* indicating personal agent (AG #405b);
   crebro (adv.): frequently; **pronuntio** (1): recite, new subj. = *Bucolica*

27 "Georgica" reverso post Actiacam victoriam Augusto atque Atellae reficiendarum faucium causa commoranti per continuum quadriduum legit, suscipiente Maecenate legendi vicem, quotiens interpellaretur ipse vocis offensione.

Georgica, -orum (n.)   The Georgics, "Agricultural Things", a poem written by Vergil in 29 BCE; *Georgica* = acc. dir. obj. of *legit*

reverso … Augusto   ptc. phr. as indir. obj. of *legit*; **revertor, -ti, -sus**: return; **Actiacus, -a, -um**: of or connected with Actium; **victoria, -ae** (f.): victory, *victoriam* = obj. of prep. *post*

Augusto … commoranti   second ptc. phr. as indir. obj. of *legit* (AG #420.1); **Atella, -ae** (f.): a town in Campania on the Clanius River, *Atellae* = locat. (AG #427.3); **reficio, -icere, -eci, -ectum**: restore to strength (OLD 6); **fauces, -ium** (f.): throat; **causa, -ae** (f.): cause, reason, *causa* = abl. w/ gen. of gerv. to express purp. (AG #504b); **commoror, -ari, -atus**: remain

continuus, -a, -um   continuous

quadriduum, -i (n.)   four days; *quadriduum* = obj. of prep. *per*

lego, -gere, -gi, -ctum   read aloud

suscipiente Maecenate … vicem   abl. abs. (AG #419); **suscipio, -ipere, epi, eptum**: take up; *legendi* = gen. of ger. (AG #504); **vicis** (gen.) (f.): turn

quotiens interpellaretur ipse … offensione   iterative subjv. w/ *quotiens* (BG #567n); **quotiens** (rel. adv.): whenever, as often as; **interpello** (1): impede, disrupt; *ipse:* "Vergil himself"; **vox, vocis** (f.): voice; **offensio, -onis** (f.): setback, problem

28 Pronuntiabat autem cum suavitate et lenociniis miris.

pronuntio (1)   recite; supply *Georgica* as dir. obj.

autem (conj.)   however

sauvitas, -tatis (f.)   pleasantness of sound; *suavitate* = abl. of manner w/ *cum* (AG #412)

lenocinium, -i (n.)   sweetness, charm; *lenociniis* = abl. of manner w/ adj. (AG #412)

mirus, -a, -um   remarkable

29 Ac Seneca tradidit, Iulium Montanum poetam solitum dicere, involaturum se Vergilio quaedam, si et vocem posset et os et hypocrisin; eosdem enim versus ipso pronuntiante bene sonare, sine illo inanes esse mutosque.

Lucius Annaeus Seneca (50 BCE – 40 CE) a Roman historian (OCD 695)

trado, -ere, -idi, -itum report, pass on information (OLD 10)

Iulium Montanum … solitum [esse] dicere indir. disc. ff. *tradidit* (AG #580); **Julius Montanus**: Julius Montanus, a poet and orator from Narbo; **poeta, -ae** (f.): poet, *poetam* = appos. w/ *Iulium Montanum*; **soleo, -ere, -itus**: be accustomed (+ inf.); **dico, -cere, -xi, -ctum**: say

involaturum [esse] se … quaedam indir. disc. ff. *dicere* (AG #580), apodosis of mixed CTF condition (AG #517d); "he would have stolen certain works from Vergil"; **involo** (1): seize, steal; *se [Montanum]* = acc. subj. in indir. disc.; *Vergilio* = dat. of disadvantage; *quaedam* = subst. n. pl. acc.: "certain things/works"

si … posset [involare] … hypocrisin protasis of mixed CTF condition (AG #517), supply previous inf. *involare*: "if he was able to steal"; **vox, vocis** (f.): voice; **possum, posse, potui**: be able (+ inf); **os, oris** (n.): mouth, delivery; **hypocrisis, -is** (f.): gesture

eosdem … versus … sonare … esse mutosque second indir. disc. ff. *dicere* (AG #580); **idem, eadem, idem**: same; **versus, -us** (m.): verse of poetry, *versus* = acc. subj. in indir. disc.; *ipso pronuntiante* = tmp. abl. abs. (AG #420.1); *ipso* = *Vergilio*; **pronuntio** (1): recite; **bene** (adv.): well; **sono** (1): sound, be heard; *sine illo [Vergilio] [pronuntiante]* = second tmp. abl. abs.; **inanis, -e**: empty, *inanes* = pred. adj. w/ *versus* after *esse*; **mutus, -a, -um**: lacking emotion (OLD 4), *mutos* = pred. adj. w/ *versus* after *esse*

30 "Aeneidos" vixdum coeptae tanta exstitit fama, ut Sextus Propertius non dubitaverit sic praedicare:

"Cedite, Romani scriptores, cedite Grai:

Nescio quid maius nascitur Iliade."

Aeneidos vixdum coeptae "[of] The Aeneid, which had just recently been undertaken"; **Aeneis, -idos**
(f.): The Aeneid; **vixdum** (adv.): scarcely; **coepio, -pere, -pi, -ptus**: begin, undertake

tantus, -a, -um such, so great

exsisto, -ere, extiti arise

fama, -ae (f.) fame, reputation; *tanta fama* = new subject

ut Sextus Propertius non dubitaverit sic praedicare result cl. (AG #537); **Sextus Propertius**: a
Roman love poet (OCD 622); **dubito** (1): hesitate; **sic** (adv.): thus; **praedico** (1): proclaim; the
following excerpt is from Propertius' *Elegies* 2.34.65-66

cedo, -dere, -didi, -ditum yield

Romanus, -a, -um Roman

scriptor, -oris (m.) writer; *scriptores* = voc.

Graius, -i (m.) a Greek; *Grai* = voc.

nescio quid something (unknown or unspecified) (OLD 6a) (AG #575d)

maior, maius greater

nascor, -i, natus sum born

Ilias, -adis (f.) The Iliad; *Iliade* = abl. of compar. (AG #406)

31 Augustus vero — nam forte expeditione Cantabrica aberat — supplicibus atque etiam minacibus per iocum litteris efflagitarat, ut "sibi de 'Aeneide,' " ut ipsius verba sunt, "vel prima carminis ὑπογραφή vel quodlibet κῶλον mitteretur."

vero (adv.)   truly, indeed

forte (adv.)   by chance

expeditio, -onis (f.)   expedition, campaign; *expeditione* = abl. of place where (AG #424d)

Cantabricus, -a, -um   of or concerning Cantabri people, the inhabitants of northwest Spain;
       Cantabrica = adj. modifying *expeditione*

absum, abesse, afui   be absent

supplex, -icis   begging, suppliant; *supplicibus* = adj. modifying *litteris*

minax, -acis   threatening, menacing; *minacibus* = adj. modifying *litteris*

per iocum   "in jest", "by way of a joke"; iocus, -i (m.): joke

littera, -ae (f.)   letter; *litteris* = abl. of means

efflagito (1)   demand, insist; *efflagitarat* = *efflagita[ve]rat*

ut … prima … ὑπογραφή … quodlibet κῶλον mitteretur   subst. cl. of purp. ff. *efflagitarat* (AG
       #563); *sibi [Augusto]* = indir. obj.; **Aeneis, -idos** (f.): The Aeneid, *Aeneide* = obj. of prep. *de*, abl.
       of separation (AG #402); *ut ipsuis verba sunt*: "as were his words exactly"; **primus, -a, -um**:
       first; **carmen, -inis** (n.): poem; **vel…vel…**: either… or (AG #323e); **ὑπογραφή, -ής** (f.): outline,
       sketch, *prima ὑπογραφή* = first new subj. of *miteretur*; *quodlibet κῶλον*: "whatever part of a line
       is allowed"; **libet, -ere, -uit**: any you like to mention, whatever (OLD 4); **κῶλον, -ου**(n.): line,
       metrical unit (ML 2), *quodlibet κῶλον* = second new subj. of *mitteretur*; **mitto, -ittere, -isi,
       -issum**: send

32 Cui tamen multo post perfectaque demum materia tres omnino libros recitavit, secundum, quartum et sextum, sed hunc notabili Octaviae adfectione, quae cum recitationi interesset, ad illos de filio suo versus, "tu Marcellus eris," defecisse fertur atque aegre focilata est.

cui (rel. pron.)   anteced. *Augustus*

multo post   "after a long time"

perfectaque demum materia   tmp. abl. abs. (AG #420.1); **perficio, -icere, -eci, -ectum**: complete,
        finish; **demum** (adv.): finally; **materia, -ae** (f.): subject matter

tres, tria   three

omnino (adv.)   as a whole

liber, -ris (m.)   book

recito (1)   recite, read aloud

secundus, -a, -um   second; *secundum* = adj. modifying *libros*

quartus, -a, -um   fourth; *quartum* = adj. modifying *libros*

sextus, -a, -um   sixth; *sextum* = adj. modifying *libros*

hunc (demon. pron.)   referring to *sextum librum*

notabili Octaviae adfectione   abl. abs. with adj. in place of ptc. (AG #419a): **notabilis, -e**: remarkable;
        Octavia: sister of Augustus, married to C. Claudius Marcellus in 54 BCE (OCD 510); **adfectio,
        -onis** (f.): change in emotion

quae (rel. pron.)   anteced. *Octaviae*; subj. of *fertur*

cum … interesset   cum circumst. cl. (AG #546); **recitatio, -onis** (f.): reading aloud; **intersum, -esse,
        -fui, -futurus**: be present, attend (+ dat)

filius, -i (m.)   son

suus, -a, -um   his, her; *suo* = adj. modifying *filio,* "her son"

versus, -us (m.)   line of writing, verse; *illos versus* = obj. of prep. *ad*

Marcus Claudius Marcellus   the son of C. Claudius Marcellus and Octavia, born 42 BCE. He died in
        late 23 BCE and was buried in Augustus' own mausoleum (OCD 155)

deficio, -icere, -eci, -ectum   succumb to weakness, faint (OLD 5)

fertur   "she [Octavia] is said" (w/ inf.)

aegre (adv.)   with difficulty

focilo (1)   resuscitate, revive

33 Recitavit et pluribus, sed neque frequenter et ea fere de quibus ambigebat, quo magis iudicium hominum experiretur.

recito (1)   recite, read aloud

et (adv.)   also

plures, -a   "more men" (masc. pl. as subst.)

frequenter (adv.)   often, frequently

ea (pron.)   those things; *ea* = dir. obj. of *recitavit*

fere (adv.)   usually

quibus (rel. pron.)   anteced. *ea*; *quibus* = obj. of the prep. *de*

ambigo, -ere   doubt, question

quo magis … experiretur   compar. rel. cl. of purp. (AG #531.2a); *quo magis = ut eo magis:* "by which the more greatly"; **magis** (adv.): better, more greatly; **iudicium, -i** (n.): judgement, opinion; **homo, -minis** (m.): man, person; **experior, -iri, -tus**: try out, test

34 Erotem librarium et libertum eius exactae iam senectutis tradunt referre solitum, quondam eum in recitando duos dimidiatos versus complesse ex tempore. Nam cum hactenus haberet: "Misenum Aeoliden" adiecisse: "quo non praestantior alter," item huic: "aere ciere viros," simili calore iactatum subiunxisse: "Martemque accendere cantu," statimque sibi imperasse ut utrumque volumini ascriberet.

Erotem … referre solitum [esse]   indir. disc. ff. *tradunt* (AG #580); **Eros**: a freedman who worked for Vergil, *Erotem* = subj. acc.; **librarius, -i** (m.): secretary, *librarium* = appos. to *Erotem*; **libertus, -i** (m.): freedman, *libertum* = appos. to *Erotem*; *eius [Vergili] exactae iam senectutis* = ptc. phr.: "of Vergil, who was now in advanced old age**"; exigo, -igere, -egi, -actum**: come to an end, advanced (OLD 6b); **iam** (adv.): now; **senectus, -utis** (f.): condition of old age; **trado, -ere, -idi, -itum**: relate, pass on information (OLD 10); **refero, -rre, retuli, relatum**: report, record (OLD 5), *referre* = compl. inf. w/ *solitum [esse]*; **soleo, -ere, -itus**: be accustomed (+ inf.)

quondam eum … complesse   indir. disc. ff. *referre* (AG #580) w/ Vergil as unexpressed acc. subj.; **quondam** (adv.): sometimes; *eum [Vergilium]* = subj. acc.; *in recitando*: "in reading aloud", abl. of ger. (AG #507); **recito** (1): read aloud; **dimidio** (1): halve, divide; **versus, -us** (m.): line of poetry; **compleo, -ere, -evi, -etum**: complete, make up; **tempus, -oris** (n.): time, *ex tempore*: "on the spur of the moment" (OLD 10)

cum … haberet   cum circumst. cl. (AG #546); **hactenus** (adv.): up to this point (OLD 4); **habeo, -ere, -ui, -itum**: include (OLD 13)

Misenum Aeoliden adiecisse … subiunxisse … imperasse   second indir. disc. ff. *referre* (AG#580); **Misenus**: Misenus, the trumpeter of Aeneas; **Aeolides, -ae** (m.): male descendent of Aeolus, who was the mythological ruler of winds (OCD 24); **addicio, -icere, -ieci, -iectum**: attach (OLD 10b); *quo [Miseno]* = abl. of compar. (AG #406); **praestantior, -ius**: more excelling; **alter, -a, -um**: another; **item** (adv.): likewise; *huic [Miseno Aeolide]*; **aes, aeris** (n.): instrument made of copper or bronze (OLD 6), i.e. trumpet; **cieo, ciere, civi, citum**: stir up, rouse; **vir, viri** (m.): man, soldier; *simili calore iactatum*: "thrown in with a similar zeal", ptc. phr. modifying *[versus]*; **Mars, Martis** (m.): Mars, the god of war; **accendo, -dere, -di, -sum**: stir up; **cantus, -us** (m.): song; **statim** (adv.): immediately; *sibi [Eros]* = obj. of *imperasse*; **impero** (1): command, give orders to (+ dat), *imperasse = impera[vi]sse* (AG #181)

ut … ascriberet   subst. cl. of purp. ff. *imperasse* (AG #563); **uterque, utraque, utrumque**: both; **volumen, -inis** (n.): book, volume; **ascribe, -bere, -psi, -ptum**: add in writing, insert

35 Anno aetatis quinquagesimo secundo inpositurus "Aeneidi" summam manum statuit in Graeciam et in Asiam secedere triennioque continuo nihil amplius quam emendare, ut reliqua vita tantum philosophiae vacaret.

anno aetatis quinquagesimo secundo   "when he was 52 years old", abl. of time (AG #423); **annus, -i**
        (m.): year; **aetas, -atis** (f.): age; **quiquagesimus, -a, -um**: fiftieth; **secundus, -a, -um**: second
inpositurus … manum   fut. act. ptc. phr. expressing intention (AG #499), modifying unexpressed subj.
        Vergilius; **inpono, -onere, -osui, -ositum**: place; *summam manum:* "finishing touch" (OLD 20)
statuo, -uere, -ui, -utum   make a particular decision, decide
Graecia, -ae (f.)   Greece; *Graeciam* = obj. of the prep. *in*
Asia, -ae (f.)   Asia Minor, *Asiam* = obj. of the prep. *in*
secedo, -edere, -essi, -essum   go away, depart; *secedere* = compl. inf. w/ *statuit*
triennio continuo   "three years in a row"; *triennio* = abl. of duration of time (AG #424b)
nihil amplius quam emendare   "he decided to [do] nothing more than revise"; **emendo** (1): revise,
        correct the mistakes or inaccuracies, *emendare* = compl. inf. w/ *statuit*
ut reliqua vita … vacaret   purp. cl. (AG #531); **philosophia, -ae** (f.): philosophy; **reliquus, -a, -um**:
        remaining; **vita, -ae** (f.): life, *vita* = nom. subj.; **vaco** (1): have leisure for (an activity), have time
        to spare for (+ dat) (OLD 7)

35 (con't) Sed cum ingressus iter Athenis occurrisset Augusto ab Oriente Romam revertenti destinaretque non absistere atque etiam una redire, dum Megara vicinum oppidum ferventissimo sole cognoscit, languorem nactus est eumque non intermissa navigatione auxit ita ut gravior aliquanto Brundisium appelleret, ubi diebus paucis obiit XI Kal. Octobr. Cn. Sentio Q. Lucretio conss.

cum … ingressus … ocurrisset   cum circumst. cl. (AG #546); **ingredior, -di, ingressus sum**: begin; *Athenis* = locat. (AG #427.3); **iter, itineris** (n.): journey; **occurro, -ere, -i, occursum**: meet (+ dat.); *Augusto…revertenti*: ptc. cl.; *ab Oriente* = abl. of place from which (AG #426.1); *Romam* = acc. of place to which (AG #426.2); **reverto, -tere, -ti, -sum**: return (+ ab of place from which)

cum … destinaretque   second cum circumst. cl. (AG #546); **destino** (1): intend, consider; **absisto, -ere, -i**: depart, *absistere* = inf. ff. *destinaret* in subst. cl. of purp. (AG #563d); **una** (adv.): together, at the same time; **redeo, -ire, -ii, -itum**: return, turn back, *redire* = second inf. ff. *destinaret* in subst. cl. of purp. (AG #563d)

dum … cognoscit   "while he was getting to know"; dum cl. expressing continued action in past time (AG #556); **Megara, -orum** (n.): the town of Megara near Athens, *Megara* = dir. obj. of *cognoscit*; **vicinus, -a, -um**: neighboring; **oppidum, -a, -um**: town, *oppidum* = appos. w/ *Megara*; *ferventissimo sole* = abl. abs. (AG #419c), showing accompanying circumstance (AG #420.5); **fervente, -e**: hot, feverish, (superl. = -issimo); **sol, solis** (m.): sun; **cognosco, -noscere, -novi, -nitum**: get acquainted with, get to know

languor, -oris (m.)   faintness, weariness

nanciscor, -i, nactus   acquire, obtain (an illness or unpleasant circumstance) (OLD 2b)

eum (pron.)   anteced. *languorem*

non intermissa navigatione   causal abl. abs. (AG #420.2); **intermitto, -ere, -misi, -missus**: suspend, pause; **navigatio, -onis** (f.): voyage, trip

augeo, -gere, -xi, -ctum   make worse, aggravate (OLD 9)

ut … appelleret   result cl. (AG #537); **gravior, gravius**: worse, *gravior* = adj. modifying unexpressed subj. = *Vergil*; **aliquanto** (adv.): considerably; **Brundisium**: Brundisium was a city on the Adriatic coast (OCD 122); **appello, -ellere, -uli, -ulsum**: bring (ships) to shore, call upon (a port)

diebus paucis   "after a few days"; abl. of time within which (AG #423)

obeo, -ire, -ivi, -itum   pass away, die

XI Kal. Octobr. Cn. Sentio Q. Lucretio cons[ulibu]s   "eleven days before the Kalends of October in the consulship of Gnaeus Sentius and Quintus Lucretius" = September 21, 19 BCE; abl. abs. (AG #424g)

36 Ossa eius Neapolim translata sunt tumuloque condita qui est via Puteolana intra lapidem secundum, in quo distichon fecit tale:

"Mantua me genuit, Calabri rapuere, tenet nunc
Parthenope; cecini pascua rura duces."

ossum, -i (n.)   bone (of the dead)

eius (pron.)   *eius = Vergili*

Neapolis, -is (f.)   Naples; *Neapolim* = acc. of place to which

transfero, -ferre, -tuli, -latum   transport

tumulus, -i (m.)   tumulus tomb

condo, -ere, -idi, -itum   bury; *condita = condita [sunt]*, ellipsis of *sunt*

qui (relat. pron.)   anteced. *tumulo*

via, -ae (f.)   road; *via Puteolana* = abl. of place where (AG #429.2)

lapis, -idis (m.)   stone, milestone; *lapidem* = obj. of prep. *intra*: before

in quo (relat. pron.)   anteced. *tumulo*

distichon, -i (n.)   couplet of poetry

facio, -ere, feci, factum   make, compose; unexpressed subj. = *Vergil*

talis, tale   such, so great

gigno, -nere, genui, genitum   produce, give birth to

Calaber, -bra, -rum   an inhabitant of Calabria, a region of southern Italy; *Calabri* = subst.

rapio, -ere, -ui, -tum   abduct, carry off to die; *rapuere = rapuerunt*

teneo, -ere, -ui, -tum   hold, possess, watch over

Parthenope, -es (f.)   another name for Neapolis, referring to the myth of the Siren Parthenope, who
        threw herself into the sea after Ulysses' departure and washed up on the shores of Neapolis

cano, -ere, cecini, cantum   sing of

pascuus, -a, -um   grazing; *pascua* = neut. subst. "pastures"; Vergil is referring to the *Bucolics* here

rus, ruris (n.)   countryside; Vergil is referring to the *Georgics* here

dux, ducis (m.)   leader; Vergil is referring to the *Aeneid* here

37 Heredes fecit ex dimidia parte Valerium Proculum fratrem alio patre, ex quarta Augustum, ex duodecima Maecenatem, ex reliqua L. Varium et Plotium Tuccam, qui eius "Aeneida" post obitum iussu Caesaris emendaverunt.

heres, heredis (m.)   heir

facio, -ere, feci, factum   make, name (as something); unexpressed subj. = *Vergil*

dimidius, -a, -um   half

pars, partis (f.)   part, estate, will; *dimidia parte* = obj. of prep. *ex*

Valerius Proculus   brother of Vergil; *Valerium Proculum* = pred. acc. w/ *heredes* (AG #393)

frater, fratris (m.)   brother; *fratrem* = appos. w/ *Valerium Proculum* (AG #282)

pater, patris (m.)   father; *alio patre* = abl. of source (AG #403)

quartus, -a, -um   fourth; *quarta [parte]* = obj. of prep. *ex*

duodecimus, -a, -um   twelfth; *duodecima [parte]* = obj. of prep. *ex*

Gaius Cilnius Maecenas   Gaius Maecenas (OCD 907); *Maecenatem* = pred. acc. w/ *heredes* (AG #393)

reliquus, -a, -um   remaining; *reliqua [parte]* = obj. of prep. *ex*

L. Varius   a Roman poet and good friend of Vergil (OCD 1581); *L. Varium* = pred. acc. w/ *heredes* (AG #393)

Plotius Tucca   a Roman poet and friend of Vergil; *Plotium Tuccam* = pred. acc. w/ *heredes* (AG #393)

qui (relat. pron.)   anteced. *L. Varium et Plotium Tuccam*

eius (pron.)   *eius = Vergili*

obitus, -us (m.)   act of dying, death; *obitum* = obj. of prep. *post*

iussu Caesaris   "by order of Caesar Augustus"; **iussus, -us** (m.): order, command

emendo (1)   correct, revise

38 De qua re Sulpicii Carthaginiensis exstant huiusmodi versus:

"Iusserat haec rapidis aboleri carmina flammis
Vergilius, Phrygium quae cecinere ducem.
Tucca vetat Variusque; simul tu, maxime Caesar,
Non sinis et Latiae consulis historiae.
Infelix gemino cecidit prope Pergamon igni,
Et paene est alio Troia cremata rogo."

de qua re   "about which matter"

Sulpicius Carthaginiensis   Sulpicius of Carthage, an otherwise unknown man

exsto, -are   exist, stand out; impers. verb = "there exists"

huiusmodi (adv.)   of this kind

iubeo, -ere, iussi, -ssum   order

haec … flammis   subst. cl. of purp. ff. *iusserat* (AG #563a); **rapidus, -a, -um**: blazing; **aboleo, -ere, -evi, -itum**: destroy*; **carminum, -i** (n.): poem, *carmina* = acc. subj.; **flamma, -ae** (f.): fire

Phrygius, -a, -um   Phrygian, Trojan; *Phrygium* = adj. modifying *ducem*

quae (relat. pron.)   anteced. *haec carmina*

cano, -ere, cecini, cantum   sing; *cecinere = cecinerunt*

Plotius Tucca   a Roman poet and friend of Vergil (b. 35 BCE)

veto, -are, -ui, -itum   forbid, oppose

L. Varius Lucius   a Roman poet and good friend of Vergil (OCD 1581)

simul (adv.)   at the same time

sino, -ere, sivi, situm   allow

Latius, -a, -um   Latin, Roman

consulo, -ere, -ui, -tum   take thought for, look after (+ dat.) (OLD 6)

historia, -ae (f.)   history, narrative of past events

infelix, infelicis   unlucky, unfortunate

geminus, -a, -um   double; adj. modifying *igni*

cado, -ere, cecidi, casum   fall, perish

prope (adv.)   almost

Pergamon   name for the citadel of Troy

ignis, -is (m.)   fire

paene (adv.)   nearly

Troia, -ae (f.)   ancient city in Asia Minor, location of the Trojan War (OCD 787)

cremo (1)   destroy by fire, burn

rogus, -i (m.)   funeral pyre; *rogo* = modified by adj. *alio*

39 Egerat cum Vario, priusquam Italia decederet, ut siquid sibi accidisset, "Aeneida" combureret; at is ita facturum se pernegarat; igitur in extrema valetudine assidue scrinia desideravit, crematurus ipse; verum nemine offerente nihil quidem nominatim de ea cavit.

ago, -ere, egi, actum   arrange, establish

L. Varius   a Roman poet, good friend of Vergil (OCD 1581); *Vario* = obj. of prep. *cum*

priusquam … decederet   tmp. cl. introduced by *priusquam* to imply expectancy in past (AG #551b);
>   **Italia, -ae** (f.): Italy, *Italia* = abl. of place from which (AG #426.1); **decedo, -cedere, -cessi,**
>   **-cessum**: depart

ut … combureret   subst. cl. of purp. (AG #563) w/ past C-to-F condition (AG #517); **siquis, siquid**:
>   anyone, anything; *sibi = Vergilio*; **accido, -dere, -di**: fall upon, happen (+ dat.); **comburo, -ere,**
>   **-ussi, -ustum**: burn up

facturum [esse] se   indir. disc. ff. *peregarat* w/ ellipsis of *esse*; **facio, -ere, feci, factum**: do; *se* = acc.
>   subj. in indir. disc.

pernego (1)   deny, refuse; *pernegarat = pernega[ve]rat* (AG #181)

extremus, -a, -um   extreme in degree, occurring at the end

valetudo, -inis (f.)   illness, state of health; *valetudine* = obj. of prep. *in*

assidue (adv.)   constantly

scrinium, -i (n.)   book-box, chest (holding the manuscripts of the *Aeneid*)

desidero (1)   desire, want

cremo (1)   destroy by fire, burn; *crematurus* = fut. act. ptc. expressing intention (AG #499)

verum (conj.)   but in fact

nemine offerente   causal abl. abs. (AG #420.2); **nemo, -minis** (m./f.): nobody; **offero, -ferre, -tuli,**
>   **-latum**: offer, bring;

nihil (n.)   nothing

nominatim (adv.)   expressly, particularly

caveo, -vere, -vi, cautum   take care; "he took care of nothing indeed in particular about it"

40 Ceterum eidem Vario ac simul Tuccae scripta sua sub ea condicione legavit, ne quid ederent, quod non a se editum esset.

ceterum (conj.)　however, but

idem, eadem, idem　the same

L. Varius Lucius　a Roman poet and good friend of Vergil

Plotius Tucca　a Roman poet and friend of Vergil

scripta sua　"his own writings"

sub ea condicione　"under this agreement"; **condicio, -onis** (f.): agreement, demand (OLD 4c)

lego (1)　bequeathe, leave as legacy

ne quid ederent　subst. cl. of purp. ff. *legavit* (AG #563); *quid = aliquid*; **edo, -dere, -didi, -ditum**: publish

quod … editum esset　relat. cl. of characteristic (AG #535); **quod** (relat. pron.): anteced. *[ali]quid*; *se = Vergilio*, obj. of prep. *a*; **edo, -dere, -didi, -ditum**: produce, write

41 Edidit autem auctore Augusto Varius, sed summatim emendata, ut qui versus etiam inperfectos sicut erant reliquerit; quos multi mox supplere conati non perinde valuerunt ob difficultatem, quod omnia fere apud eum hemistichia absoluto perfectoque sunt sensu, praeter illud: "quem tibi iam Troia."

edo, -dere, -didi, -ditum   produce, publish

auctore Augusto   abl. abs. (AG #419); **auctor, -oris** (m.): suggestor, promoter

summatim [Aeneida] emendata   abl. abs. (AG #419); **summatim** (adv.): slightly**; emendo** (1): correct, revise

ut … reliquerit   result cl. (AG #531) interrupted by a relat. cl.; "so that he left in even the verses which were inclomplete just as they were" **versus, -us** (m.): line of writing; **inperfectus, -a, -um**: unfinished, incomplete; **sicut** (adv.): just as, like; **reliquo, -iquere, -iqui, -ictum**: leave in

quos (relat. pron.)   anteced. *versus*

multi … conati   ptc. phr.*;* **mox** (adv.): soon; **suppleo, -ere, -evi, -etum**: complete; **conor** (1): try, attempt, *conati* = subst. ptc. acting as subj., modified by *multi*

perinde (adv.)   in the same manner, just as

valeo, -lere, -lui, -litum   be able, successful

difficultas, -atis (f.)   difficulty; *difficultatem* = obj. of prep. *ob*

quod omnia … sunt sensu   causal cl. w/ indic. indicating authority of the author (AG #572); **fere** (adv.): nearly, almost; *apud eum:* "in his work" (OLD 12); **hemistichium, -i** (n.): half-verse, half-line; *absolute perfectoque…sensu* = abl. of description w/ perf. pass. ptc.; **absolvo, -lvere, -lvi, -lutum**: complete**; perficio, -ficere, -feci, -fectum**: finish, perfect; **sensus, -us** (n.): meaning

praeter (adv.)   besides

quem tibi iam Troia   "whom now Troy to you", the *Aeneid* book 3 line 340

42 Nisus grammaticus audisse se a senioribus aiebat, Varium duorum librorum ordinem commutasse, et qui tunc secundus esset in tertium locum transtulisse, etiam primi libri correxisse principium, his versibus demptis:

Nisus grammaticus   Nisus the grammarian; **grammaticus, -i** (m.): grammarian; *grammaticus* = appos. w/ *Nisus* (AG #282)

audisse se a senioribus   indir. disc. ff. *aiebat* (AG #580*; **audio, -ire, -ivi, -itus**: hear; *audisse = audi[vi]sse* (AG #181); **senior, senius**: old, elder, *senioribus* = subst., "old men", obj. of prep. *a*

aio, -ere   say, claim

Varium … commutasse … transtulisse … correxisse   indir. disc. ff. *audisse* (AG #580)*; **liber, -bri** (m.): book, chapter; **ordo, -dinis** (m.): order, series; **commuto** (1): change; *qui…esset*: relat. cl. w/ subjv. in indir. disc. (AG #580); **qui** (relat. pron.): anteced. *liberum;* **tunc** (adv.): then; **secundus, -a, -um**: second; **tertius, -a, -um**: third; **locus, -i** (m.): place, *locum* = obj. of prep. *in***; transfero, -ferre, -tuli, -latum**: transfer, carry over; **primus, -a, -um**: first**; corrigo, -rere, -rexi, -rectus**: correct, improve; **principium, -i** (n.): beginning

his versibus demptis   abl. abs. (AG #419); **demo, -mere, -mpsi, -mptus**: remove

42 (con't)

> "Ille ego qui quondam gracili modulatus avena
>
> Carmina et egressus silvis vicina coegi,
>
> Ut quamvis avido parerent arva colono,
>
> Gratum opus agricolis, at nunc horrentia Martis —
>
> Arma virumque cano."

qui … modulatus [sum] … egressus [sum]   rel. cl.; **quondam** (adv.): once, a time before; **gracilis,**
    gracile: slender, thin; **modulor, -ari, -atus sum**: measure, modulate; **avena, -ae** (f.): reed;
    carmina, -ae (f.): poem, song, *carmina* = dir. obj. of *coepi*; **egredior, -edi, -essus sum**:
    disembark; **silva, -ae** (f.): forest, *silvis* = abl. of place from which (AG #426.1)

vicinus, -a, -um   neighboring, relating; *vicina* = n. pl. subst.: "related things"

cogo, -gere, coegi, coactum   begin

ut … parerent arva   subst. cl. of purp. ff. *coegi* (AG #563); **quamvis** (adv.): however, modifying
    avido; **avidus, -a, -um**: greedy; **pareo, -rere, -rui, -ritum**: obey (+ dat.); **arvum, -i** (n.): field,
    arva = new subj; **colonus, -i** (m.): common person in the countryside

gratus, -a, -um   pleasing, grateful

opus, operis (n.)   work

agricola, -ae (m.)   farmer

nunc (adv.)   now

horreo, -rere, -rui, -ruitum   tremble, dread; *horrentia* = modifying *arva* (second use)

Mars, Martis (m.)   Mars, the Roman god of war; **Martis** = gen. of poss. (AG #343)

arma, -orum (n.)   weapons

vir, viri (m.)   man

cano, -nere, cecini, cantum   sing

43 Obtrectatores Vergilio numquam defuerunt, nec mirum; nam nec Homero quidem. Prolatis "Bucolicis" Numitorius quidam rescripsit "Antibucolica," duas modo eglogas, sed insulsissime παρῳδήσας quarum prioris initium est:

obtrectator, -oris (m.)   critic, disparager

numquam (adv.)   never, at no time

desum, -esse, -fui   be absent, be missing (+ abl.)

nec mirum   no wonder, it is not surprising

Homer, -ris   Homer, ancient poet; *Homero* = second abl. obj. of *defuerunt*

Prolatis "Bucolicis"   circum. abl. abs. (AG #420.1); **profero, -ferre, -tuli, -latum**: produce, publish;
        Bucolica, -ae (f.): the Bucolics, a collection of ten pastoral poems written by Vergil

Numitorius   the publisher of Vergil's Eclogues

rescribo, -bere, -psi, -ptus   write back, write in response

modo (adv.)   only

egloga, -ae (f.)   short poem

insulso (adv.)   absurdly, tastelessly; (superl. = -issime)

παρῳδήσας   parody; *παρῳδήσας* = acc, appos. w/ *eglogas*

quarum (relat. pron.)   anteced. *eglogas*

prior, prius   before, first; *prioris [eglogae]*

initium, -i (n.)   beginning

43 (con't)

"Tityre, si toga calda tibi est, quo tegmine fagi?"

sequentis:

"Dic mihi Damoeta: 'cuium pecus' anne Latinum?
Non. Verum Aegonis nostri, sic rure locuntur."

Alius recitante eo ex "Georgicis": "nudus ara, sere nudus" subiecit: "habebis frigore febrem."

Tityrus, -i (m.)   a shepherd in Vergil's Eclogues

si toga calda tibi est   pres. condition (AG #515); **toga, -ae** (f.): toga; **caldus, -a, -um**: hot; **tibi:** *tibi =*
        dat. of poss. (AG #377)

quo (interrogative)   why

tegmen, -minis (n.)   covering

fagus, -i (f.)   beech tree

sequor, -qui, secutus sum   follow, go after; *sequentis [eglogae]* = second part. gen. after *initium est*

dico, -cere, -xi, -ctum   say, tell

Damoetas, -ae (m.)   the name of a shephard in Vergil's Eclogues; *Damoeta* = voc.

cuium pecus anne Latinum   "whether or not 'cuium pecus' is Latin"; **pecus, -us** (m.): chest; **anne:** an
        + ne = "whether or not"; **Latinus, -a, -um**: Latin, of Latium

verum (conj.)   however

Aegon, -onis (m.)   the name of a shephard in Vergil's Eclogues

rus, ruris (n.)   country; *rure* = locat. (AG #427.3)

locuor, loci, locutus sum   say, speak, utter

recitante eo ex "Georgicis"   circum. abl. abs. (AG #420.1); **recito** (1): recite; *eo [Vergilio]*; **Georgica,**
        -orum (n.): the Georgics, a poem written by Vergil

nudus, -a, -um   bare, exposed

aro (1)   plow; *ara* = impv.

sero, -ere, -evi, -atum   sow; *sere* = impv.

subicio, -ere, -ieci, -iectus   add, place after

habeo, -ere, -ui, -itum   encounter, be suffering from

frigus, -oris (n.)   cold, chilliness

febris, -is (f.)   fever

44 Est et adversus "Aeneida" liber Carvili Pictoris, titulo "Aeneomastix." M. Vipsanius a Maecenate eum suppositum appellabat novae cacozeliae repertore, non tumidae nec exilis, sed ex communibus verbis, atque ideo latentis. Herennius tantum vitia eius, Perellius Faustus furta contraxit.

liber, -ri (m.)   book

Carvilius Pictor   Carvilius Pictor, a British general defeated by Julius Caesar in 54 BCE

titulus, -i (m.)   title, name; *titulo* = abl. of place where (AG #424)

Aeneomastix   Aeneid-mastix: suffix to denote an opponent or hater of whatever the suffix was attached

M. Vipsanius   Marcus Agrippa Vipsanius (63 – 12 BCE), friend and supporter of Augustus (OCD 808)

Gaius Maecenas   Gaius Maecenas, a principal supporter of Augustus, whose inspiration influenced
Vergil to express support for the regime (OCD 907); *a Maecenate* = abl. of source (AG #403.2a)

eum (pron.)   anteced. *Vergil*

suppono, -onere, -osui, -ositum   add, introduce (secretly); *suppositum* = subst. p.p.p. in appos. w/ *eum*,
translate as "bastard child"

appello (1)   call (+ acc. + appos.)

novus, -a, -um   new; *novae* = adj. modifying *cacozeliae*

cacozelia, -ae (f.)   a bad imitation

reportor, -oris (m.)   author; *repertore* = appos. w/ *Maecenate*

tumidus, -a, -um   pompous; *tumidae* = adj. modifying *cacozeliae*

exilis, exile   feeble, inadequate; *exilis* = adj. modifying *cacozeliae*

communis, commune   ordinary

ideo (adv.)   for that reason, therefore

lateo, -tere, -tui   escape notice, be hidden; *latentis* = pres. act. ptc. modifying *cacozeliae*

Herennius   Herennius Senecio, a stoic philosopher who opposed the emperor Domitian

tantus, -a, -um   of a great size

vitium, -i (n.)   fault, error

eius (pron.)   *eius = Vergili*

Perellius Faustus   P. Faustus, an otherwise unknown man

furtum, -i (n.)   theft, robbery

contraho, -here, contraxi, contractum   assemble

45 Sed et Q. Octavi Aviti Ὁμοιοτήτων octo volumina quos et unde versus transtulerit continent.

Quintus Octavius Avitus   Quintus Octavius Avitus

Ὁμοιοτήτων   "Resemblences"; *Ὁμοιοτήτων* = gen. pl.

octo (indecl.)   eight

volumen, -minis (n.)   book, chapter; *octo volumina* = new subj.

quos … transtulerit continent   "contained the verses and from where he transferred them";

       quos (relat. pron): anteced. *versus*; **unde** (adv.): from where; **transfero, -ferre, -tuli, -latum**:

       transfer, unexpressed subj. = *Vergil*; **contineo, -nere, -nui, -ntum**: contain

46 Asconius Pedianus libro, quem "Contra obtrectatores Vergili" scripsit, pauca admodum obiecta ei proponit eaque circa historiam fere et quod pleraque ab Homero sumpsisset; sed hoc ipsum crimen sic defendere adsuetum ait: cur non illi quoque eadem furta temptarent?

Asconius Pedianus   (9 BCE – 76 CE) a Roman historian

liber, -bri (m.)   book; *libro* = abl. of place where (AG #424)

obtrectator, -oris (m.)   critic, disparager; *obtrectatores* = obj. of prep. *contra*: against

scribo, -bere, -psi, -ptus   write

pauca … obiecta ei   ptc. phr. as dir. obj. of *proponit;* **paucus, -a, -um**: small, few, *pauca* = neut. subst.;
    admodum (adv.): to a great extent, very much*;* **obiecto** (1): oppose (+ dat.); thrown in his face

propono, -nere, -sui, -situm   declare, make known, set out

ea [obiecta]   "those things"; *ea* = neut. dir. obj. of *proponit* modified by *obiecta*

historia, -ae (f.)   history; *historiam* = obj. of prep. *circa*

fere (adv.)   generally, commonly

quod … sumpsisset   causal cl., subjv. on authority of another (AG #593); **plerusque, -raque,**
    -rumque: most, n. pl. subst. as dir. obj.; **Homer, -i** (n.): Homer, *Homero* = obj. of the prep. *ab*;
    sumo, -ere, -psi, -ptum: obtain, adopt

hoc ipsum … adsuetum [esse]   indir. disc. ff. *ait* (AG #580) w/ ellipsis of *esse*; *ipsum [Vergilium]* =
    acc. subj. in indir. disc.; **crimen, -inis** (n.): charge, accusation; **defendo, -ndere, -ndi, -nsum**:
    ward off, defend against; **adsuesco, -escere, -evi, -etum**: be accustomed (+ inf.)

aio, -ere   say, affirm

cur … temptarent   subjv. question in indir. disc. (AG #586); *illi* = m. nom. pl. subj.; **quoque** (adv.):
    also; **eadem** (adv.): by the same way; **furtum, -i** (n.): robbery; **tempto** (1): attempt at

46 (con't) Verum intellecturos facilius esse Herculi clavam quam Homero versum subripere. Et tamen destinasse secedere ut omnia ad satietatem malevolorum decideret.

verum intellecturos [esse]   "they were going to realize that" indir. disc. ff. *ait* (AG #580) w/ ellipsis of
  esse; **intellego, -gere, -xi, -ctum**: realize

facilius esse … subripere   indir. disc. ff. *intellecturos [esse]* (AG #580); **facilius, -ior**: easy, (comp. =
  -ius); **Hercules, -is** (m.): Hercules, son of Jupiter, *Herculi* = dat. of disadvantage (AG #376);
  clava, -ae (f.): club, *clavam* = acc. dir. obj. of *subripere*; quam (adv.): than; **Homer, -i** (n.):
  Homer, *Homero* = dat. of disadvantage (AG #376); **versus, -us** (m.): line of poetry, *versum* = acc.
  dir. obj. of *subripere*; **subripio, -pere, -pui, subreptum**: steal, snatch away, *subripere* = compl.
  inf. of *[facilius] esse*

tamen [eum] destinasse secedere   indir. disc. ff. *ait* (AG #580); **tamen** (adv.): nevertheless; **destino**
  (1): intend (+ inf.), *destinasse = destina[vi]sse* (AG #181); **secedo, -dere, -ssi, -ssum**: withdraw
  (oneself)

ut … decideret   purp. cl. (AG #531); **omnis, omne**: every, all, n. pl. subst. as dir. obj.; **satietas, -atis**
  (f.): suffiency, *ad satietem*: "to the satisfaction" (OLD 3); **malevolus, -a, -um**: spiteful, ill-
  disposed (subst. m. pl.); **decido, -idere, -idi, -isus**: adjust

The *Life of Vergil* English Translation

1 Publius Vergilius Maro of Mantua was a man with undistinguished parents, especially his father. Certain people report that Vergil's father was a craftsman and potter. More people report that at first, he was the hired man of a certain traveler named Magus, then soon he was Magus' son-in-law due to his diligence. And, they reported that he increased his small estate especially by purchasing a substantial woodland and by beekeeping.

2 Vergil was born in the first consulship of Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus and Marcus Licinius Crassus (70 BCE) on the Ides of October in the district called Andes, which is not far from Mantua.

3 When his mother was pregnant with him, she dreamt that she gave birth to a laurel branch. In her dream, the branch grew firm when it touched the ground, and grew immediately into the appearance of a mature tree stuffed full of various fruits and flowers. On the following day, when she was traveling to the neighboring countryside with her husband, she turned aside from the road and, in the ditch lying on the ground before her, she gave birth.

4 They report that the infant Vergil, when he was born, did not cry, and he had such a mild expression that already then, he hardly gave a doubtful hope of a rather favorable upbringing.

5 And another sign was added: seeing that a poplar branch had immediately been driven down into that same place of Vergil's birth, which was in the custom of the region among those giving birth. The poplar branch grew strong in such a brief period of time, that it was as high as the poplar trees that had been planted much before. This tree is now called the tree of Vergil from this, and it was even consecrated by the highest religious awe of pregnant and nursing women, who take up and fulfill prayers there.

6 Vergil lived the beginning of his life at Cremona until he earned his toga of manhood, which he took up when he was 15 years old. It happened that those same two men who were consuls

when he was born were consuls again at this time. It also happened that the poet Lucretius died on that very same day.

7 But, Vergil moved from Cremona to Mediolanum, and from there, a little time afterward he moved into the city Rome.

8 He was a man with a large body and great stature, with a dark-colored complexion, a rustic face, and varying health. He was usually suffering from, stomach pain and throat pain and headaches, and he even often vomited blood.

9 He ate and drank very little. He was rather sexually attracted to boys, and two boys whom he especially cherished were the boys Cebes and Alexander. Vergil even addresses Alexander as Alexis in the second excerpt of the *Bucolics*. Alexander had been given to Vergil by Asinius Pollio. Both boys were somewhat educated, and Cebes was truly even a poet. It was reported that Vergil had sexual intercourse with also Plotia Hieria.

10 But Asconius Pedianus reports that when Plotia Hieria was older, she used to say that Vergil was indeed invited by Varius to have sex with her, but he most tenaciously rejected.

11 It is agreed upon that Vergil was certainly so proper in the remaining aspects of his life, both in speech and in mindset, that he was commonly called Parthenias (little maiden) at Naples. And, if at any time he was seen in public at Rome, a place where he most rarely visited, he would slip himself away into the nearest building away from those following and pointing him out.

12 But, he did not have the necessary courage to accept the possessions of a certain exiled man although Augustus was offering them.

13 He possessed nearly ten million sesterces from the generosity of his friends, and he had a house at Rome on the Esquiline Hill next to the gardens of Gaius Maecenas, although he spent most of his leisure time in Campania and Sicily.

14 He lost his parents when he was an adult, and his father had died after being blinded. And, he lost his two full brothers, Silo when he was a young boy, and Flaccus when he was an adult. Vergil mourns the loss of Flaccus under the name of Daphnis in his works.

15 Among his other studies, he also devoted time to medicine and especially math. He also pled a case before judges, but only a single case and not more than once.

16 For, Melissus reports that Vergil both was most slow-witted in speech and was similar to an uneducated man when he talked.

17 Vergil began poetry when he was still a boy, and he started by making a couplet against his schoolteacher Ballista, who was stoned to death because of his bad reputation for highway robbery:

> "Buried Ballista is covered under this mountain of stones;
> by day and by night, traveler, make a safe journey."

Then he wrote *Catalepton* and *Priapea* and *Epigrammata* and *Dirae*, also *Ciris* and *Culex*, when he was 16 years old.

18 The subject matter of the *Culex* is thus: When a shepherd, who had grown exhausted by the heat, had fallen asleep under a tree and a snake was crawling towards him, a gnat flew from the swamp and fixed his stinger between the shepherd's two temples. Immediately, the shepherd smashed the gnat and then killed the snake. He set up a grave for the gnat and made the couplet:

> "Small gnat, the shepherd of the flocks, to you deserving such,
> Performs this service of a funeral in exchange fro the gift of my life."

19 He also wrote *Aetna*, a work about which there is a doubt of authorship. Soon after, when he had begun writing about the Roman affairs but was displeased by the material, he moved on to write the *Bucolics*, so that he might especially celebrate Asinius Pollio, Alfenus Varus and Cornelius Gallus. These men had saved kept Vergil unharmed during a division of land, which

was being divided across the Po River to the veterans by order of the triumvirs after the Philippi victory.

20 Then, Vergil wrote the *Georgics* in honor of Maecenas, because he had once brought help to Vergil when Vergil was still only moderately known. Maecenas protected him against the violence of a certain veteran soldier, by whom Vergil was almost killed in an altercation over land.

21 Last in his life, Vergil began composing the *Aeneid*. The *Aeneid* was a various and complex narrative, and was similar to both poems of Homer. In addition, the *Aeneid* shared in both Greek and Roman names and matters, and it contained at the same time the origin of the Roman city and of Augustus, a thing which Vergil especially wanted to do.

22 When he was writing the *Georgics*, Vergil is reported to have been accustomed to say many verses out loud every day, verses which he had pondered over early in the morning. He also was reported to reduce the verses to very few in number throughout the whole day by revising them. He would jokingly say that he prepared the poem in the custom of a mother bear: he finished at the end by licking it.

23 He set about to compose the *Aeneid* bit by bit, which had first been composed in prose manner and arranged into 12 books. He would compose it however it was pleasing to adopting nothing in order.

24 And, lest anything would impede his vigor, he passed over certain incomplete lines. He supported others by weak words. Vergil jokingly asserts that these weak words were inserted just as props for the purpose of supporting the work, until solid columns arrive.

25 He completed the *Bucolics* in three years, the *Georgics* in seven years, and the *Aeneid* in eleven years.

26 He published the *Bucolics* with such success, that frequently it was recited on stage also by male singers.

27 For four continuous days he read the *Georgics* to Augustus, who was returning after the Actian victory and was remaining at Atella to help heal his throat. Whenever Vergil himself was unable to speak because of a disruption of his voice, Maecenas would take a turn in reading.

28 But, Vergil recited the poetry with allurement and pleasantness of sound.

29 And, Seneca reports that the poet Julius Montanus used to say that he would have stolen certain works from Vergil, if he was also able to steal both his voice and his delivery and his gestures. For, when Vergil recited them, those lines sounded beautiful, but without him, the lines sounded empty and were lacking emotion.

30 Such fame of the *Aeneid* arose quickly after it had been begun, that Sextus Propertius did not hesitate to proclaim thus:

> "Yield Roman writers, yield Greeks:
> Something greater than the Iliad is born."

31 Also Augustus – for, by chance he was away at the Cantabrican campaign – insisted by suppliant and even light-heartedly menacing letters, that, "from the *Aeneid*," as were his words exactly, "Either the first sketch of the poem or whatever part of it is allowed be sent to him."

32 Nevertheless, after a long time when the subject matter was finally completed, he recited three whole books to Augustus: the second book, the fourth book, and sixth book. But, when Octavia was present at the reading of the sixth book, she experienced a sudden change in emotion. In fact, when she had been present at the recitation, she is said to have fainted at those lines about her son, "You will be a Marcellus", and was revived with difficulty.

33 He recited the *Aeneid* out loud also to more people, but he did not do so frequently; he usually recited those things about which he was doubting, so that he might better test out the opinion of men.

34 Some report that Eros, the secretary and freedman of Vergil who was now in advanced age, used to say that Vergil sometimes had completed two half lines on the spur of the moment in recitation. For, when he had composed up to this point: "Misenus, son of Aeolus", he is said to have added: "than whom no other was better," and likewise to this: "aere ciere viros," he added thrown in with a similar zeal: "Martemque accendere cantu," and immediately he ordered Eros to write both in the volume.

35 When he was 52 years old, intending to place the finishing touch on the *Aeneid*, Vergil decided to depart into Greece and into Asia, and continuously for three years to do nothing more than revise it, so that the rest of his life might be free for only philosophy. But, when he had begun his journey, he happened to meet Augustus, who was returning from the Orient to Rome, and Vergil became convinced not to depart and even to return to Rome with Augustus. However, while Vergil was getting to know Megara, a neighboring town under the feverish sun, he acquired an illness. And because his journey was not postponed, he increased his illness so much that, in considerably worse health, he called to port at Brundisium. He died a few days later, eleven days before the Kalends of October in the consulship of Gnaeus Sentius and Quintus Lucretius.

36 His bones were transported to Naples and buried in a tumulus, which is on the Puteolana road between the second mile marker stone. On the tumulus stone, Vergil composed such a couplet:

> "Mantua gave birth to me, the Calabrians carried me off to die, now Naples
> holds me; I sang of pastures, the countryside, and leaders."

37 He made heir to half his estate Valerius Proculus, who was his brother from another father, to a fourth of his estate Augustus, to a twelfth of his estate Maecenas, and to the rest of his estate L. Varius and Plotius Tucca. They revised his *Aeneid* after his death by order of Caesar.

38 About which matter, there exists verses of this kind of Sulpicius of Carthage:

> "Vergil had ordered that this poem be destroyed by blazing
> flames, which sang of the Phrygian leader.
> Tucca and Varius forbid it; at the same time, greatest Caesar,
> You do not allow it and you looked after the Latin history.
> Unlucky Troy nearly perished by two fires,
> And Troy was nearly cremated by another blaze."

39 He had arranged with Varius, before he departed from Italy, that if anything should happen to him, to burn the *Aeneid*; but Varius had refused that he would do this. Therefore, in the final days of his illness, Vergil desired constantly to be given the book-boxes containing the *Aeneid*, with the intention of burning them himself. However, since no one offered them to him, he took care of nothing indeed in particular about it.

40 But, he bequeathed to the same Varius and Tucca together his own writings, under the agreement that they not publish anything that had not been written by him.

41 Moreover, Varius published it after Augustus prompted him, but slightly corrected it. Soon, many people attempted to complete those verses, but they were not successful in writing because of the difficulty. Varius left in the verses which were incomplete as Vergil wished because nearly all in the half-lines were complete and perfect in meaning, besides this: "whom now Troy to you."

42 Nisus the grammarian asserted that he had heard from older men, that Varius had changed the order of two books, and that book which then was second, he had transferred into the third place. He even had corrected the beginning of the first book, by removing these lines:

> "I myself, who measured poems by a thin reed
> and disembarked from the forests, begin related things;
> As the fields obey the countryfolk, however greedy he is,

The work is pleasing to a farmer; but now the fields of Mars are trembling –

I sing of arms and men."

43 The critics were never absent from Vergil, nor is it surprising: for, indeed, they were never absent from Homer. When the *Bucolics* were published, Numitorius wrote the *Antibucolics* in response, only two short poems, but most absurdly a parody, the beginning of the first is:

"Tityrus, if you have a warm toga, why do you have a covering of a beech tree?"

Following:

"Say to me, Damoeta: whether or not "cuium pecus" is Latin?
It is not. In truth, it is in the style of our friend Aegon, thus they speak in the country."

Another, with Vergil reciting from the *Georgics*: "Bare plow, sow nude," adds: "you will have a fever from the cold."

44 There is even a book against the *Aeneid* by Carvilus Pictor, with the title *Aeneomastix*. M. Vipsanius called Vergil the hidden bastard child from Maecenas, an author of a new faulty imitation, not pompous nor feeble, but from ordinary words, and therefore hidden. Herennius assembles the greatest faults of Vergil, and Perellius Faustus assembles Vergil's thefts.

45 But the eight volumes of "Resemblances" by Quintus Octavius Avitus contained those lines and from where he transferred those lines.

46 Asconius Pedianus, in a book which he wrote called "Against the Critics of Vergil", those few things thrown against Vergil to a great extent, and sets out those things generally about the history and because he had obtained most from Homer; but Asconius says that Vergil was accustomed to ward off this charge thus: "why have those men not also attempted the same robbery? They were going to realize that it is easier to steal the club of Hercules than a verse from Homer." And nevertheless, he says that he intended to withdraw himself in order to adjust everything to the satisfaction of those ill-disposed men.

Appendix

Authorship and Attribution of the *Vita Vergili*

This commentary on the "Life of Vergil" uses the text of the *Vita Vergili* from J.C. Rolfe's edition of *Suetonius* (Vol. II) published in the Loeb Classical Library.[1] This text is referred to as *Vita* henceforth, and other editions will be referred to as *Vita Vergili*. As its editor, Rolfe selected those texts which he believed were written by C. Suetonius Tranquillus in the second century. Although Suetonius' *De Vita Caesarum* are securely attributed to the author, other biographies of Suetonius present problems with attribution. The full text of *Vita Vergili* comes to us as the preface to a now lost commentary on Vergil's *Bucolics* written by Aelius Donatus in the fourth century.[2] Donatus does not directly name Suetonius as his source of information in *Vita Vergili*; however, evidence that supports the idea that Donatus used Suetonius can be found in a dedication letter written by Donatus, in his commentary on *Terence*, and by comparing the style of *Vita* with the style seen in Suetonius' biographies.

In a letter dedicating his commentary, *Epistula Ad Munatium*, Donatus explains his direct use of other authors' words:

> *Agnosce igitur saepe in hoc munere collaticio sinceram vocem priscae auctoritatis. Cum enim liceret usquequaque nostra interponere, maluimus optima fide, quorum res fuerant eorum etiam verba servare. Quid igitur adsecuti sumus? Hoc scilicet, ut his adpositis quae sunt congesta de multis, admixto etiam sensu nostro, plus hic nos pauca praesentia quam alios alibi multa delectent.*

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[1] Rolfe and Tranquillus, *Suetonius*, 442-459.
[2] Garrison, "Between Biography and Commentary," 13.

You may often recognize the authentic voice of the ancient author in this collected work. Although it was even permitted, continuously and wherever, to insert my words, I have preferred to preserve with great faith even the words themselves of those authors, to whom the ideas belong. So, what did I achieve? Namely, that by presenting what was collected from the massive material, and by mixing in my own understanding, the few things presented here please me more than others have from the many things written down elsewhere.[3]

Here Donatus states his job as a commentator is to continue the true voice (*sinceram vocem*) of the original author (*priscae auctoritatis*) by using the author's original wording in his new text (*etiam verba servare*). Nevertheless, he also states that he retains the right to insert his own thoughts wherever he sees appropriate. Donatus' stated preference for using the original words of other authors helps us to understand the authorship of *Vita Vergili*.

Further, Donatus explicitly gives credit to Suetonius in a biographical section he included with his commentary on the works of Terence. Here Donatus states: *haec Suetonius Tranquillus* (Suetonius Tranquillus [said] these things).[4] This line does not contain any verb, but because the subject is "Suetonius Tranquillus," and the object is "these things/words," we see that Donatus is atttributing the content of the biography of Terence to Suetonius. This evidence demonstrates that Donatus was familiar with the biographies of Suetonius, and also asserts that Donatus used the very words of Suetonius while composing his commentary on the works of Terence. Therefore, we might suspect that Donatus also used Suetonius in a similar way while writing his commentary on the works of Vergil.

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[3] See Garrison, "Between Biographry and Commentary," 14, for the text and translation of the passage from Donatus, *Ep. ad Mun.* 99. The translation had been modified for clarity.
[4] Garrison, "Between Biography and Commentary," 14, citing Donatus, *Vita Ter.* 8.

Due to Donatus' expressed preference for quoting directly from early authors and his familiarity with Suetonius' works, editors have identified parts of *Vita Vergili* which Donatus directly adopted from Suetonius' original biography of Vergil. Rostagni (1946), Götte-Bayer (1959) and Hardie (1966) considered sections 1-46 as the work of Suetonius, and sections 47ff. as exclusively Donatan additions.[5] Like these later writers, J.C. Rolfe's Loeb edition omits the text following section 46 on Vergil's detractors.

Donatus' *Vita Vergili*, which included Suetonius' text and other additions, became the dominant biographical reference for later writers interested in composing their own biographies of Vergil. For example, Maurus Servius Honoratus in the early fifth century used Donatus in his commentaries on Vergil's *Bucolics* and the *Aeneid*.[6] Also, Phocas in the late fifth century composed a biography of Vergil, and his inclusion of Donatan technical terms and the correspondences between Phocas' Verses 70-80 and Donatus' chapters 17-20 provide evidence that he used Donatus' *Vita Vergili*.[7]

Donatus' *Vita Vergili* infrequently appeared in the centuries following Phocas, but then reappeared with full circulation in the late fourteenth century.[8] It was at this time that new authors included additional information of interest to them, such as extended passages written about Vergil's *Bucolics*.[9] As other authors wrote new information about Vergil, some of this information was added into Donatus' *Vita Vergili*, a process which adds more issues of veracity and authorship. In fact, the authorship is so contested that even the name used to refer to the text is unresolved: it has been called Suetonius' *Life of Vergil*, Donatus' *Life of Vergil*, *VSD* (*Vita*

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[5] Garrison, "Between Biography and Commentary,*"* 14.
[6] Garrison, "Between Biography and Commentary," 7, 12.
[7] Laird, "Fashioning the Poet," 36.
[8] Hardie, *The Ancient Lives of Virgil*, xi.
[9] Wilson-Okamura, "Aelius Donatus Life of Virgil," 25.

*Suetoniana-Donatian*a or *Vita Suetonii vulgo Donatiana*), and occasionally with no credit to an author, *Vita* (*The Life*).[10] J.C. Rolfe titles this text *Vita Vergili* and he attributes the work to Suetonius while noting in the preface that the text had been preserved in the *Life of Vergil* section of Donatus' commentary.[11]

Some modifications made to the original text were for the purpose of expanding on its lack of information and to clarify obscure passages.[12] Due to Vergil's importance, biographers aimed to provide complete information about his life and did so in two main ways: they inserted information that reflected the "icon" of Vergil (i.e. how Vergil should be remembered), and they also inserted information that reflected Vergil's own works, which should be considered allegorical rather than factual. Some of the more notable interpolations were due to the desire to elevate the wisdom of Vergil and to endow him with surpassing qualities to heighten his moral character. The complete version of *Vita Vergili* must have been insufficient in doing justice to the superhuman image to which tradition had raised the poet.[13] The expanded text of *Vita Vergili*, with all of its interpolations and additions, should not be considered to have come from before the year 1425 CE.[14]

Another problem of *Vita Vergili*, regardless of who is viewed to have authored the work, is the issue of interpolations deduced from Vergil's own works.[15] Some scholars conclude that almost all of the information included in the *Vita Vergili* derives from interpretation of Vergil's own poems and few details can be regarded as certain.[16] For example, in *Vita Vergili*, Vergil's

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[10] Garrison, "Between Biography and Commentary," 3.
[11] Rolfe, *Suetonius*, 370
[12] Stuart, "Biographical Criticism of Vergil," 4.
[13] Stuart, "Biographical Criticism of Vergil," 4.
[14] Stuart, "Biographical Criticism of Vergil," 3.
[15] Stok, "The Vita Donati in the Middle Ages," 143.
[16] Fowler, "Virgil, 70–19 BCE," 4.

father is said to be a beekeeper. Some argue that this detail may have been added due to the content of the *Georgics*.[17] Also in *Vita Vergili*, Vergil has an attraction to boys. Some argue that Vergil's homosexuality was deduced from the *Bucolics*, particularly from the identification of Alexis with a boy given to Vergil by Pollio.[18]

As the editor of *Suetonius*, Rolfe decided to cut away those sections of the text which he believed to be interpolations, and so the Loeb's *Suetonius* edition of *Vita Vergili* contains only Chapters 1-46 of the extended Donatan life. Rolfe states in the preface that the text came from the commentary of Aelius Donatus, similar to how the *Life of Terence* was preserved in Donatus' commentary.[19] Rolfe supports his decision to attribute these sections to Suetonius by asserting that editorial experts have identified these parts to be almost completely the writing of Suetonius.

Finally, the existence of other biographies by Suetonius allows *Vita* to be compared to them to determine the extent to which *Vita* reflects Suetonius' distinct style. Suetonius wrote extensive biographies on the past emperors of Rome, the *De Vita Caesarum.* He also wrote a collection of biographies about celebrated Roman figures, *De Viris Illustribus*, in which there is a subsection of biographies about famous grammarians and speakers, *De Grammaticis et Rhetoribus*, and about famous poets, *De Poetis*, such as Vergil.[20]

I will address which parts of *Vita* are stylistically similar to Suetonius' other writings. There have been few inquiries into Suetonius' Latinity due to the belief that Suetonius lacked an interesting style of writing.[21] However, I argue that Suetonius does have a distinct style of writing, and this style is evident in his compositions, including both *De Vita Augusti* and the *Vita*

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[17] Stuart, "Biographical Criticism of Vergil*,"* 29 citing Book 4 of *Georgics*.
[18] Stok, "The Vita Donati in the Middle Ages," 143.
[19] Rolfe, *Suetonius*, 370.
[20] Hardie, *The Ancient Lives of Virgil*, ix.
[21] Damon, "Suetonius the Ventriloquist," 42-43.

Vergili that I believe should be firmly attributed to him. Russel M. Geer is a rare scholar who has studied the Donatan *Vita Vergili* with a more stylistic approach. His familiarity with the style of Suetonius enabled him to compare words and phrases from *Vita Vergili* to those in other works by Suetonius, which allowed him to discover the parts of *Vita* that could not, in any way, have been written by Suetonius.[22] For example, Suetonius is known for including sources for some information in his biographies. He may directly name another contributor, or he may additionally elaborate on an event that conveys that information was reported by another person. Geer argues that a section of the text that does not include references to other sources in the custom of Suetonius should perhaps not be attributed to him. However, the non-Suetonian words and usages that are found in such sections of his text should not necessarily be attributed to another author because Suetonius' change of style could have been caused by the fact that he himself is citing another source.[23]

Through my own stylistic analysis and comparison, I will show that *Vita* should be attributed to Suetonius. I will enter into this debate by thoroughly analyzing *Vita* to look for similarities in style between it and another one of Suetonius' biographies, *De Vita Augusti*. The *De Vita Augusti* is the ideal model of Suetonian biography as it is the longest and most comprehensive of his biographies.[24] It gives the richest examples of Suetonius' style and method throughout the text, a style and method which can in turn be compared with the style and method in *Vita*. Hurley explains:

> The *Life of Augustus* is the only one in which there is an explicit reference to
> rubrics, and this suggests that it may have been the first that he actually tackled.

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[22] Geer, *"*Non-Suetonian Passages in the Life,*"* 107.
[23] Geer, *"*Non-Suetonian Passages in the Life,*"* 115.
[24] Hurley, "Suetonius' Rubric Sandwich," 26.

His careful laying out of *divisiones* and his success in executing his program may indicate that he thought he was establishing, as well as a behavior model, a compositional model that he could use for his other *Lives.* All appear to labor to achieve some degree of the satisfying execution of the *Augustus*.[25]

Hurley says that in *De Vita Augusti*, Suetonius established the model he would use while writing and composing his other biographies.

Donatus used sections from Suetonius' *Vita* in the preface to his commentary, and I argue that the sections of text that Donatus directly copied from Suetonius should be distinguishable from the sections Donatus wrote himself; these sections will be in the same style of writing that is seen in *De Vita Augusti*. The following are examples of Suetonius' particular style taken from *Vita* compared to the style found in *De Vita Augusti*. These examples are grouped into samples of his vocabulary and vocabulary uses, his syntactic style, and his documentation style. All English translations of the text are my own unless otherwise specified.

Suetonius' Vocabulary and Uses

Suetonius often uses pleonasms in his texts, usually with two words whose technical meanings may be different, but not different enough to warrant the inclusion of both. Some examples of where Suetonius uses pleonasms in *De Vita Augusti* are: Chapter 17.1: *dubiam et incertam*; 21.2: *iustis et necessariis*. This is a style characteristic of Suetonius, and therefore, the presence of repeated words of the same lexical category in *Vita* point to Suetonius as the author.

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[25] Hurley, "Suetonius' Rubric Sandwich," 26.

In *Vita* Suetonius makes regular use of pleonasms. For example, Suetonius will use one adjective to describe two similar words, such as saying "the building and edifice are large." Below is an excerpt from *Vita* 8 where Vergil's appearance is being described:

Corpore et statura fuit grandi.

He was of large stature and body.

In this excerpt, Suetonius uses one adjective to describe two similar nouns. *Grandi* modifies both nouns that come before it, *corpore* and *statura*, and the whole construction (ablative of description) is connected by a conjunction. These two words respectively mean "body" and "stature"; they portray the same basic meaning, as they both refer to his build. The distinction between them does not add more information for the reader.

Suetonius also will use two adjectives to describe one noun, such as "the blazing and raging fire." We find this construction in *Vita* 29.

eosdem enim versus ipso pronuntiante bene sonare, sine illo inanes esse mutosque.

For those same versus, when Vergil pronounced them, sounded beautiful; without him, they were empty and emotionless.

In this excerpt Suetonius modifies the noun *versus* by the two adjectives at the very end of the sentence, *inanes* and *mutos(que)*. These words mean "unsubstantial/empty" and "lacking emotion," respectively, portraying two very similar meanings. Another example of a similar

pleonasm is found in *Vita* 21: *argumentum varium ac multiplex*, "a varied and complex narrative." These excerpts from *Vita* can stylistically be attributed to Suetonius.

Another indication of Suetonius writing is the inclusion of specific vocabulary in a phrase that is found in his other works. I argue that an inclusion of phrases that are strikingly similar to phrases found in Suetonius' other biographies should be attributed to him. Below is an excerpt from *Vita* that shows a small phrase with vocabulary similar to a passage found in *De Vita Augusti*.

Chapter 20 *Vita*

> *Deinde scripsit "Georgica" in honorem Maecenatis, qui sibi mediocriter adhuc noto opem tulisset adversus veterani cuiusdam violentiam, a quo in altercatione litis agrariae paulum afuit quin occideretur.*

> Then, he wrote "Georgics" in honor of Maecenas, who had brought help to Vergil, who was still only moderately known, against the violence of a certain veteran, by whom Vergil was nearly killed in a dispute of an agrarian lawsuit.

Here, the phrase *paulum afuit quin occideretur* is a construction including *quin* with a subjunctive verb that comes after a verb of hindering that has been expressly negated.[26] The phrase literally translates as "it lacked a little but that he was killed." As an implied negative, it means "he was almost killed."[27] A similar construction can be found in *De Vita Augusti* 14.1:

> *Nam cum spectaculo ludorum gregarium militem in quattuordecim ordinibus sedentem excitari per apparitorem iussisset, rumore ab obtrectatoribus dilato*

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[26] Greenough, *New Latin Grammar*, 351.
[27] Greenough, *New Latin Grammar*, 349.

quasi eundem mox et discruciatum necasset, minimum afuit quin periret concursu
et indignatione turbae militaris.

For when, while watching the games, [Augustus] had ordered that a common
soldier sitting in the fourteenth row (reserved for equites) be brought out by
public servants, after a rumor had been spread by detractors, that [Augustus] had
killed the same man after he was tortured, [Augustus] was almost killed by the
attack and anger of the military mob.

Here, Suetonius uses *minimum afuit quin periret*, which echoes the phrase from *Vita*. The two
verbs in these similar phrases, *occideretur* and *periret*, both mean "to die". And similarly, both
adjectives, *paulum* and *minimum*, mean "little". Although they are different, the similar phrases
both reflect Suetonius' style.

Suetonius' Organizational Style

Suetonius distinguishes himself from other authors by the organization of information in
his biographies. Instead of presenting all of the information in chronological order, after he
completes the first section of his subject's birth and early life, Suetonius presents the information
by category. He then returns to a chronological presention at the time of his subject's death. The
key transitions of categories within the text are noted by significant transition words at the
beginning of chapters which best summarize the content within. Suetonius expressly declares
that he will organize information by categories in *De Vita Augusti* 9.

Proposita vitae eius velut summa partes singillatim neque per tempora sed per
species exsequar, quo distinctius demonstrari cognoscique possint

Having set out the whole summary, so to speak, I will pursue the parts one at a

time, not through time, but through category, so that by this they may be able to

be more clearly described and studied.[28]

Suetonius expressly lays out his style so that the reader can understand his method. He begins

important transitional chapters with significant words that describe the category of the section.

There is a similar style of navigating the events in *Vita* by category at the beginning of

transitional chapters.

In *Vita*, Suetonius begins chronologically introducing Vergil. Descriptions of his birth

start in Chapter 2. The chapter begins with the words *natus est*, "[Vergil] was born." Suetonius

continues to present Vergil's life in chronological order until Chapter 8, where he moves on to

discuss Vergil's physical characteristics. Suetonius begins Chapter 8 with *corpore*; this word

alerts the reader that the following chapters focuses on topics such as Vergil's physical

characteristics and sexual history. Then, in Chapter 12, Suetonius changes the topic again, and he

indicates his transition by beginning the chapter with *bona*, "possessions." The following

chapters include descriptions of Vergil's possessions, family, and knowledge. Suetonius makes

another key transition at Chapter 17 where he begins to talk about Vergil's poetry. Here, he starts

the chapter with *poeticam puer adhuc auspicatus*, "[Vergil], having begun poetry while still a

boy." Details about the many works of Vergil are sprinkled throughout the following chapters,

including a description of *Culex*, *Bucolics*, *Georgics*, and the *Aeneid*.

Once the other works of Vergil are presented, Suetonius focuses on explaining details of

the *Aeneid* in Chapter 30, and so he begins this chapter with *Aeneidos*, "of the *Aeneid*." It is

important to note that he will begin this chapter with a word in the genitive case; its function is

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[28] Phillips, *Grammatical Commentary and Vocabulary List of the Life of Augustus*.

not crucial like the subject or object that are normally found at the start of a Latin sentence. Here, the *Aeneid* is being emphasized. Chapter 35 is a continuation of his discussion on the *Aeneid*, but Suetonius curiously begins this chapter with talking about Vergil's age, *anno aetatis quinquagesimo secondo,* "in his fifty-second year of age." Suetonius has switched from presenting the information categorically to a chronological presentation, as this section discusses Vergil's intention of finishing the *Aeneid*, and ends with his death. Suetonius introduces Vergil's legacy in Chapter 37 by beginning the chapter with *heredes, "heirs"*; this section includes a description of the final editing and publication of the *Aeneid*.

Suetonius follows Augustus' death with a description of his heirs, just as he does with Vergil's heirs in *Vita*. Suetonius usually ends his biography with that chronological section; however, in *Vita*, Suetonius seems to switch his style again as he returns to presenting information categorically. He addresses Vergil's critics in Chapter 43 with *obtrectatores, "critics."* It is striking because Suetonius mentions critics both before and after Vergil's death, and he even quotes what Vergil is said to have responded to some critics. The chapters 43-46 are strikingly unalike to the previous chapters in *Vita* in their style and vocabulary. This, along with the text's switch to presenting by category again when Suetonius usually ends with his subject's death and legacy, is stong evidence that these chapters likely do not belong to Suetonius.

To summarize, the Categorical Chapters of the *Vita* are:
Chapter 2: *natus est* (Chronological)
Chapter 6: *initia aetatis*
Chapter 8: *corpore* (Categorical)
Chapter 12: *bona*
Chapter 17: *poeticam*
       Chapter 30: *Aeneidos*

Suetonius Syntactical Style

Another distinguishable aspect of Suetonius' style is that he tries to keep the grammatical subject the same for the main clauses. Due to his consistency, Suetonius will not name his subject, but instead he will continue putting his finite verbs in the third person singular form (usually perfect), and assume Vergil as the unexpressed subject in *Vita*. When Suetonius needs to refer to Vergil in the text, he uses a form of the pronoun *is* to avoid saying Vergil's complete name.

Suetonius keeps Augustus the unexpressed subject in *De Vita Augusti*, and all major events are presented with Augustus as the primary focus. Even during famous events, Sueotnius will only relay information about Augustus, just as in Chapter 16.1 and 16.2 of *De Vita Augusti*:

1. In quo cum hieme tota copias exercuisset, Pompeium inter Mylas et Naulochum superauit, sub horam pugnae tam arto repente somno deuinctus ut ad dandum signum ab amicis excitaretur. 2. unde praebitam Antonio materiam putem exprobrandi ne rectis quidem oculis eum aspicere potuisse instructam aciem, uerum supinum, caelum intuentem, stupidum cubuisse nec prius surrexisse ac militibus in conspectum uenisse quam a M. Agrippa fugatae sint hostium naues.

"1. When he trained his forces in this port, he defeated Sextus Pompey between Mylas and Naulochus, but just before the hour of battle, he was suddenly subdued by such a deep sleep that he was roused to give the signal by his friends. 2. From which source, I should think that the material for reproaching was put forward that [Augustus] was not able to look at the arranged battle line even with his eyes facing forward, but he was lying on his back, watching the sky, sleeping

spellbound, nor did he rise and go into the sight of his soldiers before the ships of

the enemies were driven off by Marcus Agrippa."

Suetonius does not focus on any details of the battle, but only presents information about

Augustus and his own actions during the battle.

Instances of a subject change usually occur only in subordinate clauses, or if Suetonius

wishes to draw attention to a passage due to its content. For example, in Chapter 31 in *Vita*,

Suetonius names Augustus as the subject of an indicative verb. Because such subject changes are

meant to alert the reader to something of great importance, Suetonius here is emphasizing just

how much Augustus desired to receive any part of the *Aeneid*.

Suetonius will start a sentence about one general idea, and then he will prolong that

sentence by using (sometimes many) participial phrases and subordinate clauses. This stylistic

aspect is directly caused by his desire to keep the subject the same for the main clause. He will

use participial phrases agreeing with a case other than the subject (Vergil) to include more

information about it without drifting from his style or breaking from the natural flow of the text.

We find this construction in *Vita* 5:

> *quae arbor Vergili ex eo dicta atque etiam consecrata est summa gravidarum ac*
> *fetarum religione suscipientium ibi et solventium vota.*

> which was called the tree of Vergil because of this, and the tree was even
> consecrated with the highest religious awe of pregnant and nursing women, who
> take up and fulfill prayers there.

The two participles, *suscipientium* and *solventium*, at the very end cannot be easily translated

directly into English given the structure and content of the whole sentence. Suetonius gives more

information of the mentioned women by using participles in the genitive case instead of starting a whole new clause with them as the subject. To resolve this, in my commentary I gloss the participial phrases so that the reader can more easily translate this sentence. There are sections in *De Vita Augusti* where the participial phrases are so substantial that they must be translated in English as a relative, such as *De Vita Augusti* 3.1:

> *Ex praetura Macedoniam sortitus fugitivos, residuam Spartaci et Catilinae manum, Thurinum agrum tenentis in itinere delevit…*

> Having obtained Macedonia by lot right after his praetorship, on the journey, he completely destroyed the fugitives, the left-over band of Spartacus and Catiline, who were holding the Thurinus land.

Suetonius has a participial phrase as the direct object of *delevit* to give more information about the fugitives, and still keeps his subject the same.

Suetonius will also use subordinate clauses to include more information relevant to the sentence. We find this construction in *Vita* 5.

> *Et accessit aliud praesagium, siquidem virga populea more regionis in puerperiis eodem statim loco depacta ita brevi evaluit tempore, ut multo ante satas populos adaequavisset.*

> And another sign added: seeing that the poplar branch, having been immediately driven down into that same place by custom of the region among those giving birth, grew strong in such a brief span of time, that it had equaled the height of the poplar trees planted there long before.

Suetonius includes a result clause introduced by *ut* for the purpose of further explaining just how high the trees had grown. Suetonius will add in a subordinate clause (instead of a participial phrase) to add in relevant information not directly associated with the main clause of the text.

Suetonius frequently uses relative clauses to provide further information about a thing mentioned, and these relative clauses are usually not subjunctive. We see this construction in *Vita* 9 as Suetonius provides further information about the boys to whom Vergil was attracted.

> *Libidinis in pueros pronioris, quorum maxime dilexit Cebetem et Alexandrum, quem secunda "Bucolicorum" egloga Alexim appellat, donatum sibi ab Asinio Pollione.*

> [Vergil] was attracted to boys, of whom he especially cherished Cebes and Alexander, whom he addressed as "Alexis" in the second excerpt of *Bucolics*. Alexander had been given to Vergil from Asinius Pollio.

Suetonius does not interrupt the flow of the sentence by adding additional information through the relative clause starting with *quorum* and *quem*, and also through the participial phrase starting with *donatum*. None of these words are the subject, yet Suetonius is able to give information about them without being forced to abandon Vergil as the subject.

The presence of Suetonius' distinguishable style of writing in *Vita* adds to the evidence that Suetonius was the ancient source for Donatus' biography of Vergil in his commentary on Vergil's works. The use of a categorical rubric, the continuously unexpressed subject, and the sentences extended by participial phrases and subordinate clauses are all clear examples of Suetonius' style. This, along with the fact that Donatus states that he inserted the actual words of ancient authors and used Suetonius' *Life of*

Terence for his commentary, all indicate that *Vita* should be attributed to Suetonius,

supporting the editorial choice of Rolfe.

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