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

Presented by

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To

The Department of Classics

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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 aspects. 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 scene
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


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
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<td>gerv.</td>
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<td>indic.</td>
<td>indicative</td>
<td>ppp.</td>
<td>perfect passive participle</td>
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<td>indirect</td>
<td>pred.</td>
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<td>indirect discourse</td>
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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)
parentis, -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, opifecem = 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); substantia, -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[ulibus]. “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)
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
sequent 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
devertio, -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”
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)
nfantem … 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/viisse (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
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 dicit atque etiam consecrata est summa gravidarum ac fetarum religione suscipientium ibi et solventium vota.

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

**alis, aliud**  another

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

**siquidem**  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”; **annis**, -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)
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, -ici, -iectum vomit (OLD 5)
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 Pollio = 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; vulgarum est = impers. pass.
consuesse eum … Hieria indir. disc. ff. vulgarum est (AG#580); consuesco, -suescere, -suevi,-suetem: have sexual intercourse, consuesse = consue[v]isse (AG #181); eum [Vergilium] = acc. subj. in indir. disc.; Plotia Hieria: daughter of Plotius Hierius
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; solo, -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 Varies 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 = recusavisse (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* = *aliquando*; *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 ciusdam 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 sestertium “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.

*parentes*, -ntis (m./f.) parent

*i-am* (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)
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."


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)
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
provoło (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
"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)
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.

### Glossary

- **scribo, -bere, -psi, -ptum**: write
- **etiam** (adv.): also
- **de qua amigitur**: “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.; **triumvorum 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
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, -erre, tuli, latum: carry, bear; adversus (prep. + acc.): against (OLD 7);
veteranus, -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  agrarian
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; absus, abesse, afui: be absent, be distant (OLD 6a); occido, -dere, -di, -sum: kill, cause the death
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**  adj. 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); praeterea (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, -vere, -uui, -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); **traditum = personal pass. w/ solitus**
(ARG #580);
cotidie ... solitus [esse]    indir. disc. ff. **traditum** (AG #580); **cotidie** (adv.): every day; **meditor, -ari, -atus**: ponder, think out, **meditatos** = pf. pass. ptc. modifying **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. **traditum** (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 [Vergilium] = acc. subj. in indir. disc.; **mos, moris** (m.):
manner; **ursa, -ae** (f.): mother bear; **pario, -ere, peperi, -tum**: produce; **dico, -ere, -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
"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)
Ac ne quid impetum moraretur, quaedam imperfecta 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”)
imperfectus, -a, um incomplete; imperfecta = 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

**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”; *invo* (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*
"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

existo, -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;
Kayntrika = 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 #323c); ὑπογραφή, -ῆς (f.): outline, sketch, prima ὑπογραφή = first new subj. of mitteretur; quodlibet κῶλον: “whatever part of a line is allowed”; libet, -ere, -uit: any you like to mention, whatever (OLD 4); κῶλον, -ou(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 afectione, quae cum recitationi interesser, ad illos de filio suo versus, "tu Marcellus eris," defecisset fertur atque aegre focilata est.

cui (rel. pron.) anteced. Augustus

muito 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 afectione 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); affectio, -onis (f.): change in emotion

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

cum … interesser 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
Recitavit et pluribus, sed neque frequenter et ea fere de quibus ambiguebat, 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

**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, -erre, 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.*

**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 [Misenon] =* abl. of compar. (AG #406); *praestantior, -ius: more excelling; alter, -a, -um: another; item* (adv.): likewise; *huic [Misenon 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[vis]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**
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); **annis, -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

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); reвроto, -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, -i, -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, -nosceres,
-novis, -nitos: 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, -mis, -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[ulibus] “eleven days before the Kalends of October in
the consulship of Gnaeus Sentius and Quintus Lucretius” = September 21, 19 BCE; abl. abs. (AG
#424g)
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 = Vergil

**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, -nerere, 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
De qua re Sulpicii Carthaginensis exstant huiusmodi versus:

"Iussérerat 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 Carthaginensis  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. iussert (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; 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
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. Vario a Roman poet, good friend of Vergil (OCD 1581); Vario = obj. of prep. cum
priusquam ... decederet tmpl. cl. introduced by priusquam to imply expectancy in past (AG #551b);
    Italia, -ae (f.): Italy, Italia = abl. of place from which (AG #426.1); deceso, -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.
perneco (1) deny, refuse; pernega[rat] = 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”
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 imperfectos sicut erant reliquerit; quos multi mox supplere conati non perinde valuerunt ob difficultatem, quod omnia fere apud eum hemisticchia 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 incomplete just as they were” versus, -us (m.): line of writing; imperfectus, -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); hemisticchium, -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 corregisse 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 … corregisse  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; corrego, -rere, -rxi, -rectus: correct, improve; principium, -i (n.): beginning
his versibus demptis  abl. abs. (AG #419); demo, -mere, -mpi, -mptus: remove
"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
Obtrectatores Vergilio numquam defuerunt, nec mirum; nam nec Homero quidem. Prolatis "Bucolicis" Numitorius quidam rescripsit "Antibucolica," duas modo eglogas, sed insulissime 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)
locuir, 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 Ὀμοιοτήτων octo volumina quos et unde versus transtulerit continent.

Quintus Octavius Avitus  Quintus Octavius Avitus
ὄμοιοτήτων  “Resemblances”; Ὀμοιοτήτων = 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
Asconius Pedianus libro, quem "Contra obtrectatores Vergili" scripsit, pauc\-a 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 furtum 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
pa\-uc\-a … obiecta ei ptc. phr. as dir. obj. of proponit; paucus, -a, -um: small, few, pauc\-a = 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
\[\text{ea} \ [\text{obiecta}] \text{ “those things”;} \text{ea} = \text{neut. dir. obj. of proponit modified by obiecta}\]
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 … adsu\-etum [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.): sufficiency, 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 Cebe 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 Cebe 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 for 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 Cantabrian 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 paucia praesentia quam alios alibi multa delectent.

¹ Rolfe and Tranquillus, Suetonius, 442-459.
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 attributing 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.

³ See Garrison, “Between Biography and Commentary,” 14, for the text and translation of the passage from Donatus, Ep. ad Mun. 99. The translation had been modified for clarity.
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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\(^{6}\) Garrison, “Between Biography and Commentary,” 7, 12.

\(^{7}\) Laird, “Fashioning the Poet,” 36.


Suetoniana-Donatiana or Vita Suetonii vulgo Donatiana), and occasionally with no credit to an author, Vita (The Life).

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.

Some modifications made to the original text were for the purpose of expanding on its lack of information and to clarify obscure passages. 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. 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.

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. 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. For example, in Vita Vergili, Vergil’s

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11 Rolfe, Suetonius, 370
14 Stuart, "Biographical Criticism of Vergil," 3.
15 Stok, “The Vita Donati in the Middle Ages,” 143.
father is said to be a beekeeper. Some argue that this detail may have been added due to the content of the *Georgics*. 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.

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. 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.

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. 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*

17 Stuart, “Biographical Criticism of Vergil,” 29 citing Book 4 of *Georgics*.
18 Stok, “The Vita Donati in the Middle Ages,” 143.
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. 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.

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. 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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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.

In *Vita* Suetonius makes regular use of pleonasm. 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. The phrase literally translates as “it lacked a little but that he was killed.” As an implied negative, it means “he was almost killed.” 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 obректatoribus dilato*

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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 presentation 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.\textsuperscript{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 \textit{Vita} by category at the beginning of transitional chapters.

In \textit{Vita}, Suetonius begins chronologically introducing Vergil. Descriptions of his birth start in Chapter 2. The chapter begins with the words \textit{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 \textit{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 \textit{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 \textit{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 \textit{Culex}, \textit{Bucolics}, \textit{Georgics}, and the \textit{Aeneid}.

Once the other works of Vergil are presented, Suetonius focuses on explaining details of the \textit{Aeneid} in Chapter 30, and so he begins this chapter with \textit{Aeneidos}, “of the \textit{Aeneid}.” It is important to note that he will begin this chapter with a word in the genitive case; its function is

\textsuperscript{28} Phillips, \textit{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 *obrectatores*, “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 strong 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*
Chapter 35: *anno aetatis quinquagesimo secondo* (Categorical)
Chapter 37: *heredes*
Chapter 43: *obrectores* (Chronological)

**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, Suetonius 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 exercisset, Pompeium inter Mylas et Naulochum superavit, 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 mucho 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.
Bibliography


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