

MONUMENTA VIAEQVE. In honorem et memoriam Iohannis Ørberg. Romae, a die IX ad XVI m. Iulii a. MMX

Naevius' words "obliti sunt Romae loquier lingua Latina" (Naev. frg. 67,4: preserved by Gell. *N. A.* 1,24,2) proved no longer to be true. For Latin was resounding in every corner of Rome in the middle of July, during the Conference "Monumenta Viaeque", organized by Academy Vivarium Novum in honour of Hans Ørberg, the author of the modern Latin two-part-textbook *Lingua Latina per se illustrata: Familia Romana* and *Roma aeterna*, who deceased in the early spring this year.

The conference was opened on July 9, 2010 by the director of Academy Vivarium Novum, Luigi Miraglia, and two great fautors of Vivarium's educational activities – professor Michael von Albrecht from University of Heidelberg and professor Andreas Fritsch from the Free University of Berlin. From this day on, till the July 16, Latinitas and all its aspects, particularly the ways of its vivid and vital mediation to disciples and students, were the subject of various lectures, colloquia, readings, and didactic games, as well as of friendly discussions during the coffee-breaks, visits of monuments, and evening walks.

The conference program was divided into two parts. The morning classes moderated mostly by the former students of Academy Vivarium Novum were more or less dedicated to the Ørbergian textbooks, with the aid of which the increasing number of students not only in Italy but also throughout the world is learning Latin now, and to innovative methods in general. By means of these seminars, the manifold practical application of the Ørbergian and familiar methods to everyday school usage was successfully manifested. All participants will surely remember immensely interesting ways of teaching Latin based on the modern psychology which were demonstrated by associate professor Nancy Llewellyn together with her students from Wyoming Catholic College.

Afternoon presentations were of different kind. Mainly university professors and scholars presented various papers concerning their own research and fields of interest. Neither all speakers, nor all topics can be nominated here; nevertheless, at least a few examples can be mentioned as a purely deliberate illustration. Michael von Albrecht's introductory lecture concerned the transformation of classical Roman virtues mirrored in Catullus' poem 76, and was followed by professor's analogical plunges into the poetry of Horace, Ovid and Propertius in the course of the conference. Bernhard Teuber (University of Munich) subsequently analyzed the intent and role of verses composed by two "philosophers": Seneca and Boethius. Philosophers (Pythagoras and Lucretius), this time as the objects to discuss for other authors, were of interest to Matthew McGowan (Fordham University, New York). David Money (University of Cambridge) informed the participants about the Latin poems of John Barclay and John Milton. Kurt Smolak (University of Vienna) discussed various political topics from antiquity to modern times: e.g. Prudentius's construction of Roman civic duties, the difference between Cicero's and Augustin's idea of the state, or the Latin biography of George Washington by Francis Glass. Claudius Piga from Academy Vivarium Novum – among his other lectures – compared the Utopies by Francis Bacon, Thomas More and Tomasso Campanella, etc.

Much like the morning seminars, all these lectures were presented in Latin, in the language that once was the language of culture, scholarship and science and that proved to omit nothing from its expressivity or intelligibility to listeners during the conference.

Surely, all participants have learned that Latin is still alive, that it can be used in the same way as other languages – for transmission of ideas in the real life. The gratitude of all the participants for this experience, as well as for the generous hospitality and rich additional cultural programme, belongs to the main organizer and "spiritus agens" of this conference, true follower of Ørberg's educational programme, to the personality, who dedicated his life to spreading of the ideas of humanism and humanity through the device most suited for this purpose – Latin language – and stands in front of Academy Vivarium Novum, to Luigi Miraglia. Thank you.

Jana Janovčiková a Katarina Petrovičová