LATIN SERIES · VOLUME 67

The Letters of Pliny

PLINY

Epistulae

The Letters of Pliny

Books I–IX

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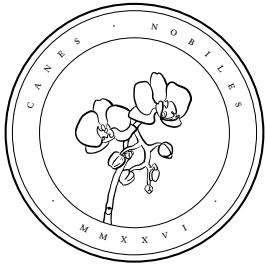
with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



CANES NOBILES · MMXXVI

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Volume 67 of the Canes Nobiles Latin interlinear texts

The Latin text follows Keil's Teubner text of the letters, of 1870

Set from the Perseus Digital Library's canonical Latin corpus, with corrections

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BOOK I

I · THE LETTERS COLLECTED

Pliny dedicates the collection to Septicius Clarus: the letters are gathered as they came to hand, in no order of time. He sends Arrianus a speech written in rivalry with Demosthenes and Calvus, urges Caninius Rufus to make his villa at Comum a place of study, thanks his mother-in-law Pompeia Celerina for the comforts of her country houses, and tells Voconius Romanus how Regulus, terrified after Domitian's death, came begging his forgiveness.

C. Plinius Septicio Claro suo s. 1
Gaius Pliny to-Septicius Clarus his-own greeting

Frequenter hortatus es ut epistulas, siquas paulo curatius 1.1
often urged you-have that letters if-any a-little more-carefully
scripsissem, colligerem publicaremque. Collegi non servato
I-had-written I-should-collect and-publish I-have-collected not kept
temporis ordine (neque enim historiam conponebam), sed
of-time the-order nor for history was-I-composing but
ut quaeque in manus venerat.
as each into hands had-come

Superest ut nec te consilii nec me paeniteat obsequii. 1.2
it-remains that neither you of-the-advice nor me may-it-repent of-the-compliance
Ita enim fiet ut eas quae adhuc neglectae iacent
so for it-will-happen that those which still neglected lie
requiram, et siquas addidero, non supprimam. Vale.
I-shall-seek-out and if-any I-shall-add not I-shall-suppress farewell

C. Plinius Maturo Arriano suo s. 2
Gaius Pliny to-Maturus Arrianus his-own greeting

Quia tardiorem adventum tuum prospicio, librum quem 2.1
because slower arrival your I-foresee the-book which
prioribus epistulis promiseram exhibeo. Hunc rogo ex
in-earlier letters I-had-promised I-present this I-ask from

consuetudine tua et legas et emendes, eo magis quod
custom your both you-read and you-correct by-that the-more because
nihil umquam peraeque eodem ζήλῳ scripsisse videor.
nothing ever equally with-the-same zeal to-have-written I-seem

2.2 Temptavi enim imitari Demosthenen semper tuum, Calvum
I-have-tried for to-imitate Demosthenes always yours Calvus
nuper meum, dumtaxat figuris orationis: nam vim
lately mine only in-the-figures of-speech for the-force
tantorum virorum 'pauci quos aequus amavit' adsequi possunt.
of-so-great men few whom just has-loved to-attain can

2.3 Nec materia ipsa huic, vereor ne inprobe dicam, aemulationi
nor the-material itself to-this I-fear lest immodestly I-say to-rivalry
repugnavit: erat enim prope tota in contentione dicendi.
was-opposed it-was for almost all in vehemence of-speaking
Quod me longae desidiae indormientem excitavit, si modo
which me to-long idleness sleeping-over has-roused if only
is sum ego qui excitari possim.
that-man am I who to-be-roused can

2.4 Non tamen omnino Marci nostri ληκύθους fugimus,
not yet altogether of-Marcus our oil-flasks we-have-shunned
quotiens paulum itinere decedere non intempestivis
as-often-as a-little from-the-road to-depart not by-untimely
amoenitatibus admonebamur: acres enim esse non tristes
charms we-were-prompted keen for to-be not gloomy
volebamus.
we-wished

2.5 Nec est quod putes me sub hac exceptione veniam
nor is-there why you-should-think me under this reservation pardon
postulare. Nam quo magis intendam limam tuam, confitebor
to-ask for by-which the-more I-may-strain the-file your I-shall-confess

et ipsum me et contubernales ab editione non abhorrere, si
both myself me and my-companions from publication not to-shrink if
modo tu fortasse errori nostro album calculum adieceris.
only you perhaps to-the-error our a-white pebble you-shall-have-added
Est enim plane aliquid edendum, atque utinam hoc 2.6
it-is for plainly something to-be-published and would-that this
potissimum quod paratum est! (Audis desidiae votum?)
above-all which ready is you-hear of-idleness the-prayer
edendum autem ex pluribus causis, maxime quod libelli
to-be-published moreover from several causes chiefly because the-little-books
quos emisimus dicuntur in manibus esse, quamvis iam
which we-have-issued are-said in hands to-be although now
gratiam novitatis exuerint; nisi tamen auribus nostris
the-charm of-novelty they-have-put-off unless yet to-ears our
bibliopolae blandiuntur. Sed sane blandiantur, dum per
the-booksellers flatter but truly let-them-flatter provided through
hoc mendacium nobis studia nostra commendent. Vale.
this lie to-us studies our they-commend farewell

C. Plinius Caninio Rufo suo s. 3
Gaius Pliny to-Caninius Rufus his-own greeting

Quid agit Comum, tuae meaeque deliciae? Quid suburbanum 3.1
what is-doing Comum your and-my delight what the-villa
amoenissimum? Quid illa porticus verna semper? Quid
most-charming what that colonnade vernal always what
platanon opacissimus? Quid euripus viridis et gemmeus?
the-plane-grove most-shady what the-canal green and jeweled
Quid subiectus et serviens lacus? Quid illa mollis et tamen
what lying-below and serving the-lake what that soft and yet
solida gestatio? Quid balineum illud, quod plurimus sol implet
firm drive what the-bath that which the-fullest sun fills

et circumit? Quid triclinia illa popularia, illa paucorum? Quid
and circles what dining-rooms those for-many those of-the-few what
cubicula diurna nocturna? Possident te et per vices partiuntur?
bedrooms for-day for-night do-they-possess you and by turns share
3.2 An, ut solebas, intentione rei familiaris obeundae
or as you-used by-attention of-the-affair household to-be-attended
crebris excursionibus avocaris? Si te possident, felix
by-frequent excursions are-you-called-away if you they-possess happy
beatusque es; si minus, 'unus ex multis'.
and-blessed you-are if not one of many
3.3 Quin tu (tempus est enim) humiles et sordidas curas aliis
why-not you time it-is for humble and mean cares to-others
mandas et ipse te in alto isto pinguique secessu studiis
hand-over and yourself you in deep that and-rich retreat to-studies
adseris? Hoc sit negotium tuum, hoc otium; hic labor,
claim this let-be business your this leisure this toil
haec quies: in his vigilia, in his etiam somnus reponatur.
this rest in these waking in these also sleep let-be-laid
3.4 Effinge aliquid et exclude, quod sit perpetuo tuum. Nam
fashion something and strike-out which may-be forever yours for
reliqua rerum tuarum post te alium atque alium dominum
the-rest of-things your after you one and another master
sortientur, hoc numquam tuum desinet esse, si semel coeperit.
will-get-by-lot this never yours will-cease to-be if once it-has-begun
3.5 Scio quem animum, quod horter ingenium. Tu modo enitere
I-know what spirit what I-urge genius you only strive
ut tibi ipse sis tanti, quanti videberis aliis, si
that to-yourself yourself you-may-be of-such-worth as you-will-seem to-others if
tibi fueris. Vale.
to-yourself you-shall-have-been farewell

C. Plinius Pompeiae Celerinae socrui s. 4
Gaius Pliny to-Pompeia Celerina mother-in-law greeting

Quantum copiarum in Ocriculano, in Narniensi, in Carsulano, 4.1
how-much of-supplies in the-Ocriculan in the-Narnian in the-Carsulan
in Perusino tuo! In Narniensi vero etiam balineum. Ex
in the-Perusine your in the-Narnian indeed even a-bath out-of
epistulis meis nam iam tuis opus non est una illa brevis
letters my for now of-yours need not is one that short
et vetus sufficit.
and old suffices

Non mehercule tam mea sunt quae mea sunt, quam quae 4.2
not by-Hercules so mine are which mine are as which
tua. Hoc tamen differunt, quod sollicitius et intentius
yours in-this yet they-differ that more-anxiously and more-attentively
tui me quam mei excipiunt. Idem fortasse eveniet
your-people me than my-people receive the-same perhaps will-happen
tibi, siquando in nostra deverteris.
to-you if-ever into ours you-turn-aside

Quod velim facias, primum ut perinde nostris rebus 4.3
which I-should-like you-do first that equally our things
ac nos tuis perfruaris, deinde ut mei expergiscantur
as we yours you-may-enjoy then that my-people may-wake-up
aliquando, qui me secure ac prope neglegenter expectant.
at-last who me unconcernedly and almost negligently await

Nam mitium dominorum apud servos ipsa consuetudine 4.4
for of-gentle masters among slaves by-the-very habit
metus exolescit; novitatibus excitantur probarique dominis
the-fear fades by-novelties they-are-roused and-to-be-approved to-masters
per alios magis quam per ipsos laborant. Vale.
through others more than through themselves they-strive farewell

5 C. Plinius Voconio Romano suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Voconius Romanus his-own greeting

5.1 Vidistine quemquam M. Regulo timidiorem humiliorem
have-you-seen anyone than-Marcus Regulus more-timid more-abject
post Domitiani mortem? Sub quo non minora flagitia
after of-Domitian the-death under whom not lesser crimes
commiserat quam sub Nerone, sed tectiora. Coepit vereri
he-had-committed than under Nero but more-hidden he-began to-fear
ne sibi irascerer, nec fallebatur, irascebar.
lest with-him I-should-be-angry nor was-he-deceived I-was-angry

5.2 Rustici Aruleni periculum foverat, exultaverat morte, adeo
of-Rusticus Arulenus the-danger he-had-fostered he-had-exulted in-the-death so-far
ut librum recitaret publicaretque, in quo Rusticum insectatur
that a-book he-recited and-published in which Rusticus he-assails
atque etiam 'Stoicorum simiam' appellat, adicit 'Vitelliana
and even of-the-Stoics the-ape he-calls he-adds with-the-Vitellian
cicatrice stigmosum'. Agnoscis eloquentiam Reguli.
scar branded you-recognize the-eloquence of-Regulus

5.3 Lacerat Herennium Senecionem, tam intemperanter quidem,
he-mangles Herennius Senecio so intemperately indeed
ut dixerit ei Mettius Carus 'Quid tibi cum meis
that said to-him Mettius Carus what to-you with my
mortuis? Numquid ego Crasso aut Camerino molestus sum?'
dead surely-not I to-Crassus or to-Camerinus troublesome am
Quos ille sub Nerone accusaverat.
whom he under Nero had-accused

5.4 Haec me Regulus dolenter tulisse credebat, ideoque
these-things me Regulus painfully to-have-borne believed and-so
etiam, cum recitaret librum, non adhibuerat. Praeterea
also when he-recited the-book not he-had-invited besides

reminiscebatur, quam capitaliter ipsum me apud centumviros
he-remembered how mortally myself me before the-centumvirs
lacessisset.
he-had-attacked
Aderam Arrionillae, Timonis uxori, rogatu Aruleni 5.5
I-appeared-for Arrionilla of-Timon the-wife at-the-request of-Arulenus
Rustici; Regulus contra. Nitebamur nos in parte causae
Rusticus Regulus against we-were-relying we in part of-the-case
sententia Metti Modesti, optimi viri: is tunc in exilio
on-the-opinion of-Mettius Modestus the-best man he then in exile
erat, a Domitiano relegatus. Ecce tibi Regulus 'Quaero,'
was by Domitian banished look to-you Regulus I-ask
inquit, 'Secunde, quid de Modesto sentias.' Vides quod
he-said Secundus what about Modestus you-think you-see what
periculum, si respondissem 'bene'; quod flagitium, si 'male'.
danger if I-had-answered well what disgrace if badly
Non possum dicere aliud tunc mihi quam deos adfuisse.
not I-can to-say other then to-me than the-gods to-have-stood-by
'Respondebo' inquam 'si de hoc centumviri iudicaturi sunt.'
I-shall-answer I-said if about this the-centumvirs about-to-judge are
Rursus ille 'Quaero, quid de Modesto sentias.'
again he I-ask what about Modestus you-think
Iterum ego 'Solebant testes in reos, non in damnatos 5.6
again I used witnesses against the-accused not against the-condemned
interrogari.' Tertio ille 'Non iam quid de Modesto, sed
to-be-questioned a-third-time he not now what about Modestus but
quid de pietate Modesti sentias quaero.'
what about the-loyalty of-Modestus you-think I-ask
'Quaeris' inquam 'quid sentiam; at ego ne interrogare 5.7
you-ask I-said what I-think but I not to-question
quidem fas puto, de quo pronuntiatum est.' Conticuit:
even right I-think about whom pronounced it-has-been he-fell-silent

me laus et gratulatio secuta est, quod nec famam meam
me praise and congratulation followed has because neither reputation my
aliquo responso utili fortasse, inhonesto tamen laeseram nec
by-some answer useful perhaps dishonorable yet I-had-harmed nor
me laqueis tam insidiosae interrogationis involveram.
myself in-the-snares of-so treacherous a-question I-had-entangled
5.8 Nunc ergo conscientia exterritus adprehendit Caecilium
now therefore by-conscience terrified he-buttonholes Caecilius
Celerem, mox Fabium Iustum; rogat ut me sibi reconcilient.
Celer soon Fabius Justus he-asks that me to-him they-reconcile
Nec contentus, pervenit ad Spurinnam: huic suppliciter, ut est
nor content he-came to Spurinna to-him suppliantly as he-is
cum timet abiectissimus: 'Rogo mane videas Plinium domi,
when he-fears most-abject I-ask early you-see Pliny at-home
sed plane mane (neque enim diutius ferre sollicitudinem
but quite early nor for longer to-bear the-anxiety
possum), et quoquo modo efficias ne mihi irascatur.'
I-can and by-whatever means you-contrive that-not with-me he-be-angry
5.9 Evigilaveram: nuntius a Spurinna: 'Venio ad te.' 'Immo
I-had-woken a-messenger from Spurinna I-am-coming to you nay
ego ad te.' Coimus in porticum Liviae, cum alter ad alterum
I to you we-meet in the-colonnade of-Livia as the-one to the-other
tenderemus. Exponit Reguli mandata, addit preces suas,
we-were-heading he-sets-out of-Regulus the-commission he-adds prayers his-own
ut decebat optimum virum pro dissimillimo, parce. Cui
as befitted the-best man for one-most-unlike sparingly to-whom
ego 'dispicies ipse, quid renuntiandum Regulo putes:
I you-will-consider yourself what to-be-reported to-Regulus you-think
5.10 Te decipi a me non oportet. Expecto Mauricum' (nondum
you to-be-deceived by me not it-is-fitting I-await Mauricus not-yet
ab exilio venerat): 'ideo nihil alterutram in partem
from exile he-had-come therefore nothing either into side

respondere tibi possum, facturus quidquid ille decreverit:
to-answer to-you I-can about-to-do whatever he shall-have-decided
illum enim esse huius consilii ducem, me comitem decet.'
him for to-be of-this plan the-leader me the-companion it-befits
Paucos post dies ipse me Regulus convenit in praetoris 5.11
few after days himself me Regulus met in of-the-praetor
officio: illuc persecutus secretum petit: ait timere se
the-office there having-followed privacy he-seeks he-says to-fear himself
ne animo meo penitus haereret quod in centumvirali iudicio
lest in-mind my deeply it-stuck what in the-centumviral court
aliquando dixisset, cum responderet mihi et Satrio Rufo,
once he-had-said when he-was-answering to-me and to-Satrius Rufus
'Satrius Rufus, cui non est cum Cicerone aemulatio, et
Satrius Rufus to-whom not is with Cicero rivalry and
qui contentus est eloquentia saeculi nostri'.
who content is with-the-eloquence of-the-age our
Respondi nunc me intellegere maligne dictum, quia ipse 5.12
I-answered now me understand spitefully it-was-said since he-himself
confiteretur, ceterum potuisse honorificum existimari. 'Est
admitted otherwise to-have-been-able complimentary to-be-thought there-is
enim' inquam 'mihi cum Cicerone aemulatio, nec sum
for I-said to-me with Cicero rivalry nor am-I
contentus eloquentia saeculi nostri:
content with-the-eloquence of-the-age our
Nam stultissimum credo ad imitandum non optima quaeque 5.13
for most-foolish I-believe for imitating not the-best every
proponere. Sed tu, qui huius iudicii meministi, cur illius
to-set-before but you who of-this trial remember why of-that
oblitus es, in quo me interrogasti, quid de Metti
forgotten are-you in which me you-asked what about of-Mettius
Modesti pietate sentirem?' Expalluit notabiliter, quamvis
Modestus the-loyalty I-thought he-turned-pale noticeably although

palleat semper, et haesitabundus ‘interrogavi, non ut tibi
he-is-pale always and hesitating I-asked not that to-you
nocerem, sed ut Modesto.’ Vide hominis crudelitatem, qui
I-might-harm but that to-Modestus see of-the-man the-cruelty who
se non dissimulet exuli nocere voluisse.
himself not hides to-an-exile to-harm to-have-wished

5.14 Subiunxit egregiam causam: ‘Scripsit’ inquit ‘in epistula
he-added a-splendid reason he-wrote he-said in a-letter
quadam, quae apud Domitianum recitata est, “Regulus
certain which before Domitian read was Regulus
omnium bipedum nequissimus.”’ quod quidem Modestus
of-all bipeds the-most-worthless which indeed Modestus
verissime scripserat.
most-truly had-written

5.15 Hic fere nobis sermonis terminus. Neque enim volui
this about to-us of-the-conversation the-end nor for I-wished
progredi longius, ut mihi omnia libera servarem, dum
to-go-on further that for-me all-things free I-might-keep until
Mauricus venit. Nec me praeterit esse Regulum δυσκαθαίρετον;
Mauricus comes nor me it-escapes to-be Regulus hard-to-pull-down
est enim locuples factiosus, curatur a multis, timetur a
is for rich partisan he-is-courted by many he-is-feared by
pluribus, quod plerumque fortius amore est.
more which generally stronger than-love is

5.16 Potest tamen fieri ut haec concussa labantur. Nam
it-can yet to-happen that these-things shaken may-totter for
gratia malorum tam infida est quam ipsi. Verum ut
the-favor of-bad-men as unfaithful is as they-themselves but that
idem saepius dicam, expecto Mauricum. Vir est gravis,
the-same rather-often I-may-say I-await Mauricus a-man he-is serious
prudens, multis experimentis eruditus, et qui futura
prudent by-many experiences taught and one-who things-to-come

possit ex praeteritis providere. Mihi et temptandi aliquid
can from things-past foresee for-me both of-attempting something
et quiescendi illo auctore ratio constabit.
and of-keeping-quiet with-him as-adviser the-reason will-stand
Haec tibi scripsi, quia aequum erat te pro amore 5.17
these-things to-you I-have-written because fair it-was you for love
mutuo non solum omnia mea facta dictaque verum etiam
mutual not only all my deeds and-words but also
consilia cognoscere. Vale.
plans to-know farewell

II · HUNTING WITH TABLETS

Pliny tells Tacitus he took three boars while sitting by the nets with his notebooks, since woods and silence stir the mind. He explains to Octavius Rufus why he will not plead against the Baetici, asks Pompeius Saturninus to revise his speech at a library's dedication, which he hesitates to publish since it praises his own gift, and tells Minicius Fundanus how days in Rome go in empty duties, while at Laurentum he lives with himself and his books.

C. Plinius Cornelio Tacito suo s. 6
Gaius Pliny to-Cornelius Tacitus his-own greeting
Ridebis, et licet rideas. Ego ille quem nosti apros 6.1
you-will-laugh and it-is-allowed you-may-laugh I that-man whom you-know boars
tres et quidem pulcherrimos cepi. 'Ipse?' inquis. Ipse; non
three and indeed very-fine caught yourself you-say myself not
tamen ut omnino ab inertia mea et quiete discederem. Ad
yet so-that altogether from idleness my and repose I-should-depart at
retia sedebam: erat in proximo non venabulum aut lancea,
the-nets I-was-sitting there-was in reach not a-hunting-spear or a-lance

sed stilus et pugillares: meditabar aliquid enotabamque,
but a-stylus and tablets I-was-thinking-out something and-noting-it-down
ut si manus vacuas, plenas tamen ceras reportarem.
so-that if hands empty full yet wax-tablets I-might-bring-back

6.2 Non est quod contemnas hoc studendi genus: mirum
not there-is why you-should-despise this of-studying kind wonderful
est ut animus agitatione motuque corporis excitetur. Iam
it-is how the-mind by-activity and-motion of-the-body is-roused then
undique silvae et solitudo ipsumque illud silentium, quod
on-every-side the-woods and the-solitude and-very that silence which
venationi datur, magna cogitationis incitamenta sunt.
to-hunting is-given great of-thought incentives are

6.3 Proinde cum venabere, licebit auctore me ut panarium
accordingly when you-hunt it-will-be-allowed with-authority me as a-bread-basket
et lagunculam sic etiam pugillares feras: experieris non
and a-flask so also tablets you-carry you-will-find not
Dianam magis montibus quam Minervam inerrare. Vale.
Diana more the-mountains than Minerva to-roam farewell

7 C. Plinius Octavio Rufo suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Octavius Rufus his-own greeting

7.1 Vide in quo me fastigio collocaris, cum mihi idem potestatis
see on what me pinnacle you-place since to-me the-same of-power
idemque regni dederis, quod Homerus Iovi Optimo
and-the-same of-kingship you-have-given which Homer to-Jupiter Best
Maximo: τῷ δ' ἕτερον μὲν ἔδωκε πατήρ, ἕτερον δ' ἀνένευσεν.
Greatest to-him and the-one indeed granted the-father the-other and refused

7.2 Nam ego quoque simili nutu ac renutu respondere voto tuo
for I also with-like nod and counter-nod to-answer wish your
possum. Etenim sicut fas est mihi, praesertim te exigente,
I-can for just-as right it-is for-me especially you demanding
excusare Baeticis contra unum hominem advocationem, ita
to-decline to-the-Baetici against one man advocacy so

nec fidei nostrae nec constantiae, quam diligis, convenit
neither with-loyalty our nor with-constancy which you-love it-accords
adesse contra provinciam, quam tot officiis, tot
to-appear against the-province which by-so-many services by-so-many
laboribus, tot etiam periculis meis aliquando devinxerim.
labors by-so-many even perils my once I-have-bound
Tenebo ergo hoc temperamentum, ut ex duobus, quorum 7.3
I-shall-hold therefore this balance that out-of two of-which
alterutrum petis, eligam id potius, in quo non solum
one-or-other you-ask I-may-choose that rather in which not only
studio tuo verum etiam iudicio satisfaciam. Neque enim
the-wish your but also the-judgment I-may-satisfy nor for
tanto opere mihi considerandum est, quid vir optimus in
so much by-me to-be-considered is what man best in
praesentia velis, quam quid semper sis probaturus.
the-present you-want than what always you-may-be about-to-approve
Me circa idus Octobris spero Romae futurum eademque 7.4
me about the-Ides of-October I-hope at-Rome to-be and-the-same
haec praesentem quoque tua meaque fide Gallo
these-things present also by-your and-my faith to-Gallus
confirmaturum; cui tamen iam nunc licet spondeas
to-confirm to-whom yet already now it-is-allowed you-may-pledge
de animo meo ᾗ καὶ κυανέῃσιν ἐπ᾽ ὀφρύσι νεῦσε.
about the-mind my he-spoke and with-dark on brows nodded
Cur enim non usquequaque Homericis versibus agam 7.5
why for not at-every-point with-Homeric verses should-I-deal
tecum? Quatenus tu me tuis agere non pateris, quorum
with-you since you me with-yours to-deal not you-allow for-which
tanta cupiditate ardeo, ut videar mihi hac sola mercede
with-such desire I-burn that I-seem to-myself by-this alone fee
posse corrumpi ut vel contra Baeticos adsim.
to-be-able to-be-bribed that even against the-Baetici I-should-appear

7.6 Paene praeterii quod minime praetereundum fuit, accepisse
almost I-passed-over what least to-be-passed-over was to-have-received
me caryotas optimas, quae nunc cum ficis et boletis
me dates excellent which now with figs and mushrooms
certandum habent. Vale.
a-contest have farewell

8 C. Plinius Pompeio Saturnino suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Pompeius Saturninus his-own greeting

8.1 Peropportune mihi redditae sunt litterae tuae, quibus
most-opportunely to-me delivered were the-letter your in-which
flagitabas, ut tibi aliquid ex scriptis meis mitterem,
you-demanded that to-you something from writings my I-should-send
cum ego id ipsum destinassem. Addidisti ergo calcaria
when I that very-thing had-intended you-have-added therefore spurs
sponte currenti, pariterque et tibi veniam recusandi
of-his-own-accord to-one-running and-equally both for-you the-excuse of-declining
laboris et mihi exigendi verecundiam sustulisti.
the-labor and for-me of-demanding the-diffidence you-have-removed

8.2 Nam nec me timide uti decet eo quod oblatum est
for neither me timidly to-use it-befits that which offered is
nec te gravari quod depoposcisti. Non est tamen
nor you to-be-burdened what you-have-demanded not there-is yet
quod ab homine desidioso aliquid novi operis expectes.
why from a-man idle something new of-work you-should-expect
Petiturus sum enim ut rursus vaces sermoni, quem
about-to-ask I-am for that again you-give-time to-the-speech which
apud municipes meos habui bibliothecam dedicaturus.
before townsmen my I-delivered a-library about-to-dedicate

8.3 Memini quidem te iam quaedam adnotasse, sed generaliter:
I-remember indeed you already certain-points to-have-noted but generally
ideo nunc rogo ut non tantum universitati eius adtendas,
therefore now I-ask that not only to-the-whole of-it you-attend

verum etiam particulas qua soles lima persequaris.
but also the-small-parts with-which you-are-wont file you-go-over
Erit enim et post emendationem liberum nobis vel
it-will-be for even after correction free for-us either
publicare vel continere.
to-publish or to-hold-back
Quin immo fortasse hanc ipsam cunctationem nostram in 8.4
nay rather perhaps this very hesitation our into
alterutram sententiam emendationis ratio deducet, quae
one-or-other opinion of-correction the-process will-lead which
aut indignum editione, dum saepius retractat, inveniet, aut
either unworthy of-publication while more-often it-goes-over will-find or
dignum, dum id ipsum experitur, efficiet.
worthy while that very-thing it-tests will-make
Quamquam huius cunctationis meae causae non tam in 8.5
although of-this hesitation my the-causes not so-much in
scriptis quam in ipso materiae genere consistunt. Est
the-writings as in the-very of-the-subject kind lie it-is
enim paulo quasi gloriosius et elatius: onerabit hoc
for a-little as-it-were more-boastful and more-elevated will-burden this
modestiam nostram, etiamsi stilus ipse pressus demissusque
modesty our even-if the-style itself restrained and-lowered
fuerit, propterea quod cogimur cum de munificentia
shall-have-been because that we-are-compelled both about the-munificence
parentum nostrorum tum de nostra disputare.
of-ancestors our and about our to-discourse
Anceps hic et lubricus locus est, etiam cum illi necessitas 8.6
two-edged this and slippery ground is even when to-it necessity
lenocinatur. Etenim si alienae quoque laudes parum aequis
lends-charm for if of-others also praises too-little fair
auribus accipi solent, quam difficile est obtinere ne
with-ears to-be-received are-wont how difficult is-it to-secure that-not

molesta videatur oratio de se aut de suis disserentis?
tiresome may-seem the-speech about himself or about his-own of-one-discoursing
Nam cum ipsi honestati tum aliquanto magis gloriae
for both the-very virtue and somewhat more the-glory
eius praedicationique invidemus atque ea demum recte facta
of-it and-the-proclaiming we-envy and those only rightly done
minus detorquemus et carpimus, quae in obscuritate et
less we-twist and carp-at which in obscurity and
silentio reponuntur.
silence are-laid-away

8.7 Qua ex causa saepe ipse mecum, nobisne tantum,
which for cause often myself with-me whether-for-ourselves only
quidquid est istud, conposuisse an et aliis debeamus? Ut
whatever is that to-have-composed or also for-others we-ought that
nobis, admonet illud, quod pleraque quae sunt agendae
for-ourselves suggests that that most-things which are to-be-done
rei necessaria eadem peracta nec utilitatem parem
of-the-business necessary the-same accomplished neither usefulness equal
nec gratiam retinent.
nor favor keep

8.8 Ac ne longius exempla repetamus, quid utilius fuit quam
and lest further examples we-fetch what more-useful was than
munificentiae rationem etiam stilo prosequi? Per hoc
of-munificence the-reasoning also with-the-pen to-follow-up through this
enim adsequebamur, primum ut honestis cogitationibus
for we-attained first that on-honorable thoughts
immoraremur, deinde ut pulchritudinem illarum longiore
we-dwelt then that the-beauty of-them by-longer
tractatu perviderem us, postremo ut subitae largitionis
handling we-saw-through finally that of-sudden largess

comitem paenitentiam caveremus. Nascebatur ex his
the-companion regret we-guarded-against there-was-born from these
exercitatio quaedam contemnendae pecuniae.
a-practice certain of-despising money
Nam cum omnes homines ad custodiam eius natura 8.9
for since all men to the-guarding of-it nature
restrinxerit, nos contra multum ac diu pensitatus amor
has-bound us on-the-other-hand much and long weighed the-love
liberalitatis communibus avaritiae vinculis eximebat, tantoque
of-liberality from-the-common of-avarice chains was-freeing and-so-much
laudabilior munificentia nostra fore videbatur, quod
more-praiseworthy munificence our to-be-about-to-be seemed because
ad illam non impetu quodam, sed consilio trahebamur.
to it not by-impulse a-certain but by-deliberation we-were-drawn
Accedebat his causis, quod non ludos aut gladiatores, sed 8.10
there-was-added to-these causes that not games or gladiators but
annuos sumptus in alimenta ingenuorum pollicebamur.
yearly expenses for the-maintenance of-freeborn-children we-were-promising
Oculorum porro et aurium voluptates adeo non egent
of-eyes moreover and of-ears the-pleasures so-far not need
commendatione, ut non tam incitari debeant oratione
commendation that not so-much to-be-stirred they-ought by-speech
quam reprimi:
as to-be-checked
Ut vero aliquis libenter educationis taedium laboremque 8.11
that indeed someone gladly of-rearing the-tedium and-the-labor
suscipiat, non praemiis modo verum etiam exquisitis
may-undertake not by-rewards only but also by-choice
adhortationibus inpetrandum est.
exhortations to-be-obtained it-is

8.12 Nam si medici salubres, sed voluptate carentes cibos
for if doctors wholesome but of-pleasure lacking foods
blandioribus adloquiis prosecuntur, quanto magis decuit
with-more-coaxing words accompany by-how-much more it-befitted
publice consulentem utilissimum munus, sed non perinde
publicly one-consulting a-most-useful gift but not equally
populare, comitate orationis inducere? Praesertim cum
popular with-the-courtesy of-speech to-introduce especially since
enitendum haberemus ut quod parentibus dabatur et
to-be-striven we-had that what to-parents was-given also
orbis probaretur, honoremque paucorum ceteri patienter
by-the-childless might-be-approved and-the-honor of-the-few the-rest patiently
et expectarent et mererentur.
both might-await and might-earn

8.13 Sed ut tunc communibus magis commodis quam privatae
but as then to-common more advantages than to-private
iactantiae studebamus, cum intentionem effectumque muneris
display we-were-devoted when the-intent and-the-effect of-gift
nostri vellemus intellegi, ita nunc in ratione edendi
our we-wished to-be-understood so now in the-matter of-publishing
veremur ne forte non aliorum utilitatibus, sed propriae laudi
we-fear lest perhaps not of-others to-the-advantages but to-own praise
servisse videamur.
to-have-served we-may-seem

8.14 Praeterea meminimus, quanto maiore animo honestatis
besides we-remember by-how-much greater with-spirit of-virtue
fructus in conscientia quam in fama reponatur. Sequi enim
the-fruit in conscience than in reputation is-laid-up to-follow for
gloria, non adpeti debet, nec si casu aliquo non sequatur,
glory not to-be-sought ought nor if by-chance some not it-follow
idcirco quod gloriam meruit minus pulchrum est.
for-this-reason what glory has-earned less beautiful is

Ii vero qui benefacta sua verbis adornant non 8.15
those indeed who good-deeds their-own with-words adorn not
ideo praedicare, quia fecerint, sed ut praedicarent
for-this-reason to-proclaim because they-have-done-them but that they-might-proclaim
fecisse creduntur. Sic, quod magnificum referente alio
to-have-done-them are-believed so what splendid reporting another
fuisset, ipso qui gesserat recensente vanescit; homines
would-have-been he-himself who had-done-it recounting vanishes men
enim, cum rem destruere non possunt, iactationem eius
for when the-thing to-destroy not they-can the-boasting of-it
incessunt. Ita si silenda feceris, factum ipsum, si
they-attack so if things-to-be-hushed you-have-done the-deed itself if
laudanda non sileas, ipse culparis.
things-to-be-praised not you-hush yourself you-are-blamed
Me vero peculiaris quaedam impedit ratio. Etenim hunc 8.16
me indeed a-particular certain hinders reason for this
ipsum sermonem non apud populum, sed apud decuriones
very speech not before the-people but before the-councilors
habui, nec in propatulo, sed in curia.
I-delivered nor in the-open but in the-senate-house
Vereor ergo ut sit satis congruens, cum in dicendo 8.17
I-fear therefore that-not it-be sufficiently consistent since in speaking
adsentationem vulgi adclamationemque defugerim, nunc
the-approval of-the-crowd and-the-acclaim I-have-shunned now
eadem illa editione sectari, cumque plebem ipsam,
the-same those by-publication to-pursue and-since the-common-people itself
cui consulebatur, limine curiae parietibusque
for-whom it-was-being-provided by-the-threshold of-the-senate-house and-walls
discreverim, ne quam in speciem ambitionis inciderem, nunc
I-have-shut-off lest some into appearance of-ambition I-should-fall now

eos etiam ad quos ex munere nostro nihil pertinet praeter
those even to whom from gift our nothing pertains except
exemplum velut obvia adsentatione conquirere.
the-example as-if with-forward flattery to-hunt-out

8.18 Habes cunctationis meae causas; obsequar tamen consilio
you-have of-hesitation my the-causes I-shall-comply yet with-advice
tuo, cuius mihi auctoritas pro ratione sufficiet. Vale.
your whose for-me authority for reason will-suffice farewell

9 C. Plinius Minicio Fundano suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Minicius Fundanus his-own greeting

9.1 Mirum est quam singulis diebus in urbe ratio aut
wonderful it-is how on-single days in the-city the-account either
constet aut constare videatur, pluribus iunctisque non constet.
balances or to-balance seems on-several and-joined not it-balances

9.2 Nam siquem interroges 'Hodie quid egisti?', respondeat
for if-anyone you-ask today what did-you-do he-would-answer
'officio togae virilis interfui, sponsalia aut nuptias
at-the-ceremony of-the-toga of-manhood I-attended a-betrothal or a-wedding
frequentavi, ille me ad signandum testamentum, ille
I-frequented that-man me for sealing a-will that-man
in advocationem, ille in consilium rogavit.'
to advocacy that-man to counsel asked

9.3 Haec quo die feceris necessaria, eadem, si cotidie
these-things on-which day you-have-done-them necessary the-same if daily
fecisse te reputes, inania videntur, multo magis, cum
to-have-done you you-reflect empty seem much more when
secesseris. Tunc enim subit recordatio 'quot dies
you-have-withdrawn then for comes-over the-recollection how-many days
quam frigidis rebus absumpsi!'
on-how dull things I-have-spent

Quod evenit mihi, postquam in Laurentino meo aut lego 9.4
which happens to-me after in the-Laurentine my either I-read
aliquid aut scribo aut etiam corpori vaco, cuius fulturis
something or I-write or even to-the-body I-give-time on-whose props
animus sustinetur.
the-mind is-sustained

Nihil audio quod audisse, nihil dico quod dixisse 9.5
nothing I-hear which to-have-heard nothing I-say which to-have-said
paeniteat: nemo apud me quemquam sinistris sermonibus
it-may-repent no-one before me anyone with-spiteful talk
carpit, neminem ipse reprehendo, nisi tamen me cum parum
carps-at no-one myself I-blame except yet myself when too-little
commode scribo; nulla spe, nullo timore sollicitor, nullis
aptly I-write by-no hope by-no fear am-I-troubled by-no
rumoribus inquietor: mecum tantum et cum libellis loquor.
rumors am-I-disquieted with-myself only and with little-books I-talk

O rectam sinceramque vitam! O dulce otium honestumque 9.6
O upright and-pure life O sweet leisure and-honorable
ac paene omni negotio pulchrius! O mare, o litus, verum
and almost than-all business more-beautiful O sea O shore true
secretumque μουσεῖον, quam multa invenitis, quam
and-secret shrine-of-the-Muses how many-things you-discover how
multa dictatis!
many-things you-dictate

Proinde tu quoque strepitum istum inanemque discursum 9.7
accordingly you also din that and-empty bustle
et multum ineptos labores, ut primum fuerit occasio,
and very silly labors as first shall-have-been opportunity
relinque teque studiis vel otio trade.
leave and-yourself to-studies or to-leisure give

9.8 Satius est enim, ut Atilius noster eruditissime simul et
better it-is for as Atilius our most-learnedly at-once and
facetissime dixit, otiosum esse quam nihil agere. Vale.
most-wittily said idle to-be than nothing to-do farewell

III · EUPHRATES AND CORELLIUS

Pliny describes the philosopher Euphrates, whose charm and learning he admires, though his own duties leave him no time to hear him. He asks Fabius Justus for letters, mourns to Calestrius Tiro the death of Corellius Rufus, who starved himself to end the pains of gout once he had outlived Domitian, and complains to Sosius Senecio that Rome has many poets and few willing hearers.

10 C. Plinius Attio Clementi suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Attius Clemens his-own greeting
10.1 Si quando urbs nostra liberalibus studiis floruit, nunc
if ever city our with-liberal studies has-flourished now
maxime floret.
most it-flourishes
10.2 Multa claraque exempla sunt; sufficeret unum, Euphrates
many and-famous examples there-are would-suffice one Euphrates
philosophus. Hunc ego in Syria, cum adulescentulus
the-philosopher him I in Syria when a-very-young-man
militarem, penitus et domi inspexi amarique ab eo
I-was-serving thoroughly and at-home observed and-to-be-loved by him
laboravi, etsi non erat laborandum. Est enim obvius et
I-strove although not it-was to-be-striven he-is for accessible and
expositus plenusque humanitate quam praecipit.
open and-full of-the-humanity which he-teaches

Atque utinam sic ipse quam spem tunc ille de me 10.3
and would-that so I-myself what hope then he about me
concepit impleverim, ut ille multum virtutibus suis addidit!
conceived I-have-fulfilled as he much to-virtues his-own has-added
Aut ego nunc illas magis miror, quia magis intellego.
or I now them more admire because more I-understand
Quamquam ne nunc quidem satis intellego. Ut enim de 10.4
although not now even enough I-understand as for about
pictore scalptore fictore nisi artifex iudicare, ita nisi sapiens
a-painter a-sculptor a-modeler unless an-artist to-judge so unless a-wise-man
non potest perspicere sapientem.
not can to-perceive a-wise-man
Quantum tamen mihi cernere datur, multa in Euphrate sic 10.5
as-far-as yet to-me to-discern is-given many-things in Euphrates so
eminent et elucent, ut mediocriter quoque doctos advertant
stand-out and shine-forth that moderately also learned they-arrest
et adficiant. Disputat subtiliter graviter ornate, frequenter
and affect he-discusses subtly weightily elegantly often
etiam Platonicam illam sublimitatem et latitudinem effingit.
even Platonic that sublimity and breadth he-reproduces
Sermo est copiosus et varius, dulcis in primis, et qui
speech is copious and varied sweet in the-first and such-as
repugnantes quoque ducat inpellat.
resisters also may-lead may-drive
Ad hoc proceritas corporis, decora facies, demissus capillus, 10.6
to this the-tallness of-body handsome face hanging hair
ingens et cana barba; quae licet fortuita et inania putentur,
huge and gray beard which though accidental and empty they-be-thought
illi tamen plurimum venerationis adquirunt.
for-him yet very-much of-veneration acquire

10.7 Nullus horror in cultu, nulla tristitia, multum severitatis:
no roughness in dress no gloom much of-severity
reverearis occursum, non reformides. Vitae sanctitas summa,
you-would-revere the-meeting not dread of-life the-holiness supreme
comitas par: insectatur vitia, non homines, nec castigat
the-affability equal he-assails vices not men nor chastises
errantes, sed emendat. Sequaris monentem attentus et
the-erring but corrects you-would-follow him-admonishing attentive and
pendens et persuaderi tibi, etiam cum persuaserit, cupias.
hanging and to-be-persuaded to-you even when he-has-persuaded you-would-desire

10.8 Iam vero liberi tres, duo mares, quos diligentissime instituit.
now indeed children three two males whom most-carefully he-has-trained
Socer Pompeius Iulianus, cum cetera vita tum
the-father-in-law Pompeius Julianus both in-the-rest-of life and
vel hoc uno magnus et clarus, quod ipse provinciae
especially by-this one great and illustrious that himself of-the-province
princeps inter altissimas condiciones generum non honoribus
the-chief among the-loftiest matches a-son-in-law not in-honors
principem, sed sapientia elegit.
the-first but in-wisdom chose

10.9 Quamquam quid ego plura de viro, quo mihi frui non
although why I more about a-man whom for-me to-enjoy not
licet? An ut magis angar, quod non licet? Nam
it-is-allowed or that more I-may-be-tormented because not it-is-allowed for
distringor officio ut maximo sic molestissimo: sedeo pro
I-am-distracted by-an-office as greatest so most-irksome I-sit on
tribunali, subnoto libellos, conficio tabulas, scribo plurimas,
the-tribunal I-sign petitions I-make-up accounts I-write very-many
sed inlitteratissimas litteras.
but most-unlettered letters

Soleo non numquam (nam id ipsum quando contingit!) 10.10
I-am-wont not never for that very-thing when does-it-happen
de his occupationibus apud Euphraten queri. Ille me
about these occupations to Euphrates to-complain he me
consolatur, adfirmat etiam esse hanc philosophiae et quidem
consoles he-affirms even to-be this of-philosophy and indeed
pulcherrimam partem, agere negotium publicum, cognoscere,
the-most-beautiful part to-do business public to-hear-cases
iudicare, promere et exercere iustitiam, quaeque ipsi
to-judge to-bring-forth and to-exercise justice and-what they-themselves
doceant in usu habere.
teach in practice to-have
Mihi tamen hoc unum non persuadet, satius esse ista 10.11
me yet this one-thing not he-persuades better to-be those-things
facere quam cum illo dies totos audiendo discendoque
to-do than with him days whole in-listening and-learning
consumere. Quo magis te, cui vacat, hortor, cum
to-spend by-which the-more you to-whom there-is-leisure I-urge when
in urbem proxime veneris (venias autem ob hoc
to the-city next you-come may-you-come moreover on-account-of this
maturius), illi te expoliendum limandumque permittas.
sooner to-him yourself to-be-polished and-to-be-filed you-entrust
Neque enim ego, ut multi, invideo aliis bono quo ipse careo, 10.12
nor for I as many envy others the-good which myself I-lack
sed contra: sensum quendam voluptatemque percipio, si
but on-the-contrary a-feeling certain and-pleasure I-perceive if
ea quae mihi denegantur amicis video superesse. Vale.
those-things which to-me are-denied to-friends I-see to-abound farewell

11 C. Plinius Fabio Iusto suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Fabius Justus his-own greeting

11.1 Olim mihi nullas epistulas mittis. Nihil est, inquis,
for-a-long-time to-me no letters you-send nothing there-is you-say
quod scribam. At hoc ipsum scribe, nihil esse quod
which I-may-write but this very-thing write nothing to-be which
scribas, vel solum illud unde incipere priores solebant,
you-may-write or only that from-which to-begin our-elders used
'Si vales, bene est; ego valeo:'
if you-are-well well it-is I am-well

11.2 Hoc mihi sufficit; est enim maximum. Ludere me putas?
this for-me suffices it-is for the-greatest to-jest me you-think
Serio peto. Fac sciam quid agas, quod sine sollicitudine
in-earnest I-ask make-it I-know what you-do which without anxiety
summa nescire non possum. Vale.
the-highest not-to-know not I-can farewell

12 C. Plinius Calestrio Tironi suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Calestrius Tiro his-own greeting

12.1 Iacturam gravissimam feci, si iactura dicenda est tanti
a-loss most-grievous I-have-suffered if a-loss to-be-called is of-so-great
viri amissio: decessit Corellius Rufus, et quidem sponte,
a-man the-losing has-died Corellius Rufus and indeed of-his-own-will
quod dolorem meum exulcerat. Est enim luctuosissimum
which grief my makes-sore it-is for the-most-mournful
genus mortis quae non ex natura nec fatalis videtur.
kind of-death which not from nature nor fated seems

12.2 Nam utcumque in illis qui morbo finiuntur magnum ex ipsa
for in-any-case in those who by-disease are-ended great from the-very
necessitate solacium est; in iis vero quos arcessita mors aufert
necessity a-comfort is in those indeed whom summoned death carries-off
hic insanabilis dolor est, quod creduntur potuisse diu vivere.
this incurable grief is that they-are-believed to-have-been-able long to-live

Corellium quidem summa ratio, quae sapientibus pro 12.3
Corellius indeed the-highest reason which for-the-wise for
necessitate est, ad hoc consilium compulit, quamquam
necessity is to this resolve drove although
plurimas vivendi causas habentem, optimam conscientiam,
very-many of-living reasons having the-best conscience
optimam famam, maximam auctoritatem, praeterea filiam
the-best reputation the-greatest authority besides a-daughter
uxorem nepotem sorores, interque tot pignora veros amicos.
a-wife a-grandson sisters and-among so-many pledges true friends
Sed tam longa, tam iniqua valetudine conflictabatur, ut haec 12.4
but so long so unjust by-illness he-was-afflicted that these
tanta pretia vivendi mortis rationibus vincerentur. Tertio et
so-great prizes of-living of-death by-the-reasons were-overcome in-the-third and
tricensimo anno, ut ipsum audiebam, pedum dolore correptus
thirtieth year as him I-used-to-hear of-the-feet by-pain seized
est. Patrius hic illi: nam plerumque morbi quoque per
he-was hereditary this to-him for generally diseases also through
successiones quasdam, ut alia, traduntur.
successions certain like other-things are-handed-down
Hunc abstinentia sanctitate, quoad viridis aetas, vicit 12.5
this by-abstinence by-purity as-long-as green his-age he-conquered
et fregit; novissime cum senectute ingravescentem viribus
and broke finally with old-age growing-heavier by-the-strength
animi sustinebat, cum quidem incredibilis cruciatus et
of-mind he-was-bearing when indeed incredible tortures and
indignissima tormenta pateretur.
most-undeserved torments he-was-suffering

12.6 Iam enim dolor non pedibus solis, ut prius insidebat,
now for the-pain not in-feet alone as before was-settled
sed omnia membra pervagabatur. Veni ad eum Domitiani
but all limbs was-roaming-through I-came to him of-Domitian
temporibus in suburbano iacentem.
in-the-times in the-suburban-villa lying

12.7 Servi e cubiculo recesserunt: habebat hoc moris, quotiens
the-slaves from the-bedroom withdrew he-had this of-custom whenever
intrasset fidelior amicus; quin etiam uxor, quamquam
had-entered a-more-trusted friend nay even the-wife although
omnis secreti capacissima, digrediebatur.
of-every secret most-capable used-to-withdraw

12.8 Circumtulit oculos et 'cur' inquit 'me putas hos tantos
he-turned-around eyes and why he-said me you-think these so-great
dolores tam diu sustinere? — Ut scilicet isti latroni vel
pains so long to-endure that evidently that robber even
uno die supersim.' Dedisses huic animo par corpus,
by-one day I-may-outlive you-would-have-given to-this spirit an-equal body
fecisset quod optabat. Adfuit tamen deus voto, cuius
it-would-have-done what it-wished stood-by yet a-god the-prayer of-which
ille compos, ut iam securus liberque moriturus, multa illa
he possessed as now secure and-free about-to-die many those
vitae, sed minora retinacula abrupit.
of-life but lesser bonds broke-off

12.9 Increverat valetudo, quam temperantia mitigare temptavit;
had-grown the-illness which by-temperance to-mitigate he-tried
perseverantem constantia fugit. Iam dies alter tertius quartus:
it-persisting by-firmness he-fled now day second third fourth
abstinebat cibo. Misit ad me uxor eius Hispulla communem
he-was-abstaining from-food sent to me wife his Hispulla a-common
amicum C. Geminium cum tristissimo nuntio, destinasse
friend Gaius Geminius with most-sad news to-have-resolved

Corellium mori nec aut suis aut filiae precibus
Corellius to-die nor either by-his-own or of-his-daughter prayers
flecti; solum superesse me, a quo revocari posset ad vitam.
to-be-moved alone to-remain me by whom to-be-recalled he-could to life
Cucurri: perveneram in proximum, cum mihi ab eadem 12.10
I-ran I-had-arrived into the-nearest when to-me from the-same
Hispulla Iulius Atticus nuntiat nihil iam ne me quidem
Hispulla Julius Atticus announces nothing now not me even
inpetraturum: tam obstinate magis ac magis induruisse.
about-to-obtain so obstinately more and more to-have-hardened
Dixerat sane medico admoventi cibum Κέκρικα, quae vox
he-had-said truly to-the-doctor offering food I-have-decided which word
quantum admirationis in animo meo tantum desiderii reliquit.
as-much of-admiration in mind my so-much of-longing has-left
Cogito quo amico, quo viro caream. Implevit quidem 12.11
I-think of-what friend of-what man I-am-deprived he-completed indeed
annum septimum et sexagensimum quae aetas etiam
year seventh and sixtieth which age even
robustissimis satis longa est: scio. Evasit perpetuam
for-the-most-robust enough long is I-know he-escaped lifelong
valetudinem: scio. Decessit superstitibus suis, florente re
illness I-know he-died surviving his-own flourishing the-thing
publica, quae illi omnibus suis carior erat: et hoc scio.
public which to-him than-all his-own dearer was even this I-know
Ego tamen tamquam et iuvenis et firmissimi mortem 12.12
I yet as-if both of-a-young-man and of-a-very-strong the-death
doleo, doleo autem (licet me inbecillum putes) meo
grieve I-grieve moreover though me weak you-think on-my-own
nomine. Amisi enim, amisi vitae meae testem rectorem
account I-have-lost for I-have-lost of-life my the-witness the-guide

magistrum: in summa dicam quod recenti dolore contubernali
the-teacher in sum I-shall-say what in-fresh grief to-comrade
meo Calvisio dixi, 'Vereor ne neglegentius vivam.'
my Calvisius I-said I-fear lest more-carelessly I-may-live
12.13 Proinde adhibe solacia mihi, non haec: 'Senex erat,
accordingly apply consolations to-me not these an-old-man he-was
infirmus erat' (haec enim novi), sed nova aliqua, sed magna,
infirm he-was these for I-know but new some but great
quae audierim numquam, legerim numquam. Nam
which I-may-have-heard never I-may-have-read never for
quae audivi, quae legi, sponte succurrunt, sed
what I-have-heard what I-have-read of-their-own-accord come-to-mind but
tanto dolore superantur. Vale.
by-so-great grief are-overcome farewell

13 C. Plinius Sosio Senecioni suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Sosius Senecio his-own greeting

13.1 Magnum proventum poetarum annus hic attulit: toto
a-great crop of-poets year this has-brought in-the-whole
mense Aprili nullus fere dies, quo non recitaret aliquis. Iuvat
month of-April no almost day on-which not was-reciting someone it-delights
me quod vigent studia, proferunt se ingenia hominum
me that flourish studies bring-forth themselves the-talents of-men
et ostentant, tametsi ad audiendum pigre coitur.
and display although for listening sluggishly there-is-gathering

13.2 Plerique in stationibus sedent tempusque audiendi fabulis
most in the-lounging-places sit and-the-time of-listening with-gossip
conterunt ac subinde sibi nuntiari iubent, an iam
wear-away and repeatedly to-themselves to-be-announced they-order whether already
recitator intraverit, an dixerit praefationem, an ex magna
the-reciter has-entered whether he-has-spoken the-preface whether for a-great
parte evolverit librum: tunc demum ac tunc quoque lente
part he-has-unrolled the-book then only and then also slowly

cunctanterque veniunt; nec tamen permanent, sed ante finem
and-hesitantly they-come nor yet do-they-stay but before the-end
recedunt, alii dissimulanter et furtim, alii simpliciter et libere.
withdraw some furtively and stealthily others openly and freely
At hercule memoria parentum Claudium Caesarem ferunt, 13.3
but by-Hercules in-the-memory of-our-parents Claudius Caesar they-say
cum in palatio spatiaretur audissetque clamorem, causam
when in the-palace he-was-strolling and-had-heard a-shout the-cause
requisisse, cumque dictum esset recitare Nonianum,
to-have-asked and-when said it-had-been to-be-reciting Nonianus
subitum recitanti inopinatumque venisse.
sudden to-the-reciter and-unexpected to-have-come
Nunc otiosissimus quisque multo ante rogatus et identidem 13.4
now most-idle each much before asked and repeatedly
admonitus aut non venit aut, si venit, queritur se diem,
reminded either not comes or if he-comes complains himself the-day
quia non perdiderit, perdidisse.
because not he-has-wasted-it to-have-wasted
Sed tanto magis laudandi probandique sunt quos a 13.5
but so-much more to-be-praised and-to-be-approved are those-whom from
scribendi recitandique studio haec auditorum vel desidia
of-writing and-reciting the-zeal this of-the-hearers either idleness
vel superbia non retardat. Equidem prope nemini defui.
or pride not holds-back for-my-part almost to-no-one have-I-failed
Erant sane plerique amici:
they-were truly most friends
Neque enim est fere quisquam qui studia, ut non simul et 13.6
nor for is-there almost anyone who studies that not at-once also
nos amet. His ex causis longius quam destinaveram, tempus
us he-may-love these for causes longer than I-had-intended time
in urbe consumpsi. Possum iam repetere secessum et scribere
in the-city I-have-spent I-can now to-seek-again my-retreat and to-write

aliquid quod non recitem, ne videar, quorum recitationibus
something which not I-may-recite lest I-may-seem at-whose recitations
adfui, non auditor fuisse, sed creditor. Nam ut in ceteris
I-was-present not a-hearer to-have-been but a-creditor for as in other
rebus ita in audiendi officio perit gratia, si reposcatur. Vale.
things so in of-listening the-service perishes the-favor if it-be-demanded-back farewell

IV · A HUSBAND, A STATUE, A DREAM

Asked by Junius Mauricus to find a husband for his brother's daughter, Pliny proposes Minicius Acilianus and praises his family. He scolds Septicius for missing a simple dinner, praises the many gifts of Pompeius Saturninus, commends Titinius Capito for setting up a statue of Lucius Silanus, reassures Suetonius after an alarming dream, and gives Romatius Firmus three hundred thousand sesterces to make up an equestrian's fortune.

14 C. Plinius Iunio Maurico suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Junius Mauricus his-own greeting
14.1 Petis ut fratris tui filiae prospiciam maritum; quod
you-ask that of-brother your for-the-daughter I-look-out a-husband which
merito mihi potissimum iniungis. Scis enim quanto opere
deservedly to-me above-all you-enjoin you-know for how greatly
summum illum virum suspexerim dilexerimque, quibus ille
supreme that man I-looked-up-to and-loved with-what he
adulescentiam meam exhortationibus foverit, quibus etiam
youth my exhortations cherished with-what even
laudibus ut laudandus viderer effecerit.
praises that to-be-praised I-might-seem he-brought-about

Nihil est quod a te mandari mihi aut maius aut gratius, 14.2
nothing is-there which by you to-be-entrusted to-me either greater or more-pleasing
nihil quod honestius a me suscipi possit, quam ut eligam
nothing which more-honorably by me to-be-undertaken could than that I-choose
iuvenem, ex quo nasci nepotes Aruleno Rustico deceat.
a-young-man from whom to-be-born grandsons to-Arulenus Rusticus it-may-befit
Qui quidem diu quaerendus fuisset, nisi paratus et 14.3
who indeed long to-be-sought would-have-been unless ready and
quasi provisus esset Minicius Acilianus, qui me ut iuvenis
as-it-were provided were Minicius Acilianus who me as a-young-man
iuvenem (est enim minor pauculis annis) familiarissime
a-young-man he-is for younger by-a-very-few years most-intimately
diligit, reveretur ut senem.
loves reveres as an-old-man
Nam ita formari a me et institui cupit, ut ego a 14.4
for so to-be-formed by me and to-be-trained he-desires as I by
vobis solebam. Patria est ei Brixia ex illa nostra Italia,
you used home-town is to-him Brixia from that our Italy
quae multum adhuc verecundiae, frugalitatis atque etiam
which much still of-modesty of-frugality and even
rusticitatis antiquae retinet ac servat.
of-rusticity old retains and keeps
Pater Minicius Macrinus, equestris ordinis princeps, quia 14.5
the-father Minicius Macrinus of-the-equestrian order the-chief because
nihil altius voluit; adlectus enim a divo Vespasiano inter
nothing higher he-wished enrolled for by the-deified Vespasian among
praetorios honestam quietem huic nostrae ambitioni dicam
the-ex-praetors honorable repose to-this our ambition shall-I-say
an dignitati constantissime praetulit.
or dignity most-steadfastly he-preferred

14.6 Habet aviam maternam Serranam Proculam e municipio
he-has a-grandmother maternal Serrana Procula from the-town
Patavino. Nosti loci mores: Serrana tamen Patavinis
Patavine you-know of-the-place the-manners Serrana yet to-the-Patavines
quoque severitatis exemplum est. Contigit et avunculus
also of-strictness an-example is has-fallen-to-him also an-uncle
ei P. Acilius gravitate prudentia fide prope singulari.
to-him Publius Acilius of-gravity of-prudence of-loyalty almost singular
In summa nihil erit in domo tota, quod non tibi
in sum nothing will-be in house the-whole which not to-you
tamquam in tua placeat.
as-if in your-own may-please

14.7 Aciliano vero ipsi plurimum vigoris industriae, quamquam
to-Acilianus indeed himself very-much of-vigor of-industry although
in maxima verecundia. Quaesturam tribunatum praeturam
in the-greatest modesty the-quaestorship the-tribunate the-praetorship
honestissime percucurrit ac iam pro se tibi necessitatem
most-honorably he-has-run-through and already for himself to-you the-necessity
ambiendi remisit.
of-canvassing he-has-remitted

14.8 Est illi facies liberalis multo sanguine multo rubore
there-is to-him a-face well-bred with-much blood with-much blush
suffusa, est ingenua totius corporis pulchritudo et quidam
suffused there-is a-gentlemanly of-the-whole body beauty and a-certain
senatorius decor. Quae ego nequaquam arbitror neglegenda:
senatorial grace which-things I by-no-means think to-be-neglected
debet enim hoc castitati puellarum quasi praemium dari.
ought for this to-the-chastity of-girls as-it-were a-reward to-be-given

14.9 Nescio an adiciam esse patri eius amplas facultates.
I-know-not whether I-should-add to-be to-the-father his ample means
Nam cum imaginor vos, quibus quaerimus generum,
for when I-picture you for-whom we-seek a-son-in-law

silendum de facultatibus puto: cum publicos mores atque
to-be-kept-silent about means I-think when public manners and
etiam leges civitatis intueor, quae vel in primis census
even laws of-the-state I-regard which even in the-first the-fortunes
hominum spectandos arbitrantur, ne id quidem praetereundum
of-men to-be-considered judge not that even to-be-passed-over
videtur. Et sane de posteris et his pluribus cogitanti
seems and truly about descendants and these more-numerous for-one-thinking
hic quoque in condicionibus deligendis ponendus est calculus.
this also in matches to-be-chosen to-be-placed is the-pebble
Tu fortasse me putes indulsisse amori meo supraque 14.10
you perhaps me may-think to-have-indulged love my and-above
ista, quam res patitur, sustulisse. At ego fide
these-things than the-matter allows to-have-raised but I on-word
mea spondeo futurum ut omnia longe ampliora, quam
my pledge to-be-going-to-be that all-things far ampler than
a me praedicantur, invenias. Diligo quidem adulescentem
by me are-declared you-will-find I-love indeed the-young-man
ardentissime, sicut meretur; sed hoc ipsum amantis est,
most-ardently as he-deserves but this very-thing of-one-loving is
non onerare eum laudibus. Vale.
not to-burden him with-praises farewell

C. Plinius Septicio Claro suo s. 15
Gaius Pliny to-Septicius Clarus his-own greeting

Heus tu promittis ad cenam, nec venis! Dicitur ius: 15.1
hey you you-promise for dinner and-not come is-pronounced judgment
ad assem inpendium reddes, nec id modicum.
to the-last-penny the-expense you-shall-repay nor that moderate

Paratae erant lactucae singulae, cochleae ternae, ova bina, 15.2
prepared were lettuces one-each snails three-each eggs two-each
alica cum mulso et nive (nam hanc quoque computabis,
spelt with honey-wine and snow for this also you-will-count

immo hanc in primis, quae periit in ferculo), olivae,
nay this in the-first which perished in the-dish olives
betacei, cucurbitae, bulbi, alia mille non minus lauta.
beets gourds onions other-things a-thousand not less elegant
Audisses comoedos vel lectorem vel lyristen vel, quae
you-would-have-heard comic-actors or a-reader or a-lyre-player or such
mea liberalitas, omnes.
my generosity all

15.3 At tu apud nescio quem ostrea, vulvas, echinos, Gaditanas
but you at I-know-not whose oysters sow's-wombs sea-urchins Gaditane-dancers
maluisti. Dabis poenas, non dico quas. Dure fecisti:
you-preferred you-will-pay the-penalty not I-say what harshly you-have-acted
invidisti, nescio an tibi, certe mihi, sed tamen et
you-have-grudged I-know-not whether to-yourself certainly to-me but yet also
tibi. Quantum nos lusissemus, risissemus, studuissemus!
to-yourself how-much we would-have-played would-have-laughed would-have-studied

15.4 Potes apparatius cenare apud multos, nusquam hilarius
you-can more-sumptuously to-dine at many nowhere more-merrily
simplicius incautius. In summa experire, et nisi postea te
more-simply more-carelessly in sum try and unless afterward yourself
aliis potius excusaveris, mihi semper excusa. Vale.
to-others rather you-shall-have-excused to-me always excuse farewell

16 C. Plinius Erucio suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Erucius his-own greeting

16.1 Amabam Pompeium Saturninum, hunc dico nostrum,
I-used-to-love Pompeius Saturninus this-one I-mean our
laudabamque eius ingenium, etiam antequam scirem quam
and-I-used-to-praise his talent even before I-knew how
varium, quam flexibile quam multiplex esset; nunc vero
varied how flexible how manifold it-was now indeed
totum me tenet, habet, possidet.
whole me he-holds has possesses

Audivi causas agentem acriter et ardenter nec minus polite 16.2
I-have-heard cases him-pleading keenly and ardently nor less polishedly
et ornate, sive meditata sive subita proferret. Adsunt aptae
and elegantly whether prepared or extempore he-was-producing there-are apt
crebraeque sententiae, gravis et decora constructio, sonantia
and-frequent maxims weighty and graceful structure sonorous
verba et antiqua. Omnia haec mire placent cum impetu
words and ancient all these wonderfully please when with-a-sweep
quodam et flumine pervehuntur, placent, si retractentur.
certain and flood they-are-borne-along they-please if they-be-gone-over-again
Senties quod ego, cum orationes eius in manus sumpseris, 16.3
you-will-feel what I when speeches his into hands you-take
quas facile cuilibet veterum, quorum est aemulus, comparabis.
which easily to-any-one of-the-ancients of-whom he-is the-rival you-will-compare
Idem tamen in historia magis satisfaciet vel brevitate 16.4
the-same yet in history more will-satisfy either by-brevity
vel luce vel suavitate vel splendore etiam et sublimitate
or by-clarity or by-sweetness or by-splendor even and by-sublimity
narrandi. Nam in contionibus idem qui in orationibus est,
of-narrating for in harangues the-same as in speeches he-is
pressior tamen et circumscriptior et adductior.
more-compressed yet and more-concise and more-taut
Praeterea facit versus, quales Catullus aut Calvus, re 16.5
besides he-makes verses such-as Catullus or Calvus in-thing
vera quales Catullus aut Calvus. Quantum illis leporis,
true such-as Catullus or Calvus how-much in-them of-charm
dulcedinis amaritudinis, amoris! Inserit sane, sed data opera,
of-sweetness of-bitterness of-love he-inserts truly but given with-effort
mollibus levibusque duriusculos quosdam; et hoc quasi
among-soft and-smooth rather-harsh some and this as-if
Catullus aut Calvus.
Catullus or Calvus

16.6 Legit mihi nuper epistulas; uxoris esse dicebat: Plautum
he-read to-me lately letters of-his-wife to-be he-said Plautus
vel Terentium metro solutum legi credidi. Quae sive
or Terence from-meter released to-be-read I-believed which whether
uxoris sunt, ut adfirmat, sive ipsius, ut negat, pari
of-the-wife are as he-affirms or his-own as he-denies of-equal
gloria dignus qui aut illa componat aut uxorem, quam
glory worthy who either those-things composes or a-wife whom
virginem accepit, tam doctam politamque reddiderit.
a-girl he-received so learned and-polished has-made
16.7 Est ergo mecum per diem totum; eundem antequam
he-is therefore with-me through day whole the-same-man before
scribam, eundem cum scripsi, eundem etiam cum
I-write the-same-man when I-have-written the-same-man even when
remittor, non tamquam eundem lego.
I-relax not as-if the-same I-read
16.8 Quod te quoque ut facias et hortor et moneo. Neque
which you also that you-do both I-urge and I-advise nor
enim debet operibus eius obesse quod vivit. An si
for ought to-works his to-be-a-hindrance that he-lives or if
inter eos quos numquam vidimus floruisset, non solum
among those whom never we-have-seen he-had-flourished not only
libros eius verum etiam imagines conquireremus, eiusdem
books his but also portraits we-would-seek-out of-the-same-man
nunc honor praesentis et gratia quasi satietate languescit?
now the-honor present and favor as-if from-surfeit languishes
16.9 At hoc pravum malignumque est, non admirari hominem
but this perverse and-spiteful is not to-admire a-man
admiratione dignissimum, quia videre, adloqui, audire,
of-admiration most-worthy because to-see to-address to-hear

complecti, nec laudare tantum verum etiam amare
to-embrace and-not to-praise only but also to-love
contigit. Vale.
it-has-fallen-to-us farewell

C. Plinius Cornelio Titiano suo s. 17
Gaius Pliny to-Cornelius Titianus his-own greeting

Est adhuc curae hominibus fides et officium, sunt qui 17.1
is still a-care to-men loyalty and duty there-are who
defunctorum quoque amicos agant. Titinius Capito ab
of-the-dead also friends act Titinius Capito from
imperatore nostro impetravit ut sibi liceret statuam
emperor our obtained that for-himself it-might-be-allowed a-statue
L. Silani in foro ponere.
of-Lucius Silanus in the-forum to-set-up

Pulchrum et magna laude dignum amicitia principis in hoc 17.2
beautiful and of-great praise worthy the-friendship of-the-prince for this
uti, quantumque gratia valeas, aliorum honoribus experiri.
to-use and-how-much in-favor you-avail of-others in-honors to-test

Est omnino Capitoni in usu claros viros colere. Mirum 17.3
it-is altogether to-Capito in practice famous men to-honor wonderful
est qua religione, quo studio imagines Brutorum,
it-is with-what reverence with-what zeal the-busts of-the-Bruti
Cassiorum Catonum domi, ubi potest, habeat. Idem
of-the-Cassii of-the-Catos at-home where he-can he-keeps the-same-man
clarissimi cuiusque vitam egregiis carminibus exornat.
of-most-famous each the-life with-excellent poems adorns

Scias ipsum plurimis virtutibus abundare, qui alienas 17.4
you-may-know him-himself in-very-many virtues to-abound who those-of-others
sic amat. Redditus est Silano debitus honor, cuius
so loves restored was to-Silanus due honor for-whose
inmortalitati Capito prospexit pariter et suae. Neque enim
immortality Capito has-provided equally and for-his-own nor for

magis decorum et insigne est statuam in foro populi
more seemly and distinguished is a-statue in the-forum of-the-people
Romani habere quam ponere. Vale.
Roman to-have than to-set-up farewell

18 C. Plinius Suetonio Tranquillo suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Suetonius Tranquillus his-own greeting

18.1 Scribis te perterritum somnio vereri ne quid adversi in
you-write you terrified by-a-dream to-fear lest something adverse in
actione patiaris, rogas ut dilationem petam et pauculos
the-pleading you-suffer you-ask that a-postponement I-seek and a-very-few
dies, certe proximum, excusem. Difficile est, sed experiar:
days at-least the-next I-excuse difficult it-is but I-shall-try
καὶ γάρ τ' ὄναρ ἐκ Διός ἐστιν.
for indeed also a-dream from Zeus is

18.2 Refert tamen, eventura soleas an contraria somniare.
it-matters yet things-to-happen you-are-wont or opposite-things to-dream
Mihi reputanti somnium meum, istud quod times tu
to-me reflecting dream my that which fear you
egregiam actionem portendere videtur.
a-splendid pleading to-portend seems

18.3 Susceperam causam Iuni Pastoris, cum mihi quiescenti
I-had-undertaken the-case of-Junius Pastor when to-me resting
visa est socrus mea advoluta genibus ne agerem
seemed has mother-in-law my fallen-at knees that-not I-should-plead
obsecrare. Et eram acturus adulescentulus adhuc, eram
to-beseech and I-was about-to-plead a-very-young-man still I-was
in quadruplici iudicio, eram contra potentissimos civitatis
in a-quadruple court I-was against the-most-powerful of-the-state
atque etiam Caesaris amicos; quae singula excutere mentem
and even of-Caesar friends which singly to-shake-out mind
mihi post tam triste somnium poterant.
to-me after so sad a-dream could

Egi tamen λογισάμενος illud εἷς οἰωνὸς ἄριστος ἀμύνεσθαι 18.4
I-pleaded yet reckoning that one omen best to-fight
περὶ πάτρης. Nam mihi patria, et siquid carius patria,
for fatherland for to-me fatherland and if-anything dearer than-fatherland
fides videbatur. Prospere cessit, atque adeo illa actio
loyalty seemed favorably it-turned-out and so-much that pleading
mihi aures hominum, illa ianuam famae patefecit.
to-me the-ears of-men that the-door of-fame opened
Proinde dispice, an tu quoque sub hoc exemplo somnium 18.5
accordingly consider whether you also under this example dream
istud in bonum vertas: aut si tutius putas illud
that into good you-may-turn or if safer you-think that
cautissimi cuiusque praeceptum, 'quod dubites ne feceris',
of-most-cautious every precept what you-doubt do-not do
id ipsum rescribe.
that very-thing write-back
Ego aliquam stropham inveniam agamque causam tuam, ut 18.6
I some trick shall-find and-shall-plead the-case your that
istam agere tu, cum voles, possis. Est enim sane alia ratio
that to-plead you when you-will you-can is for truly other the-situation
tua, alia mea fuit. Nam iudicium centumvirale differri
your other mine was for a-court centumviral to-be-postponed
nullo modo, istud aegre quidem, sed tamen potest. Vale.
by-no means that with-difficulty indeed but yet can farewell
C. Plinius Romatio Firmo suo s. 19
Gaius Pliny to-Romatius Firmus his-own greeting
Municeps tu meus et condiscipulus et ab ineunte aetate 19.1
fellow-townsman you my and schoolfellow and from beginning age
contubernalis, pater tuus et matri et avunculo meo, mihi
comrade father your both to-mother and to-uncle my to-me

etiam, quantum aetatis diversitas passa est, familiaris; magnae
also as-far-as of-age the-difference allowed has intimate great
et graves causae, cur suscipere augere dignitatem tuam debeam.
and weighty reasons why to-take-up to-increase rank your I-ought
19.2 Esse autem tibi centum milium censum satis indicat,
to-be moreover to-you of-a-hundred thousand a-rating enough shows
quod apud nos decurio es. Igitur ut te non decurione
that among us a-councilor you-are therefore that you not as-a-councilor
solum verum etiam equite Romano perfruamur, offero tibi
only but also as-a-knight Roman we-may-enjoy I-offer to-you
ad implendas equestres facultates trecenta milia nummum.
for filling-up equestrian means three-hundred thousand of-sesterces
19.3 Te memorem huius muneris amicitiae nostrae diuturnitas
you mindful of-this gift of-friendship our the-long-duration
spondet: ego ne illud quidem admoneo, quod admonere
guarantees I not that even advise which to-advise
deberem, nisi scirem sponte facturum, ut dignitate
I-ought unless I-knew of-your-own-accord about-to-do-it that the-rank
a me data quam modestissime, ut a me data, utare.
by me given as most-modestly as by me given you-use
19.4 Nam sollicitius custodiendus est honor, in quo etiam
for more-anxiously to-be-guarded is an-honor in which also
beneficium amici tuendum est. Vale.
the-kindness of-a-friend to-be-protected is farewell

Pliny asks Tacitus to judge his dispute with a learned man who prizes brevity: the great orators spoke at length, and a speech that is long and worthy is better than one merely short. He tells Paternus that the slaves bought on his advice look well, though their honesty is judged by the ear, fears for the life of the jurist Titus Aristo, tells Pompeius Falco why as tribune he himself pleaded no cases, and asks Baebius Hispanus to see that Tranquillus buys a small farm at a fair price.

C. Plinius Cornelio Tacito suo s. 20

Gaius Pliny to-Cornelius Tacitus his-own greeting

Frequens mihi disputatio est cum quodam docto homine 20.1

frequent to-me a-dispute is with a-certain learned man

et perito, cui nihil aeque in causis agendis ut brevitas

and skilled to-whom nothing equally in cases to-be-pleaded as brevity

placet.

pleases

Quam ego custodiendam esse confiteor, si causa permittat: 20.2

which I to-be-kept to-be I-admit if the-case permit

alioqui praevaricatio est transire dicenda, praevaricatio

otherwise collusion it-is to-pass-over things-to-be-said collusion

etiam cursim et breviter attingere quae sunt inculcanda,

also hastily and briefly to-touch what are to-be-driven-home

infigenda, repetenda.

to-be-fixed to-be-repeated

Nam plerisque longiore tractatu vis quaedam et pondus 20.3

for to-most-things by-longer handling force a-certain and weight

accedit, utque corpori ferrum, sic oratio animo non

is-added and-as into-the-body iron so speech into-the-mind not

ictu magis quam mora imprimitur.

by-the-blow more than by-the-delay is-pressed-in

20.4 Hic ille mecum auctoritatibus agit ac mihi ex graecis
here he with-me with-authorities deals and to-me from the-Greeks
orationes Lysiae ostentat, ex nostris Gracchorum Catonisque,
the-speeches of-Lysias displays from ours of-the-Gracchi and-of-Cato
quorum sane plurimae sunt circumcisae et breves: ego Lysiae
of-which truly very-many are clipped and brief I to-Lysias
Demosthenen, Aeschinen, Hyperiden multosque praeterea,
Demosthenes Aeschines Hyperides and-many besides
Gracchis et Catoni Pollionem, Caesarem, Caelium, in primis
to-the-Gracchi and to-Cato Pollio Caesar Caelius in the-first
M. Tullium oppono, cuius oratio optima fertur esse quae
Marcus Tullius I-oppose whose speech best is-said to-be which
maxima. Et hercule ut aliae bonae res ita bonus liber
the-longest and by-Hercules as other good things so a-good book
melior est quisque, quo maior.
better is each the bigger

20.5 Vides ut statuas, signa, picturas, hominum denique
you-see how statues images pictures of-men finally
multorumque animalium formas, arborum etiam, si modo
and-of-many animals the-forms of-trees even if only
sint decorae, nihil magis quam amplitudo commendet.
they-be handsome nothing more than size commends
Idem orationibus evenit; quin etiam voluminibus ipsis
the-same to-speeches happens nay even to-the-volumes themselves
auctoritatem quandam et pulchritudinem adicit magnitudo.
authority a-certain and beauty adds size

20.6 Haec ille multaque alia, quae a me in eandem sententiam
these-things he and-many other-things which by me to the-same opinion
solent dici, ut est in disputando inconprehensibilis et
are-wont to-be-said as he-is in arguing ungraspable and

lubricus, ita eludit ut contendat hos ipsos, quorum
slippery so evades that he-maintains these very-men on-whose
orationibus nitar, pauciora dixisse, quam ediderint.
speeches I-rely fewer-things to-have-said than they-published
Ego contra puto: testes sunt multae multorum orationes 20.7
I the-contrary think witnesses are many of-many-men speeches
et Ciceronis pro Murena, pro Vareno, in quibus brevis et
and of-Cicero for Murena for Varenus in which a-brief and
nuda quasi subscriptio quorundam criminum solis titulis
bare as-it-were summary of-certain charges by-mere headings
indicatur: ex his apparet illum permulta dixisse, cum
is-indicated from these it-appears him very-many-things to-have-said when
ederet, omisisse.
he-published to-have-omitted
Idem pro Cluentio ait se totam causam vetere instituto 20.8
the-same for Cluentius says himself the-whole case by-old custom
solum perorasse et pro C. Cornelio quadriduo egisse;
alone to-have-wound-up and for Gaius Cornelius in-four-days to-have-pleaded
ne dubitare possimus quae per plures dies, ut necesse
so-that-not to-doubt we-may-be-able what over several days as necessary
erat, latius dixerit postea recisa ac repurgata in unum
it-was more-broadly he-said afterward pruned and cleaned into one
librum, grandem quidem, unum tamen coartasse.
book large indeed one yet to-have-compressed
At aliud est actio bona, aliud oratio. Scio non nullis ita 20.9
but one-thing is a-pleading good another a-speech I-know not to-none so
videri. Sed ego, forsitan fallar, persuasum habeo posse
to-seem but I perhaps I-may-be-mistaken persuaded I-have to-be-able
fieri ut sit actio bona quae non sit bona oratio,
to-happen that may-be a-pleading good which not may-be good speech

non posse non bonam actionem esse quae sit bona oratio.
not to-be-able not good a-pleading to-be which may-be good speech
Est enim oratio actionis exemplar et quasi ἀρχέτυπον.
is for the-speech of-the-pleading the-model and as-it-were archetype
20.10 Ideo in optima quaque mille figuras extemporales
therefore in best each a-thousand figures extempore
invenimus, in iis etiam quas tantum editas scimus, ut
we-find in those even which only published we-know as
in Verrem, 'artificem quem? Quemnam? Recte admones:
in Verres the-artist whom who-then rightly you-remind
Polyclitum esse dicebant.' Sequitur ergo ut actio sit
Polyclitus to-be they-said follows therefore that the-pleading may-be
absolutissima quae maxime orationis similitudinem expresserit,
most-perfect which most of-the-speech the-likeness has-expressed
si modo iustum et debitum tempus accipiat: quod si
if only proper and due time it-receive which if
negetur, nulla oratoris, maxima iudicis culpa est.
it-be-denied no of-the-orator greatest of-the-judge the-fault is
20.11 Adsunt huic opinioni meae leges, quae longissima tempora
support to-this opinion my the-laws which longest times
largiuntur nec brevitatem dicentibus, sed copiam, hoc est
grant nor brevity to-speakers but fullness that is
diligentiam, suadent; quam praestare nisi in angustissimis
thoroughness urge which to-supply except in narrowest
causis non potest brevitas.
cases not can brevity
20.12 Adiciam quod me docuit usus, magister egregius. Frequenter
I-shall-add what me has-taught experience a-teacher excellent often
egi, frequenter iudicavi, frequenter in consilio fui:
I-have-pleaded often I-have-judged often in council I-have-been
aliud alios movet, ac plerumque parvae res maximas
one-thing others moves and generally small things the-greatest

trahunt. Varia sunt hominum iudicia, variae voluntates: inde
draw various are of-men judgments various wishes hence
qui eandem causam simul audierunt, saepe diversum,
those-who the-same case together have-heard often different
interdum idem sed ex diversis animi motibus sentiunt.
sometimes the-same but from different of-mind impulses feel
Praeterea suae quisque inventioni favet et quasi fortissimum 20.13
besides his-own each to-discovery favors and as-if strongest
amplectitur, cum ab alio dictum est quod ipse praevidit.
embraces when by another said is what himself he-foresaw
Omnibus ergo dandum est aliquid quod teneant, quod
to-all therefore to-be-given is something which they-may-hold which
agnoscant.
they-may-recognize
Dixit aliquando mihi Regulus, cum simul adessemus, 'Tu 20.14
said once to-me Regulus when together we-were-appearing you
omnia quae sunt in causa putas exequenda; ego iugulum
all-things which are in the-case think to-be-pursued I the-throat
statim video, hunc premo:' premit sane quod elegit, sed
at-once see this I-press presses truly what he-has-chosen but
in eligendo frequenter errat.
in choosing often errs
Respondi posse fieri ut genu esset aut talus, ubi ille 20.15
I-answered to-be-able to-happen that the-knee it-was or the-ankle where he
iugulum putaret: 'at ego' inquam, 'qui iugulum perspicere
the-throat thought but I I-said who the-throat to-make-out
non possum, omnia pertempto, omnia experior, πάντα
not can all-things I-test all-things I-try every
denique λίθον κινῶ;
finally stone I-move

20.16 Utque in cultura agri non vineas tantum verum etiam
and-as in the-cultivation of-a-field not vineyards only but also
arbusta, nec arbusta tantum verum etiam campos curo et
tree-plantations nor tree-plantations only but also fields I-tend and
exerceo, utque in ipsis campis non far aut siliginem solam sed
work and-as in the-very fields not spelt or wheat alone but
hordeum, fabam ceteraque legumina sero, sic in actione plura
barley the-bean and-the-other pulses I-sow so in pleading more-things
quasi semina latius spargo, ut quae provenerint colligam.'
as-it-were seeds more-widely I-scatter that what may-come-up I-may-gather
20.17 Neque enim minus imperspicua incerta, fallacia sunt iudicum
nor for less impenetrable uncertain deceptive are of-judges
ingenia quam tempestatum terrarumque. Nec me praeterit
the-minds than of-weathers and-of-lands nor me escapes
summum oratorem Periclen sic a comico Eupolide laudari,
the-supreme orator Pericles so by the-comic-poet Eupolis to-be-praised
πρὸς δέ γ' αὐτοῦ τῷ τάχει πειθώ τις ἐπεκάθητο
besides and indeed his to-the swiftness persuasion a-kind-of sat-upon
τοῖσι χείλεσιν. οὕτως ἐκήλει, καὶ μόνος τῶν ῥητόρων τὸ
the lips so he-charmed and alone of-the orators the
κέντρον ἐγκατέλειπε τοῖς ἀκροωμένοις.
sting left-behind in-the hearers
20.18 Verum huic ipsi Pericli nec illa πειθὼ nec illud ἐκήλει
but to-this very Pericles neither that persuasion nor that he-charmed
brevitate vel velocitate vel utraque (differunt enim) sine
by-brevity or by-speed or by-both they-differ for without
facultate summa contigisset. Nam delectare persuadere copiam
faculty the-highest would-have-come for to-delight to-persuade fullness
dicendi spatiumque desiderat; relinquere vero aculeum in
of-speaking and-room requires to-leave indeed a-sting in
audientium animis is demum potest, qui non pungit, sed infigit.
of-hearers the-minds he only can who not pricks but drives-in

Adde quae de eodem Pericle comicus alter: ἤστραπτ', 20.19
add what about the-same Pericles comic-poet the-other he-lightened
ἐβρόντα, συνεκύκα τὴν Ἑλλάδα non enim amputata oratio
he-thundered he-stirred-up the Greece not for a-clipped speech
et abscisa, sed lata et magnifica et excelsa tonat, fulgurat,
and cut-off but broad and magnificent and lofty thunders lightens
omnia denique perturbat ac miscet.
all-things finally throws-into-confusion and mixes
'Optimus tamen modus est'. Quis negat? Sed non minus 20.20
best yet measure is who denies but not less
non servat modum qui infra rem quam qui supra, qui
not keeps measure who below the-matter than who above who
adstrictius quam qui effusius dicit.
more-tightly than who more-diffusely speaks
Itaque audis frequenter ut illud 'immodice et redundanter', 20.21
and-so you-hear often as that immoderately and redundantly
ita hoc 'ieiune et infirme'. Alius excessisse materiam, alius
so this meagerly and weakly one to-have-exceeded the-matter another
dicitur non inplesse. Aeque uterque, sed ille inbecillitate,
is-said not to-have-filled equally each but that-one from-weakness
hic viribus peccat; quod certe, etsi non limatioris,
this-one from-strength sins which certainly although not of-a-more-polished
maioris tamen ingenii vitium est.
of-a-greater yet talent the-fault is
Nec vero, cum haec dico illum Homericum ἀμετροεπῆ 20.22
nor indeed when these-things I-say that Homeric unmeasured-talker
probo, sed hunc: καὶ ἔπεα νιφάδεσσιν ἐοικότα χειμερίῃσιν,
I-approve but this-one and words to-snowflakes like wintry
non quia non et ille mihi validissime placeat, παῦρα μέν,
not because not also that-one to-me most-strongly may-please few indeed
ἀλλὰ μάλα λιγέως si tamen detur electio, illam orationem
but very clearly if yet be-given a-choice that speech

similem nivibus hibernis, id est crebram et adsiduam et
like to-snows wintry that is thick and continuous and
largam, postremo divinam et caelestem, volo.
abundant finally divine and heavenly I-want

20.23 'At est gratior multis actio brevis.' Est, sed inertibus,
but is more-pleasing to-many a-pleading brief it-is but to-the-lazy
quorum delicias desidiamque quasi iudicium respicere
whose fastidiousness and-idleness as-if a-judgment to-regard
ridiculum est. Nam si hos in consilio habeas, non solum
ridiculous is for if these in council you-have not only
satius est breviter dicere, sed omnino non dicere.
better is briefly to-speak but altogether not to-speak

20.24 Haec est adhuc sententia mea, quam mutabo, si dissenseris
this is still opinion my which I-shall-change if shall-have-disagreed
tu; sed plane cur dissentias explices rogo. Quamvis enim
you but plainly why you-disagree you-explain I-ask although for
cedere auctoritati debeam tuae, rectius tamen arbitror in
to-yield to-authority I-ought your more-rightly yet I-think in
tanta re ratione quam auctoritate superari.
so-great a-matter by-reason than by-authority to-be-overcome

20.25 Proinde si non errare videor, id ipsum quam voles
accordingly if not to-err I-seem that very-thing as you-will
brevi epistula, sed tamen scribe (confirmabis enim iudicium
in-brief letter but yet write you-will-confirm for judgment
meum); si errare, longissimam para. Num corrupi te, qui
my if to-err a-very-long-one prepare surely-not have-I-bribed you who
tibi, si mihi accederes, brevis epistulae necessitatem, si
on-you if with-me you-agreed of-a-brief letter the-necessity if
dissentires, longissimae inposui? Vale.
you-disagreed of-a-very-long have-imposed farewell

C. Plinius Plinio Paterno suo s. 21
Gaius Pliny to-Plinius Paternus his-own greeting

Ut animi tui iudicio sic oculorum plurimum tribuo; non 21.1
as of-mind your to-the-judgment so of-eyes very-much I-attribute not
quia multum, ne tibi placeas, sed quia tantum quantum
because much lest yourself you-flatter but because as-much as
ego sapis: quamquam hoc quoque multum est.
I you-know although this also much is

Omissis iocis credo decentes esse servos, qui sunt empti 21.2
dropped jests I-believe comely to-be the-slaves who were bought
mihi ex consilio tuo: superest ut frugi sint, quod de
for-me on advice your it-remains that honest they-be which about
venalibus melius auribus quam oculis iudicatur. Vale.
wares-for-sale better by-ears than by-eyes is-judged farewell

C. Plinius Catilio Severo suo s. 22
Gaius Pliny to-Catilius Severus his-own greeting

Diu iam in urbe haereo, et quidem attonitus. Perturbat me 22.1
long now in the-city I-am-stuck and indeed thunderstruck disturbs me
longa et pertinax valetudo Titi Aristonis, quem singulariter
the-long and stubborn illness of-Titius Aristo whom singularly
et miror et diligo. Nihil est enim illo gravius, sanctius,
both I-admire and I-love nothing is for than-him more-serious holier
doctius, ut mihi non unus homo, sed litterae ipsae
more-learned so-that to-me not one man but letters themselves
omnesque bonae artes in uno homine summum periculum
and-all good arts in one man the-greatest danger
adire videantur.
to-undergo seem

Quam peritus ille et privati iuris et publici! Quantum rerum, 22.2
how skilled he both in-private law and public how-much of-things
quantum exemplorum, quantum antiquitatis tenet! Nihil est
how-much of-precedents how-much of-antiquity he-holds nothing is-there

quod discere velis, quod ille docere non possit. Mihi
which to-learn you-may-wish which he to-teach not could to-me
certe, quotiens aliquid abditum quaero, ille thesaurus est.
certainly as-often-as something hidden I-seek he a-treasure-house is
22.3 Iam quanta sermonibus eius fides, quanta auctoritas, quam
then how-great to-conversations his the-credit how-great the-authority how
pressa et decora cunctatio! Quid est quod non statim
restrained and graceful the-deliberation what is-there that not at-once
sciat? Et tamen plerumque haesitat, dubitat diversitate
he-may-know and yet generally he-hesitates doubts from-the-variety
rationum, quas acri magnoque iudicio ab origine causisque
of-reasons which with-keen and-great judgment from the-origin and-causes
primis repetit, discernit, expendit.
first he-traces distinguishes weighs
22.4 Ad hoc quam parcus in victu, quam modicus in cultu!
to this how sparing in diet how moderate in dress
Soleo ipsum cubiculum eius ipsumque lectum ut imaginem
I-am-wont the-very bedroom his and-the-very bed as an-image
quandam priscae frugalitatis aspicere.
a-certain of-old-time frugality to-look-at
22.5 Ornat haec magnitudo animi, quae nihil ad ostentationem,
adorns these-things greatness of-mind which nothing to display
omnia ad conscientiam refert recteque facti non ex
all-things to conscience refers and-rightly of-a-thing-done not from
populi sermone mercedem, sed ex facto petit.
of-the-people talk the-reward but from the-deed seeks
22.6 In summa non facile quemquam ex istis qui sapientiae studium
in sum not easily anyone of those who of-wisdom the-pursuit
habitu corporis praeferunt, huic viro comparabis. Non
by-the-dress of-body display to-this man will-you-compare not
quidem gymnasia sectatur aut porticus nec disputationibus
indeed gymnasia he-frequents or colonnades nor with-disputations

longis aliorum otium suumque delectat, sed in toga
long of-others the-leisure and-his-own amuses but in the-toga
negotiisque versatur, multos advocatione, plures consilio iuvat.
and-business is-engaged many by-advocacy more by-counsel helps
Nemini tamen istorum castitate, pietate, iustitia, fortitudine 22.7
to-no-one yet of-those in-purity in-devotion in-justice in-fortitude
etiam primo loco cesserit. Mirareris si interesses,
even in-the-first place would-be-yield you-would-wonder if you-were-present
qua patientia hanc ipsam valetudinem toleret, ut dolori
with-what patience this very illness he-bears how to-pain
resistat, ut sitim differat, ut incredibilem febrium ardorem
he-resists how thirst he-puts-off how the-incredible of-fevers heat
inmotus opertusque transmittat.
motionless and-covered he-passes-through
Nuper me paucosque mecum, quos maxime diligit, advocavit 22.8
lately me and-a-few with-me whom most he-loves he-summoned
rogavitque ut medicos consuleremus de summa valetudinis,
and-asked that the-doctors we-should-consult about the-outcome of-the-illness
ut si esset insuperabilis, sponte exiret e vita;
so-that if it-were insuperable of-his-own-accord he-might-go-out from life
si tantum difficilis et longa, resisteret maneretque:
if only difficult and long he-might-resist and-remain
Dandum enim precibus uxoris, dandum filiae lacrimis, 22.9
to-be-yielded for to-the-prayers of-his-wife to-be-yielded of-his-daughter to-the-tears
dandum etiam nobis amicis ne spes nostras, si modo non
to-be-yielded also to-us friends lest hopes our if only not
essent inanes, voluntaria morte desereret.
they-were empty by-a-voluntary death he-should-desert
Id ego arduum in primis et praecipua laude dignum 22.10
that I hard in the-first and of-special praise worthy
puto. Nam impetu quodam et instinctu procurrere ad
think for by-impulse a-certain and instinct to-rush-forward to

mortem commune cum multis, deliberare vero et causas
death common with many to-deliberate indeed and the-causes
eius expendere, utque suaserit ratio, vitae mortisque
of-it to-weigh and-as shall-have-advised reason of-life and-of-death
consilium vel suscipere vel ponere ingentis est animi.
the-plan either to-take-up or to-lay-down of-a-huge is spirit

22.11 Et medici quidem secunda nobis pollicentur: superest ut
and the-doctors indeed favorable-things to-us promise it-remains that
promissis deus adnuat tandemque me hac sollicitudine
to-the-promises a-god may-nod-assent and-at-last me from-this anxiety
exsolvat; qua liberatus Laurentinum meum, hoc est
may-release from-which freed the-Laurentine my that is
libellos et pugillares studiosumque otium repetam. Nunc
little-books and tablets and-studious leisure I-shall-seek-again now
enim nihil legere, nihil scribere aut adsidenti vacat
for nothing to-read nothing to-write either to-one-sitting-by is-there-time
aut anxio libet.
or to-one-anxious is-it-pleasing

22.12 Habes quid timeam, quid optem, quid etiam in posterum
you-have what I-fear what I-wish what even for the-future
destinem: tu quid egeris, quid agas, quid velis agere
I-intend you what you-have-done what you-do what you-wish to-do
invicem nobis, sed laetioribus epistulis scribe. Erit confusioni
in-turn to-us but in-happier letters write it-will-be to-the-distress
meae non mediocre solacium, si tu nihil quereris. Vale.
my no moderate comfort if you nothing complain farewell

23 C. Plinius Pompeio Falconi suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Pompeius Falco his-own greeting

23.1 Consulis an existimem te in tribunatu causas agere debere.
you-consult whether I-think you in the-tribunate cases to-plead ought
Plurimum refert, quid esse tribunatum putes, inanem umbram
very-much it-matters what to-be the-tribunate you-think an-empty shadow

et sine honore nomen, an potestatem sacrosanctam et quam
and without honor a-name or a-power sacrosanct and which
in ordinem cogi ut a nullo ita ne a se quidem deceat.
into the-ranks to-be-reduced as by no-one so not by itself even it-befits
Ipse cum tribunus essem, erraverim fortasse, qui me 23.2
myself when tribune I-was I-may-have-erred perhaps who myself
aliquid putavi, sed tamquam essem abstinui causis agendis:
something thought but as-if I-were I-abstained from-cases to-be-pleaded
primum quod deforme arbitrabar, cui adsurgere, cui
first because unseemly I-judged for-whom to-rise for-whom
loco cedere omnis oporteret, hunc omnibus sedentibus stare;
place to-yield all ought him all sitting to-stand
et qui iubere posset tacere quemcumque, huic silentium
and who to-order could to-be-silent anyone on-him silence
clepsydra indici; et quem interfari nefas esset, hunc
by-the-water-clock to-be-imposed and whom to-interrupt sin it-were him
etiam convicia audire, et si inulta pateretur, inertem, si
even insults to-hear and if unavenged he-suffered-them sluggish if
ulcisceretur, insolentem videri.
he-avenged insolent to-seem
Erat hic quoque aestus ante oculos, si forte me 23.3
there-was this also a-turmoil before eyes if by-chance me
appellasset vel ille cui adessem vel ille quem contra,
had-appealed-to either he for-whom I-appeared or he whom against
intercederem et auxilium ferrem, an quiescerem sileremque
whether-I-should-veto and help bring or I-should-keep-quiet and-be-silent
et quasi eiurato magistratu privatum ipse me facerem.
and as-if with-abjured office a-private-man myself me I-should-make
His rationibus motus malui me tribunum omnibus 23.4
by-these reasons moved I-preferred myself a-tribune to-all
exhibere, quam paucis advocatum.
to-show than to-few an-advocate

23.5 Sed tu, iterum dicam, plurimum interest quid esse tribunatum
but you again I-shall-say very-much it-matters what to-be the-tribunate
putes, quam personam tibi inponas; quae sapienti viro
you-think what role on-yourself you-put which to-a-wise man
ita aptanda est, ut perferatur. Vale.
so to-be-fitted is that it-be-sustained farewell

24 C. Plinius Baebio Hispano suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Baebius Hispanus his-own greeting

24.1 Tranquillus, contubernalis meus, vult emere agellum, quem
Tranquillus comrade my wants to-buy a-small-farm which
venditare amicus tuus dicitur.
to-be-offering-for-sale friend your is-said

24.2 Rogo cures quanti aequum est emat: ita enim
I-ask you-see-to-it for-as-much-as fair is he-may-buy so for
delectabit emisse. Nam mala emptio semper ingrata,
it-will-delight to-have-bought for a-bad purchase always unwelcome
eo maxime, quod exprobrare stultitiam domino
on-that-account most because to-reproach folly to-the-owner
videtur.
it-seems

24.3 In hoc autem agello, si modo adriserit pretium,
in this moreover small-farm if only shall-have-smiled the-price
Tranquilli mei stomachum multa sollicitant, vicinitas urbis,
of-Tranquillus my the-appetite many-things tempt the-nearness of-the-city
opportunitas viae, mediocritas villae, modus ruris, qui
the-convenience of-the-road the-modesty of-the-house the-extent of-the-land which
avocet magis quam distringat.
may-divert more than distract

24.4 Scholasticis porro dominis, ut hic est, sufficit abunde
to-scholarly moreover owners as this-one is suffices abundantly
tantum soli, ut relevare caput, reficere oculos, reptare per
so-much of-soil that to-relieve the-head to-refresh the-eyes to-creep along

limitem unamque semitam terere omnisque viticulas suas
the-boundary and-one path to-wear and-all little-vines their-own
nosse et numerare arbusculas possint. Haec tibi
to-know and to-count little-trees they-may-be-able these-things to-you
exposui, quo magis scires, quantum esset ille mihi,
I-have-set-out by-which more you-might-know how-much would-be he to-me
ego tibi debiturus, si praediolum istud, quod commendatur
I to-you about-to-owe if little-estate that which is-commended
his dotibus, tam salubriter emerit, ut paenitentiae
by-these endowments so wholesomely he-shall-have-bought that of-regret
locum non relinquat. Vale.
room not it-leave farewell

BOOK II

I · VERGINIUS RUFUS

Pliny describes the public funeral of Verginius Rufus, who refused the empire and lived to read verses about himself, and whose eulogy Tacitus gave. He chides Paulinus for silence, urges Nepos to come and hear the Greek orator Isaeus, whose improvised speeches seem long prepared, cancels what Calvina's father owed him so that she may accept the inheritance, and sends Lupercus part of a speech for his comment.

C. Plinius Voconio Romano suo s. 1
Gaius Pliny to-Voconius Romanus his-own greeting

Post aliquot annos insigne atque etiam memorabile populi 1.1
after several years a-notable and even memorable of-the-people
Romani oculis spectaculum exhibuit publicum funus Vergini
Roman to-the-eyes spectacle presented the-public funeral of-Verginius
Rufi, maximi et clarissimi civis, perinde felicis.
Rufus greatest and most-illustrious citizen equally fortunate

Triginta annis gloriae suae supervixit: legit scripta de 1.2
by-thirty years glory his-own he-outlived he-read written about
se carmina, legit historias et posteritati suae interfuit.
himself poems he-read histories and at-posterity his-own was-present
Perfunctus est tertio consulatu, ut summum fastigium
discharged he-has a-third consulship so-that the-highest summit
privati hominis inpleret, cum principis noluisset.
of-a-private man he-might-fill since of-the-prince he-had-declined

Caesares quibus suspectus atque etiam invisus virtutibus fuerat 1.3
the-Caesars to-whom suspect and even hateful for-virtues he-had-been
evasit, reliquit incolumem optimum atque amicissimum,
he-escaped he-left safe the-best and most-friendly
tamquam ad hunc ipsum honorem publici funeris reservatus.
as-if for this very honor of-a-public funeral reserved

1.4 Annum tertium et octogensimum excessit in altissima
the-year third and eightieth he-passed in deepest
tranquillitate, pari veneratione. Usus est firma valetudine,
tranquility with-equal veneration enjoyed he-has firm health
nisi quod solebant ei manus tremere, citra dolorem
except that used to-him the-hands to-tremble short-of pain
tamen. Aditus tantum mortis durior longiorque, sed hic
yet the-approach only of-death harder and-longer but this
ipse laudabilis.
itself praiseworthy

1.5 Nam cum vocem praepararet acturus in consulatu principi
for when the-voice he-was-preparing about-to-give in the-consulship to-the-prince
gratias, liber, quem forte acceperat grandiorem, et
thanks a-book which by-chance he-had-taken rather-large both
seni et stanti ipso pondere elapsus est. Hunc
to-the-old-man and to-one-standing by-its-very weight slipped has this
dum sequitur colligitque, per leve et lubricum pavimentum
while he-follows and-picks-up on smooth and slippery pavement
fallente vestigio cecidit coxamque fregit, quae parum apte
failing his-footing he-fell and-the-hip broke which too-little aptly
collocata reluctante aetate male coiit.
set resisting his-age badly knit

1.6 Huius viri exequiae magnum ornamentum principi, magnum
of-this man the-obsequies great distinction to-the-prince great
saeculo, magnum etiam foro et rostris attulerunt.
to-the-age great even to-the-forum and to-the-rostra brought
Laudatus est a consule Cornelio Tacito: nam hic supremus
praised he-was by the-consul Cornelius Tacitus for this final
felicitati eius cumulus accessit, laudator eloquentissimus.
to-the-good-fortune his crowning was-added a-eulogist most-eloquent

Et ille quidem plenus annis abiit, plenus honoribus, illis 1.7
and he indeed full of-years has-departed full of-honors those
etiam quos recusavit: nobis tamen quaerendus ac desiderandus
even which he-refused by-us yet to-be-sought and to-be-missed
est ut exemplar aevi prioris, mihi vero praecipue, qui illum
is as a-model of-an-age earlier by-me indeed especially who him
non solum publice quantum admirabar tantum diligebam;
not only publicly as-much-as I-admired so-much I-loved
Primum quod utrique eadem regio, municipia finitima, agri 1.8
first because for-both the-same region towns neighboring lands
etiam possessionesque coniunctae, praeterea quod ille mihi
also and-estates adjoining besides because he to-me
tutor relictus adfectum parentis exhibuit. Sic candidatum me
guardian left the-affection of-a-parent showed so as-candidate me
suffragio ornavit; sic ad omnes honores meos ex secessibus
with-his-vote he-honored so to all honors my from retreats
accucurrit, cum iam pridem eius modi officiis renuntiasset;
he-hurried when already long-since of-this kind to-duties he-had-renounced
sic illo die, quo sacerdotes solent nominare quos
so on-that day on-which the-priests are-wont to-nominate those-whom
dignissimos sacerdotio iudicant, me semper nominabat.
most-worthy of-the-priesthood they-judge me always he-nominated
Quin etiam in hac novissima valetudine veritus ne 1.9
nay even in this last illness having-feared lest
forte inter quinqueviros crearetur, qui minuendis publicis
perhaps among the-five-commissioners he-be-appointed who for-reducing public
sumptibus iudicio senatus constituebantur, cum illi
expenses by-the-decision of-the-senate were-being-set-up though to-him
tot amici senes consularesque superessent, me huius aetatis
so-many friends old and-consular survived me of-this age

per quem excusaretur elegit, his quidem verbis,
through whom he-might-be-excused he-chose with-these indeed words
'Etiam si filium haberem, tibi mandarem.'
even if a-son I-had to-you I-would-entrust-it
1.10 Quibus ex causis necesse est tamquam inmaturam mortem
these for causes necessary it-is as-if untimely the-death
eius in sinu tuo defleam; si tamen fas est aut flere aut
his in bosom your I-should-weep if yet right it-is either to-weep or
omnino mortem vocare, qua tanti viri mortalitas magis
at-all death to-call by-which of-so-great a-man the-mortality rather
finita quam vita est.
ended than the-life is
1.11 Vivit enim vivetque semper atque etiam latius in memoria
he-lives for and-will-live always and even more-widely in the-memory
hominum et sermone versabitur, postquam ab oculis
of-men and talk he-will-move since from eyes
recessit.
he-has-withdrawn
1.12 Volui tibi multa alia scribere, sed totus animus in hac
I-wanted to-you many other-things to-write but whole the-mind on this
una contemplatione defixus est: Verginium cogito, Verginium
one contemplation fixed is Verginius I-think-of Verginius
video, Verginium iam vanis imaginibus, recentibus tamen,
I-see Verginius now in-empty images fresh yet
audio, adloquor, teneo. Cui fortasse cives aliquos virtutibus
I-hear I-address I-hold to-whom perhaps citizens some in-virtues
pares et habemus et habebimus, gloria neminem. Vale.
equal both we-have and shall-have in-glory none farewell

C. Plinius Paulino suo s. 2

Gaius Pliny to-Paulinus his-own greeting

Irascor, nec liquet mihi an debeam, sed irascor. 2.1

I-am-angry nor is-it-clear to-me whether I-ought but I-am-angry

Scis quam sit amor iniquus interdum, inpotens saepe,

you-know how is love unfair sometimes ungovernable often

μικραίτιος semper. Haec tamen causa magna est, nescio

quick-to-take-offense always this yet cause great is I-know-not

an iusta: sed ego, tamquam non minus iusta quam magna

whether just but I as-if not less just than great

sit, graviter irascor quod a te tam diu litterae nullae.

it-be heavily am-angry that from you so long letters none

Exorare me potes uno modo, si nunc saltem plurimas et 2.2

to-win-over me you-can in-one way if now at-least very-many and

longissimas miseris. Haec mihi sola excusatio vera, ceterae

very-long you-send this to-me alone excuse true the-others

falsae videbuntur. Non sum auditurus 'non eram Romae'

false will-seem not am about-to-hear not I-was at-Rome

vel 'occupatior eram': illud enim nec di sinant, ut

or rather-busy I-was that for nor-may the-gods allow that

'infirmior'. Ipse ad villam partim studiis partim desidia

rather-sick I-myself at the-villa partly studies partly idleness

fruor, quorum utrumque ex otio nascitur. Vale.

enjoy of-which each from leisure is-born farewell

C. Plinius Nepoti suo s. 3

Gaius Pliny to-Nepos his-own greeting

Magna Isaeum fama praecesserat, maior inventus est. 3.1

great Isaeus a-reputation had-preceded greater found he-was

Summa est facultas, copia, ubertas: dicit semper ex tempore,

supreme is the-facility the-fullness the-richness he-speaks always on the-spur

sed tamquam diu scripserit. Sermo graecus, immo atticus:
but as-if long he-had-written his-speech Greek nay Attic
praefationes tersae, graciles, dulces, graves interdum et erectae.
the-prefaces neat slender sweet weighty sometimes and lofty
3.2 Poscit controversias plures; electionem auditoribus permittit,
he-asks-for themes several the-choice to-the-hearers he-leaves
saepe etiam partes; surgit, amicitur, incipit: statim omnia
often also the-sides he-rises he-wraps-himself he-begins at-once all-things
ac paene pariter ad manum, sensus reconditi occursant,
and almost equally at hand thoughts recondite come-to-meet-him
verba, sed qualia! Quaesita et exculta. Multa lectio in
words but what-words sought-out and polished much reading in
subitis, multa scriptio elucet.
extempore-speeches much writing shines-out
3.3 Prooemiatur apte, narrat aperte, pugnat acriter, colligit
he-introduces aptly narrates clearly fights keenly sums-up
fortiter, ornat excelse. Postremo docet, delectat, adficit; quid
forcefully adorns loftily finally he-teaches delights moves which
maxime, dubites: crebra ἐνθυμήματα crebri syllogismi,
most you-would-doubt frequent enthymemes frequent syllogisms
circumscripti et effecti, quod stilo quoque adsequi
tight and finished which with-the-pen even to-attain
magnum est: incredibilis memoria: repetit altius quae
great is incredible his-memory he-repeats from-further-back what
dixit ex tempore, ne verbo quidem labitur.
he-said on the-spur not in-a-word even he-slips
3.4 Ad tantam ἕξιν studio et exercitatione pervenit; nam diebus
to such facility by-study and practice he-has-come for by-days
et noctibus nihil aliud agit, nihil audit nihil loquitur.
and by-nights nothing else he-does nothing he-hears nothing he-speaks

Annum sexagesimum excessit et adhuc scholasticus tantum 3.5
the-year sixtieth he-has-passed and still a-rhetorician only
est: quo genere hominum nihil aut sincerius aut simplicius
is than-which kind of-men nothing either more-sincere or more-simple
aut melius. Nos enim, qui in foro verisque litibus
or better we for who in the-forum and-real lawsuits
terimur, multum malitiae quamvis nolimus, addiscimus:
are-worn-down much of-malice although we-may-not-wish we-learn-in-addition
Schola et auditorium et ficta causa res inermis innoxia 3.6
the-school and the-lecture-hall and a-fictitious case a-thing unarmed harmless
est, nec minus felix, senibus praesertim. Nam quid in
is nor less happy for-old-men especially for what in
senectute felicius, quam quod dulcissimum est in iuventa?
old-age happier than what sweetest is in youth
Quare ego Isaeum non disertissimum tantum verum etiam 3.7
therefore I Isaeus not most-eloquent only but also
beatissimum iudico. Quem tu nisi cognoscere concupiscis,
most-blessed judge whom you unless to-get-to-know you-long
saxeus ferreusque es.
of-stone and-of-iron are
Proinde si non ob alia nosque ipsos, at certe ut 3.8
accordingly if not on-account-of other-things and-us ourselves yet certainly that
hunc audias, veni. Numquamne legisti Gaditanum quendam
him you-may-hear come have-you-never read a-man-of-Gades certain
Titi Livi nomine gloriaque commotum ad visendum eum
of-Titus Livy by-the-name and-glory moved for seeing him
ab ultimo terrarum orbe venisse statimque, ut viderat
from the-farthest of-lands circle to-have-come and-at-once when he-had-seen
abisse? Ἀφιλόκαλον illitteratum iners ac paene etiam
to-have-gone-away tasteless unlettered lazy and almost even

turpe est non putare tanti cognitionem, qua nulla
disgraceful it-is not to-think of-such-worth the-acquaintance than-which none
est iucundior, nulla pulchrior, nulla denique humanior.
is pleasanter none more-beautiful none finally more-humane
3.9 Dices ‘Habeo hic quos legam non minus disertos.’
you-will-say I-have here those-whom I-may-read not less eloquent
Etiam: sed legendi semper occasio est, audiendi non semper.
yes but of-reading always the-opportunity is of-hearing not always
Praeterea multo magis, ut vulgo dicitur, viva vox afficit. Nam
besides much more as commonly is-said the-living voice affects for
licet acriora sint quae legas, altius tamen in animo sedent quae
though keener may-be what you-read deeper yet in the-mind settle what
pronuntiatio, vultus habitus gestus etiam dicentis adfigit;
the-delivery the-face the-bearing the-gesture even of-the-speaker fixes
3.10 Nisi vero falsum putamus illud Aeschinis, qui cum legisset
unless indeed false we-think that of-Aeschines who when he-had-read
Rhodiis orationem Demosthenis admirantibus cunctis,
to-the-Rhodians the-speech of-Demosthenes admiring all
adiecisse fertur τί δέ, εἰ αὐτοῦ τοῦ θηρίου ἠκούσατε et
to-have-added is-said what then if itself the beast you-had-heard and
erat Aeschines, si Demostheni credimus, λαμπροφωνότατος.
was Aeschines if Demosthenes we-believe most-clear-voiced
Fatebatur tamen longe melius eadem illa pronuntiasse
he-admitted yet far better the-same those-things to-have-delivered
ipsum qui pepererat.
himself who had-begotten-them
3.11 Quae omnia huc tendunt, ut audias Isaeum, vel ideo
which all to-this tend that you-hear Isaeus even for-this
tantum, ut audieris. Vale.
only that you-may-have-heard farewell

C. Plinius Calvinae suae s. 4

Gaius Pliny to-Calvina his-own greeting

Si pluribus pater tuus vel uni cuilibet alii quam mihi 4.1

if to-several father your or to-one any other than to-me

debuisset, fuisset fortasse dubitandum an adires

had-owed it-would-have-been perhaps to-be-doubted whether you-should-enter-on

hereditatem etiam viro gravem.

an-inheritance even for-a-man burdensome

Cum vero ego ductus adfinitatis officio dimissis omnibus 4.2

since indeed I led of-kinship by-the-duty having-paid-off all

qui, non dico molestiores sed diligentiores erant creditor

who not I-say more-troublesome but more-exacting were creditor

solus extiterim, cumque vivente eo nubenti tibi in dotem

sole have-stood and-since living him marrying to-you for dowry

centum milia contulerim praeter eam summam quam pater

a-hundred thousand I-contributed besides that sum which father

tuus quasi de meo dixit (erat enim solvenda de meo),

your as-if from mine pledged it-was for to-be-paid from mine

magnum habes facilitatis meae pignus, cuius fiducia debes

a-great you-have of-indulgence my pledge on-whose trust you-ought

famam defuncti pudoremque suscipere. Ad quod te

the-reputation of-the-deceased and-the-honor to-take-up to which you

ne verbis magis quam rebus horter, quidquid mihi pater

that-not by-words more than by-deeds I-may-urge whatever to-me father

tuus debuit, acceptum tibi fieri iubebo.

your owed received to-you to-be-made I-shall-order

Nec est quod verearis ne sit mihi onerosa ista donatio. 4.3

nor is-there why you-should-fear lest be to-me burdensome that gift

Sunt quidem omnino nobis modicae facultates, dignitas

are indeed altogether to-us modest means rank

sumptuosa, reditus propter condicionem agellorum nescio

expensive income because-of the-condition of-my-small-farms I-know-not

minor an incertior. Sed quod cessat ex reditu frugalitate
smaller or more-uncertain but what fails from income by-frugality
suppletur, ex qua velut fonte liberalitas nostra decurrit:
is-supplied from which as-from a-spring liberality our runs-down
4.4 Quae tamen ita temperanda est, ne nimia profusione
which yet so to-be-regulated is lest by-excessive outpouring
inarescat; sed temperanda in aliis, in te vero facile ei
it-dry-up but to-be-regulated in others in you indeed easily for-it
ratio constabit, etiamsi modum excesserit. Vale.
the-account will-balance even-if the-measure it-shall-have-exceeded farewell

5 C. Plinius Luperco suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Lupercus his-own greeting

5.1 Actionem et a te frequenter efflagitatam et a me saepe
the-speech both by you often demanded and by me often
promissam, exhibui tibi, nondum tamen totam: adhuc
promised I-have-presented to-you not-yet yet whole still
enim pars eius perpolitur.
for a-part of-it is-being-polished

5.2 Interim quae absolutiora mihi videbantur non fuit alienum
meanwhile what more-finished to-me seemed not was out-of-place
iudicio tuo tradi. His tu rogo intentionem scribentis
to-judgment your to-be-handed to-these you I-ask the-attention of-one-writing
accommodes. Nihil enim adhuc inter manus habui, cui
you-apply nothing for till-now among hands have-I-had to-which
maiorem sollicitudinem praestare deberem.
greater anxiety to-show I-ought

5.3 Nam in ceteris actionibus existimationi hominum diligentia
for in other speeches to-the-judgment of-men care
tantum et fides nostra, in hac etiam pietas subicietur.
only and loyalty our in this also devotion will-be-submitted

Inde et liber crevit, dum ornare patriam et amplificare
hence also the-book has-grown while to-adorn native-town and to-enlarge
gaudemus, pariter et defensioni eius servimus et gloriae.
we-rejoice equally both to-the-defense of-it we-serve and to-the-glory
Tu tamen haec ipsa, quantum ratio exegerit, reseca. 5.4
you yet these-things very as-much-as reason shall-have-required cut-back
Quotiens enim ad fastidium legentium deliciasque respicio,
as-often-as for to the-squeamishness of-readers and-fastidiousness I-look
intellego nobis commendationem et ex ipsa mediocritate
I-understand for-us commendation also from the-very moderation
libri petendam.
of-the-book to-be-sought
Idem tamen qui a te hanc austeritatem exigo, cogor 5.5
I-the-same yet who from you this severity demand am-compelled
id quod diversum est postulare, ut in plerisque frontem
that which opposite is to-ask that in most-places the-brow
remittas. Sunt enim quaedam adulescentium auribus danda,
you-relax there-are for some-things of-young-men to-the-ears to-be-given
praesertim si materia non refragetur. Nam descriptiones
especially if the-matter not resist for descriptions
locorum, quae in hoc libro frequentiores erunt, non historice
of-places which in this book more-frequent will-be not historically
tantum sed prope poetice prosequi fas est.
only but almost poetically to-pursue right it-is
Quod tamen siquis extiterit qui putet nos laetius 5.6
which yet if-anyone shall-have-arisen who may-think us more-luxuriantly
fecisse, quam orationis severitas exigat, huius, ut ita dixerim,
to-have-done than of-the-speech the-severity require of-his as so I-may-say
tristitiam reliquae partes actionis exorare debebunt.
the-sourness the-remaining parts of-the-speech to-win-over will-have-to

5.7 Adnisi certe sumus ut quamlibet diversa genera lectorum
striven certainly we-have that however different kinds of-readers
per plures dicendi species teneremus, ac sicut veremur
through several of-speaking styles we-might-hold and as we-fear
ne quibusdam pars aliqua secundum suam cuiusque naturam
lest to-some part some according-to own of-each nature
non probetur, ita videmur posse confidere ut universitatem
not be-approved so we-seem to-be-able to-trust that the-whole
omnibus varietas ipsa commendet.
to-all variety itself may-commend

5.8 Nam et in ratione conviviorum, quamvis a plerisque
for also in the-arrangement of-dinners although from most
cibis singuli temperemus, totam tamen cenam laudare
foods individually we-abstain the-whole yet dinner to-praise
omnes solemus, nec ea quae stomachus noster recusat
all we-are-wont nor those-things which stomach our refuses
adimunt gratiam illis quibus capitur.
take-away the-favor from-those by-which it-is-captivated

5.9 Atque haec ego sic accipi volo, non tamquam adsecutum
and these-things I so to-be-taken wish not as-if attained
esse me credam, sed tamquam adsequi laboraverim; fortasse
to-have me I-believe but as-if to-attain I-have-labored perhaps
non frustra, si modo tu curam tuam admoveris interim
not in-vain if only you care your shall-have-applied meanwhile
istis, mox iis quae secuntur.
to-these soon to-those which follow

5.10 Dices te non posse satis diligenter id facere, nisi prius
you-will-say you not to-be-able enough carefully that to-do unless first
totam actionem cognoveris. Fateor: in praesentia tamen et
the-whole speech you-have-learned I-admit in the-present yet both

ista tibi familiariora fient, et quaedam ex his talia
these-things to-you more-familiar will-become and some of these such
erunt, ut per partes emendari possint.
will-be that by parts to-be-corrected they-can
Etenim si avulsum statuae caput aut membrum aliquod 5.11
for if torn-off of-a-statue the-head or limb some
inspiceres, non tu quidem ex illo posses congruentiam
you-were-inspecting not you indeed from it could the-symmetry
aequalitatemque deprendere, posses tamen iudicare an id
and-proportion to-catch you-could yet to-judge whether that
ipsum satis elegans esset.
very-thing enough elegant was
Nec alia ex causa principiorum libri circumferuntur, quam 5.12
nor other for reason of-beginnings books are-passed-around than
quia existimatur pars aliqua etiam sine ceteris esse perfecta.
because is-thought a-part some even without the-rest to-be perfect
Longius me provexit dulcedo quaedam tecum loquendi: 5.13
further me has-carried a-sweetness certain with-you of-talking
sed iam finem faciam ne modum, quem etiam orationi
but now an-end I-shall-make lest the-measure which even to-a-speech
adhibendum puto, in epistula excedam. Vale.
to-be-applied I-think in a-letter I-exceed farewell

Pliny describes a dinner at which the host served graded wines to graded guests, and tells Avitus he serves the same to all. He reports the triumphal statue voted to Spurinna and a statue to his dead son Cottius, laments to Caninius that his own business keeps him from the leisure of Larius, canvasses for Sextus Erucius, urges Octavius to publish his poems, and reports to Arrianus the trial of Marius Priscus, who took bribes to condemn the innocent, prosecuted by Pliny and Tacitus before the emperor and banished from Italy.

6 C. Plinius Avito suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Avitus his-own greeting

6.1 Longum est altius repetere, nec refert quemadmodum
long it-is further-back to-go nor does-it-matter how
acciderit ut homo minime familiaris cenarem apud quendam,
it-happened that a-man least intimate I-dined with a-certain-man
ut sibi videbatur, lautum et diligentem, ut mihi, sordidum
as to-himself he-seemed elegant and careful as to-me mean
simul et sumptuosum.
at-once and extravagant

6.2 Nam sibi et paucis opima quaedam, ceteris vilia et
for for-himself and for-a-few rich certain-dishes for-the-rest cheap and
minuta ponebat. Vinum etiam parvulis lagunculis in tria
scraps he-served the-wine also in-tiny flasks into three
genera discripserat, non ut potestas eligendi, sed ne ius
kinds he-had-divided not that the-power of-choosing but lest the-right
esset recusandi, aliud sibi et nobis, aliud minoribus amicis
there-be of-refusing one for-himself and for-us another for-lesser friends
(nam gradatim amicos habet), aliud suis nostrisque libertis.
for by-grades friends he-has another for-his-own and-our freedmen

Animadvertit qui mihi proximus recumbebat et an 6.3
noticed he-who to-me next was-reclining and whether
probarem interrogavit. Negavi. 'Tu ergo' inquit 'quam
I-approved asked I-said-no you then he-said what
consuetudinem sequeris?' 'Eadem omnibus pono: ad cenam
custom do-you-follow the-same-things to-all I-serve to dinner
enim, non ad notam invito cunctisque rebus exaequo,
for not to a-brand I-invite and-in-all things I-make-equal
quos mensa et toro aequavi.'
those-whom by-table and couch I-have-equaled
'Etiamne libertos?' 'Etiam; convictores enim tunc, non 6.4
even freedmen yes table-companions for then not
libertos puto.' Et ille 'Magno tibi constat.' 'Minime.' 'Qui
freedmen I-think and he at-great to-you it-costs not-at-all how
fieri potest?' 'Quia scilicet liberti mei non idem quod
to-happen can because evidently freedmen my not the-same as
ego bibunt, sed idem ego quod liberti.'
I drink but the-same I as the-freedmen
Et hercule si gulae temperes, non est onerosum quo utaris 6.5
and by-Hercules if gluttony you-restrain not is burdensome what you-use
ipse communicare cum pluribus. Illa ergo reprimenda,
yourself to-share with more that therefore to-be-curbed
illa quasi in ordinem redigenda est, si sumptibus parcas,
that as-it-were into the-ranks to-be-reduced is if expenses you-spare
quibus aliquanto rectius tua continentia quam aliena
for-which somewhat more-rightly by-your-own self-restraint than by-another's
contumelia consulas.
insult you-may-provide
Quorsus haec? Ne tibi, optimae indolis iuveni, quorundam 6.6
to-what-end these-things lest on-you of-the-best character a-young-man of-certain-men
in mensa luxuria specie frugalitatis imponat. Convenit
at table extravagance under-the-guise of-frugality impose it-befits

autem amori in te meo, quotiens tale aliquid inciderit,
moreover love toward you my whenever such something has-occurred
sub exemplo praemonere, quid debeas fugere.
under an-example to-forewarn what you-ought to-shun

6.7 Igitur memento nihil magis esse vitandum quam istam
therefore remember nothing more to-be to-be-avoided than that
luxuriae et sordium novam societatem; quae cum sint
of-extravagance and of-meanness new partnership which though they-be
turpissima discreta ac separata, turpius iunguntur. Vale.
most-disgraceful divided and separated more-disgracefully are-joined farewell

7 C. Plinius Macrino suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Macrinus his-own greeting

7.1 Heri a senatu Vestricio Spurinnae principe auctore triumphalis
yesterday by the-senate to-Vestricius Spurinna the-prince proposing a-triumphal
statua decreta est, non ita ut multis, qui numquam in
statue voted was not so as to-many who never in
acie steterunt, numquam castra viderunt, numquam denique
battle-line have-stood never a-camp have-seen never finally
tubarum sonum nisi in spectaculis audierunt, verum ut illis
of-trumpets the-sound except in shows have-heard but as to-those
qui decus istud sudore et sanguine et factis adsequebantur.
who distinction that by-sweat and blood and deeds used-to-win

7.2 Nam Spurinna Bructerum regem vi et armis induxit in
for Spurinna of-the-Bructeri the-king by-force and arms led-back into
regnum, ostentatoque bello ferocissimam gentem, quod est
the-kingdom and-with-a-show-of war a-most-savage nation which is
pulcherrimum victoriae genus, terrore perdomuit.
the-most-beautiful of-victory kind by-terror subdued

7.3 Et hoc quidem virtutis praemium, illud solacium doloris
and this indeed of-virtue the-reward that the-comfort of-grief
accepit, quod filio eius Cottio, quem amisit absens,
he-received that to-the-son his Cottius whom he-lost while-absent

habitus est honor statuae. Rarum id in iuvene: sed
paid was the-honor of-a-statue rare this in a-young-man but
pater hoc quoque merebatur, cuius gravissimo vulneri
the-father this also deserved for-whose most-grievous wound
magno aliquo fomento medendum fuit.
by-great some balm to-be-healed it-was
Praeterea Cottius ipse tam clarum specimen indolis dederat, 7.4
besides Cottius himself so clear a-proof of-character had-given
ut vita eius brevis et angusta debuerit hac velut
that the-life his brief and narrow ought by-this as-it-were
inmortalitate proferri. Nam tanta ei sanctitas, gravitas,
immortality to-be-extended for such in-him purity gravity
auctoritas etiam, ut posset senes illos provocare virtute,
authority even that he-could old-men those to-challenge in-virtue
quibus nunc honore adaequatus est.
to-whom now in-honor made-equal he-is
Quo quidem honore, quantum ego interpretor, non modo 7.5
by-which indeed honor as-far-as I interpret not only
defuncti memoriae, dolori patris, verum etiam exemplo
of-the-deceased to-the-memory to-the-grief of-the-father but also to-example
prospectum est. Acuent ad bonas artes iuventutem
provided-for has-been will-spur to good arts the-youth
adulescentibus quoque, digni sint modo, tanta praemia
for-young-men also worthy they-be only such rewards
constituta; acuent principes viros ad liberos suscipiendos et
established will-spur leading men to children raising both
gaudia ex superstitibus et ex amissis tam gloriosa solacia.
joys from survivors and from lost-ones such glorious consolations
His ex causis statua Cotti publice laetor, nec privatim 7.6
these for causes in-the-statue of-Cottius publicly I-rejoice nor privately
minus. Amavi consummatissimum iuvenem tam ardenter,
less I-loved the-most-accomplished young-man as ardently

quam nunc impatienter requiro. Erit ergo pergratum mihi
as now impatiently I-miss-him it-will-be therefore very-pleasant to-me
hanc effigiem eius subinde intueri, subinde respicere,
this likeness his now-and-then to-gaze-at now-and-then to-look-back-at
sub hac consistere praeter hanc commeare.
under this to-stand past this to-walk

7.7 Etenim si defunctorum imagines domi positae dolorem
for if of-the-dead the-portraits at-home placed grief
nostrum levant, quanto magis hae quibus in celeberrimo
our lighten how-much more these by-which in most-frequented
loco non modo species et vultus illorum sed honor
place not only the-appearance and the-face of-them but honor
etiam et gloria refertur! Vale.
also and glory is-recorded farewell

8 C. Plinius Caninio suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Caninius his-own greeting

8.1 Studes, an piscaris, an venaris, an simul omnia? Possunt
do-you-study or fish or hunt or at-once all-things can
enim omnia simul fieri ad Larium nostrum. Nam lacus
for all-things at-once be-done at Larius our for the-lake
piscem, feras silvae, quibus lacus cingitur, studia altissimus
fish game the-woods by-which the-lake is-girt studies deepest
iste secessus affatim suggerunt.
that retreat amply supply

8.2 Sed sive omnia simul sive aliquid facis, non possum dicere
but whether all-things at-once or something you-do not I-can to-say
'invideo'; angor tamen non et mihi licere quae sic
I-envy I-am-vexed yet not also for-me to-be-allowed what so
concupisco, ut aegri vinum balinea fontes. Numquamne hos
I-long-for as sick-men wine baths springs shall-I-never these

artissimos laqueos, si solvere negatur, abrumpam? Numquam,
tightest snares if to-untie is-denied break never
puto.
I-think

Nam veteribus negotiis nova adcrescunt, nec tamen priora 8.3
for to-old business new-things grow-on nor yet the-former
peraguntur: tot nexibus, tot quasi catenis maius
are-finished by-so-many bonds by-so-many as-it-were chains greater
in dies occupationum agmen extenditur. Vale.
from-day to-day of-occupations the-column is-extended farewell

C. Plinius Apollinari suo s. 9
Gaius Pliny to-Apollinaris his-own greeting

Anxium me et inquietum habet petitio Sexti Eruci 9.1
anxious me and restless keeps the-candidacy of-Sextus Erucius
mei. Adficior cura et quam pro me sollicitudinem non
my I-am-affected by-care and which for myself anxiety not
adii quasi pro me altero patior; et alioqui meus pudor,
I-underwent as-if for me another I-suffer and besides my honor
mea existimatio, mea dignitas in discrimen adducitur.
my reputation my rank into hazard is-brought

Ego Sexto latum clavum a Caesare nostro, ego quaesturam 9.2
I for-Sextus the-broad stripe from Caesar our I the-quaestorship
impetravi, meo suffragio pervenit ad ius tribunatus
obtained by-my vote he-came to the-right of-the-tribunate
petendi, quem nisi obtinet in senatu, vereor ne decepisse
of-seeking which unless he-obtains in the-senate I-fear lest to-have-deceived
Caesarem videar.
Caesar I-may-seem

Proinde adnitendum est mihi ut talem eum iudicent omnes, 9.3
accordingly to-be-striven is by-me that such him may-judge all
qualem esse princeps mihi credidit. Quae causa si studium
such-as to-be the-prince me believed which cause if zeal

meum non incitaret, adiutum tamen cuperem iuvenem
my not were-spurring helped yet I-would-wish a-young-man
probissimum, gravissimum, eruditissimum, omni denique laude
most-upright most-serious most-learned of-all finally praise
dignissimum, et quidem cum tota domo.
most-worthy and indeed with the-whole household

9.4 Nam pater ei Erucius Clarus, vir sanctus, antiquus,
for father to-him Erucius Clarus a-man upright old-fashioned
disertus atque in agendis causis exercitatus, quas summa
eloquent and in pleading cases practiced which with-supreme
fide, pari constantia nec verecundia minore defendit.
fidelity with-equal firmness nor modesty less he-defends
Habet avunculum C. Septicium, quo nihil verius, nihil
he-has an-uncle Gaius Septicius than-whom nothing truer nothing
simplicius, nihil candidius, nihil fidelius novi.
simpler nothing more-candid nothing more-faithful I-have-known

9.5 Omnes me certatim et tamen aequaliter amant, omnibus nunc
all me in-rivalry and yet equally love to-all now
ego in uno referre gratiam possum. Itaque prenso amicos,
I in one to-return gratitude can and-so I-buttonhole friends
supplico, ambio, domos stationesque circumeo, quantumque vel
I-entreat I-canvass houses and-lounging-places I-go-round and-how-much either
auctoritate vel gratia valeam precibus experior; teque obsecro
by-authority or by-favor I-may-avail by-prayers I-test and-you I-beseech
ut aliquam oneris mei partem suscipere tanti putes.
that some of-burden my part to-take-up of-such-worth you-think

9.6 Reddam vicem, si reposces, reddam et si non reposces.
I-shall-return the-turn if you-ask-back I-shall-return also if not you-ask-back
Diligeris, coleris, frequentaris: ostende modo velle te, nec
you-are-loved you-are-courted you-are-thronged show only to-wish you nor
deerunt qui quod tu velis cupiant. Vale.
will-be-lacking those-who what you wish desire farewell

C. Plinius Octavio suo s. 10

Gaius Pliny to-Octavius his-own greeting

Hominem te patientem vel potius durum ac paene crudelem, 10.1

a-man you patient or rather hard and almost cruel

qui tam insignes libros tam diu teneas!

who such outstanding books so long you-keep

Quousque et tibi et nobis invidebis, tibi maxima 10.2

how-long both to-yourself and to-us will-you-grudge to-yourself the-greatest

laude, nobis voluptate? Sine per ora hominum ferantur

praise to-us pleasure allow through the-mouths of-men they-be-borne

isdemque quibus lingua Romana spatiis pervagentur.

and-the-same in-which the-language Roman over-spaces they-roam

Magna et iam longa expectatio est, quam frustrari adhuc

great and now long the-expectation is which to-disappoint still

et differre non debes.

and to-put-off not you-ought

Enotuerunt quidam tui versus et invito te claustra sua 10.3

have-become-known certain your verses and unwilling you bars their-own

refregerunt. Hos nisi retrahis in corpus, quandoque ut

have-broken these unless you-draw-back into the-body some-day like

errones aliquem cuius dicantur invenient.

vagrants someone whose they-be-called they-will-find

Habe ante oculos mortalitatem, a qua adserere te hoc 10.4

have before eyes mortality from which to-free yourself by-this

uno monimento potes: nam cetera fragilia et caduca non

one monument you-can for the-rest fragile and perishable not

minus quam ipsi homines occidunt desinuntque.

less than themselves men perish and-cease

Dices, ut soles, 'Amici mei viderint.' Opto equidem 10.5

you-will-say as you-are-wont friends my will-see-to-it I-wish for-my-part

amicos tibi tam fideles, tam eruditos, tam laboriosos, ut

friends to-you so faithful so learned so industrious that

tantum curae intentionisque suscipere et possint et velint.
so-much of-care and-attention to-undertake both they-can and they-will
Sed dispice ne sit parum providum sperare ex aliis quod
but consider lest it-be too-little provident to-hope from others what
tibi ipse non praestes.
for-yourself yourself not you-supply

10.6 Et de editione quidem interim ut voles: recita saltem, quo
and about publication indeed meanwhile as you-will recite at-least so-that
magis libeat emittere, utque tandem percipias gaudium,
more it-may-please to-send-forth and-that at-last you-may-feel the-joy
quod ego olim pro te non temere praesumo.
which I long for you not rashly anticipate

10.7 Imaginor enim qui concursus, quae admiratio te, qui clamor,
I-imagine for what a-crowding what admiration you what shouting
quod etiam silentium maneat; quo ego, cum dico vel
what even silence awaits in-which I when I-speak or
recito, non minus quam clamore delector, sit modo
recite not less than in-shouting delight let-it-be only
silentium acre et intentum, et cupidum ulteriora audiendi.
silence keen and intent and eager further-things of-hearing

10.8 Hoc fructu tanto, tam parato desine studia tua infinita ista
of-this fruit so-great so ready cease studies your by-endless that
cunctatione fraudare; quae cum modum excedit, verendum est
delay to-cheat which when the-measure exceeds to-be-feared is
ne inertiae et desidiae vel etiam timiditatis nomen accipiat. Vale.
lest of-sloth and of-idleness or even of-timidity the-name it-receive farewell

11 C. Plinius Arriano suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Arrianus his-own greeting

11.1 Solet esse gaudio tibi, siquid actum est in senatu
it-is-wont to-be a-joy to-you if-anything done has-been in the-senate
dignum ordine illo. Quamvis enim quietis amore secesseris,
worthy of-order that although for of-quiet from-love you-have-withdrawn

insidet tamen animo tuo maiestatis publicae cura. Accipe ergo
sits yet in-mind your of-majesty public the-care receive therefore
quod per hos dies actum est, personae claritate famosum,
what during these days done was of-the-person by-the-fame famous
severitate exempli salubre, rei magnitudine aeternum.
by-the-severity of-the-example wholesome of-the-matter by-the-greatness eternal
Marius Priscus accusantibus Afris, quibus pro consule 11.2
Marius Priscus accusing the-Africans whom as consul
praefuit, omissa defensione iudices petiit. Ego et Cornelius
he-had-governed dropped his-defense judges sought I and Cornelius
Tacitus, adesse provincialibus iussi, existimavimus fidei
Tacitus to-appear-for the-provincials ordered thought with-loyalty
nostrae convenire notum senatui facere excessisse Priscum
our to-accord known to-the-senate to-make to-have-exceeded Priscus
inmanitate et saevitia crimina quibus dari iudices possent,
by-monstrousness and cruelty the-crimes for-which to-be-given judges could
cum ob innocentes condemnandos, interficiendos etiam,
since on-account-of innocent-men to-be-condemned to-be-killed even
pecunias accepisset.
money he-had-received
Respondit Fronto Catius deprecatusque est ne quid 11.3
answered Fronto Catius and-pleaded he-did that-not anything
ultra repetundarum legem quaereretur, omniaque actionis
beyond of-extortion the-law be-inquired and-all of-speech
suae vela, vir movendarum lacrimarum peritissimus,
his-own the-sails a-man of-moving tears most-skilled
quodam velut vento miserationis implevit.
with-a-certain as-it-were wind of-pity filled

11.4 Magna contentio, magni utrimque clamores, aliis cognitionem
great contention great on-both-sides shouts some the-inquiry
senatus lege conclusam, aliis liberam solutamque dicentibus,
of-the-senate by-law confined others free and-unrestricted saying
quantumque admisisset reus, tantum vindicandum.
and-as-much-as had-committed the-defendant so-much to-be-punished

11.5 Novissime consul designatus Iulius Ferox, vir rectus et
finally the-consul elect Julius Ferox a-man upright and
sanctus, Mario quidem iudices interim censuit dandos,
righteous to-Marius indeed judges meanwhile proposed to-be-given
evocandos autem quibus diceretur innocentium poenas
to-be-summoned moreover those-to-whom he-was-said of-innocent-men the-punishments
vendidisse.
to-have-sold

11.6 Quae sententia non praevaluit modo, sed omnino post tantas
which motion not prevailed only but altogether after such
dissensiones fuit sola frequens, adnotatumque experimentis,
disagreements was alone well-attended and-it-was-noted by-experience
quod favor et misericordia acres et vehementes primos impetus
that favor and pity keen and violent first impulses
habent, paulatim consilio et ratione quasi restincta considunt.
have gradually by-deliberation and reason as-if extinguished subside

11.7 Unde evenit ut quod multi clamore permixto tuentur,
whence it-happens that what many with-shouting mingled defend
nemo tacentibus ceteris dicere velit: patescit enim, cum
no-one being-silent the-rest to-say wishes is-opened for when
separaris a turba, contemplatio rerum quae
you-have-separated-yourself from the-crowd the-view of-things which
turba teguntur.
by-the-crowd are-hidden

Venerunt qui adesse erant iussi, Vitellius Honoratus et 11.8
came those-who to-be-present were ordered Vitellius Honoratus and
Flavius Marcianus; ex quibus Honoratus trecentis milibus
Flavius Marcianus of whom Honoratus for-three-hundred thousand
exilium equitis Romani septemque amicorum eius ultimam
the-exile of-a-knight Roman and-of-seven friends his the-extreme
poenam, Marcianus unius equitis Romani septingentis milibus
penalty Marcianus of-one knight Roman for-seven-hundred thousand
plura supplicia arguebatur emisse: erat enim fustibus
more punishments was-charged to-have-bought he-had-been for with-clubs
caesus, damnatus in metallum, strangulatus in carcere.
beaten condemned to the-mines strangled in prison
Sed Honoratum cognitioni senatus mors opportuna subtraxit, 11.9
but Honoratus from-the-inquiry of-the-senate death timely withdrew
Marcianus inductus est absente Prisco. Itaque Tuccius Cerialis
Marcianus brought-in was being-absent Priscus and-so Tuccius Cerialis
consularis iure senatorio postulavit ut Priscus certior
ex-consul by-right senatorial demanded that Priscus more-informed
fieret, sive quia miserabiliorem, sive quia invidiosiorem
be-made either because more-pitiable or because more-odious
fore arbitrabatur, si praesens fuisset, sive, quod maxime
to-be-going-to-be he-thought if present he-had-been or which most
credo, quia aequissimum erat commune crimen ab utroque
I-believe because fairest it-was a-joint charge by each
defendi, et si dilui non potuisset, in utroque puniri.
to-be-defended and if to-be-cleared not it-could-be in each to-be-punished
Dilata res est in proximum senatum, cuius ipse conspectus 11.10
postponed the-matter was to the-next senate whose very appearance
augustissimus fuit. Princeps praesidebat; erat enim consul: ad
most-august was the-prince presided he-was for consul to
hoc Ianuarius mensis cum cetera tum praecipue senatorum
this January month both in-other-respects and especially of-senators

frequentia celeberrimus: praeterea causae amplitudo auctaque
in-the-attendance most-crowded besides of-the-case the-scale and-increased
dilatione expectatio et fama insitumque mortalibus studium
by-the-postponement the-expectation and rumor and-implanted in-mortals the-zeal
magna et inusitata noscendi omnes undique exciverat.
great and unusual-things of-knowing all from-everywhere had-roused

11.11 Imaginare quae sollicitudo nobis, qui metus, quibus super
imagine what anxiety to-us what fear by-whom about
tanta re in illo coetu praesente Caesare dicendum
so-great a-matter in that assembly present Caesar to-be-spoken
erat. Equidem in senatu non semel egi, quin immo
it-was for-my-part in the-senate not once I-have-pleaded nay rather
nusquam audiri benignius soleo, tunc me tamen ut nova
nowhere to-be-heard more-kindly I-am-wont then me yet as new
omnia novo metu permovebant.
all-things with-new fear stirred

11.12 Obversabatur praeter illa quae supra dixi causae difficultas:
there-hovered besides those-things which above I-said of-the-case the-difficulty
stabat modo consularis, modo septemvir epulonum, iam
there-stood lately an-ex-consul lately a-septemvir of-the-epulones now
neutrum.
neither

11.13 Erat ergo perquam onerosum accusare damnatum, quem
it-was therefore exceedingly burdensome to-accuse a-condemned-man whom
ut premebat atrocitas criminis, ita quasi peractae damnationis
as pressed the-atrocity of-the-charge so as-if of-completed condemnation
miseratio tuebatur.
pity protected

11.14 Utcumque tamen animum cogitationemque collegi, coepi
somehow yet mind and-thought I-collected I-began
dicere non minore audientium adsensu quam sollicitudine
to-speak with-no less of-the-hearers assent than anxiety

mea: dixi horis paene quinque. Nam duodecim clepsydris,
my I-spoke for-hours almost five for to-twelve water-clocks
quas spatiosissimas acceperam, sunt additae quattuor. Adeo
which most-ample I-had-received were added four so-far
illa ipsa quae dura et adversa dicturo videbantur
those very-things which hard and adverse to-one-about-to-speak seemed
secunda dicenti fuerunt.
favorable to-one-speaking were

Caesar quidem tantum mihi studium, tantam etiam curam 11.15
Caesar indeed such to-me zeal such also care
(nimium est enim dicere sollicitudinem) praestitit, ut
too-much it-is for to-say anxiety showed that
libertum meum post me stantem saepius admoneret, voci
freedman my behind me standing rather-often he-reminded for-voice
laterique consulerem, cum me vehementius putaret intendi,
and-lungs I-should-take-care when me more-vehemently he-thought to-strain
quam gracilitas mea perpeti posset. Respondit mihi pro
than slightness my to-endure could answered me for
Marciano Claudius Marcellinus.
Marcianus Claudius Marcellinus

Missus deinde senatus et revocatus in posterum: neque 11.16
dismissed then the-senate and recalled for the-next-day nor
enim iam inchoari poterat actio, nisi ut noctis interventu
for now to-be-begun could a-speech except that of-night by-the-intervention
scinderetur.
it-be-cut

Postero die dixit pro Mario Salvius Liberalis, vir subtilis 11.17
on-the-next day spoke for Marius Salvius Liberalis a-man subtle
dispositus acer disertus; in illa vero causa omnes artes suas
methodical keen eloquent in that indeed case all arts his-own

protulit. Respondit Cornelius Tacitus eloquentissime et,
he-brought-out answered Cornelius Tacitus most-eloquently and
quod eximium orationi eius inest, σεμνῶς.
what exceptional in-the-oratory his is-present with-majesty

11.18 Dixit pro Mario rursus Fronto Catius insigniter, utque
spoke for Marius again Fronto Catius remarkably and-as
iam locus ille poscebat, plus in precibus temporis quam in
now place that demanded more in prayers of-time than in
defensione consumpsit. Huius actionem vespera inclusit, non
defense be-spent his speech evening closed not
tamen sic ut abrumperet. Itaque in tertium diem probationes
yet so that it-broke-it-off and-so into the-third day the-proofs
exierunt. Iam hoc ipsum pulchrum et antiquum, senatum
ran-out now this very-thing fine and old-fashioned the-senate
nocte dirimi, triduo vocari, triduo contineri.
by-night to-be-parted for-three-days to-be-summoned for-three-days to-be-kept

11.19 Cornutus Tertullus consul designatus, vir egregius et pro
Cornutus Tertullus consul elect a-man excellent and for
veritate firmissimus, censuit septingenta milia quae acceperat
truth most-steadfast proposed seven-hundred thousand which had-received
Marius aerario inferenda, Mario urbe Italiaque
Marius to-the-treasury to-be-paid to-Marius from-the-city and-Italy
interdicendum, Marciano hoc amplius Africa. In fine
to-be-banned to-Marcianus this further from-Africa in the-end
sententiae adiecit, quod ego et Tacitus iniuncta advocatione
of-the-motion he-added that I and Tacitus enjoined advocacy
diligenter et fortiter functi essemus, arbitrari senatum ita
carefully and bravely discharged had to-judge the-senate so
nos fecisse, ut dignum mandatis partibus fuerit.
us to-have-acted as worthy of-the-assigned roles was

Adsenserunt consules designati, omnes etiam consulares 11.20
agreed the-consuls elect all also the-ex-consuls
usque ad Pompeium Collegam: ille et septingenta
all-the-way to Pompeius Collega he both seven-hundred
milia aerario inferenda et Marcianum in quinquennium
thousand to-the-treasury to-be-paid and Marcianus for five-years
relegandum, Marium repetundarum poenae quam iam
to-be-banished Marius of-extortion to-the-penalty which already
passus esset, censuit relinquendum.
suffered he-had proposed to-be-left
Erant in utraque sententia multi, fortasse etiam plures in 11.21
there-were in each motion many perhaps even more in
hac vel solutiore vel molliore. Nam quidam ex illis quoque
this either laxer or milder for some of those also
qui Cornuto videbantur adsensi, hunc, qui post ipsos
who with-Cornutus seemed to-have-agreed this-man who after themselves
censuerat sequebantur.
had-voted were-following
Sed cum fieret discessio, qui sellis consulum 11.22
but when took-place the-division those-who by-the-chairs of-the-consuls
adstiterant, in Cornuti sententiam ire coeperunt. Tum illi
had-stood into of-Cornutus the-motion to-go began then those
qui se Collegae adnumerari patiebantur in diversum
who themselves to-Collega to-be-counted were-allowing to the-opposite
transierunt, Collega cum paucis relictus. Multum postea de
crossed Collega with a-few left much afterward about
inpulsoribus suis, praecipue de Regulo, questus est, qui se in
instigators his-own especially about Regulus complained he who him in
sententia quam ipse dictaverat deseruisset. Est alioqui Regulo
the-motion which himself he-had-dictated had-deserted is besides to-Regulus
tam mobile ingenium, ut plurimum audeat plurimum timeat.
so changeable a-nature that very-much he-dares very-much he-fears

11.23 Hic finis cognitionis amplissimae. Superest tamen λειτούργιον
this the-end of-the-inquiry most-important remains yet a-service
non leve, Hostilius Firminus, legatus Mari Prisci, qui
not light Hostilius Firminus legate of-Marius Priscus who
permixtus causae graviter vehementerque vexatus est. Nam
mixed-up in-the-case heavily and-vehemently harassed was for
et rationibus Marciani et sermone quem ille habuerat in
both by-the-accounts of-Marcianus and by-the-speech which he had-delivered in
ordine Leptitanorum, operam suam Prisco ad turpissimum
the-council of-the-Leptitani service his-own to-Priscus for the-basest
ministerium commodasse stipulatusque de Marciano
office to-have-lent and-to-have-stipulated from Marcianus
quinquaginta milia denariorum probabatur, ipse praeterea
fifty thousand of-denarii he-was-proved himself besides
accepisse sestertia decem milia foedissimo quidem titulo,
to-have-received sesterces ten thousand under-the-foulest indeed heading
nomine unguentarii, qui titulus a vita hominis compti
in-the-name of-perfumer which heading from the-life of-a-man groomed
semper et pumicati non abhorrebat.
always and pumiced not was-alien

11.24 Placuit censente Cornuto referri de eo proximo senatu:
it-was-resolved proposing Cornutus to-be-referred about him at-the-next senate
tunc enim, casu an conscientia, afuerat.
then for by-chance or by-conscience he-had-been-absent

11.25 Habes res urbanas; invicem rusticas scribe. Quid arbusculae
you-have affairs of-the-city in-turn country-ones write what little-trees
tuae, quid vineae, quid segetes agunt, quid oves delicatissimae?
your what vines what crops are-doing what sheep most-dainty
In summa, nisi aeque longam epistulam reddis, non est
in sum unless equally long a-letter you-return not there-is
quod postea nisi brevissimam expectes. Vale.
why afterward except a-very-short-one you-should-expect farewell

Pliny finishes the story of Priscus' legate Firminus, left in the senate under a sentence that sounded milder than expulsion and was harsher, and recommends Voconius Romanus to Priscus. He laments to Maximus the decline of the centumviral court, where young men begin with the hardest cases and hired applauders follow the speakers, asks Valerianus about his Marsian estate, and honors codicils that the law did not require him to honor.

C. Plinius Arriano suo s. 12

Gaius Pliny to-Arrianus his-own greeting

Λειτούργιον illud, quod superesse Mari Prisci causae 12.1

the-service that which to-remain of-Marius Priscus to-the-case

proxime scripseram, nescio an satis, circumcisum tamen

lately I-had-written I-know-not whether enough cut-short yet

et adrasum est.

and shaved-down has-been

Firminus inductus in senatum respondit crimini noto. 12.2

Firminus brought-in into the-senate answered the-charge known

Secutae sunt diversae sententiae consulum designatorum:

followed were different motions of-the-consuls elect

Cornutus Tertullus censuit ordine movendum, Acutius

Cornutus Tertullus proposed from-the-order to-be-expelled Acutius

Nerva in sortitione provinciae rationem eius non habendam.

Nerva in the-allotment of-provinces account of-him not to-be-taken

Quae sententia tamquam mitior vicit, cum sit alioqui durior

which motion as-if milder won though it-be otherwise harsher

tristiorque.

and-gloomier

Quid enim miserius, quam exsectum et exemptum honoribus 12.3

what for more-wretched than cut-off and removed from-honors

senatoriis labore et molestia non carere? Quid gravius, quam

senatorial from-toil and trouble not to-be-free what heavier than

tanta ignominia adfectum non in solitudine latere, sed in hac
with-such disgrace marked not in solitude to-hide but on this
altissima specula conspiciendum se monstrandumque praebere?
loftiest watchtower to-be-gazed-at oneself and-to-be-pointed-out to-offer
12.4 Praeterea quid publice minus aut congruens aut decorum? Quam
besides what publicly less either consistent or seemly than
notatum a senatu in senatu sedere ipsisque illis a quibus
branded by the-senate in the-senate to-sit and-to-those-very ones by whom
sit notatus aequari et summotum a proconsulatu,
he-has-been branded to-be-made-equal and removed from a-proconsulship
quia se in legatione turpiter gesserat, de proconsulibus
because himself in a-legateship disgracefully he-had-conducted about proconsuls
iudicare damnatumque sordium vel damnare alios vel absolvere?
to-judge and-condemned of-meanness either to-condemn others or to-acquit
12.5 Sed hoc pluribus visum est. Numerantur enim sententiae,
but this to-the-majority seemed has are-counted for votes
non ponderantur; nec aliud in publico consilio potest fieri,
not are-weighed nor other in a-public council can happen
in quo nihil est tam inaequale quam aequalitas ipsa. Nam
in which nothing is so unequal as equality itself for
cum sit inpar prudentia, par omnium ius est.
though be unequal wisdom equal of-all the-right is
12.6 Inplevi promissum priorisque epistulae fidem exsolvi,
I-have-fulfilled the-promise and-of-the-former letter the-pledge discharged
quam ex spatio temporis iam recepisse te colligo:
which from the-lapse of-time already to-have-received you I-gather
nam et festinanti et diligenti tabellario dedi, nisi quid
for both to-a-hurrying and careful courier I-gave-it unless some
inpedimenti in via passus est.
of-hindrance on the-road suffered he-has

Tuae nunc partes, ut primum illam, deinde hanc remunereris 12.7
yours now the-part that first that then this you-repay
litteris, quales istinc redire uberrimae possunt. Vale.
with-letters such-as from-there to-come-back richest can farewell

C. Plinius Prisco suo s. 13
Gaius Pliny to-Priscus his-own greeting

Et tu occasiones obligandi me avidissime amplecteris, et 13.1
both you occasions of-obliging me most-eagerly embrace and
ego nemini libentius debeo.
I to-no-one more-gladly owe

Duabus ergo de causis a te potissimum petere constitui, 13.2
two therefore for causes from you above-all to-ask I-have-decided
quod inpetratum maxime cupio. Regis exercitum
what obtained most I-desire you-command an-army
amplissimum; hinc tibi beneficiorum larga materia: longum
very-large hence for-you of-favors abundant material long
praeterea tempus, quo amicos tuos exornare potuisti.
besides the-time in-which friends your to-honor you-have-been-able
Convertere ad nostros, nec hos multos.
turn to ours and-not these many

Malles tu quidem multos; sed meae verecundiae sufficit 13.3
you-would-prefer you indeed many but to-my modesty suffices
unus aut alter, ac potius unus.
one or a-second and rather one

Is erit Voconius Romanus. Pater ei in equestri gradu 13.4
he will-be Voconius Romanus the-father to-him in the-equestrian rank
clarus, clarior vitricus, immo pater alius: nam huic
distinguished more-distinguished the-stepfather nay a-father second for to-this
quoque nomini pietate successit. Mater e primis citerioris
also name by-devotion he-succeeded the-mother from the-first of-Hither

Hispaniae: scis quod iudicium provinciae illius, quanta
Spain you-know what the-judgment of-province that how-great
sit gravitas. Ipse flamen proxime fuit.
is the-gravity himself flamen lately was
13.5 Hunc ego, cum simul studeremus, arte familiariterque dilexi:
him I when together we-studied closely and-intimately loved
ille meus in urbe, ille in secessu contubernalis, cum hoc
he my in the-city he in retreat comrade with this-man
seria, cum hoc iocos miscui.
serious-things with this-man jests I-mixed
13.6 Quid enim illo aut fidelius amico aut sodale
what for than-him either more-faithful as-a-friend or as-a-comrade
iucundius? Mira in sermone, mira etiam in ore ipso
more-delightful wonderful in conversation wonderful also in the-mouth itself
vultuque suavitas.
and-face sweetness
13.7 Ad hoc ingenium excelsum, subtile, dulce, facile, eruditum
to this a-talent lofty subtle sweet easy learned
in causis agendis: epistulas quidem scribit, ut Musas
in cases to-be-pleaded letters indeed he-writes so-that the-Muses
ipsas latine loqui credas. Amatur a me plurimum
themselves in-Latin to-speak you-would-believe he-is-loved by me very-much
nec tamen vincitur.
nor yet is-he-outdone
13.8 Equidem iuvenis statim iuveni quantum potui per
for-my-part a-young-man at-once to-a-young-man as-much-as I-could through
aetatem avidissime contuli et nuper ab optimo principe
my-age most-eagerly I-bestowed and lately from the-best prince
trium liberorum ius impetravi, quod quamquam parce et
of-three children the-right I-obtained which although sparingly and
cum delectu daret, mihi tamen tamquam eligeret, indulsit.
with selection he-gave to-me yet as-if he-were-choosing granted

Haec beneficia mea tueri nullo modo melius quam ut 13.9
these kindnesses my to-protect in-no way better than that
augeam possum, praesertim cum ipse illa tam grate
I-increase-them I-can especially since he-himself them so gratefully
interpretetur, ut, dum priora accipit posteriora mereatur.
interprets that while the-former he-receives the-latter he-earns
Habes qualis, quam probatus carusque sit nobis, quem rogo 13.10
you-have what-sort how approved and-dear he-is to-us whom I-ask
pro ingenio, pro fortuna tua exornes. In primis ama
according-to genius according-to fortune your you-honor in the-first love
hominem: nam licet tribuas ei quantum amplissimum
the-man for though you-bestow on-him as-much the-greatest
potes, nihil tamen amplius potes amicitia tua; cuius esse
you-can nothing yet greater can-you than-friendship your of-which to-be
eum usque ad intimam familiaritatem capacem quo magis
him all-the-way to closest intimacy capable so-that the-more
scires, breviter tibi studia, mores, omnem denique vitam
you-might-know briefly to-you studies character whole finally life
eius expressi.
his I-have-portrayed
Extenderem preces nisi et tu rogari diu nolles et 13.11
I-would-extend prayers unless both you to-be-asked long were-unwilling and
ego tota hoc epistula fecissem: rogat enim, et quidem
I in-whole this letter had-done-it asks for and indeed
efficacissime, qui reddit causas rogandi. Vale.
most-effectively he-who renders the-causes of-asking farewell

C. Plinius Maximo suo s. 14

Gaius Pliny to-Maximus his-own greeting

Verum opinaris: distringor centumviralibus causis, quae me 14.1
true you-suppose I-am-distracted by-centumviral cases which me
exercent magis quam delectant. Sunt enim pleraeque parvae
exercise more than delight they-are for most small

et exiles: raro incidit vel personarum claritate vel negotii
and meager rarely there-comes either of-persons by-fame or of-business
magnitudine insignis.
by-greatness notable

14.2 Ad hoc pauci cum quibus iuvet dicere: ceteri audaces atque
to this few with whom it-pleases to-speak the-rest bold and
etiam magna ex parte adulescentuli obscuri ad declamandum
even great for part young-lads obscure for declaiming
huc transierunt, tam inreverenter et temere, ut mihi Atilius
here have-crossed so irreverently and rashly that to-me Atilius
noster expresse dixisse videatur sic in foro pueros a
our neatly to-have-said seems so in the-forum boys from
centumviralibus causis auspicari, ut ab Homero in scholis. Nam
centumviral cases to-begin as from Homer in schools for
hic quoque, ut illic, primum coepit esse quod maximum est.
here also as there first has-begun to-be what greatest is

14.3 At hercule ante memoriam meam (ita maiores natu
but by-Hercules before memory my so elders by-birth
solent dicere) ne nobilissimis quidem adulescentibus locus
are-wont to-say not to-the-noblest even young-men place
erat nisi aliquo consulari producente: tanta veneratione
there-was unless some ex-consul introducing with-such reverence
pulcherrimum opus colebatur.
the-most-beautiful work was-honored

14.4 Nunc refractis pudoris et reverentiae claustris omnia patent
now broken of-shame and of-reverence the-bars all-things lie-open
omnibus, nec inducuntur, sed inrumpunt. Sequuntur auditores
to-all nor are-they-introduced but they-burst-in follow hearers
actoribus similes, conducti et redempti: manceps convenitur;
to-the-pleaders like hired and bought the-contractor is-met

in media basilica tam palam sportulae quam in triclinio
in the-middle-of the-basilica as openly doles as in a-dining-room
dantur; ex iudicio in iudicium pari mercede transitur.
are-given from court to court at-equal pay there-is-crossing
Inde iam non inurbane Σοφοκλεῖς vocantur ἀπὸ τοῦ 14.5
hence now not unwittily Sophocleis they-are-called from the
σοφῶς καὶ καλεῖσθαι, isdem latinum nomen inpositum est
wisely and to-be-called to-the-same a-Latin name given is
Laudiceni.
Laudiceni
Et tamen crescit in dies foeditas utraque lingua notata. 14.6
and yet grows from-day to-day the-ugliness in-each language branded
Heri duo nomenclatores mei (habent sane aetatem eorum
yesterday two name-callers my they-have truly the-age of-those
qui nuper togas sumpserint) ternis denariis ad laudandum
who lately togas assumed for-three-each denarii for praising
trahebantur. Tanti constat ut sis disertissimus. Hoc
were-being-dragged at-so-much it-costs that you-be most-eloquent at-this
pretio quamlibet numerosa subsellia inplentur, hoc ingens
price however numerous benches are-filled at-this a-huge
corona colligitur, hoc infiniti clamores commoventur, cum
ring is-gathered at-this endless shouts are-set-going when
mesochorus dedit signum.
the-chorus-leader has-given the-signal
Opus est enim signo apud non intellegentes, ne audientes 14.7
need there-is for of-a-signal among not understanding not hearing
quidem:
even
Nam plerique non audiunt, nec ulli magis laudant. Siquando 14.8
for most not hear nor any more praise if-ever
transibis per basilicam et voles scire quo modo quisque
you-pass through the-basilica and want to-know in-what way each

dicat, nihil est quod tribunal ascendas, nihil quod
speaks nothing is-there why the-tribunal you-should-climb nothing why
praebeas aurem; facilis divinatio: scito eum pessime dicere,
you-should-lend an-ear easy the-divination know him worst to-speak
qui laudabitur maxime.
who will-be-praised most

14.9 Primus hunc audiendi morem induxit Larcius Licinus,
first this of-hearing custom introduced Larcius Licinus
hactenus tamen ut auditores corrogaret: ita certe ex
so-far yet that hearers he-solicited so certainly from
Quintiliano, praeceptore meo audisse memini.
Quintilian teacher my to-have-heard I-remember

14.10 Narrabat ille 'Adsectabar Domitium Afrum. Cum apud
used-to-tell he I-was-attending Domitius Afer when before
centumviros diceret graviter et lente (hoc enim
the-centumvirs he-was-speaking weightily and slowly this for
illi actionis genus erat), audit ex proximo inmodicum
to-him of-delivery the-kind was he-hears from nearby excessive
insolitumque clamorem. Admiratus reticuit. Ubi silentium
and-unusual shouting surprised he-fell-silent when silence
factum est, repetit quod abruperat.
made was he-resumes what he-had-broken-off

14.11 Iterum clamor, iterum reticuit, et post silentium coepit
again shouting again he-fell-silent and after silence began
idem tertio. Novissime quis diceret quaesivit. Responsum
the-same a-third-time finally who was-speaking he-asked answered
est "Licinus." Tum intermissa causa "centumviri" inquit,
it-was Licinus then broken-off the-case centumvirs he-said
"hoc artificium periit."'
this art has-perished

Quod alioqui perire incipiebat, cum perisse Afro 14.12
which in-any-case to-perish was-beginning when to-have-perished to-Afer
videretur, nunc vero prope funditus extinctum et eversum
it-seemed now indeed almost utterly extinguished and overturned
est. Pudet referre quae quam fracta pronuntiatione
is it-shames to-report what-things with-how effeminate delivery
dicantur, quibus quam taetris clamoribus excipiantur.
are-said with-what how hideous shouts they-are-received
Plausus tantum ac potius sola cymbala et tympana illis 14.13
clapping only and rather only cymbals and drums to-those
canticis desunt: ululatus quidem (neque enim alio
songs are-lacking howlings indeed nor for by-another
vocabulo potest exprimi theatris quoque indecora laudatio)
word can be-expressed for-theaters even unseemly praise
large supersunt.
abundantly are-left-over
Nos tamen adhuc et utilitas amicorum et ratio aetatis 14.14
us yet still both the-advantage of-friends and the-consideration of-age
moratur ac retinet. Veremur enim ne forte non has indignitates
delays and holds-back we-fear for lest perhaps not these indignities
reliquisse, sed laborem fugisse videamur. Sumus tamen
to-have-left but toil to-have-fled we-may-seem we-are yet
solito rariores, quod initium est gradatim desinendi. Vale.
than-usual rarer which the-beginning is gradually of-ceasing farewell

C. Plinius Valeriano suo s. 15
Gaius Pliny to-Valerianus his-own greeting

Quo modo te veteres Marsi tui? Quo modo emptio 15.1
in-what way you old Marsi your in-what way the-purchase
nova? Placent agri, postquam tui facti sunt? Rarum id
new do-they-please the-lands since yours made they-are rare this

quidem: nihil enim aeque gratum est adeptis quam
indeed nothing for equally pleasing is to-those-who-have-got-it as
concupiscentibus.
to-those-desiring

15.2 Me praedia materna parum commode tractant, delectant tamen
me estates maternal too-little kindly treat they-delight yet
ut materna, et alioqui longa patientia occallui. Habent
as maternal and besides by-long patience I-have-grown-callous have
hunc finem adsiduae querellae, quod queri pudet. Vale.
this end constant complaints that to-complain shames farewell

16 C. Plinius Annio suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Annius his-own greeting

16.1 Tu quidem pro cetera tua diligentia admones me
you indeed according-to the-rest-of your diligence warn me
codicillos Aciliani, qui me ex parte instituit heredem, pro
the-codicils of-Acilianus who me for a-part appointed heir as
non scriptis habendos, quia non sint confirmati testamento.
not written to-be-held because not they-are confirmed by-the-will

16.2 Quod ius ne mihi quidem ignotum est, cum sit iis etiam
which law not to-me even unknown is since it-is to-those even
notum, qui nihil aliud sciunt. Sed ego propriam quandam
known who nothing else know but I private a-certain
legem mihi dixi, ut defunctorum voluntates, etiamsi
law for-myself have-laid-down that of-the-dead the-wishes even-if
iure deficerentur, quasi perfectas tuerer. Constat autem
in-law they-were-defective as-if complete I-should-protect it-is-agreed moreover
codicillos istos Aciliani manu scriptos.
codicils those of-Acilianus by-the-hand written

Licet ergo non sint confirmati testamento, a me tamen 16.3
though therefore not they-are confirmed by-the-will by me yet
ut confirmati observabuntur, praesertim cum delatori locus
as confirmed they-will-be-observed especially since for-an-informer room
non sit.
not there-is

Nam si verendum esset ne quod ego dedissem populus 16.4
for if to-be-feared it-were lest what I had-given the-people
eriperet, cunctantior fortasse et cautior esse deberem.
might-snatch-away more-hesitant perhaps and more-cautious to-be I-ought
Cum vero liceat heredi donare quod in hereditate
since indeed it-is-allowed to-an-heir to-give what in the-inheritance
subsedit, nihil est quod obstet illi meae legi,
has-remained nothing is-there which may-stand-in-the-way-of that my law
cui publicae leges non repugnant. Vale.
which public laws not oppose farewell

Pliny describes to Gallus his villa at Laurentum, seventeen miles from Rome: the road there, the atrium and court, the dining room on the sea, the bedrooms and winter corner, the heated bath, the towers, the garden walks and covered colonnade, and the quiet suite to which he retires during the Saturnalia. He then promises Mauricus that he will hear every teacher and report on each, so that a master can be chosen for his brother's sons.

17 C. Plinius Gallo suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Gallus his-own greeting

17.1 Miraris cur me Laurentinum vel, si ita mavis, Laurens
you-wonder why me the-Laurentine or if so you-prefer the-Laurens
meum tanto opere delectet: desines mirari, cum cognoveris
my so greatly delights you-will-cease to-wonder when you-have-learned
gratiam villae, opportunitatem loci, litoris spatium.
the-charm of-the-villa the-convenience of-the-place of-the-shore the-extent

17.2 Decem et septem milibus passuum ab urbe recessit, ut
ten and seven thousands of-paces from the-city it-is-distant so-that
peractis quae agenda fuerint salvo iam et composito
done what to-be-done may-have-been intact already and settled
die possis ibi manere. Aditur non una via: nam et
the-day you-can there stay it-is-approached not by-one road for both
Laurentina et Ostiensis eodem ferunt, sed Laurentina
the-Laurentine and the-Ostian to-the-same-place lead but the-Laurentine
a quarto decimo lapide, Ostiensis ab undecimo relinquenda
at fourth tenth milestone the-Ostian at the-eleventh to-be-left
est. Utrimque excipit iter aliqua ex parte harenosum,
is on-both-sides receives-you a-road in-some for part sandy
iunctis paulo gravius et longius, equo breve et molle.
for-yoked-teams a-little heavier and longer for-a-horse short and soft

Varia hinc atque inde facies: nam modo occurrentibus 17.3
varied on-this-side and on-that the-view for now with-encroaching
silvis via coartatur, modo latissimis pratis diffunditur
woods the-road is-narrowed now through-very-wide meadows spreads
et patescit; multi greges ovium, multa ibi equorum boum
and opens many flocks of-sheep many there of-horses of-oxen
armenta, quae montibus hieme depulsa herbis et tepore
herds which from-the-mountains in-winter driven-down on-the-grass and warmth
verno nitescunt. Villa usibus capax, non sumptuosa tutela.
spring grow-sleek the-villa for-uses roomy not expensive in-upkeep
Cuius in prima parte atrium frugi nec tamen sordidum; 17.4
of-which in the-first part an-atrium plain nor yet mean
deinde porticus in D litterae similitudinem circumactae,
then colonnades into D of-the-letter the-likeness bent-round
quibus parvula, sed festiva area includitur. Egregium
by-which a-little but cheerful courtyard is-enclosed an-excellent
adversus tempestates receptaculum: nam specularibus ac
against storms refuge for by-windows and
multo magis imminentibus tectis muniuntur.
much more by-overhanging roofs they-are-protected
Est contra medias cavaedium hilare, mox triclinium 17.5
there-is opposite the-middle-of-them an-inner-court cheerful then a-dining-room
satis pulchrum, quod in litus excurrit, ac siquando
fairly handsome which into the-shore runs-out and if-ever
africo mare inpulsum est, fractis iam et
by-the-southwest-wind the-sea driven is with-broken already and
novissimis fluctibus leviter adluitur. Undique valvas aut
last waves gently it-is-washed on-all-sides folding-doors or
fenestras non minores valvis habet atque ita a
windows not smaller than-folding-doors it-has and so from
lateribus, a fronte quasi tria maria prospectat; a tergo
the-sides from the-front as-it-were three seas it-looks-out-on from the-back

cavaedium, porticum, aream, porticum rursus, mox atrium,
the-inner-court the-colonnade the-courtyard the-colonnade again then the-atrium
silvas et longinquos respicit montes.
the-woods and distant it-looks-back-on mountains

17.6 Huius a laeva retractius paulo cubiculum est amplum,
of-this on the-left set-back a-little a-bedroom is spacious
deinde aliud minus, quod altera fenestra admittit orientem,
then another smaller which by-one window admits the-rising-sun
occidentem altera retinet; hac et subiacens mare longius
the-setting by-the-other keeps by-this also the-lying-below sea farther
quidem, sed securius intuetur.
indeed but more-safely it-looks-at

17.7 Huius cubiculi et triclinii illius obiectu includitur
of-this bedroom and of-dining-room that by-the-projection is-enclosed
angulus, qui purissimum solem continet et accendit. Hoc
a-corner which the-purest sun holds and intensifies this
hibernaculum, hoc etiam gymnasium meorum est: ibi
the-winter-quarters this also the-gymnasium of-my-household is there
omnes silent venti exceptis qui nubilum inducunt et
all are-silent winds except those-which cloud bring-on and
serenum ante quam usum loci eripiunt.
fair-sky before than the-use of-the-place take-away

17.8 Adnectitur angulo cubiculum in hapsida curvatum, quod
is-attached to-the-corner a-bedroom into an-apse curved which
ambitum solis fenestris omnibus sequitur. Parieti eius
the-circuit of-the-sun with-windows all follows into-the-wall of-it
in bibliothecae speciem armarium insertum est, quod non
in of-a-library the-form a-bookcase inserted is which not
legendos libros, sed lectitandos capit.
to-be-read books but to-be-read-again-and-again holds

Adhaeret dormitorium membrum transitu interiacente, 17.9
adjoins a-sleeping room with-a-passage lying-between
qui suspensus et tubulatus conceptum vaporem salubri
which raised and fitted-with-pipes the-collected heat in-healthy
temperamento huc illuc digerit et ministrat. Reliqua
proportion here there distributes and supplies the-remaining
pars lateris huius servorum libertorumque usibus detinetur,
part of-side this of-slaves and-of-freedmen for-the-uses is-occupied
plerisque tam mundis, ut accipere hospites possint.
most so neat that to-receive guests they-could
Ex alio latere cubiculum est politissimum; deinde vel 17.10
on the-other side a-bedroom is most-elegant then either
cubiculum grande vel modica cenatio, quae plurimo
a-bedroom large or a-modest dining-room which with-very-much
sole, plurimo mari lucet; post hanc cubiculum cum
sun with-very-much sea is-bright behind this a-bedroom with
procoetone, altitudine aestivum, munimentis hibernum: est
an-antechamber by-height summery by-defenses wintry it-is
enim subductum omnibus ventis. Huic cubiculo aliud et
for withdrawn from-all winds to-this bedroom another and
procoeton communi pariete iunguntur.
an-antechamber by-a-common wall are-joined
Inde balinei cella frigidaria spatiosa et effusa, cuius in 17.11
then of-the-bath the-room cold spacious and broad of-which in
contrariis parietibus duo baptisteria velut eiecta sinuantur,
opposite walls two plunge-baths as-if thrown-out curve-out
abunde capacia, si mare in proximo cogites. Adiacet
amply roomy if the-sea at hand you-consider adjoins
unctorium, hypocauston, adiacet propnigeon balinei, mox
the-anointing-room the-furnace adjoins the-stoke-room of-the-bath then

duae cellae magis elegantes quam sumptuosae: cohaeret
two rooms more elegant than costly is-joined-to-them
calida piscina mirifica, ex qua natantes mare aspiciunt;
a-warm pool wonderful from which swimmers the-sea look-at
17.12 Nec procul sphaeristerium quod calidissimo soli inclinato
nor far a-ball-court which to-the-hottest sun declining
iam die occurrit. Hic turris erigitur, sub qua diaetae
already the-day faces here a-tower is-raised under which apartments
duae, totidem in ipsa, praeterea cenatio quae latissimum
two as-many in itself besides a-dining-room which the-widest
mare, longissimum litus, villas amoenissimas possidet.
sea the-longest shore villas most-charming commands
17.13 Est et alia turris: in hac cubiculum, in quo sol
there-is also another tower in this a-bedroom in which the-sun
nascitur conditurque: lata post apotheca et horreum: sub
rises and-sets broad behind a-storeroom and a-granary under
hoc triclinium, quod turbati maris non nisi fragorem
this a-dining-room which of-the-troubled sea not except the-crash
et sonum patitur, eumque iam languidum ac desinentem;
and the-sound suffers and-that now faint and dying-away
hortum et gestationem videt, qua hortus includitur.
the-garden and the-drive it-sees by-which the-garden is-enclosed
17.14 Gestatio buxo aut rore marino, ubi deficit buxus,
the-drive with-box or with-rosemary (sea) where fails the-box
ambitur; nam buxus, qua parte defenditur tectis, abunde
is-bordered for the-box in-which part it-is-protected by-roofs abundantly
viret; aperto caelo apertoque vento et quamquam longinqua
is-green in-the-open sky and-open wind and although distant
aspergine maris inarescit.
by-the-spray of-the-sea it-withers

Adiacet gestationi interiore circumitu vinea tenera et 17.15
adjoins the-drive in-an-inner circuit a-vine-arbor tender and
umbrosa nudisque etiam pedibus mollis et cedens. Hortum
shady and-to-bare even feet soft and yielding the-garden
morus et ficus frequens vestit, quarum arborum illa
the-mulberry and the-fig thick clothe of-which trees that
vel maxime ferax terra est, malignior ceteris. Hac non
even most fruitful the-land is more-niggardly to-the-others by-this no
deteriore quam maris facie cenatio remota a mari fruitur:
worse than of-the-sea view a-dining-room remote from the-sea enjoys
cingitur diaetis duabus a tergo, quarum fenestris subiacet
it-is-surrounded by-apartments two at the-back under-whose windows lies
vestibulum villae et hortus alius pinguis et rusticus.
the-forecourt of-the-villa and a-garden another rich and rustic
Hinc cryptoporticus prope publici operis extenditur. 17.16
from-here a-covered-arcade almost of-a-public work is-extended
Utrimque fenestrae, a mari plures, ab horto singulae,
on-both-sides windows toward the-sea more toward the-garden single
sed alternis pauciores. Hae cum serenus dies et
but by-alternate-ones fewer these when calm the-day and
inmotus, omnes, cum hinc vel inde ventis inquietus,
still all when from-here or from-there by-winds disturbed
qua venti quiescunt, sine iniuria patent.
where the-winds are-quiet without harm stand-open
Ante cryptoporticum xystus violis odoratus: teporem solis 17.17
before the-arcade a-terrace with-violets fragrant the-warmth of-the-sun
infusi repercussu cryptoporticus auget, quae ut tenet solem,
poured-in by-reflection the-arcade increases which as it-holds the-sun
sic aquilonem inhibet summovetque, quantumque caloris ante
so the-north-wind checks and-wards-off and-as-much of-heat in-front
tantum retro frigoris. Similiter africum sistit atque ita
so-much behind of-cold likewise the-southwest-wind it-stops and so

diversissimos ventos alium alio latere frangit et finit.
most-opposed winds one on-another side it-breaks and ends
Haec iucunditas eius hieme, maior aestate.
this the-pleasantness of-it in-winter greater in-summer
17.18 Nam ante meridiem xystum, post meridiem gestationis
for before midday the-terrace after midday of-the-drive
hortique proximam partem umbra sua temperat, quae,
and-of-the-garden the-nearest part with-shade its-own it-tempers which
ut dies crevit decrevitve, modo brevior modo longior hac
as the-day has-grown or-has-shrunk now shorter now longer on-this
vel illa cadit.
or on-that-side falls
17.19 Ipsa vero cryptoporticus tum maxime caret sole, cum
itself indeed the-arcade then most lacks sun when
ardentissimus culmini eius insistit. Ad hoc patentibus
most-blazing on-the-ridge its it-stands to this with-open
fenestris favonios accipit transmittitque nec umquam aere
windows the-west-winds it-receives and-passes-through nor ever with-air
pigro et manente ingravescit.
sluggish and stagnant grows-heavy
17.20 In capite xysti deinceps diaeta est, amores mei,
at the-head of-the-terrace next an-apartment is the-loves my
re vera amores: ipse posui. In hac heliocaminus quidem
in-thing true loves myself I-placed-it in this a-sun-room indeed
alia xystum, alia mare, utraque solem, cubiculum autem
one-side the-terrace the-other the-sea both the-sun the-bedroom moreover
valvis cryptoporticum, fenestra prospicit mare.
with-folding-doors the-arcade with-a-window looks-out-on the-sea
17.21 Contra parietem medium zotheca perquam eleganter recedit,
opposite the-wall middle an-alcove very elegantly recedes
quae specularibus et velis obductis reductisve modo adicitur
which by-windows and curtains drawn or-drawn-back now is-added

cubiculo, modo aufertur. Lectum et duas cathedras capit:
to-the-bedroom now is-taken-away a-couch and two chairs it-holds
a pedibus mare, a tergo villae, a capite silvae: tot facies
at the-feet the-sea at the-back villas at the-head woods so-many views
locorum totidem fenestris et distinguit et miscet.
of-places with-as-many windows both it-separates and blends
Iunctum est cubiculum noctis et somni. Non illud voces 17.22
joined is a-bedroom of-night and of-sleep not it the-voices
servulorum, non maris murmur, non tempestatum motus,
of-the-slave-boys not of-the-sea the-murmur not of-storms the-motion
non fulgurum lumen ac ne diem quidem sentit, nisi
not of-lightnings the-flash and not the-day even feels unless
fenestris apertis. Tam alti abditique secreti illa ratio, quod
with-windows open of-so deep and-hidden a-seclusion this the-reason that
interiacens andron parietem cubiculi hortique distinguit
an-intervening passage the-wall of-the-bedroom and-of-the-garden separates
atque ita omnem sonum media inanitate consumit.
and so all sound by-the-intervening emptiness consumes
Adplicitum est cubiculo hypocauston perexiguum, quod 17.23
attached is to-the-bedroom a-furnace very-small which
angusta fenestra suppositum calorem, ut ratio exigit, aut
by-a-narrow window the-supplied heat as need requires either
effundit aut retinet. Procoeton inde et cubiculum porrigitur
pours-out or keeps-in an-antechamber thence and a-bedroom stretches
in solem, quem orientem statim exceptum ultra meridiem
into the-sun which rising at-once caught beyond midday
oblicum quidem, sed tamen servat.
slanting indeed but yet it-keeps
In hanc ego diaetam cum me recepi, abesse mihi 17.24
into this I apartment when myself I-have-withdrawn to-be-away to-me
etiam a villa mea videor, magnamque eius voluptatem
even from villa my I-seem and-great of-it pleasure

praecipue Saturnalibus capio, cum reliqua pars tecti
especially at-the-Saturnalia I-take when the-rest part of-the-house
licentia dierum festisque clamoribus personat: nam nec
with-the-license of-the-days and-festive shouts resounds for neither
ipse meorum lusibus nec illi studiis meis obstrepunt.
I of-my-people the-games nor they studies my make-noise-against
17.25 Haec utilitas, haec amoenitas deficitur aqua salienti, sed
this utility this charm is-lacking-in water running but
puteos ac potius fontes habet: sunt enim in summo. Et
wells and rather springs it-has they-are for at the-surface and
omnino litoris illius mira natura: quocumque loco moveris
altogether of-shore that wonderful the-nature in-whatever place you-have-moved
humum, obvius et paratus umor occurrit, isque sincerus
the-earth ready and prepared moisture meets-you and-that pure
ac ne leviter quidem tanta maris vicinitate corruptus.
and not slightly even by-such-great of-the-sea nearness spoiled
17.26 Suggerunt adfatim ligna proximae silvae: ceteras copias
supply abundantly firewood the-nearest woods the-other provisions
Ostiensis colonia ministrat. Frugi quidem homini sufficit
the-Ostian colony furnishes to-a-frugal indeed man suffices
etiam vicus, quem una villa discernit. In hoc balinea
even the-village which one villa separates in this baths
meritoria tria, magna commoditas, si forte balineum domi
for-hire three a-great convenience if by-chance the-bath at-home
vel subitus adventus vel brevior mora calfacere dissuadeat.
either a-sudden arrival or a-shorter stay to-heat dissuade
17.27 Litus ornant varietate gratissima nunc continua nunc
the-shore adorn with-variety most-pleasing now continuous now
intermissa tecta villarum, quae praestant multarum urbium
broken the-roofs of-villas which present of-many cities
faciem, sive mari sive ipso litore utare; quod non
the-appearance whether the-sea or the-very shore you-use which not

numquam longa tranquillitas mollit, saepius frequens et
never long calm softens more-often frequent and
contrarius fluctus indurat.
opposing surf hardens
Mare non sane pretiosis piscibus abundat, soleas tamen et 17.28
the-sea not truly in-costly fish abounds soles yet and
squillas optimas egerit. Villa vero nostra etiam mediterraneas
prawns excellent it-yields the-villa indeed our even inland
copias praestat, lac in primis: nam illuc e pascuis pecora
supplies furnishes milk in the-first for thither from the-pastures the-herds
conveniunt, siquando aquam umbramve sectantur.
come-together if-ever water or-shade they-seek
Iustisne de causis iam tibi videor incolere, inhabitare, diligere 17.29
for-just for causes now to-you do-I-seem to-dwell-in to-inhabit to-love
secessum? Quem tu nimis urbanus es nisi concupiscis.
the-retreat which you too citified are unless you-long-for
Atque utinam concupiscas! Ut tot tantisque dotibus
and would-that you-may-long-for so-that to-so-many and-so-great endowments
villulae nostrae maxima commendatio ex tuo contubernio
of-the-little-villa our the-greatest commendation from your companionship
accedat. Vale.
may-be-added farewell

C. Plinius Maurico suo s. 18

Gaius Pliny to-Mauricus his-own greeting

Quid a te mihi iucundius potuit iniungi, quam ut 18.1
what by you on-me more-pleasant could be-enjoined than that
praeceptorem fratris tui liberis quaererem? Nam beneficio
a-teacher of-brother your for-the-children I-should-seek for by-kindness
tuo in scholam redeo, et illam dulcissimam aetatem quasi
your into school I-return and that sweetest age as-it-were

resumo: sedeo inter iuvenes ut solebam, atque etiam
I-take-up-again I-sit among young-men as I-used-to and even
experior, quantum apud illos auctoritatis ex studiis habeam.
I-test how-much among them of-authority from studies I-have

18.2 Nam proxime frequenti auditorio inter se coram
for lately in-a-crowded lecture-hall among themselves in-the-presence-of
multis ordinis nostri clare loquebantur; intravi, conticuerunt;
many of-order our loudly they-were-talking I-entered they-fell-silent
quod non referrem, nisi ad illorum magis laudem quam ad
which not I-would-report unless to their more praise than to
meam pertineret, ac nisi sperare te vellem posse fratris
mine it-pertained and unless to-hope you I-wished to-be-able of-brother
tui filios probe discere.
your the-sons properly to-learn

18.3 Quod superest, cum omnes qui profitentur audiero,
what remains when all who profess I-shall-have-heard
quid de quoque sentiam scribam efficiamque, quantum
what about each I-think I-shall-write and-I-shall-bring-about as-far-as
tamen epistula consequi potero, ut ipse omnes audisse
yet by-letter to-achieve I-shall-be-able that yourself all to-have-heard
videaris.
you-may-seem

18.4 Debeo enim tibi, debeo memoriae fratris tui hanc fidem,
I-owe for to-you I-owe to-the-memory of-brother your this loyalty
hoc studium, praesertim super tanta re. Nam quid magis
this zeal especially over so-great a-matter for what more
interest vestra, quam ut liberi (dicerem tui, nisi nunc
concerns your than that the-children I-would-say yours unless now
illos magis amares) digni illo patre, te patruo reperiantur?
them more you-loved worthy of-that father of-you as-uncle be-found
Quam curam mihi etiam si non mandasses, vindicassem.
which care to-me even if not you-had-entrusted I-would-have-claimed

Nec ignoro suscipiendas offensas in eligendo praeceptore, 18.5
nor am-I-unaware to-be-incurred offenses in choosing a-teacher
sed oportet me non modo offensas, verum etiam simultates
but it-befits me not only offenses but also feuds
pro fratris tui filiis tam aequo animo subire quam
for of-brother your the-sons as with-even mind to-undergo as
parentes pro suis. Vale.
parents for their-own farewell

V · RECITATION AND REGULUS

Pliny tells Cerialis that a speech read aloud loses the force it had in court, though he may recite this one to the most learned of his friends. He then gives Calvisius three stories of Regulus hunting legacies: Verania, who left him one after he swore by his son's life that she would recover; Blaesus, who left him nothing; and Aurelia, whom he made bequeath him the tunics she wore to sign her will.

C. Plinius Ceriali suo s. 19
Gaius Pliny to-Cerialis his-own greeting
Hortaris ut orationem amicis pluribus recitem. Faciam 19.1
you-urge that the-speech to-friends more-numerous I-recite I-shall-do-it
quia hortaris, quamvis vehementer addubitem.
because you-urge although strongly I-doubt
Neque enim me praeterit actiones quae recitantur impetum 19.2
nor for me escapes speeches which are-recited the-force
omnem caloremque ac prope nomen suum perdere, ut quas
all and-the-heat and almost name their-own to-lose since which
soleant commendare simul et accendere iudicum consessus,
are-wont to-commend at-once and to-kindle of-judges the-bench
celebritas advocatorum, expectatio eventus, fama
the-throng of-advocates the-expectation of-the-outcome the-reputation

non unius actoris diductumque in partes audientium
not of-one pleader and-divided into sides of-the-hearers
studium, ad hoc dicentis gestus, incessus, discursus
the-partisanship to this of-the-speaker the-gesture the-gait the-moving-about
etiam, omnibusque motibus animi consentaneus vigor
even and-to-all motions of-the-mind matching the-vigor
corporis.
of-the-body

19.3 Unde accidit ut ii qui sedentes agunt, quamvis
whence it-happens that those who sitting plead although
illis maxima ex parte supersint eadem illa quae
to-them greatest for part remain the-same those-things which
stantibus, tamen hoc quod sedent quasi debilitentur et
to-those-standing yet by-this that they-sit as-if they-are-weakened and
deprimantur.
are-depressed

19.4 Recitantium vero praecipua pronuntiationis adiumenta,
of-those-reciting indeed the-chief of-delivery aids
oculi manus, praepediuntur. Quo minus mirum
the-eyes the-hands are-hampered by-which less wonderful
est, si auditorum intentio relanguescit, nullis
it-is if of-the-hearers the-attention flags by-no
extrinsecus aut blandimentis capta aut aculeis
from-outside either charms captured or stings
excitata.
roused

19.5 Accedit his quod oratio de qua loquor pugnax et
there-is-added to-these that the-speech about which I-speak combative and
contentiosa est. Porro ita natura comparatum est, ut
contentious is moreover so by-nature arranged it-is that

ea quae scripsimus cum labore, cum labore etiam
those-things which we-have-written with toil with toil also
audiri putemus.
to-be-heard we-think

Et sane quotus quisque tam rectus auditor, quem non 19.6
and truly how-few each so upright a-hearer whom not
potius dulcia haec et sonantia quam austera et pressa
rather sweet these-things and sonorous than austere and compressed
delectent? Est quidem omnino turpis ista discordia,
delight it-is indeed altogether disgraceful that discord
est tamen, quia plerumque evenit ut aliud auditores
it-is yet because generally it-happens that one-thing hearers
aliud iudices exigant, cum alioqui iis praecipue auditor
another judges demand though otherwise by-those especially a-hearer
adfici debeat, quibus idem, si foret iudex, maxime
to-be-affected ought by-which the-same if he-were a-judge most
permoveretur.
would-be-moved

Potest tamen fieri ut quamquam in his difficultatibus libro 19.7
it-can yet happen that although in these difficulties for-book
isti novitas lenocinetur, novitas apud nostros: apud Graecos
that novelty may-lend-charm novelty among ours among the-Greeks
enim est quiddam quamvis ex diverso, non tamen omnino
for there-is something although from the-opposite not yet altogether
dissimile.
unlike

Nam ut illis erat moris leges, quas ut contrarias 19.8
for as with-them it-was of-custom laws which as contrary
prioribus legibus arguebant, aliarum collatione convincere,
to-earlier laws they-were-attacking of-others by-comparison to-refute
ita nobis inesse repetundarum legi quod postularemus
so by-us to-be-in of-extortion in-the-law what we-were-demanding

cum hac ipsa lege tum aliis colligendum fuit; quod
both from-this very law and from-others to-be-gathered was which
nequaquam blandum auribus inperitorum, tanto maiorem
by-no-means pleasing to-the-ears of-the-inexperienced so-much greater
apud doctos habere gratiam debet, quanto minorem apud
among the-learned to-have favor ought as-much less among
indoctos habet.
the-unlearned it-has

19.9 Nos autem, si placuerit recitare, adhibituri sumus
we moreover if it-shall-please to-recite about-to-invite are
eruditissimum quemque. Sed plane adhuc an sit recitandum
most-learned each but plainly still whether it-is to-be-recited
examina tecum, omnisque quos ego movi in utraque
weigh with-yourself and-all which I have-moved on each
parte calculos pone, idque elige in quo vicerit ratio.
side pebbles place and-that choose in which shall-have-won reason
A te enim ratio exigitur, nos excusabit obsequium.
from you for reason is-required us will-excuse compliance
Vale.
farewell

20 C. Plinius Calvisio suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Calvisius his-own greeting

20.1 Assem para et accipe auream fabulam, fabulas immo;
a-penny get-ready and take a-golden tale tales rather
nam me priorum nova admonuit, nec refert a qua
for me of-the-earlier the-new-one has-reminded nor does-it-matter from which
potissimum incipiam.
above-all I-begin

20.2 Verania Pisonis graviter iacebat, huius dico Pisonis,
Verania of-Piso gravely was-lying-ill of-this I-mean Piso
quem Galba adoptavit. Ad hanc Regulus venit.
whom Galba adopted to her Regulus came

Primum inpudentiam hominis, qui venerit ad
first the-impudence of-the-man who has-come to
aegram, cuius marito inimicissimus, ipsi invisissimus
the-sick-woman to-whose husband most-hostile to-herself most-hateful
fuerat.
he-had-been
Esto, si venit tantum: at ille etiam proximus toro 20.3
let-it-be if he-came only but he even next to-the-couch
sedit, quo die, qua hora nata esset interrogavit.
sat on-what day at-what hour born she-had-been asked
Ubi audiit, componit vultum, intendit oculos movet labra,
when he-heard he-composes his-face fixes his-eyes moves his-lips
agitat digitos, computat; nihil: ut diu miseram
works his-fingers calculates nothing when long the-wretched-woman
expectatione suspendit, 'habes' inquit 'climactericum tempus,
in-suspense he-held you-have he-said a-critical time
sed evades.
but you-will-escape
Quod ut tibi magis liqueat, haruspicem consulam, quem 20.4
which that to-you more may-be-clear a-soothsayer I-shall-consult whom
sum frequenter expertus.'
I-have often tried
Nec mora; sacrificium facit, adfirmat exta cum 20.5
nor delay a-sacrifice he-makes he-affirms the-entrails with
siderum significatione congruere. Illa ut in periculo
of-the-stars the-indication to-agree she as in danger
credula, poscit codicillos, legatum Regulo scribit: mox
credulous calls-for codicils a-legacy to-Regulus writes soon
ingravescit: clamat moriens hominem nequam perfidum ac
she-grows-worse she-cries dying the-man worthless treacherous and

plus etiam quam periurum, qui sibi per salutem filii
more even than perjured who to-her by the-safety of-his-son
peierasset.
had-sworn-falsely

20.6 Facit hoc Regulus non minus scelerate quam frequenter,
does this Regulus not less wickedly than often
quod iram deorum, quos ipse cotidie fallit, in caput
that the-anger of-the-gods whom he-himself daily deceives on the-head
infelicis pueri detestatur.
of-the-unhappy boy he-calls-down

20.7 Velleius Blaesus, ille locuples consularis, novissima
Velleius Blaesus that rich ex-consul in-his-last
valetudine conflictabatur: cupiebat mutare testamentum.
illness was-struggling he-wanted to-change his-will
Regulus, qui speraret aliquid ex novis tabulis,
Regulus who hoped something from the-new tablets
quia nuper captare eum coeperat, medicos
because lately to-court-for-legacies him he-had-begun the-doctors
hortari, rogare quoquo modo spiritum homini
to-urge to-beg by-whatever means the-breath for-the-man
prorogarent.
they-should-prolong

20.8 Postquam signatum est testamentum, mutat personam,
after signed was the-will he-changes his-mask
vertit adlocutionem, isdemque medicis ‘Quousque
he-turns his-address and-to-the-same doctors how-long
miserum cruciatis? Quid invidetis bona morte
the-wretch do-you-torture why do-you-begrudge a-good death
cui dare vitam non potestis?’ Moritur Blaesus,
to-whom to-give life not you-can dies Blaesus

et tamquam omnia audisset, Regulo ne tantulum
and as-if all-things he-had-heard to-Regulus not so-little-as-this
quidem.
even
Sufficiunt duae fabulae, an scholastica lege tertiam poscis? 20.9
suffice two tales or by-the-school rule a-third do-you-demand
Est unde fiat.
there-is whence it-may-be-made
Aurelia, ornata femina, signatura testamentum sumpserat 20.10
Aurelia a-distinguished woman about-to-sign her-will had-put-on
pulcherrimas tunicas. Regulus cum venisset ad signandum,
most-beautiful tunics Regulus when he-had-come for sealing
'Rogo' inquit 'has mihi leges.'
I-ask he-said these to-me you-bequeath
Aurelia ludere hominem putabat, ille serio instabat: 20.11
Aurelia to-be-joking the-man thought he in-earnest pressed
ne multa, coegit mulierem aperire tabulas ac
not to-say-much he-forced the-woman to-open the-tablets and
sibi tunicas quas erat induta legare: observavit
to-him the-tunics which she-had worn to-bequeath he-watched
scribentem, inspexit an scripsisset. Et Aurelia quidem
her-writing he-inspected whether she-had-written and Aurelia indeed
vivit, ille tamen istud tamquam morituram coegit
lives he yet that as-if about-to-die forced
et hic hereditates, hic legata, quasi mereatur,
and this-man inheritances this-man legacies as-if he-earned-them
accipit.
receives
Ἀλλὰ τί διατείνομαι; in ea civitate, in qua 20.12
but why do-I-strain-myself in that state in which
iam pridem non minora praemia, immo maiora,
now long-since not lesser rewards nay greater

nequitia et improbitas quam pudor et virtus
worthlessness and wickedness than shame and virtue
habent?
have

20.13 Aspice Regulum, qui ex paupere et tenui ad
look-at Regulus who from poor and slender to
tantas opes per flagitia processit, ut ipse mihi
such wealth through crimes advanced that himself to-me
dixerit, cum consuleret, quam cito sestertium
said when he-consulted how quickly of-sesterces
sescenties inpleturus esset, invenisse se exta
sixty-million about-to-fill-up he-was to-have-found himself entrails
duplicia, quibus portendi milies et ducentiens
double by-which to-be-portended a-hundred-million and twenty-million
habiturum.
about-to-have

20.14 Et habebit, si modo, ut coepit, aliena testamenta, quod
and he-will-have-it if only as he-has-begun others' wills which
est inprobissimum genus falsi, ipsis quorum sunt illa
is the-most-wicked kind of-forgery to-the-very-ones whose are they
dictaverit. Vale.
he-dictates farewell

BOOK III

I · SPURINNA'S OLD AGE

Pliny describes to Calvisius the ordered day of Vestricius Spurinna, past seventy-seven and vigorous: his walks, reading, drive, writing, ball game, bath, and dinner. He recommends Arrianus Maturus to Vibius Maximus, proposes Julius Genitor as teacher for Corellia Hispulla's son, and tells Caecilius Macrinus why he has taken up the province of Baetica's case against Caecilius Classicus.

C. Plinius Calvisio Rufo suo s. 1
Gaius Pliny to-Calvisius Rufus his-own greeting

Nescio an ullum iucundius tempus exegerim, quam 1.1
I-know-not whether any more-pleasant time I-have-spent than
quo nuper apud Spurinnam fui, adeo quidem, ut
that-in-which lately with Spurinna I-was so-much indeed that
neminem magis in senectute, si modo senescere datum est,
no-one more in old-age if only to-grow-old granted is
aemulari velim: nihil est enim illo vitae genere distinctius.
to-emulate I-would-wish nothing is for than-that of-life kind more-orderly

Me autem ut certus siderum cursus ita vita hominum 1.2
me moreover as the-fixed of-the-stars course so the-life of-men
disposita delectat. Senum praesertim. Nam iuvenes confusa
arranged delights of-old-men especially for young-men confused
adhuc quaedam et quasi turbata non indecent; senibus
still certain-things and as-it-were disordered not ill-become for-old-men
placida omnia et ordinata conveniunt, quibus industria sera,
calm all-things and ordered befit for-whom industry late
turpis ambitio est.
disgraceful ambition is

1.3 Hanc regulam Spurinna constantissime servat; quin etiam
this rule Spurinna most-constantly keeps nay even
parva haec, parva, si non cotidie fiant, ordine quodam
small these-things small if not daily they-be-done in-order a-certain
et velut orbe circumagit.
and as-it-were in-a-circle he-turns

1.4 Mane lectulo continetur, hora secunda calceos
in-the-morning on-his-couch he-is-kept at-the-hour second his-shoes
poscit, ambulat milia passuum tria nec minus animum
he-calls-for he-walks miles of-paces three nor less mind
quam corpus exercet. Si adsunt amici, honestissimi sermones
than body he-exercises if are-present friends most-honorable conversations
explicantur; si non, liber legitur, interdum etiam praesentibus
are-unfolded if not a-book is-read sometimes even present
amicis, si tamen illi non gravantur.
friends if yet they not are-burdened

1.5 Deinde considit, et liber rursus aut sermo libro potior:
then he-sits-down and a-book again or talk than-a-book better
mox vehiculum ascendit, adsumit uxorem singularis exempli
soon a-carriage he-mounts he-takes-along his-wife of-singular example
vel aliquem amicorum, ut me proxime.
or someone of-his-friends as me lately

1.6 Quam pulchrum illud, quam dulce secretum! Quantum
how fine that how sweet the-privacy how-much
ibi antiquitatis! Quae facta, quos viros audias! Quibus
there of-antiquity what deeds what men you-may-hear with-what
praeceptis imbuare! Quamvis ille hoc temperamentum
precepts you-may-be-imbued although he this restraint
modestiae suae indixerit, ne praecipere videatur.
on-modesty his-own has-imposed lest to-teach he-may-seem

Peractis septem milibus passuum iterum ambulat mille, 1.7
completed seven thousand of-paces again he-walks a-mile
iterum residit vel se cubiculo ac stilo reddit. Scribit
again he-sits or himself to-the-bedroom and to-the-pen gives-back he-writes
enim, et quidem utraque lingua, lyrica doctissime; mira
for and indeed in-each language lyrics most-learnedly wonderful
illis dulcedo, mira suavitas, mira hilaritas, cuius gratiam
in-them sweetness wonderful charm wonderful gaiety whose grace
cumulat sanctitas scribentis.
heightens the-purity of-the-writer
Ubi hora balinei nuntiata est (est autem hieme nona, 1.8
when the-hour of-the-bath announced has-been it-is moreover in-winter the-ninth
aestate octava), in sole, si caret vento, ambulat nudus.
in-summer the-eighth in the-sun if it-is-free-of wind he-walks naked
Deinde movetur pila vehementer et diu: nam hoc
then he-moves with-the-ball vigorously and long for by-this
quoque exercitationis genere pugnat cum senectute. Lotus
also of-exercise kind he-fights with old-age washed
accubat et paulisper cibum differt: interim audit legentem
he-reclines and a-little the-food he-puts-off meanwhile he-hears one-reading
remissius aliquid et dulcius. Per hoc omne tempus liberum
lighter something and sweeter through this all time free
est amicis vel eadem facere vel alia, si malint.
it-is for-friends either the-same to-do or other-things if they-prefer
Adponitur cena non minus nitida quam frugi in argento 1.9
is-served a-dinner no less elegant than frugal on silver
puro et antiquo: sunt in usu et Corinthia, quibus
pure and antique there-are in use also Corinthian-bronzes in-which
delectatur nec adficitur. Frequenter comoedis cena
he-delights nor is-he-captivated often with-comic-actors the-dinner
distinguitur, ut voluptates quoque studiis condiantur. Sumit
is-varied that pleasures also with-studies may-be-seasoned he-takes

aliquid de nocte et aestate: nemini hoc longum est;
something from the-night even in-summer to-no-one this long is
tanta comitate convivium trahitur.
with-such courtesy the-banquet is-drawn-out

1.10 Inde illi post septimum et septuagensimum annum aurium
hence to-him after the-seventh and seventieth year of-ears
oculorum vigor integer, inde agile et vividum corpus solaque
of-eyes vigor unimpaired hence nimble and lively body and-alone
ex senectute prudentia.
from old-age prudence

1.11 Hanc ego vitam voto et cogitatione praesumo, ingressurus
this I life in-prayer and in-thought anticipate about-to-enter-on-it
avidissime, ut primum ratio aetatis receptui canere
most-eagerly as first the-reckoning of-age the-retreat to-sound
permiserit. Interim mille laboribus conteror, quorum
shall-have-allowed meanwhile by-a-thousand labors I-am-worn-down of-which
mihi et solacium et exemplum est idem Spurinna;
to-me both the-comfort and the-example is the-same Spurinna

1.12 Nam ille quoque, quoad honestum fuit, obiit officia, gessit
for he also as-long-as honorable it-was performed duties held
magistratus, provincias rexit multoque labore hoc otium
magistracies provinces governed and-by-much toil this leisure
meruit. Igitur eundem mihi cursum, eundem terminum
earned therefore the-same for-me course the-same goal
statuo, idque iam nunc apud te subsigno, ut, si me longius
I-set and-this already now before you I-sign that if me further
evehi videris, in ius voces ad hanc epistulam meam
to-be-carried you-see into court you-call-me by this letter my
et quiescere iubeas, cum inertiae crimen effugero. Vale.
and to-rest you-order when of-idleness the-charge I-shall-have-escaped farewell

C. Plinius Vibio Maximo suo s. 2

Gaius Pliny to-Vibius Maximus his-own greeting

Quod ipse amicis tuis obtulissem, si mihi eadem materia 2.1

what myself to-friends your I-would-have-offered if to-me the-same means

suppeteret, id nunc iure videor a te meis petiturus.

were-at-hand that now by-right I-seem from you for-mine about-to-ask

Arrianus Maturus Altinatium est princeps: cum dico princeps, 2.2

Arrianus Maturus of-the-Altinates is the-chief when I-say chief

non de facultatibus loquor, quae illi large supersunt,

not about means I-speak which to-him abundantly remain

sed de castitate, iustitia, gravitate, prudentia.

but about purity justice gravity prudence

Huius ego consilio in negotiis, iudicio in studiis utor: nam 2.3

his I counsel in business judgment in studies use for

plurimum fide, plurimum veritate, plurimum intellegentia

very-much in-loyalty very-much in-truthfulness very-much in-intelligence

praestat.

he-excels

Amat me, nihil possum ardentius dicere, ut tu. Caret ambitu: 2.4

he-loves me nothing can-I more-ardent say as you he-lacks ambition

ideo se in equestri gradu tenuit, cum facile posset

therefore himself in the-equestrian rank he-kept when easily he-could

ascendere altissimum. Mihi tamen ornandus excolendusque est.

to-climb the-highest by-me yet to-be-honored and-to-be-advanced he-is

Itaque magni aestimo dignitati eius aliquid adstruere 2.5

and-so highly I-value to-the-rank his something to-add

inopinantis, nescientis, immo etiam fortasse nolentis; adstruere

him-not-expecting not-knowing nay even perhaps unwilling to-add

autem quod sit splendidum nec molestum.

moreover what may-be splendid and-not troublesome

2.6 Cuius generis quae prima occasio tibi, conferas in eum
of-which kind whatever first opportunity to-you you-may-confer on him
rogo; habebis me, habebis ipsum gratissimum debitorem.
I-ask you-will-have me you-will-have him-himself a-most-grateful debtor
Quamvis enim ista non adpetat, tam grate tamen
although for those-things not he-seeks so gratefully yet
excipit, quam si concupiscat. Vale.
he-receives as if he-longed-for-them farewell

3 C. Plinius Corelliae Hispullae suae s.
Gaius Pliny to-Corellia Hispulla his-own greeting

3.1 Cum patrem tuum, gravissimum et sanctissimum virum,
since father your a-most-serious and most-upright man
suspexerim magis an amaverim dubitem teque et in
whether-I-looked-up-to more or loved I-doubt and-you both in
memoriam eius et in honorem tuum unice diligam, cupiam
memory of-him and in honor your singularly I-love I-desire
necesse est atque etiam, quantum in me fuerit, enitar
necessarily is and even as-much-as in me shall-have-been I-shall-strive
ut filius tuus avo similis existat; equidem malo
that son your to-his-grandfather like may-turn-out for-my-part I-prefer
materno: quamquam illi paternus etiam clarus spectatusque
the-maternal although to-him the-paternal also famous and-esteemed
contigerit, pater quoque et patruus inlustri laude conspicui.
has-fallen father also and uncle by-illustrious praise conspicuous

3.2 Quibus omnibus ita demum similis adolescet, si imbutus
to-whom all so only like he-will-grow-up if imbued
honestis artibus fuerit, quas plurimum refert a quo
in-honorable arts he-has-been which very-much it-matters from whom
potissimum accipiat.
above-all he-may-receive

Adhuc illum pueritiae ratio intra contubernium tuum 3.3
till-now him of-boyhood the-reckoning within the-household your
tenuit, praeceptores domi habuit, ubi est erroribus modica
held teachers at-home he-has-had where is for-errors little
vel etiam nulla materia. Iam studia eius extra limen
or even no material now studies his beyond the-threshold
proferenda sunt, iam circumspiciendus rhetor latinus,
to-be-carried-out are now to-be-looked-for a-rhetorician Latin
cuius scholae severitas, pudor, in primis castitas constet.
of-whose school strictness modesty in the-first chastity may-be-established
Adest enim adulescenti nostro cum ceteris naturae fortunaeque 3.4
there-is for to-the-youth our with the-other of-nature and-of-fortune
dotibus eximia corporis pulchritudo, cui in hoc
endowments an-exceptional of-body beauty for-whom in this
lubrico aetatis non praeceptor modo sed custos etiam
slippery-time of-life not a-teacher only but a-guardian also
rectorque quaerendus est.
and-director must-be-sought is
Videor ergo demonstrare tibi posse Iulium Genitorem. 3.5
I-seem therefore to-point-out to-you to-be-able Julius Genitor
Amatur a me; iudicio tamen meo non obstat caritas
he-is-loved by me in-judgment yet my not stands-in-the-way affection
hominis, quae ex iudicio nata est. Vir est emendatus et gravis,
for-the-man which from judgment born is a-man he-is faultless and serious
paulo etiam horridior et durior, ut in hac licentia temporum.
a-little even rougher and harsher as in this license of-the-times
Quantum eloquentia valeat pluribus credere potes; nam dicendi 3.6
how-much in-eloquence he-avails more-people to-believe you-can for of-speaking
facultas aperta et exposita statim cernitur: vita hominum altos
the-facility open and exposed at-once is-discerned the-life of-men deep
recessus magnasque latebras habet; cuius pro Genitore
retreats and-great hiding-places has for-which on-behalf-of Genitor

me sponsorem accipe. Nihil ex hoc viro filius tuus audiet nisi
me as-guarantor accept nothing from this man son your will-hear except
profuturum, nihil discet quod nescisse rectius fuerit
what-will-profit nothing will-be-learn which not-to-have-known better would-have-been
nec minus saepe ab illo quam a te meque admonebitur,
nor less often by him than by you and-me will-he-be-reminded
quibus imaginibus oneretur, quae nomina et quanta sustineat.
with-what images he-is-burdened what names and how-great he-sustains

3.7 Proinde faventibus dis trade eum praeceptori, a quo
accordingly with-favoring gods hand-over him to-the-teacher from whom
mores primum, mox eloquentiam discat, quae male sine
character first soon eloquence he-may-learn which badly without
moribus discitur. Vale.
character is-learned farewell

4 C. Plinius Caecilio Macrino suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Caecilius Macrinus his-own greeting

4.1 Quamvis et amici quos praesentes habebam et sermones
although both the-friends whom present I-had and the-talk
hominum factum meum conprobasse videantur, magni tamen
of-men deed my to-have-approved seem highly yet
aestimo scire quid sentias tu.
I-value to-know what think you

4.2 Nam cuius integra re consilium exquirere optassem,
for of-whom unimpaired the-matter the-advice to-seek-out I-would-have-wished
huius etiam peracta iudicium nosse mire concupisco. Cum
of-him also completed the-judgment to-know wonderfully I-long when
publicum opus mea pecunia inchoaturus in Tuscos
public a-work with-my money about-to-begin into the-Tuscan-country
excucurrissem accepto, ut praefectus aerari, commeatu,
I-had-run-off received as prefect of-the-treasury leave

legati provinciae Baeticae questuri de proconsulatu
the-envoys of-the-province Baetica about-to-complain of the-proconsulship
Caecili Classici advocatum me a senatu petierunt.
of-Caecilius Classicus as-advocate me from the-senate sought
Collegae optimi meique amantissimi de communis officii 4.3
colleagues excellent and-of-me most-fond about of-the-common office
necessitatibus praelocuti excusare me et eximere temptarunt.
the-requirements having-spoken-first to-excuse me and to-exempt tried
Factum est senatus consultum perquam honorificum, ut
made was of-the-senate a-decree very complimentary that
darer provincialibus patronus, si ab ipso me impetrassent.
I-be-given to-the-provincials as-patron if from myself me they-had-obtained
Legati rursus inducti iterum me iam praesentem advocatum 4.4
the-envoys again brought-in again me now present as-advocate
postulaverunt, inplorantes fidem meam quam essent contra
demanded imploring loyalty my which they-had against
Massam Baebium experti, adlegantes patrocinii foedus. Secuta
Massa Baebius tried pleading of-patronage the-compact followed
est senatus clarissima adsensio, quae solet decreta
was of-the-senate the-most-distinguished assent which is-wont decrees
praecurrere. Tum ego ‘desino’ inquam, ‘patres conscripti,
to-anticipate then I I-cease I-said fathers conscript
putare me iustas excusationis causas attulisse.’ Placuit
to-think me just of-excuse reasons to-have-brought were-approved
et modestia sermonis et ratio.
both the-modesty of-speech and the-reasoning
Conpulit autem me ad hoc consilium non solum consensus 4.5
drove moreover me to this resolve not only the-consensus
senatus, quamquam hic maxime, verum et alii quidam
of-the-senate although this most but also other some
minores sed tamen numeri. Veniebat in mentem priores
lesser but yet numbers it-came into mind ancestors

nostros etiam singulorum hospitum iniurias voluntariis
our even of-individual guests the-injuries by-voluntary
accusationibus exsecutos; quo deformius arbitrabar
prosecutions to-have-pursued by-which the-more-disgraceful I-judged
publici hospitii iura neglegere.
of-public hospitality the-rights to-neglect

4.6 Praeterea cum recordarer, quanta pro isdem Baeticis superiore
besides when I-recalled how-great for the-same Baetici in-the-earlier
advocatione etiam pericula subissem, conservandum veteris
advocacy even dangers I-had-undergone to-be-preserved of-former
officii meritum novo videbatur. Est enim ita comparatum ut
service the-merit by-new it-seemed it-is for so arranged that
antiquiora beneficia subvertas, nisi illa posterioribus cumules.
older kindnesses you-overturn unless them by-later-ones you-heap-up
Nam quamlibet saepe obligati, siquid unum neges, hoc
for however often obliged if-anything one you-deny this
solum meminerunt, quod negatum est.
alone they-remember which denied was

4.7 Ducebar etiam, quod decesserat Classicus amotumque erat,
I-was-led also because had-died Classicus and-removed was
quod in eius modi causis solet esse tristissimum, periculum
what in of-that kind cases is-wont to-be most-grievous the-danger
senatoris. Videbam ergo advocationi meae non minorem
of-a-senator I-saw therefore for-advocacy my not less
gratiam, quam si viveret ille, propositam, invidiam nullam.
favor than if were-living he set-before-me ill-will none

4.8 In summa conputabam, si munere hoc iam tertio fungerer,
in sum I-was-calculating if service this now a-third-time I-performed
faciliorem mihi excusationem fore, siquis incidisset
easier for-me excuse to-be-going-to-be if-anyone should-have-come-up

quem non deberem accusare. Nam cum est omnium officiorum
whom not I-ought to-accuse for since there-is of-all duties
finis aliquis, tum optime libertati venia obsequio praeparatur.
an-end some then best for-liberty indulgence by-compliance is-prepared
Audisti consilii mei motus: superest alterutra ex parte 4.9
you-have-heard of-plan my the-motives there-remains on-either of side
iudicium tuum, in quo mihi aeque iucunda erit simplicitas
the-judgment your in which to-me equally pleasant will-be the-frankness
dissentientis quam conprobantis auctoritas. Vale.
of-one-disagreeing as of-one-approving the-authority farewell

II · MY UNCLE'S BOOKS

Pliny lists for Baebius Macer the works of his uncle, the elder Pliny, and describes the habits that let a busy official write so much: rising before dawn, reading and making extracts at meals, in the bath and on the road, and counting every hour not given to study as lost. He tells Annius Severus of a Corinthian bronze he has bought for his home town, and tells Caninius Rufus of the death of Silius Italicus and how short even the longest life is.

C. Plinius Baebio Macro suo s. 5
Gaius Pliny to-Baebius Macer his-own greeting
Pergratum est mihi quod tam diligenter libros avunculi mei 5.1
very-pleasing it-is to-me that so carefully the-books of-uncle my
lectitas, ut habere omnes velis quaerasque qui sint
you-read-repeatedly that to-have all you-wish and-you-ask which they-are
omnes.
all

5.2 Fungar indicis partibus atque etiam quo sint ordine
I-shall-perform of-an-index the-parts and even in-what they-were order
scripti notum tibi faciam: est enim haec quoque studiosis
written known to-you I-shall-make it-is for this also to-the-studious
non iniucunda cognitio.
not unpleasant knowledge

5.3 'De iaculatione equestri unus': hunc, cum praefectus
on throwing from-horseback one this when prefect
alae militaret, pari ingenio curaque conposuit.
of-a-cavalry-wing he-was-serving with-equal talent and-care he-composed
'De vita Pomponi Secundi duo' a quo singulariter amatus
on the-life of-Pomponius Secundus two by whom singularly loved
hoc memoriae amici quasi debitum munus exsolvit.
this to-the-memory of-his-friend as-if owed service he-discharged

5.4 'Bellorum Germaniae viginti', quibus omnia quae cum
of-the-wars of-Germany twenty in-which all which with
Germanis gessimus bella collegit. Inchoavit cum in Germania
the-Germans we-have-waged wars he-collected he-began-it when in Germany
militaret, somnio monitus: adstitit ei quiescenti Drusi
he-was-serving by-a-dream warned stood-by him resting of-Drusus
Neronis effigies, qui Germaniae latissime victor ibi periit,
Nero the-likeness who of-Germany most-widely conqueror there perished
commendabat memoriam suam orabatque ut se ab iniuria
he-commended memory his-own and-begged that himself from the-injury
oblivionis adsereret.
of-oblivion he-would-rescue

5.5 'Studiosi tres', in sex volumina propter amplitudinem
the-student three in six volumes on-account-of length
divisi, quibus oratorem ab incunabulis instituit et perficit.
divided in-which the-orator from the-cradle he-trains and perfects
'Dubii sermonis octo': scripsit sub Nerone novissimis annis,
of-doubtful speech eight he-wrote-it under Nero in-the-last years

cum omne studiorum genus paulo liberius et erectius
when every of-study kind a-little freer and more-elevated
periculosum servitus fecisset.
dangerous slavery had-made
'A fine Aufidi Bassi triginta unus.' 'Naturae historiarum 5.6
from the-end of-Aufidius Bassus thirty one of-nature of-histories
triginta septem', opus diffusum eruditum, nec minus varium
thirty seven a-work wide-ranging learned nor less varied
quam ipsa natura.
than itself nature
Miraris quod tot volumina multaque in his tam scrupulosa 5.7
you-wonder that so-many volumes and-many in these so scrupulous
homo occupatus absolverit: magis miraberis, si scieris illum
a-man busy completed more you-will-wonder if you-learn him
aliquandiu causas actitasse, decessisse anno sexto et
for-some-time cases to-have-pleaded to-have-died in-the-year sixth and
quinquagensimo, medium tempus distentum impeditumque
fiftieth the-middle time distracted and-hindered
qua officiis maximis qua amicitia principum egisse.
partly by-duties greatest partly by-the-friendship of-princes to-have-passed
Sed erat acre ingenium, incredibile studium, summa 5.8
but there-was a-keen talent incredible zeal the-highest
vigilantia. Lucubrare Vulcanalibus incipiebat, non
wakefulness to-work-by-lamplight at-the-Vulcanalia he-used-to-begin not
auspicandi causa sed studendi statim a nocte multa,
of-taking-the-auspices for-the-sake but of-studying at-once from night deep
hieme vero ab hora septima, vel cum tardissime, octava,
in-winter indeed from the-hour seventh or when latest the-eighth
saepe sexta. Erat sane somni paratissimi, non numquam
often the-sixth he-was truly of-sleep most-ready not never
etiam inter ipsa studia instantis et deserentis.
even among the-very studies coming-on and leaving

5.9 Ante lucem ibat ad Vespasianum imperatorem (nam ille
before daylight he-went to Vespasian the-emperor for he
quoque noctibus utebatur), inde ad delegatum sibi officium.
also nights used then to the-assigned to-him duty
Reversus domum, quod reliquum temporis, studiis reddebat.
returned home what remained of-time to-studies he-gave-back
5.10 Post cibum saepe, quem interdiu levem et facilem veterum
after food often which by-day light and easy of-the-ancients
more sumebat, aestate, siquid otii, iacebat in sole,
in-the-manner he-took in-summer if-any of-leisure he-lay in the-sun
liber legebatur, adnotabat excerpebatque. Nihil enim legit
a-book was-read he-annotated and-made-excerpts nothing for he-read
quod non excerperet: dicere etiam solebat nullum esse librum
which not he-excerpted to-say also he-used no to-be book
tam malum, ut non aliqua parte prodesset.
so bad that not in-some part it-might-profit
5.11 Post solem plerumque frigida lavabatur: deinde gustabat
after the-sun generally in-cold-water he-bathed then he-snacked
dormiebatque minimum: mox quasi alio die studebat in
and-slept very-little soon as-if on-another day he-studied till
cenae tempus. Super hanc liber legebatur, adnotabatur, et
of-dinner the-time over this a-book was-read was-annotated and
quidem cursim.
indeed hastily
5.12 Memini quendam ex amicis, cum lector quaedam perperam
I-remember a-certain-man of friends when the-reader some-things wrongly
pronuntiasset, revocasse et repeti coegisse; huic
had-pronounced to-have-called-him-back and to-be-repeated to-have-forced to-him
avunculum meum dixisse ‘intellexeras nempe?’ Cum ille
uncle my to-have-said you-had-understood surely when he

adnuisset, ‘Cur ergo revocabas? Decem amplius versus
had-nodded why then did-you-call-him-back ten more verses
hac tua interpellatione perdidimus.’
by-this your interruption we-have-lost
Tanta erat parsimonia temporis. Surgebat aestate a cena 5.13
so-great was the-thrift of-time he-rose in-summer from dinner
luce, hieme intra primam noctis, et tamquam aliqua lege
by-daylight in-winter within the-first of-night and as-if some law
cogente.
compelling
Haec inter medios labores urbisque fremitum. In secessu 5.14
these-things amid middle labors and-of-the-city din in retreat
solum balinei tempus studiis eximebatur: cum dico balinei,
only of-the-bath the-time from-studies was-taken when I-say of-the-bath
de interioribus loquor; nam dum destringitur tergiturque,
of the-inner-parts I-speak for while he-was-scraped and-dried
audiebat aliquid aut dictabat.
he-heard something or dictated
In itinere quasi solutus ceteris curis huic uni vacabat: 5.15
on a-journey as-if freed from-other cares to-this one he-gave-time
ad latus notarius cum libro et pugillaribus, cuius
at side a-shorthand-writer with a-book and tablets whose
manus hieme manicis muniebantur, ut ne caeli quidem
hands in-winter with-sleeves were-protected that not of-the-weather even
asperitas ullum studii tempus eriperet; qua ex causa
the-harshness any of-study time might-snatch-away which from cause
Romae quoque sella vehebatur.
at-Rome also in-a-chair he-was-carried

5.16 Repeto me correptum ab eo cur ambularem: ‘poteras’
I-recall me rebuked by him why I-walked you-could
inquit ‘has horas non perdere’; nam perire omne tempus
he-said these hours not to-lose for to-perish all time
arbitrabatur, quod studiis non inpenderetur.
he-thought which on-studies not was-spent

5.17 Hac intentione tot ista volumina peregit electorumque
by-this application so-many those volumes he-completed and-of-extracts
commentarios centum sexaginta mihi reliquit, opisthographos
notebooks a-hundred sixty to-me he-left written-on-both-sides
quidem et minutissime scriptos; qua ratione multiplicatur
indeed and very-minutely written by-which reckoning is-multiplied
hic numerus. Referebat ipse potuisse se, cum
this number he-used-to-relate himself to-have-been-able he when
procuraret in Hispania, vendere hos commentarios Larcio
he-was-procurator in Spain to-sell these notebooks to-Larcius
Licino quadringentis milibus nummum; et tunc aliquanto
Licinus for-four-hundred thousand of-sesterces and then somewhat
pauciores erant.
fewer they-were

5.18 Nonne videtur tibi recordanti quantum legerit, quantum
surely does-he-seem to-you recalling how-much he-read how-much
scripserit, nec in officiis ullis nec in amicitia principis
he-wrote neither in duties any nor in the-friendship of-the-prince
fuisse; rursus, cum audis quid studiis laboris inpenderit, nec
to-have-been again when you-hear what on-studies of-labor he-spent neither
scripsisse satis nec legisse? Quid est enim quod non aut
to-have-written enough nor to-have-read what is-there for which not either
illae occupationes inpedire aut haec instantia non possit efficere?
those occupations to-hinder or this persistence not could accomplish

Itaque soleo ridere, cum me quidam studiosum vocant, qui, 5.19
and-so I-am-wont to-laugh when me some studious call who
si comparer illi, sum desidiosissimus. Ego autem tantum,
if I-am-compared to-him am most-idle I moreover only
quem partim publica partim amicorum officia distringunt?
whom partly public partly of-friends duties distract
Quis ex istis qui tota vita litteris adsident, collatus illi
who of those who whole life to-letters sit-by compared with-him
non quasi somno et inertiae deditus erubescat?
not as-if to-sleep and to-sloth given would-blush
Extendi epistulam, cum hoc solum quod requirebas scribere 5.20
I-have-extended the-letter when this only which you-were-asking to-write
destinassem, quos libros reliquisset: confido tamen haec
I-had-intended what books he-had-left I-trust yet these-things
quoque tibi non minus grata quam ipsos libros futura,
also to-you no less welcome than the-very books to-be-going-to-be
quae te non tantum ad legendos eos verum etiam ad simile
which you not only to reading them but also to similar
aliquid elaborandum possunt aemulationis stimulis excitare. Vale.
something working-out can of-emulation by-stings rouse farewell

C. Plinius Annio Severo suo s. 6
Gaius Pliny to-Annius Severus his-own greeting

Ex hereditate quae mihi obvenit emi proxime Corinthium 6.1
from an-inheritance which to-me has-come I-bought lately a-Corinthian
signum, modicum quidem, sed festivum et expressum, quantum
statuette small indeed but lively and well-modeled as-far-as
ego sapio; qui fortasse in omni re, in hac certe perquam
I understand who perhaps in every thing in this certainly very
exiguum sapio: hoc tamen signum ego quoque intellego.
little understand this yet statuette I also understand

6.2 Est enim nudum nec aut vitia siqua sunt, celat aut laudes
it-is for nude nor either faults if-any there-are it-hides or merits
parum ostentat: effingit senem stantem; ossa, musculi,
too-little shows it-represents an-old-man standing the-bones the-muscles
nervi, venae, rugae etiam ut spirantis apparent; rari
the-sinews the-veins the-wrinkles even as of-one-breathing appear thin
et cedentes capilli, lata frons, contracta facies, exile collum;
and receding the-hair broad the-brow shrunken the-face scrawny the-neck
pendent lacerti, papillae iacent, venter recessit.
hang the-arms the-breasts sag the-belly has-receded

6.3 A tergo quoque eadem aetas ut a tergo. Aes ipsum,
from the-back also the-same age as from the-back the-bronze itself
quantum verus color indicat, vetus et antiquum. Talia denique
as-far-as the-true color indicates old and antique such finally
omnia, ut possint artificum oculos tenere, delectare imperitorum.
all-things that they-can of-artists the-eyes hold delight of-the-unskilled

6.4 Quod me quamquam tirunculum sollicitavit ad emendum.
which me although a-novice tempted to buying
Emi autem, non ut haberem domi (neque enim ullum
I-bought moreover not that I-might-have-it at-home nor for any
adhuc Corinthium domi habeo), verum ut in patria nostra
yet Corinthian at-home do-I-have but that in native-town our
celebri loco ponerem, ac potissimum in Iovis templo:
in-a-frequented place I-might-set-it and above-all in of-Jupiter the-temple

6.5 Videtur enim dignum templo, dignum deo donum. Tu
it-seems for worthy of-a-temple worthy of-a-god a-gift you
ergo, ut soles omnia quae a me tibi iniunguntur,
therefore as you-are-wont all-things which by me on-you are-enjoined
suscipe hanc curam et iam nunc iube basim fieri
take-up this care and already now order a-base to-be-made

ex quo voles marmore, quae nomen meum honoresque
of whatever you-wish marble which name my and-honors
capiat, si hos quoque putabis addendos.
may-hold if these also you-shall-think to-be-added
Ego signum ipsum, ut primum invenero aliquem qui 6.6
I the-statuette itself as first I-shall-have-found someone who
non gravetur, mittam tibi vel ipse, quod mavis, adferam
not may-be-burdened shall-send to-you or myself which you-prefer shall-bring
mecum. Destino enim, si tamen officii ratio permiserit,
with-me I-intend for if yet of-duty the-reckoning shall-have-allowed
excurrere isto.
to-run-off there
Gaudes quod me venturum esse polliceor, sed contrahes 6.7
you-rejoice that me about-to-come to-be I-promise but you-will-contract
frontem, cum adiecero 'ad paucos dies': neque enim diutius
the-brow when I-shall-have-added for a-few days nor for longer
abesse me eadem haec quae nondum exire patiuntur. Vale.
to-be-away me the-same these-things which not-yet to-go-out allow farewell
C. Plinius Caninio Rufo suo s. 7
Gaius Pliny to-Caninius Rufus his-own greeting
Modo nuntiatus est Silius Italicus in Neapolitano suo 7.1
just-now announced has-been Silius Italicus in Neapolitan-villa his
inedia finisse vitam.
by-starvation to-have-ended life
Causa mortis valetudo. Erat illi natus insanabilis clavus, 7.2
the-cause of-death illness there-was to-him grown an-incurable tumor
cuius taedio ad mortem inrevocabili constantia decucurrit,
of-which from-weariness to death with-irrevocable steadfastness he-ran-down
usque ad supremum diem beatus et felix, nisi quod
right to the-last day blessed and fortunate except that

minorem ex liberis duobus amisit; sed maiorem melioremque
the-younger of children two he-lost but the-elder and-better
florentem atque etiam consularem reliquit.
flourishing and even consular he-left

7.3 Laeserat famam suam sub Nerone, credebatur sponte
he-had-damaged reputation his-own under Nero he-was-believed voluntarily
accusasse; sed in Vitelli amicitia sapienter se et comiter
to-have-accused but in of-Vitellius the-friendship wisely himself and courteously
gesserat, ex proconsulatu Asiae gloriam reportaverat,
he-had-conducted from the-proconsulship of-Asia glory he-had-brought-back
maculam veteris industriae laudabili otio abluerat.
the-stain of-former activity by-praiseworthy leisure he-had-washed-away

7.4 Fuit inter principes civitatis sine potentia, sine invidia:
he-was among the-leaders of-the-state without power without envy
salutabatur, colebatur multumque in lectulo iacens cubiculo
he-was-saluted he-was-courted and-much on his-couch lying in-a-bedroom
semper non ex fortuna frequenti doctissimis sermonibus
always not from fortune crowded with-most-learned conversations
dies transigebat, cum a scribendo vacaret.
the-days he-passed when from writing he-was-free

7.5 Scribebat carmina maiore cura quam ingenio, non numquam
he-wrote poems with-greater care than talent not never
iudicia hominum recitationibus experiebatur.
the-judgments of-men by-recitations he-tested

7.6 Novissime ita suadentibus annis ab urbe secessit seque
finally so advising the-years from the-city he-withdrew and-himself
in Campania tenuit, ac ne adventu quidem novi principis
in Campania kept and not by-the-arrival even of-the-new prince
inde commotus est.
from-there moved was

Magna Caesaris laus sub quo hoc liberum fuit, magna 7.7
great of-Caesar the-praise under whom this free was great
illius, qui hac libertate ausus est uti.
his who this liberty dared has to-use
Erat φιλόκαλος usque ad emacitatis reprehensionem. 7.8
he-was a-lover-of-beauty all-the-way to of-buying-mania reproach
Plures isdem in locis villas possidebat adamatisque
several the-same in places villas he-possessed and-having-fallen-in-love-with
novis priores neglegebat. Multum ubique librorum, multum
new-ones the-earlier he-neglected much everywhere of-books much
statuarum, multum imaginum, quas non habebat modo
of-statues much of-busts which not he-had only
verum etiam venerabatur, Vergili ante omnes, cuius natalem
but also venerated of-Vergil before all whose birthday
religiosius quam suum celebrabat, Neapoli maxime, ubi
more-religiously than his-own he-celebrated at-Naples most where
monimentum eius adire ut templum solebat.
the-tomb his to-visit as a-temple he-used
In hac tranquillitate annum quintum et septuagensimum 7.9
in this tranquility the-year fifth and seventieth
excessit, delicato magis corpore quam infirmo; utque
he-passed with-a-delicate more body than infirm and-as
novissimus a Nerone factus est consul, ita postremus ex
last by Nero made was consul so the-latest of
omnibus quos Nero consules fecerat decessit.
all whom Nero consuls had-made he-died
Illud etiam notabile, ultimus ex Neronianis consularibus obiit 7.10
that also notable the-last of the-Neronian consuls he-died
quo consule Nero periit. Quod me recordantem fragilitatis
in-whose consulship Nero perished which me recalling of-frailty
humanae miseratio subit.
human pity comes-over

7.11 Quid enim tam circumcisum, tam breve quam hominis vita
what for so cut-short so brief as of-man the-life
longissima? An non videtur tibi Nero modo modo fuisse?
longest or not does-he-seem to-you Nero just just to-have-been
Cum interim ex iis qui sub illo gesserant consulatum,
when meanwhile of those who under him had-held the-consulship
nemo iam superest.
no-one now survives

7.12 Quamquam quid hoc miror? Nuper L. Piso, pater
although why this do-I-wonder-at lately Lucius Piso the-father
Pisonis illius qui a Valerio Festo per summum facinus
of-Piso that who by Valerius Festus through the-highest crime
in Africa occisus est, dicere solebat neminem se videre
in Africa killed was to-say used no-one himself to-see
in senatu quem consul ipse sententiam rogavisset.
in the-senate whom consul himself for-his-opinion had-asked

7.13 Tam angustis terminis tantae multitudinis vivacitas ipsa
within-so narrow limits of-so-great a-multitude the-vitality itself
concluditur, ut mihi non venia solum dignae verum etiam
is-enclosed that to-me not of-pardon only worthy but also
laude videantur illae regiae lacrimae. Nam ferunt Xerxen,
of-praise seem those royal tears for they-say Xerxes
cum inmensum exercitum oculis obisset, inlacrimasse,
when the-immense army with-eyes he-had-surveyed to-have-wept
quod tot milibus tam brevis immineret occasus.
because over-so-many thousands so brief would-hang a-setting

7.14 Sed tanto magis hoc quidquid est temporis futilis et caduci,
but so-much more this whatever is of-time fleeting and perishable
si non datur factis (nam horum materia in aliena manu),
if not it-is-given to-deeds for of-these the-material in another's hand

certe studiis proferamus, et quatenus nobis denegatur diu
at-least by-studies let-us-prolong and since to-us is-denied long
vivere, relinquamus aliquid quo nos vixisse testemur.
to-live let-us-leave something by-which us to-have-lived we-may-attest
Scio te stimulis non egere; me tamen tui caritas evocat 7.15
I-know you of-spurs not to-need me yet for-you the-affection calls-out
ut currentem quoque instigem, sicut tu soles me. Ἀγαθὴ
that one-running also I-may-goad as you are-wont me good
δ' ἔρις cum invicem se mutuis exhortationibus amici
and strife when in-turn themselves with-mutual exhortations friends
ad amorem inmortalitatis exacuunt. Vale.
to the-love of-immortality sharpen farewell

III · THE TRIAL OF CLASSICUS

Pliny allows Suetonius to transfer the military tribunate he had obtained for him to a kinsman. He then tells Minicianus at length of the prosecution brought by Baetica against the dead proconsul Classicus and his agents: Pliny's plan to try the accomplices separately, the condemnation of Classicus' estate, and the tangled verdicts on his wife, daughter, and associates.

C. Plinius Suetonio Tranquillo suo s. 8
Gaius Pliny to-Suetonius Tranquillus his-own greeting
Facis pro cetera reverentia, quam mihi praestas, 8.1
you-act in-keeping-with the-rest-of the-respect which to-me you-show
quod tam sollicite petis ut tribunatum, quem a Neratio
that so anxiously you-ask that the-tribunate which from Neratius
Marcello clarissimo viro, impetravi tibi, in Caesennium
Marcellus a-most-distinguished man I-obtained for-you to Caesennius
Silvanum, propinquum tuum, transferam.
Silvanus relative your I-transfer

8.2 Mihi autem sicut iucundissimum ipsum te tribunum ita
to-me moreover as most-pleasant yourself you a-tribune so
non minus gratum alium per te videre. Neque enim esse
no less pleasing another through you to-see nor for to-be
congruens arbitror, quem augere honoribus cupias, huic
consistent I-think whom to-increase with-honors you-may-desire to-him
pietatis titulis invidere, qui sunt omnibus honoribus pulchriores.
of-devotion the-titles to-grudge which are than-all honors more-beautiful
8.3 Video etiam, cum sit egregium et mereri beneficia et
I-see also since it-is outstanding both to-earn kindnesses and
dare, utramque te laudem simul adsecuturum, si quod ipse
to-give both you praise at-once about-to-attain if what yourself
meruisti alii tribuas. Praeterea intellego mihi quoque
you-have-earned to-another you-give besides I-understand to-me also
gloriae fore, si ex hoc tuo facto non fuerit
for-glory to-be-going-to-be if from this your deed not shall-have-been
ignotum amicos meos non gerere tantum tribunatus posse
unknown friends my not to-hold only tribunates to-be-able
verum etiam dare.
but also to-give
8.4 Quare ego vero honestissimae voluntati tuae pareo. Neque
therefore I indeed most-honorable to-wish your I-obey nor
enim adhuc nomen in numeros relatum est, ideoque liberum
for yet the-name into the-rolls entered has-been and-so free
est nobis Silvanum in locum tuum subdere; cui cupio
it-is for-us Silvanus into place your to-substitute to-whom I-desire
tam gratum esse munus tuum, quam tibi meum est. Vale.
as welcome to-be gift your as to-you mine is farewell

C. Plinius Cornelio Miniciano suo s. 9
Gaius Pliny to-Cornelius Minicianus his-own greeting

Possum iam perscribere tibi, quantum in publica provinciae 9.1
I-can now to-write-out to-you how-much in the-public of-the-province
Baeticae causa laboris exhauserim.
Baetica case of-labor I-have-exhausted

Nam fuit multiplex actaque est saepius cum magna 9.2
for it-was manifold and-pleaded it-was more-often with great
varietate. Unde varietas? Unde plures actiones? Caecilius
variety whence the-variety whence several hearings Caecilius
Classicus, homo foedus et aperte malus, proconsulatum in
Classicus a-man foul and openly wicked the-proconsulship in
ea non minus violenter quam sordide gesserat eodem
it no less violently than sordidly had-conducted in-the-same
anno quo in Africa Marius Priscus.
year in-which in Africa Marius Priscus

Erat autem Priscus ex Baetica, ex Africa Classicus. Inde 9.3
he-was moreover Priscus from Baetica from Africa Classicus hence
dictum Baeticorum, ut plerumque dolor etiam venustos facit,
the-saying of-the-Baetici as generally pain even witty makes
non inlepidum ferebatur 'Dedi malum et accepi.'
not inelegant was-going-about I-gave evil and I-got

Sed Marium una civitas publice multique privati reum 9.4
but Marius one city publicly and-many private-persons as-defendant
peregerunt, in Classicum tota provincia incubuit. Ille
prosecuted on Classicus the-whole province fell he
accusationem vel fortuita vel voluntaria morte praevertit.
the-prosecution by-either accidental or voluntary death forestalled

Nam fuit mors eius infamis, ambigua tamen: ut enim
for it-was the-death his infamous doubtful yet as for
credibile videbatur voluisse exire de vita, cum defendi
credible it-seemed to-have-wished to-go-out from life when to-be-defended

non posset, ita mirum pudorem damnationis morte fugisse
not he-could so astonishing the-shame of-condemnation by-death to-have-fled
quem non puduisset damnanda committere.
one-whom not had-shamed things-to-be-condemned to-commit

9.6 Nihilo minus Baetica etiam in defuncti accusatione
nothing less Baetica even in of-the-dead-man the-prosecution
perstabat. Provisum hoc legibus, intermissum tamen et post
persisted provided this by-laws fallen-out-of-use yet and after
longam intercapedinem tunc reductum. Addiderunt Baetici
a-long interval then restored added the-Baetici
quod simul socios ministrosque Classici detulerunt,
that at-the-same-time the-associates and-agents of-Classicus they-indicted
nominatimque in eos inquisitionem postulaverunt.
and-by-name against them an-inquiry they-demanded

9.7 Aderam Baeticis mecumque Lucceius Albinus, vir in
I-was-appearing-for the-Baetici and-with-me Lucceius Albinus a-man in
dicendo copiosus ornatus; quem ego cum olim mutuo
speaking copious ornate whom I when long-since mutually
diligerem, ex hac officii societate amare ardentius coepi.
I-loved from this of-duty partnership to-love more-ardently began

9.8 Habet quidem gloria, in studiis praesertim, quiddam
has indeed glory in studies especially something
ἀκοινώνητον, nobis tamen nullum certamen, nulla contentio,
unshareable for-us yet no contest no rivalry
cum uterque pari iugo non pro se, sed pro causa
since each in-equal yoke not for himself but for the-case
niteretur; cuius et magnitudo et utilitas visa est
was-striving of-which both the-magnitude and the-advantage seemed has
postulare ne tantum oneris singulis actionibus subiremus.
to-require that-not so-much of-burden in-single hearings we-should-undergo

Verebamur ne nos dies, ne vox, ne latera deficerent, si tot 9.9
we-were-afraid lest us the-day lest the-voice lest the-lungs should-fail if so-many
crimina, tot reos uno velut fasce complecteremur; deinde
charges so-many defendants in-one as-it-were bundle we-embraced then
ne iudicum intentio multis nominibus multisque causis non
lest of-the-judges the-attention by-many names and-many cases not
laxaretur modo verum etiam confunderetur; mox ne gratia
be-slackened only but also be-confused then lest the-influence
singulorum collata atque permixta pro singulis quoque
of-individuals brought-together and mingled for individuals also
vires omnium acciperet; postremo ne potentissimi vilissimo
the-strength of-all receive finally lest the-most-powerful the-cheapest
quoque quasi piaculari dato alienis poenis elaberentur.
each as-if a-scapegoat being-given by-others' punishments might-slip-away
Etenim tum maxime favor et ambitio dominatur, cum sub 9.10
for then most favor and canvassing rules when under
aliqua specie severitatis delitescere potest.
some appearance of-severity to-lie-hidden it-can
Erat in consilio Sertorianum illud exemplum, qui 9.11
there-was in our-plan Sertorian that example who
robustissimum et infirmissimum militem iussit caudam
the-strongest and the-weakest soldier ordered the-tail
equi — reliqua nosti. Nam nos quoque tam numerosum
of-a-horse the-rest you-know for we also so numerous
agmen reorum ita demum videbamus posse superari, si
a-column of-defendants so only we-saw to-be-able to-be-overcome if
per singulos carperetur.
through individuals it-were-plucked
Placuit in primis ipsum Classicum ostendere nocentem: hic 9.12
it-was-decided in the-first himself Classicus to-show guilty this
aptissimus ad socios eius et ministros transitus erat, quia
most-suited to associates his and agents the-passage was because

socii ministrique probari nisi illo nocente non poterant.
the-associates and-agents to-be-proved unless he being-guilty not could
Ex quibus duos statim Classico iunximus, Baebium Probum et
of whom two at-once to-Classicus we-joined Baebius Probus and
Fabium Hispanum, utrumque gratia, Hispanum etiam facundia
Fabius Hispanus each by-influence Hispanus also in-eloquence
validum. Et circa Classicum quidem brevis et expeditus labor.
strong and about Classicus indeed brief and easy the-labor
9.13 Sua manu reliquerat scriptum, quid ex quaque re,
with-his-own hand he-had-left written what from each matter
quid ex quaque causa accepisset: miserat etiam epistulas
what from each case he-had-received he-had-sent also letters
Romam ad amiculam quandam iactantes et gloriosas, his
to-Rome to a-little-mistress certain boastful and vainglorious with-these
quidem verbis: 'io io, liber ad te venio; iam sestertium
indeed words hurrah hurrah free to you I-come already of-sesterces
quadragiens redegi parte vendita Baeticorum.'
four-million I-have-raised with-a-part sold of-the-Baetici
9.14 Circa Hispanum et Probum multum sudoris. Horum ante
about Hispanus and Probus much of-sweat of-these before
quam crimina ingrederer, necessarium credidi elaborare ut
that the-charges I-entered necessary I-believed to-work-out that
constaret ministerium crimen esse: quod nisi effecissem,
it-be-agreed the-agency a-crime to-be which unless I-had-achieved
frustra ministros probassem.
in-vain the-agents I-would-have-proved
9.15 Neque enim ita defendebantur ut negarent, sed ut
nor for so they-were-being-defended that they-denied but that
necessitati veniam precarentur: esse enim se provinciales
for-necessity pardon they-begged to-be for themselves provincials
et ad omne proconsulum imperium metu cogi.
and to every of-proconsuls command by-fear to-be-compelled

Solet dicere Claudius Restitutus, qui mihi respondit, vir 9.16
is-wont to-say Claudius Restitutus who to-me replied a-man
exercitatus et vigilans et quamlibet subitis paratus,
practiced and alert and for-however sudden-things ready
numquam sibi tantum caliginis, tantum perturbationis
never on-himself so-much of-darkness so-much of-confusion
offusum, quam cum praerepta et extorta defensioni
to-have-been-poured as when snatched-away and wrested from-defense
suae cerneret, in quibus omnem fiduciam reponebat.
his-own he-saw-things in which all confidence he-was-placing
Consilii nostri exitus fuit: bona Classici quae habuisset 9.17
of-plan our the-outcome was the-goods of-Classicus which he-had-had
ante provinciam placuit senatui a reliquis separari, illa
before the-province it-pleased the-senate from the-rest to-be-separated those
filiae haec spoliatis relinqui. Additum est ut pecuniae
to-the-daughter these to-the-despoiled to-be-left added was that the-moneys
quas creditoribus solverat revocarentur. Hispanus et Probus
which to-creditors he-had-paid be-recalled Hispanus and Probus
in quinquennium relegati. Adeo grave visum est quod initio
for five-years banished so heavy seemed was what at-first
dubitabatur an omnino crimen esset.
was-doubted whether at-all a-crime it-was
Post paucos dies Claudium Fuscum, Classici generum, et 9.18
after a-few days Claudius Fuscus of-Classicus son-in-law and
Stilonium Priscum, qui tribunus cohortis sub Classico fuerat,
Stilonius Priscus who tribune of-a-cohort under Classicus had-been
accusavimus dispari eventu: Prisco in biennium Italia
we-prosecuted with-unequal outcome to-Priscus for two-years Italy
interdictum, absolutus est Fuscus.
was-banned acquitted was Fuscus

9.19 Actione tertia commodissimum putavimus plures congregare,
in-the-hearing third most-convenient we-thought several to-group-together
ne si longius esset extracta cognitio, satietate et taedio
lest if longer were drawn-out the-inquiry by-surfeit and weariness
quodam iustitia cognoscentium severitasque languesceret; et
a-certain the-justice of-the-judges and-severity should-flag and
alioqui supererant minores rei data opera hunc in locum
besides there-remained lesser defendants given with-effort for this place
reservati, excepta tamen Classici uxore, quae sicut inplicita
reserved excepted yet of-Classicus the-wife who as entangled
suspicionibus ita non satis convinci probationibus visa est.
in-suspicions so not enough to-be-convicted by-proofs seemed has
9.20 Nam Classici filia, quae et ipsa inter reos erat,
for of-Classicus the-daughter who also herself among the-defendants was
ne suspicionibus quidem haerebat. Itaque cum ad nomen
not to-suspicions even stuck and-so when to the-name
eius in extrema actione venissem, (neque enim ut initio
her in the-final hearing I-had-come nor for as at-the-start
sic etiam in fine verendum erat ne per hoc totius
so also at the-end to-be-feared it-was lest through this of-the-whole
accusationis auctoritas minueretur) honestissimum credidi non
prosecution the-authority be-lessened most-honorable I-believed not
premere immerentem, idque ipsum dixi et libere et varie.
to-press-on an-undeserving-girl and-that very-thing I-said both freely and variously
9.21 Nam modo legatos interrogabam, docuissentne me
for now the-envoys I-was-asking whether-they-had-informed me
aliquid quod re probari posse confiderent; modo consilium
something which in-fact to-be-proved could they-trusted now advice
a senatu petebam, putaretne debere me, siquam
from the-senate I-sought whether-it-thought to-be-obliged me if-any
haberem in dicendo facultatem, in iugulum innocentis quasi
I-had in speaking ability at the-throat of-an-innocent as-if

telum aliquod intendere; postremo totum locum hoc fine
a-weapon some to-aim finally the-whole topic with-this end
conclusi, 'dicet aliquis iudicas ergo? Ego vero non iudico,
I-concluded will-say someone do-you-judge then I indeed not judge
memini tamen me advocatum ex iudicibus datum.'
I-remember yet me as-an-advocate from the-judges to-have-been-given
Hic numerosissimae causae terminus fuit, quibusdam absolutis, 9.22
this of-the-most-numerous case the-end was some acquitted
pluribus damnatis atque etiam relegatis, aliis in tempus aliis
more condemned and even banished some for a-time some
in perpetuum.
for ever
Eodem senatus consulto industria fides constantia nostra 9.23
by-the-same of-the-senate decree the-diligence the-loyalty the-steadfastness our
plenissimo testimonio comprobata est, dignum solumque par
by-fullest testimony approved was a-worthy and-only equal
pretium tanti laboris.
reward of-so-great labor
Concipere animo potes quam simus fatigati, quibus totiens 9.24
to-conceive in-mind you-can how we-are wearied by-whom so-often
agendum, totiens altercandum, tam multi testes interrogandi
to-be-pleaded so-often to-be-wrangled so many witnesses to-be-questioned
sublevandi refutandi.
to-be-supported to-be-refuted
Iam illa quam ardua, quam molesta, tot reorum 9.25
then those-things how hard how irksome of-so-many defendants
amicis secreto rogantibus negare, adversantibus palam obsistere!
to-friends secretly asking to-refuse opposing openly to-resist
Referam unum aliquid ex iis quae dixi. Cum mihi quidam
I-shall-report one something of those which I-said when to-me certain-ones

e iudicibus ipsis pro reo gratiosissimo reclamarent, 'non
of the-judges themselves for a-defendant most-favored protested not
minus' inquam 'hic innocens erit, si ego omnia dixero.'
less I-said this-man innocent will-be if I all-things shall-have-said
9.26 Coniectabis ex hoc quantas contentiones, quantas etiam
you-will-conjecture from this how-great struggles how-great also
offensas subierimus, dumtaxat ad breve tempus: nam fides
offenses we-underwent only for a-brief time for loyalty
in praesentia eos quibus resistit offendit, deinde ab illis
at present those whom it-resists offends then by them
ipsis suspicitur laudaturque. Non potui magis te in rem
themselves is-looked-up-to and-is-praised not I-could more you into the-thing
praesentem perducere.
present bring
9.27 Dices 'Non fuit tanti: quid enim mihi cum tam longa
you-will-say not it-was of-such-worth what for to-me with so long
epistula?' Nolito ergo identidem quaerere quid Romae geratur.
a-letter do-not therefore repeatedly ask what at-Rome is-done
Et tamen memento non esse epistulam longam quae tot dies,
and yet remember not to-be a-letter long which so-many days
tot cognitiones, tot denique reos causasque complexa sit.
so-many inquiries so-many finally defendants and-cases embraced has
9.28 Quae omnia videor mihi non minus breviter quam diligenter
which all I-seem to-myself no less briefly than carefully
persecutus. Temere dixi 'diligenter': succurrit quod
to-have-followed-up rashly I-said carefully comes-to-mind what
praeterieram, et quidem sero; sed quamquam praepostere,
I-had-passed-over and indeed late but although out-of-order
reddetur. Facit hoc Homerus multique illius exemplo; est
it-will-be-rendered does this Homer and-many by-his example it-is
alioqui perdecorum, a me tamen non ideo fiet.
besides very-graceful by me yet not on-that-account it-will-be-done

E testibus quidam sive iratus, quod evocatus esset invitus, 9.29
of the-witnesses one either angered because summoned he-had-been unwilling
sive subornatus ab aliquo reorum, ut accusationem
or suborned by one of-the-defendants that the-prosecution
exarmaret, Norbanum Licinianum, legatum et inquisitorem,
he-might-disarm Norbanus Licinianus envoy and investigator
reum postulavit, tamquam in causa Castae (uxor haec
as-defendant indicted as-though in the-case of-Casta wife she
Classici) praevaricaretur.
of-Classicus he-were-colluding
Est lege cautum ut reus ante peragatur, tunc de 9.30
it-is by-law provided that the-defendant first be-tried then about
praevaricatore quaeratur, videlicet quia optime ex accusatione
the-colluder be-inquired evidently because best from the-prosecution
ipsa accusatoris fides aestimatur.
itself of-the-prosecutor the-good-faith is-estimated
Norbano tamen non ordo legis, non legati nomen, non 9.31
to-Norbanus yet not the-order of-the-law not of-envoy the-name not
inquisitionis officium praesidio fuit: tanta conflagravit invidia
of-investigation the-office for-protection was with-such flared-up ill-will
homo alioqui flagitiosus et Domitiani temporibus usus,
a-man otherwise disgraceful and of-Domitian in-the-times having-made-use
ut multi, electusque tunc a provincia ad inquirendum non
as many and-chosen then by the-province for investigating not
tamquam bonus et fidelis, sed tamquam Classici inimicus.
as good and faithful but as of-Classicus an-enemy
Erat ab illo relegatus.
he-had-been by him banished
Dari sibi diem et edi crimina postulabat: 9.32
to-be-given to-himself a-day and to-be-published the-charges he-demanded
neutrum impetravit, coactus est statim respondere; respondit,
neither he-obtained forced he-was at-once to-answer he-answered

malum pravumque ingenium hominis facit ut dubitem
bad and-perverse the-nature of-the-man makes that I-doubt
confidenter an constanter, certe paratissime.
boldly or steadfastly certainly most-readily

9.33 Obiecta sunt multa quae magis quam praevaricatio
brought-against-him were many-things which more than the-collusion
nocuerunt; quin etiam duo consulares, Pomponius Rufus et
harmed nay even two ex-consuls Pomponius Rufus and
Libo Frugi, laeserunt eum testimonio, tamquam apud iudicem
Libo Frugi wounded him with-testimony as-though before the-judge
sub Domitiano Salvi Liberalis accusatoribus adfuisset.
under Domitian of-Salvius Liberalis the-accusers he-had-supported

9.34 Damnatus et in insulam relegatus est. Itaque cum Castam
condemned and to an-island banished he-was and-so when Casta
accusarem, nihil magis pressi, quam quod accusator eius
I-was-prosecuting nothing more I-pressed than that the-prosecutor her
praevaricationis crimine corruisset. Pressi tamen frustra:
of-collusion on-the-charge had-fallen I-pressed yet in-vain
accidit enim res contraria et nova, ut accusatore
happened for a-thing contrary and new that the-prosecutor
praevaricationis damnato rea absolveretur.
of-collusion condemned the-defendant was-acquitted

9.35 Quaeris quid nos, dum haec aguntur? Indicavimus senatui
you-ask what we-did while these-things were-done we-pointed-out to-the-senate
ex Norbano didicisse nos publicam causam rursusque
from Norbanus to-have-learned us the-public case and-again
debere ex integro discere, si ille praevaricator probaretur,
to-be-obliged from the-start to-learn-it if he a-colluder were-proved
atque ita, dum ille peragitur reus, sedimus: postea
and so while he was-tried as-defendant we-sat afterward

Norbanus omnibus diebus cognitionis interfuit eandemque
Norbanus on-all days of-the-inquiry was-present and-the-same
usque ad extremum vel constantiam vel audaciam pertulit.
right to the-end either steadfastness or audacity bore
Interrogo ipse me an aliquid omiserim rursus, et rursus 9.36
I-ask myself me whether something I-have-omitted again and again
paene omisi. Summo die Salvius Liberalis reliquos legatos
almost I-omitted on-the-last day Salvius Liberalis the-remaining envoys
graviter increpuit, tamquam non omnes quos mandasset
heavily rebuked as-though not all whom had-commissioned
provincia reos peregissent, atque, ut est vehemens
the-province defendants they-had-prosecuted and as he-is vehement
et disertus, in discrimen adduxit. Protexi viros optimos
and eloquent into danger he-brought I-protected men excellent
eosdemque gratissimos: mihi certe debere se praedicant
and-the-same most-grateful to-me certainly to-owe themselves they-proclaim
quod illum turbinem evaserint.
that that whirlwind they-escaped
Hic erit epistulae finis, re vera finis; litteram non 9.37
this will-be of-the-letter the-end in-thing true the-end a-letter not
addam, etiamsi adhuc aliquid praeterisse me sensero.
I-shall-add even-if still something to-have-passed-over me I-shall-perceive
Vale.
farewell

Pliny writes to Spurinna and Cottia about his book on their dead son, recalls to Genitor how he lent money to the philosopher Artemidorus when philosophers were banished, sets terms for Catilius Severus' dinner invitation, sends Voconius Romanus his speech of thanks to the emperor, reports how Larcius Macedo was beaten by his slaves in his bath and died, and judges Silius Proculus' poems.

10 C. Plinius Vestricio Spurinnae suo et Cottiae s.
Gaius Pliny to-Vestricius Spurinna his-own and to-Cottia greeting

10.1 Composuisse me quaedam de filio vestro non dixi vobis, cum
to-have-composed me certain-things about son your not I-told you when
proxime apud vos fui, primum quia non ideo scripseram,
lately with you I-was first because not for-this-reason I-had-written
ut dicerem, sed ut meo amori, meo dolori satisfacerem; deinde
that I-might-tell but that my love my grief I-might-satisfy then
quia te, Spurinna, cum audisses recitasse me, ut mihi
because you Spurinna when you-had-heard to-have-recited me as to-me
ipse dixisti, quid recitassem simul audisse credebam.
yourself you-said what I-had-recited at-the-same-time to-have-heard I-believed

10.2 Praeterea veritus sum ne vos festis diebus confunderem, si
besides feared I-have lest you on-festal days I-should-upset if
in memoriam gravissimi luctus reduxissem. Nunc quoque
into the-memory of-heaviest grief I-had-brought-you-back now also
paulisper haesitavi, id solum quod recitavi mitterem
for-a-little-while I-hesitated that only which I-recited I-should-send
exigentibus vobis, an adicerem quae in aliud volumen cogito
at-the-demand-of you or I-should-add what for another volume I-think
reservare.
to-keep-back

Neque enim adfectibus meis uno libello carissimam mihi 10.3
nor for to-feelings my in-one little-book the-dearest to-me
et sanctissimam memoriam prosequi satis est, cuius famae
and most-sacred memory to-honor enough is whose fame
latius consuletur, si dispensata et digesta fuerit.
more-widely will-be-provided-for if distributed and arranged it-shall-have-been
Verum haesitanti mihi, omnia quae iam composui vobis 10.4
but hesitating to-me all-things which already I-have-composed to-you
exhiberem, an adhuc aliqua differrem, simplicius et amicius
I-should-show or still some I-should-put-off simpler and friendlier
visum est omnia, praecipue cum adfirmetis intra vos
seemed it-has all-things especially since you-assure within yourselves
futura, donec placeat emittere.
to-be-going-to-be until it-please to-send-out
Quod superest, rogo ut pari simplicitate, siqua 10.5
what remains I-ask that with-equal frankness if-any-things
existimabitis addenda commutanda omittenda, indicetis mihi.
you-shall-judge to-be-added to-be-changed to-be-omitted you-indicate to-me
Difficile est hucusque intendere animum in dolore; difficile: 10.6
difficult it-is so-far to-strain the-mind in grief difficult
sed tamen ut scalptorem, ut pictorem, qui filii vestri
but yet as a-sculptor as a-painter who of-son your
imaginem faceret, admoneretis quid exprimere, quid emendare
a-likeness was-making you-would-advise what to-express what to-correct
deberet, ita me quoque formate, regite, qui non fragilem et
he-ought so me also shape guide who not a-fragile and
caducam, sed immortalem, ut vos putatis, effigiem conor
perishable but immortal as you think likeness am-trying
efficere; quae hoc diuturnior erit, quo verior melior
to-achieve which by-this more-lasting will-be by-which truer better
absolutior fuerit. Valete.
more-finished it-shall-have-been farewell

11 C. Plinius Iulio Genitori suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Julius Genitor his-own greeting

11.1 Est omnino Artemidori nostri tam benigna natura, ut
it-is altogether of-Artemidorus our so kindly a-nature that
officia amicorum in maius extollat: inde etiam meum
the-services of-friends into greater he-exalts hence also my
meritum ut vera ita supra meritum praedicatione circumfert.
merit as true so beyond merit with-praise he-spreads-about

11.2 Equidem, cum essent philosophi ab urbe summoti, fui apud
for-my-part when were the-philosophers from the-city expelled I-was with
illum in suburbano, et quo notabilius, hoc est periculosius,
him in his-suburban-villa and that more-noteworthy that is more-dangerous
esset, fui praetor. Pecuniam etiam, qua tunc illi ampliore
it-might-be I-was praetor money also which then to-him larger
opus erat, ut aes alienum exsolveret contractum ex
need there-was that money owed he-might-pay-off contracted from
pulcherrimis causis, mussantibus magnis quibusdam et
most-honorable causes muttering great some and
locupletibus amicis mutuatus ipse gratuitam dedi.
rich friends having-borrowed myself free-of-interest I-gave

11.3 Atque haec feci, cum septem amicis meis aut occisis aut
and these-things I-did when seven friends my either killed or
relegatis, occisis Senecione Rustico Helvidio, relegatis Maurico
banished killed Senecio Rusticus Helvidius banished Mauricus
Gratilla Arria Fannia, tot circa me iactis fulminibus quasi
Gratilla Arria Fannia so-many around me hurled thunderbolts as-if
ambustus mihi quoque inpendere idem exitium certis
scorched to-me also to-hang-over the-same destruction by-certain
quibusdam notis augurarer.
some signs I-foretold

Non ideo tamen eximiam gloriam meruisse me, ut 11.4
not for-this-reason yet exceptional glory to-have-earned me as
ille praedicat, credo, sed tantum effugisse flagitium.
he proclaims I-believe but only to-have-escaped disgrace
Nam et C. Musonium, socerum eius, quantum licitum 11.5
for both Gaius Musonius father-in-law his as-far-as permitted
est per aetatem, cum admiratione dilexi et Artemidorum
it-was through age with admiration I-loved and Artemidorus
ipsum iam tum, cum in Syria tribunus militarem, arta
himself already then when in Syria as-tribune I-was-serving with-close
familiaritate complexus sum, idque primum non nullius
intimacy embraced I-have and-this first not of-none
indolis dedi specimen, quod virum aut sapientem aut
character I-gave as-a-proof that a-man either wise or
proximum simillimumque sapienti intellegere sum visus.
the-nearest and-most-like to-a-wise-man to-recognize I-have seemed
Nam ex omnibus qui nunc se philosophos vocant vix 11.6
for of all who now themselves philosophers call scarcely
unum aut alterum invenies tanta sinceritate, tanta veritate.
one or a-second you-will-find of-such sincerity of-such truthfulness
Mitto qua patientia corporis hiemes iuxta et aestates
I-pass-over with-what endurance of-body winters alike and summers
ferat, ut nullis laboribus cedat, ut nihil in cibo, in potu
he-bears how to-no labors he-yields how nothing in food in drink
voluptatibus tribuat, ut oculos animumque contineat.
to-pleasures he-allows how eyes and-mind he-restrains
Sunt haec magna, sed in alio; in hoc vero minima, 11.7
are these-things great but in another in this-man indeed very-small
si ceteris virtutibus comparentur, quibus meruit ut a
if to-the-other virtues they-be-compared by-which he-earned that by

C. Musonio ex omnibus omnium ordinum adsectatoribus
Gaius Musonius from all of-all ranks followers
gener adsumeretur.
as-son-in-law he-was-taken

11.8 Quae mihi recordanti est quidem iucundum quod me cum
which to-me recalling is indeed pleasant that me both
apud alios tum apud te tantis laudibus cumulat; vereor
among others and among you with-such praises he-heaps I-fear
tamen ne modum excedat, quem benignitas eius (illuc enim
yet lest the-measure he-exceed which the-kindness his thither for
unde coepi revertor) solet non tenere.
whence I-began I-return is-wont not to-keep

11.9 Nam in hoc uno interdum vir alioqui prudentissimus
for in this one-thing sometimes a-man otherwise most-prudent
honesto quidem sed tamen errore versatur, quod pluris
in-an-honorable indeed but yet error is-involved that of-more-worth
amicos suos quam sunt arbitratur. Vale.
friends his-own than they-are he-judges farewell

12 C. Plinius Catilio Severo suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Catilius Severus his-own greeting

12.1 Veniam ad cenam: sed iam nunc paciscor sit expedita
I-shall-come to dinner but already now I-stipulate let-it-be simple
sit parca, Socraticis tantum sermonibus abundet, in his
let-it-be frugal with-Socratic only conversations let-it-abound in these
quoque teneat modum.
also let-it-keep measure

12.2 Erunt officia antelucana, in quae incidere inpune ne
there-will-be duties before-dawn into which to-fall-in with-impunity not
Catoni quidem licuit, quem tamen C. Caesar ita
to-Cato even was-it-allowed whom yet Gaius Caesar so
reprehendit, ut laudet.
reproaches that he-praises

Describit enim eos quibus obvius fuerit, cum 12.3
he-describes for those to-whom in-the-way he-had-been when
caput ebrii retexissent, erubuisse: deinde adicit
the-head of-the-drunkard they-had-uncovered to-have-blushed then he-adds
'putares non ab illis Catonem, sed illos a Catone
you-would-have-thought not by them Cato but them by Cato
deprehensos.' Potuitne plus auctoritatis tribui Catoni, quam
caught could more of-authority be-given to-Cato than
si ebrius quoque tam venerabilis erat?
if drunk also so venerable he-was
Nostrae tamen cenae ut apparatus et inpendii, sic temporis 12.4
of-our yet dinner as of-preparation and of-expense so of-time
modus constet. Neque enim ii sumus quos vituperare
let-the-measure be-fixed nor for those are-we whom to-censure
ne inimici quidem possint, nisi ut simul laudent. Vale.
not enemies even could except so-that at-once they-praise farewell

C. Plinius Voconio Romano suo s. 13
Gaius Pliny to-Voconius Romanus his-own greeting

Librum quo nuper optimo principi consul gratias egi 13.1
the-book in-which lately to-the-best prince as-consul thanks I-gave
misi exigenti tibi, missurus, etsi non exegisses.
I-have-sent demanding to-you about-to-send even-if not you-had-demanded
In hoc consideres velim ut pulchritudinem materiae 13.2
in this you-would-consider I-should-like as the-beauty of-the-material
ita difficultatem. In ceteris enim lectorem novitas ipsa
so the-difficulty in the-other for the-reader novelty itself
intentum habet, in hac nota vulgata dicta sunt omnia; quo
attentive keeps in this known common said are all-things whence
fit ut quasi otiosus securusque lector tantum elocutioni
it-comes that as-if idle and-unconcerned the-reader only to-the-style
vacet, in qua satisfacere difficilius est, cum sola aestimatur.
gives-time in which to-satisfy more-difficult is when alone it-is-judged

13.3 Atque utinam ordo saltem et transitus et figurae simul
and would-that the-order at-least and the-transitions and the-figures together
spectarentur! Nam invenire praeclare, enuntiare magnifice
were-looked-at for to-invent splendidly to-express magnificently
interdum etiam barbari solent, disponere apte, figurare varie
sometimes even barbarians are-wont to-arrange aptly to-figure variously
nisi eruditis negatum est.
except to-the-learned denied is

13.4 Nec vero adfectanda sunt semper elata et excelsa. Nam ut
nor indeed to-be-striven-for are always lofty-things and elevated for as
in pictura lumen non alia res magis quam umbra commendat,
in painting light not other thing more than shade commends
ita orationem tam summittere quam attollere decet.
so speech as-much to-lower as to-raise befits

13.5 Sed quid ego haec doctissimo viro? Quin potius illud:
but why I these-things to-a-most-learned man why-not rather this
adnota quae putaveris corrigenda. Ita enim magis credam
note what you-shall-have-thought to-be-corrected so for more I-shall-believe
cetera tibi placere, si quaedam displicuisse cognovero. Vale.
the-rest to-you to-please if some to-have-displeased I-shall-have-learned farewell

14 C. Plinius Acilio suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Acilius his-own greeting

14.1 Rem atrocem nec tantum epistula dignam Larcius Macedo
a-thing atrocious and-not only of-a-letter worthy Larcius Macedo
vir praetorius, a servis suis passus est, superbus
a-man of-praetorian-rank from slaves his-own suffered has proud
alioqui dominus et saevus et qui servisse patrem
otherwise a-master and cruel and one-who to-have-been-a-slave father
suum parum, immo nimium meminisset.
his-own too-little nay too-much remembered

Lavabatur in villa Formiana: repente eum servi 14.2
he-was-bathing in his-villa Formian suddenly him the-slaves
circumsistunt: alius fauces invadit, alius os verberat, alius
surround one the-throat seizes another the-face beats another
pectus et ventrem atque etiam, foedum dictu, verenda
the-chest and the-belly and even foul to-say the-private-parts
contundit; et cum exanimem putarent, abiciunt in
pounds and when lifeless they-thought-him they-throw-him onto
fervens pavimentum, ut experirentur an viveret. Ille sive
the-boiling pavement that they-might-test whether he-lived he either
quia non sentiebat, sive quia se non sentire simulabat,
because not he-felt or because himself not to-feel he-pretended
immobilis et extentus fidem peractae mortis implevit.
motionless and stretched-out the-belief of-accomplished death fulfilled
Tum demum quasi aestu solutus effertur; excipiunt servi 14.3
then only as-if by-the-heat overcome he-is-carried-out receive-him the-slaves
fideliores, concubinae cum ululatu et clamore concurrunt. Ita et
more-faithful the-concubines with wailing and shouting run-together so both
vocibus excitatus et recreatus loci frigore sublatis oculis
by-the-voices roused and refreshed of-the-place by-the-coolness raised his-eyes
agitatoque corpore vivere se, et iam tutum erat, confitetur.
and-moved his-body to-be-alive himself and now safe it-was he-admits
Diffugiunt servi; quorum magna pars conprehensa est, 14.4
scatter the-slaves of-whom a-great part caught has-been
ceteri requiruntur. Ipse paucis diebus aegre focilatus non
the-rest are-sought he-himself in-a-few days hardly kept-alive not
sine ultionis solacio decessit, ita vivus vindicatus, ut
without of-vengeance the-comfort died so alive avenged as
occisi solent.
the-murdered are-wont

14.5 Vides quot periculis, quot contumeliis, quot ludibriis
you-see to-how-many dangers how-many insults how-many mockeries
simus obnoxii; nec est quod quisquam possit esse
we-are exposed nor is-there-reason why anyone could be
securus, quia sit remissus et mitis: non enim iudicio
secure because he-is lenient and mild not for by-the-judgment
domini, sed scelere perimuntur.
of-masters but by-crime they-are-killed

14.6 Verum haec hactenus. Quid praeterea novi? Quid? Nihil;
but these-things so-far what besides new what nothing
alioqui subiungerem: nam et charta adhuc superest, et dies
otherwise I-would-add for both paper still remains and the-day
feriatus patitur plura contexi. Addam quod opportune de
festal allows more to-be-woven I-shall-add what opportunely about
eodem Macedone succurrit. Cum in publico Romae lavaretur,
the-same Macedo occurs when in public at-Rome he-was-bathing
notabilis atque etiam, ut exitus docuit, ominosa res accidit.
notable and even as the-outcome showed ominous a-thing happened

14.7 Eques Romanus a servo eius ut transitum daret
a-knight Roman by a-slave his that passage he-should-give
manu leviter admonitus convertit se nec servum, a
with-a-hand lightly warned turned himself and-not the-slave by
quo erat tactus, sed ipsum Macedonem tam graviter
whom he-had-been touched but Macedo himself so heavily
palma percussit, ut paene concideret.
with-the-palm struck that almost he-collapsed

14.8 Ita balineum illi quasi per gradus quosdam primum
so the-bath for-him as-if by steps certain first
contumeliae locus, deinde exitii fuit. Vale.
of-insult the-place then of-death was farewell

C. Plinius Silio Proculo suo s. 15

Gaius Pliny to-Silius Proculus his-own greeting

Petis ut libellos tuos in secessu legam, examinem an 15.1

you-ask that little-books your in retreat I-read I-examine whether

editione sint digni; adhibes preces, adlegas exemplum:

of-publication they-are worthy you-apply prayers you-cite a-precedent

rogas enim, ut aliquid subsicivi temporis studiis meis

you-ask for that some of-spare time from-studies my

subtraham, inpertiam tuis, adicis M. Tullium mira

I-take I-impart to-yours you-add Marcus Tullius with-wonderful

benignitate poetarum ingenia fovisse.

kindness of-poets the-talents to-have-fostered

Sed ego nec rogandus sum nec hortandus: nam et poeticen 15.2

but I neither to-be-asked am nor to-be-urged for both poetry

ipsam religiosissime veneror et te validissime diligo. Faciam

itself most-religiously I-revere and you most-strongly I-love I-shall-do

ergo quod desideras tam diligenter quam libenter.

therefore what you-desire as carefully as gladly

Videor autem iam nunc posse rescribere esse opus 15.3

I-seem moreover already now to-be-able to-write-back to-be the-work

pulchrum nec supprimendum, quantum aestimare licuit

beautiful and-not to-be-suppressed as-far-as to-judge it-was-possible

ex iis quae me praesente recitasti, si modo mihi non

from those-things which me present you-recited if only me not

inposuit recitatio tua: legis enim suavissime et peritissime.

has-deceived recitation your you-read for most-sweetly and most-skillfully

Confido tamen me non sic auribus duci, ut omnes 15.4

I-trust yet me not so by-the-ears to-be-led that all

aculei iudicii mei illarum delenimentis refringantur:

the-stings of-judgment my by-their blandishments be-broken

hebetentur fortasse et paulum retundantur, evelli
they-may-be-blunted perhaps and a-little be-dulled to-be-pulled-out
quidem extorquerique non possunt.
indeed and-to-be-wrenched not they-can
15.5 Igitur non temere iam nunc de universitate pronuntio,
therefore not rashly already now about the-whole I-pronounce
de partibus experiar legendo. Vale.
about the-parts I-shall-test by-reading farewell

V · ARRIA AND THE PANEGYRIC

Pliny tells Nepos the less famous deeds of Arria, who hid her son's death from her sick husband, followed him to Rome in a fishing boat, and dashed her head against a wall to show she would not be kept from death, deeds he sets beside her famous dagger and "Paetus, it does not hurt." He frets to Julius Servianus at a silence, tells Vibius Severus how he expanded his consular speech of thanks to the emperor and recited it over three days, and asks Calvisius Rufus whether he should buy the neighboring estate.

16 C. Plinius Nepoti suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Nepos his-own greeting
16.1 Adnotasse videor facta dictaque virorum feminarumque alia
to-have-noted I-seem the-deeds and-sayings of-men and-of-women some
clariora esse alia maiora. Confirmata est opinio mea hesterno
more-famous to-be others greater confirmed was opinion my by-yesterday's
Fanniae sermone. Neptis haec Arriae illius quae marito et
of-Fannia conversation granddaughter she of-Arria that who to-her-husband both
solacium mortis et exemplum fuit. Multa referebat aviae
the-comfort of-death and the-example was many-things she-related of-grandmother

suae non minora hoc, sed obscuriora; quae tibi existimo
her-own not lesser than-this but more-obscure which to-you I-think
tam mirabilia legenti fore, quam mihi audienti fuerunt.
as wonderful reading to-be-going-to-be as to-me hearing they-were
Aegrotabat Caecina Paetus, maritus eius, aegrotabat et filius, 16.3
was-sick Caecina Paetus husband her was-sick also the-son
uterque mortifere, ut videbatur: filius decessit eximia
each mortally as it-seemed the-son died of-exceptional
pulchritudine, pari verecundia, et parentibus non minus
beauty of-equal modesty and to-his-parents no less
ob alia carus, quam quod filius erat. Huic illa ita
on-account-of other-reasons dear than because son he-was for-him she so
funus paravit, ita duxit exequias, ut ignoraret maritus: quin
the-funeral prepared so conducted the-obsequies that was-unaware the-husband nay
immo quotiens cubiculum eius intraret, vivere filium atque
rather whenever the-bedroom his she-entered to-be-alive the-son and
etiam commodiorem esse simulabat ac persaepe interroganti
even better to-be she-pretended and very-often to-him-asking
quid ageret puer respondebat 'Bene quievit, libenter cibum
what was-doing the-boy she-answered well he-has-rested gladly food
sumpsit.' Deinde, cum diu cohibitae lacrimae vincerent
he-has-taken then when long restrained tears were-overcoming
prorumperentque, egrediebatur: tunc se dolori dabat: satiata
and-bursting-forth she-went-out then herself to-grief she-gave sated
siccis oculis composito vultu redibat, tamquam orbitatem
with-dry eyes with-composed face she-returned as-if bereavement
foris reliquisset. Praeclarum quidem illud eiusdem, ferrum
outside she-had-left splendid indeed that of-the-same-woman the-steel
stringere, perfodere pectus, extrahere pugionem, porrigere
to-draw to-pierce the-breast to-draw-out the-dagger to-hold-out
marito, addere vocem immortalem ac paene divinam
to-her-husband to-add a-saying immortal and almost divine

‘Paete, non dolet.’ Sed tamen ista facienti, ista
Paetus not it-hurts but yet those-things to-her-doing those-things
dicenti gloria et aeternitas ante oculos erant: quo maius
to-her-saying glory and eternity before eyes were by-which greater
est sine praemio aeternitatis, sine praemio gloriae abdere
is-it without the-reward of-eternity without the-reward of-glory to-hide
lacrimas, operire luctum, amissoque filio matrem adhuc agere.
tears to-cover mourning and-lost son the-mother still to-play
16.7 Scribonianus arma in Illyrico contra Claudium moverat: fuerat
Scribonianus arms in Illyricum against Claudius had-taken-up had-been
Paetus in partibus et occiso Scriboniano Romam trahebatur.
Paetus on his-side and with-killed Scribonianus to-Rome was-being-dragged
Erat ascensurus navem: Arria milites orabat ut simul
he-was about-to-board ship Arria the-soldiers begged that together
inponeretur. ‘Nempe enim’ inquit ‘daturi estis consulari viro
she-be-put-aboard surely for she-said about-to-give you-are to-a-consular man
servulos aliquos, quorum e manu cibum capiat, a quibus
slave-boys some whose out-of hand food he-may-take by whom
vestiatur, a quibus calcietur; omnia sola praestabo.’ Non
he-may-be-dressed by whom he-may-be-shod all-things alone I-shall-perform not
impetravit: conduxit piscatoriam nauculam ingensque navigium
she-obtained-it she-hired a-fishing little-boat and-the-huge ship
minimo secuta est. Eadem apud Claudium uxori
in-the-tiniest followed she-has the-same-woman before Claudius to-the-wife
Scriboniani, cum illa profiteretur indicium, ‘Ego’ inquit ‘te
of-Scribonianus when she was-offering evidence I she-said you
audiam, cuius in gremio Scribonianus occisus est, et vivis?’
shall-hear in-whose in lap Scribonianus killed was and you-live
Ex quo manifestum est ei consilium pulcherrimae mortis
from which clear it-is to-her the-plan of-a-most-glorious death
non subitum fuisse. Quin etiam, cum Thrasea, gener eius,
not sudden to-have-been nay even when Thrasea son-in-law her

deprecaretur ne mori pergeret interque alia dixisset
was-entreating that-not to-die she-should-persist and-among other-things had-said
'Vis ergo filiam tuam, si mihi pereundum fuerit,
do-you-wish then daughter your if for-me to-be-perished it-shall-have-been
mori mecum?', respondit 'Si tam diu tantaque concordia
to-die with-me she-answered if so long and-in-so-great harmony
vixerit tecum, quam ego cum Paeto, volo.' Auxerat
she-shall-have-lived with-you as I with Paetus I-wish she-had-increased
hoc responso curam suorum; attentius custodiebatur:
by-this answer the-care of-her-people more-attentively she-was-guarded
sensit et 'Nihil agitis' inquit: 'potestis enim efficere ut
she-perceived and nothing you-achieve she-said you-can for bring-about that
male moriar, ut non moriar non potestis.' Dum haec dicit,
badly I-die that not I-die not you-can while these-things she-says
exiluit cathedra adversoque parieti caput ingenti impetu
she-leapt-from the-chair and-on-the-opposite wall her-head with-huge force
impegit et corruit. Focilata 'Dixeram' inquit 'vobis inventuram
she-struck and collapsed revived I-had-said she-said to-you about-to-find
me quamlibet duram ad mortem viam, si vos facilem
me however hard to death a-way if you an-easy-one
negassetis.' Videnturne haec tibi maiora illo 'Paete, non
had-denied do-they-seem these-things to-you greater than-that Paetus not
dolet', ad quod per haec perventum est? Cum interim illud
it-hurts to which through these-things come it-was when meanwhile that
quidem ingens fama, haec nulla circumfert. Unde colligitur,
indeed huge fame these none carries-about whence it-is-gathered
quod initio dixi, alia esse clariora alia maiora. Vale.
what at-the-start I-said some-things to-be more-famous others greater farewell

17 C. Plinius Iulio Serviano suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Julius Servianus his-own greeting

17.1 Rectene omnia, quod iam pridem epistulae tuae cessant? An
is-it-well all-things that now long-since letters your cease or
omnia recte, sed occupatus es tu? An tu non occupatus,
all-things well but busy are you or you not busy
sed occasio scribendi vel rara vel nulla?
but the-opportunity of-writing either rare or none

17.2 Exime hunc mihi scrupulum, cui par esse non possum,
remove this from-me worry to-which equal to-be not I-can
exime autem vel data opera tabellario misso: ego viaticum,
remove moreover even given with-effort a-courier being-sent I travel-money
ego etiam praemium dabo, nuntiet mihi modo quod opto.
I even a-reward shall-give let-him-announce to-me only what I-wish

17.3 Ipse valeo, si valere est suspensum et anxium vivere,
I-myself am-well if to-be-well is in-suspense and anxious to-live
expectantem in horas timentemque pro capite amicissimo
expecting from-hour to-hour and-fearing for a-head most-dear
quidquid accidere homini potest. Vale.
whatever to-happen to-a-man can farewell

18 C. Plinius Vibio Severo suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Vibius Severus his-own greeting

18.1 Officium consulatus iniunxit mihi ut rei publicae
the-duty of-the-consulship enjoined on-me that of-the-thing public
nomine principi gratias agerem. Quod ego in senatu
in-the-name to-the-prince thanks I-should-give which I in the-senate
cum ad rationem et loci et temporis ex more
when according-to the-reckoning both of-place and of-time from custom
fecissem, bono civi convenientissimum credidi eadem
I-had-done to-a-good citizen most-fitting I-believed the-same
illa spatiosius et uberius volumine amplecti,
those-things more-spaciously and more-fully in-a-volume to-embrace

Primum ut imperatori nostro virtutes suae veris laudibus 18.2
first that to-emperor our virtues his-own by-true praises
commendarentur; deinde ut futuri principes non quasi a
might-be-commended then that future princes not as-if by
magistro, sed tamen sub exemplo praemonerentur, qua
a-teacher but yet under an-example might-be-forewarned by-what
potissimum via possent ad eandem gloriam niti.
above-all way they-could to the-same glory to-strive
Nam praecipere qualis esse debeat princeps pulchrum quidem 18.3
for to-instruct of-what-sort to-be ought a-prince fine indeed
sed onerosum ac prope superbum est; laudare vero optimum
but burdensome and almost arrogant is to-praise indeed the-best
principem ac per hoc posteris velut e specula lumen quod
prince and through this to-posterity as-if from a-watchtower a-light which
sequantur ostendere idem utilitatis habet, adrogantiae nihil.
they-may-follow to-show the-same of-usefulness has of-arrogance nothing
Cepi autem non mediocrem voluptatem, quod, hunc librum 18.4
I-took moreover no moderate pleasure that this book
cum amicis recitare voluissem, non per codicillos, non per
with friends to-recite I-had-wished not by notes not by
libellos, sed 'si commodum' et 'si valde vacaret' admoniti
invitations but if convenient and if very there-were-leisure warned
(numquam porro aut valde vacat Romae aut commodum
never moreover either very is-there-leisure at-Rome or convenient
est audire recitantem), foedissimis insuper tempestatibus, per
is-it to-hear one-reciting in-the-foulest besides weather for
biduum convenerunt, cumque modestia mea finem recitationi
two-days they-came-together and-when modesty my an-end to-the-recitation
facere voluisset, ut adicerem tertium diem exegerunt.
to-make had-wished that I-should-add a-third day they-demanded

18.5 Mihi hunc honorem habitum putem, an studiis? Studiis
to-me this honor paid should-I-think or to-studies to-studies
malo, quae prope exstincta refoventur.
I-prefer which almost extinguished are-rekindled

18.6 At cui materiae hanc sedulitatem praestiterunt? Nempe
but to-what material this diligence did-they-show surely
quam in senatu quoque, ubi perpeti necesse erat, gravari
which in the-senate also where to-endure necessary it-was to-be-burdened
tamen vel puncto temporis solebamus, eandem nunc et
yet even for-a-moment of-time we-used the-same now both
qui recitare et qui audire triduo velint inveniuntur,
those-who to-recite and those-who to-hear for-three-days wish are-found
non quia eloquentius quam prius, sed quia liberius ideoque
not because more-eloquently than before but because more-freely and-therefore
etiam libentius scribitur.
also more-gladly it-is-written

18.7 Accedet ergo hoc quoque laudibus principis nostri, quod
will-be-added therefore this also to-the-praises of-prince our that
res antea tam invisa quam falsa nunc ut vera ita amabilis
a-thing before as hateful as false now as true so lovable
facta est.
made has-been

18.8 Sed ego cum studium audientium tum iudicium mire
but I both the-zeal of-the-hearers and the-judgment wonderfully
probavi: animadverti enim severissima quaeque vel maxime
approved I-noticed for the-severest each even most
satisfacere.
to-satisfy

18.9 Memini quidem me non multis recitasse quod omnibus scripsi,
I-remember indeed me not to-many to-have-recited what for-all I-wrote
nihilo minus tamen, tamquam sit eadem omnium futura
by-nothing less yet as-if may-be the-same of-all about-to-be

sententia, hac severitate aurium laetor, ac sicut olim theatra
the-opinion in-this severity of-the-ears I-rejoice and as once theaters
male musicos canere docuerunt, ita nunc in spem adducor
badly musicians to-sing taught so now into hope I-am-led
posse fieri ut eadem theatra bene canere musicos doceant.
to-be-able to-happen that the-same theaters well to-sing musicians may-teach
Omnes enim qui placendi causa scribunt qualia placere 18.10
all for who of-pleasing for-the-sake write such-things-as to-please
viderint scribent. Ac mihi quidem confido in hoc genere
they-shall-have-seen will-write and to-me indeed I-trust in this kind
materiae laetioris stili constare rationem, cum ea potius
of-material of-a-gayer style to-hold-good the-principle since those-things rather
quae pressius et adstrictius, quam illa quae hilarius et
which more-compressedly and more-tightly than those which more-cheerfully and
quasi exsultantius scripsi possint videri arcessita et inducta.
as-it-were more-exuberantly I-wrote can seem far-fetched and introduced
Non ideo tamen segnius precor ut quandoque veniat
not on-that-account yet more-sluggishly I-pray that some-time may-come
dies (utinamque iam venerit!), quo austeris illis severisque
the-day and-would-that already it-has-come on-which to-austere those and-severe-things
dulcia haec blandaque vel iusta possessione decedant.
sweet these and-charming even by-just possession may-yield
Habes acta mea tridui; quibus cognitis volui tantum 18.11
you-have the-doings my of-three-days which being-known I-wished as-much
te voluptatis absentem et studiorum nomine et meo
you of-pleasure absent both of-studies in-the-name and in-mine
capere, quantum praesens percipere potuisses. Vale.
to-take as-much-as present to-receive you-could-have farewell

19 C. Plinius Calvisio Rufo suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Calvisius Rufus his-own greeting

19.1 Assumo te in consilium rei familiaris, ut soleo.
I-take you into counsel of-the-property household as I-am-wont
Praedia agris meis vicina atque etiam inserta venalia sunt.
estates to-lands my neighboring and even interspersed for-sale are
In his me multa sollicitant, aliqua nec minora deterrent.
in these me many-things tempt some nor lesser deter

19.2 Sollicitat primum ipsa pulchritudo iungendi; deinde quod
tempts first the-very beauty of-joining then that
non minus utile quam voluptuosum posse utraque eadem
not less useful than pleasant to-be-able both with-the-same
opera, eodem viatico invisere, sub eodem procuratore
labor with-the-same traveling-expense to-visit under the-same steward
ac paene isdem actoribus habere, unam villam colere et
and almost the-same agents to-have one villa to-maintain and
ornare, alteram tantum tueri.
to-furnish the-other only to-keep-up

19.3 Inest huic computationi sumptus supellectilis, sumptus
there-is-in this calculation the-expense of-furniture the-expense
atriensium, topiariorum, fabrorum atque etiam venatorii
of-stewards of-gardeners of-workmen and even of-hunting
instrumenti; quae plurimum refert unum in locum
equipment which very-much it-matters one into place
conferas, an in diversa dispergas.
you-bring-together or into different you-scatter

19.4 Contra vereor ne sit incautum rem tam magnam
on-the-other-hand I-fear lest it-be incautious a-property so great
isdem tempestatibus isdem casibus subdere: tutius videtur
to-the-same storms to-the-same accidents to-subject safer it-seems
incerta fortunae possessionum varietatibus experiri. Habet
the-uncertainties of-fortune of-holdings by-the-varieties to-test has

etiam multum iucunditatis soli caelique mutatio ipsaque
also much of-pleasantness of-soil and-of-climate the-change and-the-very
illa peregrinatio inter sua.
that traveling among one's-own
Iam quod deliberationis nostrae caput est, agri sunt fertiles 19.5
now what of-deliberation our the-head is the-lands are fertile
pingues aquosi, constant campis vineis silvis, quae materiam
rich well-watered they-consist of-fields vineyards woods which timber
et ex ea reditum sicut modicum ita statum praestant.
and from it income as moderate so fixed provide
Sed haec felicitas terrae inbecillis cultoribus fatigatur. Nam 19.6
but this fertility of-the-land by-weak cultivators is-exhausted for
possessor prior saepius vendidit pignora, et dum reliqua
the-owner former rather-often sold the-securities and while the-arrears
colonorum minuit ad tempus, vires in posterum exhausit,
of-the-tenants he-reduced for a-time the-strength for the-future he-drained
quarum defectione rursus reliqua creverunt.
by-whose failure again the-arrears have-grown
Sunt ergo instruendi eo pluris, quod frugi mancipiis: 19.7
they-are therefore to-be-equipped at-so-much more-cost because with-honest slaves
nam nec ipse usquam vinctos habeo nec ibi quisquam.
for neither I-myself anywhere chained-men have nor there anyone
Superest ut scias quanti videantur posse emi;
it-remains that you-know for-how-much they-seem to-be-able to-be-bought
sestertio tricies, non quia non aliquando quinquagies fuerint,
for-sesterces three-million not because not at-some-time five-million they-were
verum et hac paenuria colonorum et communi temporis
but both by-this shortage of-tenants and by-the-common of-the-time
iniquitate ut reditus agrorum sic etiam pretium retro abiit.
unfairness as the-income of-the-lands so also the-price back has-gone

19.8 Quaeris an hoc ipsum tricies facile colligere possimus?
you-ask whether this very three-million easily to-collect we-can
Sum quidem prope totus in praediis, aliquid tamen
I-am indeed almost wholly in estates something yet
fenero, nec molestum erit mutuari; accipiam a
I-lend-at-interest nor troublesome will-it-be to-borrow I-shall-receive from
socru, cuius arca non secus ac mea utor.
my-mother-in-law whose chest not otherwise than mine I-use
19.9 Proinde hoc te non moveat, si cetera non refragantur,
accordingly this you not let-it-move if the-other-things not oppose
quae velim quam diligentissime examines. Nam cum in
which I-should-like as carefully-as-possible you-examine for both in
omnibus rebus tum in disponendis facultatibus plurimum
all things and in arranging resources very-much
tibi et usus et providentiae superest. Vale.
to-you both of-experience and of-foresight abounds farewell

VI · THE BALLOT AND MARTIAL

Pliny reports to Maesius Maximus that the senate, weary of the disorder of open voting, has adopted the secret ballot, though he fears that secrecy may in time let shamelessness creep in. He then tells Cornelius Priscus of the death of Martial, whose departure from Rome he had paid for out of friendship and for a poem, and quotes the lines Martial wrote about him.

C. Plinius Maesio Maximo suo s. 20

Gaius Pliny to-Maesius Maximus his-own greeting

Meministine te saepe legisse, quantas contentiones excitarit 20.1

do-you-remember you often to-have-read how-great contentions aroused

lex tabellaria quantumque ipsi latori vel gloriae vel

the-law on-the-ballot and-how-much on-the-very proposer either of-glory or

reprehensionis attulerit?

of-censure brought

At nunc in senatu sine ulla dissensione hoc idem 20.2

but now in the-senate without any disagreement this same

ut optimum placuit: omnes comitiorum die tabellas

as best has-pleased all of-the-elections on-the-day ballots

postulaverunt.

demanded

Excesseramus sane manifestis illis apertisque suffragiis 20.3

we-had-outdone truly with-manifest those and-open votes

licentiam contionum. Non tempus loquendi, non tacendi

the-license of-public-meetings not the-time of-speaking not of-keeping-silent

modestia, non denique sedendi dignitas custodiebatur.

the-restraint not finally of-sitting the-dignity was-kept

Magni undique dissonique clamores, procurrebant omnes cum 20.4

great on-all-sides and-discordant shouts there-ran-forward all with

suis candidatis, multa agmina in medio multique circuli

their-own candidates many columns in the-middle and-many circles

et indecora confusio: adeo desciveramus a consuetudine

and unseemly confusion so-far had-we-fallen-away from the-custom

parentum, apud quos omnia disposita moderata tranquilla

of-our-fathers among whom all-things ordered moderate calm

maiestatem loci pudoremque retinebant.

the-dignity of-the-place and-the-propriety kept

20.5 Supersunt senes, ex quibus audire soleo hunc ordinem
there-survive old-men from whom to-hear I-am-wont this order
comitiorum: citato nomine candidati silentium summum;
of-elections called the-name of-the-candidate silence the-deepest
dicebat ipse pro se; explicabat vitam suam, testes et
he-spoke himself for himself he-unfolded life his-own witnesses and
laudatores dabat vel eum sub quo militaverat vel eum
eulogists he-supplied either him under whom he-had-served or him
cui quaestor fuerat vel utrumque, si poterat, addebat
to-whom quaestor he-had-been or both if he-could he-added
quosdam ex suffragatoribus: illi graviter et paucis
some from his-supporters they weightily and in-few-words
loquebantur. Plus hoc quam preces proderat.
spoke more this than prayers helped

20.6 Non numquam candidatus aut natales competitoris aut
not never the-candidate either the-birth of-his-rival or
annos aut etiam mores arguebat. Audiebat senatus gravitate
years or even character attacked heard the-senate with-gravity
censoria. Ita saepius digni quam gratiosi praevalebant.
censorial so more-often the-worthy than the-favored prevailed

20.7 Quae nunc inmodico favore corrupta ad tacita suffragia
which-things now by-immoderate favor corrupted to silent votes
quasi ad remedium decucurrerunt; quod interim plane
as-if to a-remedy have-run-down which meanwhile plainly
remedium fuit: erat enim novum et subitum.
a-remedy was it-was for new and sudden

20.8 Sed vereor ne procedente tempore ex ipso remedio
but I-fear lest as-proceeds time from the-very remedy
vitia nascantur. Est enim periculum ne tacitis suffragiis
vices be-born there-is for danger lest by-silent votes

inpudentia inrepat. Nam quoto cuique eadem honestatis
shamelessness creep-in for to-how-few each the-same of-honesty
cura secreto quae palam?
care in-secret as openly
Multi famam, conscientiam pauci verentur. Sed nimis 20.9
many reputation conscience few fear but too
cito de futuris interim beneficio tabellarum habebimus
quickly about the-future meanwhile by-the-benefit of-the-ballots we-shall-have
magistratus qui maxime fieri debuerunt. Nam ut in
magistrates who most to-be-made ought for as in
reciperatoriis iudiciis sic nos in his comitiis quasi repente
recuperatorial courts so we in these elections as-if suddenly
adprehensi sinceri iudices fuimus.
seized honest judges have-been
Haec tibi scripsi, primum ut aliquid novi scriberem, 20.10
these-things to-you I-have-written first that something new I-might-write
deinde ut non numquam de re publica loquerer, cuius
then that not never about the-thing public I-might-speak of-which
materiae nobis quanto rarior quam veteribus occasio
material to-us by-how-much rarer than to-the-ancients the-occasion
tanto minus omittenda est.
by-so-much less to-be-omitted it-is
Et hercule quousque illa vulgaria 'Quid agis? Ecquid 20.11
and by-Hercules how-long those common-things what are-you-doing are-you-at-all
commode vales?' Habeant nostrae quoque litterae aliquid
comfortably well let-them-have our also letters something
non humile nec sordidum nec privatis rebus inclusum.
not low nor mean nor in-private affairs shut-up
Sunt quidem cuncta sub unius arbitrio, qui pro utilitate 20.12
are indeed all-things under of-one-man the-judgment who for the-advantage
communi solus omnium curas laboresque suscepit; quidam
common alone of-all the-cares and-labors has-undertaken certain

tamen salubri temperamento ad nos quoque velut rivi ex
yet in-wholesome proportion to us also as-if streams from
illo benignissimo fonte decurrunt, quos et haurire ipsi et
that most-kindly spring run-down which both to-draw ourselves and
absentibus amicis quasi ministrare epistulis possumus. Vale.
to-absent friends as-it-were to-serve by-letters we-can farewell

21 C. Plinius Cornelio Prisco suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Cornelius Priscus his-own greeting

21.1 Audio Valerium Martialem decessisse et moleste fero.
I-hear Valerius Martial to-have-died and annoyed I-bear-it
Erat homo ingeniosus acutus acer, et qui plurimum in
he-was a-man talented sharp keen and one-who very-much in
scribendo et salis haberet et fellis nec candoris minus.
writing both of-salt had and of-gall nor of-candor less

21.2 Prosecutus eram viatico secedentem; dederam hoc
sent-him-off I-had with-travel-money as-he-withdrew I-had-given this
amicitiae, dederam etiam versiculis, quos de me composuit.
to-friendship I-had-given-it also to-the-little-verses which about me he-composed

21.3 Fuit moris antiqui eos qui vel singulorum laudes
it-was of-the-custom ancient those who either of-individuals the-praises
vel urbium scripserant aut honoribus aut pecunia ornare;
or of-cities had-written either with-honors or with-money to-adorn
nostris vero temporibus ut alia speciosa et egregia ita
in-our indeed times as other-things showy and outstanding so
hoc in primis exolevit. Nam postquam desiimus facere
this in the-first has-gone-out-of-use for after we-ceased to-do
laudanda, laudari quoque ineptum putamus.
things-to-be-praised to-be-praised also silly we-think

Quaeris, qui sint versiculi quibus gratiam rettuli? Remitterem 21.4
you-ask what are the-little-verses for-which thanks I-returned I-would-send-back
te ad ipsum volumen, nisi quosdam tenerem: tu, si
you to the-very volume unless some I-held you if
placuerint hi, ceteros in libro requires.
they-please these the-rest in the-book seek
Adloquitur Musam, mandat, ut domum meam Esquiliis 21.5
he-addresses the-Muse he-charges-her that house my on-the-Esquiline
quaerat, adeat reverenter:
she-seek approach reverently

sed ne tempore non tuo disertam
but lest at-a-time not your-own the-eloquent
pulses ebria ianuam videto:
you-knock drunk door see-to-it
totos dat tetricae dies Minervae,
whole he-gives to-austere days Minerva
dum centum studet auribus virorum
while to-the-hundred he-works for-the-ears of-men
hoc quod saecula posterique possint
this which ages and-posterity could
Arpinis quoque comparare chartis.
with-Arpinum's also compare pages
Seras tutior ibis ad lucernas:
late safer you-will-go at the-lamps
haec hora est tua, cum furit Lyaeus,
this hour is yours when rages Lyaeus
cum regnat rosa, cum madent capilli:
when reigns the-rose when are-wet the-locks
tunc me vel rigidi legant Catones.
then me even stern may-read Catos

21.6 Meritone eum, qui haec de me scripsit et tunc dimisi
deservedly him who these-things about me wrote both then I-sent-off
amicissime et nunc ut amicissimum defunctum esse doleo?
most-amicably and now as a-most-dear-friend dead to-be I-grieve
Dedit enim mihi, quantum maximum potuit, daturus
he-gave for to-me as-much the-greatest he-could about-to-give
amplius, si potuisset. Tametsi quid homini potest dari
more if he-had-been-able although what to-a-man can be-given
maius quam gloria et laus et aeternitas? At non erunt
greater than glory and praise and eternity but not will-be
aeterna quae scripsit; non erunt fortasse, ille tamen scripsit
eternal what he-wrote not they-will-be perhaps he yet wrote
tamquam essent futura. Vale.
as-if they-were about-to-be farewell

BOOK IV

I · REGULUS' GRIEF

Pliny plans a visit to Fabatus and to the temple he has built at Tifernum, whose dedication he will celebrate. He describes Regulus' extravagant mourning for his son, praises Arrius Antoninus' Greek epigrams, asks Sosius Senecio for a tribunate for Varisidius Nepos, tells Sparsus how his own speech held its audience for two days without the rivalry that stirred Aeschines' Rhodians, sends Julius Naso news of the hail, mocks Regulus' book about his son, and thanks Arrianus for his congratulations on the augurate.

C. Plinius Calpurnio Fabato prosocero suo s. 1
Gaius Pliny to-Calpurnius Fabatus grandfather-in-law his-own greeting

Cupis post longum tempus neptem tuam meque una 1.1
you-desire after a-long time granddaughter your and-me together
videre. Gratum est utrique nostrum quod cupis, mutuo
to-see pleasing it-is to-each of-us that you-desire mutually
mehercule.
by-Hercules

Nam invicem nos incredibili quodam desiderio vestri tenemur, 1.2
for in-turn we by-incredible a-certain longing for-you are-held
quod non ultra differemus. Atque adeo iam sarcinulas
which not further we-shall-put-off and indeed already the-little-bundles
alligamus festinaturi quantum itineris ratio permiserit.
we-are-tying about-to-hasten as-far-as of-the-journey the-reckoning shall-have-allowed

Erit una, sed brevis mora: deflectemus in Tuscos, 1.3
there-will-be one but brief delay we-shall-turn-aside into the-Tuscan-country
non ut agros remque familiarem oculis subiciamus (id
not that the-lands and-property household to-eyes we-may-subject that
enim postponi potest), sed ut fungamur necessario officio.
for to-be-postponed can but that we-may-perform a-necessary duty

1.4 Oppidum est praediis nostris vicinum (nomen Tiferni
a-town is to-estates our neighboring the-name of-Tifernum
Tiberini), quod me paene adhuc puerum patronum cooptavit,
Tiberinum which me almost still a-boy as-patron chose
tanto maiore studio quanto minore iudicio. Adventus
with-so-much greater zeal by-as-much less judgment arrivals
meos celebrat, profectionibus angitur, honoribus gaudet.
my it-celebrates at-departures it-is-distressed in-honors it-rejoices
1.5 In hoc ego, ut referrem gratiam (nam vinci in amore
in this I that I-might-return the-favor for to-be-outdone in love
turpissimum est), templum pecunia mea extruxi, cuius
most-disgraceful is a-temple with-money my I-have-built whose
dedicationem, cum sit paratum, differre longius inreligiosum est.
dedication since it-is ready to-put-off longer impious is
1.6 Erimus ergo ibi dedicationis die, quem epulo
we-shall-be therefore there of-the-dedication on-the-day which with-a-banquet
celebrare constitui. Subsistemus fortasse et sequenti; sed
to-celebrate I-have-decided we-shall-stay perhaps also on-the-following but
tanto magis viam ipsam corripiemus.
by-so-much more the-road itself we-shall-hurry
1.7 Contingat modo te filiamque tuam fortes invenire! Nam
may-it-befall only you and-daughter your strong to-find for
continget hilares, si nos incolumes receperitis. Vale.
it-will-befall merry if us safe you-have-received farewell
2 C. Plinius Attio Clementi suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Attius Clemens his-own greeting
2.1 Regulus filium amisit, hoc uno malo indignus, quod nescio
Regulus a-son has-lost by-this one evil undeserving because I-know-not
an malum putet. Erat puer acris ingenii, sed ambigui,
whether an-evil he-thinks-it there-was a-boy of-keen talent but doubtful
qui tamen posset recta sectari, si patrem non referret.
who yet could right-things to-follow if the-father not he-reproduced

Hunc Regulus emancipavit, ut heres matris existeret; 2.2
him Regulus emancipated that heir to-his-mother he-might-be
mancipatum (ita vulgo ex moribus hominis loquebantur)
made-over-as-property so commonly from the-character of-the-man they-spoke
foeda et insolita parentibus indulgentiae simulatione
foul and unwonted to-parents of-indulgence by-pretense
captabat. Incredibile; sed Regulum cogita.
he-courted-for-legacies incredible but Regulus consider
Amissum tamen luget insane. Habebat puer mannulos 2.3
lost yet he-mourns-him insanely had the-boy ponies
multos et iunctos et solutos, habebat canes maiores
many both yoked and unyoked he-had dogs bigger
minoresque, habebat luscinias, psittacos, merulas: omnes
and-smaller he-had nightingales parrots blackbirds all
Regulus circa rogum trucidavit.
Regulus around the-pyre slaughtered
Nec dolor erat ille, sed ostentatio doloris. Convenitur ad eum 2.4
nor grief was that but a-display of-grief there-is-a-gathering to him
mira celebritate. Cuncti detestantur oderunt, et quasi
with-wonderful crowding all detest hate and as-if
probent, quasi diligant, cursant frequentant, utque breviter
they-approve as-if they-love they-run-about they-throng and-that briefly
quod sentio enuntiem, in Regulo demerendo Regulum imitantur.
what I-feel I-may-express in Regulus winning-over Regulus they-imitate
Tenet se trans Tiberim in hortis, in quibus latissimum solum 2.5
he-keeps himself across the-Tiber in gardens in which a-very-wide area
porticibus inmensis, ripam statuis suis occupavit, ut est
with-colonnades immense the-bank with-statues his-own he-has-occupied as he-is
in summa avaritia sumptuosus, in summa infamia gloriosus.
in the-greatest avarice extravagant in the-greatest infamy vainglorious

2.6 Vexat ergo civitatem insaluberrimo tempore, et quod
he-harasses therefore the-city at-a-most-unhealthy season and what
vexat solacium putat. Dicit se velle ducere uxorem: hoc
he-harasses a-comfort he-thinks he-says himself to-wish to-marry a-wife this
quoque, sicut alia, perverse:
also like the-rest perversely

2.7 Audies brevi nuptias lugentis, nuptias senis: quorum
you-will-hear soon the-wedding of-a-mourner the-wedding of-an-old-man of-which
alterum immaturum alterum serum est. Unde hoc augurer
the-one premature the-other late is whence this I-may-foretell
quaeris:
you-ask

2.8 Non quia adfirmat ipse, quo mendacius nihil est, sed
not because affirms he-himself than-whom more-false nothing is but
quia certum est Regulum esse facturum quidquid fieri
because certain it-is Regulus to-be about-to-do whatever to-be-done
non oportet. Vale.
not it-is-fitting farewell

3 C. Plinius Arrio Antonino suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Arrius Antoninus his-own greeting

3.1 Quod semel atque iterum consul fuisti similis antiquis,
that once and twice consul you-have-been like to-the-ancients
quod proconsul Asiae, qualis ante te, qualis post te vix
that proconsul of-Asia such-as before you such-as after you scarcely
unus aut alter (non sinit enim me verecundia tua dicere
one or a-second not allows for me modesty your to-say
nemo), quod sanctitate, quod auctoritate, aetate quoque
no-one that in-purity that in-authority in-age also
princeps civitatis, est quidem venerabile et pulchrum; ego
the-first of-the-state is indeed venerable and fine I
tamen te vel magis in remissionibus miror.
yet you even more in relaxations admire

Nam severitatem istam pari iucunditate condire summaeque 3.2
for severity that with-equal pleasantness to-season and-to-the-highest
gravitati tantum comitatis adiungere non minus difficile
gravity so-much of-affability to-join no less difficult
quam magnum est. Id tu cum incredibili quadam suavitate
than great is this you both with-incredible a-certain sweetness
sermonum tum vel praecipue stilo adsequeris.
of-conversation and even especially with-the-pen attain
Nam et loquenti tibi illa Homerici senis mella profluere, 3.3
for both speaking to-you that of-the-Homeric old-man honey to-flow-forth
et quae scribis complere apes floribus et innectere
and what you-write to-fill bees with-flowers and to-weave-together
videntur. Ita certe sum adfectus ipse, cum graeca
seem so certainly was affected I-myself when Greek
epigrammata tua, cum iambos proxime legerem.
epigrams your when iambics lately I-read
Quantum ibi humanitatis venustatis, quam dulcia illa, quam 3.4
how-much there of-refinement of-charm how sweet those how
amantia quam arguta quam recta! Callimachum me vel
loving how witty how correct Callimachus me or
Heroden, vel siquid his melius tenere credebam; quorum
Herodas or if-anything than-these better to-hold I-believed of-whom
tamen neuter utrumque aut absolvit aut attigit.
yet neither each-kind either completed or touched
Hominemne Romanum tam graece loqui? Non medius fidius 3.5
a-man Roman so in-Greek to-speak not so-help me-heaven
ipsas Athenas tam atticas dixerim. Quid multa? Invideo
the-very Athens so Attic I-would-call-them why much I-envy
Graecis, quod illorum lingua scribere maluisti. Neque enim
the-Greeks that in-their language to-write you-preferred nor for

coniectura eget, quid sermone patrio exprimere possis, cum
conjecture needs what in-speech native to-express you-could since
hoc insiticio et inducto tam praeclara opera perfeceris. Vale.
in-this imported and introduced such splendid works you-have-completed farewell

4 C. Plinius Sosio Senecioni suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Sosius Senecio his-own greeting

4.1 Varisidium Nepotem validissime diligo, virum industrium,
Varisidius Nepos most-strongly I-love a-man industrious
rectum disertum, quod apud me vel potentissimum est.
upright eloquent which with me even most-powerful is
Idem C. Calvisium, contubernalem meum amicum tuum,
the-same Gaius Calvisius comrade my friend your
arta propinquitate conplectitur; est enim filius sororis.
by-close kinship embraces he-is for the-son of-his-sister

4.2 Hunc rogo semestri tribunatu splendidiorem et sibi
him I-ask with-a-six-month tribunate more-distinguished both for-himself
et avunculo suo facias. Obligabis me, obligabis Calvisium
and for-uncle his you-make you-will-oblige me you-will-oblige Calvisius
nostrum, obligabis ipsum, non minus idoneum debitorem
our you-will-oblige himself no less suitable a-debtor
quam nos putas.
than us you-think

4.3 Multa beneficia in multos contulisti: ausim contendere
many kindnesses on many you-have-conferred I-would-dare to-contend
nullum te melius, aeque bene unum aut alterum conlocasse.
none you better equally well one or a-second to-have-placed
Vale.
farewell

C. Plinius Iulio Sparso suo s. 5

Gaius Pliny to-Julius Sparsus his-own greeting

Aeschinen aiunt petentibus Rhodiis legisse orationem 5.1

Aeschines they-say at-the-request-of-the Rhodians to-have-read speech

suam, deinde Demosthenis, summis utramque clamoribus.

his-own then of-Demosthenes with-the-highest each shouts

Quod tantorum virorum scriptis contigisse non miror, 5.2

which of-so-great men to-the-writings to-have-happened not I-wonder

cum orationem meam proxime doctissimi homines hoc

since speech my lately most-learned men with-this

studio, hoc adsensu, hoc etiam labore per biduum

zeal with-this assent with-this even toil for two-days

audierint, quamvis intentionem eorum nulla hinc et inde

heard although attention their no here and there

collatio, nullum quasi certamen accenderet.

comparison no as-it-were contest kindled

Nam Rhodii cum ipsis orationum virtutibus tum etiam 5.3

for the-Rhodians both by-the-very of-the-speeches virtues and also

comparationis aculeis excitabantur; nostra oratio sine

of-comparison by-the-stings were-excited our speech without

aemulationis gratia probabatur. An merito, scies, cum

of-rivalry the-charm was-approved whether deservedly you-will-know when

legeris librum, cuius amplitudo non sinit me longiore

you-have-read the-book whose length not allows me with-a-longer

epistula praeloqui.

letter to-preface

Oportet enim nos in hac certe, in qua possumus, breves 5.4

it-is-fitting for us in this at-least in which we-can brief

esse, quo sit excusatius quod librum ipsum, non tamen

to-be so-that it-may-be more-excusable that the-book itself not yet

ultra causae amplitudinem, extendimus. Vale.

beyond of-the-case the-scale we-have-extended farewell

6 C. Plinius Iulio Nasoni suo s.

Gaius Pliny to-Julius Naso his-own greeting

6.1 Tusci grandine excussi, in regione Transpadana summa
the-Tuscan-estates by-hail shaken in the-region Transpadane the-greatest
abundantia, sed par vilitas nuntiatur: solum mihi Laurentinum
abundance but equal cheapness is-reported alone for-me Laurentine
meum in reditu.
my in income

6.2 Nihil quidem ibi possideo praeter tectum et hortum
nothing indeed there I-possess except a-roof and a-garden
statimque harenas, solum tamen mihi in reditu. Ibi enim
and-at-once sands alone yet for-me in income there for
plurimum scribo nec agrum, quem non habeo, sed ipsum
very-much I-write nor a-field which not I-have but myself
me studiis excolo; ac iam possum tibi ut aliis in locis
me with-studies I-cultivate and already I-can to-you as other in places
horreum plenum sic ibi scrinium ostendere.
a-granary full so there a-bookcase to-show

6.3 Igitur tu quoque, si certa et fructuosa praedia concupiscis,
therefore you also if sure and fruitful estates you-long-for
aliquid in hoc litore para. Vale.
something on this shore get farewell

7 C. Plinius Catio Lepido suo s.

Gaius Pliny to-Catius Lepidus his-own greeting

7.1 Saepe tibi dico inesse vim Regulo. Mirum est quam efficiat
often to-you I-say to-be-in force in-Regulus wonderful it-is how he-accomplishes
in quod incubuit. Placuit ei lugere filium; luget ut nemo:
into what he-has-fallen-on it-pleased him to-mourn his-son he-mourns as no-one
placuit statuas eius et imagines quam plurimas facere; hoc
it-pleased statues his and portraits as many-as-possible to-make this

omnibus officinis agit, illum coloribus, illum cera, illum
in-all workshops he-pushes him in-colors him in-wax him
aere, illum argento, illum auro, ebore, marmore effingit.
in-bronze him in-silver him in-gold in-ivory in-marble he-fashions
Ipse vero nuper adhibito ingenti auditorio librum de 7.2
he-himself indeed lately with-invited a-huge audience a-book about
vita eius recitavit, de vita pueri: recitavit tamen. Eundem
the-life his recited about the-life of-a-boy he-recited yet the-same
in exemplaria mille transscriptum per totam Italiam
into copies a-thousand transcribed through all Italy
provinciasque dimisit: scripsit publice ut a decurionibus
and-the-provinces he-sent-out he-wrote officially that by the-councilors
eligeretur vocalissimus aliquis ex ipsis, qui legeret eum
should-be-chosen the-most-vocal some-one of themselves who should-read it
populo: factum est.
to-the-people done it-was
Hanc ille vim, seu quo alio nomine vocanda est intentio 7.3
this he force or by-what other name to-be-called is the-intent
quidquid velis obtinendi, si ad potiora vertisset, quantum
whatever you-wish of-obtaining if to better-things he-had-turned how-much
boni efficere potuisset! Quamquam minor vis bonis quam
of-good to-accomplish he-could-have although less force in-the-good than
malis inest, ac sicut ἀμαθία μὲν θράσος, λογισμὸς δὲ
in-the-bad is-in and as ignorance indeed boldness reflection but
ὄκνον φέρει, ita recta ingenia debilitat verecundia, perversa
hesitation brings so upright talents weakens modesty perverse-ones
confirmat audacia.
strengthens audacity
Exemplo est Regulus. Inbecillum latus, os confusum, 7.4
an-example is Regulus weak lungs face confused
haesitans lingua, tardissima inventio, memoria nulla, nihil
hesitant tongue slowest invention memory none nothing

denique praeter ingenium insanum; et tamen eo
finally except talent insane and yet to-that-point
inpudentia ipsoque illo furore pervenit, ut orator habeatur.
by-shamelessness and-by-very that madness he-has-arrived that an-orator he-is-held
7.5 Itaque Herennius Senecio mirifice Catonis illud de oratore
and-so Herennius Senecio wonderfully of-Cato that about the-orator
in hunc e contrario vertit: 'orator est vir malus dicendi
on him to the-contrary turned an-orator is a-man bad of-speaking
imperitus.' Non mehercule Cato ipse tam bene verum
unskilled not by-Hercules Cato himself so well the-true
oratorem, quam hic Regulum expressit.
orator as this-man Regulus has-portrayed
7.6 Habesne quo tali epistulae parem gratiam referas?
have-you-anything by-which to-such a-letter equal favor you-may-return
Habes, si scripseris, num aliquis in municipio vestro ex
you-have if you-write whether someone in town your of
sodalibus meis, num etiam ipse tu hunc luctuosum Reguli
comrades my whether even yourself you this mournful of-Regulus
librum ut circulator in foro legeris, ἐπάρας scilicet, ut
book like a-street-reciter in the-forum have-read raising evidently as
ait Demosthenes, τὴν φωνὴν καὶ γεγηθὼς καὶ λαρυγγίζων.
says Demosthenes the voice and exulting and bawling
7.7 Est enim tam ineptus, ut risum magis possit exprimere
it-is for so silly that laughter more it-could squeeze-out
quam gemitum: credas non de puero scriptum, sed a
than a-groan you-would-believe not about a-boy written but by
puero. Vale.
a-boy farewell

C. Plinius Maturo Arriano suo s. 8

Gaius Pliny to-Maturus Arrianus his-own greeting

Gratularis mihi quod acceperim auguratum: iure gratularis, 8.1

you-congratulate me that I-have-received the-augurate rightly you-congratulate

primum quod gravissimi principis iudicium in minoribus

first because of-the-most-serious prince the-judgment in lesser

etiam rebus consequi pulchrum est, deinde quod sacerdotium

even things to-obtain fine is then because the-priesthood

ipsum cum priscum et religiosum tum hoc quoque sacrum

itself both ancient and religious and this also sacred

plane et insigne est, quod non adimitur viventi.

plainly and distinguished is that not it-is-taken-away from-one-living

Nam alia quamquam dignitate propemodum paria ut 8.2

for others although in-rank almost equal as

tribuuntur sic auferuntur; in hoc fortunae hactenus

they-are-bestowed so they-are-taken-away in this to-fortune so-far

licet, ut dari possit.

it-is-allowed that to-be-given it-can

Mihi vero illud etiam gratulatione dignum videtur, quod 8.3

to-me indeed that also of-congratulation worthy seems that

successi Iulio Frontino, principi viro, qui me nominationis

I-succeeded Julius Frontinus a-leading man who me of-the-nomination

die per hos continuos annos inter sacerdotes nominabat,

on-the-day through these successive years among the-priests nominated

tamquam in locum suum cooptaret: quod nunc eventus

as-if into place his-own he-were-co-opting which now the-outcome

ita conprobavit, ut non fortuitum videretur.

so has-confirmed that not chance it-seemed

8.4 Te quidem, ut scribis, ob hoc maxime delectat
you indeed as you-write on-account-of this most delights
auguratus meus, quod M. Tullius augur fuit. Laetaris enim,
augurate my that Marcus Tullius augur was you-rejoice for
quod honoribus eius insistam, quem aemulari studiis cupio.
that in-the-honors his I-tread whom to-emulate in-studies I-desire
8.5 Sed utinam ut sacerdotium idem, ut consulatum multo
but would-that as the-priesthood the-same as the-consulship much
etiam iuvenior quam ille sum consecutus, ita senex
even younger than he I-have attained so as-an-old-man
saltem ingenium eius aliqua ex parte adsequi possim!
at-least the-genius his in-some of part to-attain I-might-be-able
8.6 Sed nimirum quae sunt in manu hominum et mihi et multis
but doubtless what are in the-hand of-men both to-me and to-many
contigerunt, illud vero ut adipisci arduum sic etiam sperare
have-fallen that indeed as to-attain hard so even to-hope
nimium est, quod dari non nisi a dis potest. Vale.
too-much is which to-be-given not except by the-gods can farewell

Pliny reports to Ursus the trial of Julius Bassus, accused of taking gifts in Bithynia; night broke off Pliny's defense short of his five hours, he finished at Bassus' plea, and Caepio's milder sentence prevailed. He answers Statius Sabinus on freeing a slave named in a will, and tells Minicianus how Valerius Licinianus, once a praetor, now teaches rhetoric in Sicily, after Domitian buried alive the Vestal Cornelia.

C. Plinius Cornelio Urso suo s. 9
Gaius Pliny to-Cornelius Ursus his-own greeting

Causam per hos dies dixit Iulius Bassus, homo laboriosus 9.1
his-case during these days pleaded Julius Bassus a-man much-tried
et adversis suis clarus. Accusatus est sub Vespasiano
and by-misfortunes his-own famous accused he-was under Vespasian
a privatis duobus; ad senatum remissus diu pependit,
by private-persons two to the-senate referred long he-hung-in-suspense
tandem absolutus vindicatusque:
at-last acquitted and-vindicated

Titum timuit ut Domitiani amicus, a Domitiano relegatus 9.2
Titus he-feared as of-Domitian a-friend by Domitian banished
est: revocatus a Nerva sortitusque Bithyniam rediit
he-was recalled by Nerva and-having-drawn-by-lot Bithynia he-returned
reus, accusatus non minus acriter quam fideliter defensus.
a-defendant accused not less keenly than loyally defended
Varias sententias habuit, plures tamen quasi mitiores.
various votes he-had more yet as-it-were milder

Egit contra eum Pomponius Rufus, vir paratus et 9.3
pleaded against him Pomponius Rufus a-man ready and
vehemens: Rufo successit Theophanes, unus ex legatis,
vehement to-Rufus succeeded Theophanes one of the-envoys
fax accusationis et origo.
the-firebrand of-the-prosecution and source

9.4 Respondi ego. Nam mihi Bassus iniunxerat ut totius
answered I for to-me Bassus had-enjoined that of-the-whole
defensionis fundamenta iacerem, dicerem de ornamentis
defense the-foundations I-should-lay I-should-speak about the-distinctions
suis, quae illi et ex generis claritate et ex periculis
his-own which to-him both from of-birth the-fame and from the-dangers
ipsis magna erant,
themselves great were

9.5 Dicerem de conspiratione delatorum, quam in quaestu
I-should-speak about the-conspiracy of-informers which for profit
habebant, dicerem causas quibus factiosissimum quemque
they-held I-should-speak-of the-causes by-which the-most-factious each
ut illum ipsum Theophanen, offendisset. Eundem me
like that very Theophanes he-had-offended the-same-man me
voluerat occurrere crimini quo maxime premebatur. In
he-had-wished to-meet the-charge by-which most he-was-pressed in
aliis enim quamvis auditu gravioribus non absolutionem
other-charges for although in-the-hearing more-serious not acquittal
modo verum etiam laudem merebatur;
only but also praise he-was-earning

9.6 Hoc illum onerabat, quod homo simplex et incautus quaedam
this him burdened that a-man simple and unwary certain-things
a provincialibus ut amicus acceperat: nam fuerat in eadem
from the-provincials as a-friend he-had-received for he-had-been in the-same
provincia quaestor. Haec accusatores furta ac rapinas, ipse
province quaestor these-things the-prosecutors thefts and plunder he-himself
munera vocabat: sed lex munera quoque accipi vetat.
gifts called but the-law gifts also to-be-received forbids

9.7 Hic ego quid agerem, quod iter defensionis ingrederer?
here I what was-I-to-do what road of-defense was-I-to-enter
Negarem? Verebar ne plane furtum videretur quod confiteri
was-I-to-deny I-feared lest plainly theft it-seem what to-confess

timerem. Praeterea rem manifestam infitiari augentis erat
I-was-afraid besides a-thing manifest to-deny of-one-increasing was
crimen, non diluentis, praesertim cum reus ipse nihil
the-charge not of-one-clearing especially since the-defendant himself nothing
integrum advocatis reliquisset. Multis enim atque etiam
untouched to-his-advocates had-left to-many for and even
principi dixerat sola se munuscula dumtaxat natali
to-the-prince he-had-said only himself little-gifts merely on-birthday
suo aut Saturnalibus accepisse et plerisque misisse.
his-own or at-the-Saturnalia to-have-received and to-most to-have-sent
Veniam ergo peterem? Iugulassem reum, quem ita 9.8
pardon then was-I-to-seek I-would-have-cut-the-throat-of the-defendant whom so
deliquisse concederem, ut servari nisi venia non posset.
to-have-done-wrong I-conceded that to-be-saved except by-pardon not he-could
Tamquam recte factum tuerer? Non illi profuissem,
as-if rightly done was-I-to-defend-it not him I-would-have-helped
sed ipse inpudens extitissem.
but myself shameless I-would-have-stood-out
In hac difficultate placuit medium quiddam tenere: videor 9.9
in this difficulty it-pleased-me a-middle something to-hold I-seem
tenuisse. Actionem meam, ut proelia solet, nox diremit.
to-have-held-it pleading my as battles is-wont night broke-off
Egeram horis tribus et dimidia, supererat sesquihora.
I-had-pleaded for-hours three and a-half there-remained an-hour-and-a-half
Nam cum e lege accusator sex horas, novem reus
for since by the-law the-prosecutor six hours nine the-defendant
accepisset, ita diviserat tempora reus inter me et eum qui
had-received so had-divided the-times the-defendant between me and him who
dicturus post erat, ut ego quinque horis, ille reliquis uteretur.
about-to-speak after was that I five hours he the-rest should-use

9.10 Mihi successus actionis silentium finemque suadebat.
to-me the-success of-the-pleading silence and-an-end urged
Temerarium est enim secundis non esse contentum. Ad hoc
rash it-is for with-success not to-be content to this
verebar ne me corporis vires iterato labore desererent,
I-feared lest me of-body the-strength by-repeated labor might-desert
quem difficilius est repetere quam iungere.
which with-more-difficulty it-is to-resume than to-continue

9.11 Erat etiam periculum ne reliqua actio mea et frigus
there-was also danger lest the-remaining pleading my both chill
ut deposita et taedium ut resumpta pateretur. Ut enim
as laid-aside and tedium as resumed should-suffer as for
faces ignem adsidua concussione custodiunt, dimissum
torches the-fire by-constant shaking keep laid-down
aegerrime reparant, sic et dicentis calor et audientis
with-greatest-difficulty restore so both of-the-speaker the-heat and of-the-hearer
intentio continuatione servatur, intercapedine et quasi
the-attention by-continuity is-preserved by-a-break and as-it-were
remissione languescit.
by-a-slackening flags

9.12 Sed Bassus multis precibus, paene etiam lacrimis obsecrabat
but Bassus with-many prayers almost even with-tears begged
implerem meum tempus. Parui utilitatemque eius praetuli meae.
I-should-fill-out my time I-obeyed and-the-advantage his I-preferred to-mine
Bene cessit: inveni ita erectos animos senatus, ita recentes,
well it-turned-out I-found so roused the-minds of-the-senate so fresh
ut priore actione incitati magis quam satiati viderentur.
that by-the-earlier pleading stirred more than sated they-seemed

9.13 Successit mihi Lucceius Albinus tam apte, ut orationes nostrae
succeeded me Lucceius Albinus so aptly that speeches our
varietatem duarum, contextum unius habuisse credantur.
the-variety of-two the-connection of-one to-have-had are-believed

Respondit Herennius Pollio instanter et graviter, deinde 9.14
answered Herennius Pollio urgently and weightily then
Theophanes rursus. Fecit enim hoc quoque, ut cetera,
Theophanes again he-did for this also like the-rest
inpudentissime, quod post duos et consulares et disertos
most-shamelessly that after two both consulars and eloquent
tempus sibi et quidem laxius vindicavit. Dixit in
time for-himself and indeed more-ample he-claimed he-spoke into
noctem atque etiam nocte inlatis lucernis.
the-night and even at-night brought-in lamps
Postero die egerunt pro Basso Homullus et Fronto mirifice: 9.15
on-the-next day pleaded for Bassus Homullus and Fronto wonderfully
quartum diem probationes occuparunt.
the-fourth day the-proofs occupied
Censuit Baebius Macer consul designatus, lege repetundarum 9.16
proposed Baebius Macer consul elect by-the-law of-extortion
Bassum teneri, Caepio Hispo, salva dignitate iudices
Bassus to-be-held-liable Caepio Hispo with-safe rank judges
dandos: uterque recte.
to-be-given each rightly
'Qui fieri potest' inquis, 'uterque cum tam diversa 9.17
how to-happen can-it you-say each when so different
censuerint?' Quia scilicet et Macro legem intuenti
they-proposed because evidently both to-Macer the-law regarding
consentaneum fuit damnare eum qui contra legem munera
consistent it-was to-condemn him who against the-law gifts
acceperat, et Caepio, cum putaret licere senatui, sicut
had-received and Caepio since he-thought to-be-allowed to-the-senate as
licet, et mitigare leges et intendere, non sine ratione
it-is-allowed both to-mitigate laws and to-tighten not without reason
veniam dedit facto vetito quidem, non tamen inusitato.
pardon gave to-a-deed forbidden indeed not yet unusual

9.18 Praevaluit sententia Caepionis, quin immo consurgenti ei
prevailed the-motion of-Caepio nay rather rising to-him
ad censendum adclamatum est, quod solet residentibus. Ex
for voting shouted it-was which is-wont to-those-sitting-down from
quo potes aestimare, quanto consensu sit exceptum, cum
which you-can estimate with-how-much consensus it-was received when
diceret, quod tam favorabile fuit, cum dicturus videretur.
he-said-it what so popular was when about-to-speak he-seemed
9.19 Sunt tamen ut in senatu ita in civitate in duas
there-are yet as in the-senate so in the-city into two
partes hominum iudicia divisa. Nam quibus sententia
parts of-men the-judgments divided for those-whom the-motion
Caepionis placuit, sententiam Macri ut rigidam duramque
of-Caepio pleased the-motion of-Macer as rigid and-harsh
reprehendunt: quibus Macri, illam alteram dissolutam atque
blame those-whom of-Macer that other lax and
etiam incongruentem vocant; negant enim congruens esse
even inconsistent call they-deny for consistent to-be
retinere in senatu cui iudices dederis.
to-keep in the-senate one-to-whom judges you-have-given
9.20 Fuit et tertia sententia: Valerius Paulinus adsensus Caepioni
there-was also a-third motion Valerius Paulinus having-agreed with-Caepio
hoc amplius censuit referendum de Theophane, cum legationem
this further proposed to-be-referred about Theophanes when the-embassy
renuntiasset. Arguebatur enim multa in accusatione fecisse,
he-had-reported he-was-charged for many-things in the-prosecution to-have-done
quae illa ipsa lege qua Bassum accusaverat, tenerentur.
which by-that very law by-which Bassus he-had-accused were-covered
9.21 Sed hanc sententiam consules, quamquam maximae parti
but this motion the-consuls although to-the-greatest part
senatus mire probabatur, non sunt persecuti.
of-the-senate wonderfully it-was-approved not did follow-up

Paulinus tamen et iustitiae famam et constantiae tulit. 9.22
Paulinus yet both of-justice the-reputation and of-steadfastness carried-off
Misso senatu Bassus magna hominum frequentia, magno
with-dismissed the-senate Bassus by-a-great of-men crowd with-great
clamore, magno gaudio exceptus est. Fecerat eum favorabilem
shouting with-great joy received was had-made him popular
renovata discriminum vetus fama notumque periculis nomen
the-renewed of-dangers old fame and-the-known by-perils name
et in procero corpore maesta et squalida senectus.
and in a-tall body sad and squalid old-age
Habebis hanc interim epistulam ut πρόδρομον, expectabis 9.23
you-will-have this meanwhile letter as a-forerunner you-will-await
orationem plenam onustamque, expectabis diu: neque enim
the-speech full and-laden you-will-await-it long nor for
leviter et cursim, ut de re tanta, retractanda est. Vale.
lightly and hastily as about a-matter so-great to-be-revised it-is farewell

C. Plinius Statio Sabino suo s. 10
Gaius Pliny to-Statius Sabinus his-own greeting

Scribis mihi Sabinam, quae nos reliquit heredes, Modestum 10.1
you-write to-me Sabina who us left heirs Modestus
servum suum nusquam liberum esse iussisse, eidem tamen
slave her-own nowhere free to-be to-have-ordered to-the-same yet
sic adscripsisse legatum, ‘Modesto, quem liberum esse iussi’.
so to-have-written a-legacy to-Modestus whom free to-be I-have-ordered
Quaeris quid sentiam. Contuli cum peritis iuris: convenit 10.2
you-ask what I-think I-have-conferred with the-skilled in-law it-is-agreed
inter omnes nec libertatem deberi, quia non sit data,
among all neither freedom to-be-owed because not it-has-been given
nec legatum, quia servo suo dederit. Sed mihi manifestus
nor the-legacy because to-slave her-own she-gave-it but to-me manifest

error videtur, ideoque puto nobis, quasi scripserit Sabina,
an-error seems and-so I-think for-us as-if had-written Sabina
faciendum quod ipsa scripsisse se credidit.
to-be-done what she-herself to-have-written herself believed
10.3 Confido accessurum te sententiae meae, cum religiosissime
I-trust about-to-agree you with-opinion my since most-scrupulously
soleas custodire defunctorum voluntatem, quam bonis
you-are-wont to-guard of-the-dead the-wish which for-good
heredibus intellexisse pro iure est. Neque enim minus
heirs to-have-understood for law is nor for less
apud nos honestas quam apud alios necessitas valet.
with us honor than with others necessity avails
10.4 Moretur ergo in libertate sinentibus nobis, fruatur legato,
let-him-stay therefore in freedom with-allowing us let-him-enjoy the-legacy
quasi omnia diligentissime caverit. Cavit enim quae
as-if everything most-carefully she-had-provided she-provided for who
heredes bene elegit. Vale.
heirs well chose farewell

11 C. Plinius Cornelio Miniciano suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Cornelius Minicianus his-own greeting

11.1 Audistine Valerium Licinianum in Sicilia profiteri? Nondum te
have-you-heard Valerius Licinianus in Sicily to-be-teaching not-yet you
puto audisse: est enim recens nuntius. Praetorius hic
I-think to-have-heard it-is for fresh news a-man-of-praetorian-rank this-man
modo inter eloquentissimos causarum actores habebatur; nunc
lately among the-most-eloquent of-cases pleaders was-held now
eo decidit, ut exul de senatore, rhetor de oratore fieret.
so-far he-has-fallen that an-exile from a-senator a-rhetorician from an-orator he-became
11.2 Itaque ipse in praefatione dixit dolenter et graviter ‘quos
and-so himself in his-preface said sorrowfully and weightily what
tibi, Fortuna, ludos facis? Facis enim ex senatoribus
for-yourself Fortune games do-you-make you-make for from senators

professores, ex professoribus senatores.' Cui sententiae
professors from professors senators to-which saying
tantum bilis, tantum amaritudinis inest, ut mihi videatur
so-much of-bile so-much of-bitterness is-in that to-me he-seems
ideo professus, ut hoc diceret.
for-this-reason to-have-taught that this he-might-say

Idem cum graeco pallio amictus intrasset (carent enim 11.3
the-same when in-a-Greek mantle wrapped he-had-entered they-lack for
togae iure quibus aqua et igni interdictum est),
of-the-toga the-right to-whom water and fire forbidden is
postquam se composuit circumspexitque habitum suum,
after himself he-composed and-looked-around dress his-own
'latine' inquit 'declamaturus sum.'
in-Latin he-said about-to-declaim I-am

Dices tristia et miseranda, dignum tamen illum, qui 11.4
you-will-say sad-things and pitiable worthy yet him who
haec ipsa studia incesti scelere macularit.
these very studies of-incest by-the-crime defiled

Confessus est quidem incestum, sed incertum utrum quia 11.5
confessed he-has indeed incest but uncertain whether because
verum erat, an quia graviora metuebat, si negasset. Fremebat
true it-was or because heavier-things he-feared if he-had-denied raged
enim Domitianus aestuabatque in ingenti invidia destitutus.
for Domitian and-seethed in huge unpopularity left-alone

Nam cum Corneliam Vestalium maximam, defodere vivam 11.6
for when Cornelia of-the-Vestals the-chief to-bury alive
concupisset, ut qui inlustrari saeculum suum eius
he-had-desired as one-who to-be-made-illustrious age his-own of-this
modi exemplis arbitraretur, pontificis maximi iure seu
kind by-examples thought of-the-pontiff supreme by-the-right or
potius immanitate tyranni, licentia domini, reliquos
rather by-the-savagery of-a-tyrant by-the-license of-a-master the-remaining

pontifices non in Regiam, sed in Albanam villam convocavit.
pontiffs not in the-Regia but in the-Alban villa he-called-together
Nec minore scelere quam quod ulcisci videbatur absentem
nor with-less crime than what to-punish he-seemed absent
inauditamque damnavit incesti, cum ipse fratris
and-unheard he-condemned-her of-incest though he-himself of-his-brother
filiam incesto non polluisset solum, verum etiam occidisset:
the-daughter by-incest not had-polluted only but also killed
nam vidua abortu periit.
for widowed by-abortion she-perished

11.7 Missi statim pontifices, qui defodiendam necandamque
sent at-once the-pontiffs who to-be-buried and-to-be-put-to-death
curarent. Illa nunc ad Vestam, nunc ad ceteros deos manus
should-see-her she now to Vesta now to the-other gods hands
tendens, multa, sed hoc frequentissime clamitabat: 'Me Caesar
stretching many-things but this most-often cried me Caesar
incestam putat, qua sacra faciente vicit, triumphavit?'
unchaste thinks by-whom rites performing he-has-conquered has-triumphed

11.8 Blandiens haec an inridens, ex fiducia sui an ex
flattering these-things or mocking from confidence of-herself or from
contemptu principis dixerit dubium est: dixit, donec ad
contempt of-the-prince she-said doubtful it-is she-said-it until to
supplicium, nescio an innocens, certe tamquam innocens,
execution I-know-not whether innocent certainly as-if innocent
ducta est.
led she-was

11.9 Quin etiam cum in illud subterraneum demitteretur
nay even when into that underground-chamber she-was-being-let-down
haesissetque descendenti stola, vertit se ac recollegit,
and-had-caught as-she-went-down her-robe she-turned herself and gathered-it-up
cumque ei manum carnifex daret, aversata est et
and-when to-her a-hand the-executioner gave turned-away she-did and

resiluit foedumque contactum quasi plane a casto puroque
sprang-back and-the-foul contact as-if plainly from a-chaste and-pure
corpore novissima sanctitate reiecit omnibusque numeris
body by-final sanctity she-repelled and-by-all the-measures
pudoris πολλὴν πρόνοιαν ἔσχεν εὐσχήμων πεσεῖν.
of-modesty much forethought she-had decently to-fall
Praeterea Celer eques Romanus, cui Cornelia obiciebatur, 11.10
besides Celer knight Roman with-whom Cornelia was-charged
cum in comitio virgis caederetur, in hac voce perstiterat:
when in the-comitium with-rods he-was-beaten in this saying had-persisted
'Quid feci? Nihil feci.'
what have-I-done nothing have-I-done
Ardebat ergo Domitianus et crudelitatis et iniquitatis 11.11
burned therefore Domitian both of-cruelty and of-injustice
infamia: arripit Licinianum, quod in agris suis occultasset
with-the-infamy he-seizes Licinianus because on lands his-own he-had-hidden
Corneliae libertam. Ille ab iis quibus erat curae
of-Cornelia a-freedwoman he by those to-whom it-was a-concern
praemonetur, si comitium et virgas pati nollet, ad
is-forewarned if the-comitium and the-rods to-suffer he-did-not-wish to
confessionem confugeret, quasi ad veniam: fecit.
confession he-should-flee as-if to pardon he-did-so
Locutus est pro absente Herennius Senecio tale quiddam, 11.12
spoken has for him-absent Herennius Senecio such something
quale est illud κεῖται Πάτροκλος. Ait enim 'Ex advocato
as is that he-lies Patroclus he-says for from advocate
nuntius factus sum: Licinianus recessit.'
messenger made I-am Licinianus has-withdrawn
Gratum hoc Domitiano, adeo quidem ut gaudio proderetur 11.13
pleasing this to-Domitian so-much indeed that by-joy he-was-betrayed
diceretque 'Absolvit nos Licinianus.' Adiecit etiam non esse
and-said has-acquitted us Licinianus he-added also not to-be

verecundiae eius instandum: ipsi vero permisit, siqua
on-the-modesty his to-be-pressed to-him indeed he-allowed if-any-things
posset, ex rebus suis raperet, ante quam bona
he-could from goods his-own he-might-snatch before that the-goods
publicarentur, exiliumque molle velut praemium dedit.
were-confiscated and-an-exile mild as-if a-reward he-gave

11.14 Ex quo tamen postea clementia divi Nervae translatus
from which yet afterward by-the-clemency of-the-deified Nerva transferred
est in Siciliam, ubi nunc profitetur seque de fortuna
he-was into Sicily where now he-teaches and-himself on fortune
praefationibus vindicat.
in-prefaces avenges

11.15 Vides quam obsequenter paream tibi, qui non solum res
you-see how obediently I-obey you who not only affairs
urbanas verum etiam peregrinas tam sedulo scribo, ut
of-the-city but also foreign so busily write that
altius repetam. Et sane putabam te, quia tunc afuisti,
further-back I-go and truly I-thought you because then you-were-absent
nihil aliud de Liciniano audisse, quam relegatum ob
nothing else about Licinianus to-have-heard than banished on-account-of
incestum. Summam enim rerum nuntiat fama, non ordinem.
incest the-sum for of-things reports rumor not the-order

11.16 Mereor ut vicissim quid in oppido tuo, quid in finitimis
I-deserve that in-turn what in town your what in the-neighboring-towns
agatur (solent enim quaedam notabilia incidere) perscribas:
is-done they-are-wont for certain notable-things to-occur you-write-out
denique quidquid voles, dum modo non minus longa
finally whatever you-will provided only not less long
epistula nuntia. Ego non paginas tantum sed versus etiam
in-a-letter report I not pages only but lines even
syllabasque numerabo. Vale.
and-syllables shall-count farewell

Pliny praises Egnatius Marcellinus, who would not keep the salary of a clerk who died before his term and asked the emperor and the senate where it should go; the senate gave it to the treasury. He asks Tacitus to find teachers for the school he is founding in his home town, where parents will pay part of the cost so that they choose the teachers carefully. He sends Paternus his light verses and recommends Asinius Bassus to Minicius Fundanus as quaestor.

C. Plinius Maturo Arriano suo s. 12
Gaius Pliny to-Maturus Arrianus his-own greeting

Amas Egnatium Marcellinum atque etiam mihi saepe 12.1
you-love Egnatius Marcellinus and even to-me often
commendas: amabis magis commendabisque, si cognoveris
commend-him you-will-love-him more and-commend-him if you-learn
eius recens factum.
his recent deed

Cum in provinciam quaestor exisset scribamque, qui 12.2
when into the-province as-quaestor he-had-gone-out and-the-clerk who
sorti obtigerat, ante legitimum salarii tempus amisisset,
by-lot had-fallen-to-him before the-legal of-the-salary time he-had-lost
quod acceperat scribae daturus intellexit et statuit
what he-had-received for-the-clerk about-to-give he-understood and decided
subsidere apud se non oportere.
to-stay with himself not to-be-right

Itaque reversus Caesarem, deinde Caesare auctore senatum 12.3
and-so returned Caesar then Caesar advising the-senate
consuluit, quid fieri de salario vellet. Parva quaestio, sed
he-consulted what to-be-done about the-salary it-wished a-small question but
tamen quaestio. Heredes scribae sibi, praefecti aerari
yet a-question the-heirs of-the-clerk for-themselves the-prefects of-the-treasury
populo vindicabant.
for-the-people claimed-it

12.4 Acta causa est: dixit heredum advocatus, deinde populi,
pleaded the-case was spoke of-the-heirs the-advocate then of-the-people
uterque percommode. Caecilius Strabo aerario censuit
each very-aptly Caecilius Strabo to-the-treasury proposed
inferendum, Baebius Macer heredibus dandum: obtinuit
to-be-paid Baebius Macer to-the-heirs to-be-given prevailed
Strabo.
Strabo

12.5 Tu lauda Marcellinum, ut ego statim feci. Quamvis enim
you praise Marcellinus as I at-once did although for
abunde sufficiat illi quod est et a principe et a senatu
abundantly may-suffice for-him that he-is both by the-prince and by the-senate
probatus, gaudebit tamen testimonio tuo.
approved he-will-rejoice yet in-testimony your

12.6 Omnes enim qui gloria famaque ducuntur mirum in modum
all for who by-glory and-fame are-led a-wonderful in way
adsensio et laus a minoribus etiam profecta delectat. Te vero
assent and praise from inferiors even proceeding delights you indeed
Marcellinus ita veretur, ut iudicio tuo plurimum tribuat.
Marcellinus so reveres that to-judgment your very-much he-attributes

12.7 Accedit his quod, si cognoverit factum suum isto
there-is-added to-these that if he-learns deed his-own thither
usque penetrasse, necesse est laudis suae spatio et
all-the-way to-have-penetrated necessary it-is of-praise his-own in-the-extent and
cursu et peregrinatione laetetur. Etenim nescio quo pacto,
course and traveling he-rejoice for I-know-not in-what way
vel magis homines iuvat gloria lata quam magna. Vale.
even more men delights glory broad than great farewell

C. Plinius Cornelio Tacito suo s. 13
Gaius Pliny to-Cornelius Tacitus his-own greeting

Salvum in urbem venisse gaudeo. Venisti autem, 13.1
safe into the-city to-have-come I-rejoice you-have-come moreover
siquando alias, nunc maxime mihi desideratus. Ipse
if-ever at-other-times now most by-me longed-for I-myself
pauculis adhuc diebus in Tusculano commorabor, ut
a-very-few still days in the-Tusculan-villa shall-stay that
opusculum quod est in manibus absolvam.
the-little-work which is in hand I-may-finish

Vereor enim ne, si hanc intentionem iam in fine 13.2
I-fear for lest if this application now at the-end
intermisero, aegre resumam. Interim ne quid
I-shall-have-interrupted with-difficulty I-may-resume meanwhile lest anything
festinationi meae pereat, quod sum praesens petiturus hac
from-haste my be-lost what I-am present about-to-ask by-this
quasi praecursoria epistula rogo. Sed prius accipe causas
as-it-were forerunning letter I-ask but first receive the-reasons
rogandi.
of-asking

Proxime cum in patria mea fui, venit ad me salutandum 13.3
lately when in native-town my I-was there-came to me to-greet
municipis mei filius praetextatus. Huic ego 'Studes?'
of-a-townsman my the-son wearing-the-toga-praetexta to-him I are-you-studying
inquam. Respondit 'Etiam.' 'Ubi?' 'Mediolani.' 'Cur non hic?'
I-said he-answered yes where at-Milan why not here
Et pater eius (erat enim una atque etiam ipse adduxerat
and the-father his he-was for together and even himself had-brought
puerum), 'Quia nullos hic praeceptores habemus.'
the-boy because no here teachers we-have

13.4 ‘Quare nullos? Nam vehementer intererat vestra, qui patres
why none for strongly it-concerned you who fathers
estis’, et opportune conplures patres audiebant, ‘liberos
are and opportunely several fathers were-listening children
vestros hic potissimum discere. Ubi enim aut iucundius
your here above-all to-learn where for either more-pleasantly
morarentur, quam in patria, aut pudicius continerentur,
would-they-stay than in their-native-town or more-chastely be-kept
quam sub oculis parentum, aut minore sumptu, quam domi?
than under the-eyes of-parents or at-less cost than at-home
13.5 Quantulum est ergo collata pecunia conducere praeceptores,
how-little is-it therefore with-collected money to-hire teachers
quodque nunc in habitationes, in viatica, in ea quae
and-what now on lodgings on traveling-expenses on those-things which
peregre emuntur (omnia autem peregre emuntur) inpenditis,
abroad are-bought all-things moreover abroad are-bought you-spend
adicere mercedibus? Atque adeo ego, qui nondum liberos habeo,
to-add to-the-salaries and indeed I who not-yet children have
paratus sum pro re publica nostra, quasi pro filia vel
ready am for the-thing public our as-if for a-daughter or
parente, tertiam partem eius quod conferre vobis placebit dare.
a-parent a-third part of-that which to-contribute to-you shall-please to-give
13.6 Totum etiam pollicerer, nisi timerem ne hoc munus meum
the-whole even I-would-promise unless I-feared lest this gift my
quandoque ambitu corrumperetur, ut accidere multis in
some-day by-canvassing should-be-corrupted as to-happen many in
locis video, in quibus praeceptores publice conducuntur.
places I-see in which teachers publicly are-hired

Huic vitio occurri uno remedio potest, si parentibus 13.7
this to-vice to-be-met by-one remedy can if to-the-parents
solis ius conducendi relinquatur isdemque religio recte
alone the-right of-hiring be-left and-to-the-same the-scruple rightly
iudicandi necessitate collationis addatur.
of-choosing by-the-necessity of-contributing be-added
Nam qui fortasse de alieno neglegentes, certe de suo 13.8
for who perhaps about another's careless certainly about their-own
diligentes erunt dabuntque operam ne a me pecuniam
careful will-be and-will-give attention that-not from me money
nisi dignus accipiat, si accepturus et ab ipsis erit.
except a-worthy-man receive if about-to-receive also from them he-shall-be
Proinde consentite conspirate maioremque animum ex 13.9
accordingly agree combine and-greater courage from
meo sumite, qui cupio esse quam plurimum, quod
mine take who desire to-be as most what
debeam conferre. Nihil honestius praestare liberis vestris,
I-may-have-to contribute nothing more-honorable to-provide for-children your
nihil gratius patriae potestis. Educentur hic qui hic
nothing more-pleasing to-native-town can-you let-them-be-reared here who here
nascuntur statimque ab infantia natale solum amare frequentare
are-born and-at-once from infancy native soil to-love to-frequent
consuescant. Atque utinam tam claros praeceptores inducatis,
let-them-grow-used and would-that such famous teachers you-may-bring-in
ut finitimis oppidis studia hinc petantur, utque nunc liberi
that from-neighboring towns studies hence be-sought and-that now children
vestri aliena in loca, ita mox alieni in hunc locum confluant!'
your others' into places so soon others' into this place may-flow-together
Haec putavi altius et quasi a fonte repetenda, quo 13.10
these-things I-thought further-back and as-it-were from the-source to-be-traced that
magis scires, quam gratum mihi foret, si susciperes
more you-might-know how pleasing to-me it-would-be if you-undertook

quod iniungo. Iniungo autem et pro rei magnitudine
what I-enjoin I-enjoin moreover and for of-the-matter the-magnitude
rogo ut ex copia studiosorum, quae ad te ex admiratione
I-ask that from the-abundance of-the-studious which to you from admiration
ingenii tui convenit, circumspicias praeceptores, quos sollicitare
of-talent your comes-together you-look-around-for teachers whom to-solicit
possimus, sub ea tamen condicione, ne cui fidem meam
we-may-be-able on that yet condition lest to-anyone pledge my
obstringam. Omnia enim libera parentibus servo: illi iudicent,
I-bind all-things for free for-the-parents I-keep they may-judge
illi eligant; ego mihi curam tantum et inpendium vindico.
they may-choose I for-myself the-care only and the-expense claim

13.11 Proinde siquis fuerit repertus, qui ingenio suo fidat,
accordingly if-anyone shall-have-been found who in-talent his-own trusts
eat illuc ea lege ut hinc nihil aliud certum quam
let-him-go there on-that condition that from-here nothing else certain than
fiduciam suam ferat. Vale.
confidence his-own he-bring farewell

14 C. Plinius Decimo Paterno suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Decimus Paternus his-own greeting

14.1 Tu fortasse orationem, ut soles, et flagitas et expectas;
you perhaps a-speech as you-are-wont both demand and await
at ego quasi ex aliqua peregrina delicataque merce lusus
but I as-if from some foreign and-dainty merchandise trifles
meos tibi prodo.
my to-you bring-forth

14.2 Accipies cum hac epistula hendecasyllabos nostros, quibus
you-will-receive with this letter hendecasyllables our with-which
nos in vehiculo, in balineo, inter cenam oblectamus otium
we in the-carriage in the-bath at dinner beguile the-leisure
temporis.
of-the-time

His iocamur, ludimus, amamus, dolemus, querimur, irascimur, 14.3
in-these we-jest we-play we-love we-grieve we-complain we-are-angry
describimus aliquid modo pressius modo elatius, atque
we-describe something now more-tightly now more-loftily and
ipsa varietate temptamus efficere ut alia aliis, quaedam
by-the-very variety we-try to-bring-about that some others certain
fortasse omnibus placeant.
perhaps all may-please
Ex quibus tamen si non nulla tibi petulantiora paulo videbuntur, 14.4
of which yet if not none to-you more-wanton a-little shall-seem
erit eruditionis tuae cogitare summos illos et gravissimos
it-will-be of-learning your to-reflect highest those and most-serious
viros, qui talia scripserunt, non modo lascivia rerum
men who such-things wrote not only from-wantonness of-subjects
sed ne verbis quidem nudis abstinuisse; quae nos refugimus,
but not from-words even naked to-have-abstained which we have-shrunk-from
non quia severiores (unde enim?), sed quia timidiores sumus.
not because more-severe whence for but because more-timid we-are
Scimus alioqui huius opusculi illam esse verissimam legem, 14.5
we-know besides of-this little-work that to-be the-truest law
quam Catullus expressit,
which Catullus expressed

nam castum esse decet pium poetam
for chaste to-be befits the-dutiful poet
ipsum, versiculos nihil necesse est,
himself the-little-verses nothing necessary is
qui tum denique habent salem et leporem,
which then at-last have salt and charm
si sunt molliculi et parum pudici.
if they-are softish and too-little modest

14.6 Ego quanti faciam iudicium tuum, vel ex hoc potes
I how-much I-value judgment your even from this you-can
aestimare, quod malui omnia a te pensitari quam electa
estimate that I-preferred all-things by you to-be-weighed than selected
laudari. Et sane quae sunt commodissima desinunt
to-be-praised and truly what-things are most-pleasing cease
videri, cum paria esse coeperunt.
to-seem-so when equal to-be they-have-begun

14.7 Praeterea sapiens subtilisque lector debet non diversis conferre
besides a-wise and-discerning reader ought not to-different to-compare
diversa, sed singula expendere nec deterius alio putare
different-things but each to-weigh nor worse than-another to-think
quod est in suo genere perfectum.
what is in its-own kind perfect

14.8 Sed quid ego plura? Nam longa praefatione vel excusare
but why I more for with-a-long preface either to-excuse
vel commendare ineptias ineptissimum est. Unum illud
or to-commend trifles most-trifling is one-thing that
praedicendum videtur, cogitare me has nugas ita inscribere,
to-be-said-beforehand seems to-be-thinking me these trifles so to-entitle
'hendecasyllabi', qui titulus sola metri lege constringitur.
hendecasyllables which title by-the-sole of-meter law is-bound

14.9 Proinde sive epigrammata sive idyllia sive eclogas sive, ut
accordingly whether epigrams or idylls or eclogues or as
multi, poematia seu quod aliud vocare malueris licebit
many little-poems or what other to-call you-shall-prefer it-will-be-allowed
voces; ego tantum hendecasyllabos praesto.
you-may-call-them I only hendecasyllables offer

14.10 A simplicitate tua peto ut quod de libello meo dicturus
of frankness your I-ask that what about little-book my about-to-say
es alii mihi dicas; neque est difficile quod postulo.
you-are to-another to-me you-say nor is difficult what I-demand

Nam si hoc opusculum nostrum aut potissimum esset aut
for if this little-work our either the-chief were or
solum, fortasse posset durum videri dicere 'Quaere quod
the-only perhaps it-might hard to-seem to-say look-for what
agas': molle et humanum est 'habes quod agas.' Vale.
you-may-do soft and humane is you-have what you-may-do farewell
C. Plinius Minicio Fundano suo s. 15
Gaius Pliny to-Minicius Fundanus his-own greeting
Siquid omnino, hoc certe iudicio facio, quod Asinium 15.1
if-anything at-all this certainly with-judgment I-do that Asinius
Rufum singulariter amo. Est homo eximius et bonorum
Rufus singularly I-love he-is a-man exceptional and of-good-men
amantissimus. Cur enim non me quoque inter bonos
most-loving why for not me also among good-men
numerem? Idem Cornelium Tacitum (scis quem virum)
should-I-count the-same Cornelius Tacitus you-know what a-man
arta familiaritate conplexus est.
with-close intimacy embraced has
Proinde si utrumque nostrum probas, de Rufo quoque 15.2
accordingly if each of-us you-approve about Rufus also
necesse est idem sentias, cum sit ad conectendas amicitias
necessary it-is the-same you-think since it-is for binding friendships
vel tenacissimum vinculum morum similitudo.
even the-tightest bond of-character the-likeness
Sunt ei liberi plures. Nam in hoc quoque functus est 15.3
there-are to-him children several for in this also performed he-has
optimi civis officio, quod fecunditate uxoris large frui voluit
of-the-best citizen the-duty that the-fertility of-his-wife fully to-enjoy he-wished
eo saeculo, quo plerisque etiam singulos filios orbitatis
in-that age in-which to-most even single sons of-childlessness
praemia graves faciunt; quibus ille despectis avi quoque
the-rewards burdensome make with-which he despised of-grandfather also

nomen adsumpsit. Est enim avus, et quidem ex Saturio
the-name has-taken-up he-is for a-grandfather and indeed from Saturius
Firmo, quem diliges ut ego, si ut ego propius inspexeris.
Firmus whom you-will-love as I if as I more-closely you-examine

15.4 Haec eo pertinent, ut scias quam copiosam,
these-things to-this-end tend that you-may-know how plentiful
quam numerosam domum uno beneficio sis obligaturus;
how numerous a-house by-one kindness you-are about-to-oblige
ad quod petendum voto primum, deinde bono quodam
to which to-be-asked by-a-wish first then by-a-good certain
omine adducimur.
omen we-are-led

15.5 Optamus enim tibi ominamurque in proximum annum
we-wish for for-you and-we-forecast for the-next year
consulatum: ita nos virtutes tuae, ita iudicia principis
the-consulship so us virtues your so the-judgments of-the-prince
augurari volunt.
to-foretell want

15.6 Concurrit autem ut sit eodem anno quaestor maximus
it-coincides moreover that there-be in-the-same year quaestor the-eldest
ex liberis Rufi, Asinius Bassus, iuvenis (nescio an
of the-children of-Rufus Asinius Bassus a-young-man I-know-not whether
dicam quod me pater et sentire et dicere cupit,
I-should-say what me the-father both to-feel and to-say desires
adulescentis verecundia vetat) ipso patre melior.
of-the-youth the-modesty forbids than-his-very father better

15.7 Difficile est ut mihi de absente credas, quamquam
difficult it-is that me about one-absent you-believe although
credere soles omnia, tantum in illo industriae probitatis,
to-believe you-are-wont all-things so-much in him of-industry of-probity

eruditionis, ingenii, studii, memoriae denique esse, quantum
of-learning of-talent of-zeal of-memory finally to-be as-much-as
expertus invenies.
having-tried you-will-find

Vellem tam ferax saeculum bonis artibus haberemus, ut 15.8
I-would-wish so fruitful an-age in-good arts we-had that
aliquos Basso praeferre deberes: tum ego te primus hortarer
some to-Bassus to-prefer you-ought then I you first would-urge
moneremque circumferres oculos ac diu pensitares, quem
and-advise you-should-carry-around your-eyes and long weigh whom
potissimum eligeres.
above-all you-should-choose

Nunc vero — sed nihil volo de amico meo adrogantius 15.9
now indeed but nothing I-wish about friend my more-arrogantly
dicere, hoc solum dico, dignum esse iuvenem quem
to-say this only I-say worthy to-be the-young-man whom
more maiorum in filii locum adsumas. Debent
by-the-custom of-our-ancestors into of-a-son the-place you-should-adopt ought
autem sapientes viri, ut tu, tales quasi liberos a re
moreover wise men as you such as-if children from the-thing
publica accipere, quales a natura solemus optare.
public to-receive as-are from nature we-are-wont to-wish

Decorus erit tibi consuli quaestor patre praetorio, 15.10
becoming will-be to-you as-consul a-quaestor with-father ex-praetor
propinquis consularibus, quibus iudicio ipsorum,
with-relatives ex-consuls to-whom by-the-judgment of-themselves
quamquam adulescentulus adhuc, iam tamen invicem
although a-very-young-man still already yet in-turn
ornamento est.
for-distinction he-is

15.11 Proinde indulge precibus meis, obsequere consilio et ante
accordingly indulge prayers my comply with-advice and before
omnia, si festinare videor, ignosce, primum quod in ea civitate,
all-things if to-hurry I-seem pardon first because in that state
in qua omnia quasi ab occupantibus aguntur, quae legitimum
in which all-things as-if by those-who-seize-first are-done what the-lawful
tempus expectant, non matura, sed sera sunt; deinde quod
time await not ripe but late are then because
rerum quas adsequi cupias praesumptio ipsa iucunda est.
of-things which to-attain you-desire the-anticipation itself pleasant is

15.12 Revereatur iam te Bassus ut consulem, tu dilige illum
let-him-revere already you Bassus as consul you love him
ut quaestorem, nos denique utriusque vestrum amantissimi
as quaestor we finally of-each of-you most-loving
laetitia duplici perfruamur.
with-joy double may-enjoy

15.13 Etenim cum sic te, sic Bassum diligamus, ut et illum
for since so you so Bassus we-love that both him
cuiuscumque et tuum quemcumque quaestorem in petendis
of-whomever and your whoever quaestor in seeking
honoribus omni ope labore gratia simus iuvaturi, perquam
honors with-all strength effort influence we-are about-to-help very
iucundum nobis erit, si in eundem iuvenem studium
pleasant to-us it-will-be if on the-same young-man zeal
nostrum et amicitiae meae et consulatus tui ratio
our both of-friendship my and of-consulship your the-reckoning
contulerit, si denique precibus meis tu potissimum
shall-have-brought-together if finally to-prayers my you above-all
adiutor accesseris, cuius et suffragio senatus libentissime
as-helper shall-have-come whose both to-the-vote the-senate most-gladly
indulgeat et testimonio plurimum credat. Vale.
may-defer and to-testimony very-much may-give-credit farewell

Pliny tells Valerius Paulinus of a crowded day in the centumviral court, agrees to defend Corellia, the daughter of his friend Corellius, and praises Antoninus' Greek epigrams. He tells his wife's aunt Calpurnia Hispulla how his wife reads his books, listens behind a curtain to his recitals, and sets his verses to the lyre. He praises Maximus' books, mourns the Helvidiae sisters, who died in childbirth, and reports the emperor's council on the games at Vienne.

C. Plinius Valerio Paulino suo s. 16

Gaius Pliny to-Valerius Paulinus his-own greeting

Gaude meo, gaude tuo, gaude etiam publico nomine: adhuc 16.1

rejoice on-my rejoice on-your rejoice also on-the-public account still

honor studiis durat. Proxime cum dicturus apud centumviros

honor for-studies lasts lately when about-to-speak before the-centumvirs

essem, adeundi mihi locus nisi a tribunali, nisi per

I-was of-approaching for-me a-place except from the-tribunal except through

ipsos iudices non fuit: tanta stipatione cetera tenebantur.

the-very judges not there-was with-such crowding the-rest were-occupied

Ad hoc quidam ornatus adulescens scissis tunicis, ut in 16.2

to this a-certain well-dressed young-man with-torn his-tunics as in

frequentia solet fieri, sola velatus toga perstitit, et

a-throng is-wont to-happen with-only covered his-toga stood-fast and

quidem horis septem.

indeed for-hours seven

Nam tam diu dixi magno cum labore, maiore cum fructu. 16.3

for so long I-spoke great with toil greater with profit

Studeamus ergo nec desidiae nostrae praetendamus alienam.

let-us-study therefore nor for-idleness our let-us-plead-as-pretext another's

Sunt qui audiant, sunt qui legant, nos modo dignum

there-are who may-hear there-are who may-read we only worthy

aliquid auribus, dignum chartis elaboremus. Vale.

something for-ears worthy for-paper let-us-work-out farewell

17 C. Plinius Clusinio Gallo suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Clusinius Gallus his-own greeting

17.1 Et admones et rogas ut suscipiam causam Corelliae absentis
both you-remind and you-ask that I-undertake the-case of-Corellia absent
contra C. Caecilium, consulem designatum. Quod admones,
against Gaius Caecilius consul elect that you-remind
gratias ago; quod rogas, queror. Admoneri enim debeo,
thanks I-give that you-ask I-complain to-be-reminded for I-ought
ut sciam, rogari non debeo, ut faciam quod mihi non
that I-may-know to-be-asked not I-ought that I-may-do what for-me not
facere turpissimum est.
to-do most-disgraceful is

17.2 An ego tueri Corelli filiam dubitem? Est quidem mihi
or I to-defend of-Corellius the-daughter should-I-doubt there-is indeed to-me
cum isto, contra quem me advocas non plane familiaris
with that-man against whom me you-summon not quite intimate
sed tamen amicitia.
but yet a-friendship

17.3 Accedit huc dignitas hominis atque hic ipse cui destinatus
there-is-added to-this the-rank of-the-man and this very for-which destined
est honor; cuius nobis hoc maior agenda reverentia est, quod
is the-honor for-which by-us by-this greater to-be-shown respect is because
iam illo functi sumus. Naturale est enim ut ea quae
already it discharged we-have natural it-is for that those-things which
quis adeptus est ipse quam amplissima existimari velit.
anyone attained has himself as most-ample to-be-thought he-would-wish

17.4 Sed mihi cogitanti adfuturum me Corelli filiae omnia
but to-me reflecting about-to-appear me of-Corellius for-the-daughter all
ista frigida et inania videntur. Obversatur oculis
those-things cold and empty seem there-hovers before-the-eyes
ille vir, quo neminem aetas nostra graviorem sanctiorem
that man than-whom no-one age our more-serious holier

subtiliorem tulit. Quem ego cum ex admiratione diligere
subtler has-produced whom I when from admiration to-love
coepissem, quod evenire contra solet, magis admiratus sum
I-had-begun which to-happen otherwise is-wont more admired-him I-have
postquam penitus inspexi.
after thoroughly I-examined-him
Inspexi enim penitus nihil a me ille secretum, non 17.5
I-examined-him for thoroughly nothing from me he hidden-kept not
ioculare, non serium, non triste, non laetum.
playful not serious not sad not glad
Adulescentulus eram, et iam mihi ab illo honor atque etiam, 17.6
a-very-young-man I-was and already to-me by him honor and even
audebo dicere, reverentia ut aequali habebatur. Ille meus in
I-shall-dare to-say respect as to-an-equal was-shown he my in
petendis honoribus suffragator et testis, ille in inchoandis
seeking honors supporter and witness he in entering-on-them
deductor et comes, ille in gerendis consiliator et rector,
escort and companion he in conducting-them adviser and guide
ille denique in omnibus officiis nostris, quamquam et
he finally in all duties our although both
inbecillus et senior, quasi iuvenis et validus conspiciebatur.
weak and older as-if young and strong was-seen
Quantum ille famae meae domi in publico, quantum 17.7
how-much he of-reputation my at-home in public how-much
etiam apud principem adstruxit!
also with the-prince added
Nam cum forte de bonis iuvenibus apud Nervam 17.8
for when by-chance about good young-men before Nerva
imperatorem sermo incidisset et plerique me laudibus
the-emperor talk had-fallen and most me with-praises
ferrent, paulisper se intra silentium tenuit, quod
were-extolling for-a-little-while himself within silence he-kept which

illi plurimum auctoritatis addebat; deinde gravitate quam
to-him very-much of-authority added then with-the-gravity which
noras 'Necesse est' inquit 'parcius laudem Secundum,
you-knew necessary it-is he-said more-sparingly I-praise Secundus
quia nihil nisi ex consilio meo facit.'
because nothing except from advice my he-does

17.9 Qua voce tribuit mihi quantum petere voto inmodicum
by-which word he-allowed to-me as-much-as to-seek in-prayer immoderate
erat, nihil me facere non sapientissime, cum omnia ex
was nothing me to-do not most-wisely since all-things from
consilio sapientissimi viri facerem. Quin etiam moriens
the-advice of-a-most-wise man I-did nay even dying
filiae suae (ipsa solet praedicare), 'Multos quidem
to-daughter his-own she-herself is-wont to-proclaim-it many indeed
amicos tibi ut longiore vita paravi, praecipuos tamen
friends for-you as by-a-longer life I-have-provided the-chief yet
Secundum et Cornutum.'
Secundus and Cornutus

17.10 Quod cum recordor, intellego mihi laborandum ne qua
which when I-recall I-understand by-me to-be-striven lest in-any
parte videar hanc de me fiduciam providentissimi viri
part I-may-seem this about me confidence of-a-most-provident man
destituisse.
to-have-disappointed

17.11 Quare ego vero Corelliae adero promptissime nec subire
therefore I indeed Corellia shall-appear-for most-readily nor to-incur
offensas recusabo: quamquam non solum veniam me verum
offenses shall-I-refuse although not only pardon me but
etiam laudem apud istum ipsum, a quo, ut ais, nova
also praise with that very-man by whom as you-say a-new
lis fortasse ut feminae intenditur, arbitror consecuturum,
suit perhaps as to-a-woman is-being-brought I-think about-to-obtain

si haec eadem in actione, latius scilicet et uberius
if these same-things in the-pleading more-broadly evidently and more-fully
quam epistularum angustiae sinunt, vel in excusationem
than of-letters the-narrow-limits allow either in excuse
vel etiam commendationem meam dixero. Vale.
or even commendation my I-shall-have-said farewell

C. Plinius Arrio Antonino suo s. 18
Gaius Pliny to-Arrius Antoninus his-own greeting

Quemadmodum magis adprobare tibi possum, quanto opere 18.1
in-what-way more to-prove to-you can-I how greatly
mirer epigrammata tua graeca, quam quod quaedam latine
I-admire epigrams your Greek than that some in-Latin
aemulari et exprimere temptavi? In deterius tamen. Accidit
to-emulate and to-express I-have-tried into the-worse yet happened
hoc primum inbecillitate ingenii mei, deinde inopia
this first through-the-weakness of-talent my then through-the-poverty
ac potius, ut Lucretius ait, egestate patrii sermonis.
and rather as Lucretius says through-the-need of-native speech

Quod si haec, quae sunt et latina et mea, habere tibi 18.2
but if these-things which are both Latin and mine to-have for-you
aliquid venustatis videbuntur, quantum putas inesse iis
something of-charm shall-seem how-much do-you-think to-be-in those
gratiae, quae et a te et graece proferuntur? Vale.
of-grace which both by you and in-Greek are-produced farewell

C. Plinius Calpurniae Hispullae suae s. 19
Gaius Pliny to-Calpurnia Hispulla his-own greeting

Cum sis pietatis exemplum fratremque optimum et 19.1
since you-are of-devotion an-example and-brother best and
amantissimum tui pari caritate dilexeris filiamque eius
most-loving of-you with-equal affection you-loved and-daughter his
ut tuam diligas, nec tantum amitae ei adfectum verum
as yours you-love nor only of-an-aunt to-her the-affection but

etiam patris amissi repraesentes, non dubito maximo tibi
also of-a-father lost you-represent not I-doubt the-greatest to-you
gaudio fore, cum cognoveris dignam patre, dignam
joy to-be-going-to-be when you-learn worthy of-her-father worthy
te, dignam avo evadere.
of-you worthy of-her-grandfather to-turn-out

19.2 Summum est acumen, summa frugalitas: amat me, quod
the-highest is her-acumen the-highest her-frugality she-loves me which
castitatis indicium est. Accedit his studium litterarum,
of-chastity a-sign is there-is-added to-these zeal for-letters
quod ex mei caritate concepit: meos libellos habet,
which from for-me love she-has-conceived my little-books she-has
lectitat, ediscit etiam.
reads-again-and-again learns-by-heart even

19.3 Qua illa sollicitudine, cum videor acturus, quanto, cum
with-what she anxiety when I-seem about-to-plead with-how-much when
egi, gaudio adficitur! Disponit qui nuntient sibi, quem
I-have-pleaded joy is-she-affected she-posts people-who may-report to-her what
adsensum, quos clamores excitarim, quem eventum iudicii
assent what shouts I-have-roused what outcome of-the-trial
tulerim. Eadem, siquando recito, in proximo discreta
I-have-carried-off the-same-woman if-ever I-recite in close-by separated
velo sedet laudesque nostras avidissimis auribus excipit.
by-a-curtain sits and-praises our with-most-eager ears takes-in

19.4 Versus quidem meos cantat etiam formatque cithara, non
verses indeed my she-sings even and-sets-to-music on-the-lyre not
artifice aliquo docente, sed amore, qui magister est optimus.
an-artist some teaching but love who teacher is the-best

19.5 His ex causis in spem certissimam adducor perpetuam
these for reasons into hope most-certain I-am-led lasting
nobis maioremque in dies futuram esse concordiam. Non
for-us and-greater from day-to-day about-to-be to-be the-harmony not

enim aetatem meam aut corpus, quae paulatim occidunt ac
for age my or body which gradually decline and
senescunt, sed gloriam diligit.
grow-old but glory she-loves
Nec aliud decet tuis manibus educatam, tuis praeceptis 19.6
nor other befits by-your hands one-reared by-your precepts
institutam, quae nihil in contubernio tuo viderit nisi
trained who nothing in companionship your has-seen except
sanctum honestumque, quae denique amare me ex tua
the-holy and-honorable who finally to-love me from your
praedicatione consueverit.
praising has-grown-used
Nam cum matrem meam parentis loco verereris, me a 19.7
for since mother my in-a-parent's place you-revered me from
pueritia statim formare, laudare talemque, qualis nunc uxori
boyhood at-once to-shape to-praise and-such as now to-wife
meae videor, ominari solebas.
my I-seem to-foretell you-used
Certatim ergo tibi gratias agimus, ego quod illam mihi, 19.8
in-rivalry therefore to-you thanks we-give I because her to-me
illa quod me sibi dederis, quasi invicem elegeris.
she because me to-her you-have-given as-if each-for-the-other you-had-chosen
Vale.
farewell

C. Plinius Novio Maximo suo s. 20
Gaius Pliny to-Novius Maximus his-own greeting
Quid senserim de singulis tuis libris notum tibi, ut 20.1
what I-thought about each your book known to-you as
quemque perlegeram, feci: accipe nunc quid de universis
each I-had-read-through I-made receive now what about all-together
generaliter iudicem.
in-general I-judge

20.2 Est opus pulchrum validum, acre, sublime, varium, elegans,
it-is a-work beautiful strong keen sublime varied elegant
purum figuratum, spatiosum etiam et cum magna tua laude
pure figured ample also and with great your praise
diffusum, in quo tu ingenii simul dolorisque velis latissime
extended in which you of-talent at-once and-of-grief with-sails most-widely
vectus es. Horum utrumque invicem adiumento fuit.
borne have-been of-these each to-the-other a-help was
20.3 Nam dolori sublimitatem et magnificentiam ingenium, ingenio
for to-grief sublimity and magnificence talent to-talent
vim et amaritudinem dolor addidit. Vale.
force and bitterness grief added farewell

21 C. Plinius Velio Ceriali suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Velius Cerialis his-own greeting

21.1 Tristem et acerbum casum Helvidiarum sororum! Utraque a
sad and bitter the-fate of-the-Helvidian sisters each in
partu, utraque filiam enixa decessit.
childbirth each a-daughter having-borne died
21.2 Adficior dolore, nec tamen supra modum doleo: ita mihi
I-am-affected with-grief nor yet beyond measure do-I-grieve so to-me
luctuosum videtur, quod puellas honestissimas in flore
mournful it-seems that girls most-honorable in the-flower
primo fecunditas abstulit. Angor infantium sorte, quae
first fertility has-carried-off I-am-tormented of-the-infants by-the-lot which
sunt parentibus statim et dum nascuntur orbatae, angor
are of-parents at-once and while they-are-born bereaved I-am-tormented
optimorum maritorum, angor etiam meo nomine.
of-the-best husbands I-am-tormented also on-my-own account
21.3 Nam patrem illarum defunctum quoque perseverantissime
for father their dead also most-perseveringly
diligo, ut actione mea librisque testatum est; cui
I-love as by-pleading my and-by-books attested it-is to-whom

nunc unus ex tribus liberis superest domumque pluribus
now one of three children survives and-the-house by-more
adminiculis paulo ante fundatam desolatus fulcit ac sustinet.
props a-little before founded alone he-props and supports
Magno tamen fomento dolor meus adquiescet, si hunc 21.4
by-great yet balm grief my will-be-soothed if this-one
saltem fortem et incolumem paremque illi patri, illi
at-least strong and safe and-equal to-that father to-that
avo fortuna servaverit. Cuius ego pro salute, pro
grandfather fortune shall-have-preserved whose I for safety for
moribus, hoc sum magis anxius quod unicus factus est.
character by-this am more anxious because only-son made he-is
Nosti in amore mollitiam animi mei, nosti metus; quo 21.5
you-know in love the-softness of-mind my you-know my-fears by-which
minus te mirari oportebit, quod plurimum timeam de
less you to-wonder it-will-behoove that most I-fear about
quo plurimum spero. Vale.
him-of-whom most I-hope farewell

C. Plinius Sempronio Rufo suo s. 22
Gaius Pliny to-Sempronius Rufus his-own greeting

Interfui principis optimi cognitioni in consilium adsumptus. 22.1
I-was-present of-the-prince best at-the-inquiry into council taken
Gymnicus agon apud Viennenses ex cuiusdam testamento
a-gymnastic contest among the-Viennenses from of-a-certain-man a-will
celebrabatur. Hunc Trebonius Rufinus, vir egregius nobisque
was-celebrated this Trebonius Rufinus a-man excellent and-to-us
amicus, in duumviratu tollendum abolendumque curavit:
a-friend in his-duumvirate to-be-removed and-abolished saw-to
Negabatur ex auctoritate publica fecisse. Egit ipse 22.2
it-was-denied from authority public him-to-have-acted pleaded himself
causam non minus feliciter quam diserte. Commendabat
the-case no less successfully than eloquently it-commended

actionem quod tamquam homo Romanus et bonus civis
the-pleading that as-if a-man Roman and a-good citizen
in negotio suo mature et graviter loquebatur.
in business his-own maturely and weightily he-spoke

22.3 Cum sententiae perrogarentur, dixit Iunius Mauricus, quo
when the-opinions were-asked-in-turn spoke Junius Mauricus than-whom
viro nihil firmius nihil verius, non esse restituendum
man nothing firmer nothing truer not to-be to-be-restored
Viennensibus agona: adiecit 'Vellem etiam Romae tolli
to-the-Viennenses the-contest he-added I-would-wish also at-Rome to-be-abolished
posset.'
it-could

22.4 Constanter, inquis, et fortiter. Quidni? Sed hoc a Maurico
steadfastly you-say and bravely why-not but this from Mauricus
novum non est. Idem apud imperatorem Nervam non minus
new not is the-same before the-emperor Nerva no less
fortiter. Cenabat Nerva cum paucis: Veiento proximus atque
bravely was-dining Nerva with a-few Veiento next and
etiam in sinu recumbebat: dixi omnia, cum hominem
even in his-bosom was-reclining I-have-said all-things when the-man
nominavi.
I-named

22.5 Incidit sermo de Catullo Messalino, qui luminibus orbatus
there-fell talk about Catullus Messalinus who of-lights deprived
ingenio saevo mala caecitatis addiderat: non verebatur, non
by-his-temper cruel the-evils of-blindness had-added not he-feared not
erubescebat, non miserebatur; quo saepius a Domitiano
he-blushed not he-pitied by-which more-often by Domitian
non secus ac tela, quae et ipsa caeca et inprovida
not otherwise than weapons which also themselves blind and unforeseeing
feruntur, in optimum quemque contorquebatur.
are-borne against best each was-hurled

De huius nequitia sanguinariisque sententiis in commune 22.6
about his wickedness and-bloodthirsty votes in common
omnes super cenam loquebantur, cum ipse imperator 'Quid
all over dinner were-talking when himself the-emperor what
putamus passurum fuisse, si viveret?' Et Mauricus
do-we-think about-to-have-suffered to-have-been if he-were-alive and Mauricus
'Nobiscum cenaret.'
with-us he-would-be-dining
Longius abii, libens tamen. Placuit agona tolli, 22.7
further I-have-gone-off gladly yet it-pleased the-contest to-be-abolished
qui mores Viennensium infecerat, ut noster hic omnium.
which the-manners of-the-Viennenses had-infected as our here of-all
Nam Viennensium vitia intra ipsos residunt, nostra late
for of-the-Viennenses the-vices within themselves remain ours widely
vagantur, utque in corporibus sic in imperio gravissimus est
roam and-as in bodies so in an-empire the-gravest is
morbus qui a capite diffunditur. Vale.
the-disease which from the-head spreads farewell

Pliny congratulates Pomponius Bassus on his retirement, recalls to Fabius Valens how the centumviral court has changed across his years, reports the scandal of jokes written on ballots, agrees to correct his books for Metilius Nepos, praises the verses of Sentius Augurinus, asks Vibius Severus to have portraits of Cornelius Nepos and Titus Catius copied for Herennius Severus' library, warns Romatius Firmus to come to the next hearing as a juror, and asks Licinius Sura why a spring in his home country rises and falls three times a day.

23 C. Plinius Pomponio Basso suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Pomponius Bassus his-own greeting

23.1 Magnam cepi voluptatem, cum ex communibus amicis cognovi
great I-took pleasure when from common friends I-learned
te, ut sapientia tua dignum est, et disponere otium et
you as of-wisdom your worthy it-is both to-arrange leisure and
ferre, habitare amoenissime et nunc terra nunc mari corpus
to-bear-it to-live most-charmingly and now by-land now by-sea body
agitare, multum disputare, multum audire, multum lectitare,
to-exercise much to-discuss much to-listen much to-read
cumque plurimum scias, cotidie tamen aliquid addiscere.
and-since very-much you-know daily yet something to-learn-besides

23.2 Ita senescere oportet virum qui magistratus amplissimos
so to-grow-old befits a-man who magistracies most-ample
gesserit, exercitus rexerit totumque se rei publicae,
has-held armies has-commanded and-whole himself to-the-thing public
quam diu decebat, obtulerit.
as long-as it-was-fitting has-offered

Nam et prima vitae tempora et media patriae, extrema 23.3
for both the-first of-life times and the-middle to-the-fatherland the-last
nobis impertire debemus, ut ipsae leges monent, quae
to-ourselves to-impart we-ought as the-very laws advise which
maiorem annis otio reddunt.
the-older by-years to-leisure restore
Quando mihi licebit, quando per aetatem honestum 23.4
when for-me will-it-be-allowed when through age honorable
erit imitari istud pulcherrimae quietis exemplum? Quando
will-it-be to-imitate that of-most-beautiful quiet example when
secessus mei non desidiae nomen sed tranquillitatis accipient?
retreats my not of-idleness the-name but of-tranquility will-receive
Vale.
farewell

C. Plinius Fabio Valenti suo s. 24
Gaius Pliny to-Fabius Valens his-own greeting

Proxime cum apud centumviros in quadruplici iudicio 24.1
lately when before the-centumvirs in the-quadruple court
dixissem, subiit recordatio egisse me iuvenem
I-had-spoken came-over-me the-recollection to-have-pleaded me as-a-young-man
aeque in quadruplici.
equally in the-quadruple
Processit animus, ut solet, longius: coepi reputare, quos 24.2
went the-mind as it-is-wont further I-began to-reckon whom
in hoc iudicio, quos in illo socios laboris habuissem.
in this court whom in that as-partners of-labor I-had-had
Solus eram qui in utroque dixissem: tantas conversiones aut
alone I-was who in both had-spoken such reversals either
fragilitas mortalitatis aut fortunae mobilitas facit.
the-frailty of-mortality or of-fortune the-fickleness makes

24.3 Quidam ex iis qui tunc egerant decesserunt, exulant alii;
some of those who then had-pleaded have-died are-in-exile others
huic aetas et valetudo silentium suasit, hic sponte
to-this-one age and health silence advised this-one of-his-own-accord
beatissimo otio fruitur; alius exercitum regit, illum
most-blessed leisure enjoys another an-army commands that-one
civilibus officiis principis amicitia exemit.
from-civil duties of-the-prince the-friendship has-exempted

24.4 Circa nos ipsos quam multa mutata sunt! Studiis
about us ourselves how many-things changed are by-studies
processimus, studiis periclitati sumus rursusque processimus:
we-have-advanced by-studies endangered we-have-been and-again we-have-advanced

24.5 Profuerunt nobis bonorum amicitiae, bonorum obfuerunt
helped us of-good-men the-friendships of-good-men harmed
iterumque prosunt. Si conputes annos, exiguum tempus, si
and-again help if you-reckon the-years a-short time if
vices rerum, aevum putes.
the-changes of-things an-age you-would-think

24.6 Quod potest esse documento nihil desperare, nulli rei
which can be for-a-lesson nothing to-despair-of in-no thing
fidere, cum videamus tot varietates tam volubili orbe
to-trust since we-see so-many changes in-so swift a-circle
circumagi.
to-be-turned-round

24.7 Mihi autem familiare est omnes cogitationes meas tecum
to-me moreover customary it-is all thoughts my with-you
communicare isdemque te vel praeceptis vel exemplis
to-share and-with-the-same you either precepts or examples
monere, quibus ipse me moneo; quae ratio huius epistulae
to-advise with-which myself me I-advise which the-reason of-this letter
fuit. Vale.
was farewell

C. Plinius Maesio Maximo suo s. 25

Gaius Pliny to-Maesius Maximus his-own greeting

Scripseram tibi verendum esse ne ex tacitis suffragiis vitium 25.1

I-had-written to-you to-be-feared to-be lest from silent votes vice

aliquod existeret. Factum est. Proximis comitiis in quibusdam

some might-arise done it-has at-the-last elections on certain

tabellis multa iocularia atque etiam foeda dictu, in una vero pro

tablets many jokes and even foul to-say on one indeed for

candidatorum nominibus suffragatorum nomina inventa sunt.

of-the-candidates the-names of-the-supporters the-names found were

Excanduit senatus magnoque clamore ei qui scripsisset 25.2

blazed-up the-senate and-with-great clamor on-him who had-written

iratum principem est comprecatus. Ille tamen fefellit et

angry the-prince has called-down he yet escaped and

latuit, fortasse etiam inter indignantes fuit.

lay-hidden perhaps even among the-indignant he-was

Quid hunc putamus domi facere, qui in tanta re tam 25.3

what this-man do-we-think at-home to-do who in so-great a-matter at-so

serio tempore tam scurriliter ludat, qui denique omnino in

serious a-time so buffoonishly plays who finally altogether in

senatu dicax et urbanus et bellus est?

the-senate witty and urbane and pretty is

Tantum licentiae pravis ingeniis adicit illa fiducia: 'quis 25.4

so-much of-license to-depraved characters adds that confidence who

enim sciet?' Poposcit tabellam, stilum accepit, demisit caput,

for will-know he-demanded a-tablet a-stylus he-took he-lowered his-head

neminem veretur, se contemnit.

no-one he-fears himself he-despises

Inde ista ludibria scaena et pulpito digna. Quo te 25.5

hence those mockeries of-the-stage and of-the-platform worthy where you

vertas? Quae remedia conquiras? Ubique vitia remediis

would-you-turn what remedies would-you-seek-out everywhere vices than-remedies

fortiora. Ἀλλὰ ταῦτα τῷ ὑπὲρ ἡμᾶς μελήσει, cui
stronger but these-things to-the one-above us will-be-a-care on-whom
multum cotidie vigiliarum, multum laboris adicit haec nostra
much daily of-watching much of-labor adds this our
iners et tamen effrenata petulantia. Vale.
sluggish and yet unbridled wantonness farewell

26 C. Plinius Metilio Nepoti suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Metilius Nepos his-own greeting

26.1 Petis ut libellos meos, quos studiosissime conparasti,
you-ask that little-books my which most-zealously you-have-acquired
legendos emendandosque curem. Faciam. Quid enim suscipere
to-be-read and-to-be-corrected I-see-to I-shall-do-it what for to-undertake
libentius debeo, te praesertim exigente?
more-gladly ought-I you especially demanding

26.2 Nam cum vir gravissimus doctissimus disertissimus, super
for since a-man most-serious most-learned most-eloquent besides
haec occupatissimus, maximae provinciae praefuturus,
these-things most-busy of-the-greatest province about-to-be-governor
tanti putes scripta nostra circumferre tecum, quanto
of-such-worth you-think writings our to-carry-about with-you how
opere mihi providendum est ne te haec pars sarcinarum
greatly by-me to-be-taken-care is lest you this part of-the-baggage
tamquam supervacua offendat?
as-if superfluous should-offend

26.3 Adnitar ergo, primum ut comites istos quam commodissimos
I-shall-strive therefore first that companions those as most-agreeable
habeas, deinde ut reversus invenias quos istis addere
you-may-have then that returned you-may-find what to-these to-add
velis. Neque enim mediocriter me ad nova opera tu
you-may-wish nor for moderately me to new works you
lector hortaris. Vale.
as-reader urge farewell

C. Plinius Pompeio Falconi suo s. 27
Gaius Pliny to-Pompeius Falco his-own greeting

Tertius dies est, quod audivi recitantem Sentium Augurinum 27.1
the-third day it-is since I-heard reciting Sentius Augurinus
cum summa mea voluptate, immo etiam admiratione.
with the-greatest my pleasure nay even admiration
Poematia appellat. Multa tenuiter, multa sublimiter, multa
little-poems he-calls-them many-things slenderly many sublimely many
venuste multa tenere, multa dulciter, multa cum bile:
charmingly many tenderly many sweetly many with gall
Aliquot annis puto nihil generis eiusdem absolutius scriptum, 27.2
for-some years I-think nothing of-kind the-same more-finished written
nisi forte me fallit aut amor eius aut quod ipsum me
unless perhaps me deceives either love for-him or that myself me
laudibus vexit.
with-praises he-has-carried-up
Nam lemma sibi sumpsit, quod ego interdum versibus 27.3
for as-theme for-himself he-has-taken that I sometimes in-verses
ludo. Atque adeo iudicii mei te iudicem faciam, si mihi
play and indeed of-judgment my you judge I-shall-make if to-me
ex hoc ipso lemmate secundus versus occurrerit nam ceteros
from this very theme the-second verse occurs for the-rest
teneo, et iam explicui.
I-hold and already have-unfolded

Canto carmina versibus minutis, 27.4
I-sing songs in-verses minute
his olim quibus et meus Catullus
in-those once in-which both my Catullus
et Calvus veteresque. Sed quid ad me?
and Calvus and-the-ancients but what to me

Unus Plinius est mihi priores:
one Pliny is to-me the-earlier
mavult versiculos foro relicto
he-prefers little-verses the-forum left
et quaerit quod amet putatque amari.
and seeks what he-may-love and-thinks to-be-loved
Ille o Plinius, ille quot Catones!
that O Pliny that how-many Catos
I nunc, quisquis amas, amare noli.
go now whoever you-love to-love do-not

27.5 Vides quam acuta omnia, quam apta, quam expressa. Ad
you-see how sharp all how apt how expressive to
hunc gustum totum librum repromitto, quem tibi, ut
this taste the-whole book I-promise which to-you as
primum publicaverit, exhibebo. Interim ama iuvenem
first he-shall-have-published I-shall-present meanwhile love the-young-man
et temporibus nostris gratulare pro ingenio tali, quod ille
and on-times our congratulate for talent such which he
moribus adornat. Vivit cum Spurinna, vivit cum Antonino,
with-character adorns he-lives with Spurinna he-lives with Antoninus
quorum alteri adfinis, utrique contubernalis est.
of-whom to-the-one relative to-each companion he-is

Possis ex hoc facere coniecturam, quam sit emendatus 27.6
you-could from this make a-conjecture how is faultless
adulescens, qui a gravissimis senibus sic amatur. Est enim
a-young-man who by most-serious old-men so is-loved it-is for
illud verissimum:
that most-true

γινώσκων ὅτι
knowing that
τοιοῦτός ἐστιν, οἷσπερ ἥδεται συνών.
such he-is with-whom he-delights being-with

Vale.
farewell

C. Plinius Vibio Severo suo s. 28
Gaius Pliny to-Vibius Severus his-own greeting
Herennius Severus, vir doctissimus, magni aestimat in 28.1
Herennius Severus a-man most-learned highly values in
bibliotheca sua ponere imagines municipum tuorum Corneli
library his to-place the-portraits of-townsmen your of-Cornelius
Nepotis et Titi Cati petitque, si sunt istic, ut esse
Nepos and of-Titus Catius and-he-asks if they-are there as to-be
credibile est, exscribendas pingendasque delegem.
credible it-is to-be-copied and-to-be-painted I-commission-them
Quam curam tibi potissimum iniungo, primum quia 28.2
which care to-you above-all I-enjoin first because
desideriis meis amicissime obsequeris, deinde quia tibi
to-wishes my most-amicably you-comply then because in-you
studiorum summa reverentia, summus amor studiosorum,
for-studies the-highest reverence the-highest love for-the-studious

postremo quod patriam tuam omnesque qui nomen eius
finally because native-town your and-all who the-name of-it
auxerunt ut patriam ipsam veneraris et diligis.
have-increased as the-native-town itself you-revere and love

28.3 Peto autem ut pictorem quam diligentissimum adsumas. Nam
I-ask moreover that a-painter as most-careful you-take-on for
cum est arduum similitudinem effingere ex vero, tum longe
while it-is hard a-likeness to-reproduce from truth so by-far
difficillima est imitationis imitatio. A qua rogo ut artificem,
most-difficult is of-an-imitation imitation from which I-ask that the-artist
quem elegeris, ne in melius quidem sinas aberrare. Vale.
whom you-shall-have-chosen not into better even you-allow to-stray farewell

29 C. Plinius Romatio Firmo suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Romatius Firmus his-own greeting

29.1 Heia tu! Cum proxime res agentur, quoquo modo ad
hey you when next cases will-be-tried in-whatever way to
iudicandum veni: nihil est quod in dextram aurem fiducia
judging come nothing is-there why on the-right ear in-confidence
mei dormias. Non inpune cessatur.
in-me you-should-sleep not with-impunity there-is-absence

29.2 Ecce Licinius Nepos praetor! Acer et fortis et praetor,
look Licinius Nepos the-praetor keen and brave and a-praetor
multam dixit etiam senatori. Egit ille in senatu causam
a-fine he-pronounced even on-a-senator pleaded he in the-senate case
suam, egit autem sic ut deprecaretur. Remissa est multa;
his-own he-pleaded moreover so that he-begged-off remitted was the-fine
sed timuit, sed rogavit, sed opus venia fuit.
but he-feared but he-begged but need of-pardon there-was

Dices ‘non omnes praetores tam severi.’ Falleris: nam vel 29.3
you-will-say not all praetors so severe you-are-wrong for either
instituere vel reducere eius modi exemplum non nisi severi,
to-establish or to-bring-back of-this kind an-example none except the-severe
institutum reductumve exercere etiam lenissimi possunt. Vale.
established or-brought-back to-enforce even the-most-lenient can farewell

C. Plinius Licinio Surae suo s. 30
Gaius Pliny to-Licinius Sura his-own greeting

Attuli tibi ex patria mea pro munusculo quaestionem 30.1
I-have-brought to-you from native-town my for a-little-gift a-question
altissima ista eruditione dignissimam.
of-deepest that learning most-worthy

Fons oritur in monte, per saxa decurrit, excipitur 30.2
a-spring rises on a-mountain through rocks runs-down is-received
cenatiuncula manu facta: ibi paulum retentus in Larium
by-a-little-dining-room by-hand made there a-little held-back into the-Larian
lacum decidit. Huius mira natura: ter in die statis
lake it-falls-down of-this wonderful the-nature three-times in a-day with-fixed
auctibus ac diminutionibus crescit decrescitque.
increases and decreases it-grows and-shrinks

Cernitur id palam et cum summa voluptate deprehenditur. 30.3
is-seen this openly and with the-greatest pleasure is-observed
Iuxta recumbis et vesceris atque etiam ex ipso fonte
beside-it you-recline and you-eat and even from the-very spring
(nam est frigidissimus) potas; interim ille certis dimensisque
for it-is very-cold you-drink meanwhile it at-fixed and-measured
momentis vel subtrahitur vel adsurgit.
intervals either withdraws or rises

30.4 Anulum seu quid aliud ponis in sicco, adluitur sensim
a-ring or anything other you-place on dry-ground it-is-washed gradually
ac novissime operitur, detegitur rursus paulatimque deseritur:
and at-last is-covered is-uncovered again and-gradually is-left
si diutius observes, utrumque iterum ac tertio videas.
if longer you-watch each a-second and a-third-time you-may-see

30.5 Spiritusne aliquis occultior os fontis et fauces modo
whether-breath some more-hidden the-mouth of-the-spring and throat now
laxat, modo includit, prout inlatus occurrit aut decessit
loosens now closes as brought-in it-meets-it or has-withdrawn
expulsus?
driven-out

30.6 Quod in ampullis ceterisque generis eiusdem videmus
which in jars and-the-other of-kind the-same we-see
accidere, quibus non hians nec statim patens exitus. Nam
to-happen in-which not gaping nor at-once open the-outlet for
illa quoque, quamquam prona atque vergentia, per quasdam
they also although tilted and sloping through certain
obluctantis animae moras crebris quasi singultibus sistunt
of-the-resisting air delays with-frequent as-it-were sobs check
quod effundunt.
what they-pour-out

30.7 An quae oceano natura, fonti quoque, quaque ille
or what to-the-ocean nature to-the-spring also and-by-what it
ratione aut inpellitur aut resorbetur, hac modicus hic umor
way either is-driven or is-sucked-back by-this the-small this water
vicibus alternis supprimitur vel egeritur?
by-turns alternate is-held-down or is-discharged

An ut flumina quae in mare deferuntur adversantibus ventis 30.8
or as rivers which into the-sea are-carried by-opposing winds
obvioque aestu retorquentur, ita est aliquid quod huius
and-by-the-meeting tide are-turned-back so is-there something which of-this
fontis excursum repercutiat?
spring the-outflow may-drive-back
An latentibus venis certa mensura, quae dum colligit quod 30.9
or in-hidden veins a-fixed measure which while it-collects what
exhauserat, minor rivus et pigrior; cum collegit, agilior
it-had-drained a-smaller stream and slower when it-has-collected livelier
maiorque profertur?
and-greater it-is-brought-out
An nescio quod libramentum abditum et caecum, quod 30.10
or I-know-not what a-balance hidden and blind which
cum exinanitum est, suscitat et elicit fontem; cum
when emptied it-is rouses and draws-forth the-spring when
repletum, moratur et strangulat?
filled delays and chokes
Scrutare tu causas (potes enim), quae tantum miraculum 30.11
search-out you the-causes you-can for which so-great a-marvel
efficiunt: mihi abunde est, si satis expressi quod efficitur.
produce for-me amply it-is if enough I-have-expressed what is-produced
Vale.
farewell

BOOK V

I · A LEGACY

Pliny tells Annius Severus how Curianus, disinherited by his mother Pomponia Galla, asked him to give up his share of her estate; Pliny heard the case with Corellius and Frontinus, found for the mother, and later offered Curianus as much as his own share, for which Curianus left him a legacy. He thanks Calpurnius Flaccus for thrushes, defends to Titius Aristo his writing and reciting of light verse, reports the Vicetini's complaint against their advocate Nominatus, and mourns Gaius Fannius, who died before finishing his book on Nero's victims.

C. Plinius Annio Severo suo s. 1

Gaius Pliny to-Annius Severus his-own greeting

Legatum mihi obvenit modicum, sed amplissimo gratius. 1.1

a-legacy to-me has-come modest but than-the-most-ample more-welcome

Cur amplissimo gratius? Pomponia Galla exheredato filio

why than-the-most-ample more-welcome Pomponia Galla disinherited her-son

Asudio Curiano heredem reliquerat me, dederat coheredes

Asudius Curianus heir had-left me she-had-given as-coheirs

Sertorium Severum praetorium virum, aliosque splendidos

Sertorius Severus of-praetorian-rank a-man and-other distinguished

equites Romanos.

knights Roman

Curianus orabat ut sibi donarem portionem meam seque 1.2

Curianus begged that to-him I-should-give-up share my and-himself

praeiudicio iuvarem; eandem tacita conventione salvam mihi

by-a-precedent I-should-help the-same by-tacit agreement safe to-me

pollicebatur.

he-promised

1.3 Respondebam non convenire moribus meis aliud palam,
I-answered not to-accord with-character my one-thing openly
aliud agere secreto, praeterea non esse satis honestum donare
another to-do secretly besides not to-be sufficiently honorable to-give
et locupleti et orbo; in summa non profuturum
both to-a-rich-man and to-a-childless-one in sum not to-be-going-to-help
ei, si donassem, profuturum si cessissem, esse autem me
him if I-gave to-be-going-to-help if I-ceded to-be moreover me
paratum cedere, si inique exheredatum mihi liqueret.
ready to-cede if unjustly disinherited to-me it-were-clear
1.4 Ad hoc ille 'Rogo cognoscas.' Cunctatus paulum 'Faciam'
to this he I-ask you-examine-it having-hesitated a-little I-shall-do-it
inquam: 'neque enim video cur ipse me minorem putem,
I-said nor for do-I-see why I-myself me less should-think
quam tibi videor. Sed iam nunc memento non defuturam
than to-you I-seem but already now remember not to-be-going-to-fail
mihi constantiam, si ita fides duxerit, secundum matrem
to-me the-firmness if so honesty shall-have-led in-favor-of mother
tuam pronuntiandi.'
your to-give-judgment
1.5 'Ut voles' ait: 'voles enim quod aequissimum.' Adhibui
as you-will he-says you-will for what is-fairest I-called-in
in consilium duos quos tunc civitas nostra spectatissimos
for council two whom then state our most-esteemed
habuit, Corellium et Frontinum.
had Corellius and Frontinus
1.6 His circumdatus in cubiculo meo sedi: dixit Curianus quae
by-these surrounded in bedroom my I-sat said Curianus what
pro se putabat: respondi paucis ego (neque enim aderat
for himself he-thought I-answered in-few-words I nor for was-present
alius qui defunctae pudorem tueretur): deinde secessi et
another who of-the-dead-woman the-honor might-defend then I-withdrew and

ex consilii sententia 'Videtur' inquam, 'Curiane, mater tua
from of-the-council the-opinion it-seems I-said Curianus mother your
iustas habuisse causas irascendi tibi.' Post hoc ille cum ceteris
just to-have-had causes of-being-angry with-you after this he with the-others
subscripsit centumvirale iudicium, non subscripsit mecum.
brought a-centumviral suit not he-did-bring-it with-me
Adpetebat iudicii dies. Coheredes mei componere et 1.7
approached of-the-trial the-day coheirs my to-compound and
transigere cupiebant, non diffidentia causae, sed metu
to-settle were-desiring not from-distrust of-the-case but from-fear
temporum. Verebantur quod videbant multis accidisse, ne
of-the-times they-feared what they-saw to-many to-have-happened lest
ex centumvirali iudicio capitis rei exirent.
from a-centumviral trial on-a-capital-charge defendants they-should-come-out
Et erant quidam in illis quibus obici et Gratillae 1.8
and there-were some among them to-whom to-be-objected both of-Gratilla
amicitia et Rustici posset.
the-friendship and of-Rusticus could
Rogant me ut cum Curiano loquar. Convenimus in aedem 1.9
they-ask me that with Curianus I-should-speak we-meet in the-temple
Concordiae. Ibi ego 'si mater' inquam 'te ex parte quarta
of-Concord there I if mother I-said you for a-part fourth
scripsisset heredem, num queri posses? Quid si heredem
had-written heir surely-not to-complain could-you what if heir
quidem instituisset ex asse, sed legatis ita exhausisset,
indeed she-had-appointed for the-whole but with-legacies so had-drained
ut non amplius apud te quam quarta remaneret? Igitur
that not more with you than a-fourth remained therefore
sufficere tibi debet, si exheredatus a matre quartam
to-suffice for-you it-ought if disinherited by your-mother a-fourth
partem ab heredibus eius accipias, quam tamen ego augebo.
part from heirs her you-receive which yet I shall-increase

1.10 Scis te non subscripsisse mecum et iam biennium
you-know you not brought-suit with-me and already two-years
transisse omniaque me usu cepisse. Sed ut te
to-have-passed and-all-things me by-usage to-have-acquired but that you
coheredes mei tractabiliorem experiantur, utque tibi nihil
coheirs my more-tractable may-find and-that from-you nothing
abstulerit reverentia mei, offero pro mea parte tantundem.'
has-taken respect for-me I-offer for my part as-much
Tuli fructum non conscientiae modo verum etiam famae.
I-carried-off the-fruit not of-conscience only but also of-reputation

1.11 Ille ergo Curianus legatum mihi reliquit et factum meum,
that therefore Curianus a-legacy to-me left and deed my
nisi forte blandior mihi, antiquum notabili honore signavit.
unless perhaps I-flatter myself old-fashioned with-a-notable honor marked

1.12 Haec tibi scripsi, quia de omnibus quae me vel
these-things to-you I-have-written because about all-things which me either
delectant vel angunt non aliter tecum quam mecum loqui
delight or distress not otherwise with-you than with-myself to-talk
soleo; deinde quod durum existimabam te amantissimum
I-am-wont then because harsh I-thought you most-loving
mei fraudare voluptate quam ipse capiebam.
of-me to-cheat of-the-pleasure which I-myself was-taking

1.13 Neque enim sum tam sapiens, ut nihil mea intersit,
nor for am-I so wise that nothing to-me it-matters
an iis quae honeste fecisse me credo testificatio
whether to-those-things which honorably to-have-done me believe testimony
quaedam et quasi praemium accedat. Vale.
some and as-it-were a-reward be-added farewell

C. Plinius Calpurnio Flacco suo s. 2

Gaius Pliny to-Calpurnius Flaccus his-own greeting

Accepi pulcherrimos turdos, cum quibus parem calculum 2.1

I-have-received very-beautiful thrushes with which an-equal reckoning

ponere nec urbis copiis ex Laurentino nec maris

to-set neither with-the-city's supplies from the-Laurentine nor with-the-sea's

tam turbidis tempestatibus possum.

such stormy weather can-I

Recipies ergo epistulas steriles et simpliciter ingratas, ac 2.2

you-will-receive therefore letters barren and plainly ungrateful and

ne illam quidem sollertiam Diomedis in permutando munere

not that even cleverness of-Diomedes in exchanging a-gift

imitantes. Sed quae facilitas tua, hoc magis dabis

imitating but such the-indulgence your by-this more you-will-give

veniam, quod se non mereri fatentur. Vale.

pardon that themselves not to-deserve-it they-confess farewell

C. Plinius Titio Aristoni suo s. 3

Gaius Pliny to-Titius Aristo his-own greeting

Cum plurima officia tua mihi grata et iucunda sunt, tum 3.1

while very-many kindnesses your to-me welcome and pleasant are then

vel maxime quod me celandum non putasti fuisse

even most that me to-be-kept-in-the-dark not you-thought to-have-been

apud te de versiculis meis multum copiosumque

at your-house about little-verses my much and-copious

sermonem eumque diversitate iudiciorum longius processisse,

talk and-that by-the-diversity of-judgments further to-have-gone

extitisse etiam quosdam qui scripta quidem ipsa non

to-have-appeared also some who the-writings indeed themselves not

inprobarent, me tamen amice simpliciterque reprehenderent,

disapproved me yet in-a-friendly and-frank-way blamed

quod haec scriberem recitaremque.

because these-things I-wrote and-recited

3.2 Quibus ego, ut augeam meam culpam, ita respondeo:
to-whom I that I-may-increase my guilt thus answer
facio non numquam versiculos severos parum, facio; et
I-make not never little-verses severe too-little I-make-them and
comoedos audio et specto mimos et lyricos lego et Sotadicos
comic-actors I-hear and I-watch mimes and lyric-poets I-read and Sotadics
intellego; aliquando praeterea rideo iocor, ludo, utque omnia
I-understand sometimes besides I-laugh I-jest I-play and-that all
innoxiae remissionis genera breviter amplectar, homo sum.
of-innocent relaxation the-kinds briefly I-may-embrace a-man I-am
3.3 Nec vero moleste fero hanc esse de moribus meis
nor indeed annoyed do-I-bear this to-be about character my
existimationem, ut qui nesciunt talia doctissimos
the-opinion that those-who know-not such-things most-learned
gravissimos sanctissimos homines scriptitasse me scribere
most-serious most-upright men to-have-written me to-write
mirentur.
wonder
3.4 Ab illis autem quibus notum est, quos quantosque auctores
from those moreover to-whom known it-is what and-how-great authors
sequar, facile impetrari posse confido ut errare me, sed
I-follow easily to-be-obtained to-be-possible I-trust that to-err me but
cum illis sinant, quorum non seria modo verum etiam
with them they-allow of-whom not serious-things only but also
lusus exprimere laudabile est.
play to-express praiseworthy is
3.5 An ego verear (neminem viventium, ne quam in speciem
or I should-fear no-one of-the-living lest some into appearance
adulationis incidam, nominabo), sed ego verear ne me
of-flattery I-fall I-shall-name but I should-fear lest me
non satis deceat quod decuit M. Tullium, C. Calvum,
not enough befit what befitted Marcus Tullius Gaius Calvus

Asinium Pollionem, M. Messalam, Q. Hortensium, M.
Asinius Pollio Marcus Messala Quintus Hortensius Marcus
Brutum, L. Sullam, Q. Catulum, Q. Scaevolam,
Brutus Lucius Sulla Quintus Catulus Quintus Scaevola
Ser. Sulpicium, Varronem, Torquatum, immo Torquatos,
Servius Sulpicius Varro Torquatus nay the-Torquati
C. Memmium, Lentulum Gaetulicum, Annaeum Senecam
Gaius Memmius Lentulus Gaetulicum Annaeus Seneca
Annaeum Lucanum et proxime Verginium Rufum, et
Annaeus Lucanus and lately Verginius Rufus and
si non sufficiunt exempla privata, divum Iulium, divum
if not suffice examples private the-deified Julius the-deified
Augustum, divum Nervam, Tiberium Caesarem?
Augustus the-deified Nerva Tiberius Caesar
Neronem enim transeo, quamvis sciam non corrumpi in 3.6
Nero for I-pass-over although I-know not to-be-corrupted into
deterius quae aliquando etiam a malis, sed honesta manere
the-worse what sometimes even by bad-men but honorable to-remain
quae saepius a bonis fiunt, inter quos vel praecipue
what more-often by good-men are-done among whom even especially
numerandus est P. Vergilius, Cornelius Nepos et prius
to-be-counted is Publius Vergil Cornelius Nepos and earlier
Accius Enniusque. Non quidem hi senatores, sed sanctitas
Accius and-Ennius not indeed these senators but purity
morum non distat ordinibus.
of-character not differs by-ranks
Recito tamen, quod illi an fecerint nescio. Etiam: sed 3.7
I-recite yet which they whether they-did I-know-not yes but
illi iudicio suo poterant esse contenti, mihi modestior
they in-judgment their-own could be content in-me more-modest

constantia est, quam ut satis absolutum putem quod
the-steadfastness is than that sufficiently finished I-should-think what
a me probetur.
by me is-approved

3.8 Itaque has recitandi causas sequor, primum quod ipse qui
and-so these of-reciting causes I-follow first that he-himself who
recitat aliquanto acrius scriptis suis auditorum reverentia
recites somewhat more-keenly on-writings his-own of-the-hearers from-respect
intendit; deinde quod de quibus dubitat quasi ex consilii
concentrates then that about what-things he-doubts as-if from of-the-council
sententia statuit.
the-opinion he-decides

3.9 Multa etiam a multis admonetur, et si non admoneatur,
many-things also by many he-is-advised and if not he-be-advised
quid quisque sentiat perspicit ex vultu oculis nutu manu
what each thinks he-sees from the-face eyes nod hand
murmure silentio; quae satis apertis notis iudicium ab
murmur silence which by-sufficiently clear signs judgment from
humanitate discernunt.
politeness distinguish

3.10 Atque adeo, sicui forte eorum qui interfuerunt curae
and indeed if-to-anyone perhaps of-those who were-present a-concern
fuerit eadem illa legere, intelleget me quaedam
it-shall-have-been the-same-things those to-read he-will-understand me certain-things
aut commutasse aut praeterisse, fortasse etiam ex suo
either to-have-changed or to-have-passed-over perhaps even from his-own
iudicio, quamvis ipse nihil dixerit mihi.
judgment although he-himself nothing said to-me

Atque haec ita disputo quasi populum in auditorium, 3.11
and these-things so I-argue as-if the-people into a-lecture-hall
non in cubiculum amicos advocarim, quos plures habere
not into a-bedroom friends I-had-invited whom many to-have
multis gloriosum, reprehensioni nemini fuit. Vale.
to-many glorious to-reproach to-no-one has-been farewell

C. Plinius Iulio Valeriano suo s. 4
Gaius Pliny to-Julius Valerianus his-own greeting

Res parva, sed initium non parvae. Vir praetorius 4.1
a-matter small but the-beginning of-no small a-man of-praetorian-rank
Sollers a senatu petiit, ut sibi instituere nundinas in
Sollers from the-senate sought that to-him to-establish markets on
agris suis permitteretur: contra dixerunt legati Vicetinorum:
lands his-own it-be-permitted against spoke the-envoys of-the-Vicetini
adfuit Tuscilius Nominatus:
appeared-for-them Tuscilius Nominatus

Dilata causa est. Alio senatu Vicetini sine advocato 4.2
postponed the-case was at-another senate the-Vicetini without an-advocate
intraverunt, dixerunt se deceptos, lapsine verbo,
entered they-said themselves deceived whether-having-slipped in-a-word
an quia ita sentiebant. Interrogati a Nepote praetore, quem
or because so they-thought asked by Nepos the-praetor whom
docuissent, responderunt quem prius: interrogati, an tunc
they-had-briefed they-answered whom before asked whether then
gratis adfuisset, responderunt sex milibus nummum: an
free he-had-appeared they-answered for-six thousand of-sesterces whether
rursus aliquid dedissent, dixerunt mille denarios. Nepos
again something they-had-given they-said a-thousand denarii Nepos
postulavit ut Nominatus induceretur.
demanded that Nominatus be-brought-in

4.3 Hactenus illo die. Sed quantum auguror, longius res
so-far that day but as-far-as I-foretell further the-matter
procedit. Nam pleraque tacta tantum et omnino commota
goes for most-things touched only and altogether stirred
latissime serpunt. Erexi aures tuas.
most-widely creep I-have-pricked-up ears your

4.4 Quam diu nunc oportet, quam blande roges ut reliqua
how long now it-behooves how coaxingly you-ask that the-rest
cognoscas! Si tamen non ante ob haec ipsa veneris
you-may-learn if yet not before on-account-of these very-things you-come
Romam spectatorque malueris esse quam lector. Vale.
to-Rome and-a-spectator prefer to-be than a-reader farewell

5 C. Plinius Novio Maximo suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Novius Maximus his-own greeting

5.1 Nuntiatum mihi est C. Fannium decessisse; qui
announced to-me it-has-been Gaius Fannius to-have-died which
nuntius me gravi dolore confudit, primum quod amavi
news me with-heavy grief has-confounded first because I-loved
hominem elegantem disertum, deinde quod iudicio eius
the-man elegant eloquent then because the-judgment his
uti solebam. Erat enim acutus natura, usu exercitatus,
to-use I-was-wont he-was for keen by-nature by-practice trained
veritate promptissimus.
in-truthfulness most-ready

5.2 Angit me super ista casus ipsius: decessit veteri
distresses me besides those-things the-fate his-own he-died with-an-old
testamento, omisit quos maxime diligebat, prosecutus
will he-left-out those-whom most he-loved rewarded
est quibus offensior erat. Sed hoc utcumque tolerabile;
he-has those-with-whom more-offended he-was but this somehow bearable
gravius illud, quod pulcherrimum opus imperfectum reliquit.
heavier that that the-most-beautiful work unfinished he-left

Quamvis enim agendis causis distringeretur, scribebat tamen 5.3
although for by-pleading cases he-was-distracted he-was-writing yet
exitus occisorum aut relegatorum a Nerone et iam tres
the-ends of-those-killed or banished by Nero and already three
libros absolverat, subtiles et diligentes et latinos atque inter
books he-had-finished subtle and careful and Latin and between
sermonem historiamque medios, ac tanto magis reliquos
conversation and-history midway and so-much more the-rest
perficere cupiebat, quanto frequentius hi lectitabantur.
to-finish he-desired as more-often these were-read
Mihi autem videtur acerba semper et inmatura mors eorum 5.4
to-me moreover seems bitter always and untimely the-death of-those
qui immortale aliquid parant. Nam qui voluptatibus
who immortal something are-preparing for those-who to-pleasures
dediti quasi in diem vivunt vivendi causas cotidie finiunt;
given as-if for the-day live of-living the-causes daily end
qui vero posteros cogitant et memoriam sui operibus
those-who indeed posterity think-of and memory of-themselves by-works
extendunt, his nulla mors non repentina est, ut quae
extend for-these no death not sudden is as which
semper inchoatum aliquid abrumpat.
always begun something breaks-off
Gaius quidem Fannius quod accidit multo ante praesensit. 5.5
Gaius indeed Fannius what happened long before foresaw
Visus est sibi per nocturnam quietem iacere in lectulo
seemed he-has to-himself through nocturnal repose to-lie on couch
suo compositus in habitum studentis, habere ante se
his composed in the-posture of-one-studying to-have before himself
scrinium (ita solebat): mox imaginatus est venisse Neronem,
a-book-case so he-was-wont soon imagined he-has to-have-come Nero
in toro resedisse, prompsisse primum librum quem de
on the-couch to-have-sat-down to-have-taken-out the-first book which about

sceleribus eius ediderat eumque ad extremum revolvisse;
the-crimes his he-had-published and-it to the-end to-have-unrolled
idem in secundo ac tertio fecisse, tunc abisse.
the-same in the-second and third to-have-done then to-have-gone-away
5.6 Expavit et sic interpretatus est, tamquam idem sibi
he-was-terrified and so interpreted he-has as-if the-same for-himself
futurus esset scribendi finis, qui fuisset illi legendi, et
about-to-be were of-writing the-end which had-been for-him of-reading and
fuit idem.
it-was the-same
5.7 Quod me recordantem miseratio subit, quantum vigiliarum,
which me recalling pity comes-over how-much of-watching
quantum laboris exhauserit frustra. Occursant animo mea
how-much of-labor he-exhausted in-vain run-to-meet mind my
mortalitas, mea scripta. Nec dubito te quoque eadem
mortality my writings nor do-I-doubt you also by-the-same
cogitatione terreri pro istis quae inter manus habes.
thought to-be-alarmed for those-things which among hands you-have
5.8 Proinde dum suppetit vita, enitamur ut mors quam
accordingly while there-is life let-us-strive that death as
paucissima quae abolere possit inveniat. Vale.
fewest which to-abolish it-could may-find farewell

Pliny reassures Domitius Apollinaris that his Tuscan estate below the Apennines is healthy, and describes it: the climate, the amphitheater of hills and woods, the vineyards, fields, meadows, and Tiber, then the villa itself, its portico, terraces, dining rooms, suites, and baths, and the hippodrome garden of plane trees, box hedges, and fountains. He excuses the letter's length, and says he is healthiest in body and mind there.

C. Plinius Domitio Apollinari suo s. 6

Gaius Pliny to-Domitius Apollinaris his-own greeting

Amavi curam et sollicitudinem tuam, quod, cum audisses 6.1

I-loved the-care and solicitude your that when you-had-heard

me aestate Tuscos meos petiturum, ne facerem

me in-summer Tuscan-estate my to-be-going-to-seek not that-I-should-do-it

suasisti, dum putas insalubres.

you-urged while you-think-them unhealthy

Est sane gravis et pestilens ora Tuscorum quae per 6.2

is certainly oppressive and pestilential the-coast of-the-Tuscans which along

litus extenditur; sed hi procul a mari recesserunt,

the-shore extends but these-estates far from the-sea have-withdrawn

quin etiam Appennino, saluberrimo montium, subiacent.

nay even the-Apennine the-healthiest of-mountains lie-beneath

Atque adeo ut omnem pro me metum ponas, accipe 6.3

and indeed that all for me fear you-may-lay-aside hear

temperiem caeli, regionis situm villae amoenitatem; quae

the-temperature of-the-sky of-the-region the-site of-the-villa the-charm which

et tibi auditu et mihi relatu iucunda erunt.

both to-you in-hearing and to-me in-telling pleasant will-be

Caelum est hieme frigidum et gelidum: myrtos oleas, 6.4

the-climate is in-winter cold and frosty myrtles olives

quaeque alia adsiduo tepore laetantur, aspernatur ac respuit;

and-whatever other by-constant warmth rejoice it-scorns and rejects

laurum tamen patitur atque etiam nitidissimam profert,
the-laurel yet it-tolerates and even most-glossy it-brings-forth
interdum, sed non saepius quam sub urbe nostra, necat.
sometimes but not more-often than near city our it-kills
6.5 Aestatis mira clementia: semper aer spiritu aliquo
of-the-summer wonderful the-mildness always the-air by-breeze some
movetur; frequentius tamen auras quam ventos habet.
is-moved more-often yet breezes than winds it-has
6.6 Hinc senes multi: videas avos proavosque iam
hence old-men many you-might-see grandfathers and-great-grandfathers already
iuvenum, audias fabulas veteres sermonesque maiorum,
of-young-men you-might-hear tales old and-talk of-the-ancestors
cumque veneris illo, putes alio te saeculo
and-when you-have-come there you-would-think in-another yourself age
natum.
born
6.7 Regionis forma pulcherrima: imaginare amphitheatrum aliquod
of-the-region the-shape most-beautiful imagine an-amphitheater some
inmensum, et quale sola rerum natura possit effingere. Lata
immense and such-as alone of-things the-nature could fashion broad
et diffusa planities montibus cingitur, montes summa
and spread-out a-plain by-mountains is-girdled the-mountains on-the-highest
sui parte procera nemora et antiqua habent.
of-themselves part lofty groves and ancient have
6.8 Frequens ibi et varia venatio. Inde caeduae silvae cum
plentiful there and varied the-hunting thence copse woods with
ipso monte descendunt. Has inter pingues terrenique
the-very mountain come-down these among rich and-earthy
colles (neque enim facile usquam saxum, etiam si quaeratur
hills nor for easily anywhere rock even if it-be-sought

occurrit) planissimis campis fertilitate non cedunt opimamque
meets-one to-the-most-level plains in-fertility not yield and-a-rich
messem serius tantum, sed non minus percoquunt.
harvest later only but not less ripen
Sub his per latus omne vineae porriguntur unamque faciem 6.9
below these along the-side every vineyards stretch and-a-single face
longe lateque contexunt; quarum a fine imoque quasi
far and-wide weave-together of-which from the-end and-lowest as-it-were
margine arbusta nascuntur.
edge plantations arise
Prata inde campique: campi, quos non nisi ingentes boves 6.10
meadows then and-fields fields which not except huge oxen
et fortissima aratra perfringunt: tantis glaebis tenacissimum
and the-strongest plows break-through with-such clods the-most-tenacious
solum, cum primum prosecatur, adsurgit, ut nono demum
soil when first it-is-cut rises-up that at-the-ninth only
sulco perdometur.
furrow it-is-subdued
Prata florida et gemmea trifolium aliasque herbas teneras 6.11
meadows flowery and jeweled clover and-other grasses tender
semper et molles et quasi novas alunt: cuncta enim
always and soft and as-if new nourish all-things for
perennibus rivis nutriuntur. Sed ubi aquae plurimum, palus
by-perennial streams are-fed but where of-water most marsh
nulla, quia devexa terra quidquid liquoris accepit nec
none because sloping the-land whatever of-liquid it-has-received and-not
absorbuit, effundit in Tiberim.
absorbed pours-out into the-Tiber
Medios ille agros secat, navium patiens, omnesque fruges 6.12
the-middle this the-fields cuts of-ships capable and-all produce
devehit in urbem, hieme dumtaxat et vere; aestate
carries-down into the-city in-winter only and in-spring in-summer

summittitur immensique fluminis nomen arenti alveo deserit,
it-sinks and-of-an-immense river the-name in-a-dry bed abandons
autumno resumit.
in-autumn resumes-it

6.13 Magnam capies voluptatem, si hunc regionis situm ex
great you-will-take pleasure if this of-the-region site from
monte prospexeris. Neque enim terras tibi, sed formam
a-mountain you-shall-view nor for lands you but a-picture
aliquam ad eximiam pulchritudinem pictam videberis cernere:
some to exceptional beauty painted you-will-seem to-see
ea varietate, ea descriptione, quocumque inciderint
with-such variety with-such arrangement wherever shall-have-fallen
oculi, reficientur.
the-eyes they-will-be-refreshed

6.14 Villa in colle imo sita prospicit quasi ex summo:
the-villa on a-hill at-its-foot placed looks-out as-if from the-top
ita leniter et sensim clivo fallente consurgit, ut,
so gently and gradually with-the-slope deceiving it-rises that
cum ascendere te non putes, sentias ascendisse. A tergo
when to-climb you not you-think you-feel to-have-climbed at the-back
Appenninum, sed longius habet: accipit ab hoc auras
the-Apennine but at-a-good-distance it-has it-receives from this breezes
quamlibet sereno et placido die, non tamen acres et
however clear and calm a-day not however sharp and
immodicas, sed spatio ipso lassas et infractas.
immoderate but by-the-distance itself tired and broken

6.15 Magna sui parte meridiem spectat aestivumque solem ab
by-a-great of-itself part the-south it-faces and-the-summer sun from
hora sexta, hibernum aliquanto maturius quasi invitat
the-hour sixth the-winter somewhat earlier as-it-were invites

in porticum latam et prominulam. Multa in hac membra,
into a-portico broad and projecting many in this rooms
atrium etiam ex more veterum.
an-atrium even after the-manner of-the-ancients
Ante porticum xystus in plurimas species distinctus 6.16
before the-portico a-terrace into very-many shapes divided
concisusque buxo; demissus inde pronusque pulvinus, cui
and-cut with-box sloping thence and-falling a-bank on-which
bestiarum effigies invicem adversas buxus inscripsit: acanthus
of-beasts figures one-another facing the-box has-inscribed acanthus
in plano mollis et paene dixerim liquidus.
on the-level soft and almost I-would-say liquid
Ambit hunc ambulatio pressis varieque tonsis viridibus inclusa; 6.17
surrounds this a-walk with-low and-variously clipped shrubs enclosed
ab his gestatio in modum circi, quae buxum multiformem
from these a-drive in the-manner of-a-circus which the-box multiform
humilesque et retentas manu arbusculas circumit. Omnia
and-low and kept-back by-hand little-trees goes-around all-things
maceria muniuntur: hanc gradata buxus operit et subtrahit.
by-a-wall are-protected this terraced box covers and hides
Pratum inde non minus natura quam superiora illa arte 6.18
a-meadow then not less by-nature than higher those by-art
visendum: campi deinde porro multaque alia prata et
to-be-viewed fields then farther and-many other meadows and
arbusta.
plantations
A capite porticus triclinium excurrit: valvis xystum 6.19
from the-head of-the-portico a-dining-room runs-out by-its-folding-doors the-terrace
desinentem et protinus pratum multumque ruris videt,
ending and straight-on the-meadow and-much of-the-country it-sees

fenestris hac latus xysti et quod prosilit villae,
by-its-windows on-this-side the-flank of-the-terrace and what juts-out of-the-villa
hac adiacentis hippodromi nemus comasque prospectat.
on-that of-the-adjoining hippodrome the-grove and-foliage it-looks-on
6.20 Contra mediam fere porticum diaeta paulum recedit, cingit
opposite the-middle almost of-the-portico a-suite a-little recedes it-encloses
areolam, quae quattuor platanis inumbratur. Inter has
a-small-court which by-four plane-trees is-shaded among these
marmoreo labro aqua exundat circumiectasque platanos et
from-a-marble basin water overflows and-the-surrounding plane-trees and
subiecta platanis leni aspergine fovet.
what-lies-beneath the-plane-trees with-gentle spray refreshes
6.21 Est in hac diaeta dormitorium cubiculum quod diem clamorem
there-is in this suite a-sleeping bedroom which daylight shouting
sonum excludit, iunctaque ei cotidiana amicorumque cenatio:
noise shuts-out and-joined to-it a-daily and-friends' dining-room
areolam illam, porticum eademque omnia quae porticus aspicit.
small-court that a-portico and-the-same all-things which the-portico looks-on
6.22 Est et aliud cubiculum a proxima platano viride et
there-is also another bedroom from the-nearest plane-tree green and
umbrosum, marmore excultum podio tenus, nec cedit gratiae
shady with-marble finished the-dado as-far-as nor yields to-the-grace
marmoris ramos insidentesque ramis aves imitata pictura:
of-the-marble branches and-perching on-the-branches birds imitating a-painting
6.23 Fonticulus in hoc, in fonte crater; circa sipunculi
a-little-fountain in this in the-fountain a-bowl around small-pipes
plures miscent iucundissimum murmur. In cornu porticus
several mingle a-most-pleasant murmur in the-corner of-the-portico
amplissimum cubiculum triclinio occurrit; aliis fenestris
a-very-spacious bedroom to-the-dining-room meets-it with-some windows

xystum, aliis despicit pratum, sed ante piscinam,
the-terrace with-others it-looks-down-on the-meadow but before-that on-the-fishpond
quae fenestris servit ac subiacet, strepitu visuque iucundam:
which the-windows serves and lies-beneath with-its-noise and-sight pleasant
Nam ex edito desiliens aqua suscepta marmore albescit. 6.24
for from a-height leaping-down the-water caught by-marble whitens
Idem cubiculum hieme tepidissimum, quia plurimo sole
the-same bedroom in-winter warmest because with-very-much sun
perfunditur.
it-is-flooded
Cohaeret hypocauston, et si dies nubilus, inmisso vapore 6.25
adjoins a-furnace-room and if the-day cloudy with-let-in steam
solis vicem supplet. Inde apodyterium balinei laxum et
of-the-sun the-place supplies thence the-undressing-room of-the-bath spacious and
hilare excipit cella frigidaria, in qua baptisterium amplum
cheerful receives the-room cold in which a-plunge-bath ample
atque opacum. Si natare latius aut tepidius velis, in
and shady if to-swim more-widely or more-warmly you-wish in
area piscina est, in proximo puteus, ex quo possis
the-court a-pool is in the-nearest-place a-well from which you-can
rursus adstringi, si paeniteat teporis.
again be-braced if you-repent of-the-warmth
Frigidariae cellae conectitur media, cui sol benignissime 6.26
to-the-cold room is-connected the-middle-one to-which the-sun most-kindly
praesto est; caldariae magis: prominet enim. In hac tres
at-hand is to-the-hot-room more it-juts-out for in this three
descensiones, duae in sole, tertia a sole longius, a
plunges two in the-sun the-third from the-sun farther from
luce non longius.
the-light not farther

6.27 Apodyterio superpositum est sphaeristerium, quod plura
over-the-undressing-room placed is a-ball-court which more
genera exercitationis pluresque circulos capit. Non procul
kinds of-exercise and-more circles holds not far
a balineo scalae, quae in cryptoporticum ferunt prius
from the-bath stairs which into a-covered-colonnade lead first
ad diaetas tres. Harum alia areolae illi, in qua platani
to suites three of-these one the-small-court that in which plane-trees
quattuor, alia prato, alia vineis imminet diversasque
four another the-meadow another the-vineyards overhangs and-different
caeli partes ut prospectus habet.
of-the-sky quarters as views it-has

6.28 In summa cryptoporticu cubiculum ex ipsa cryptoporticu
at the-top-of the-covered-colonnade a-bedroom out-of the-very covered-colonnade
excisum, quod hippodromum vineas montes intuetur.
cut which the-hippodrome the-vineyards the-mountains looks-on
Iungitur cubiculum obvium soli, maxime hiberno. Hinc
is-joined a-bedroom facing the-sun especially the-wintry thence
oritur diaeta, quae villae hippodromum adnectit. Haec
rises a-suite which to-the-villa the-hippodrome attaches this
facies, hic usus a fronte.
the-face this the-use in front

6.29 A latere aestiva cryptoporticus in edito posita, quae
on the-side a-summer covered-colonnade on high-ground placed which
non aspicere vineas, sed tangere videtur: in media
not to-look-on the-vineyards but to-touch-them seems in the-middle
triclinium saluberrimum adflatum ex Appennini vallibus
a-dining-room most-healthful the-breeze from of-the-Apennine the-valleys
recipit: post latissimis fenestris vineas, valvis
receives behind through-very-broad windows the-vineyards through-its-folding-doors
aeque vineas, sed per cryptoporticum, quasi admittit.
likewise the-vineyards but through the-covered-colonnade as-it-were it-admits

A latere triclinii, quod fenestris caret, scalae convivio 6.30
from the-side of-the-dining-room which windows lacks stairs for-the-dinner
utilia secretiore aditu suggerunt. In fine cubiculum,
useful-things by-a-more-secret entrance supply at the-end a-bedroom
cui non minus iucundum prospectum cryptoporticus
to-which not less pleasant a-view the-covered-colonnade
ipsa quam vineae praebent. Subest cryptoporticus
itself than the-vineyards afford beneath-lies a-covered-colonnade
subterraneae similis; aestate incluso frigore riget
to-an-underground-one similar in-summer with-shut-in cold it-is-stiff
contentaque aere suo nec desiderat auras nec admittit.
and-content with-air its-own neither wants breezes nor admits-them
Post utramque cryptoporticum unde triclinium desinit incipit 6.31
behind both covered-colonnades where the-dining-room ends begins
porticus, ante medium diem hiberna, inclinato die aestiva. Hac
a-portico before mid day wintry with-declining day summery by-this
adeuntur diaetae duae, quarum in altera cubicula quattuor,
are-approached suites two of-which in the-one bedrooms four
altera tria, ut circumit sol, aut sole utuntur aut umbra.
in-the-other three as goes-around the-sun either the-sun they-enjoy or the-shade
Hanc dispositionem amoenitatemque tectorum longe longeque 6.32
this arrangement and-charm of-the-buildings far and-far
praecedit hippodromus. Medius patescit statimque intrantium
surpasses the-hippodrome in-the-middle it-opens and-at-once to-those-entering
oculis totus offertur; platanis circumitur: illae hedera
to-the-eyes whole is-presented by-plane-trees it-is-surrounded they with-ivy
vestiuntur, utque summae suis ita imae alienis
are-clothed and-as at-the-top with-their-own so at-the-foot with-borrowed
frondibus virent: hedera truncum et ramos pererrat
leaves they-are-green the-ivy the-trunk and the-branches wanders-over
vicinasque platanos transitu suo copulat: has buxus
and-the-neighboring plane-trees by-passage its-own links these box

interiacet: exteriores buxos circumvenit laurus umbraeque
lies-between the-outer boxes surrounds laurel and-to-the-shade
platanorum suam confert.
of-the-plane-trees its-own contributes

6.33 Rectus hippodromi limes in extrema parte hemicyclio
straight of-the-hippodrome the-path at the-farthest end by-a-semicircle
frangitur mutatque faciem: cypressis ambitur et tegitur,
is-broken and-changes its-face by-cypresses it-is-surrounded and covered
densiore umbra opacior nigriorque; interioribus circulis (sunt
by-denser shade darker and-blacker in-the-inner circles there-are
enim plures) purissimum diem recipit.
for several the-purest daylight it-receives

6.34 Inde etiam rosas effert umbrarumque frigus non ingrato
thence even roses it-brings-forth and-of-the-shadows the-cold with-not unwelcome
sole distinguit. Finito vario illo multiplicique curvamine
sun varies finished varied that and-manifold curving
recto limiti redditur, nec huic uni: nam viae plures
to-the-straight path it-is-returned nor to-this one-only for paths several
intercedentibus buxis dividuntur.
with-intervening boxes are-divided

6.35 Alibi pratulum, alibi ipsa buxus intervenit in formas
in-one-place a-little-meadow in-another the-very box intervenes into shapes
mille discripta, litteras interdum, quae modo nomen
a-thousand laid-out letters sometimes which now the-name
domini dicunt, modo artificis: alternis metulae surgunt,
of-the-master tell now of-the-gardener alternately little-cones rise
alternis inserta sunt poma, et in opere urbanissimo subita
alternately planted are fruit-trees and in a-work most-urban sudden
velut inlati ruris imitatio. Medium spatium brevioribus
as-if of-brought-in country an-imitation the-middle space with-shorter
utrimque platanis adornatur:
on-both-sides plane-trees is-adorned

Post has acanthus hinc inde lubricus et flexuosus, 6.36
after these acanthus here and-there slippery and winding
deinde plures figurae pluraque nomina. In capite stibadium
then more figures and-more names at the-head an-arbor-couch
candido marmore vite protegitur; vitem quattuor columellae
of-white marble by-a-vine is-covered the-vine four little-columns
Carystiae subeunt. Ex stibadio aqua, velut expressa
Carystian support from the-couch water as-if squeezed-out
cubantium pondere, sipunculis effluit, cavato lapide
of-those-reclining by-the-weight through-small-pipes flows-out by-a-hollowed stone
suscipitur, gracili marmore continetur atque ita occulte
is-received by-slender marble is-contained and so secretly
temperatur, ut impleat nec redundet.
is-regulated that it-fills and-not overflows
Gustatorium graviorque cena margini inponitur, levior 6.37
the-appetizers and-the-heavier dinner on-the-edge is-placed the-lighter
naucularum et avium figuris innatans circumit. Contra
of-little-boats and of-birds in-the-shapes floating goes-around opposite
fons egerit aquam et recipit: nam expulsa in altum
a-fountain throws-out water and receives-it for driven on high
in se cadit iunctisque hiatibus et absorbetur et tollitur.
into itself it-falls and-with-joined openings both is-swallowed and is-raised
E regione stibadii adversum cubiculum tantum stibadio
from the-quarter of-the-couch facing a-bedroom as-much to-the-couch
reddit ornatus, quantum accipit ab illo.
returns of-adornment as it-receives from it
Marmore splendet, valvis in viridia prominet 6.38
with-marble it-gleams by-its-folding-doors onto the-greenery it-projects
et exit, alia viridia superioribus inferioribusque fenestris
and goes-out other greenery by-upper and-lower windows
suspicit despicitque. Mox zothecula refugit quasi in
it-looks-up-at and-looks-down-on then a-little-alcove recedes as-if into

cubiculum idem atque aliud. Lectus hic et undique
a-bedroom the-same and another a-couch here and on-all-sides
fenestrae, et tamen lumen obscurum umbra premente.
windows and yet the-light dim with-the-shade pressing
6.39 Nam laetissima vitis per omne tectum in culmen nititur
for a-most-luxuriant vine over the-whole roof to the-top strives
et ascendit. Non secus ibi quam in nemore iaceas,
and climbs not otherwise there than in a-grove you-would-lie
imbrem tantum tamquam in nemore non sentias.
the-rain only as-if in a-grove not you-would-feel
6.40 Hic quoque fons nascitur simulque subducitur. Sunt
here also a-fountain rises and-at-once is-drawn-away there-are
locis pluribus disposita sedilia e marmore, quae ambulatione
in-places several set seats of marble which with-walking
fessos ut cubiculum ipsum iuvant. Fonticuli sedilibus
the-tired as-much-as the-bedroom itself help little-fountains to-the-seats
adiacent. Per totum hippodromum inducti fistulis strepunt
lie-near through the-whole hippodrome led-in by-pipes murmur
rivi et qua manus duxit secuntur: his nunc illa viridia,
streams and where the-hand has-led follow by-these now those greenery
nunc haec, interdum simul omnia lavantur.
now these sometimes at-once all are-watered
6.41 Vitassem iam dudum ne viderer argutior, nisi
I-would-have-avoided already long-ago lest I-should-seem rather-wordy unless
proposuissem omnes angulos tecum epistula circumire. Neque
I-had-proposed all the-corners with-you by-letter to-go-around nor
enim verebar ne laboriosum esset legenti tibi quod
for was-I-afraid lest laborious it-should-be reading to-you what
visenti non fuisset, praesertim cum interquiescere, si
to-one-visiting not would-have-been especially since to-rest-between if
liberet, depositaque epistula quasi residere saepius posses.
it-pleased and-laid-down the-letter as-if to-sit-down quite-often you-could

Praeterea indulsi amori meo: amo enim quae maxima
besides I-indulged love my I-love for the-things-which the-greatest
ex parte ipse inchoavi aut inchoata percolui.
for part I-myself began or begun perfected
In summa (cur enim non aperiam tibi vel iudicium 6.42
in sum why for not should-I-disclose to-you either the-judgment
meum vel errorem?) primum ego officium scriptoris existimo
my or the-error first I the-duty of-a-writer think
ut titulum suum legat atque identidem interroget se,
that the-title his-own he-read and repeatedly ask himself
quid coeperit scribere, sciatque, si materiae immoratur non
what he-has-begun to-write and-know if on-his-subject he-dwells not
esse longum, longissimum, si aliquid arcessit atque attrahit.
to-be long very-long if something he-fetches and drags-in
Vides quot versibus Homerus, quot Vergilius arma, 6.43
you-see with-how-many verses Homer with-how-many Vergil the-arms
hic Aeneae, Achillis ille, describat; brevis tamen uterque
this-one of-Aeneas of-Achilles that-one describes brief yet each
est, quia facit quod instituit. Vides ut Aratus minutissima
is because he-does what he-set-out you-see how Aratus the-smallest
etiam sidera consectetur et colligat; modum tamen servat:
even stars pursues and gathers due-measure yet he-keeps
non enim excursus hic eius, sed opus ipsum est.
not for a-digression this his but the-work itself is
Similiter nos, ut 'parva magnis', cum totam villam oculis 6.44
likewise we as small-things to-great when the-whole villa to-eyes
tuis subicere conamur, si nihil inductum et quasi devium
your to-place-before we-try if nothing brought-in and as-it-were out-of-the-way
loquimur, non epistula quae describit sed villa quae describitur
we-say not the-letter which describes but the-villa which is-described

magna est. Verum illuc unde coepi, ne secundum legem meam
great is but back-there whence I-began lest according-to law my
iure reprehendar, si longior fuero in hoc in quod excessi.
rightly I-be-blamed if longer I-shall-be in this into which I-have-digressed
6.45 Habes causas, cur ego Tuscos meos Tusculanis, Tiburtinis
you-have the-reasons why I Tuscan-estate my to-the-Tusculan Tiburtine
Praenestinisque praeponam. Nam super illa quae rettuli
and-Praenestine-estates prefer for over those-things which I-have-related
altius ibi otium et pinguius eoque securius: nulla
deeper there the-leisure and richer and-therefore more-carefree no
necessitas togae, nemo arcessitor ex proximo, placida omnia
need of-the-toga no-one summoner from nearby peaceful all-things
et quiescentia, quod ipsum salubritati regionis ut purius
and quiet which itself to-the-healthiness of-the-region as a-purer
caelum, ut aer liquidior accedit.
sky as an-air clearer is-added
6.46 Ibi animo, ibi corpore maxime valeo. Nam studiis animum,
there in-mind there in-body most I-am-well for with-studies the-mind
venatu corpus exerceo. Mei quoque nusquam salubrius
with-hunting the-body I-exercise my-people also nowhere more-healthily
degunt: usque adhuc certe neminem ex iis quos eduxeram
live up-to now at-least no-one of those whom I-had-brought-out
mecum (venia sit dicto) ibi amisi. Di modo in posterum
with-me pardon be to-the-word there I-have-lost the-gods only for the-future
hoc mihi gaudium, hanc gloriam loco servent. Vale.
this to-me joy this glory to-the-place may-keep farewell

Pliny explains that his home town cannot legally inherit Saturninus' bequest but that he will pay it anyway. He tells Titinius Capito why he hesitates to write history, reports the praetor Nepos' edict against paid advocacy, urges Suetonius to publish at last, and congratulates Fabatus on dedicating a portico in their town.

C. Plinius Calvisio Rufo suo s. 7
Gaius Pliny to-Calvisius Rufus his-own greeting

Nec heredem institui nec praecipere posse rem 7.1
neither heir to-be-instituted nor to-take-a-preferential-legacy to-be-able the-thing
publicam constat. Saturninus autem, qui nos reliquit heredes,
public it-is-agreed Saturninus moreover who us left heirs
quadrantem rei publicae nostrae, deinde pro quadrante
a-quarter to-the-thing public our then in-place-of the-quarter
praeceptionem quadringentorum milium dedit. Hoc si ius
a-preferential-legacy of-four-hundred thousand gave this if the-law
aspicias, inritum, si defuncti voluntatem, ratum et firmum est.
you-regard void if of-the-deceased the-wish ratified and firm it-is
Mihi autem defuncti voluntas (vereor quam in partem iuris 7.2
to-me moreover of-the-deceased the-wish I-fear which in part of-law
consulti quod sum dicturus accipiant) antiquior iure est,
the-experts what I-am about-to-say may-take older than-the-law is
utique in eo quod ad communem patriam voluit pervenire.
at-any-rate in that which to the-common fatherland he-wished to-come
An cui de meo sestertium sedecies contuli, 7.3
or to-whom from my-own of-sesterces sixteen-hundred-thousand I-have-given
huic quadringentorum milium paulo amplius tertiam partem
to-this of-four-hundred thousand a-little more the-third part

ex adventicio denegem? Scio te quoque a iudicio meo non
from a-windfall should-I-deny I-know you also from judgment my not
abhorrere, cum eandem rem publicam ut civis optimus diligas.
to-shrink since the-same thing public as a-citizen most-excellent you-love

7.4 Velim ergo, cum proxime decuriones contrahentur, quid sit
I-would-like therefore when next the-councilors are-assembled what be
iuris indices, parce tamen et modeste; deinde subiungas
of-law you-point-out sparingly however and modestly then you-add
nos quadringenta milia offerre, sicut praeceperit Saturninus.
us four-hundred thousand to-offer as directed Saturninus
Illius hoc munus, illius liberalitas; nostrum tantum obsequium
his this gift his the-liberality ours only the-compliance
vocetur.
let-it-be-called

7.5 Haec ego scribere publice supersedi, primum quod memineram
this I to-write publicly forbore first because I-remembered
pro necessitudine amicitiae nostrae, pro facultate
according-to the-closeness of-friendship our according-to the-capacity
prudentiae tuae et debere te et posse perinde meis ac
of-prudence your both to-be-bound you and to-be-able equally in-my as
tuis partibus fungi; deinde quia verebar ne modum,
in-your-own roles to-act then because I-feared lest the-measure
quem tibi in sermone custodire facile est, tenuisse in
which for-you in conversation to-keep easy is to-have-held in
epistula non viderer.
a-letter not I-should-seem

7.6 Nam sermonem vultus, gestus, vox ipsa moderatur,
for conversation the-face gesture the-voice itself moderates
epistula omnibus commendationibus destituta malignitati
a-letter of-all recommendations destitute to-the-malice
interpretantium exponitur. Vale.
of-interpreters is-exposed farewell

C. Plinius Titinio Capitoni suo s. 8
Gaius Pliny to-Titinius Capito his-own greeting

Suades ut historiam scribam, et suades non solus: multi 8.1
you-urge that history I-should-write and you-urge not alone many
hoc me saepe monuerunt et ego volo, non quia commode
this me often have-advised and I wish-it not because well
facturum esse confidam (id enim temere credas nisi
about-to-do-it to-be I-am-confident this for rashly you-would-believe unless
expertus), sed quia mihi pulchrum in primis videtur
having-tried but because to-me fine among the-first-things it-seems
non pati occidere quibus aeternitas debeatur aliorumque
not to-allow to-perish those-to-whom eternity is-owed and-of-others
famam cum sua extendere.
the-fame with one's-own to-extend

Me autem nihil aeque ac diuturnitatis amor et cupido sollicitat, 8.2
me moreover nothing equally as of-lasting-fame the-love and desire troubles
res homine dignissima, eo praesertim qui nullius
a-thing of-a-man most-worthy of-that-one especially who of-no
sibi conscius culpae posteritatis memoriam non reformidet.
to-himself conscious fault of-posterity the-memory not dreads

Itaque diebus ac noctibus cogito, si 'qua me quoque possim 8.3
and-so by-days and by-nights I-ponder if by-which me also I-may-be-able
tollere humo': id enim voto meo sufficit, illud supra
to-raise from-the-ground that for for-wish my suffices that beyond
votum, 'victorque virum volitare per ora'. 'Quamquam o!'
the-wish and-victor of-men to-fly through the-mouths and-yet O
Sed hoc satis est, quod prope sola historia polliceri videtur.
but this enough is which almost alone history to-promise seems

Orationi enim et carmini parva gratia, nisi eloquentia est 8.4
to-oratory for and to-poetry small favor unless the-eloquence is
summa; historia quoquo modo scripta delectat. Sunt enim
supreme history in-whatever way written delights there-are for

homines natura curiosi et quamlibet nuda rerum cognitione
men by-nature curious and by-however bare of-facts knowledge
capiuntur, ut qui sermunculis etiam fabellisque ducantur. Me
are-captivated as men-who by-little-talk even and-little-tales are-led me
vero ad hoc studium impellit domesticum quoque exemplum.
indeed to this pursuit impels a-domestic also example
8.5 Avunculus meus idemque per adoptionem pater historias et
uncle my and-the-same by adoption father histories and
quidem religiosissime scripsit. Invenio autem apud sapientes
indeed most-scrupulously wrote I-find moreover among the-wise
honestissimum esse maiorum vestigia sequi, si modo recto
most-honorable to-be of-the-ancestors the-footsteps to-follow if only by-a-right
itinere praecesserint. Cur ergo cunctor?
road they-have-gone-before why then do-I-delay
8.6 Egi magnas et graves causas: has, etiamsi mihi tenuis ex
I-have-pleaded great and weighty cases these even-if for-me slender from
iis spes, destino retractare, ne tantus ille labor meus, nisi hoc
them the-hope I-intend to-revise lest so-great that labor my unless this
quod reliquum est studii addidero, mecum pariter intercidat.
which remaining is of-study I-shall-have-added with-me equally perish
8.7 Nam si rationem posteritatis habeas, quidquid non est
for if account of-posterity you-take whatever not is
peractum, pro non inchoato est. Dices 'Potes simul et
completed for not begun is you-will-say you-can at-once both
rescribere actiones et componere historiam.' Utinam! Sed
rewrite the-speeches and compose history would-that but
utrumque tam magnum est, ut abunde sit alterum efficere.
each so great is that amply it-be one to-accomplish

Unodevicensimo aetatis anno dicere in foro coepi, et nunc 8.8
in-the-nineteenth of-age year to-speak in the-forum I-began and now
demum quid praestare debeat orator, adhuc tamen per
at-last what to-achieve ought an-orator still yet through
caliginem video.
a-mist I-see
Quid si huic oneri novum accesserit? Habet quidem oratio 8.9
what if to-this burden a-new-one shall-have-been-added has indeed oratory
et historia multa communia, sed plura diversa in his
and history many-things in-common but more-things different in these
ipsis quae communia videntur. Narrat illa, narrat haec,
very-things which in-common seem narrates the-one narrates the-other
sed aliter: huic pleraque humilia et sordida et ex medio
but differently to-this most-things humble and mean and from the-midst
petita, illi omnia recondita splendida excelsa conveniunt:
sought to-that all-things recondite splendid lofty befit
Hanc saepius ossa musculi nervi, illam tori quidam et 8.10
this more-often bones muscles sinews that brawn a-certain and
quasi iubae decent: haec vel maxime vi amaritudine
as-it-were manes become this even most by-force bitterness
instantia, illa tractu et suavitate atque etiam dulcedine
vehemence that by-a-drawn-out-flow and by-sweetness and even by-charm
placet: postremo alia verba, alius sonus, alia constructio.
pleases lastly other words another sound another construction
Nam plurimum refert, ut Thucydides ait, κτῆμα sit an 8.11
for very-much it-matters as Thucydides says a-possession it-be or
ἀγώνισμα; quorum alterum oratio, alterum historia est. His ex
a-prize-piece of-which the-one oratory the-other history is for these
causis non adducor ut duo dissimilia et hoc ipso diversa,
reasons not I-am-induced that two dissimilar-things and by-this very different
quod maxima, confundam misceamque, ne tanta quasi
that greatest I-should-confuse and-mix lest by-so-great as-it-were

colluvione turbatus ibi faciam quod hic debeo; ideoque
a-jumble confused there I-should-do what here I-ought and-therefore
interim veniam, ne a meis verbis recedam, advocandi peto.
meanwhile leave not from my-own words that-I-may-depart of-pleading I-ask
8.12 Tu tamen iam nunc cogita quae potissimum tempora
you yet already now consider which in-preference times
aggrediar. Vetera et scripta aliis? Parata inquisitio, sed
I-should-approach ancient and written by-others ready the-research but
onerosa collatio. Intacta et nova? Graves offensae, levis gratia.
burdensome the-comparison untouched and new heavy the-offenses slight the-favor
8.13 Nam praeter id quod in tantis vitiis hominum plura
for besides this that in so-great vices of-men more-things
culpanda sunt quam laudanda, tum, si laudaveris, parcus,
to-be-blamed are than to-be-praised then if you-have-praised sparing
si culpaveris, nimius fuisse dicaris, quamvis illud
if you-have-blamed excessive to-have-been you-will-be-said although that
plenissime, hoc restrictissime feceris.
most-fully this most-sparingly you-have-done
8.14 Sed haec me non retardant: est enim mihi pro fide
but these-things me not hold-back there-is for to-me for good-faith
satis animi. Illud peto, praesternas ad quod hortaris
enough of-courage this I-ask that-you-prepare-the-way to what you-urge
eligasque materiam, ne mihi iam scribere parato alia
and-choose the-material lest for-me already to-write ready another
rursus cunctationis et morae iusta ratio nascatur. Vale.
again of-hesitation and of-delay just reason arise farewell

9 C. Plinius Sempronio Rufo suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Sempronius Rufus his-own greeting
9.1 Descenderam in basilicam Iuliam, auditurus quibus
I-had-gone-down into the-basilica Julian about-to-hear those-to-whom
proxima comperendinatione respondere debebam.
at-the-next adjournment to-reply I-had

Sedebant iudices, decemviri venerant, obversabantur advocati, 9.2
were-sitting the-judges the-decemvirs had-come were-moving-about the-advocates
silentium longum; tandem a praetore nuntius. Dimittuntur
silence long at-last from the-praetor a-messenger are-dismissed
centumviri, eximitur dies, me gaudente, qui numquam
the-centumvirs is-canceled the-day with-me rejoicing who never
ita paratus sum, ut non mora laeter.
so prepared am that not at-delay I-rejoice
Causa dilationis Nepos praetor, qui legibus quaerit. 9.3
the-cause of-the-adjournment Nepos the-praetor who over-the-laws inquires
Proposuerat breve edictum: admonebat accusatores, admonebat
had-posted a-brief edict he-warned the-accusers he-warned
reos exsecuturum se quae senatus consulto
the-defendants to-be-going-to-enforce himself what of-the-senate in-the-decree
continerentur.
were-contained
Suberat edicto senatus consultum: hoc omnes qui quid 9.4
was-attached to-the-edict of-the-senate the-decree this all who any
negotii haberent, iurare prius quam agerent iubebantur nihil
business had to-swear sooner than they-pleaded were-ordered nothing
se ob advocationem cuiquam dedisse promisisse
themselves on-account-of advocacy to-anyone to-have-given promised
cavisse. His enim verbis ac mille praeterea et venire
guaranteed by-these for words and a-thousand besides both to-be-sold
advocationes et emi vetabantur. Peractis tamen negotiis
advocacies and to-be-bought were-forbidden completed however the-cases
permittebatur pecuniam dumtaxat decem milium dare.
it-was-permitted money only of-ten thousand to-give

9.5 Hoc facto Nepotis commotus praetor qui centumviralibus
by-this act of-Nepos disturbed the-praetor who over-the-centumviral-courts
praesidet, deliberaturus an sequeretur exemplum, inopinatum
presides about-to-deliberate whether he-should-follow the-example unexpected
nobis otium dedit.
to-us leisure gave

9.6 Interim tota civitate Nepotis edictum carpitur laudatur.
meanwhile in-the-whole city of-Nepos the-edict is-carped-at is-praised
Multi 'Invenimus, qui curva corrigeret. Quid? Ante hunc
many we-have-found one-who the-crooked should-straighten what before him
praetores non fuerunt? Quis autem hic est, qui emendet
praetors not were-there who moreover this is who should-correct
publicos mores?' Alii contra 'Rectissime fecit:
the-public morals others on-the-other-hand most-rightly he-has-done
initurus magistratum iura cognovit, senatus consulta
about-to-enter-on office the-laws he-has-studied of-the-senate the-decrees
legit, reprimit foedissimas pactiones, rem pulcherrimam
he-has-read he-checks the-foulest bargains a-thing most-beautiful
turpissime venire non patitur.'
most-shamefully to-be-sold not he-allows

9.7 Tales ubique sermones, qui tamen alterutram in partem
such everywhere talk which however to-one-or-other in side
ex eventu praevalebunt. Est omnino iniquum, sed usu
from the-outcome will-prevail it-is altogether unjust but by-usage
receptum, quod honesta consilia vel turpia, prout male
accepted that honorable counsels or base according-as badly
aut prospere cedunt, ita vel probantur vel reprehenduntur.
or prosperously they-turn-out so either are-approved or are-blamed
Inde plerumque eadem facta modo diligentiae modo vanitatis,
hence generally the-same deeds now of-diligence now of-vanity
modo libertatis modo furoris nomen accipiunt. Vale.
now of-freedom now of-madness the-name receive farewell

C. Plinius Suetonio Tranquillo suo s. 10
Gaius Pliny to-Suetonius Tranquillus his-own greeting

Libera tandem hendecasyllaborum meorum fidem, qui 10.1
redeem at-last of-hendecasyllables my the-pledge which
scripta tua communibus amicis spoponderunt. Appellantur
the-writings your to-our-common friends promised they-are-dunned
cotidie et flagitantur, ac iam periculum est ne cogantur
daily and are-pressed and now danger is lest they-be-forced
ad exhibendum formulam accipere.
to producing a-writ to-receive

Sum et ipse in edendo haesitator, tu tamen meam quoque 10.2
I-am also myself in publishing a-hesitator you however my also
cunctationem tarditatemque vicisti. Proinde aut rumpe
hesitation and-slowness have-surpassed therefore either break
iam moras aut cave ne eosdem istos libellos, quos tibi
now the-delays or beware lest the-same those little-books which from-you
hendecasyllabi nostri blanditiis elicere non possunt, convicio
hendecasyllables our by-coaxing to-draw-out not can with-abuse
scazontes extorqueant.
scazons wrest-out

Perfectum opus absolutumque est nec iam splendescit 10.3
finished the-work and-complete is nor now does-it-shine-brighter
lima, sed atteritur. Patere me videre titulum tuum,
with-the-file but it-is-worn-away allow me to-see the-title your
patere audire describi legi venire volumina Tranquilli mei.
allow to-hear to-be-copied to-be-read to-be-sold the-volumes of-Tranquillus my
Aequum est nos in amore tam mutuo eandem percipere
fair it-is us in love so mutual the-same to-receive
ex te voluptatem, qua tu perfrueris ex nobis. Vale.
from you pleasure which you enjoy from us farewell

11 C. Plinius Calpurnio Fabato prosocero suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Calpurnius Fabatus grandfather-in-law his-own greeting

11.1 Recepi litteras tuas, ex quibus cognovi speciosissimam
I-have-received letters your from which I-learned a-most-splendid
te porticum sub tuo filiique tui nomine dedicasse,
you portico under your and-of-son your name to-have-dedicated
sequenti die in portarum ornatum pecuniam promisisse,
on-the-following day for of-the-gates the-adornment money to-have-promised
ut initium novae liberalitatis esset consummatio prioris.
that the-beginning of-new liberality might-be the-completion of-the-former

11.2 Gaudeo primum tua gloria, cuius ad me pars aliqua
I-rejoice first in-your glory of-which to me part some
pro necessitudine nostra redundat; deinde quod memoriam
because-of the-relationship our overflows then that the-memory
soceri mei pulcherrimis operibus video proferri;
of-father-in-law my by-most-beautiful works I-see to-be-advanced
postremo quod patria nostra florescit, quam mihi a
lastly that fatherland our flourishes which for-me by
quocumque excoli iucundum, a te vero laetissimum est.
whomever to-be-adorned pleasant by you indeed most-delightful is

11.3 Quod superest, deos precor ut animum istum tibi, animo
as-for-what remains the-gods I-pray that spirit that to-you to-spirit
isti tempus quam longissimum tribuant. Nam liquet mihi
that time as long-as-possible they-may-grant for it-is-clear to-me
futurum ut peracto quod proxime promisisti inchoes
to-be-going-to-be that having-completed what lately you-promised you-may-begin
aliud. Nescit enim semel incitata liberalitas stare, cuius
another knows-not for once roused liberality to-stand-still whose
pulchritudinem usus ipse commendat. Vale.
beauty use itself commends farewell

Pliny sends Terentius Scaurus a speech for criticism, reports the acquittal of Tuscilius Nominatus and the emperor's rescript against paid advocacy that followed, rejoices that Cornutus Tertullus is curator of the Aemilian Way, praises the verses of Arrius Antoninus, and mourns the death of Fundanus' younger daughter, not yet fourteen.

C. Plinius Terentio Scauro suo s. 12
Gaius Pliny to-Terentius Scaurus his-own greeting

Recitaturus oratiunculam, quam publicare cogito, advocavi 12.1
about-to-recite a-little-speech which to-publish I-am-thinking I-invited
aliquos, ut vererer, paucos, ut verum audirem. Nam
some that I-might-feel-awe few that the-truth I-might-hear for
mihi duplex ratio recitandi, una, ut sollicitudine intendar,
to-me twofold the-reason of-reciting one that by-anxiety I-be-keyed-up
altera, ut admonear, siquid forte me ut meum fallit.
the-other that I-be-advised if-anything perhaps me as my-own escapes

Tuli quod petebam, inveni qui mihi copiam consilii 12.2
I-got what I-was-seeking I-found those-who to-me the-benefit of-counsel
sui facerent. Ipse praeterea quaedam emendanda adnotavi.
their-own would-give I-myself besides certain-things to-be-corrected noted
Emendavi librum, quem misi tibi.
I-have-corrected the-book which I-have-sent to-you

Materiam ex titulo cognosces, cetera liber explicabit, quem 12.3
the-subject from the-title you-will-learn the-rest the-book will-explain which
iam nunc oportet ita consuescere, ut sine praefatione
already now it-is-proper so to-grow-accustomed that without a-preface
intellegatur.
it-be-understood

12.4 Tu velim quid de universo, quid de partibus sentias
you I-would-like what about the-whole what about the-parts you-think
scribas mihi. Ero enim vel cautior in continendo
should-write to-me I-shall-be for either more-cautious in holding-back
vel constantior in edendo, si huc vel illuc auctoritas tua
or more-resolute in publishing if hither or thither authority your
accesserit. Vale.
shall-have-been-added farewell

13 C. Plinius Iulio Valeriano suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Julius Valerianus his-own greeting

13.1 Et tu rogas et ego promisi, si rogasses, scripturum
both you ask and I promised if you-should-ask to-be-going-to-write
me tibi, quem habuisset eventum postulatio Nepotis circa
me to-you what had-had outcome the-petition of-Nepos concerning
Tuscilium Nominatum. Inductus est Nominatus; egit ipse
Tuscilius Nominatus brought-in was Nominatus he-pleaded himself
pro se nullo accusante. Nam legati Vicetinorum non
for himself with-no-one accusing for the-envoys of-the-Vicetini not
modo non presserunt eum verum etiam sublevarunt.
only not pressed him but even relieved-him

13.2 Summa defensionis, non fidem sibi in advocatione, sed
the-sum of-the-defense not good-faith to-himself in the-advocacy but
constantiam defuisse; descendisse ut acturum atque etiam
courage to-have-failed to-have-come-down as about-to-plead and even
in curia visum, deinde sermonibus amicorum perterritum
in the-senate-house seen then by-the-talk of-friends terrified
recessisse; monitum enim ne desiderio senatoris, non iam
to-have-withdrawn warned for lest the-desire of-a-senator not now
quasi de nundinis, sed quasi de gratia fama dignitate
as-if about markets but as-if about influence reputation rank

certantis tam pertinaciter, praesertim in senatu repugnaret,
contending so obstinately especially in the-senate he-should-oppose
alioqui maiorem invidiam quam proxime passurum.
otherwise greater ill-will than lately to-be-going-to-suffer
Erat sane prius, a paucis tamen, adclamatum exeunti. 13.3
there-had-been indeed earlier by few however shouted-at-him as-he-went-out
Subiunxit preces multumque lacrimarum: quin etiam tota
he-added prayers and-much of-tears nay even in-the-whole
actione homo in dicendo exercitatus operam dedit ut
pleading a-man in speaking practiced effort gave that
deprecari magis (id enim et favorabilius et tutius) quam
to-be-deprecating rather this for both more-winning and safer than
defendi videretur.
to-be-defended he-might-seem
Absolutus est sententia designati consulis Afrani Dextri, 13.4
acquitted he-was by-the-motion of-the-designated consul Afranius Dexter
cuius haec summa: melius quidem Nominatum fuisse
of-which this the-sum better indeed Nominatus to-have-been
facturum, si causam Vicetinorum eodem animo quo
about-to-do if the-cause of-the-Vicetini with-the-same spirit with-which
susceperat pertulisset; quia tamen in hoc genus
he-had-taken-it-up he-had-carried-through because however into this kind
culpae non fraude incidisset nihilque dignum animadversione
of-fault not by-fraud he-had-fallen and-nothing worthy of-punishment
admisisse convinceretur, liberandum, ita ut Vicetinis
to-have-committed he-was-convicted he-should-be-freed so that to-the-Vicetini
quod acceperat redderet.
what he-had-received he-should-return
Adsenserunt omnes praeter Flavium Aprum. Is interdicendum 13.5
agreed all except Flavius Aper he that-it-be-forbidden
ei advocationibus in quinquennium censuit, et quamvis
to-him from-pleading for five-years proposed and although

neminem auctoritate traxisset, constanter in sententia mansit:
no-one by-his-authority he-had-drawn steadfastly in his-motion he-remained
quin etiam Dextrum, qui primus diversum censuerat, prolata
nay even Dexter who first a-different-view had-proposed citing
lege de senatu habendo iurare coegit e re
the-law about the-senate to-be-held to-swear he-compelled for-the-good-of-the thing
publica esse quod censuisset.
public to-be what he-had-proposed

13.6 Cui quamquam legitimae postulationi a quibusdam
to-which although lawful demand by some
reclamatum est. Exprobrare enim censenti ambitionem
protested it-was to-reproach for to-the-proposer self-seeking
videbatur. Sed prius quam sententiae dicerentur, Nigrinus,
he-seemed but before than the-motions were-spoken Nigrinus
tribunus plebis, recitavit libellum disertum et gravem,
tribune of-the-plebs read-out a-memorial eloquent and weighty
quo questus est venire advocationes, venire etiam
in-which complained he-has to-be-sold advocacies to-be-sold even
praevaricationes, in lites coiri et gloriae loco poni
collusions into lawsuits to-be-combined and of-glory in-place to-be-set
ex spoliis civium magnos et statos reditus.
from the-spoils of-the-citizens large and fixed incomes

13.7 Recitavit capita legum, admonuit senatus consultorum,
he-read-out the-heads of-the-laws he-reminded-them of-the-senate's decrees
in fine dixit petendum ab optimo principe ut, quia
at the-end he-said it-must-be-asked from the-best emperor that since
leges, quia senatus consulta contemnerentur, ipse tantis
the-laws since of-the-senate the-decrees were-despised he-himself to-such
vitiis mederetur.
vices should-bring-remedy

Pauci dies, et liber principis severus et tamen moderatus: 13.8
a-few days and a-rescript of-the-emperor severe and yet moderate
leges ipsum, est in publicis actis. Quam me iuvat
you-will-read it-itself it-is in the-public records how me it-pleases
quod in causis agendis non modo pactione dono munere
that in cases pleading not only from-bargain gift present
verum etiam xeniis semper abstinui!
but even from-guest-gifts always I-abstained
Oportet quidem quae sunt inhonesta non quasi inlicita 13.9
it-is-proper indeed what-things are dishonorable not as-if unlawful
sed quasi pudenda vitare; iucundum tamen si prohiberi
but as-if shameful to-avoid pleasant however if to-be-forbidden
publice videas, quod numquam tibi ipse permiseris.
publicly you-see what never to-yourself you-yourself permitted
Erit fortasse, immo non dubie huius propositi mei et 13.10
there-will-be perhaps nay not doubtfully of-this resolve my both
minor laus et obscurior fama, cum omnes ex necessitate
less praise and dimmer fame when all from necessity
facient quod ego sponte faciebam. Interim fruor voluptate,
will-do what I voluntarily was-doing meanwhile I-enjoy the-pleasure
cum alii divinum me, alii meis rapinis, meae avaritiae
when some a-prophet me others to-my plunderings to-my avarice
occursum per ludum ac iocum dictitant. Vale.
a-check by jest and joke keep-calling farewell

C. Plinius Pontio Allifano suo s. 14
Gaius Pliny to-Pontius Allifanus his-own greeting

Secesseram in municipium, cum mihi nuntiatum est 14.1
I-had-retired into my-town when to-me announced it-was
Cornutum Tertullum accepisse Aemiliae viae curam.
Cornutus Tertullus to-have-received of-the-Aemilian way the-charge

14.2 Exprimere non possum, quanto sim gaudio adfectus et ipsius
to-express not I-am-able with-how-great I-am joy affected both his
et meo nomine; ipsius, quod, sit licet, sicut est,
and in-my-own name his because although-he-be granted as he-is
ab omni ambitione longe remotus, debet tamen ei iucundus
from all ambition far removed ought yet to-him pleasant
honor esse ultro datus; meo, quod aliquanto magis me delectat
the-honor to-be unasked given mine because considerably more me delights
mandatum mihi officium, postquam par Cornuto datum video.
entrusted to-me the-office since equal to-Cornutus given I-see
14.3 Neque enim augeri dignitate quam aequari bonis
nor for to-be-increased in-rank than to-be-equaled with-good-men
gratius. Cornuto autem quid melius? Quid sanctius? Quid
more-pleasing than-Cornutus moreover what better what more-upright what
in omni genere laudis ad exemplar antiquitatis expressius?
in every kind of-praise to the-pattern of-antiquity more-closely-modeled
Quod mihi cognitum est non fama, qua alioqui optima
which to-me known is not by-report which otherwise the-best
et meritissima fruitur, sed longis magnisque experimentis.
and most-deserved he-enjoys but by-long and-great proofs
14.4 Una diligimus, una dileximus omnes fere quos aetas
together we-love together we-have-loved all almost whom age
nostra in utroque sexu aemulandos tulit; quae societas
our in each sex to-be-emulated has-produced which partnership
amicitiarum artissima nos familiaritate coniunxit.
of-friendships with-the-closest us intimacy has-joined
14.5 Accessit vinculum necessitudinis publicae. Idem enim mihi,
was-added the-bond of-relationship public the-same for to-me
ut scis, collega quasi voto petitus in praefectura
as you-know colleague as-if by-a-prayer sought in the-prefecture
aerarii fuit, fuit et in consulatu. Tum ego qui vir et
of-the-treasury was was also in the-consulship then I what a-man and

quantus esset altissime inspexi, cum sequerer ut magistrum,
how-great he-was most-deeply observed when I-followed-him as a-master
ut parentem vererer; quod non tam aetatis maturitate
as a-parent I-revered-him which not so-much of-age by-the-maturity
quam vitae merebatur.
as of-life he-deserved

His ex causis ut illi sic mihi gratulor, nec privatim magis 14.6
these for reasons as him so myself I-congratulate nor privately more
quam publice, quod tandem homines non ad pericula, ut
than publicly that at-last men not to dangers as
prius, verum ad honores virtute perveniunt.
before but to honors by-virtue arrive

In infinitum epistulam extendam, si gaudio meo indulgeam. 14.7
into infinity the-letter I-would-extend if to-joy my I-should-indulge
Praevertor ad ea quae me agentem hic nuntius
I-turn-back to those-things which me doing here the-news
deprehendit.
caught

Eram cum prosocero meo, eram cum amita uxoris, eram 14.8
I-was with grandfather-in-law my I-was with the-aunt of-my-wife I-was
cum amicis diu desideratis, circumibam agellos, audiebam
with friends long missed I-went-round the-little-fields I-heard
multum rusticarum querellarum, rationes legebam invitus
much of-rustic complaints the-accounts I-read unwillingly
et cursim (aliis enim chartis, aliis sum litteris initiatus),
and hastily to-other for papers to-other I-am letters initiated
coeperam etiam itineri me praeparare.
I-had-begun even for-the-journey myself to-prepare

Nam includor angustiis commeatus, eoque ipso, quod 14.9
for I-am-shut-in by-the-narrowness of-my-leave and-by-that very-fact that
delegatum Cornuto audio officium, mei admoneor. Cupio te
delegated to-Cornutus I-hear the-office of-mine I-am-reminded I-wish you

quoque sub idem tempus Campania tua remittat, ne quis
also about the-same time Campania your may-send-back lest any
cum in urbem rediero, contubernio nostro dies pereat. Vale.
when into the-city I-have-returned to-companionship our day be-lost farewell

15 C. Plinius Arrio Antonino suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Arrius Antoninus his-own greeting

15.1 Cum versus tuos aemulor, tum maxime quam sint boni
when verses your I-try-to-rival then most how they-be good
experior. Ut enim pictores pulchram absolutamque faciem
I-experience as for painters a-beautiful and-perfect face
raro nisi in peius effingunt, ita ego ab hoc archetypo
rarely except into the-worse copy so I from this original
labor et decido.
slip and fall-short

15.2 Quo magis hortor ut quam plurima proferas quae imitari
by-which the-more I-urge that as very-many you-bring-out which to-imitate
omnes concupiscant, nemo aut paucissimi possint. Vale.
all may-long no-one or very-few can farewell

16 C. Plinius Aefulano Marcellino suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Aefulanus Marcellinus his-own greeting

16.1 Tristissimus haec tibi scribo Fundani nostri filia minore
most-sad these-things to-you I-write of-Fundanus our the-daughter younger
defuncta. Qua puella nihil umquam festivius, amabilius nec
having-died than-which girl nothing ever more-charming more-lovable nor
modo longiore vita, sed prope immortalitate dignius vidi.
only of-a-longer life but almost of-immortality more-worthy have-I-seen

16.2 Nondum annos quattuordecim impleverat, et iam illi
not-yet years fourteen she-had-completed and already to-her
anilis prudentia, matronalis gravitas erat et tamen
an-old-woman's prudence a-matron's gravity was and yet
suavitas puellaris cum virginali verecundia.
sweetness girlish with maidenly modesty

Ut illa patris cervicibus inhaerebat! Ut nos amicos 16.3
how she to-her-father's neck clung how us friends
paternos et amanter et modeste complectebatur! Ut nutrices,
her-father's both lovingly and modestly she-embraced how nurses
ut paedagogos, ut praeceptores pro suo quemque officio
how attendants how teachers according-to his-own each office
diligebat! Quam studiose, quam intellegenter lectitabat! Ut
she-loved how studiously how intelligently she-read how
parce custoditeque ludebat! Qua illa temperantia, qua
sparingly and-guardedly she-played with-what she self-control with-what
patientia, qua etiam constantia novissimam valetudinem tulit!
patience with-what even constancy the-last illness she-bore
Medicis obsequebatur, sororem patrem adhortabatur ipsamque 16.4
the-doctors she-obeyed sister father she-encouraged and-her-very
se destitutam corporis viribus vigore animi sustinebat.
herself destitute of-the-body's strength by-the-vigor of-spirit sustained
Duravit hic illi usque ad extremum nec aut spatio 16.5
lasted this in-her right-up to the-end nor either by-the-length
valetudinis aut metu mortis infractus est, quo plures
of-the-illness or by-fear of-death broken was by-which more
gravioresque nobis causas relinqueret et desiderii et doloris.
and-weightier to-us causes it-might-leave both of-longing and of-grief
O triste plane acerbumque funus! O morte ipsa mortis 16.6
O sad plainly and-bitter funeral O than-death itself of-the-death
tempus indignius! Iam destinata erat egregio iuveni,
the-timing more-unworthy already betrothed she-was to-an-excellent young-man
iam electus nuptiarum dies, iam nos vocati. Quod gaudium
already chosen of-the-wedding the-day already we invited what joy
quo maerore mutatum est!
into-what grief changed has-been

16.7 Non possum exprimere verbis, quantum animo vulnus acceperim,
not I-am-able to-express in-words how-great in-mind a-wound I-received
cum audivi Fundanum ipsum, ut multa luctuosa dolor invenit,
when I-heard Fundanus himself as many mournful-things grief finds
praecipientem, quod in vestes margarita gemmas fuerat
directing what on clothes pearls jewels he-had-been
erogaturus, hoc in tus et unguenta et odores inpenderetur.
about-to-spend this on incense and ointments and perfumes be-spent

16.8 Est quidem ille eruditus et sapiens, ut qui se ab
is indeed he learned and wise as one-who himself from
ineunte aetate altioribus studiis artibusque dediderit; sed
entering age to-higher studies and-arts has-given but
nunc omnia quae audiit saepe, quae dixit aspernatur
now all-things which he-has-heard often which he-has-said he-spurns
expulsisque virtutibus aliis pietatis est totus.
and-with-banished virtues other of-devotion is wholly

16.9 Ignosces, laudabis etiam, si cogitaveris quid amiserit.
you-will-pardon you-will-praise even if you-reflect what he-has-lost
Amisit enim filiam quae non minus mores eius quam
he-has-lost for a-daughter who not less the-character his than
os vultumque referebat totumque patrem mira
the-mouth and-face reproduced and-whole the-father with-wonderful
similitudine exscripserat.
likeness had-copied

16.10 Proinde siquas ad eum de dolore tam iusto litteras mittes,
therefore if-any to him about a-grief so just letters you-will-send
memento adhibere solacium, non quasi castigatorium et
remember to-apply consolation not as-it-were reproving and
nimis forte, sed molle et humanum. Quod ut facilius
too strong but gentle and humane which that more-easily
admittat multum faciet medii temporis spatium.
he-may-admit much will-do of-intervening time the-lapse

Ut enim crudum adhuc vulnus medentium manus reformidat, 16.11
as for a-raw still wound of-healers the-hands dreads
deinde patitur atque ultro requirit, sic recens animi dolor
then endures and even seeks so fresh of-the-mind grief
consolationes reicit ac refugit, mox desiderat et clementer
consolations rejects and shrinks-from soon desires and gently
admotis adquiescit. Vale.
applied rests-in farewell

V · PISO, ZOSIMUS, AND VARENUS

Pliny praises the young Calpurnius Piso's recital on the constellations and congratulates his mother and brother. He rejoices in Calpurnius Macer's happiness at his seaside villa, asks Valerius Paulinus to receive his sick freedman Zosimus at Forum Julii, reports the Bithynians' new charge against Varenus, for whom he won the right to call witnesses, and mourns Julius Avitus, who died at sea on his way home.

C. Plinius Vestricio Spurinnae suo s. 17
Gaius Pliny to-Vestricius Spurinna his-own greeting
Scio quanto opere bonis artibus faveas, quantum 17.1
I-know with-how-great effort to-good arts you-are-favorable how-much
gaudium capias, si nobiles iuvenes dignum aliquid
joy you-take if noble young-men worthy something
maioribus suis faciant: quo festinantius nuntio
of-ancestors their-own do by-which the-more-hastily I-report
tibi fuisse me hodie in auditorio Calpurni
to-you to-have-been me today in the-lecture-hall of-Calpurnius
Pisonis.
Piso

17.2 Recitabat καταστερισμῶν eruditam sane luculentamque
he-was-reciting of-the-Catasterisms a-learned certainly and-brilliant
materiam. Scripta elegis erat fluentibus et teneris et
subject written in-elegiacs it-was flowing and tender and
enodibus, sublimibus etiam, ut poposcit locus. Apte enim
smooth lofty too as demanded the-place aptly for
et varie nunc attollebatur, nunc residebat: excelsa depressis,
and variously now he-rose now he-sank the-lofty with-the-low
exilia plenis, severis iucunda mutabat, omnia ingenio
the-slight with-the-full with-the-severe the-pleasant he-varied all-things with-talent
pari.
equal

17.3 Commendabat haec voce suavissima, vocem verecundia:
he-commended these-things with-a-voice most-sweet the-voice with-modesty
multum sanguinis, multum sollicitudinis in ore,
much of-blush much of-anxiety in the-face
magna ornamenta recitantis. Etenim nescio quo
great ornaments of-one-reciting for I-know-not by-what
pacto magis in studiis homines timor quam fiducia
means more in studies men fear than confidence
decet.
becomes

17.4 Ne plura, quamquam libet plura, quo sunt
not to-say-more although it-pleases-me more-things since are
pulchriora de iuvene, rariora de nobili: recitatione
more-beautiful of a-young-man rarer of a-noble the-recitation
finita multum ac diu exosculatus adulescentem,
finished much and long having-kissed the-youth
qui est acerrimus stimulus monendi, laudibus
which is the-keenest spur of-advising with-praises
incitavi, pergeret qua coepisset lumenque, quod
I-urged that-he-should-go-on where he-had-begun and-the-light which

sibi maiores sui praetulissent, posteris ipse
before-himself ancestors his had-carried before-posterity he-himself
praeferret.
should-carry
Gratulatus sum optimae matri, gratulatus et fratri, 17.5
congratulated I-have the-excellent mother congratulated also the-brother
qui ex auditorio illo non minorem pietatis gloriam
who from lecture-hall that not lesser of-devotion glory
quam ille alter eloquentiae tulit: tam notabiliter pro
than he the-other of-eloquence carried-off so noticeably for
fratre recitante primum metus eius, mox gaudium
his-brother reciting first fear his then joy
eminuit.
stood-out
Di faciant ut talia tibi saepius nuntiem! Faveo 17.6
the-gods grant that such-things to-you more-often I-may-report I-favor
enim saeculo, ne sit sterile et effetum, mireque
for the-age lest it-be barren and exhausted and-wonderfully
cupio ne nobiles nostri nihil in domibus suis
I-desire lest nobles our nothing in houses their-own
pulchrum nisi imagines habeant; quae nunc mihi
beautiful except masks have which now to-me
hos adulescentes tacite laudare adhortari, et quod
these young-men silently to-praise to-encourage and what
amborum gloriae satis magnum est, agnoscere videntur.
of-both for-the-glory enough great is to-recognize seem
Vale.
farewell

18 C. Plinius Calpurnio Macro suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Calpurnius Macer his-own greeting

18.1 Bene est mihi quia tibi bene est. Habes uxorem tecum,
well it-is with-me because with-you well it-is you-have your-wife with-you
habes filium; frueris mari fontibus, viridibus, agro, villa
you-have your-son you-enjoy the-sea the-springs the-greenery the-farm the-villa
amoenissima. Neque enim dubito esse amoenissimam, in
most-charming nor for do-I-doubt it-to-be most-charming in
qua se conposuerat homo felicior, ante quam felicissimus
which himself had-settled a-man happier before than most-happy
fieret.
he-became

18.2 Ego in Tuscis et venor et studeo, quae interdum
I on the-Tuscan-estate both hunt and study which sometimes
alternis, interdum simul facio; nec tamen adhuc possum
alternately sometimes together I-do nor yet still am-I-able
pronuntiare, utrum sit difficilius capere aliquid an scribere.
to-declare whether it-be more-difficult to-catch something or to-write
Vale.
farewell

19 C. Plinius Valerio Paulino suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Valerius Paulinus his-own greeting

19.1 Video quam molliter tuos habeas, quo simplicius tibi
I-see how gently your-people you-treat by-which the-more-frankly to-you
confitebor, qua indulgentia meos tractem.
I-shall-confess with-what indulgence mine I-handle

19.2 Est mihi semper in animo et Homericum illud πατὴρ
there-is to-me always in mind both Homeric that a-father
δ’ ὡς ἤπιος ἦεν et hoc nostrum ‘pater familiae’.
and as gentle he-was and this our-own father of-the-household
Quod si essem natura asperior et durior, frangeret me
which if I-were by-nature harsher and harder would-break me

tamen infirmitas liberti mei Zosimi, cui tanto
yet the-illness of-freedman my Zosimus to-whom by-so-much
maior humanitas exhibenda est, quanto nunc illa magis
greater kindness to-be-shown is by-how-much now it more
eget.
needs

Homo probus officiosus litteratus; et ars quidem 19.3
a-man upright dutiful literate and the-art indeed
eius et quasi inscriptio comoedus, in qua plurimum
his and as-it-were the-label comic-actor in which very-much
facit. Nam pronuntiat acriter, sapienter, apte, decenter
he-does for he-delivers keenly wisely aptly gracefully
etiam; utitur et cithara perite, ultra quam comoedo
too he-uses also the-lyre skillfully beyond what for-a-comic-actor
necesse est. Idem tam commode orationes et
necessary is the-same so well speeches and
historias et carmina legit, ut hoc solum didicisse
histories and poems reads that this alone to-have-learned
videatur.
he-seems

Haec tibi sedulo exposui, quo magis scires quam 19.4
these-things to-you carefully I-have-set-out by-which the-more you-might-know how
multa unus mihi et quam iucunda ministeria praestaret.
many one-man to-me and how pleasant services he-performed
Accedit longa iam caritas hominis, quam ipsa pericula
is-added long now the-affection for-the-man which the-very dangers
auxerunt.
have-increased

19.5 Est enim ita natura comparatum, ut nihil aeque amorem
it-is for so by-nature arranged that nothing equally love
incitet et accendat quam carendi metus; quem ego pro
excites and kindles as of-losing the-fear which I for
hoc non semel patior.
this-man not once suffer

19.6 Nam ante aliquot annos, dum intente instanterque
for before some years while intently and-insistently
pronuntiat, sanguinem reiecit atque ob
he-is-delivering blood he-threw-up and on-account-of
hoc in Aegyptum missus a me post longam
this into Egypt sent by me after long
peregrinationem confirmatus rediit nuper; deinde dum
travel strengthened he-returned lately then while
per continuos dies nimis imperat voci, veteris
through continuous days too-much he-commands his-voice of-the-old
infirmitatis tussicula admonitus rursus sanguinem
illness by-a-little-cough reminded again blood
reddidit.
he-gave-up

19.7 Qua ex causa destinavi eum mittere in praedia tua, quae
which for reason I-have-decided him to-send to estates your which
Foro Iuli possides. Audivi enim te saepe referentem
at-Forum Julii you-own I-heard for you often reporting
esse ibi et aera salubrem et lac eius modi curationibus
to-be there both an-air healthful and milk of-this kind for-cures
accommodatissimum.
most-suitable

Rogo ergo scribas tuis ut illi villa, ut domus 19.8
I-ask therefore you-write to-your-people that to-him the-villa that the-house
pateat, offerant etiam sumptibus eius, siquid opus
be-open that-they-offer also to-expenses his if-anything need
erit;
shall-be
Erit autem opus modico. Est enim tam parcus et 19.9
there-will-be moreover need of-a-little he-is for so sparing and
continens, ut non solum delicias verum etiam necessitates
abstemious that not only luxuries but even the-necessities
valetudinis frugalitate restringat. Ego proficiscenti tantum
of-health by-frugality he-restricts I to-him-setting-out so-much
viatici dabo, quantum sufficiat eunti in tua.
of-traveling-money will-give as-much-as may-suffice for-one-going into your-lands
Vale.
farewell

C. Plinius Cornelio Urso suo s. 20
Gaius Pliny to-Cornelius Ursus his-own greeting

Iterum Bithyni: breve tempus a Iulio Basso, et 20.1
again the-Bithynians a-short time from Julius Bassus and
Rufum Varenum proconsulem detulerunt, Varenum, quem
Rufus Varenus the-proconsul they-have-indicted Varenus whom
nuper adversus Bassum advocatum et postularant
lately against Bassus as-advocate both they-had-asked-for
et acceperant. Inducti in senatum inquisitionem
and had-received brought-in into the-senate an-inquiry
postulaverunt.
they-demanded

Varenus petiit ut sibi quoque defensionis causa evocare 20.2
Varenus asked that to-himself also of-defense for-the-sake to-summon
testes liceret: recusantibus Bithynis cognitio suscepta
witnesses it-might-be-permitted with-objecting the-Bithynians a-hearing taken-up

est. Egi pro Vareno non sine eventu: nam bene an male
was I-pleaded for Varenus not without result for well or badly
liber indicabit.
the-book will-show

20.3 In actionibus enim utramque in partem fortuna
in pleadings for to-either in side fortune
dominatur: multum commendationis et detrahit et
rules much of-recommendation both takes-away and
adfert memoria, vox, gestus, tempus ipsum, postremo
brings memory voice gesture the-occasion itself lastly
vel amor vel odium rei: liber offensis,
either love or hatred of-the-defendant the-book of-offense
liber gratia, liber et secundis casibus et adversis
the-book of-favor the-book both of-favorable chances and adverse
caret.
is-free

20.4 Respondit mihi Fonteius Magnus, unus ex Bithynis,
replied to-me Fonteius Magnus one of the-Bithynians
plurimis verbis, paucissimis rebus. Est plerisque
with-very-many words very-few matters there-is to-most
Graecorum, ut illi, pro copia volubilitas: tam longas
of-the-Greeks as to-him in-place-of fullness volubility so long
tamque frigidas periodos uno spiritu quasi torrente
and-so frigid periods in-one breath as-it-were in-a-torrent
contorquent.
they-whirl

20.5 Itaque Iulius Candidus non invenuste solet dicere aliud
and-so Julius Candidus not ungracefully is-wont to-say one-thing
esse eloquentiam, aliud loquentiam. Nam eloquentia vix
to-be eloquence another loquacity for eloquence hardly
uni aut alteri, immo, si M. Antonio credimus,
to-one or another nay if to-Marcus Antonius we-believe

nemini, haec vero quam Candidus loquentiam appellat
to-no-one this indeed which Candidus loquacity calls
multis atque etiam inpudentissimo cuique maxime
to-many and even to-the-most-impudent each especially
contingit.
falls

Postero die dixit pro Vareno Homullus callide 20.6
on-the-next day spoke for Varenus Homullus shrewdly
acriter culte, contra Nigrinus presse graviter ornate.
keenly elegantly against Nigrinus concisely weightily ornately
Censuit Acilius Rufus, consul designatus, inquisitionem
proposed Acilius Rufus consul designate an-inquiry
Bithynis dandam; postulationem Vareni silentio
to-the-Bithynians to-be-granted the-petition of-Varenus in-silence
praeteriit.
he-passed-over

Haec forma negandi fuit. Cornelius Priscus consularis 20.7
this the-form of-refusing was Cornelius Priscus a-consular
et accusatoribus quae petebant et reo
both to-the-accusers what they-were-asking and to-the-defendant
tribuit vicitque numero. Impetravimus rem nec
granted and-won by-numbers we-obtained a-thing neither
lege conprehensam nec satis usitatam, iustam
by-law covered nor sufficiently customary just
tamen.
however

Quare iustam, non sum epistula exsecuturus, ut desideres 20.8
why just not I-am by-letter going-to-pursue that you-may-long-for
actionem. Nam si verum est Homericum illud, τὴν
the-speech for if true is Homeric that the
γὰρ ἀοιδὴν μᾶλλον ἐπικλείουσ’ ἄνθρωποι, ἥ τις
for song more praise men which ever

ἀκουόντεσσι νεωτάτη ἀμφιπέληται, providendum est mihi,
to-those-hearing newest goes-around to-be-provided it-is by-me
ne gratiam novitatis et florem, quae oratiunculam illam
lest the-charm of-novelty and the-bloom which little-speech that
vel maxime commendat, epistulae loquacitate praecerpam.
even most commends by-the-letter's loquacity I-pluck-beforehand
Vale.
farewell

21 C. Plinius Pompeio Saturnino suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Pompeius Saturninus his-own greeting

21.1 Varie me adfecerunt litterae tuae. Nam partim laeta partim
variously me affected letter your for partly glad partly
tristia continebant: laeta quod te in urbe teneri
sad-things it-contained glad that you in the-city to-be-detained
nuntiabant; 'nollem' inquis, sed ego volo: praeterea quod
it-reported I-would-not-wish you-say but I wish-it besides that
recitaturum statim ut venissem pollicebantur; ago gratias
about-to-recite as-soon as I-had-come it-promised I-give thanks
quod expector.
that I-am-awaited

21.2 Triste illud, quod Iulius Valens graviter iacet: quamquam
sad that that Julius Valens gravely lies-ill although
ne hoc quidem triste, si illius utilitatibus aestimetur,
not this even sad if by-his interests it-be-judged
cuius interest quam maturissime inexplicabili morbo
whose it-concerns as soonest from-incurable disease
liberari.
to-be-freed

21.3 Illud plane non triste solum verum etiam luctuosum,
that plainly not sad only but even mournful
quod Iulius Avitus decessit, dum ex quaestura redit,
that Julius Avitus died while from his-quaestorship he-was-returning

decessit in nave, procul a fratre amantissimo, procul a
he-died on shipboard far from brother most-loving far from
matre, a sororibus.
mother from sisters
Nihil ista ad mortuum pertinent, sed pertinuerunt, 21.4
nothing these-things to the-dead-man concern but they-concerned
cum moreretur, pertinent ad hos qui supersunt.
when he-was-dying they-concern to these who survive
Iam quod in flore primo tantae indolis iuvenis
now that in the-flower first of-such talent a-young-man
extinctus est, summa consecuturus, si virtutes eius
extinguished has-been the-highest about-to-attain if virtues his
maturuissent!
had-ripened
Quo ille studiorum amore flagrabat! Quantum legit, 21.5
with-what he for-studies love burned how-much he-read
quantum etiam scripsit! Quae nunc omnia cum ipso sine
how-much too he-wrote which now all with himself without
fructu posteritatis abierunt.
fruit for-posterity have-gone-away
Sed quid ego indulgeo dolori? Cui si frenos remittas, 21.6
but why I indulge my-grief to-which if the-reins you-slacken
nulla materia non maxima est. Finem epistulae faciam:
no matter not greatest is an-end of-the-letter I-shall-make
ut facere possim etiam lacrimis, quas epistula expressit!
that to-make-it I-may-be-able even to-the-tears which the-letter has-pressed-out
Vale.
farewell

BOOK VI

I · WATER-CLOCKS

Pliny misses Tiro more now that he is in Rome and Tiro still in Picenum, and almost misses Regulus, who took the courts seriously, unlike the pleaders who now ask for a single water-clock. He thanks Verus for tending his nurse's farm, writes his wife Calpurnia that he longs to be with her in Campania, reports the quarrel between Celsus and Nepos in the senate, and asks Fundanus to come and support Julius Naso's candidacy.

C. Plinius Tironi suo s. 1

Gaius Pliny to-Tiro his-own greeting

Quamdiu ego trans Padum, tu in Piceno, minus te 1.1

as-long-as I across the-Po you in Picenum less you

requirebam; postquam ego in urbe, tu adhuc in Piceno,

I-missed after I in the-city you still in Picenum

multo magis, seu quod ipsa loca in quibus esse una

much more whether because the-very places in which to-be together

solemus acrius me tui commonent, seu quod desiderium

we-are-wont more-keenly me of-you remind or because the-longing

absentium nihil perinde ac vicinitas acuit, quoque propius

for-the-absent nothing so-much as nearness sharpens and-by-how-much nearer

accesseris ad spem fruendi, hoc impatientius careas.

you-have-approached to the-hope of-enjoying by-this the-more-impatiently you-lack

Quidquid in causa, eripe me huic tormento: veni, aut 1.2

whatever in the-cause snatch me from-this torment come or

ego illuc unde inconsulte properavi revertar vel ob

I there whence rashly I-hurried shall-return even on-account-of

hoc solum, ut experiar an mihi, cum sine me Romae

this alone that I-may-test whether to-me when without me at-Rome

coeperis esse, similes his epistulas mittas. Vale.

you-have-begun to-be similar to-these letters you-send farewell

2 C. Plinius Arriano suo s.

Gaius Pliny to-Arrianus his-own greeting

2.1 Soleo non numquam in iudiciis quaerere M. Regulum:

I-am-wont not never in the-courts to-look-for Marcus Regulus

nolo enim dicere desiderare.

I-do-not-wish for to-say to-miss

2.2 Cur ergo quaero? Habebat studiis honorem, timebat,

why then do-I-look-for-him he-had for-studies respect he-feared

pallebat, scribebat, quamvis non posset ediscere. Illud ipsum,

he-grew-pale he-wrote although not he-could learn-by-heart that very-thing

quod oculum modo dextrum modo sinistrum circumlinebat,

that the-eye now right now left he-painted-round

dextrum, si a petitore, alterum si a possessore esset

the-right if for the-plaintiff the-other if for the-possessor he-was

acturus, quod candidum splenium in hoc aut in illud

about-to-plead that a-white patch to this or to that

supercilium transferebat, quod semper haruspices consulebat

eyebrow he-shifted that always the-soothsayers he-consulted

de actionis eventu, a nimia superstitione sed tamen

about of-the-pleading the-outcome from excessive superstition but yet

et a magno studiorum honore veniebat.

also from a-great for-studies respect came

2.3 Iam illa perquam iucunda una dicentibus, quod libera

then those-things exceedingly pleasant together to-those-speaking that unlimited

tempora petebat, quod audituros corrogabat. Quid enim

times he-sought that hearers he-gathered what for

iucundius quam sub alterius invidia quam diu velis et

more-pleasant than under another's odium as long you-wish and

in alieno auditorio quasi deprehensum commode dicere?

in another's lecture-hall as-if caught-off-guard comfortably to-speak

Sed utcumque se habent ista, bene fecit Regulus 2.4
but however themselves have those-things well did Regulus
quod est mortuus; melius, si ante. Nunc enim sane poterat
that he-is dead better if before now for certainly he-could
sine malo publico vivere sub eo principe, sub quo nocere
without harm public to-live under that emperor under whom to-harm
non poterat.
not he-could

Ideo fas est non numquam eum quaerere. Nam postquam 2.5
therefore right it-is not never him to-look-for for after
obiit ille, increbruit passim et invaluit consuetudo binas
died he there-grew-frequent everywhere and gained-strength the-custom two
vel singulas clepsydras, interdum etiam dimidias et dandi et
or single water-clocks sometimes even half both of-giving and
petendi. Nam et qui dicunt egisse malunt quam agere
of-asking for both those-who speak to-have-pleaded prefer than to-plead
et qui audiunt finire quam iudicare. Tanta neglegentia tanta
and those-who hear to-finish than to-judge such negligence such
desidia, tanta denique inreverentia studiorum periculorumque est.
idleness such in-short disrespect for-studies and-for-perils is

An nos sapientiores maioribus nostris, nos legibus 2.6
or-are we wiser than-ancestors our we than-the-laws
ipsis iustiores, quae tot horas, tot dies, tot
themselves more-just which so-many hours so-many days so-many
comperendinationes largiuntur? Hebetes illi et supra modum
adjournments grant dull they and beyond measure
tardi, nos apertius dicimus, celerius intellegimus, religiosius
slow we more-clearly speak more-quickly understand more-scrupulously
iudicamus, quia paucioribus clepsydris praecipitamus causas,
judge because with-fewer water-clocks we-rush-through cases
quam diebus explicari solebant?
than in-days to-be-unfolded they-were-wont

2.7 O Regule, qui ambitione ab omnibus obtinebas quod fidei
O Regulus who by-self-seeking from all obtained what to-good-faith
paucissimi praestant! Equidem quotiens iudico, quod vel saepius
very-few grant for-my-part whenever I-judge which even more-often
facio quam dico, quantum quis plurimum postulat aquae do.
I-do than I-plead as-much-as anyone most asks of-water I-give
2.8 Etenim temerarium existimo divinare, quam spatiosa sit causa
for rash I-think to-guess how lengthy be a-case
inaudita, tempusque negotio finire cuius modum ignores,
unheard and-time for-a-business to-limit whose measure you-know-not
praesertim cum primam religioni suae iudex patientiam
especially since first to-scruple his-own the-judge patience
debeat, quae pars magna iustitiae est. At quaedam supervacua
owes which part great of-justice is but some-things superfluous
dicuntur. Etiam: sed satius est et haec dici quam
are-said yes but better it-is also these-things to-be-said than
non dici necessaria.
not to-be-said the-necessary
2.9 Praeterea an sint supervacua, nisi cum audieris, scire
besides whether they-be superfluous unless when you-have-heard to-know
non possis. Sed de his melius coram ut de pluribus
not you-could but about these-things better face-to-face as about more
vitiis civitatis. Nam tu quoque amore communium soles
vices of-the-state for you also from-love of-common-things are-wont
emendari cupere quae iam corrigere difficile est.
to-be-corrected to-desire what already to-correct difficult is
2.10 Nunc respiciamus domos nostras. Ecquid omnia in tua recte?
now let-us-look-back-at houses our is-anything all in yours right
In mea novi nihil. Mihi autem et gratiora sunt bona, quod
in mine new nothing to-me moreover both more-welcome are good-things because
perseverant, et leviora incommoda quod adsuevi. Vale.
they-persist and lighter troubles because I-have-grown-used farewell

C. Plinius Vero suo s. 3
Gaius Pliny to-Verus his-own greeting

Gratias ago, quod agellum quem nutrici meae donaveram 3.1
thanks I-give that the-little-farm which to-nurse my I-had-given
colendum suscepisti. Erat, cum donarem, centum
to-be-cultivated you-have-undertaken it-was when I-was-giving-it of-a-hundred
milium nummum; postea decrescente reditu etiam pretium
thousand sesterces afterward with-decreasing revenue also the-price
minuit, quod nunc te curante reparabit.
has-diminished which now with-you caring-for-it it-will-recover

Tu modo memineris commendari tibi a me non arbores 3.2
you only remember to-be-entrusted to-you by me not trees
et terram, quamquam haec quoque, sed munusculum meum;
and earth although these also but gift-little my
quod esse quam fructuosissimum non illius magis interest,
which to-be as most-fruitful not her more matters
quae accepit, quam mea, qui dedi. Vale.
who received than me who gave farewell

C. Plinius Calpurniae suae s. 4
Gaius Pliny to-Calpurnia his-own greeting

Numquam sum magis de occupationibus meis questus, quae 4.1
never have-I more about occupations my complained which
me non sunt passae aut proficiscentem te valetudinis causa
me not have allowed either setting-out you of-health for-the-sake
in Campaniam prosequi aut profectam e vestigio subsequi.
into Campania to-escort or having-set-out at once to-follow

Nunc enim praecipue simul esse cupiebam, ut oculis meis 4.2
now for especially together to-be I-desired that to-eyes my
crederem, quid viribus, quid corpusculo adparares, ecquid
I-might-trust what to-strength what to-your-little-body you-were-gaining whether

denique secessus voluptates regionisque abundantiam inoffensa
in-short of-retirement the-pleasures and-of-the-region the-abundance unharmed
transmitteres.
you-were-passing-through

4.3 Equidem etiam fortem te non sine cura desiderarem: est
for-my-part even strong you not without anxiety I-would-miss it-is
enim suspensum et anxium de eo quem ardentissime
for in-suspense and anxious about him whom most-ardently
diligas interdum nihil scire:
you-love sometimes nothing to-know

4.4 Nunc vero me cum absentiae tum infirmitatis tuae ratio
now however me both of-absence and of-illness your the-account
incerta et varia sollicitudine exterret. Vereor omnia,
by-uncertain and varied anxiety terrifies I-fear all-things
imaginor omnia, quaeque natura metuentium est, ea
I-imagine all-things and-what-things the-nature of-those-fearing is those
maxime mihi quae maxime abominor fingo.
most for-myself which most I-abhor I-fashion

4.5 Quo inpensius rogo ut timori meo cotidie singulis vel
by-which the-more-urgently I-ask that for-fear my daily by-single or
etiam binis epistulis consulas. Ero enim securior, dum
even by-two letters you-provide I-shall-be for more-secure while
lego, statimque timebo, cum legero. Vale.
I-read and-at-once I-shall-fear when I-have-read farewell

5 C. Plinius Urso suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Ursus his-own greeting

5.1 Scripseram tenuisse Varenum ut sibi evocare
I-had-written to-have-carried-the-point Varenus that to-himself to-summon
testes liceret; quod pluribus aequum, quibusdam iniquum
witnesses it-be-permitted which to-many fair to-some unfair
et quidem pertinaciter visum, maxime Licinio Nepoti, qui
and indeed obstinately seemed most to-Licinius Nepos who

sequenti senatu, cum de rebus aliis referretur, de proximo
at-the-next senate when about matters other there-was-a-motion about the-last
senatus consulto disseruit finitamque causam retractavit.
of-the-senate decree argued and-the-finished case reopened
Addidit etiam petendum a consulibus ut referrent 5.2
he-added even it-must-be-asked from the-consuls that they-should-move
sub exemplo legis ambitus de lege repetundarum,
on the-model of-the-law on-bribery about the-law on-extortion
an placeret in futurum ad eam legem adici ut, sicut
whether it-pleased for the-future to that law to-be-added that as
accusatoribus inquirendi testibusque denuntiandi potestas ex
to-the-accusers of-inquiring and-witnesses of-summoning the-power from
ea lege esset, ita reis quoque fieret.
that law was so to-the-defendants also it-should-be
Fuerunt quibus haec eius oratio ut sera et intempestiva 5.3
there-were those-to-whom this his speech as late and untimely
et praepostera displiceret, quae omisso contra dicendi
and preposterous was-displeasing which having-let-pass against of-speaking
tempore castigaret peractum cui potuisset occurrere.
the-time censured something-finished which it-could-have opposed
Iuventius quidem Celsus praetor tamquam emendatorem 5.4
Juventius indeed Celsus the-praetor as a-corrector
senatus et multis et vehementer increpuit. Respondit
of-the-senate both with-many-words and vehemently rebuked replied
Nepos rursusque Celsus: neuter contumeliis temperavit.
Nepos and-again Celsus neither from-insults refrained
Nolo referre quae dici ab ipsis moleste tuli. Quo 5.5
I-do-not-wish to-relate what to-be-said by them annoyed I-bore by-which
magis quosdam e numero nostro inprobavi, qui modo ad
the-more some from number our I-disapproved who now to
Celsum modo ad Nepotem, prout hic vel ille diceret,
Celsus now to Nepos according-as this-one or that-one spoke

cupiditate audiendi cursitabant, et nunc quasi stimularent
from-desire of-hearing ran-about and now as-if they-goaded
et accenderent, nunc quasi reconciliarent ac recomponerent,
and inflamed now as-if they-reconciled and composed
frequentius singulis, ambobus interdum propitium Caesarem
more-often to-each to-both sometimes favorable Caesar
ut in ludicro aliquo, precabantur.
as in show some they-prayed

5.6 Mihi quidem illud etiam peracerbum fuit, quod sunt alter
to-me indeed that also very-bitter was that were the-one
alteri quid pararent indicati. Nam et Celsus Nepoti
to-the-other what they-were-preparing informed for both Celsus to-Nepos
ex libello respondit et Celso Nepos ex pugillaribus.
from a-paper replied and to-Celsus Nepos from tablets

5.7 Tanta loquacitas amicorum, ut homines iurgaturi id
so-great the-talkativeness of-friends that men about-to-quarrel that
ipsum invicem scierint, tamquam convenisset. Vale.
very-thing in-turn knew as-if it-had-been-agreed farewell

6 C. Plinius Fundano suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Fundanus his-own greeting

6.1 Siquando, nunc praecipue cuperem esse te Romae, et sis
if-ever now especially I-would-wish to-be you at-Rome and be-there
rogo. Opus est mihi voti laboris sollicitudinis socio.
I-ask need there-is to-me of-prayer of-labor of-anxiety of-a-partner
Petit honores Iulius Naso; petit cum multis, cum bonis,
seeks office Julius Naso he-seeks with many with good-men
quos ut gloriosum sic est difficile superare.
whom as glorious so it-is difficult to-surpass

Pendeo ergo et exerceor spe, adficior metu et me 6.2
I-hang therefore and am-exercised by-hope I-am-affected by-fear and me
consularem esse non sentio: nam rursus mihi videor
a-consular to-be not I-feel for again to-myself I-seem
omnium quae decucurri candidatus.
of-all-the-offices which I-have-run-through a-candidate
Meretur hanc curam longa mei caritate. Est mihi cum illo 6.3
he-deserves this care by-long for-me affection there-is to-me with him
non sane paterna amicitia (neque enim esse potuit per meam
not indeed an-inherited friendship nor for to-be could-it through my
aetatem); solebat tamen vixdum adulescentulo mihi pater eius
age he-was-wont yet scarcely as-a-youth to-me father his
cum magna laude monstrari. Erat non studiorum tantum
with great praise to-be-pointed-out he-was not of-studies only
verum etiam studiosorum amantissimus ac prope cotidie
but even of-students most-fond and almost daily
ad audiendos, quos tunc ego frequentabam, Quintilianum
to the-hearing whom then I was-attending Quintilian
Niceten Sacerdotem ventitabat, vir alioqui clarus et
Nicetes Sacerdos he-used-to-come a-man otherwise distinguished and
gravis et qui prodesse filio memoria sui debeat.
weighty and who to-help his-son by-the-memory of-himself ought
Sed multi nunc in senatu quibus ignotus ille, multi quibus 6.4
but many now in the-senate to-whom unknown he many to-whom
notus, sed non nisi viventes reverentur. Quo magis huic
known but not except the-living they-revere by-which the-more for-this-man
omissa gloria patris, in qua magnum ornamentum,
having-set-aside the-glory of-his-father in which great ornament
gratia infirma, ipsi enitendum ipsi elaborandum est.
influence weak by-himself to-be-striven by-himself to-be-labored is

6.5 Quod quidem semper, quasi provideret hoc tempus, sedulo fecit:
which indeed always as-if he-foresaw this time diligently he-did
paravit amicos, quos paraverat coluit, me certe, ut primum
he-gained friends those-whom he-had-gained he-cultivated me certainly as soon-as
sibi iudicare permisit, ad amorem imitationemque delegit.
to-himself to-judge he-allowed for love and-imitation he-chose

6.6 Dicenti mihi sollicitus adsistit, adsidet recitanti: primis
speaking to-me anxious he-stands-by he-sits-by me-reciting in-the-first
etiam et cum maxime nascentibus opusculis meis interest,
even and when most being-born little-works my he-takes-part
nunc solus, ante cum fratre, cuius nuper amissi ego
now alone before with his-brother of-whom lately lost I
suscipere partes, ego vicem debeo inplere.
to-take-up the-part I the-place ought to-fill

6.7 Doleo enim et illum inmatura morte indignissime raptum
I-grieve for both that-one by-untimely death most-undeservedly snatched
et hunc optimi fratris adiumento destitutum solisque
and this-one of-the-best brother of-the-help deprived and-to-friends
amicis relictum.
alone left

6.8 Quibus ex causis exigo ut venias et suffragio meo
which for reasons I-require that you-come and to-vote my
tuum iungas. Permultum interest mea te ostentare, tecum
yours you-join very-much it-matters for-me you to-show-off with-you
circumire. Ea est auctoritas tua, ut putem me efficacius
to-go-round such is authority your that I-think me more-effectively
tecum etiam meos amicos rogaturum.
with-you even my friends going-to-ask

6.9 Abrumpe, siqua te retinent: hoc tempus meum, hoc
break-off if-anything you holds this time mine this
fides, hoc etiam dignitas postulat. Suscepi candidatum,
good-faith this even rank demands I-have-taken-up a-candidate

et suscepisse me notum est: ego ambio, ego periclitor:
and to-have-taken-up me known it-is I canvass I run-the-risk
in summa, si datur Nasoni quod petit, illius honor; si
in sum if it-is-given to-Naso what he-seeks his the-honor if
negatur, mea repulsa est. Vale.
it-is-refused my the-defeat is farewell

II · CALPURNIA AND VERGINIUS' TOMB

Pliny tells Calpurnia her letters only increase his longing. He asks Priscus to protect Atilius Crescens' loan, accepts Tacitus' recommendation of Naso, grieves that Verginius Rufus' tomb at Alsium is still unfinished ten years after his death, rejoices at the speeches of Fuscus Salinator and Ummidius Quadratus, invites Fabatus' frank letters, reports the senate's decree for Varenus, and accepts Mauricus' invitation to Formiae.

C. Plinius Calpurniae suae s. 7
Gaius Pliny to-Calpurnia his-own greeting
Scribis te absentia mea non mediocriter adfici unumque 7.1
you-write yourself by-absence my not moderately to-be-affected and-one
habere solacium, quod pro me libellos meos teneas, saepe
to-have solace that in-place-of me little-books my you-hold often
etiam in vestigio meo conloces.
even in place my you-set-them
Gratum est quod nos requiris, gratum quod his fomentis 7.2
welcome it-is that us you-miss welcome that in-these comforts
adquiescis: invicem ego epistulas tuas lectito atque identidem
you-rest in-turn I letters your read-over and repeatedly
in manus quasi novas sumo;
into my-hands as-if new I-take

7.3 Sed eo magis ad desiderium tui accendor. Nam cuius
but by-this the-more to longing for-you I-am-inflamed for of-whom
litterae tantum habent suavitatis, huius sermonibus quantum
the-letters so-much have of-sweetness of-her in-the-conversation how-much
dulcedinis inest! Tu tamen quam frequentissime scribe, licet
of-delight is-in-it you however as often-as-possible write although
hoc ita me delectet, ut torqueat. Vale.
this so me delight that it-torment farewell

8 C. Plinius Prisco suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Priscus his-own greeting

8.1 Atilium Crescentem et nosti et amas. Quis enim illum
Atilius Crescens both you-know and you-love who for him
spectatior paulo aut non novit aut non amat? Hunc ego
of-more-note a-little either not knows or not loves him I
non ut multi, sed artissime diligo.
not as many but most-closely love

8.2 Oppida nostra unius diei itinere dirimuntur: ipsi amare
towns our by-one day's journey are-separated we-ourselves to-love
invicem, qui est flagrantissimus amor, adulescentuli coepimus.
each-other which is the-most-ardent love as-youths began
Mansit hic postea nec refrixit iudicio, sed invaluit. Sciunt
remained it afterward nor cooled by-judgment but grew-strong they-know
qui alterutrum nostrum familiarius intuentur. Nam et ille
who either of-us more-intimately observe for both he
amicitiam meam latissima praedicatione circumfert, et ego prae
friendship my with-the-widest proclamation carries-about and I before
me fero, quantae sit mihi curae modestia quies securitas eius.
me carry how-great be to-me a-care the-modesty quiet security his

8.3 Quin etiam cum insolentiam cuiusdam tribunatum plebis
nay even when the-insolence of-a-certain-man of-the-tribunate of-the-plebs
inituri vereretur idque indicasset mihi, respondi οὔ τις
about-to-enter he-feared and-it had-indicated to-me I-answered not anyone

ἐμεῦ ζῶντος. Quorsus haec? Ut scias non posse
me living to-what-end these-things that you-may-know not to-be-able
Atilium me incolumi iniuriam accipere.
Atilius me unharmed injury to-receive
Iterum dices ‘quorsus haec?’ Debuit ei pecuniam Valerius 8.4
again you-will-say to-what-end these-things owed him money Valerius
Varus: huius est heres Maximus noster, quem et ipse amo,
Varus of-him is heir Maximus our whom also I-myself love
sed coniunctius tu.
but more-closely you
Rogo ergo, exigo etiam pro iure amicitiae, cures ut 8.5
I-ask therefore I-demand even by the-right of-friendship that-you-see-to-it that
Atilio meo salva sit non sors modo verum etiam usura
to-Atilius my safe be not the-principal only but even the-interest
plurium annorum. Homo est alieni abstinentissimus, sui
of-several years a-man he-is of-another's most-abstemious of-his-own
diligens; nullis quaestibus sustinetur, nullus illi nisi ex
careful by-no profits he-is-supported no to-him except from
frugalitate reditus.
frugality income
Nam studia, quibus plurimum praestat, ad voluptatem tantum 8.6
for studies in-which very-greatly he-excels for pleasure only
et gloriam exercet. Gravis est ei vel minima iactura;
and glory he-practices heavy is to-him even the-least loss
quia reparare quod amiseris gravius est.
because to-recover what you-have-lost heavier is
Exime hunc illi, exime hunc mihi scrupulum: sine me 8.7
remove this from-him remove this from-me scruple allow me
suavitate eius, sine leporibus perfrui. Neque enim possum
the-sweetness his allow the-charms to-enjoy nor for can-I
tristem videre, cuius hilaritas me tristem esse non patitur.
sad see one-whose cheerfulness me sad to-be not allows

8.8 In summa nosti facetias hominis; quas velim adtendas, ne
in sum you-know the-wit of-the-man which I-would-like you-to-attend-to lest
in bilem et amaritudinem vertat iniuria. Quam vim habeat
into bile and bitterness turn-it the-injury what force he-may-have
offensus, crede ei quam in amore habet. Non feret
when-offended believe-it from-that which in love he-has not will-bear
magnum et liberum ingenium cum contumelia damnum.
a-great and free mind with insult loss

8.9 Verum ut ferat ille, ego meum damnum meam contumeliam
but though bear-it he I my-own loss my-own insult
iudicabo, sed non tamquam pro mea, hoc est gravius,
shall-judge-it but not as-if for my-own this is worse
irascar. Quamquam quid denuntiationibus et quasi
shall-I-be-angry although why with-warnings and as-it-were
minis ago? Quin potius, ut coeperam, rogo, oro des
threats do-I-deal nay rather as I-had-begun I-ask I-beg that-you-take
operam ne ille se, quod validissime vereor, a me, ego me
care lest he himself which most-strongly I-fear by me I myself
neglectum a te putem. Dabis autem, si hoc perinde
neglected by you think you-will-take-it moreover if this equally
curae est tibi quam illud mihi. Vale.
a-care is to-you as that to-me farewell

9 C. Plinius Tacito suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Tacitus his-own greeting

9.1 Commendas mihi Iulium Nasonem candidatum. Nasonem mihi?
you-commend to-me Julius Naso a-candidate Naso to-me
Quid si me ipsum? Fero tamen et ignosco. Eundem enim
what if me myself I-bear-it however and I-forgive the-same-man for
commendassem tibi, si te Romae morante ipse afuissem.
I-would-have-commended to-you if you at-Rome staying I-myself had-been-away

Habet hoc sollicitudo, quod omnia necessaria putat. Tu 9.2
has this anxiety that all-things necessary it-thinks you
tamen censeo alios roges; ego precum tuarum minister
however I-advise others should-ask I of-prayers your the-minister
adiutor particeps ero. Vale.
helper partner shall-be farewell

C. Plinius Albino suo s. 10
Gaius Pliny to-Albinus his-own greeting

Cum venissem in socrus meae villam Alsiensem, quae 10.1
when I-had-come into of-mother-in-law my the-villa at-Alsium which
aliquando Rufi Vergini fuit, ipse mihi locus optimi
once of-Rufus Verginius was the-very to-me place of-that-excellent
illius et maximi viri desiderium non sine dolore renovavit.
that and greatest man the-longing not without grief renewed
Hunc enim incolere secessum atque etiam senectutis suae
this for to-inhabit retreat and even of-old-age his-own
nidulum vocare consueverat.
the-little-nest to-call he-had-been-accustomed

Quocumque me contulissem, illum animus, illum oculi 10.2
wherever me I-had-taken him my-mind him my-eyes
requirebant. Libuit etiam monimentum eius videre, et
sought it-pleased-me also the-monument his to-see and
vidisse paenituit.
to-have-seen-it I-regretted

Est enim adhuc inperfectum, nec difficultas operis in 10.3
it-is for still unfinished nor the-difficulty of-the-work in
causa modici ac potius exigui, sed inertia eius cui
the-cause modest and rather slight but the-sloth of-him to-whom
cura mandata est. Subit indignatio cum miseratione,
the-charge entrusted is there-steals-over indignation with pity
post decimum mortis annum reliquias neglectumque cinerem
after the-tenth of-his-death year the-remains and-neglected ashes

sine titulo, sine nomine iacere, cuius memoria orbem
without inscription without name to-lie of-one-whose memory the-circle
terrarum gloria pervagetur.
of-the-lands in-glory travels-over

10.4 At ille mandaverat caveratque ut divinum illud et inmortale
but he had-directed and-had-provided that divine that and immortal
factum versibus inscriberetur,
deed in-verses be-inscribed

hic situs est Rufus, pulso qui Vindice quondam
here laid is Rufus routed who Vindex once
imperium adseruit non sibi sed patriae.
the-empire claimed not for-himself but for-his-fatherland

10.5 Tam rara in amicitiis fides, tam parata oblivio
so rare in friendships the-good-faith so ready the-forgetting
mortuorum, ut ipsi nobis debeamus etiam conditoria
of-the-dead that ourselves for-ourselves we-ought even tombs
extruere omniaque heredum officia praesumere.
to-build and-all of-heirs the-duties to-anticipate

10.6 Nam cui non est verendum quod videmus accidisse
for to-whom not is-it to-be-feared what we-see to-have-happened
Verginio? Cuius iniuriam ut indigniorem sic etiam notiorem
to-Verginius whose wrong as more-undeserved so also better-known
ipsius claritas facit. Vale.
his-own renown makes farewell

11 C. Plinius Maximo suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Maximus his-own greeting

11.1 O diem laetum! Adhibitus in consilium a praefecto urbis,
O day happy summoned into the-council by the-prefect of-the-city
audivi ex diverso agentes summae spei, summae indolis
I-heard from opposite-sides pleading of-the-highest hope of-the-highest talent

iuvenes, Fuscum Salinatorem et Ummidium Quadratum,
young-men Fuscus Salinator and Ummidius Quadratus
egregium par nec modo temporibus nostris sed litteris
an-excellent pair nor only to-times our but to-letters
ipsis ornamento futurum.
themselves for-an-ornament going-to-be
Mira utrique probitas, constantia salva, decorus habitus, 11.2
wonderful in-each uprightness firmness unimpaired seemly bearing
os latinum, vox virilis, tenax memoria, magnum ingenium,
speech Latin voice manly retentive memory great talent
iudicium aequale. Quae singula mihi voluptati fuerunt atque
judgment equal which singly to-me for-pleasure were and
inter haec illud, quod et ipsi me ut rectorem, ut
among these that that both they-themselves me as a-guide as
magistrum intuebantur et iis qui audiebant me aemulari,
a-master looked-upon and to-those who were-listening me to-emulate
meis instare vestigiis videbantur.
my to-press-on footsteps they-seemed
O diem (repetam enim) laetum notandumque mihi 11.3
O day I-will-repeat for happy and-to-be-marked for-me
candidissimo calculo! Quid enim aut publice laetius, quam
with-the-whitest pebble what for either publicly happier than
clarissimos iuvenes nomen et famam ex studiis petere,
most-distinguished young-men name and fame from studies to-seek
aut mihi optatius, quam me ad recta tendentibus quasi
or for-me more-desirable than me to right-things those-striving-for as-it-were
exemplar esse propositum?
a-pattern to-be set-forth

11.4 Quod gaudium ut perpetuo capiam deos oro: ab isdem
which joy that perpetually I-may-take the-gods I-pray from the-same
teste te peto ut omnis qui me imitari tanti
with-witness you I-ask that all who me to-imitate worth-so-much
putabunt meliores esse quam me velint. Vale.
shall-think better to-be than me may-wish farewell

12 C. Plinius Fabato prosocero suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Fabatus grandfather-in-law his-own greeting

12.1 Tu vero non debes suspensa manu commendare mihi quos
you indeed not ought with-hesitant hand to-commend to-me those-whom
tuendos putas. Nam et te decet multis prodesse et me
to-be-protected you-think for both you it-befits many to-help and me
suscipere quidquid ad curam tuam pertinet.
to-take-up whatever to care your pertains

12.2 Itaque Vettio Prisco quantum plurimum potuero praestabo,
and-so to-Vettius Priscus as-much as-most I-shall-be-able I-shall-render
praesertim in harena mea, hoc est apud centumviros.
especially in arena my that is before the-centumvirs

12.3 Epistularum quas mihi ut ais, 'aperto pectore' scripsisti
the-letters which to-me as you-say with-open heart you-wrote
oblivisci me iubes: at ego nullarum libentius memini. Ex
to-forget me you-bid but I none more-gladly remember from
illis enim vel praecipue sentio, quanto opere me diligas,
them for even especially I-perceive with-how-great effort me you-love
cum sic exegeris mecum, ut solebas cum tuo filio.
since so you-have-dealt with-me as you-were-wont with your son

12.4 Nec dissimulo hoc mihi iucundiores eas fuisse, quod
nor do-I-conceal by-this to-me more-pleasing them to-have-been that
habebam bonam causam, cum summo studio curassem
I-had a-good case since with-the-utmost zeal I-had-seen-to
quod tu curari volebas.
what you to-be-seen-to wished

Proinde etiam atque etiam rogo, ut mihi semper eadem 12.5
therefore again and again I-ask that to-me always with-the-same
simplicitate, quotiens cessare videbor ('videbor' dico, numquam
frankness whenever to-be-slack I-shall-seem I-shall-seem I-say never
enim cessabo), convicium facias, quod et ego intellegam
for shall-I-be-slack reproach you-make which both I may-understand
a summo amore proficisci, et tu non meruisse me
from the-highest love to-proceed and you not to-have-deserved-it me
gaudeas. Vale.
may-rejoice farewell

C. Plinius Urso suo s. 13
Gaius Pliny to-Ursus his-own greeting

Umquamne vidisti quemquam tam laboriosum et exercitum 13.1
ever have-you-seen anyone so toil-worn and harassed
quam Varenum meum? Cui quod summa contentione
as Varenus my to-whom what with-the-utmost effort
impetraverat defendendum et quasi rursus petendum fuit.
he-had-obtained to-be-defended and as-it-were again to-be-sought it-was

Bithyni senatus consultum apud consules carpere ac 13.2
the-Bithynians of-the-senate the-decree before the-consuls to-carp-at and
labefactare sunt ausi atque etiam absenti principi criminari:
to-undermine they-have dared and even to-the-absent emperor to-denounce
ab illo ad senatum remissi non destiterunt. Egit Claudius
by him to the-senate sent-back not they-desisted pleaded Claudius
Capito inreverenter magis quam constanter, ut qui senatus
Capito disrespectfully more than steadfastly as one-who of-the-senate
consultum apud senatum accusaret.
a-decree before the-senate was-accusing

13.3 Respondit Catius Fronto graviter et firme. Senatus ipse
replied Catius Fronto weightily and firmly the-senate itself
mirificus: nam illi quoque qui prius negarant Vareno quae
wonderful for those also who before had-refused to-Varenus what
petebat eadem danda postquam erant data censuerunt;
he-sought the-same to-be-given after they-had-been given proposed
13.4 Singulos enim integra re dissentire fas esse,
individuals for with-the-whole matter-open to-dissent right to-be
peracta quod pluribus placuisset cunctis tuendum.
it-being-finished what to-the-majority had-pleased by-all to-be-upheld
13.5 Acilius tantum Rufus et cum eo septem an octo, septem
Acilius only Rufus and with him seven or eight seven
immo, in priore sententia perseverarunt. Erant in hac
rather in their-former opinion persisted there-were in this
paucitate non nulli quorum temporaria gravitas vel potius
small-number not none of-whom the-temporary gravity or rather
gravitatis imitatio ridebatur.
of-gravity the-imitation was-laughed-at
13.6 Tu tamen aestima, quantum nos in ipsa pugna certaminis
you however reckon how-much us in the-very battle of-the-contest
maneat, cuius quasi praelusio atque praecursio has
awaits whose as-it-were prelude and preliminary-run these
contentiones excitavit. Vale.
disputes stirred-up farewell

14 C. Plinius Maurico suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Mauricus his-own greeting

14.1 Sollicitas me in Formianum. Veniam ea condicione, ne
you-invite me to your-Formian-villa I-shall-come on-that condition that-not
quid contra commodum tuum facias; qua pactione invicem
anything against convenience your you-do by-which agreement in-turn

mihi caveo. Neque enim mare et litus, sed te, otium,
for-myself I-stipulate nor for the-sea and the-shore but you leisure
libertatem sequor: alioqui satius est in urbe remanere.
freedom I-seek otherwise better it-is in the-city to-remain
Oportet enim omnia aut ad alienum arbitrium aut ad 14.2
it-is-proper for all-things either to another's judgment or to
suum facere: mei certe stomachi haec natura est, ut
one's-own to-do of-my certainly stomach this the-nature is that
nihil nisi totum et merum velit. Vale.
nothing except whole and pure it-wish farewell

III · VESUVIUS

Pliny tells Romanus of a ridiculous interruption at a recital. For Tacitus he then tells how his uncle, commanding the fleet at Misenum, saw the cloud over Vesuvius, sailed to rescue those on the shore, calmed his friend Pomponianus at Stabiae, and died on the beach in the fumes. He complains of a lazy audience and agrees to plead for the town of Firmum.

C. Plinius Romano suo s. 15
Gaius Pliny to-Romanus his-own greeting
Mirificae rei non interfuisti: ne ego quidem; sed me 15.1
at-a-wonderful affair not you-were-present not I even but me
recens fabula excepit. Passennus Paulus, splendidus eques
a-fresh story has-reached Passennus Paulus a-distinguished knight
Romanus et in primis eruditus, scribit elegos. Gentilicium
Roman and among the-first learned writes elegies hereditary
hoc illi: est enim municeps Properti atque etiam inter
this with-him he-is for a-townsman of-Propertius and even among
maiores suos Propertium numerat.
ancestors his Propertius he-counts

15.2 Is cum recitaret, ita coepit dicere, 'Prisce, iubes'. Ad hoc
he when he-was-reciting thus began to-say Priscus you-bid to this
Iavolenus Priscus (aderat enim, ut Paulo amicissimus):
Javolenus Priscus he-was-present for as to-Paulus most-friendly
'Ego vero non iubeo.' Cogita qui risus hominum, qui ioci.
I indeed not bid think-of what laughter of-the-people what jokes
15.3 Est omnino Priscus dubiae sanitatis, interest tamen officiis,
is altogether Priscus of-doubtful sanity he-takes-part however in-official-duties
adhibetur consiliis atque etiam ius civile publice respondet:
he-is-called-in to-councils and even on-law civil publicly gives-opinions
quo magis quod tunc fecit et ridiculum et notabile fuit.
by-which the-more what then he-did both ridiculous and notable was
15.4 Interim Paulo aliena deliratio aliquantum frigoris attulit.
meanwhile to-Paulus another's derangement a-good-deal of-chill brought
Tam sollicite recitaturis providendum est non solum ut
so anxiously by-those-about-to-recite to-be-provided it-is not only that
sint ipsi sani, verum etiam ut sanos adhibeant. Vale.
they-be themselves sane but even that sane-men they-invite farewell

16 C. Plinius Tacito suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Tacitus his-own greeting

16.1 Petis ut tibi avunculi mei exitum scribam, quo verius
you-ask that to-you of-uncle my the-end I-should-write that the-more-truly
tradere posteris possis. Gratias ago: nam video morti
to-hand-down to-posterity you-may-be-able thanks I-give for I-see for-death
eius, si celebretur a te, inmortalem gloriam esse propositam.
his if it-be-celebrated by you immortal glory to-be set-before-it
16.2 Quamvis enim pulcherrimarum clade terrarum, ut populi,
although for of-the-most-beautiful in-the-disaster lands as peoples
ut urbes, memorabili casu quasi semper victurus occiderit,
as cities by-a-memorable calamity as-if always about-to-live he-perished

quamvis ipse plurima opera et mansura condiderit, multum
although he-himself very-many works and lasting founded much
tamen perpetuitati eius scriptorum tuorum aeternitas addet.
yet to-the-perpetuity his of-writings your the-eternity will-add
Equidem beatos puto quibus deorum munere datum 16.3
for-my-part fortunate I-think those-to-whom of-the-gods by-the-gift given
est aut facere scribenda aut scribere legenda,
it-has-been either to-do things-to-be-written or to-write things-to-be-read
beatissimos vero quibus utrumque. Horum in numero
most-fortunate indeed those-to-whom both of-these in the-number
avunculus meus et suis libris et tuis erit. Quo
uncle my both by-his-own books and by-yours will-be by-which
libentius suscipio, deposco etiam quod iniungis.
the-more-gladly I-undertake I-demand even what you-enjoin
Erat Miseni classemque imperio praesens regebat. Nonum 16.4
he-was at-Misenum and-the-fleet in-command in-person was-directing the-ninth-day
Kal. Septembres hora fere septima mater mea
before-the-Kalends of-September at-the-hour about seventh mother my
indicat ei apparere nubem inusitata et magnitudine et
points-out to-him to-appear a-cloud unusual both in-size and
specie.
in-appearance
Usus ille sole, mox frigida, gustaverat iacens studebatque: 16.5
having-used he the-sun then cold-water had-lunched lying and-was-studying
poscit soleas, ascendit locum ex quo maxime miraculum
he-calls-for his-sandals he-climbs-up a-place from which best wonder
illud conspici poterat. Nubes, incertum procul
that to-be-seen could the-cloud uncertain to-those-at-a-distance
intuentibus ex quo monte (Vesuvium fuisse postea
looking from what mountain Vesuvius to-have-been afterward

cognitum est), oriebatur, cuius similitudinem et formam
learned it-was was-rising of-which the-likeness and shape
non alia magis arbor quam pinus expresserit.
not another more tree than the-pine would-have-expressed
16.6 Nam longissimo velut trunco elata in altum quibusdam
for by-a-very-long as-it-were trunk carried on high into-certain
ramis diffundebatur, credo, quia recenti spiritu evecta, dein
branches it-was-spread-out I-believe because by-a-fresh blast borne-up then
senescente eo destituta aut etiam pondere suo victa in
with-weakening it deserted or even by-weight its-own overcome into
latitudinem vanescebat, candida interdum, interdum sordida
breadth it-was-vanishing white sometimes sometimes dirty
et maculosa prout terram cineremve sustulerat.
and blotched according-as earth or-ash it-had-raised
16.7 Magnum propiusque noscendum ut eruditissimo viro, visum.
great and-more-closely to-be-known as to-a-most-learned man it-seemed
Iubet liburnicam aptari: mihi, si venire una vellem, facit
he-orders a-light-galley to-be-fitted to-me if to-come with-him I-wished he-gives
copiam: respondi studere me malle, et forte ipse
the-opportunity I-answered to-study me to-prefer and perchance he-himself
quod scriberem dederat.
what I-should-write had-given
16.8 Egrediebatur domo: accipit codicillos Rectinae Tasci
he-was-going-out from-the-house he-receives a-note of-Rectina wife-of-Tascus
inminenti periculo exterritae (nam villa eius subiacebat,
at-the-impending danger terrified for villa her lay-below
nec ulla nisi navibus fuga): ut se tanto discrimini
nor any except by-ships escape that her from-so-great peril
eriperet orabat.
he-should-rescue she-begged

Vertit ille consilium et quod studioso animo inchoaverat 16.9
changes he his-plan and what with-a-studious mind he-had-begun
obit maximo. Deducit quadriremes, ascendit ipse non
he-carries-out with-the-greatest he-launches quadriremes he-boards himself not
Rectinae modo sed multis (erat enim frequens amoenitas
to-Rectina only but to-many there-was for populous the-charm
orae) laturus auxilium.
of-the-coast going-to-bring help
Properat illuc unde alii fugiunt rectumque cursum, recta 16.10
he-hastens there whence others flee and-a-straight course straight
gubernacula in periculum tenet adeo solutus metu, ut
the-helm into danger he-holds so freed from-fear that
omnia illius mali motus, omnis figuras, ut deprenderat
all of-that evil the-movements all the-shapes as he-had-caught-them
oculis dictaret enotaretque.
with-his-eyes he-dictated and-noted-down
Iam navibus cinis incidebat, quo propius accederent, 16.11
already on-the-ships ash was-falling by-how-much nearer they-approached
calidior et densior; iam pumices etiam nigrique et ambusti
hotter and denser already pumice-stones even and-black and scorched
et fracti igne lapides; iam vadum subitum ruinaque
and cracked by-fire stones already a-shoal sudden and-from-the-collapse
montis litora obstantia. Cunctatus paulum, an retro
of-the-mountain shores blocking having-hesitated a-little whether back
flecteret, mox gubernatori ut ita faceret monenti 'fortes'
he-should-turn soon to-the-helmsman that so he-should-do advising the-brave
inquit 'fortuna iuvat: Pomponianum pete.'
he-said fortune helps Pomponianus make-for
Stabiis erat diremptus sinu medio (nam sensim circumactis 16.12
at-Stabiae he-was cut-off by-the-bay between for gradually curving
curvatisque litoribus mare infunditur): ibi, quamquam nondum
and-winding shores the-sea pours-in there although not-yet

periculo adpropinquante, conspicuo tamen et cum cresceret
with-danger approaching conspicuous however and when it-should-grow
proximo, sarcinas contulerat in naves certus fugae si
very-near baggage he-had-gathered on ships resolved on-flight if
contrarius ventus resedisset. Quo tunc avunculus meus
the-contrary wind had-sunk to-which then uncle my
secundissimo invectus conplectitur trepidantem consolatur
most-favorable carried-in embraces him-trembling consoles
hortatur, utque timorem eius sua securitate leniret,
encourages and-that the-fear his by-his-own calm he-might-soothe
deferri in balineum iubet: lotus accubat cenat, aut
to-be-carried into the-bath he-orders having-bathed he-reclines dines either
hilaris aut, quod aeque magnum, similis hilari.
cheerful or what equally great like cheerful
16.13 Interim e Vesuvio monte pluribus in locis latissimae
meanwhile from Vesuvius mountain in-many in places very-broad
flammae altaque incendia relucebant, quorum fulgor et claritas
flames and-tall fires were-shining whose glare and brightness
tenebris noctis excitabatur. Ille agrestium trepidatione ignes
by-the-darkness of-night was-heightened he of-the-peasants by-the-panic fires
relictos desertasque villas per solitudinem ardere in
left and-deserted villas through the-emptiness to-be-burning for
remedium formidinis dictitabat. Tum se quieti dedit et
a-remedy of-fear kept-saying then himself to-rest he-gave and
quievit verissimo quidem somno. Nam meatus animae, qui
slept with-the-truest indeed sleep for the-passage of-breath which
illi propter amplitudinem corporis gravior et sonantior
for-him on-account-of the-bulk of-his-body heavier and more-sonorous
erat, ab iis qui limini obversabantur audiebatur.
was by those who at-the-threshold were-moving-about was-heard

Sed area ex qua diaeta adibatur ita iam cinere 16.14
but the-court from which the-suite was-approached so already with-ash
mixtisque pumicibus oppleta surrexerat, ut, si longior in
and-mixed pumice-stones filled had-risen that if longer in
cubiculo mora, exitus negaretur. Excitatus procedit, seque
the-bedroom the-delay exit would-be-denied awakened he-comes-out and-himself
Pomponiano ceterisque qui pervigilaverant reddit.
to-Pomponianus and-the-others who had-stayed-awake restores
In commune consultant, intra tecta subsistant an in 16.15
in common they-consult within the-roofs they-should-stay or in
aperto vagentur. Nam crebris vastisque tremoribus tecta
the-open wander for by-frequent and-vast tremors the-buildings
nutabant, et quasi emota sedibus suis nunc huc nunc
were-swaying and as-if moved from-foundations their-own now here now
illuc abire aut referri videbantur.
there to-go-off or to-be-brought-back they-seemed
Sub dio rursus quamquam levium exesorumque pumicum 16.16
under the-sky in-turn although of-light and-porous pumice-stones
casus metuebatur; quod tamen periculorum collatio
the-fall was-feared which however of-dangers the-comparison
elegit. Et apud illum quidem ratio rationem, apud alios
chose and with him indeed reason reason with others
timorem timor vicit. Cervicalia capitibus inposita linteis
fear fear overcame pillows on-their-heads placed with-linen-cloths
constringunt; id munimentum adversus incidentia fuit.
they-tie-down that a-protection against falling-things was
Iam dies alibi, illic nox omnibus noctibus nigrior densiorque, 16.17
now day elsewhere there night than-all nights blacker and-denser
quam tamen faces multae variaque lumina solabantur. Placuit
which however torches many and-various lights relieved it-pleased

egredi in litus et ex proximo aspicere, ecquid iam mare
to-go-out onto the-shore and from near-by to-look whether-at-all now the-sea
admitteret; quod adhuc vastum et adversum permanebat.
would-admit-them which still vast and contrary remained
16.18 Ibi super abiectum linteum recubans semel atque iterum
there on a-spread-out sheet lying-down once and again
frigidam poposcit hausitque. Deinde flammae flammarumque
cold-water he-asked-for and-drank then flames and-of-flames
praenuntius odor sulpuris alios in fugam vertunt, excitant
the-forerunner smell of-sulfur others into flight turn rouse
illum.
him
16.19 Innitens servulis duobus adsurrexit et statim concidit, ut
leaning on-slaves two he-rose and at-once collapsed as
ego colligo, crassiore caligine spiritu obstructo clausoque
I gather by-the-denser fog his-breathing blocked and-closed
stomacho, qui illi natura invalidus et angustus et
his-windpipe which for-him by-nature weak and narrow and
frequenter aestuans erat.
often inflamed was
16.20 Ubi dies redditus (is ab eo quem novissime viderat erat
when daylight returned this from the-one which last he-had-seen was
tertius), corpus inventum integrum, inlaesum opertumque,
the-third the-body found whole unhurt and-covered
ut fuerat indutus: habitus corporis quiescenti quam
as he-had-been dressed the-appearance of-the-body to-one-resting than
defuncto similior.
to-one-dead more-like

Interim Miseni ego et mater — sed nihil ad historiam, 16.21
meanwhile at-Misenum I and my-mother but nothing to history
nec tu aliud quam de exitu eius scire voluisti. Finem
nor you anything-else than about the-end his to-know wished an-end
ergo faciam.
therefore I-shall-make
Unum adiciam, omnia me quibus interfueram quaeque statim, 16.22
one-thing I-shall-add all-things me in-which I-had-been-present and-which at-once
cum maxime vera memorantur, audieram, persecutum.
when most true-things are-remembered I-had-heard to-have-set-down
Tu potissima excerpes. Aliud est enim epistulam aliud
you the-most-important will-excerpt one-thing it-is for a-letter another
historiam, aliud amico aliud omnibus scribere. Vale.
a-history one-thing to-a-friend another to-all to-write farewell

C. Plinius Restituto suo s. 17
Gaius Pliny to-Restitutus his-own greeting
Indignatiunculam, quam in cuiusdam amici auditorio cepi, 17.1
a-little-indignation which in a-certain friend's lecture-hall I-conceived
non possum mihi temperare quo minus apud te, quia non
not I-can myself restrain that not with you because not
contingit coram, per epistulam effundam. Recitabatur
it-falls-out face-to-face through a-letter I-should-pour-out was-being-read
liber absolutissimus.
a-book most-finished
Hunc duo aut tres, ut sibi et paucis videntur, diserti 17.2
this two or three as to-themselves and to-a-few they-seem eloquent
surdis mutisque similes audiebant. Non labra diduxerunt,
to-the-deaf and-dumb similar were-hearing not their-lips they-parted
non moverunt manum, non denique adsurrexerunt, saltem
not they-moved a-hand not in-short they-rose at-least
lassitudine sedendi.
from-weariness of-sitting

17.3 Quae tanta gravitas? Quae tanta sapientia? Quae immo pigritia,
what so-great gravity what so-great wisdom what rather sloth
adrogantia sinisteritas ac potius amentia, in hoc totum diem
arrogance perversity and rather madness in this the-whole day
inpendere, ut offendas, ut inimicum relinquas ad quem
to-spend that you-may-offend that an-enemy you-may-leave to whom
tamquam amicissimum veneris? Disertior ipse es?
as-if most-friendly you-had-come more-eloquent you-yourself are-you
17.4 Tanto magis ne invideris: nam qui invidet minor est.
so-much more not you-envy for he-who envies lesser is
Denique sive plus sive minus sive idem praestas, lauda
in-short whether more or less or the-same you-achieve praise
vel inferiorem vel superiorem vel parem: superiorem, quia
either an-inferior or a-superior or an-equal a-superior because
nisi laudandus ille, non potes ipse laudari; inferiorem aut
unless to-be-praised he not you-can yourself be-praised an-inferior or
parem quia pertinet ad tuam gloriam quam maximum videri
equal because it-pertains to your glory as greatest to-seem
quem praecedis vel exaequas.
him-whom you-surpass or equal
17.5 Equidem omnes qui aliquid in studiis faciunt venerari etiam
for-my-part all who something in studies do to-revere also
mirarique soleo. Est enim res difficilis ardua fastidiosa
and-to-admire I-am-wont it-is for a-thing difficult arduous fastidious
et quae eos a quibus contemnitur invicem contemnat:
and which those by whom it-is-despised in-turn despises
nisi forte aliud iudicas tu. Quamquam quis uno te
unless perhaps otherwise you-judge you although who alone than-you
reverentior huius operis, quis benignior aestimator?
more-respectful of-this work who a-kinder appraiser

Qua ratione ductus tibi potissimum indignationem meam 17.6
by-which reason led to-you above-all indignation my
prodidi, quem habere socium maxime poteram. Vale.
I-disclosed whom to-have as-partner most I-could farewell

C. Plinius Sabino suo s. 18
Gaius Pliny to-Sabinus his-own greeting

Rogas ut agam Firmanorum publicam causam; quod ego, 18.1
you-ask that I-plead of-the-Firmani the-public case which I
quamquam plurimis occupationibus distentus adnitar.
although by-very-many occupations distracted shall-strive-for
Cupio enim et ornatissimam coloniam advocationis officio
I-desire for both a-most-distinguished colony of-advocacy by-the-service
et te gratissimo tibi munere obstringere.
and you by-a-most-welcome to-you gift to-bind

Nam cum familiaritatem nostram, ut soles praedicare, 18.2
for since friendship our as you-are-wont to-proclaim
ad praesidium ornamentumque tibi sumpseris, nihil est
for protection and-ornament to-yourself you-have-taken nothing there-is
quod negare debeam, praesertim pro patria petenti. Quid
which to-refuse I-ought especially for his-fatherland to-one-asking what
enim precibus aut honestius piis aut efficacius amantis?
for than-prayers either more-honorable dutiful or more-effective of-a-loving-man

Proinde Firmanis tuis ac iam potius nostris obliga fidem 18.3
therefore to-the-Firmani your and now rather our pledge good-faith
meam; quos labore et studio meo dignos cum splendor
my whom of-labor and of-zeal my worthy both the-splendor
ipsorum tum hoc maxime pollicetur, quod credibile est
their-own and this especially promises that credible it-is
optimos esse inter quos tu talis extiteris. Vale.
the-best-men to-be among whom you such have-emerged farewell

Pliny explains to Nepos why Italian land, above all near Rome, has risen in price. For Tacitus he describes his own night and day at Misenum during the eruption: the earthquakes, the sea drawn back, the dark cloud, the flight with his mother through the ash, and the return to wait for news of his uncle. He praises Vergilius Romanus' comedies and tells Tiro how the emperor condemned Atticinus, who had accused his own governor.

19 C. Plinius Nepoti suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Nepos his-own greeting

19.1 Scis tu accessisse pretium agris, praecipue suburbanis?
do-you-know you to-have-increased the-price for-lands especially suburban-ones
Causa subitae caritatis res multis agitata sermonibus:
the-cause of-the-sudden dearness a-matter in-many discussed conversations
proximis comitiis honestissimas voces senatus expressit,
at-the-last elections most-honorable sentiments of-the-senate expressed
'Candidati ne conviventur, ne mittant munera, ne pecunias
the-candidates not are-to-give-banquets not are-to-send presents not money
deponant.'
are-to-deposit

19.2 Ex quibus duo priora tam aperte quam immodice fiebant;
of which the-two former as openly as immoderately were-done
hoc tertium, quamquam occultaretur, pro comperto habebatur.
this third although it-was-concealed for ascertained was-held

19.3 Homullus deinde noster, vigilanter usus hoc consensu
Homullus then our watchfully having-used this agreement
senatus, sententiae loco postulavit ut consules desiderium
of-the-senate of-a-motion in-place demanded that the-consuls the-wish
universorum notum principi facerent peterentque sicut
of-all known to-the-emperor should-make and-should-ask as
aliis vitiis huic quoque providentia sua occurreret.
for-other vices to-this also by-foresight his-own he-should-meet

Occurrit: nam sumptus candidatorum, foedos illos et infames, 19.4
he-met-it for the-expenses of-candidates foul those and infamous
ambitus lege restrinxit: eosdem patrimonii tertiam partem
by-the-bribery law he-restrained the-same of-their-patrimony a-third part
conferre iussit in ea quae solo continerentur,
to-invest he-ordered in those-things which in-the-soil consisted
deforme arbitratus, et erat, honorem petituros urbem
unseemly having-judged-it and it-was office those-about-to-seek the-city
Italiamque non pro patria, sed pro hospitio aut stabulo
and-Italy not as a-fatherland but as an-inn or a-stable
quasi peregrinantes habere.
as-if traveling to-hold
Concursant ergo candidati: certatim quidquid venale audiunt 19.5
are-running-about therefore the-candidates competitively whatever for-sale they-hear-of
emptitant quoque sint plura venalia efficiunt.
they-buy-up and-by-which-means are more-things for-sale they-bring-about
Proinde si paenitet te Italicorum praediorum, hoc vendendi 19.6
therefore if it-repents you of-Italian estates this of-selling
tempus tam hercule quam in provinciis comparandi, dum
the-time as by-Hercules as in the-provinces of-buying while
iidem candidati illic vendunt, ut hic emant. Vale.
the-same candidates there sell that here they-may-buy farewell

C. Plinius Tacito suo s. 20
Gaius Pliny to-Tacitus his-own greeting

Ais te adductum litteris quas exigenti tibi de morte 20.1
you-say you induced by-the-letter which demanding to-you about the-death
avunculi mei scripsi cupere cognoscere, quos ego Miseni
of-uncle my I-wrote to-desire to-learn what I at-Misenum
relictus (id enim ingressus abruperam) non solum metus
left this for having-entered-on I-had-broken-off not only fears

verum etiam casus pertulerim. 'Quamquam animus meminisse
but even dangers endured although the-mind to-remember
horret, incipiam.'
shudders I-will-begin

20.2 Profecto avunculo ipse reliquum tempus studiis (ideo enim
with-set-out my-uncle I-myself the-remaining time on-studies for-this for
remanseram) inpendi; mox balineum cena somnus inquietus
I-had-stayed-behind spent then the-bath dinner sleep restless
et brevis.
and short

20.3 Praecesserat per multos dies tremor terrae minus
had-preceded through many days a-tremor of-the-earth less
formidolosus quia Campaniae solitus. Illa vero nocte ita
frightening because for-Campania usual that however night so
invaluit, ut non moveri omnia sed verti crederentur.
it-grew-strong that not to-be-moved all-things but to-be-overturned were-believed

20.4 Inrumpit cubiculum meum mater: surgebam invicem, si
bursts-into the-bedroom my my-mother I-was-rising in-turn if
quiesceret, excitaturus. Residimus in area domus, quae
she-were-resting about-to-wake-her we-sat-down in the-court of-the-house which
mare a tectis modico spatio dividebat.
the-sea from the-buildings by-a-modest space divided

20.5 Dubito constantiam vocare an inprudentiam debeam
I-doubt firmness to-call or imprudence whether-I-ought
(agebam enim duodevicensimum annum): posco librum Titi
I-was-in for my-eighteenth year I-call-for a-book of-Titus
Livi et quasi per otium lego atque etiam, ut coeperam,
Livy and as-if at leisure I-read and even as I-had-begun
excerpo. Ecce amicus avunculi, qui nuper ad eum ex
I-make-extracts look-there a-friend of-my-uncle who lately to him from
Hispania venerat, ut me et matrem sedentes, me vero
Spain had-come when me and my-mother sitting me indeed

etiam legentem videt, illius patientiam, securitatem meam
even reading he-sees of-her the-patience the-unconcern my
corripit. Nihilo segnius ego intentus in librum.
rebukes no-less slackly I intent on the-book
Iam hora diei prima, et adhuc dubius et quasi languidus 20.6
now the-hour of-the-day first and still doubtful and as-if languid
dies: iam quassatis circumiacentibus tectis, quamquam in
the-day now with-shaken surrounding buildings although in
aperto loco, angusto tamen, magnus et certus ruinae metus.
an-open place narrow however great and certain of-collapse the-fear
Tum demum excedere oppido visum: sequitur vulgus 20.7
then at-last to-leave the-town it-seemed-best follows the-crowd
attonitum, quodque in pavore simile prudentiae, alienum
stunned and-what in panic is-like to-prudence another's
consilium suo praefert ingentique agmine abeuntis premit
plan to-its-own prefers and-in-a-huge column those-leaving presses
et inpellit.
and drives-on
Egressi tecta consistimus. Multa ibi miranda, multas 20.8
having-left the-buildings we-halt many-things there wondrous many
formidines patimur. Nam vehicula quae produci iusseramus,
terrors we-suffer for the-carriages which to-be-brought-out we-had-ordered
quamquam in planissimo campo, in contrarias partes agebantur
although on most-level ground in opposite directions were-driven
ac ne lapidibus quidem fulta in eodem vestigio quiescebant.
and not with-stones even propped in the-same track stayed-still
Praeterea mare in se resorberi et tremore terrae quasi 20.9
besides the-sea into itself to-be-sucked-back and by-the-tremor of-the-earth as-if
repelli videbamus. Certe processerat litus multaque
to-be-driven-back we-saw certainly had-advanced the-shore and-many
animalia maris siccis harenis detinebat. Ab altero latere
creatures of-the-sea on-dry sands was-stranding from the-other side

nubes atra et horrenda ignei spiritus tortis vibratisque
a-cloud black and dreadful of-fiery breath by-twisted and-quivering
discursibus rupta in longas flammarum figuras dehiscebat:
runnings burst into long of-flames shapes gaped-open
fulguribus illae et similes et maiores erant.
to-lightnings they both similar and greater were

20.10 Tum vero idem ille ex Hispania amicus acrius et
then indeed the-same that from Spain friend more-keenly and
instantius 'Si frater' inquit 'tuus, tuus avunculus vivit, vult
more-urgently if brother he-said your your uncle lives he-wishes
esse vos salvos; si periit, superstites voluit. Proinde quid
to-be you safe if he-has-perished survivors he-wished therefore why
cessatis evadere?' Respondimus non commissuros nos ut
do-you-delay to-escape we-answered not to-be-going-to-allow us that
de salute illius incerti nostrae consuleremus.
about the-safety of-him uncertain for-our-own we-should-take-thought

20.11 Non moratus ultra proripit se effusoque cursu periculo
not having-delayed further he-rushes-off himself and-at-headlong pace from-danger
aufertur. Nec multo post illa nubes descendere in terras,
is-carried-away nor much after that cloud to-descend onto the-lands
operire maria: cinxerat Capreas et absconderat, Miseni
to-cover the-seas it-had-encircled Capri and had-hidden-it of-Misenum
quod procurrit abstulerat.
what juts-out it-had-taken-away

20.12 Tum mater orare, hortari, iubere quoquo modo fugerem;
then my-mother to-beg to-urge to-order in-whatever way I-should-flee
posse enim iuvenem, se et annis et corpore gravem
to-be-able for a-young-man herself both with-years and with-body heavy
bene morituram, si mihi causa mortis non fuisset. Ego
well to-be-going-to-die if to-me the-cause of-death not she-had-been I
contra, salvum me nisi una non futurum: dein
on-the-other-hand safe me unless together not to-be-going-to-be then

manum eius amplexus addere gradum cogo. Paret aegre
the-hand her having-clasped to-add a-step I-compel she-obeys reluctantly
incusatque se, quod me moretur.
and-blames herself because me she-delays
Iam cinis, adhuc tamen rarus: respicio; densa caligo tergis 20.13
now ash still however thin I-look-back a-dense fog at-our-backs
imminebat, quae nos torrentis modo infusa terrae
threatened which us of-a-torrent in-the-manner poured over-the-earth
sequebatur. 'Deflectamus' inquam, 'dum videmus ne in via
was-following let-us-turn-aside I-said while we-see lest in the-road
strati comitantium turba in tenebris obteramur.'
laid-low of-the-companions by-the-crowd in the-darkness we-be-trampled
Vix consideramus, et nox, non qualis inlunis aut nubila, 20.14
scarcely had-we-sat-down and night not such-as moonless or cloudy
sed qualis in locis clausis lumine extincto. Audires
but such-as in places closed with-the-lamp put-out you-could-hear
ululatus feminarum, infantum quiritatus, clamores virorum: alii
the-shrieks of-women of-infants the-wailing the-shouts of-men some
parentes, alii liberos, alii coniuges vocibus requirebant, vocibus
parents some children some spouses with-voices were-seeking with-voices
noscitabant: hi suum casum, illi suorum miserabantur:
were-recognizing these their-own fate those of-their-own pitied
erant qui metu mortis mortem precarentur:
there-were those-who from-fear of-death death prayed-for
Multi ad deos manus tollere, plures nusquam iam deos 20.15
many to the-gods hands to-raise more nowhere now gods
ullos aeternamque illam et novissimam noctem mundo
any and-eternal that and last night for-the-world
interpretabantur. Nec defuerunt qui fictis mentitisque
interpreted nor were-lacking those-who with-feigned and-lying
terroribus vera pericula augerent. Aderant qui Miseni
terrors the-real dangers increased there-were-present those-who of-Misenum

illud ruisse, illud ardere falso, sed credentibus
that to-have-collapsed that to-be-burning falsely but to-believers
nuntiabant.
announced

20.16 Paulum reluxit, quod non dies nobis, sed adventantis
a-little it-grew-light which not day to-us but of-approaching
ignis indicium videbatur. Et ignis quidem longius substitit,
fire a-sign seemed and the-fire indeed farther-off halted
tenebrae rursus, cinis rursus multus et gravis. Hunc
darkness again ash again much and heavy this
identidem adsurgentes excutiebamus; operti alioqui atque
repeatedly rising we-shook-off covered otherwise and
etiam oblisi pondere essemus.
even crushed by-the-weight we-would-have-been

20.17 Possem gloriari non gemitum mihi, non vocem parum
I-could boast not a-groan from-me not a-word too-little
fortem in tantis periculis excidisse, nisi me cum omnibus,
brave in so-great dangers to-have-fallen unless me with all
omnia mecum perire misero, magno tamen mortalitatis
all-things with-me to-be-perishing wretched great however of-mortality
solacio credidissem.
a-consolation I-had-believed

20.18 Tandem illa caligo tenuata quasi in fumum nebulamve
at-last that fog thinned as-if into smoke or-mist
discessit: mox dies verus, sol etiam effulsit, luridus tamen,
dispersed soon day real the-sun even shone-out lurid however
qualis esse, cum deficit, solet. Occursabant trepidantibus adhuc
such-as to-be when it-fails it-is-wont there-met trembling still
oculis mutata omnia altoque cinere tamquam nive obducta.
eyes changed all-things and-by-deep ash as-if by-snow covered

Regressi Misenum curatis utcumque corporibus suspensam 20.19
having-returned to-Misenum having-tended somehow our-bodies an-anxious
dubiamque noctem spe ac metu exegimus. Metus praevalebat:
and-doubtful night in-hope and fear we-spent fear prevailed
nam et tremor terrae perseverabat, et plerique lymphati
for both the-tremor of-the-earth persisted and very-many frenzied
terrificis vaticinationibus et sua et aliena mala
by-terrifying prophecies both their-own and others' misfortunes
ludificabantur.
were-mocking
Nobis tamen ne tunc quidem, quamquam et expertis 20.20
to-us however not then even although both having-experienced
periculum et expectantibus, abeundi consilium, donec de
the-danger and expecting-it of-departing a-plan until about
avunculo nuntius. Haec nequaquam historia digna non
my-uncle news these-things by-no-means of-history worthy not
scripturus leges et tibi, scilicet qui requisisti
going-to-write-them you-will-read and to-yourself evidently who asked-for-them
imputabis, si digna ne epistula quidem videbuntur. Vale.
you-will-impute-it if worthy not of-a-letter even they-shall-seem farewell
C. Plinius Caninio suo s. 21
Gaius Pliny to-Caninius his-own greeting
Sum ex iis qui mirantur antiquos, non tamen, ut quidam, 21.1
I-am of those who admire the-ancients not however as some
temporum nostrorum ingenia despicio. Neque enim quasi
of-times our the-talents do-I-despise nor for as-if
lassa et effeta natura nihil iam laudabile parit.
wearied and exhausted nature nothing now praiseworthy brings-forth

21.2 Atque adeo nuper audivi Vergilium Romanum paucis legentem
and indeed lately I-heard Vergilius Romanus to-a-few reading
comoediam ad exemplar veteris comoediae scriptam tam
a-comedy on the-model of-the-old comedy written so
bene, ut esse quandoque possit exemplar.
well that to-be some-day it-could a-model

21.3 Nescio an noris hominem. Quamquam nosse debes:
I-know-not whether you-know the-man although to-know-him you-ought
est enim probitate morum, ingenii elegantia, operum
he-is for for-the-uprightness of-character of-talent for-the-elegance of-works
varietate monstrabilis.
for-the-variety notable

21.4 Scripsit mimiambos tenuiter argute venuste, atque in
he-has-written mimiambics finely cleverly charmingly and in
hoc genere eloquentissime (nullum est enim genus quod
this kind most-eloquently none is for a-kind which
absolutum non possit eloquentissimum dici); scripsit
perfect not could most-eloquent be-called he-has-written
comoedias Menandrum aliosque aetatis eiusdem aemulatus:
comedies Menander and-others of-the-age same emulating
licet has inter Plautinas Terentianasque numeres.
you-may these among Plautine and-Terentian-ones count

21.5 Nunc primum se in vetere comoedia, sed non tamquam
now for-the-first-time himself in the-old comedy but not as-if
inciperet, ostendit. Non illi vis, non granditas, non
he-were-beginning he-shows not to-him force not grandeur not
subtilitas, non amaritudo, non dulcedo, non lepos defuit:
subtlety not bitterness not sweetness not wit was-lacking
ornavit virtutes, insectatus est vitia; fictis nominibus
he-adorned virtues attacked he-has vices invented names
decenter, veris usus est apte.
becomingly real used he-has aptly

Circa me tantum benignitate nimia modum excessit, nisi 21.6
about me only from-kindness excessive measure he-exceeded except
quod tamen poetis mentiri licet.
that yet for-poets to-lie it-is-permitted
In summa extorquebo ei librum legendumque, immo 21.7
in sum I-shall-wrest from-him the-book and-to-be-read nay
ediscendum mittam tibi: neque enim dubito futurum
to-be-learned-by-heart I-shall-send-it to-you nor for do-I-doubt to-be-going-to-be
ut non deponas, si semel sumpseris. Vale.
that not you-will-lay-it-down if once you-have-taken-it-up farewell
C. Plinius Tironi suo s. 22
Gaius Pliny to-Tiro his-own greeting
Magna res acta est omnium qui sunt provinciis praefuturi, 22.1
a-great case pleaded has-been of-all who are over-provinces about-to-preside
magna omnium qui se simpliciter credunt amicis.
a-great-one of-all who themselves simply entrust to-friends
Lustricius Bruttianus cum Montanium Atticinum, comitem 22.2
Lustricius Bruttianus when Montanius Atticinus companion
suum, in multis flagitiis deprendisset, Caesari scripsit.
his-own in many crimes he-had-caught to-Caesar wrote
Atticinus flagitiis addidit, ut quem deceperat accusaret.
Atticinus to-his-crimes added that whom he-had-deceived he-should-accuse
Recepta cognitio est: fui in consilio. Egit uterque pro
admitted the-hearing was I-was in the-council pleaded each for
se, egit autem carptim et κατὰ κεφάλαιον, quo genere
himself pleaded moreover piecemeal and by heads in-which kind
veritas statim ostenditur.
truth at-once is-shown

22.3 Protulit Bruttianus testamentum suum, quod Atticini manu
produced Bruttianus will his-own which in-Atticinus' hand
scriptum esse dicebat: hoc enim et arcana familiaritas et
written to-be he-said this for both secret intimacy and
querendi de eo quem sic amasset necessitas indicabatur.
of-complaining about one whom so he-had-loved the-necessity was-indicated
22.4 Enumeravit crimina foeda manifesta; quae ille cum diluere
he-enumerated charges foul manifest which he since to-wash-away
non posset, ita regessit, ut, dum defenditur turpis, dum
not he-could so threw-back that while he-was-defended base while
accusat, sceleratus probaretur. Corrupto enim scribae servo
he-accused criminal he-was-proved with-bribed for a-secretary's slave
interceperat commentarios intercideratque ac per summum
he-had-intercepted the-notebooks and-had-cut-them-up and by the-utmost
nefas utebatur adversus amicum crimine suo.
wickedness he-was-using against his-friend crime his-own
22.5 Fecit pulcherrime Caesar: non enim de Bruttiano, sed
acted most-splendidly Caesar not for about Bruttianus but
statim de Atticino perrogavit. Damnatus et in insulam
at-once about Atticinus he-put-the-question condemned and to an-island
relegatus; Bruttiano iustissimum integritatis testimonium
banished to-Bruttianus most-just of-integrity testimony
redditum, quem quidem etiam constantiae gloria secuta est.
was-rendered whom indeed also of-constancy the-glory followed has
22.6 Nam defensus expeditissime accusavit vehementer nec
for having-been-defended most-expeditiously he-accused vehemently nor
minus acer quam bonus et sincerus apparuit.
less keen than good and sincere he-appeared
22.7 Quod tibi scripsi, ut te sortitum provinciam praemonerem,
which to-you I-have-written that you having-drawn a-province I-might-forewarn
plurimum tibi credas nec cuiquam satis fidas, deinde
very-much yourself you-should-trust nor anyone enough rely-on then

scias, siquis forte te, quod abominor, fallat, paratam
you-should-know if-anyone perhaps you which I-pray-not deceive ready
ultionem; qua tamen ne sit opus etiam atque etiam attende.
vengeance of-which however lest there-be need again and again take-heed
Neque enim tam iucundum est vindicari, quam decipi 22.8
nor for so pleasant is-it to-be-avenged as to-be-deceived
miserum. Vale.
wretched farewell

V · RUSO AND ARRIA'S RIVAL

Pliny agrees to plead for Triarius if Cremutius Ruso may plead with him. He tells Macer of a woman of his own town who tied herself to her sick husband and leapt with him into the lake, fears that Robustus has met the same end as Metilius Crispus, congratulates Servianus on betrothing his daughter to Fuscus Salinator, advises Severus on proposing honors for the emperor, accepts Pontius' gifts of provisions in Campania, and tells Quadratus which cases Thrasea advised one to take.

C. Plinius Triario suo s. 23
Gaius Pliny to-Triarius his-own greeting
Impense petis ut agam causam pertinentem ad curam tuam, 23.1
earnestly you-ask that I-plead a-case pertaining to care your
pulchram alioqui et famosam. Faciam, sed non gratis. 'Qui
fine otherwise and famous I-will-do-it but not for-nothing how
fieri potest' inquis 'ut non gratis tu?' Potest: exigam
to-be-done can-it you-say that not for-nothing you it-can I-shall-demand
enim mercedem honestiorem gratuito patrocinio:
for a-fee more-honorable than-unpaid advocacy
Peto atque etiam paciscor ut simul agat Cremutius Ruso. 23.2
I-ask and even I-stipulate that together plead Cremutius Ruso
Solitum hoc mihi et iam in pluribus claris
usual this for-me and already in-the-case-of several distinguished

adulescentibus factitatum. Nam mire concupisco bonos
young-men often-done for wonderfully I-long good
iuvenes ostendere foro, adsignare famae.
young-men to-show to-the-forum to-assign to-fame

23.3 Quod si cui, praestare Rusoni meo debeo vel propter
which if for-anyone to-render to-Ruso my I-ought either on-account-of
natales ipsius vel propter eximiam mei caritatem; quem
the-birth his-own or on-account-of the-exceptional for-me affection whom
magni aestimo in isdem iudiciis, ex isdem etiam partibus
greatly I-value in the-same courts on the-same even side
conspici audiri.
to-be-seen to-be-heard

23.4 Obliga me, obliga ante quam dicat: nam cum dixerit,
oblige me oblige before than he-speaks for when he-has-spoken
gratias ages. Spondeo sollicitudini tuae, spei meae,
thanks you-will-give I-pledge to-anxiety your to-hope my
magnitudini causae suffecturum. Est indolis optimae, brevi
to-the-greatness of-the-case to-be-going-to-be-equal he-is of-character excellent shortly
producturus alios, si interim productus fuerit a nobis.
about-to-bring-forward others if meanwhile brought-forward he-shall-have-been by us

23.5 Neque enim cuiquam tam clarum statim ingenium, ut
nor for to-anyone so brilliant at-once a-talent that
possit emergere, nisi illi materia occasio, fautor etiam
he-can emerge unless to-him material opportunity a-patron also
commendatorque contingat. Vale.
and-recommender fall farewell

C. Plinius Macro suo s. 24

Gaius Pliny to-Macer his-own greeting

Quam multum interest a quo quid fiat! Eadem enim facta 24.1

how much it-matters by whom anything be-done the-same for deeds

claritate vel obscuritate facientium aut tolluntur altissime

by-the-fame or obscurity of-the-doers either are-raised most-high

aut humillime deprimuntur.

or most-low are-depressed

Navigabam per Larium nostrum, cum senior amicus ostendit 24.2

I-was-sailing over Larius our when an-older friend showed

mihi villam atque etiam cubiculum quod in lacum prominet:

to-me a-villa and even a-bedroom which over the-lake juts-out

'ex hoc' inquit 'aliquando municeps nostra cum marito

from this he-said once a-townswoman our with her-husband

se praecipitavit.'

herself threw-headlong

Causam requisivi. Maritus ex diutino morbo circa 24.3

the-cause I-asked the-husband from long-standing disease around

velanda corporis ulceribus putrescebat: uxor ut

the-parts-to-be-veiled of-the-body with-ulcers was-rotting the-wife that

inspiceret exegit; neque enim quemquam fidelius

she-might-inspect demanded nor for anyone more-faithfully

indicaturum, possetne sanari.

to-be-going-to-tell whether-he-could be-cured

Vidit desperavit: hortata est ut moreretur comesque ipsa 24.4

she-saw despaired urged she-has that he-should-die and-companion herself

mortis, dux immo et exemplum et necessitas fuit. Nam

of-death the-leader rather and example and necessity she-was for

se cum marito ligavit abiecitque in lacum.

herself with her-husband she-bound and-threw into the-lake

24.5 Quod factum ne mihi quidem, qui municeps, nisi proxime
which deed not to-me even who a-townsman except lately
auditum est, non quia minus illo clarissimo Arriae
heard has-been not because less than-that most-famous of-Arria
facto, sed quia minor ipsa. Vale.
deed but because lesser she-herself farewell

25 C. Plinius Hispano suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Hispanus his-own greeting

25.1 Scribis Robustum, splendidum equitem Romanum, cum Atilio
you-write Robustus a-distinguished knight Roman with Atilius
Scauro, amico meo, Ocriculum usque commune iter peregisse,
Scaurus friend my to-Ocriculum as-far-as a-common journey to-have-made
deinde nusquam comparuisse: petis ut Scaurus veniat nosque,
then nowhere to-have-appeared you-ask that Scaurus come and-us
si potest, in aliqua inquisitionis vestigia inducat.
if he-can into some of-search traces lead

25.2 Veniet; vereor ne frustra. Suspicor enim tale nescio quid
he-will-come I-fear lest in-vain I-suspect for such I-know-not what
Robusto accidisse quale aliquando Metilio Crispo municipi
to-Robustus to-have-happened as once to-Metilius Crispus townsman
meo.
my

25.3 Huic ego ordinem inpetraveram atque etiam proficiscenti
for-him I the-rank had-obtained and even to-him-setting-out
quadraginta milia nummum ad instruendum se
forty thousand sesterces for equipping himself
ornandumque donaveram, nec postea aut epistulas eius aut
and-outfitting I-had-given nor afterward either letters his or
aliquem de exitu nuntium accepi.
any about his-end news did-I-receive

Interceptusne sit a suis an cum suis dubium: 25.4
waylaid-whether he-was by his-own-slaves or with his-own-slaves doubtful
certe non ipse, non quisquam ex servis eius apparuit, ut
certainly not he-himself not anyone of slaves his appeared as
ne Robusti quidem.
not of-Robustus even
Experiamur tamen, arcessamus Scaurum: demus hoc tuis, 25.5
let-us-try yet let-us-summon Scaurus let-us-grant this to-yours
demus optimi adulescentis honestissimis precibus, qui
let-us-grant-it of-an-excellent young-man to-the-most-honorable prayers who
pietate mira mira etiam sagacitate patrem quaerit.
with-devotion wonderful wonderful also with-shrewdness his-father seeks
Di faveant ut sic inveniat ipsum, quem ad modum
the-gods grant that so he-may-find him-himself in-what to manner
iam cum quo fuisset invenit! Vale.
already with whom he-had-been he-has-found farewell

C. Plinius Serviano suo s. 26
Gaius Pliny to-Servianus his-own greeting

Gaudeo et gratulor quod Fusco Salinatori filiam tuam 26.1
I-rejoice and I-congratulate-you that for-Fuscus Salinator daughter your
destinasti. Domus patricia, pater honestissimus, mater
you-have-destined the-house patrician the-father most-honorable the-mother
pari laude; ipse studiosus, litteratus, etiam disertus, puer
of-equal praise he-himself studious lettered even eloquent a-boy
simplicitate comitate iuvenis, senex gravitate. Neque enim
in-simplicity in-affability a-young-man an-old-man in-gravity nor for
amore decipior.
by-love am-I-deceived
Amo quidem effuse (ita officiis, ita reverentia meruit), 26.2
I-love-him indeed lavishly so by-services so by-respect he-has-deserved-it
iudico tamen, et quidem tanto acrius, quanto magis amo;
I-judge however and indeed so-much more-keenly as more I-love

tibique ut qui exploraverim, spondeo habiturum te
and-to-you as one-who have-investigated I-pledge to-be-going-to-have you
generum quo melior fingi ne voto quidem potuit.
a-son-in-law than-whom a-better to-be-imagined not by-prayer even could

26.3 Superest ut avum te quam maturissime similium sui
it-remains that grandfather you as soonest of-ones-like himself
faciat. Quam felix tempus illud, quo mihi liberos illius,
he-may-make how happy time that when to-me the-children his
nepotes tuos, ut meos vel liberos vel nepotes, ex vestro
grandchildren your as my either children or grandchildren from your
sinu sumere et quasi pari iure tenere continget! Vale.
lap to-take and as-if with-equal right to-hold it-shall-fall farewell

27 C. Plinius Severo suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Severus his-own greeting

27.1 Rogas ut cogitem, quid designatus consul in honorem principis
you-ask that I-consider what as-designated consul in honor of-the-emperor
censeas. Facilis inventio, non facilis electio; est enim ex
you-should-propose easy the-finding not easy the-choice there-is for from
virtutibus eius larga materia: scribam tamen vel, quod malo,
virtues his ample material I-will-write however or what I-prefer
coram indicabo, si prius haesitationem meam ostendero.
face-to-face I-will-indicate if first hesitation my I-shall-have-shown

27.2 Dubito num idem tibi suadere quod mihi debeam. Designatus
I-doubt whether the-same to-you to-advise as to-me I-ought designated
ego consul omni hac, etsi non adulatione, specie tamen
I consul from-all this even-if not flattery the-appearance yet
adulationis abstinui; non tamquam liber et constans, sed
of-flattery abstained not as-if free and steadfast but
tamquam intellegens principis nostri, cuius videbam hanc esse
as-if understanding emperor our of-whom I-saw this to-be
praecipuam laudem, si nihil quasi ex necessitate decernerem.
the-chief praise if nothing as-if from necessity I-should-decree

Recordabar etiam plurimos honores pessimo cuique delatos, 27.3
I-recalled also very-many honors on-the-worst each conferred
a quibus hic optimus separari non alio magis poterat
from whom this best-one to-be-separated not by-other more could
quam diversitate censendi; quod ipsum non dissimulatione
than by-diversity of-proposing which itself not by-concealment
et silentio praeterii, ne forte non iudicium illud meum sed
and silence I-passed-over lest perhaps not judgment that my but
oblivio videretur.
forgetfulness it-should-seem
Hoc tunc ego: sed non omnibus eadem placent, ne 27.4
this then I but not to-all the-same-things please not
conveniunt quidem. Praeterea faciendi aliquid non faciendive
suit even besides of-doing anything not or-of-doing
ratio cum hominum ipsorum tum rerum etiam ac
the-reason both of-men themselves and of-circumstances also and
temporum condicione mutatur.
of-times with-the-condition is-changed
Nam recentia opera maximi principis praebent facultatem 27.5
for recent works of-the-greatest emperor afford the-opportunity
nova magna vera censendi. Quibus ex causis, ut supra
new great true-things to-propose which for reasons as above
scripsi, dubito an idem nunc tibi quod tunc mihi
I-wrote I-doubt whether the-same now to-you as then to-me
suadeam. Illud non dubito, debuisse me in parte
I-should-advise this not I-doubt to-have-been-bound me in the-part
consilii tui ponere, quid ipse fecissem. Vale.
of-counsel your to-set what I-myself had-done farewell

28 C. Plinius Pontio suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Pontius his-own greeting

28.1 Scio, quae tibi causa fuerit impedimento quo minus
I-know what to-you the-cause was to-hindrance that not
praecurrere adventum meum in Campaniam posses. Sed
to-anticipate the-arrival my in Campania you-could but
quamquam absens, totus huc migrasti: tantum mihi
although absent wholly here you-have-migrated so-much to-me
copiarum qua urbanarum qua rusticarum nomine tuo
of-provisions partly urban partly rustic in-name your
oblatum est, quas omnis improbe, accepi tamen.
offered has-been which all shamelessly I-accepted yet

28.2 Nam et tui ut ita facerem rogabant, et verebar ne et
for both your-people that so I-should-do were-asking and I-feared lest both
mihi et illis irascereris, si non fecissem. In posterum
with-me and with-them you-should-be-angry if not I-had-done-it in the-future
nisi adhibueritis modum, ego adhibebo; et iam tuis
unless you-apply measure I will-apply-it and already to-your-people
denuntiavi, si rursus tam multa attulissent, omnia
I-have-announced if again so many-things they-should-have-brought all-of-it
relaturos.
to-be-going-to-carry-back

28.3 Dices oportere me tuis rebus ut meis uti: etiam: sed
you-will-say to-be-proper me your things as mine to-use even-so but
perinde illis ac meis parco. Vale.
equally them as mine I-spare farewell

29 C. Plinius Quadrato suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Quadratus his-own greeting

29.1 Avidius Quietus, qui me unice dilexit et, quo non minus
Avidius Quietus who me uniquely loved and by-which not less
gaudeo, probavit, ut multa alia Thraseae (fuit enim
I-rejoice approved as many other-sayings of-Thrasea he-was for

familiaris) ita hoc saepe referebat, praecipere solitum
an-intimate so this often he-used-to-report to-advise to-have-been-wont
suscipiendas esse causas aut amicorum aut destitutas aut
to-be-undertaken to-be cases either of-friends or deserted or
ad exemplum pertinentes.
to example pertaining
Cur amicorum, non eget interpretatione. Cur destitutas? 29.2
why of-friends not it-needs explanation why deserted
Quod in illis maxime et constantia agentis et humanitas
because in them especially both the-firmness of-the-pleader and the-humanity
cerneretur. Cur pertinentes ad exemplum? Quia plurimum
would-be-seen why pertaining to example because very-much
referret, bonum an malum induceretur.
it-mattered good or bad would-be-introduced
Ad haec ego genera causarum, ambitiose fortasse, addam tamen 29.3
to these I kinds of-cases ambitiously perhaps I-shall-add however
claras et inlustres. Aequum est enim agere non numquam
famous and illustrious-ones fair it-is for to-plead not never
gloriae et famae, id est suam causam. Hos terminos,
for-glory and fame that is one's-own case these limits
quia me consuluisti, dignitati ac verecundiae tuae statuo.
because me you-have-consulted to-the-rank and modesty your I-set
Nec me praeterit usum et esse et haberi optimum dicendi 29.4
nor me does-it-escape practice both to-be and to-be-held the-best of-speaking
magistrum: video etiam multos parvo ingenio, litteris
master I-see also many with-small talent with-letters
nullis, ut bene agerent agendo consecutos.
none that well they-might-plead by-pleading to-have-attained
Sed et illud, quod vel Pollionis vel tamquam Pollionis 29.5
but also that which either of-Pollio or as-if of-Pollio
accepi, verissimum experior, 'commode agendo factum
I-have-received most-true I-find well by-pleading brought-about

est ut saepe agerem, saepe agendo ut minus commode',
it-has-been that often I-pleaded often by-pleading that less well
quia scilicet adsiduitate nimia facilitas magis quam facultas
because evidently by-assiduity excessive facility more than ability
nec fiducia sed temeritas paratur.
nor confidence but rashness is-gained

29.6 Nec vero Isocrati quo minus haberetur summus orator
nor indeed to-Isocrates that not he-should-be-held the-greatest orator
offecit, quod infirmitate vocis mollitia frontis ne in publico
hindered that by-weakness of-voice by-diffidence of-countenance not in public
diceret inpediebatur. Proinde multum lege scribe meditare, ut
to-speak he-was-hindered therefore much read write meditate that
possis, cum voles, dicere; dices, cum velle debebis.
you-may-be-able when you-wish to-speak you-will-speak when to-wish you-ought

29.7 Hoc fere temperamentum ipse servavi. Non numquam
this roughly balance I-myself have-kept not never
necessitati, quae pars rationis est, parui. Egi enim
to-necessity which part of-reason is I-have-yielded I-have-pleaded for
quasdam a senatu iussus, quo tamen in numero fuerunt
some by the-senate ordered which however in number there-were
ex illa Thraseae divisione, hoc est ad exemplum pertinentes.
from that of-Thrasea classification that is to example pertaining

29.8 Adfui Baeticis contra Baebium Massam: quaesitum est,
I-appeared-for the-Baetici against Baebius Massa asked it-was
an danda esset inquisitio; data est. Adfui rursus
whether to-be-granted was an-inquiry granted it-was I-appeared-for again
isdem querentibus de Caecilio Classico: quaesitum est, an
the-same complaining about Caecilius Classicus asked it-was whether
provinciales ut socios ministrosque proconsulis plecti
the-provincials as allies and-agents of-the-proconsul to-be-punished
oporteret; poenas luerunt.
it-was-proper the-penalties they-paid

Accusavi Marium Priscum, qui lege repetundarum damnatus 29.9
I-accused Marius Priscus who by-the-law on-extortion condemned
utebatur clementia legis, cuius severitatem immanitate
was-enjoying the-clemency of-the-law whose severity by-the-enormity
criminum excesserat; relegatus est.
of-his-crimes he-had-exceeded banished he-was
Tuitus sum Iulium Bassum ut incustoditum nimis et 29.10
defended I-have Julius Bassus as unguarded too and
incautum ita minime malum; iudicibus acceptis in senatu
incautious so least wicked with-judges granted in the-senate
remansit.
he-remained
Dixi proxime pro Vareno postulante ut sibi invicem evocare 29.11
I-spoke lately for Varenus requesting that to-himself in-turn to-summon
testes liceret; impetratum est. In posterum opto ut ea
witnesses it-be-permitted obtained it-was for the-future I-wish that those-things
potissimum iubear, quae me deceat vel sponte fecisse. Vale.
above-all I-be-bidden which me would-befit even voluntarily to-have-done farewell

Pliny promises to see to Fabatus' Campanian villa. He describes three days at the emperor's council at Centum Cellae, with the trials heard there and the harbor being built, adds to Quintilian's daughter's dowry, sends Romanus his speech for Attia Viriola before the four centumviral panels, and approves Maximus' gladiator show for Verona.

30 C. Plinius Fabato prosocero suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Fabatus grandfather-in-law his-own greeting

30.1 Debemus mehercule natales tuos perinde ac nostros celebrare,
we-ought by-Hercules birthday your just as ours to-celebrate
cum laetitia nostrorum ex tuis pendeat, cuius diligentia
since the-happiness of-ours on yours depends by-whose diligence
et cura hic hilares istic securi sumus.
and care here cheerful there carefree we-are

30.2 Villa Camilliana, quam in Campania possides, est quidem
the-villa Camillian which in Campania you-own is indeed
vetustate vexata; ea tamen quae sunt pretiosiora aut
by-age damaged those-things however which are more-valuable either
integra manent aut levissime laesa sunt.
intact remain or very-lightly damaged are

30.3 Attendemus ergo ut quam saluberrime reficiantur. Ego
we-shall-see-to-it therefore that as most-soundly they-be-restored I
videor habere multos amicos, sed huius generis, cuius et
seem to-have many friends but of-this kind which both
tu quaeris et res exigit, prope neminem.
you seek and the-matter requires almost no-one

30.4 Sunt enim omnes togati et urbani. Rusticorum autem
they-are for all toga-wearing and urban of-country moreover
praediorum administratio poscit durum aliquem et agrestem,
estates the-management demands a-hard someone and rustic

cui nec labor ille gravis nec cura sordida nec tristis
to-whom neither labor that heavy nor the-care mean nor dreary
solitudo videatur.
the-solitude seem

Tu de Rufo honestissime cogitas: fuit enim filio tuo 30.5
you about Rufus most-honorably think he-was for to-son your
familiaris. Quid tamen nobis ibi praestare possit ignoro,
an-intimate what however for-us there to-render he-can I-know-not
velle plurimum credo. Vale.
to-be-willing very-much I-believe farewell

C. Plinius Corneliano suo s. 31
Gaius Pliny to-Cornelianus his-own greeting

Evocatus in consilium a Caesare nostro ad Centum Cellas 31.1
summoned to the-council by Caesar our to Centum Cellae
(hoc loco nomen) magnam cepi voluptatem.
this to-the-place the-name great I-took pleasure

Quid enim iucundius quam principis iustitiam gravitatem 31.2
what for more-pleasant than of-the-emperor the-justice gravity
comitatem in secessu quoque, ubi maxime recluduntur,
affability in retirement also where most they-are-laid-open
inspicere? Fuerunt variae cognitiones et quae virtutes iudicis
to-observe there-were various hearings and which the-virtues of-a-judge
per plures species experirentur.
through more kinds tested

Dixit causam Claudius Ariston, princeps Ephesiorum, 31.3
pleaded his-case Claudius Ariston the-leading-man of-the-Ephesians
homo munificus et innoxie popularis: inde invidia et a
a-man munificent and harmlessly popular thence envy and by
dissimillimis delator inmissus, itaque absolutus vindicatusque
most-unlike-men an-informer sent-in and-so acquitted and-vindicated
est.
he-was

31.4 Sequenti die audita est Gallitta adulterii rea. Nupta haec
on-the-following day heard was Gallitta of-adultery accused married she
tribuno militum honores petituro et suam et mariti
to-a-tribune of-the-soldiers offices about-to-seek both her-own and of-her-husband
dignitatem centurionis amore maculaverat: maritus legato
the-rank by-a-centurion's love had-stained the-husband to-the-legate
consulari, ille Caesari scripserat.
consular he to-Caesar had-written

31.5 Caesar excussis probationibus centurionem exauctoravit atque
Caesar having-sifted the-proofs the-centurion cashiered and
etiam relegavit. Supererat crimini, quod nisi duorum esse
even banished remained for-the-crime which unless of-two to-be
non poterat, reliqua pars ultionis. Sed maritum non
not could the-remaining part of-punishment but the-husband not
sine aliqua reprehensione patientiae amor uxoris retardabat,
without some censure of-complaisance love for-his-wife held-back
quam quidem etiam post delatum adulterium domi habuerat
whom indeed even after the-reported adultery at-home he-had-kept
quasi contentus aemulum removisse.
as-if content his-rival to-have-removed

31.6 Admonitus ut perageret accusationem peregit
admonished that he-should-carry-through the-accusation he-carried-it-through
invitus. Sed illam damnari etiam invito accusatore
unwilling but her to-be-condemned even with-unwilling accuser
necesse erat: damnata et Iuliae legis poenis relicta
necessary it-was condemned and of-the-Julian law to-the-penalties left
est. Caesar et nomen centurionis et commemorationem
she-was Caesar both the-name of-the-centurion and a-mention
disciplinae militaris sententiae adiecit, ne omnis eius modi
of-discipline military to-the-sentence added lest all of-this kind
causas revocare ad se videretur.
cases to-recall to himself he-should-seem

Tertio die inducta cognitio est multis sermonibus et 31.7
on-the-third day introduced the-hearing was by-much talk and
vario rumore iactata, Iuli Tironis codicilli, quos ex parte
by-varied rumor tossed-about of-Julius Tiro the-codicils which in part
veros esse constabat, ex parte falsi dicebantur.
genuine to-be it-was-agreed in part forged were-said
Substituebantur crimini Sempronius Senecio, eques Romanus 31.8
were-being-substituted for-the-charge Sempronius Senecio knight Roman
et Eurythmus, Caesaris libertus et procurator. Heredes, cum
and Eurythmus Caesar's freedman and procurator the-heirs when
Caesar esset in Dacia, communiter epistula scripta petierant
Caesar was in Dacia jointly by-a-letter written had-asked
ut susciperet cognitionem.
that he-should-undertake the-hearing
Susceperat: reversus diem dederat, et cum ex heredibus 31.9
he-had-undertaken-it having-returned a-day he-had-given and when of the-heirs
quidam quasi reverentia Eurythmi omitterent accusationem,
some as-if from-respect for-Eurythmus were-dropping the-accusation
pulcherrime dixerat 'Nec ille Polyclitus est nec ego Nero.'
most-splendidly he-had-said neither he Polyclitus is nor I Nero
Indulserat tamen petentibus dilationem, cuius tempore
he-had-indulged however those-asking an-adjournment whose time
exacto consederat auditurus.
having-run-out he-had-taken-his-seat about-to-hear
A parte heredum intraverunt duo omnino: postulaverunt, 31.10
on the-side of-the-heirs entered two in-all they-demanded
aut omnes heredes agere cogerentur, cum detulissent
either all the-heirs to-plead should-be-compelled since had-laid-the-charge
omnes, aut sibi quoque desistere permitteretur.
all or to-themselves also to-desist it-be-permitted

31.11 Locutus est Caesar summa gravitate, summa
spoken has Caesar with-the-utmost gravity with-the-utmost
moderatione, cumque advocatus Senecionis et Eurythmi
moderation and-when the-advocate of-Senecio and of-Eurythmus
dixisset suspicionibus relinqui reos, nisi audirentur, 'Non
had-said to-suspicions to-be-left the-defendants unless they-were-heard not
curo' inquit 'an isti suspicionibus relinquantur, ego relinquor.'
I-care he-said whether these to-suspicions be-left I am-left
31.12 Dein conversus ad nos: 'Ἐπιστήσατε quid facere debeamus:
then having-turned to us give-heed what to-do we-ought
isti enim quaeri nolunt, quod sibi licuerit non
these for to-be-complained-of do-not-wish that to-them it-was-permitted not
accusare.' Tum ex consilii sententia iussit denuntiari
to-accuse then from of-the-council the-opinion he-ordered to-be-notified
heredibus omnibus, aut agerent aut singuli adprobarent
to-the-heirs all either they-should-plead or individually should-prove
causas non agendi; alioqui se vel de calumnia
reasons not of-pleading otherwise himself even about false-accusation
pronuntiaturum.
to-be-going-to-pronounce
31.13 Vides quam honesti, quam severi dies; quos iucundissimae
you-see how honorable how serious the-days which most-pleasant
remissiones sequebantur. Adhibebamur cotidie cenae: erat
relaxations followed we-were-invited daily to-dinner it-was
modica, si principem cogitares. Interdum acroamata audiebamus,
modest if the-emperor you-considered sometimes entertainers we-heard
interdum iucundissimis sermonibus nox ducebatur.
sometimes in-most-pleasant conversations the-night was-prolonged
31.14 Summo die abeuntibus nobis (tam diligens in Caesare
on-the-last day departing us so careful in Caesar
humanitas) xenia sunt missa. Sed mihi ut gravitas
the-kindness guest-gifts were sent but to-me as the-gravity

cognitionum, consilii honor, suavitas simplicitasque
of-the-hearings of-the-council the-honor the-sweetness and-simplicity
convictus, ita locus ipse periucundus fuit.
of-the-company so the-place itself very-delightful was
Villa pulcherrima cingitur viridissimis agris, imminet litori, 31.15
the-villa most-beautiful is-surrounded by-greenest fields it-overhangs the-shore
cuius in sinu fit cum maxime portus. Huius sinistrum
of-which in the-bay is-being-made just now a-harbor of-this the-left
brachium firmissimo opere munitum est, dextrum elaboratur.
arm by-very-strong work fortified is the-right is-being-built
In ore portus insula adsurgit, quae inlatum vento mare 31.16
in the-mouth of-the-harbor an-island rises which driven by-the-wind the-sea
obiacens frangat tutumque ab utroque latere decursum navibus
lying-against may-break and-safe from either side passage to-ships
praestet. Adsurgit autem arte visenda: ingentia saxa latissima
may-provide it-rises moreover by-art worth-seeing huge rocks a-very-broad
navis provehit: contra haec alia super alia deiecta ipso
ship carries-out against these others upon others thrown-down by-their-very
pondere manent ac sensim quodam velut aggere construuntur.
weight stay and gradually a-kind-of as-it-were rampart are-built-up
Eminet iam et apparet saxeum dorsum impactosque 31.17
it-stands-out already and appears a-rocky ridge and-the-dashing
fluctus in inmensum elidit et tollit; vastus illic fragor
waves into the-immense it-shatters and raises vast there the-crash
canumque circa mare. Saxis deinde pilae adicientur, quae
and-white around the-sea to-the-rocks then piers will-be-added which
procedente tempore enatam insulam imitentur. Habebit hic
with-advancing time a-risen island may-imitate will-have this
portus et iam habet nomen auctoris eritque vel maxime
harbor and already has the-name of-its-founder and-it-will-be even most

salutaris. Nam per longissimum spatium litus inportuosum
salutary for over a-very-long stretch the-shore harborless
hoc receptaculo utetur. Vale.
this refuge will-use farewell

32 C. Plinius Quintiliano suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Quintilian his-own greeting

32.1 Quamvis et ipse sis continentissimus et filiam tuam ita
although both you-yourself are most-abstemious and daughter your so
institueris, ut decebat tuam filiam, Tutili neptem, cum
have-brought-up as befitted your daughter of-Tutilius the-granddaughter since
tamen sit nuptura honestissimo viro, Nonio Celeri, cui
however she-is about-to-marry a-most-honorable man Nonius Celer on-whom
ratio civilium officiorum necessitatem quandam nitoris
the-reason of-civic duties a-necessity some of-elegance
inponit, debet secundum condicionem mariti veste
imposes she-ought according-to the-position of-her-husband with-clothing
comitatu augeri quibus non quidem augetur dignitas,
with-retinue to-be-enhanced by-which not indeed is-increased rank
ornatur tamen et instruitur.
it-is-adorned however and furnished

32.2 Te porro animo beatissimum, modicum facultatibus scio.
you moreover in-mind most-rich modest in-means I-know
Itaque partem oneris tui mihi vindico et tamquam parens
and-so a-part of-burden your for-myself I-claim and as-if a-parent
alter puellae nostrae confero quinquaginta milia nummum
second of-girl our I-contribute fifty thousand sesterces
plus collaturus, nisi a verecundia tua sola mediocritate
more about-to-contribute unless from modesty your by-the-sole moderateness
munusculi impetrari posse confiderem ne recusares. Vale.
of-the-little-gift to-be-obtained to-be-able I-trusted lest you-should-refuse farewell

C. Plinius Romano suo s. 33

Gaius Pliny to-Romanus his-own greeting

'Tollite cuncta' inquit 'coeptosque auferte labores.' Seu 33.1

take-away all he-said and-begun take-off tasks whether

scribis aliquid seu legis, tolli auferri iube

you-are-writing something or you-are-reading to-be-taken-away to-be-removed order

et accipe orationem meam, ut illa arma, divinam (num

and receive speech my as those arms divine surely-not

superbius potui?), re vera ut inter meas pulchram: nam

more-proudly could-I in truth as among mine beautiful for

mihi satis est certare mecum.

for-me enough it-is to-compete with-myself

Est haec pro Attia Viriola, et dignitate personae et exempli 33.2

it-is this for Attia Viriola and by-the-rank of-the-person and of-the-precedent

raritate et iudicii magnitudine insignis. Nam femina

by-the-rarity and of-the-trial by-the-magnitude notable for a-woman

splendide nata, nupta praetorio viro, exheredata ab octogenario

splendidly born married to-a-praetorian man disinherited by her-octogenarian

patre intra undecim dies, quam illi novercam amore captus

father within eleven days whom over-her as-stepmother by-love captured

induxerat, quadruplici iudicio bona paterna repetebat.

had-brought-in in-the-fourfold court property paternal was-claiming

Sedebant centum et octoginta iudices (tot enim quattuor 33.3

were-sitting a-hundred and eighty judges so-many for in-four

consiliis colliguntur): ingens utrimque advocatio et numerosa

panels are-gathered huge on-both-sides the-counsel and numerous

subsellia, praeterea densa circumstantium corona latissimum

the-benches besides a-dense of-bystanders ring the-very-broad

iudicium multiplici circulo ambibat.

court in-multiple circle surrounded

33.4 Ad hoc stipatum tribunal, atque etiam ex superiore basilicae
to this crowded the-tribunal and even from the-upper of-the-basilica
parte qua feminae qua viri et audiendi, quod difficile, et,
part partly women partly men both of-hearing which difficult and
quod facile, visendi studio imminebant. Magna expectatio
which easy of-seeing from-eagerness leaned-over great the-expectation
patrum, magna filiarum, magna etiam novercarum.
of-fathers great of-daughters great also of-stepmothers

33.5 Secutus est varius eventus. Nam duobus consiliis vicimus,
followed has a-varied outcome for in-two panels we-won
totidem victi sumus. Notabilis prorsus et mira eadem
as-many defeated we-were remarkable altogether and wonderful the-same
in causa, isdem iudicibus, isdem advocatis, eodem
in case with-the-same judges with-the-same advocates at-the-same
tempore tanta diversitas.
time such-great diversity

33.6 Accidit casu, non quod casus videretur. Victa est noverca,
it-happened by-chance not what chance might-seem defeated was the-stepmother
ipsa heres ex parte sexta, victus Suberinus, qui exheredatus a
herself heir for a-part sixth defeated Suberinus who disinherited by
patre singulari inpudentia alieni patris bona vindicabat,
his-father with-singular impudence of-another's father the-property was-claiming
non ausus sui petere.
not having-dared his-own to-seek

33.7 Haec tibi exposui, primum ut ex epistula scires
these-things to-you I-have-set-out first that from the-letter you-might-know
quae ex oratione non poteras; deinde (nam detegam artes)
what from the-speech not you-could then for I-will-disclose my-arts
ut orationem libentius legeres, si non legere tibi,
that the-speech more-gladly you-might-read if not to-be-reading to-yourself

sed interesse iudicio videreris; quam, sit licet magna, non
but to-be-present at-the-trial you-seemed which be-it granted great not
despero gratiam brevissimae impetraturam.
I-despair the-favor of-the-shortest to-be-going-to-obtain
Nam et copia rerum et arguta divisione et narratiunculis 33.8
for both by-abundance of-matter and by-subtle division and by-little-narratives
pluribus et eloquendi varietate renovatur. Sunt multa (non
several and of-expression by-variety it-is-renewed there-are many-things not
auderem nisi tibi dicere) elata, multa pugnacia, multa subtilia.
I-would-dare except to-you to-say lofty many combative many subtle
Intervenit enim acribus illis et erectis frequens necessitas 33.9
intervenes for in-keen those and elevated-passages a-frequent necessity
conputandi ac paene calculos tabulamque poscendi, ut
of-calculating and almost the-counters and-the-board of-calling-for so-that
repente in privati iudicii formam centumvirale vertatur.
suddenly into a-private trial's form the-centumviral is-turned
Dedimus vela indignationi, dedimus irae, dedimus dolori 33.10
we-gave sails to-indignation we-gave-them to-anger we-gave-them to-grief
et in amplissima causa, quasi magno mari, pluribus ventis
and in a-very-ample case as-if on-a-great sea by-many winds
sumus vecti.
we-were carried
In summa solent quidam ex contubernalibus nostris existimare 33.11
in sum are-wont some of companions our to-think
hanc orationem, iterum dicam, ut inter meas ὑπὲρ
this speech again I-shall-say as among mine On-behalf-of
Κτησιφῶντος esse: an vere, tu facillime iudicabis, qui tam
Ctesiphon to-be whether truly you most-easily will-judge who so
memoriter tenes omnes, ut conferre cum hac, dum hanc
by-heart hold all that to-compare with this while this
solam legis, possis. Vale.
alone you-read you-can farewell

34 C. Plinius Maximo suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Maximus his-own greeting

34.1 Recte fecisti quod gladiatorum munus Veronensibus nostris
rightly you-did that of-gladiators a-show to-the-Veronese our
promisisti, a quibus olim amaris suspiceris, ornaris. Inde
you-promised by whom long-since you-are-loved looked-up-to honored thence
etiam uxorem carissimam tibi et probatissimam habuisti,
also a-wife most-dear to-you and most-approved you-had
cuius memoriae aut opus aliquod aut spectaculum atque
to-whose memory either work some or a-show and
hoc potissimum quod maxime funeri debebatur.
this especially which most to-a-funeral was-owed

34.2 Praeterea tanto consensu rogabaris, ut negare non
besides with-such-great unanimity you-were-asked that to-refuse not
constans, sed durum videretur. Illud quoque egregie, quod
firm but hard would-seem that also excellently that
tam facilis, tam liberalis in edendo fuisti. Nam per
so ready so liberal in giving-the-show you-were for through
haec etiam magnus animus ostenditur.
these-things also a-great spirit is-shown

34.3 Vellem Africanae, quas coemeras plurimas, ad
I-could-wish the-African-beasts which you-had-bought-up very-many by
praefinitum diem occurrissent: sed licet cessaverint illae
the-appointed day had-arrived but although they-were-late they
tempestate detentae, tu tamen meruisti ut acceptum tibi
by-storm detained you yet have-deserved that credited to-you
fieret, quod quo minus exhiberes non per te stetit. Vale.
it-be what that not you-should-exhibit not through you it-stood farewell

BOOK VII

I · CALPURNIA'S ABSENCE

Pliny urges Geminus to bear his illness patiently and recalls how he obeyed his own doctors. He excuses short letters to Justus, calls Praesens home from Lucania, tells Pontius how he came to write hendecasyllables, writes Calpurnia that he lies awake at night with her image and by day goes to her empty room, and reports how he served Varenus by keeping silent.

C. Plinius Gemino suo s. 1

Gaius Pliny to-Geminus his-own greeting

Terret me haec tua tam pertinax valetudo, et quamquam 1.1

terrifies me this your so obstinate illness and although

te temperantissimum noverim, vereor tamen ne quid illi

you most-temperate I-know I-fear however lest anything to-it

etiam in mores tuos liceat.

even against character your be-allowed

Proinde moneo patienter resistas: hoc laudabile hoc salutare. 1.2

therefore I-advise that-patiently you-resist this praiseworthy this healthful

Admittit humana natura quod suadeo.

admits human nature what I-urge

Ipse certe sic agere sanus cum meis soleo, 'spero 1.3

I-myself certainly so to-deal when-well with my-people am-wont I-hope

quidem, si forte in adversam valetudinem incidero, nihil

indeed if perhaps into adverse health I-fall nothing

me desideraturum vel pudore vel paenitentia dignum; si

me to-be-going-to-desire either of-shame or of-repentance worthy if

tamen superaverit morbus, denuntio ne quid mihi detis

however shall-have-prevailed the-disease I-warn-you lest anything to-me you-give

nisi permittentibus medicis sciatisque si dederitis ita
unless permitting the-doctors and-that-you-know if you-give so
vindicaturum, ut solent alii quae negantur.'
me-to-be-going-to-punish as are-wont others what-things are-refused

1.4 Quin etiam cum perustus ardentissima febre, tandem
nay even when burned-through by-a-most-burning fever at-last
remissus unctusque acciperem a medico potionem, porrexi
relieved and-anointed I-was-receiving from the-doctor a-draft I-held-out
manum utque tangeret dixi admotumque iam labris
my-hand and-that he-should-touch-it I-said and-moved-up already to-my-lips
poculum reddidi.
the-cup I-gave-back

1.5 Postea cum vicensimo valetudinis die balineo praepararer
afterward when on-the-twentieth of-the-illness day for-the-bath I-was-being-prepared
mussantesque medicos repente vidissem, causam requisivi.
and-muttering doctors suddenly I-had-seen the-cause I-asked
Responderunt posse me tuto lavari, non tamen omnino
they-answered to-be-able me safely to-bathe not however altogether
sine aliqua suspicione.
without some suspicion

1.6 'Quid' inquam 'necesse est?' Atque ita spe balinei,
what I-said necessity is and so with-the-hope of-the-bath
cui iam videbar inferri, placide leniterque dimissa
into-which already I-seemed to-be-carried calmly and-gently dismissed
ad abstinentiam rursus non secus ac modo ad balineum
to abstinence again not otherwise than just-now to the-bath
animum vultumque conposui.
mind and-face I-composed

1.7 Quae tibi scripsi, primum ut te non sine exemplo
which-things to-you I-have-written first that you not without example
monerem, deinde ut in posterum ipse ad eandem
I-might-advise then that for the-future I-myself to the-same

temperantiam adstringerer, cum me hac epistula quasi
temperance might-be-bound since me by-this letter as-if
pignore obligassem. Vale.
by-a-pledge I-had-bound farewell

C. Plinius Iusto suo s. 2
Gaius Pliny to-Justus his-own greeting

Quemadmodum congruit ut simul et adfirmes te 2.1
how is-it-consistent that at-once both you-affirm yourself
adsiduis occupationibus impediri et scripta nostra desideres,
by-constant occupations to-be-hindered and writings our you-desire
quae vix ab otiosis impetrare aliquid perituri temporis
which hardly from the-idle to-obtain any about-to-perish of-time
possunt?
can

Patiar ergo aestatem inquietam vobis exercitamque 2.2
I-shall-allow therefore the-summer restless for-you and-busy
transcurrere, et hieme demum, cum credibile erit noctibus
to-pass and in-winter at-last when credible it-shall-be at-night
saltem vacare te posse, quaeram quid potissimum ex nugis
at-least to-be-free you to-be-able I-shall-seek what above-all from trifles
meis tibi exhibeam.
my to-you I-may-present

Interim abunde est si epistulae non sunt molestae; sunt 2.3
meanwhile ample it-is if letters not are troublesome they-are
autem et ideo breviores erunt. Vale.
moreover and therefore shorter they-will-be farewell

C. Plinius Praesenti suo s. 3
Gaius Pliny to-Praesens his-own greeting

Tantane perseverantia tu modo in Lucania, modo in 3.1
with-such persistence you now in Lucania now in
Campania? ‘Ipse enim’ inquis ‘Lucanus, uxor Campana.’
Campania I-myself for you-say am-Lucanian my-wife Campanian

3.2 Iusta causa longioris absentiae, non perpetuae tamen. Quin
a-just cause of-a-longer absence not of-a-perpetual-one however why
ergo aliquando in urbem redis? Ubi dignitas honor
then sometime to the-city do-you-not-return where rank office
amicitiae tam superiores quam minores. Quousque regnabis?
friendships as-much superior as lesser how-long will-you-be-king
Quousque vigilabis cum voles, dormies quam diu voles?
how-long will-you-be-awake when you-wish will-you-sleep as long you-wish
Quousque calcei nusquam, toga feriata, liber totus dies?
how-long shoes nowhere the-toga on-holiday free the-whole day

3.3 Tempus est te revisere molestias nostras vel ob
time it-is you to-revisit troubles our even on-account-of
hoc solum ne voluptates istae satietate languescant. Saluta
this alone lest pleasures those by-surfeit grow-languid pay-calls
paulisper, quo sit tibi iucundius salutari; terere in
for-a-little that it-may-be to-you more-pleasant to-be-called-on be-worn in
hac turba, ut te solitudo delectet.
this crowd that you solitude may-delight

3.4 Sed quid inprudens quem revocare conor retardo? Fortasse
but why unthinking him-whom to-recall I-try do-I-delay perhaps
enim his ipsis admoneris ut te magis ac magis
for by-these very-things you-are-advised that yourself more and more
otio involvas, quod ego non abrumpi, sed intermitti volo.
in-leisure you-wrap which I not to-be-broken-off but to-be-interrupted wish

3.5 Ut enim, si cenam tibi facerem, dulcibus cibis acres
as for if a-dinner for-you I-were-making with-sweet foods sharp
acutosque miscerem, ut obtusus illis et oblitus stomachus
and-pungent-ones I-would-mix that dulled by-those and smeared the-stomach
his excitaretur, ita nunc hortor ut iucundissimum genus
by-these might-be-roused so now I-urge that the-most-pleasant kind
vitae non nullis interdum quasi acoribus condias. Vale.
of-life with-not none sometimes as-it-were acid-flavors you-season farewell

C. Plinius Pontio suo s. 4

Gaius Pliny to-Pontius his-own greeting

Ais legisse te hendecasyllabos meos; requiris etiam quem 4.1

you-say to-have-read you hendecasyllables my you-ask also in-what

ad modum coeperim scribere, homo, ut tibi videor, severus,

to manner I-began to-write a-man as to-you I-seem severe

ut ipse fateor, non ineptus.

as I-myself confess not foolish

Numquam a poetice (altius enim repetam) alienus fui; 4.2

never from poetry farther-back for I-will-trace-it estranged have-I-been

quin etiam quattuordecim natus annos graecam tragoediam

nay even fourteen born years a-Greek tragedy

scripsi. 'Qualem?' inquis. Nescio; tragoedia vocabatur.

I-wrote what-kind you-say I-know-not a-tragedy it-was-called

Mox, cum e militia rediens in Icaria insula ventis 4.3

later when from military-service returning on Icaria island by-winds

detinerer, latinos elegos in illud ipsum mare ipsamque

I-was-detained Latin elegies on that very sea and-the-very

insulam feci. Expertus sum me aliquando et heroo,

island I-made tried I-have myself once also in-heroic-verse

hendecasyllabis nunc primum, quorum hic natalis, haec

in-hendecasyllables now for-the-first-time of-which this the-birth this

causa est. Legebantur in Laurentino mihi libri Asini

the-cause is were-being-read on the-Laurentine-estate to-me the-books of-Asinius

Galli de conparatione patris et Ciceronis: incidit

Gallus on the-comparison of-his-father and of-Cicero there-came-up

epigramma Ciceronis in Tironem suum.

an-epigram of-Cicero on Tiro his-own

Dein, cum meridie (erat enim aestas) dormiturus me 4.4

then when at-noon it-was for summer about-to-sleep myself

recepissem, nec obreperet somnus, coepi reputare maximos

I-had-withdrawn nor crept-upon sleep I-began to-reflect the-greatest

oratores hoc studii genus et in oblectationibus habuisse
orators this of-pursuit kind both among their-amusements to-have-held
et in laude posuisse.
and in praise to-have-placed

4.5 Intendi animum contraque opinionem meam post longam
I-applied my-mind and-contrary-to the-expectation my after long
desuetudinem perquam exiguo temporis momento id
disuse in-an-exceedingly small of-time moment that
ipsum, quod me ad scribendum sollicitaverat, his versibus
very-thing which me to writing had-stirred in-these verses
exaravi,
I-plowed-out

4.6 cum libros Galli legerem, quibus ille parenti
when the-books of-Gallus I-was-reading in-which he to-his-father
ausus de Cicerone dare est palmamque decusque,
dared over Cicero to-give has the-palm and-the-glory
lascivum inveni lusum Ciceronis et illo
a-playful I-found sport of-Cicero and by-that
spectandum ingenio, quo seria condidit et quo
worth-seeing talent by-which serious-things he-composed and by-which
humanis salibus multo varioque lepore
with-human wit with-much and-varied charm
magnorum ostendit mentes gaudere virorum.
of-great he-showed the-minds to-delight men
Nam queritur, quod fraude mala frustratus amantem
for he-complains that by-fraud evil cheated the-lover
paucula cenato sibi debita savia Tiro
a-few to-having-dined himself owed kisses Tiro
tempore nocturno subtraxerit. His ego lectis,
at-time nocturnal withdrew these I having-read

cur post haec, inquam, nostros celamus amores
why after these-things I-said our do-we-hide loves
nullumque in medium timidi damus atque fatemur
and-none into the-middle timid do-we-give and confess
Tironisque dolos, Tironis nosse fugaces
and-Tiro's tricks Tiro's to-know fleeting
blanditias et furta novas addentia flammas?
caresses and thefts new adding flames

Transii ad elegos; hos quoque non minus celeriter explicui: 4.7
I-passed to elegies these also not less quickly I-unrolled
addidi iambos facilitate corruptus. Deinde in urbem reversus
I-added iambics by-facility corrupted then into the-city having-returned
sodalibus legi. Probaverunt.
to-my-companions I-read-them they-approved
Inde plura metra, siquid otii, maxime in itinere temptavi. 4.8
thence more meters if-any of-leisure especially on a-journey I-tried
Postremo placuit exemplo multorum unum separatim
finally it-pleased by-the-example of-many one separately
hendecasyllaborum volumen absolvere, nec paenitet.
of-hendecasyllables a-volume to-complete nor do-I-regret-it
Legitur describitur, cantatur etiam et a Graecis quoque, 4.9
it-is-read it-is-copied it-is-sung even and by Greeks also
quos latine huius libelli amor docuit, nunc cithara nunc
whom Latin of-this little-book the-love has-taught now on-the-cithara now
lyra personatur.
on-the-lyre it-resounds
Sed quid ego tam gloriose? Quamquam poetis furere concessum 4.10
but why I so boastfully although for-poets to-rave granted
est: et tamen non de meo, sed de aliorum iudicio loquor;
it-is and yet not about my-own but about others' judgment I-speak

qui sive iudicant sive errant, me delectant. Unum precor,
who whether they-judge or err me delight one-thing I-pray
ut posteri quoque aut errent similiter aut iudicent. Vale.
that posterity also either err similarly or judge farewell

5 C. Plinius Calpurniae suae s.
Gaius Pliny to-Calpurnia his-own greeting

5.1 Incredibile est quanto desiderio tui tenear: in causa
incredible it-is by-how-great longing for-you I-am-held in the-cause
amor primum, deinde quod non consuevimus abesse. Inde
love first then that not we-are-accustomed to-be-apart thence
est quod magnam noctium partem in imagine tua vigil
it-is that a-great of-the-nights part in image your awake
exigo; inde quod interdiu quibus horis te visere solebam
I-spend thence that by-day at-what hours you to-visit I-was-wont
ad diaetam tuam ipsi me, ut verissime dicitur, pedes
to suite your of-themselves me as most-truly it-is-said my-feet
ducunt; quod denique aeger et maestus ac similis excluso
lead that in-short sick and sad and like one-shut-out
a vacuo limine recedo. Unum tempus his tormentis
from the-empty threshold I-withdraw one time these torments
caret, quo in foro amicorum litibus conteror.
lacks when in the-forum with-friends' lawsuits I-am-worn-down

5.2 Aestima tu, quae vita mea sit, cui requies in labore, in
judge you what life my is for-whom rest in toil in
miseria curisque solacium. Vale.
wretchedness and-cares solace farewell

6 C. Plinius Macrino suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Macrinus his-own greeting

6.1 Rara et notabilis res Vareno contigit, sit licet adhuc dubia.
a-rare and notable thing to-Varenus has-befallen be-it granted still doubtful
Bithyni accusationem eius ut temere inchoatam omisisse
the-Bithynians the-accusation his as rashly begun to-have-dropped

narrantur. ‘Narrantur’ dico? Adest provinciae legatus, attulit
are-reported are-reported do-I-say is-present of-the-province an-envoy he-has-brought
decretum concilii ad Caesarem, attulit ad multos
the-decree of-the-council to Caesar he-has-brought-it to many
principes viros, attulit etiam ad nos, Vareni advocatos.
leading men he-has-brought-it even to us of-Varenus the-advocates
Perstat tamen idem ille Magnus; quin etiam Nigrinum 6.2
persists however the-same that Magnus nay even Nigrinus
optimum virum pertinacissime exercet. Per hunc a
most-excellent man most-obstinately he-keeps-busy through this-man from
consulibus postulabat ut Varenus exhibere rationes cogeretur.
the-consuls he-demanded that Varenus to-produce his-accounts be-compelled
Adsistebam Vareno iam tantum ut amicus et tacere 6.3
I-stood-by Varenus now only as a-friend and to-be-silent
decreveram. Nihil enim tam contrarium, quam si advocatus
I-had-decided nothing for so contrary than if as-advocate
a senatu datus defenderem ut reum, cui opus esset
by the-senate given I-should-defend as a-defendant one-for-whom need it-was
ne reus videretur.
lest a-defendant he-should-seem
Cum tamen finita postulatione Nigrini consules ad me 6.4
when however with-finished the-demand of-Nigrinus the-consuls to me
oculos retulissent, ‘scietis’ inquam ‘constare nobis silentii
their-eyes had-turned you-will-know I-said to-stand for-us of-silence
nostri rationem, cum veros legatos provinciae audieritis.’
our the-reason when the-true envoys of-the-province you-have-heard
Contra Nigrinus: ‘ad quem missi sunt?’ Ego ‘Ad me
against-this Nigrinus to whom sent were-they I To me
quoque; habeo decretum provinciae.’
also I-have the-decree of-the-province

6.5 Rursus ille ‘potest tibi liquere.’ Ad hoc ego ‘Si tibi ex
again he it-can to-you be-clear to this I If to-you from
diverso liquet, potest et mihi quod est melius liquere.’
the-opposite-side it-is-clear it-can also to-me what is better be-clear
6.6 Tum legatus Polyaenus causas abolitae accusationis
then the-envoy Polyaenus the-reasons of-the-abandoned accusation
exposuit postulavitque ne cognitioni Caesaris praeiudicium
set-out and-demanded that-not for-the-hearing of-Caesar a-prejudgment
fieret. Respondit Magnus iterumque Polyaenus. Ipse raro
be-made replied Magnus and-again Polyaenus I-myself rarely
et breviter interlocutus multum me intra silentium tenui.
and briefly having-interjected much myself within silence I-kept
6.7 Accepi enim non minus interdum oratorium esse tacere
I-have-learned for not less sometimes oratorical to-be to-be-silent
quam dicere. Atque adeo repeto me quibusdam capitis
than to-speak and indeed I-recall me some on-a-capital-charge
reis vel magis silentio quam oratione accuratissima profuisse.
defendants even more by-silence than by-a-speech most-careful to-have-helped
6.8 Mater amisso filio (quid enim prohibet, quamquam alia
a-mother having-lost her-son what for prevents although another
ratio scribendae epistulae fuerit, de studiis disputare?)
the-reason for-writing of-the-letter was about studies to-discourse
libertos eius eosdemque coheredes suos falsi et veneficii
the-freedmen his and-the-same coheirs her-own of-forgery and of-poisoning
reos detulerat ad principem iudicemque inpetraverat
as-defendants had-reported to the-emperor and-as-judge had-obtained
Iulium Servianum.
Julius Servianus

Defenderam reos ingenti quidem coetu: erat enim causa 6.9
I-had-defended the-accused with-a-huge indeed gathering it-was for a-case
notissima, praeterea utrimque ingenia clarissima. Finem
very-well-known besides on-both-sides talents most-brilliant an-end
cognitioni quaestio inposuit, quae secundum reos dedit.
to-the-hearing the-inquiry imposed which in-favor-of the-defendants gave-it
Postea mater adiit principem, adfirmavit se novas 6.10
afterward the-mother approached the-emperor affirmed herself new
probationes invenisse. Praeceptum est Suburano ut
proofs to-have-found instructed it-was Suburanus that
vacaret finitam causam retractanti, siquid novi
he-should-make-time the-finished case for-her-reopening if-anything new
adferret.
she-brought
Aderat matri Iulius Africanus, nepos illius oratoris, quo 6.11
appeared-for the-mother Julius Africanus grandson of-that orator whom
audito Passienus Crispus dixit 'Bene mehercule, bene: sed
having-heard Passienus Crispus said well by-Hercules well but
quo tam bene?' Huius nepos, iuvenis ingeniosus,
to-what-end so well of-this-man the-grandson a-young-man talented
sed parum callidus, cum multa dixisset adsignatumque
but little crafty when many-things he-had-said and-the-allotted
tempus inplesset, 'rogo' inquit, 'Suburane, permittas mihi
time had-filled I-ask he-said Suburanus that-you-permit to-me
unum verbum adicere.'
one word to-add
Tum ego, cum omnes me ut diu responsurum intuerentur, 6.12
then I when all me as at-length about-to-reply were-watching
'Respondissem' inquam, 'si unum illud verbum Africanus
I-would-have-replied I-said if one that word Africanus
adiecisset, in quo non dubito omnia nova fuisse.'
had-added in which not I-doubt all new-things to-have-been

6.13 Non facile me repeto tantum adsensum agendo consecutum,
not easily me I-recall so-much assent by-pleading to-have-gained
quantum tunc non agendo. Similiter nunc et probatum
as-much-as then by-not pleading similarly now both approved
et exceptum est, quod pro Vareno hactenus non tacui.
and taken-up has-been that for Varenus so-far not I-was-silent
6.14 Consules, ut Polyaenus postulabat, omnia integra principi
the-consuls as Polyaenus demanded all-things untouched for-the-emperor
servaverunt, cuius cognitionem suspensus expecto. Nam dies
reserved whose hearing in-suspense I-await for day
ille nobis pro Vareno aut securitatem et otium dabit aut
that to-us for Varenus either security and leisure will-give or
intermissum laborem renovata sollicitudine iniunget. Vale.
the-interrupted labor with-renewed anxiety will-impose farewell

II · STUDIES FOR FUSCUS

Pliny tells Saturninus and Priscus of each other's friendship. He advises Fuscus how to study in retirement: translation between Greek and Latin, rewriting, history, letters, and light verse, and he urges him to read much rather than many authors. He reports on Varenus, defends his freedman's sale of land to Corellia, and sends Minicius a speech written to order.

7 C. Plinius Saturnino suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Saturninus his-own greeting
7.1 Et proxime Prisco nostro et rursus, quia ita iussisti,
both lately to-Priscus our and again because so you-ordered
gratias egi. Libentissime quidem: est enim mihi periucundum
thanks I-gave most-gladly indeed it-is for to-me very-delightful

quod viri optimi mihique amicissimi adeo cohaesistis,
that men most-excellent and-to-me most-friendly so-closely you-have-united
ut invicem vos obligari putetis.
that each-other you to-be-obliged you-think
Nam ille quoque praecipuam se voluptatem ex amicitia 7.2
for he also special himself pleasure from friendship
tua capere profitetur certatque tecum honestissimo certamine
your to-take professes and-competes with-you in-the-most-honorable contest
mutuae caritatis, quam ipsum tempus augebit. Te negotiis
of-mutual affection which the-very time will-increase you by-business
distineri ob hoc moleste fero, quod deservire
to-be-distracted on-account-of this ill I-bear that to-devote-yourself
studiis non potes. Si tamen alteram litem per iudicem,
to-studies not you-can if however the-one suit through a-judge
alteram, ut ais, ipse finieris, incipies primum
the-other as you-say yourself you-shall-have-finished you-will-begin first
istic otio frui, deinde satiatus ad nos reverti. Vale.
there leisure to-enjoy then sated to us to-return farewell

C. Plinius Prisco suo s. 8
Gaius Pliny to-Priscus his-own greeting

Exprimere non possum, quam iucundum sit mihi quod 8.1
to-express not I-am-able how pleasant it-is to-me that
Saturninus noster summas tibi apud me gratias aliis super
Saturninus our the-highest to-you before me thanks in-one upon
alias epistulis agit.
another letters gives
Perge ut coepisti virumque optimum quam familiarissime 8.2
go-on as you-began and-the-man most-excellent as most-intimately
dilige, magnam voluptatem ex amicitia eius percepturus
love great pleasure from friendship his about-to-receive
nec ad breve tempus.
and-not for a-short time

8.3 Nam cum omnibus virtutibus abundat, tum hac praecipue,
for while in-all virtues he-abounds then in-this especially
quod habet maximam in amore constantiam. Vale.
that he-has the-greatest in love constancy farewell

9 C. Plinius Fusco suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Fuscus his-own greeting

9.1 Quaeris, quem ad modum in secessu, quo iam diu frueris,
you-ask in-what to manner in retirement which already long you-enjoy
putem te studere oportere.
I-think you to-study ought

9.2 Utile in primis, et multi praecipiunt, vel ex graeco
useful among the-first and many advise either from Greek
in latinum vel ex latino vertere in graecum. Quo
into Latin or from Latin to-translate into Greek by-which
genere exercitationis proprietas splendorque verborum, copia
kind of-exercise propriety and-splendor of-words abundance
figurarum, vis explicandi, praeterea imitatione optimorum
of-figures force of-explaining besides by-imitation of-the-best
similia inveniendi facultas paratur. Simul quae legentem
similar-things of-finding the-faculty is-acquired at-once what-things the-reader
fefellissent transferentem fugere non possunt.
would-have-escaped the-translator to-escape not can

9.3 Intellegentia ex hoc et iudicium adquiritur. Nihil offuerit
understanding from this and judgment is-acquired nothing will-have-harmed
quae legeris hactenus, ut rem argumentumque teneas,
what-things you-have-read so-far that the-subject and-the-argument you-hold
quasi aemulum scribere lectisque conferre ac sedulo
as-if a-rival to-write and-with-things-read to-compare and diligently
pensitare, quid tu, quid ille commodius. Magna gratulatio, si non
to-weigh what you what he more-aptly great congratulation if not

nulla tu, magnus pudor si cuncta ille melius. Licebit
none-things you great shame if all-things he better it-will-be-permitted
interdum et notissima eligere et certare cum electis.
sometimes both the-best-known to-choose and to-compete with the-chosen
Audax haec, non tamen inproba, quia secreta contentio: 9.4
bold this not however shameless because a-secret contest
quamquam multos videmus eius modi certamina sibi
although many we-see of-this kind contests for-themselves
cum multa laude sumpsisse, quosque subsequi satis
with much praise to-have-undertaken and-those-whom to-follow enough
habebant, dum non desperant, antecessisse.
they-held while not they-despair to-have-surpassed
Poteris et quae dixeris post oblivionem retractare, 9.5
you-can also what-things you-have-said after forgetting to-handle-again
multa retinere, plura transire, alia interscribere, alia
many-things to-retain more to-pass-over others to-insert others
rescribere.
to-rewrite
Laboriosum istud et taedio plenum, sed difficultate ipsa 9.6
laborious that and with-tedium full but by-the-difficulty itself
fructuosum, recalescere ex integro et resumere impetum
fruitful to-grow-warm-again from the-start and to-resume an-impetus
fractum omissumque, postremo nova velut membra peracto
broken and-dropped finally new as-it-were limbs to-a-finished
corpori intexere nec tamen priora turbare.
body to-weave-in nor yet the-former to-disturb
Scio nunc tibi esse praecipuum studium orandi; sed non 9.7
I-know now for-you to-be the-chief study of-pleading but not
ideo semper pugnacem hunc et quasi bellatorium stilum
therefore always combative this and as-if warlike style

suaserim. Ut enim terrae variis mutatisque seminibus, ita
I-would-urge as for lands by-varied and-changed seeds so
ingenia nostra nunc hac nunc illa meditatione recoluntur.
talents our now by-this now by-that study are-recultivated
9.8 Volo interdum aliquem ex historia locum adprehendas, volo
I-wish sometimes some from history passage you-should-take-up I-wish
epistulam diligentius scribas. Nam saepe in oratione quoque
a-letter more-carefully you-should-write for often in a-speech also
non historica modo sed prope poetica descriptionum necessitas
not historical only but almost poetic of-descriptions a-need
incidit, et pressus sermo purusque ex epistulis petitur.
arises and concise speech and-pure from letters is-sought
9.9 Fas est et carmine remitti, non dico continuo et longo
right it-is also by-poetry to-be-relaxed not I-say continuous and long
(id enim perfici nisi in otio non potest), sed hoc
this for to-be-completed except in leisure not can but this
arguto et brevi, quod apte quantas libet occupationes
witty and short which aptly however-many you-like occupations
curasque distinguit.
and-cares punctuates

Lusus vocantur; sed hi lusus non minorem interdum 9.10
amusements they-are-called but these amusements not less sometimes
gloriam quam seria consequuntur. Atque adeo (cur enim
glory than serious-things gain and indeed why for
te ad versus non versibus adhorter?)
you to verses not with-verses should-I-exhort

ut laus est cerae, mollis cedensque sequatur 9.11
as the-praise is of-wax soft and-yielding that-it-follow
si doctos digitos iussaque fiat opus
if the-skilled fingers and-at-command become a-work
et nunc informet Martem castamve Minervam,
and now model Mars or-chaste Minerva
nunc Venerem effingat, nunc Veneris puerum;
now Venus portray now of-Venus the-boy
utque sacri fontes non sola incendia sistunt,
and-as sacred springs not only fires check
saepe etiam flores vernaque prata iuvant:
often also flowers and-spring meadows help
sic hominum ingenium flecti ducique per artes
so of-men the-talent to-be-bent and-to-be-led through arts
non rigidas docta mobilitate decet.
not rigid by-skilled pliancy befits

Itaque summi oratores, summi etiam viri sic se aut 9.12
and-so the-greatest orators the-greatest also men so themselves either
exercebant aut delectabant, immo delectabant exercebantque.
exercised or delighted nay delighted and-exercised
Nam mirum est ut his opusculis animus intendatur 9.13
for wonderful it-is how by-these little-works the-mind is-keyed-up
remittatur. Recipiunt enim amores, odia iras misericordiam,
is-relaxed they-admit for loves hatreds angers pity

urbanitatem, omnia denique quae in vita atque etiam in
wit all-things in-short which in life and even in
foro causisque versantur.
the-forum and-cases are-handled

9.14 Inest his quoque eadem quae aliis carminibus utilitas, quod
is-in these also the-same as-in other poems usefulness that
metri necessitate defuncti soluta oratione laetamur et
from-meter's necessity released in-loose speech we-rejoice and
quod facilius esse comparatio ostendit libentius scribimus.
what easier to-be the-comparison shows more-gladly we-write

9.15 Habes plura etiam fortasse, quam requirebas, unum tamen
you-have more-things even perhaps than you-asked-for one-thing however
omisi; non enim dixi, quae legenda arbitrarer:
I-have-omitted not for I-have-said what-things to-be-read I-thought
quamquam dixi, cum dicerem quae scribenda. Tu
although I-said-it when I-was-saying what-things to-be-written you
memineris sui cuiusque generis auctores diligenter eligere.
remember of-its-own each kind the-authors carefully to-choose
Aiunt enim multum legendum esse, non multa.
they-say for much to-be-read to-be not many-things

9.16 Qui sint hi, adeo notum probatumque est, ut demonstratione
who are these so known and-approved is that a-demonstration
non egeat; et alioqui tam immodice epistulam extendi,
not it-needs and besides so immoderately the-letter I-have-extended
ut, dum tibi quemadmodum studere debeas suadeo, studendi
that while you how to-study you-ought I-urge of-studying
tempus abstulerim. Quin ergo pugillares resumis et
the-time I-have-taken-away why then the-tablets do-you-not-resume and
aliquid ex his vel istud ipsum quod coeperas scribis? Vale.
something of these or that very-thing which you-had-begun write farewell

C. Plinius Macrino suo s. 10

Gaius Pliny to-Macrinus his-own greeting

Quia ipse, cum prima cognovi, iungere extrema quasi 10.1

because I-myself when the-first-things I-have-learned to-join the-last-things as-if

avulsa cupio, te quoque existimo velle de Vareno et

torn-off desire you also I-think to-wish about Varenus and

Bithynis reliqua cognoscere. Acta causa hinc a Polyaeno,

the-Bithynians the-rest to-learn pleaded the-case on-this-side by Polyaenus

inde a Magno.

on-that by Magnus

Finitis actionibus Caesar 'Neutra' inquit 'pars de mora 10.2

finished the-pleadings Caesar neither he-said side about the-delay

queretur: erit mihi curae explorare provinciae voluntatem.'

will-complain it-will-be to-me a-care to-ascertain of-the-province the-wish

Multum interim Varenus tulit. Etenim quam dubium est, 10.3

much meanwhile Varenus has-gained for how doubtful is

an merito accusetur, qui an omnino accusetur incertum

whether deservedly he-is-accused who whether at-all he-is-accused uncertain

est? Superest ne rursus provinciae quod damnasse dicitur

is it-remains lest again to-the-province what to-have-condemned it-is-said

placeat agatque paenitentiam paenitentiae suae. Vale.

should-please and-it-do repentance of-repentance its-own farewell

C. Plinius Fabato prosocero suo s. 11

Gaius Pliny to-Fabatus grandfather-in-law his-own greeting

Miraris quod Hermes, libertus meus, hereditarios agros, 11.1

you-wonder that Hermes freedman my the-inherited lands

quos ego iusseram proscribi, non expectata auctione pro

which I had-ordered to-be-advertised not awaited the-auction for

meo quincunce ex septingentis milibus Corelliae addixerit.

my five-twelfths for seven-hundred thousand to-Corellia knocked-down

Adicis hos nongentis milibus posse venire ac tanto
you-add these for-nine-hundred thousand to-be-able to-be-sold and so-much
magis quaeris, an quod gessit ratum servem.
more you-ask whether what he-did ratified I-keep
11.2 Ego vero servo: quibus ex causis, accipe. Cupio enim et
I indeed keep-it which for reasons hear I-desire for both
tibi probatum et coheredibus meis excusatum esse, quod
to-you approved and to-coheirs my excused to-be that
me ab illis maiore officio iubente secerno.
myself from them a-greater duty bidding I-separate
11.3 Corelliam cum summa reverentia diligo, primum ut sororem
Corellia with the-utmost reverence I-love first as the-sister
Corelli Rufi, cuius mihi memoria sacrosancta est, deinde ut
of-Corellius Rufus whose to-me memory sacred is then as
matri meae familiarissimam.
to-mother my most-intimate
11.4 Sunt mihi et cum marito eius, Minicio Iusto, optimo
there-are to-me also with husband her Minicius Justus a-most-excellent
viro, vetera iura; fuerunt et cum filio maxima, adeo
man old ties there-were also with her-son the-greatest so-much
quidem, ut praetore me ludis meis praesederit.
indeed that praetor me over-games my he-presided
11.5 Haec, cum proxime istic fui, indicavit mihi cupere se aliquid
she when lately there I-was indicated to-me to-desire herself something
circa Larium nostrum possidere. Ego illi ex praediis meis
around Larius our to-possess I to-her from estates my
quod vellet et quanti vellet obtuli exceptis maternis
what she-wished and at-what-price she-wished offered except my-maternal
paternisque: his enim cedere ne Corelliae quidem possum.
and-paternal-ones these for to-cede not to-Corellia even can-I

Igitur cum obvenisset mihi hereditas, in qua praedia 11.6
therefore when had-come to-me the-inheritance in which estates
ista, scripsi ei venalia futura. Has epistulas Hermes
those I-wrote to-her for-sale to-be-going-to-be these letters Hermes
tulit exigentique ut statim portionem meam sibi
carried and-to-her-demanding that at-once portion my to-her
addiceret paruit. Vides, quam ratum debeam habere
he-should-knock-down he-obeyed you-see how ratified I-ought to-hold
quod libertus meus meis moribus gessit.
what freedman my by-my character did
Superest ut coheredes aequo animo ferant separatim me 11.7
it-remains that the-coheirs with-even mind bear separately me
vendidisse quod mihi licuit omnino non vendere.
to-have-sold what to-me it-was-permitted at-all not to-sell
Nec vero coguntur imitari meum exemplum: non enim 11.8
nor indeed are-they-compelled to-imitate my example not for
illis eadem cum Corellia iura. Possunt ergo intueri
to-them the-same with Corellia ties they-can therefore to-look-to
utilitatem suam, pro qua mihi fuit amicitia. Vale.
advantage their-own in-place-of which to-me was friendship farewell

C. Plinius Minicio suo s. 12
Gaius Pliny to-Minicius his-own greeting

Libellum formatum a me, sicut exegeras, quo amicus 12.1
the-little-book shaped by me as you-had-demanded which friend
tuus, immo noster (quid enim non commune nobis?), si
your nay ours what for not common to-us if
res posceret, uteretur, misi tibi ideo tardius,
the-matter required might-use I-have-sent to-you for-this-reason rather-late
ne tempus emendandi eum, id est disperdendi, haberes.
that-not time of-correcting it that is of-ruining you-might-have

12.2 Habebis tamen, an emendandi nescio, utique
you-will-have-it however whether of-correcting I-know-not at-any-rate
disperdendi. Ὑμεῖς γὰρ οἱ εὔζηλοι optima quaeque detrahitis.
of-ruining you for the zealous the-best each strike-out
12.3 Quod si feceris, boni consulam. Postea enim illis
which if you-shall-have-done good I-shall-count-it afterward for those-things
ex aliqua occasione ut meis utar et beneficio fastidii
from some occasion as mine I-shall-use and by-the-favor of-fastidiousness
tui ipse laudabor, ut in eo quod adnotatum invenies
your I-myself shall-be-praised as in that which marked you-will-find
et superscripto alio explicitum.
and by-a-written-above other expressed
12.4 Nam cum suspicarer futurum ut tibi tumidius videretur,
for since I-suspected to-be-going-to-be that to-you rather-bombastic it-would-seem
quoniam est sonantius et elatius, non alienum existimavi, ne
since it-is more-sonorous and more-elevated not out-of-place I-thought lest
te torqueres, addere statim pressius quiddam et exilius
yourself you-should-torment to-add at-once something more-concise and slighter
vel potius humilius et peius, vestro tamen iudicio rectius.
or rather humbler and worse in-your however judgment more-correct
12.5 Cur enim non usquequaque tenuitatem vestram insequar
why for not everywhere slenderness your should-I-pursue
et exagitem? Haec ut inter istas occupationes aliquid
and harass these-things that among those occupations something
aliquando rideres; illud serio:
sometime you-might-laugh-at this seriously
12.6 Vide ut mihi viaticum reddas, quod inpendi data
see-to-it that to-me the-traveling-money you-repay which I-spent with-given
opera cursore dimisso. Ne tu, cum hoc legeris, non
effort a-courier dispatched surely you when this you-have-read not

partes libelli, sed totum libellum inprobabis, negabisque
the-parts of-the-little-book but the-whole little-book will-disapprove and-will-say
ullius pretii esse, cuius pretium reposcaris. Vale.
of-any worth to-be of-which the-price you-are-asked-to-repay farewell

III · FANNIA

Pliny tells Ferox his letter is too polished to be idle, and refuses Corellia's offer of a higher price. He writes to Saturninus of his busy days, asks Fabatus to receive Calestrius Tiro, defends to Celer his practice of reciting speeches before publication, tells Caninius how he endowed the freeborn children of his town, and fears for Fannia, Thrasea's daughter, who caught her illness nursing a Vestal.

C. Plinius Feroci suo s. 13
Gaius Pliny to-Ferox his-own greeting
Eadem epistula et non studere te et studere significat. 13.1
the-same letter both not to-be-studying you and to-be-studying indicates
Aenigmata loquor. Ita plane, donec distinctius quod sentio
riddles I-speak so plainly until more-distinctly what I-think
enuntiem.
I-express
Negat enim te studere, sed est tam polita, quam nisi a 13.2
it-denies for you to-be-studying but it-is so polished as unless by
studente non potest scribi: aut es tu super omnes beatus,
one-studying not it-can be-written or are you beyond all fortunate
si talia per desidiam et otium perficis. Vale.
if such-things through idleness and leisure you-accomplish farewell

14 C. Plinius Corelliae suae s.

Gaius Pliny to-Corellia his-own greeting

14.1 Tu quidem honestissime, quod tam inpense et rogas et
you indeed most-honorably that so earnestly both you-ask and
exigis ut accipi iubeam a te pretium agrorum non
you-demand that to-be-accepted I-order from you the-price of-the-lands not
ex septingentis milibus, quanti illos a liberto meo, sed ex
on seven-hundred thousand for-how-much those from freedman my but on
nongentis, quanti a publicanis partem vicesimam emisti.
nine-hundred for-how-much from the-tax-farmers the-part twentieth you-bought

14.2 Invicem ego et rogo et exigo, ut non solum quid te,
in-turn I both ask and demand that not only what you
verum etiam quid me deceat aspicias patiarisque me in hoc
but also what me befits you-consider and-allow me in this
uno tibi eodem animo repugnare, quo in omnibus
one-thing to-you with-the-same mind to-resist with-which in all-things
obsequi soleo. Vale.
to-comply I-am-wont farewell

15 C. Plinius Saturnino suo s.

Gaius Pliny to-Saturninus his-own greeting

15.1 Requiris quid agam. Quae nosti: distringor officio, amicis
you-ask what I-am-doing what you-know I-am-distracted by-office to-friends
deservio, studeo interdum, quod non interdum, sed solum
I-devote-myself I-study sometimes which not sometimes but alone
semperque facere, non audeo dicere rectius, certe beatius
and-always to-do not dare-I say more-rightly certainly more-happily
erat.
it-would-be

15.2 Te omnia alia quam quae velis agere moleste
you all other-things than what you-wish to-be-doing ill
ferrem, nisi ea quae agis essent honestissima. Nam
would-I-bear unless those-things which you-do were most-honorable for

et rei publicae suae negotia curare et disceptare
both of-the-thing public his-own the-business to-attend-to and to-arbitrate
inter amicos laude dignissimum est.
between friends of-praise most-worthy is
Prisci nostri contubernium iucundum tibi futurum sciebam. 15.3
of-Priscus our the-companionship pleasant to-you to-be-going-to-be I-knew
Noveram simplicitatem eius, noveram comitatem: eundem
I-had-known the-frankness his I-had-known the-affability the-same
esse, quod minus noram, gratissimum experior, cum tam
to-be what less I-had-known most-grateful I-find when so
iucunde officiorum nostrorum meminisse eum scribas. Vale.
pleasantly of-services our to-remember him you-write farewell
C. Plinius Fabato prosocero suo s. 16
Gaius Pliny to-Fabatus grandfather-in-law his-own greeting
Calestrium Tironem familiarissime diligo et privatis mihi et 16.1
Calestrius Tiro most-intimately I-love both by-private to-me and
publicis necessitudinibus inplicitum.
by-public ties bound
Simul militavimus, simul quaestores Caesaris fuimus. Ille me 16.2
together we-served-in-the-army together quaestors of-Caesar we-were he me
in tribunatu liberorum iure praecessit, ego illum in praetura
in the-tribunate by-the-right of-children preceded I him in the-praetorship
sum consecutus, cum mihi Caesar annum remisisset. Ego in
have caught-up when for-me Caesar a-year had-remitted I to
villas eius saepe secessi, ille in domo mea saepe convaluit.
estates his often withdrew he in house my often recovered
Hic nunc pro consule provinciam Baeticam per Ticinum 16.3
he now as proconsul the-province Baetica by-way-of Ticinum
est petiturus.
is going-to-seek

16.4 Spero, immo confido facile me impetraturum ut ex
I-hope nay I-am-confident easily me to-be-going-to-obtain that from
itinere deflectat ad te, si voles vindicta liberare
the-journey he-turn-aside to you if you-shall-wish by-the-rod to-free
quos proxime inter amicos manumisisti. Nihil est quod
those-whom lately among friends you-manumitted nothing there-is which
verearis ne sit hoc illi molestum, cui orbem terrarum
you-should-fear lest be this to-him troublesome for-whom the-circle of-the-lands
circumire non erit longum mea causa.
to-go-round not will-be long for-my sake
16.5 Proinde nimiam istam verecundiam pone teque quid
therefore excessive that diffidence lay-aside and-yourself what
velis consule. Illi tam iucundum quod ego, quam mihi
you-wish consult to-him as pleasant what I as to-me
quod tu iubes. Vale.
what you order farewell

17 C. Plinius Celeri suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Celer his-own greeting

17.1 Sua cuique ratio recitandi; mihi quod saepe iam dixi,
his-own to-each the-reason for-reciting mine what often already I-have-said
ut si quid me fugit, ut certe fugit, admonear.
that if anything me escapes as certainly it-escapes I-may-be-advised

17.2 Quo magis miror quod scribis fuisse quosdam qui
by-which the-more I-wonder that you-write to-have-been some who
reprehenderent quod orationes omnino recitarem; nisi vero
blamed-me that speeches at-all I-recited unless indeed
has solas non putant emendandas.
these alone not they-think to-be-corrected

17.3 A quibus libenter requisierim, cur concedant, si concedunt
from whom gladly I-would-ask why they-grant if they-grant
tamen, historiam debere recitari, quae non ostentationi, sed
however history to-have-to be-recited which not for-display but

fidei veritatique componitur; cur tragoediam, quae non
for-faithfulness and-truth is-composed why tragedy which not
auditorium, sed scaenam et actores, cur lyrica, quae non
a-lecture-hall but a-stage and actors why lyrics which not
lectorem, sed chorum et lyram poscunt. At horum recitatio
a-reader but a-chorus and a-lyre demand but of-these the-recitation
usu iam recepta est.
by-usage already accepted is

Num ergo culpandus est ille qui coepit? Quamquam 17.4
surely-not then to-be-blamed is he who began-it although
orationes quoque et nostri quidam et Graeci lectitaverunt.
speeches also both our some and the-Greeks have-read-out

Supervacuum tamen est recitare quae dixeris. Etiam, si 17.5
superfluous however it-is to-recite what you-have-spoken yes if
eadem omnia, si isdem omnibus, si statim recites. Si
the-same all-things if to-the-same all if at-once you-recite if
vero multa inseras, multa commutes, si quosdam novos
however many-things you-insert many-things you-change if some new
quosdam eosdem, sed post tempus adsumas, cur minus
some the-same but after a-time you-take-in why less
probabilis sit causa recitandi quae dixeris quam edendi?
acceptable be the-reason for-reciting what you-have-spoken than for-publishing

Sed difficile est ut oratio, dum recitatur, satisfaciat. Iam 17.6
but difficult it-is that a-speech while it-is-recited satisfy now
hoc ad laborem recitantis pertinet, non ad rationem non
this to the-labor of-the-reciter pertains not to the-reason of-not
recitandi.
reciting

Nec vero ego, dum recito, laudari, sed dum legor, cupio. 17.7
nor indeed I while I-recite to-be-praised but while I-am-read desire
Itaque nullum emendandi genus omitto. Ac primum quae
and-so no of-correcting kind I-omit and first what-things

scripsi mecum ipse pertracto; deinde duobus aut tribus
I-have-written with-me myself I-go-over then to-two or three
lego; mox aliis trado adnotanda notasque eorum, si
I-read soon to-others I-hand-over to-be-annotated and-the-notes their if
dubito, cum uno rursus aut altero pensito; novissime pluribus
I-doubt with one again or another I-weigh last to-more
recito, ac siquid mihi credis, tunc acerrime emendo.
I-recite and if-anything me you-believe then most-keenly I-correct

17.8 Nam tanto diligentius quanto sollicitius intendo. Optime
for so-much more-carefully as more-anxiously I-concentrate best
autem reverentia pudor metus iudicant, idque adeo sic habe.
moreover respect modesty fear judge and-this indeed thus hold
Nonne, si locuturus es cum aliquo quamlibet docto, uno
surely if about-to-speak you-are with someone however learned one
tamen, minus commoveris quam si cum multis vel indoctis?
however less are-you-moved than if with many even unlearned

17.9 Nonne cum surgis ad agendum, tunc maxime tibi ipse
surely when you-rise for pleading then most to-you yourself
diffidis, tunc commutata, non dico plurima, sed omnia
you-distrust then changed not I-say very-many-things but all
cupis? Utique si latior scaena et corona diffusior: nam illos
you-desire especially if wider the-stage and the-ring more-spread for those
quoque sordidos pullatosque reveremur.
also dirty and-dark-clad we-revere

17.10 Nonne si prima quaeque inprobari putas, debilitaris
surely if the-first each to-be-disapproved you-think you-are-weakened
et concidis? Opinor, quia in numero ipso est quoddam
and collapse I-think because in the-number itself is a-certain
magnum conlatumque consilium, quibusque singulis iudicii
great and-pooled counsel and-to-whom individually of-judgment
parum, omnibus plurimum.
little to-all very-much

Itaque Pomponius Secundus (hic scriptor tragoediarum), 17.11
and-so Pomponius Secundus this-one a-writer of-tragedies
siquid forte familiarior amicus tollendum, ipse retinendum
if-anything perhaps a-more-intimate friend to-be-removed he-himself to-be-kept
arbitraretur, dicere solebat 'Ad populum provoco', atque ita
thought to-say was-wont to the-people I-appeal and so
ex populi vel silentio vel adsensu aut suam aut amici
from of-the-people either the-silence or assent either his-own or his-friend's
sententiam sequebatur.
opinion he-followed
Tantum ille populo dabat. Recte an secus, nihil ad me. Ego 17.12
so-much he to-the-people gave rightly or otherwise nothing to me I
enim non populum advocare, sed certos electosque soleo,
for not the-people to-summon but certain and-chosen-men am-wont
quos intuear, quibus credam, quos denique et tamquam
whom I-may-look-at whom I-may-trust whom in-short both as
singulos observem et tamquam non singulos timeam.
individuals I-may-observe and as not individuals I-may-fear
Nam quod M. Cicero de stilo, ego de metu sentio. 17.13
for what Marcus Cicero about the-pen I about fear think
Timor est emendator asperrimus. Hoc ipsum, quod nos
fear is a-corrector most-harsh this very-thing that we
recitaturos cogitamus, emendat; quod auditorium ingredimur,
about-to-recite think corrects that the-lecture-hall we-enter
emendat; quod pallemus, horrescimus circumspicimus emendat.
corrects that we-grow-pale we-shudder we-look-around corrects
Proinde non paenitet me consuetudinis meae quam utilissimam 17.14
therefore not it-repents me of-custom my which most-useful
experior, adeoque non deterreor sermunculis istorum, ut
I-find and-so-far not I-am-deterred by-the-little-talk of-those that
ultro te rogem monstres aliquid quod his addam.
even you I-ask that-you-point-out something which to-these I-may-add

17.15 Nihil enim curae meae satis est. Cogito quam sit magnum
nothing for for-care my enough is I-reflect how it-be great
dare aliquid in manus hominum, nec persuadere mihi
to-give anything into the-hands of-men nor to-persuade myself
possum non et cum multis et saepe tractandum, quod
can-I not both with many and often to-be-handled what
placere et semper et omnibus cupias. Vale.
to-please both always and all you-desire farewell

18 C. Plinius Caninio suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Caninius his-own greeting

18.1 Deliberas mecum, quem ad modum pecunia, quam municipibus
you-deliberate with-me in-what to manner the-money which to-townsmen
nostris in epulum obtulisti, post te quoque salva sit.
our for a-banquet you-offered after you also safe may-be
Honesta consultatio, non expedita sententia. Numeres
an-honorable consultation not ready the-opinion should-you-pay-down
rei publicae summam? Verendum est ne dilabatur.
to-the-thing public the-sum to-be-feared it-is lest it-slip-away
Des agros? Ut publici neglegentur.
should-you-give lands as public they-will-be-neglected

18.2 Equidem nihil commodius invenio, quam quod ipse feci.
for-my-part nothing more-suitable do-I-find than what I-myself did
Nam pro quingentis milibus nummum, quae in alimenta
for instead-of five-hundred thousand sesterces which for the-maintenance
ingenuorum ingenuarumque promiseram, agrum ex meis
of-freeborn-boys and-freeborn-girls I-had-promised land from my-own
longe pluris actori publico mancipavi: eundem vectigali
far worth-more to-the-agent public I-conveyed the-same with-a-rent
inposito recepi, tricena milia annua daturus.
imposed I-received-back thirty thousand yearly going-to-give

Per hoc enim et rei publicae sors in tuto nec 18.3
through this for both of-the-thing public the-capital in safety nor
reditus incertus, et ager ipse propter id, quod vectigal large
the-income uncertain and the-land itself on-account-of that that the-rent amply
supercurrit, semper dominum, a quo exerceatur, inveniet.
it-exceeds always an-owner by whom it-may-be-worked will-find
Nec ignoro me plus aliquanto quam donasse videor 18.4
nor am-I-unaware me more somewhat than to-have-given I-seem
erogavisse, cum pulcherrimi agri pretium necessitas vectigalis
to-have-paid-out since of-a-most-beautiful land the-price the-necessity of-the-rent
infregerit.
has-broken
Sed oportet privatis utilitatibus publicas, mortalibus aeternas 18.5
but it-is-proper to-private advantages public-ones to-mortal eternal-ones
anteferre, multoque diligentius muneri suo consulere quam
to-prefer and-much more-carefully for-gift one's-own to-take-thought than
facultatibus. Vale.
for-one's-means farewell

C. Plinius Prisco suo s. 19
Gaius Pliny to-Priscus his-own greeting

Angit me Fanniae valetudo. Contraxit hanc, dum assidet 19.1
distresses me Fannia's illness she-contracted it while she-sits-by
Iuniae virgini, sponte primum (est enim adfinis), deinde
Junia the-virgin voluntarily at-first she-is for a-relative then
etiam ex auctoritate pontificum.
also by the-authority of-the-pontiffs
Nam virgines, cum vi morbi atrio Vestae 19.2
for the-virgins when by-the-force of-disease from-the-atrium of-Vesta
coguntur excedere, matronarum curae custodiaeque
they-are-compelled to-leave to-matrons' care and-custody

mandantur. Quo munere Fannia dum sedulo fungitur, hoc
are-entrusted which duty Fannia while diligently she-performs in-this
discrimine inplicita est.
peril entangled has-been

19.3 Insident febres, tussis increscit; summa macies, summa
are-settled-in fevers the-cough increases utmost emaciation utmost
defectio: animus tantum et spiritus viget Helvidio marito,
weakness the-spirit only and the-breath thrives of-Helvidius as-husband
Thrasea patre dignissimus; reliqua labuntur meque non
of-Thrasea as-father most-worthy the-rest are-slipping and-me not
metu tantum verum etiam dolore conficiunt.
with-fear only but even with-grief wear-out

19.4 Doleo enim feminam maximam eripi oculis civitatis
I-grieve for a-woman greatest to-be-snatched from-the-eyes of-the-state
nescio an aliquid simile visuris. Quae castitas illi! Quae
I-know-not whether anything similar going-to-see what chastity in-her what
sanctitas! Quanta gravitas! Quanta constantia! Bis maritum
sanctity how-great gravity how-great constancy twice her-husband
secuta in exilium est, tertio ipsa propter maritum
having-followed into exile she-has the-third-time herself on-account-of her-husband
relegata.
banished

19.5 Nam cum Senecio reus esset, quod de vita Helvidi
for when Senecio a-defendant was because about the-life of-Helvidius
libros composuisset, rogatumque se a Fannia in defensione
books he-had-composed and-asked himself by Fannia in his-defense
dixisset, quaerente minaciter Mettio Caro, an rogasset,
had-said asking threateningly Mettius Carus whether she-had-asked
respondit ‘Rogavi’; an commentarios scripturo
she-answered I-asked whether notes to-him-about-to-write

dedisset: 'Dedi'; an sciente matre: 'nesciente'; postremo
she-had-given I-gave whether with-knowing her-mother not-knowing finally
nullam vocem cedentem periculo emisit.
no word yielding to-danger she-uttered
Quin etiam illos ipsos libros, quamquam ex necessitate et 19.6
nay even those very books although from necessity and
metu temporum abolitos senatus consulto, publicatis bonis
fear of-the-times abolished of-the-senate by-decree with-confiscated property
servavit, habuit tulitque in exilium exilii causam.
she-kept had and-carried into exile of-exile the-cause
Eadem quam iucunda, quam comis, quam denique, quod paucis 19.7
the-same how pleasant how affable how in-short which to-few
datum est, non minus amabilis quam veneranda! Eritne
given is not less lovable than venerable will-there-be
quam postea uxoribus nostris ostentare possimus? Erit
one-whom afterward to-wives our to-show we-can there-will-be
a qua viri quoque fortitudinis exempla sumamus, quam
from whom men also of-courage examples may-take whom
sic cernentes audientesque miremur, ut illas quae leguntur?
so seeing and-hearing we-may-admire as those who are-read-of
Ac mihi domus ipsa nutare convulsaque sedibus suis 19.8
and to-me the-house itself to-totter and-wrenched from-foundations its-own
ruitura supra videtur, licet adhuc posteros habeat.
about-to-fall upon seems although still descendants it-may-have
Quantis enim virtutibus quantisque factis adsequentur, ut
by-how-great for virtues and-by-how-great deeds will-they-attain that
haec non novissima occiderit?
she not the-last died
Me quidem illud etiam adfligit et torquet, quod matrem 19.9
me indeed this also afflicts and tortures that mother
eius, illam (nihil possum inlustrius dicere) tantae feminae
her that nothing can-I more-illustrious say of-so-great a-woman

matrem, rursus videor amittere, quam haec, ut reddit ac
the-mother again I-seem to-lose whom she as she-renders and
refert nobis, sic auferet secum meque et novo pariter
recalls to-us so will-take-away with-her and-me both with-a-new equally
et rescisso vulnere adficiet.
and reopened wound will-affect

19.10 Utramque colui, utramque dilexi; utram magis nescio, nec
both I-cherished both I-loved which more I-know-not nor
discerni volebant. Habuerunt officia mea in secundis,
to-be-distinguished did-they-wish they-had services my in prosperity
habuerunt in adversis. Ego solacium relegatarum, ego ultor
they-had-them in adversity I the-solace of-the-banished I the-avenger
reversarum; non feci tamen paria atque eo magis hanc
of-the-returned not I-made however equal and by-this the-more her
cupio servari, ut mihi solvendi tempora supersint.
I-desire to-be-saved that for-me of-paying times may-remain

19.11 In his eram curis, cum scriberem ad te; quas si deus aliquis
in these I-was cares when I-was-writing to you which if a-god some
in gaudium verterit, de metu non querar. Vale.
into joy shall-have-turned about fear not I-shall-complain farewell

Pliny tells Tacitus how their names are now joined. He writes to Cornutus of his eye trouble, recommends Cornelius Minicianus for a tribunate, tells Fabatus to await Tiro at home rather than meet him at Milan, describes Ummidia Quadratilla's will and her pantomimes, praises Terentius Junior's learning, notes that sickness makes men good, and asks Sura whether ghosts exist, telling of Curtius Rufus, of Athenodorus' haunted house, and of the shorn hair of his freedman's brother and a slave boy.

C. Plinius Tacito suo s. 20

Gaius Pliny to-Tacitus his-own greeting

Librum tuum legi et quam diligentissime potui adnotavi 20.1

book your I-have-read and as most-carefully I-could I-have-noted

quae commutanda, quae eximenda arbitrarer. Nam et

what-things to-be-changed what-things to-be-removed I-thought for both

ego verum dicere adsuevi, et tu libenter audire. Neque

I the-truth to-tell have-grown-used and you gladly to-hear nor

enim ulli patientius reprehenduntur, quam qui maxime

for any more-patiently are-criticized than those-who most

laudari merentur.

to-be-praised deserve

Nunc a te librum meum cum adnotationibus tuis expecto. 20.2

now from you book my with notes your I-await

O iucundas, o pulchras vices! Quam me delectat quod,

O pleasant O beautiful exchanges how me it-delights that

siqua posteris cura nostri, usquequaque narrabitur, qua

if-any in-posterity care for-us everywhere it-will-be-told with-what

concordia simplicitate fide vixerimus!

harmony frankness good-faith we-lived

20.3 Erit rarum et insigne duos homines aetate dignitate
it-will-be rare and remarkable two men in-age in-rank
propemodum aequales, non nullius in litteris nominis
almost equal not of-none in letters name
(cogor enim de te quoque parcius dicere, quia de
I-am-compelled for about you also more-sparingly to-speak because about
me simul dico), alterum alterius studia fovisse.
myself at-the-same-time I-speak the-one of-the-other the-studies to-have-fostered
20.4 Equidem adulescentulus, cum iam tu fama gloriaque
for-my-part as-a-youth when already you in-fame and-glory
floreres, te sequi, tibi 'longo sed proximus intervallo' et
were-flourishing you to-follow to-you by-a-long but next interval both
esse et haberi concupiscebam. Et erant multa clarissima
to-be and to-be-held I-longed and there-were many most-brilliant
ingenia; sed tu mihi (ita similitudo naturae ferebat) maxime
talents but you to-me so the-likeness of-nature brought-it most
imitabilis, maxime imitandus videbaris.
imitable most to-be-imitated seemed
20.5 Quo magis gaudeo quod, siquis de studiis sermo, una
by-which the-more I-rejoice that if-any about studies talk together
nominamur, quod de te loquentibus statim occurro. Nec
we-are-named that about you to-those-speaking at-once I-come-to-mind nor
desunt qui utrique nostrum praeferantur.
are-there-lacking those-who to-each of-us are-preferred
20.6 Sed nos, nihil interest mea quo loco, iungimur; nam mihi
but we nothing it-matters to-me in-what place are-joined for to-me
primus qui a te proximus. Quin etiam in testamentis
first who from you next nay even in wills
debes adnotasse: nisi quis forte alterutri nostrum
you-ought to-have-noticed unless one perhaps to-one-or-other of-us
amicissimus, eadem legata et quidem pariter accipimus.
most-friendly the-same legacies and indeed equally we-receive

Quae omnia huc spectant, ut invicem ardentius diligamus, 20.7
which-things all hither look that each-other more-ardently we-may-love
cum tot vinculis nos studia, mores fama, suprema
since by-so-many bonds us studies character reputation the-last
denique hominum iudicia constringant. Vale.
in-short of-men judgments bind-together farewell

C. Plinius Cornuto suo s. 21
Gaius Pliny to-Cornutus his-own greeting

Pareo, collega carissime, et infirmitati oculorum, ut iubes, 21.1
I-obey colleague dearest and for-the-weakness of-my-eyes as you-bid
consulo. Nam et huc tecto vehiculo undique inclusus quasi
I-provide for both here in-a-covered carriage on-all-sides enclosed as-if
in cubiculo perveni, et hic non stilo modo verum etiam
in a-bedroom I-arrived and here not from-the-pen only but even
lectionibus difficulter, sed abstineo solisque auribus studeo.
from-reading with-difficulty but I-abstain and-with-ears alone I-study
Cubicula obductis velis opaca nec tamen obscura facio. 21.2
the-bedrooms with-drawn curtains shaded nor however dark I-make
Cryptoporticus quoque adopertis inferioribus fenestris tantum
the-covered-colonnade also with-covered lower windows as-much
umbrae quantum luminis habet. Sic paulatim lucem ferre
of-shade as of-light has thus gradually light to-bear
condisco.
I-learn
Balineum adsumo, quia prodest, vinum, quia non nocet, 21.3
the-bath I-take because it-helps wine because not it-harms
parcissime tamen: ita adsuevi, et nunc custos adest.
most-sparingly however so I-have-grown-used and now a-guardian is-present

21.4 Gallinam, ut a te missam libenter accepi; quam satis
the-hen as by you sent gladly I-received which with-sufficiently
acribus oculis, quamquam adhuc lippus, pinguissimam vidi.
keen eyes although still bleary-eyed most-plump I-saw
Vale.
farewell

22 C. Plinius Falconi suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Falco his-own greeting

22.1 Minus miraberis me tam instanter petisse ut in amicum
less you-will-wonder me so urgently to-have-sought that on friend
meum conferres tribunatum, cum scieris quis ille qualisque.
my you-confer the-tribunate when you-know who he-is and-of-what-kind
Possum autem iam tibi et nomen indicare et describere
I-can moreover now to-you both the-name to-indicate and to-describe
ipsum, postquam polliceris.
the-man after you-promise

22.2 Est Cornelius Minicianus, ornamentum regionis meae seu
it-is Cornelius Minicianus the-ornament of-region my whether
dignitate seu moribus. Natus splendide abundat facultatibus,
in-rank or in-character born splendidly he-abounds in-means
amat studia ut solent pauperes. Idem rectissimus iudex,
he-loves studies as are-wont the-poor the-same a-most-upright judge
fortissimus advocatus, amicus fidelissimus.
a-most-courageous advocate a-friend most-faithful

22.3 Accepisse te beneficium credes, cum propius inspexeris
to-have-received you a-favor you-will-believe when more-closely you-have-looked-at
hominem omnibus honoribus, omnibus titulis (nihil volo
the-man to-all honors to-all titles nothing I-wish
elatius de modestissimo viro dicere) parem. Vale.
more-loftily about a-most-modest man to-say equal farewell

C. Plinius Fabato prosocero suo s. 23

Gaius Pliny to-Fabatus grandfather-in-law his-own greeting

Gaudeo quidem esse te tam fortem, ut Mediolani occurrere 23.1

I-rejoice indeed to-be you so strong that at-Milan to-meet

Tironi possis, sed ut perseveres esse tam fortis, rogo ne

Tiro you-can but that you-persevere to-be so strong I-ask that-not

tibi contra rationem aetatis tantum laboris iniungas.

on-yourself against the-reckoning of-age so-much of-labor you-impose

Quin immo denuntio ut illum et domi et intra domum

nay rather I-insist that him both at-home and within the-house

atque etiam intra cubiculi limen expectes.

and even within of-the-bedroom the-threshold you-await

Etenim cum a me ut frater diligatur, non debet ab eo 23.2

for since by me as a-brother he-is-loved not ought-he from him

quem ego parentis loco observo exigere officium, quod

whom I in-a-parent's place revere to-exact a-duty which

parenti suo remisisset. Vale.

from-a-parent his-own he-would-have-excused farewell

C. Plinius Gemino suo s. 24

Gaius Pliny to-Geminus his-own greeting

Ummidia Quadratilla paulo minus octogensimo aetatis anno 24.1

Ummidia Quadratilla a-little less-than in-the-eightieth of-age year

decessit, usque ad novissimam valetudinem viridis atque etiam

died right-up to the-last illness vigorous and even

ultra matronalem modum compacto corpore et robusto.

beyond the-matronly measure with-compact body and robust

Decessit honestissimo testamento: reliquit heredes ex besse 24.2

she-died with-a-most-honorable will she-left as-heirs for two-thirds

nepotem, ex tertia parte neptem. Neptem parum novi,

her-grandson for a-third part her-granddaughter the-granddaughter little I-know

nepotem familiarissime diligo, adulescentem singularem nec
the-grandson most-intimately I-love a-young-man singular nor
iis tantum quos sanguine attingit inter propinquos amandum.
by-those only whom by-blood he-touches among relatives to-be-loved

24.3 Ac primum conspicuus forma omnes sermones malignorum
and first conspicuous in-beauty all the-talk of-the-malicious
et puer et iuvenis evasit: intra quartum et vicensimum
both as-a-boy and as-a-young-man he-escaped within the-fourth and twentieth
annum maritus, et si deus adnuisset pater. Vixit in contubernio
year a-husband and if a-god had-nodded a-father he-lived in companionship
aviae delicatae severissime et tamen obsequentissime.
with-a-grandmother pleasure-loving most-strictly and yet most-obligingly

24.4 Habebat illa pantomimos fovebatque effusius, quam
had she pantomimes and-indulged-them more-lavishly than
principi feminae convenit. Hos Quadratus non in theatro,
for-a-leading woman was-fitting these Quadratus not in the-theater
non domi spectabat; nec illa exigebat.
not at-home watched nor she required-it

24.5 Audivi ipsam cum mihi commendaret nepotis sui studia,
I-heard her-herself when to-me she-was-commending of-grandson her-own the-studies
solere se, ut feminam in illo otio sexus, laxare animum
to-be-wont herself as a-woman in that leisure of-her-sex to-relax her-mind
lusu calculorum, solere spectare pantomimos suos; sed
with-a-game of-counters to-be-wont to-watch pantomimes her-own but
cum factura esset alterutrum, semper se nepoti suo
when about-to-do she-was either always herself to-grandson her-own
praecepisse, abiret studeretque; quod mihi non
to-have-instructed that-he-should-go-away and-study which to-me not
amore eius magis facere quam reverentia videbatur.
from-love for-him more to-do than from-respect seemed

Miraberis, et ego miratus sum: proximis sacerdotalibus 24.6
you-will-wonder and I wondered have at-the-last priestly
ludis productis in commissione pantomimis, cum simul
games brought-forward in the-opening-show the-pantomimes when together
theatro ego et Quadratus egrederemur, ait mihi 'scis
from-the-theater I and Quadratus were-going-out he-says to-me you-know
me hodie primum vidisse saltantem aviae meae
me today first to-have-seen dancing of-grandmother my
libertum?' Hoc nepos.
the-freedman this the-grandson
At hercule alienissimi homines in honorem Quadratillae 24.7
but by-Hercules most-unrelated men in honor of-Quadratilla
(pudet me dixisse honorem) per adulationis officium in
it-shames me to-have-said honor through of-flattery the-service to
theatrum cursitabant, exultabant, plaudebant mirabantur ac
the-theater ran exulted applauded admired and
deinde singulos gestus dominae cum canticis reddebant;
then the-single gestures of-their-mistress with songs reproduced
qui nunc exiguissima legata, theatralis operae corollarium,
who now the-smallest legacies of-theatrical service the-tip
accipient ab herede, qui non spectabat.
will-receive from the-heir who not watched
Haec, quia soles, siquid incidit novi non invitus 24.8
these-things because you-are-wont if-anything has-happened new not unwilling
audire, deinde, quia iucundum est mihi quod ceperam
to-hear then because pleasant it-is to-me what I-had-received
gaudium scribendo retractare. Gaudeo enim pietate
joy by-writing to-handle-again I-rejoice for in-the-devotion
defunctae, honore optimi iuvenis; laetor etiam quod
of-the-dead-woman in-the-honor of-the-excellent young-man I-am-glad also that

domus aliquando C. Cassi, huius qui Cassianae scholae
the-house once of-Gaius Cassius of-him who of-the-Cassian school
princeps et parens fuit, serviet domino non minori.
the-head and parent was will-serve a-master not lesser
24.9 Inplebit enim illam Quadratus meus et decebit rursusque ei
will-fill for it Quadratus my and will-grace-it and-again to-it
pristinam dignitatem celebritatem gloriam reddet, cum tantus
former dignity crowds glory will-restore when as-great
orator inde procedet, quantus iuris ille consultus. Vale.
an-orator thence will-come-forth as-great-as of-law he skilled farewell
25 C. Plinius Rufo suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Rufus his-own greeting
25.1 O quantum eruditorum aut modestia ipsorum aut quies operit
O how-many of-the-learned either the-modesty their-own or quiet covers
ac subtrahit famae! At nos eos tantum dicturi aliquid aut
and withdraws from-fame but we those only about-to-speak something or
lecturi timemus, qui studia sua proferunt, cum illi qui tacent
to-read fear who studies their-own bring-forward when those who are-silent
hoc amplius praestent, quod maximum opus silentio reverentur.
this more perform that the-greatest work in-silence they-revere
25.2 Expertus scribo quod scribo. Terentius Iunior, equestribus
from-experience I-write what I-write Terentius Junior equestrian
militiis atque etiam procuratione Narbonensis provinciae
military-posts and even the-procuratorship of-the-Narbonese province
integerrime functus, recepit se in agros suos paratisque
most-blamelessly having-discharged withdrew himself into lands his-own and-to-ready
honoribus tranquillissimum otium praetulit.
honors most-tranquil leisure preferred
25.3 Hunc ego invitatus hospitio ut bonum patrem familiae,
him I invited by-hospitality as a-good father of-the-household
ut diligentem agricolam intuebar, de his locuturus, in
as a-diligent farmer looked-on about these-things about-to-speak in

quibus illum versari putabam; et coeperam, cum ille me
which him to-be-engaged I-thought and I-had-begun when he me
doctissimo sermone revocavit ad studia.
with-most-learned talk recalled to studies
Quam tersa omnia! Quam latina! Quam graeca! Nam tantum 25.4
how polished all-things how Latin how Greek for so-much
utraque lingua valet, ut ea magis videatur excellere,
in-each language he-is-strong that in-that more he-seems to-excel
qua cum maxime loquitur. Quantum ille legit! Quantum
in-which just now he-speaks how-much he has-read how-much
tenet! Athenis vivere hominem, non in villa putes.
he-retains at-Athens to-live the-man not in a-villa you-would-think
Quid multa? Auxit sollicitudinem meam effecitque 25.5
why much he-has-increased anxiety my and-has-brought-about
ut illis quos doctissimos novi non minus hos seductos
that than-those whom most-learned I-know not less these retired
et quasi rusticos verear.
and as-if rustic I-should-fear
Idem suadeo tibi: sunt enim ut in castris sic etiam in 25.6
the-same-thing I-urge on-you there-are for as in camps so also in
litteris nostris plures cultu pagano, quos cinctos et armatos,
letters our many in-dress civilian whom girded and armed
et quidem ardentissimo ingenio, diligenter scrutatus
and indeed with-the-most-ardent talent carefully having-searched
invenies. Vale.
you-will-find farewell

26 C. Plinius Maximo suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Maximus his-own greeting

26.1 Nuper me cuiusdam amici languor admonuit optimos esse
lately me of-a-certain friend the-languor reminded the-best to-be
nos, dum infirmi sumus. Quem enim infirmum aut avaritia
us while sick we-are whom for sick either avarice
aut libido sollicitat?
or lust troubles

26.2 Non amoribus servit, non adpetit honores, opes neglegit
not to-loves he-is-slave not seeks honors wealth neglects
et quantulumcumque ut relicturus satis habet. Tunc deos
and however-little as about-to-leave-it enough holds then gods
tunc hominem esse se meminit, invidet nemini, neminem
then a-man to-be himself he-remembers he-envies no-one no-one
miratur, neminem despicit ac ne sermonibus quidem malignis
admires no-one despises and not to-talk even malicious
aut attendit aut alitur: balinea imaginatur et fontes.
either attends or is-fed baths he-imagines and springs

26.3 Haec summa curarum, summa votorum, mollemque in
this the-sum of-his-cares the-sum of-his-prayers and-a-soft for
posterum et pinguem, si contingat evadere, hoc est innoxiam
the-future and easy if it-befall to-escape that is harmless
beatamque destinat vitam.
and-happy he-resolves life

26.4 Possum ergo quod plurimis verbis, plurimis etiam
I-can therefore what with-very-many words with-very-many even
voluminibus philosophi docere conantur ipse breviter tibi
volumes philosophers to-teach try myself briefly to-you
mihique praecipere, ut tales esse sani perseveremus,
and-to-me prescribe that such to-be when-healthy we-persevere
quales nos futuros profitemur infirmi. Vale.
as us to-be-going-to-be we-profess when-sick farewell

C. Plinius Surae suo s. 27

Gaius Pliny to-Sura his-own greeting

Et mihi discendi et tibi docendi facultatem otium praebet. 27.1

both to-me of-learning and to-you of-teaching the-opportunity leisure affords

Igitur perquam velim scire, esse phantasmata et habere

therefore very-much I-would-like to-know to-be ghosts and to-have

propriam figuram numenque aliquod putes, an inania

their-own shape and-divine-power some whether-you-think or empty

et vana ex metu nostro imaginem accipere.

and vain from fear our an-image to-receive

Ego ut esse credam in primis eo ducor, quod 27.2

I that to-be-so I-should-believe among the-first by-this am-led that

audio accidisse Curtio Rufo. Tenuis adhuc et obscurus

I-hear to-have-happened to-Curtius Rufus slender still and obscure

obtinenti Africam comes haeserat: inclinato

to-one-holding Africa as-companion he-had-attached-himself with-declining

die spatiabatur in porticu: offertur ei mulieris

day he-was-walking in the-colonnade there-is-presented to-him of-a-woman

figura humana grandior pulchriorque: perterrito Africam

a-figure than-human larger and-more-beautiful to-him-terrified Africa

se, futurorum praenuntiam, dixit; iturum enim Romam

herself of-the-future the-foreteller she-said to-be-going for to-Rome

honoresque gesturum atque etiam cum summo imperio

and-offices to-be-going-to-hold and even with supreme command

in eandem provinciam reversurum ibique moriturum.

to the-same province to-be-going-to-return and-there to-be-going-to-die

Facta sunt omnia. Praeterea accedenti Carthaginem 27.3

done were all-things besides to-him-approaching Carthage

egredientique nave eadem figura in litore occurrisse

and-disembarking from-the-ship the-same figure on the-shore to-have-met-him

narratur. Ipse certe inplicitus morbo futura praeteritis,

is-told he-himself certainly seized by-illness the-future from-the-past

adversa secundis auguratus, spem salutis nullo suorum
adverse from-favorable having-foretold the-hope of-safety with-no-one of-his-people
desperante proiecit.
despairing cast-away

27.4 Iam illud nonne et magis terribile et non minus mirum
now that surely both more terrible and not less wonderful
est, quod exponam ut accepi?
is which I-shall-set-out as I-received-it

27.5 Erat Athenis spatiosa et capax domus, sed infamis et
there-was at-Athens a-spacious and roomy house but ill-famed and
pestilens. Per silentium noctis sonus ferri et, si attenderes
pestilential through the-silence of-the-night a-sound of-iron and if you-listened
acrius, strepitus vinculorum longius primo, deinde e
more-keenly a-clanking of-chains farther first then from
proximo reddebatur: mox apparebat idolon, senex macie
near-by was-heard soon appeared a-phantom an-old-man with-emaciation
et squalore confectus, promissa barba horrenti capillo:
and squalor worn-out with-long beard with-bristling hair
cruribus compedes, manibus catenas gerebat quatiebatque.
on-his-legs fetters on-his-hands chains he-wore and-shook

27.6 Inde inhabitantibus tristes diraeque noctes per metum
thence by-the-inhabitants gloomy and-dread nights through fear
vigilabantur: vigiliam morbus et crescente formidine mors
were-spent-awake the-waking illness and with-growing terror death
sequebatur. Nam interdiu quoque, quamquam abscesserat imago,
followed for by-day also although had-departed the-image
memoria imaginis oculis inerrabat, longiorque causis
the-memory of-the-image before-the-eyes wandered and-longer than-the-causes
timoris timor erat. Deserta inde et damnata solitudine domus
of-fear the-fear was deserted thence and condemned to-solitude the-house

totaque illi monstro relicta; proscribebatur tamen, seu
and-wholly to-that monster left it-was-advertised however in-case
quis emere seu quis conducere ignarus tanti mali vellet.
anyone to-buy or anyone to-rent ignorant of-so-great evil wished
Venit Athenas philosophus Athenodorus, legit titulum 27.7
comes to-Athens the-philosopher Athenodorus reads the-notice
auditoque pretio, quia suspecta vilitas, percunctatus
and-having-heard the-price because suspicious the-cheapness having-inquired
omnia docetur ac nihilo minus, immo tanto magis
all-things he-is-told and by-nothing less nay by-so-much more
conducit. Ubi coepit advesperascere, iubet sterni sibi
he-rents-it when it-began to-grow-dark he-orders to-be-spread for-himself
in prima domus parte, poscit pugillares stilum lumen;
in the-first of-the-house part he-calls-for tablets a-pen a-light
suos omnes in interiora dimittit; ipse ad scribendum
his-people all into the-inner-parts he-dismisses he-himself to writing
animum oculos manum intendit, ne vacua mens audita
mind eyes hand directs lest an-empty mind heard-of
simulacra et inanes sibi metus fingeret.
phantoms and empty for-itself fears should-fashion
Initio, quale ubique, silentium noctis, dein concuti ferrum, 27.8
at-the-start as everywhere the-silence of-the-night then to-be-shaken iron
vincula moveri: ille non tollere oculos, non remittere stilum,
chains to-be-moved he not to-raise his-eyes not to-relax the-pen
sed offirmare animum auribusque praetendere: tum crebrescere
but to-steel his-mind and-to-his-ears to-hold-it-before then to-grow-louder
fragor, adventare et iam ut in limine, iam ut intra limen
the-din to-approach and now as-if at the-threshold now as-if within the-threshold
audiri: respicit, videt agnoscitque narratam sibi effigiem.
to-be-heard he-looks-back sees and-recognizes the-described to-him apparition

27.9 Stabat innuebatque digito similis vocanti: hic contra
it-stood and-beckoned with-a-finger like one-calling he on-the-other-hand
ut paulum expectaret manu significat rursusque ceris
that a-little it-should-wait with-his-hand signals and-again on-the-wax
et stilo incumbit: illa scribentis capiti catenis insonabat:
and the-pen leans it over-the-writer's head with-chains rattled
respicit rursus idem quod prius innuentem nec moratus
he-looks-back again the-same as before beckoning nor having-delayed
tollit lumen et sequitur.
takes-up the-light and follows

27.10 Ibat illa lento gradu, quasi gravis vinculis. Postquam
went it at-a-slow pace as-if heavy with-chains after
deflexit in aream domus, repente dilapsa deserit comitem:
it-turned-off into the-court of-the-house suddenly vanishing it-deserts its-companion
desertus herbas et folia concerpta signum loco ponit.
deserted grasses and leaves plucked as-a-sign on-the-spot he-places

27.11 Postero die adit magistratus, monet ut illum locum
on-the-next day he-approaches the-magistrates advises that that place
effodi iubeant. Inveniuntur ossa inserta catenis et inplicita,
to-be-dug-up they-order there-are-found bones inserted in-chains and entangled
quae corpus aevo terraque putrefactum nuda et exesa
which the-body by-age and-earth putrefied bare and eaten-away
reliquerat vinculis; collecta publice sepeliuntur. Domus
had-left to-the-chains collected at-public-expense they-are-buried the-house
postea rite conditis manibus caruit.
afterward duly buried the-shades was-free-of

27.12 Et haec quidem adfirmantibus credo; illud adfirmare
and these-things indeed to-those-affirming-them I-believe that to-affirm
aliis possum. Est libertus mihi non inlitteratus. Cum
to-others I-can there-is a-freedman of-mine not unlettered with
hoc minor frater eodem lecto quiescebat: is visus est
this-man a-younger brother in-the-same bed was-sleeping he seemed has

sibi cernere quendam in toro residentem admoventemque
to-himself to-see someone on the-couch sitting and-moving-up
capiti suo cultros atque etiam ex ipso vertice amputantem
to-head his-own scissors and even from the-very crown cutting-off
capillos. Ubi inluxit, ipse circa verticem tonsus, capilli
his-hair when it-grew-light he-himself around the-crown shorn the-hairs
iacentes reperiuntur.
lying are-found

Exiguum temporis medium, et rursus simile aliud priori 27.13
a-little of-time between and again similar another-thing to-the-former
fidem fecit. Puer in paedagogio mixtus pluribus dormiebat:
belief made a-boy in the-slave-school mixed-with many-others was-sleeping
venerunt per fenestras (ita narrat) in tunicis albis duo
there-came through the-windows so he-tells in tunics white two-men
cubantemque detonderunt et qua venerant recesserunt.
and-him-lying-there they-sheared and by-which-way they-had-come they-withdrew
Hunc quoque tonsum sparsosque circa capillos dies ostendit.
him also shorn and-scattered around the-hairs daylight showed

Nihil notabile secutum, nisi forte quod non fui reus, 27.14
nothing notable followed unless perhaps that not I-was a-defendant
futurus, si Domitianus, sub quo haec acciderunt, diutius
going-to-be if Domitian under whom these-things happened longer
vixisset. Nam in scrinio eius datus a Caro de me libellus
had-lived for in the-desk his given by Carus about me an-indictment
inventus est; ex quo coniectari potest, quia reis
found was from which to-be-conjectured it-can because for-defendants
moris est summittere capillum, recisos meorum capillos
of-custom it-is to-let-grow their-hair the-cut of-my-people hairs
depulsi quod imminebat periculi signum fuisse.
of-the-averted what was-threatening danger the-sign to-have-been

27.15 Proinde rogo eruditionem tuam intendas. Digna res est
therefore I-ask learning your you-apply worthy the-matter is
quam diu multumque consideres, ne ego quidem indignus
which long and-much you-should-consider not I even unworthy
cui copiam scientiae tuae facias.
to-whom the-abundance of-knowledge your you-should-make-available
27.16 Licet etiam utramque in partem, ut soles, disputes, ex
you-may even either in side as you-are-wont argue from
altera tamen fortius, ne me suspensum incertumque dimittas,
the-one however more-strongly lest me in-suspense and-uncertain you-dismiss
cum mihi consulendi causa fuerit ut dubitare desinerem. Vale.
since for-me of-consulting the-cause was that to-doubt I-should-cease farewell

V · PALLAS' MONUMENT

Pliny defends his praise of friends. He tells Montanus of the monument to the freedman Pallas, with its honors voted by the senate, consoles Genitor for a lost pupil, recommends Claudius Pollio to Cornutus, rejoices at Fabatus' manumissions, and asks Tacitus to record in his history how Pliny and Senecio prosecuted Baebius Massa, and how Massa accused Senecio.

28 C. Plinius Septicio suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Septicius his-own greeting
28.1 Ais quosdam apud te reprehendisse, tamquam amicos meos
you-say some before you to-have-blamed-me as-if friends my
ex omni occasione ultra modum laudem.
on every occasion beyond measure I-praise
28.2 Agnosco crimen, amplector etiam. Quid enim honestius
I-acknowledge the-charge I-embrace-it even what for more-honorable
culpa benignitatis? Qui sunt tamen isti qui amicos
than-the-fault of-kindness who are however those who friends

meos melius norint? Sed ut norint, quid invident mihi
my better know but though they-know why do-they-grudge me
felicissimo errore? Ut enim non sint tales, quales a me
a-most-happy error though for not they-be such as by me
praedicantur, ego tamen beatus, quod mihi videntur.
they-are-proclaimed I yet happy because to-me they-seem-so
Igitur ad alios hanc sinistram diligentiam conferant; nec 28.3
therefore to others this perverse diligence let-them-take nor
sunt parum multi qui carpere amicos suos iudicium
are-there too few who to-carp-at friends their-own judgment
vocant: mihi numquam persuadebunt ut meos amari a
call me never will-they-persuade that mine to-be-loved by
me nimium putem. Vale.
me too-much I-should-think farewell

C. Plinius Montano suo s. 29
Gaius Pliny to-Montanus his-own greeting

Ridebis, deinde indignaberis, deinde ridebis, si legeris 29.1
you-will-laugh then you-will-be-indignant then you-will-laugh if you-read
quod, nisi legeris, non potes credere.
what unless you-read not you-can believe

Est via Tiburtina intra primum lapidem (proxime 29.2
there-is on-the-road Tiburtine within the-first milestone lately
adnotavi) monimentum Pallantis ita inscriptum: ‘Huic
I-noticed a-monument of-Pallas thus inscribed to-him
senatus ob fidem pietatemque erga patronos ornamenta
the-senate on-account-of loyalty and-devotion toward his-patrons the-insignia
praetoria decrevit et sestertium centies quinquagies, cuius
praetorian decreed and of-sesterces ten-million five-million with-whose
honore contentus fuit.’
honor content he-was

29.3 Equidem numquam sum miratus quae saepius a
for-my-part never have-I wondered-at the-things-which more-often from
fortuna quam a iudicio proficiscerentur; maxime tamen
fortune than from judgment proceeded most however
hic me titulus admonuit, quam essent mimica et inepta
this me inscription reminded how were farcical and silly
quae interdum in hoc caenum, has sordes abicerentur,
the-things-which sometimes into this filth these sordid-things were-thrown
quae denique ille furcifer et recipere ausus est et recusare
which in-short that gallows-bird both to-accept dared has and to-refuse
atque etiam ut moderationis exemplum posteris prodere.
and even as of-moderation an-example to-posterity to-hand-down
29.4 Sed quid indignor? Ridere satius, ne se magnum
but why am-I-indignant to-laugh better lest themselves great
aliquid adeptos putent qui huc felicitate perveniunt,
something to-have-attained think those-who hither by-good-fortune arrive
ut rideantur. Vale.
that they-be-laughed-at farewell

30 C. Plinius Genitori suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Genitor his-own greeting

30.1 Torqueor quod discipulum, ut scribis, optimae spei amisisti.
I-am-tortured that a-pupil as you-write of-excellent hope you-have-lost
Cuius et valetudine et morte impedita studia tua quidni
by-whose both illness and death hindered studies your why-should-I-not
sciam? Cum sis omnium officiorum observantissimus,
know since you-are of-all duties most-observant
cumque omnes quos probas effusissime diligas.
and-since all whom you-approve most-lavishly you-love

30.2 Me huc quoque urbana negotia persecuntur; non desunt
me here also urban business pursues not are-lacking
enim qui me iudicem aut arbitrum faciant.
for those-who me judge or arbitrator make

Accedunt querellae rusticorum, qui auribus meis post 30.3
are-added the-complaints of-the-peasants who of-ears my after
longum tempus suo iure abutuntur. Instat et necessitas
a-long time by-their-own right make-free-use presses also the-necessity
agrorum locandorum perquam molesta: adeo rarum est
of-lands to-be-let exceedingly troublesome so rare it-is
invenire idoneos conductores.
to-find suitable tenants
Quibus ex causis precario studeo, studeo tamen: nam et 30.4
which from reasons on-sufferance I-study I-study however for both
scribo aliquid et lego. Sed cum lego, ex conparatione sentio
I-write something and I-read but when I-read from comparison I-feel
quam male scribam, licet tu mihi bonum animum facias,
how badly I-write although you to-me good heart give
Qui libellos meos de ultione Helvidi orationi 30.5
you-who the-little-books my on the-avenging of-Helvidius to-the-speech
Demosthenis κατὰ Μειδίου confers. Quam sane, cum
of-Demosthenes Against Midias compare which indeed when
componerem illos, habui in manibus, non ut aemularer
I-was-composing them I-had in my-hands not that I-might-rival-it
(inprobum enim ac paene furiosum), sed tamen imitarer
shameless for and almost mad but yet I-might-imitate
et sequerer, quantum aut diversitas ingeniorum, maximi
and follow as-far-as either the-difference of-talents of-the-greatest
et minimi, aut causae dissimilitudo pateretur. Vale.
and the-least or of-the-case the-dissimilarity would-allow farewell

C. Plinius Cornuto suo s. 31
Gaius Pliny to-Cornutus his-own greeting

Claudius Pollio amari a te cupit, dignus hoc ipso, 31.1
Claudius Pollio to-be-loved by you desires worthy of-this by-the-very-fact
quod cupit, deinde quod ipse te diligit. Neque enim
that he-desires-it then that he-himself you loves nor for

fere quisquam exigit istud, nisi qui facit. Vir alioqui
hardly anyone demands that except who does-it a-man otherwise
rectus, integer, quietus ac paene ultra modum, siquis tamen
upright honest quiet and almost beyond measure if-anyone however
ultra modum, verecundus.
beyond measure modest

31.2 Hunc, cum simul militaremus, non solum ut commilito
him when together we-served not only as a-fellow-soldier
inspexi. Praeerat alae miliariae: ego iussus a legato
I-did-observe he-commanded a-cavalry-wing of-a-thousand I ordered by the-legate
consulari rationes alarum et cohortium excutere ut magnam
consular the-accounts of-the-wings and of-the-cohorts to-examine as great
quorundam foedamque avaritiam, neglegentiam parem, ita
of-some and-foul avarice negligence equal so
huius summam integritatem, sollicitam diligentiam inveni.
his the-highest integrity anxious diligence I-found

31.3 Postea promotus ad amplissimas procurationes, nulla occasione
afterward promoted to most-ample procuratorships by-no occasion
corruptus ab insito abstinentiae amore deflexit: numquam
corrupted from his-innate of-abstinence love he-swerved never
secundis rebus intumuit; numquam officiorum varietate
by-prosperous circumstances did-he-swell never of-offices by-the-variety
continuam laudem humanitatis infregit eademque firmitate
the-continuous praise of-kindness did-he-break and-with-the-same firmness
animi laboribus suffecit, qua nunc otium patitur.
of-mind to-labors he-was-equal with-which now leisure he-endures

31.4 Quod quidem paulisper cum magna sua laude intermisit
which indeed for-a-little-while with great his-own praise he-interrupted
et posuit, a Corellio nostro ex liberalitate imperatoris
and set-aside by Corellius our from the-liberality of-the-emperor
Nervae emendis dividendisque agris adiutor adsumptus.
Nerva for-to-be-bought and-to-be-divided lands as-assistant taken-on

Etenim qua gloria dignum est summo viro in tanta
for with-what glory worthy is-it for-a-supreme man in so-great
eligendi facultate praecipue placuisse?
of-choosing freedom especially to-have-pleased
Idem quam reverenter, quam fideliter amicos colat, 31.5
the-same how reverently how faithfully friends he-cultivates
multorum supremis iudiciis, in his Anni Bassi, gravissimi
of-many last from-judgments among these of-Annius Bassus a-most-weighty
civis, credere potes, cuius memoriam tam grata praedicatione
citizen to-believe you-can whose memory with-so grateful praise
prorogat et extendit, ut librum de vita eius (nam studia
he-prolongs and extends that a-book on the-life his for studies
quoque sicut alias bonas artes veneratur) ediderit.
also like other good arts he-reveres he-has-published
Pulchrum istud et raritate ipsa probandum, cum plerique 31.6
fine that and by-its-rarity itself to-be-approved since most
hactenus defunctorum meminerint, ut querantur.
so-far of-the-dead remember as to-complain
Hunc hominem adpetentissimum tui, mihi crede, complectere, 31.7
this man most-eager for-you me believe embrace
adprehende, immo et invita ac sic ama tamquam gratiam
seize nay and invite and so love as-if a-favor
referas. Neque enim obligandus sed remunerandus est
you-were-returning nor for to-be-obliged but to-be-repaid is
in amoris officio qui prior coepit. Vale.
in of-love the-duty he-who first began farewell

C. Plinius Fabato prosocero suo s. 32
Gaius Pliny to-Fabatus grandfather-in-law his-own greeting

Delector iucundum tibi fuisse Tironis mei adventum: 32.1
I-am-delighted pleasant to-you to-have-been of-Tiro my the-arrival
quod vero scribis oblata occasione proconsulis plurimos
that however you-write with-offered opportunity of-the-proconsul very-many

manumissos, unice laetor. Cupio enim patriam nostram
manumitted uniquely I-rejoice I-desire for fatherland our
omnibus quidem rebus augeri, maxime tamen civium
in-all indeed things to-be-increased most however in-the-number
numero: id enim oppidis firmissimum ornamentum.
of-citizens that for for-towns the-firmest ornament

32.2 Illud etiam me non ut ambitiosum sed tamen iuvat, quod
that also me not as self-seeking but yet pleases that
adicis te meque et gratiarum actione et laude celebratos.
you-add you and-me both of-thanks by-a-vote and by-praise celebrated
Est enim, ut Xenophon ait, ἥδιστον ἄκουσμα ἔπαινος, utique
it-is for as Xenophon says the-sweetest thing-heard praise especially
si te mereri putes. Vale.
if you to-deserve-it you-think farewell

33 C. Plinius Tacito suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Tacitus his-own greeting

33.1 Auguror, nec me fallit augurium, historias tuas immortales
I-foretell nor me deceives the-augury histories your immortal
futuras; quo magis illis, ingenue fatebor, inseri
to-be-going-to-be by-which the-more in-them frankly I-will-confess to-be-inserted
cupio.
I-desire

33.2 Nam si esse nobis curae solet ut facies nostra ab
for if to-be to-us a-care it-is-wont that face our by
optimo quoque artifice exprimatur, nonne debemus optare ut
the-best each artist be-portrayed surely ought-we to-wish that
operibus nostris similis tui scriptor praedicatorque contingat?
to-works our like you a-writer and-proclaimer befall

33.3 Demonstro ergo, quamquam diligentiam tuam fugere non
I-point-out therefore although diligence your escape not
possit, cum sit in publicis actis, demonstro tamen quo
it-could since it-is in the-public records I-point-it-out yet that

magis credas iucundum mihi futurum si factum
the-more you-may-believe pleasant to-me to-be-going-to-be if deed
meum, cuius gratia periculo crevit, tuo ingenio, tuo
my whose favor by-danger grew with-your talent with-your
testimonio ornaveris.
testimony you-shall-have-adorned

Dederat me senatus cum Herennio Senecione advocatum 33.4
had-assigned me the-senate with Herennius Senecio as-advocate
provinciae Baeticae contra Baebium Massam damnatoque
to-the-province of-Baetica against Baebius Massa and-with-condemned
Massa censuerat ut bona eius publice custodirentur. Senecio,
Massa had-decreed that the-property his publicly be-guarded Senecio
cum explorasset consules postulationibus vacaturos,
when he-had-ascertained the-consuls to-petitions to-be-going-to-be-free
convenit me et 'Qua concordia' inquit 'iniunctam nobis
met me and with-what harmony he-said enjoined on-us
accusationem exsecuti sumus, hac adeamus consules
the-prosecution we-carried-out have with-this let-us-approach the-consuls
petamusque ne bona dissipare sinant quorum esse in
and-let-us-ask that-not the-property to-squander they-allow of-which to-be in
custodia debent.'
custody they-ought

Respondi 'Cum simus advocati a senatu dati, dispice num 33.5
I-answered since we-are advocates by the-senate assigned consider whether
peractas putes partes nostras senatus cognitione finita.' Et
finished you-think the-parts our of-the-senate with-the-hearing finished and
ille 'Tu quem voles tibi terminum statues, cui
he you what you-will-wish for-yourself as-limit will-set for-whom
nulla cum provincia necessitudo nisi ex beneficio tuo, et
no with the-province tie except from favor your and
hoc recenti; ipse et natus ibi et quaestor in ea fui.'
this recent I-myself both born there and quaestor in it was

33.6 Tum ego ‘Si fixum tibi istud ac deliberatum, sequar te,
then I if fixed for-you that and resolved I-will-follow you
ut, si qua ex hoc invidia, non tantum tua.’
so-that if any from this odium not only yours

33.7 Venimus ad consules; dicit Senecio quae res ferebat,
we-come to the-consuls says Senecio what the-matter required
aliqua subiungo. Vixdum conticueramus, et Massa
some-things I-add scarcely had-we-fallen-silent and Massa
questus Senecionem non advocati fidem, sed inimici
having-complained Senecio not of-an-advocate the-good-faith but of-an-enemy
amaritudinem inplesse, impietatis reum postulat.
the-bitterness to-have-fulfilled of-treason as-defendant demands-him

33.8 Horror omnium: ego autem ‘Vereor’ inquam, ‘clarissimi
horror of-all I moreover I-fear I-said most-distinguished
consules, ne mihi Massa silentio suo praevaricationem
consuls lest to-me Massa by-silence his-own collusion
obiecerit, quod non et me reum postulavit.’ Quae vox et
has-charged because not also me as-defendant he-demanded which word both
statim excepta et postea multo sermone celebrata est.
at-once was-taken-up and afterward in-much talk celebrated has-been

33.9 Divus quidem Nerva (nam privatus quoque attendebat
the-deified indeed Nerva for as-a-private-man also he-attended
his quae recte in publico fierent) missis ad me
to-those-things which rightly in public were-done having-sent to me
gravissimis litteris non mihi solum verum etiam saeculo
a-most-weighty letter not me only but even the-age
est gratulatus, cui exemplum (sic enim scripsit) simile
has congratulated to-which an-example so for he-wrote like
antiquis contigisset.
to-the-ancients had-befallen

Haec, utcumque se habent, notiora clariora maiora 33.10
these-things however themselves they-have better-known more-illustrious greater
tu facies: quamquam non exigo ut excedas actae rei
you will-make although not I-demand that you-exceed of-the-done thing
modum. Nam nec historia debet egredi veritatem, et
the-measure for neither history ought to-go-beyond the-truth and
honeste factis veritas sufficit. Vale.
for-honorably done-deeds truth suffices farewell

BOOK VIII

I · THE SENATE'S DECREE FOR PALLAS

Pliny fears for his reader Encolpius, explains to Calvisius how he remitted part of the price to the buyers of his vintage, promises Sparsus a speech, encourages Caninius to write an epic on the Dacian war, mourns the wife of Macrinus, and after looking up the senate's decree for Pallas, mocks at length the flattery the senators heaped on a freedman.

C. Plinius Septicio suo s. 1
Gaius Pliny to-Septicius his-own greeting

Iter commode explicui, excepto quod quidam ex meis 1.1
the-journey comfortably I-accomplished except that some of my-people
adversam valetudinem ferventissimis aestibus contraxerunt.
adverse health in-the-most-scorching heats contracted

Encolpius quidem lector, ille seria nostra, ille deliciae, 1.2
Encolpius indeed the-reader he the-serious-pursuits our he the-delights
exasperatis faucibus pulvere sanguinem reiecit. Quam triste
with-irritated throat by-dust blood brought-up how sad
hoc ipsi, quam acerbum mihi, si is cui omnis ex
this for-himself how bitter for-me if he to-whom all from
studiis gratia inhabilis studiis fuerit! Quis deinde libellos
studies the-favor unfit for-studies should-be who then little-books
meos sic leget, sic amabit?
my so will-read so will-love

Quem aures meae sic sequentur? Sed di laetiora promittunt: 1.3
whom ears my so will-follow but the-gods happier-things promise
stetit sanguis, resedit dolor. Praeterea continens ipse, nos
has-stopped the-blood has-subsided the-pain besides abstemious he-himself we

solliciti, medici diligentes. Ad hoc salubritas caeli, secessus,
anxious the-doctors careful to this the-healthiness of-the-climate of-the-retreat
quies tantum salutis quantum otii pollicentur. Vale.
the-quiet as-much of-health as of-leisure promise farewell

2 C. Plinius Calvisio suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Calvisius his-own greeting

2.1 Alii in praedia sua proficiscuntur, ut locupletiores
others to estates their-own set-out that richer
revertantur, ego, ut pauperior. Vendideram vindemias certatim
they-may-return I that poorer I-had-sold the-vintages competitively
negotiatoribus ementibus. Invitabat pretium, et quod tunc
dealers buying tempted the-price both what then
et quod fore videbatur.
and what to-be-going-to-be seemed

2.2 Spes fefellit. Erat expeditum omnibus remittere aequaliter,
the-hope deceived it-was easy to-all to-remit equally
sed non satis aequum. Mihi autem egregium in
but not sufficiently fair to-me moreover excellent among
primis videtur ut foris ita domi, ut in magnis ita in
the-first-things it-seems as abroad so at-home as in great so in
parvis, ut in alienis ita in suis agitare iustitiam. Nam
small as in others' so in one's-own to-practice justice for
si paria peccata, pares etiam laudes.
if equal the-sins equal also the-praises

2.3 Itaque omnibus quidem, ne quis 'mihi non donatus abiret',
and-so to-all indeed lest anyone by-me not presented go-away
partem octavam pretii quo quis emerat concessi; deinde
the-part eighth of-the-price for-which each had-bought I-granted then
iis qui amplissimas summas emptionibus occupaverant
for-those who the-largest sums in-purchases had-tied-up

separatim consului. Nam et me magis iuverant et maius
separately I-provided for both me more they-had-helped and greater
ipsi fecerant damnum.
themselves had-suffered loss
Igitur iis qui pluris quam decem milibus emerant ad illam 2.4
therefore to-those who for-more than ten thousand had-bought to that
communem et quasi publicam octavam addidi decumam
common and as-it-were public eighth I-added a-tenth
eius summae, qua decem milia excesserant.
of-that sum by-which ten thousand they-had-exceeded
Vereor ne parum expresserim; apertius calculos ostendam. 2.5
I-fear lest too-little I-have-expressed-it more-openly the-reckonings I-will-show
Siqui forte quindecim milibus emerant, hi et quindecim
if-any perhaps for-fifteen thousand had-bought these both of-fifteen
milium octavam et quinque milium decimam tulerunt.
thousand the-eighth and of-five thousand the-tenth received
Praeterea, cum reputarem quosdam ex debito aliquantum, 2.6
besides when I-reflected some of the-debt a-good-deal
quosdam aliquid, quosdam nihil reposuisse, nequaquam
some something some nothing to-have-paid-back by-no-means
verum arbitrabar, quos non aequasset fides solutionis,
right I-thought those-whom not had-equalized the-good-faith of-payment
hos benignitate remissionis aequari.
these by-the-kindness of-remission to-be-equalized
Rursus ergo iis qui solverant eius quod solverant decimam 2.7
again therefore to-those who had-paid of-that which they-had-paid a-tenth
remisi. Per hoc enim aptissime et in praeteritum singulis
I-remitted through this for most-aptly both for the-past to-each
pro cuiusque merito gratia referri, et in futurum omnes
according-to each-one's merit thanks to-be-returned and for the-future all
cum ad emendum tum etiam ad solvendum allici videbantur.
both to buying and also to paying to-be-enticed seemed

2.8 Magno mihi seu ratio haec seu facilitas stetit, sed fuit
much me whether reasoning this or easygoingness cost but it-was
tanti. Nam regione tota et novitas remissionis et forma
worth-so-much for in-the-region whole both the-novelty of-the-remission and the-form
laudatur. Ex ipsis etiam, quos non una, ut dicitur, pertica,
is-praised of those also whom not with-one as it-is-said measuring-rod
sed distincte gradatimque tractavi, quanto quis melior et
but distinctly and-by-degrees I-treated by-how-much each better and
probior, tanto mihi obligatior abiit, expertus non esse
more-upright by-so-much to-me more-obliged went-away having-found not to-be
apud me ἐν δὲ ἰῇ τιμῇ ἡμὲν κακὸς ἠδὲ καὶ ἐσθλός. Vale.
with me in and one honor both bad and also good farewell

3 C. Plinius Sparso suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Sparsus his-own greeting

3.1 Librum quem novissime tibi misi ex omnibus meis vel
the-book which most-recently to-you I-sent of all mine even
maxime placere significas. Est eadem opinio cuiusdam
most to-please-you you-indicate is the-same opinion of-a-certain
eruditissimi.
most-learned-man

3.2 Quo magis adducor ut neutrum falli putem, quia
by-which the-more I-am-led that neither to-be-deceived I-should-think because
non est credibile utrumque falli et quia tamen blandior
not it-is credible both to-be-deceived and because yet I-flatter
mihi. Volo enim proxima quaeque absolutissima videri, et
myself I-wish for the-latest each most-finished to-seem and
ideo iam nunc contra istum librum faveo orationi quam
therefore already now against that book I-favor the-speech which
nuper in publicum dedi, communicaturus tecum, ut primum
lately into public I-gave going-to-share-it with-you as soon-as
diligentem tabellarium invenero.
a-careful courier I-have-found

Erexi expectationem tuam, quam vereor ne destituat oratio 3.3
I-have-raised expectation your which I-fear lest disappoint the-speech
in manus sumpta. Interim tamen tamquam placituram, et
into the-hands taken meanwhile however as-if going-to-please and
fortasse placebit, expecta. Vale.
perhaps it-will-please await-it farewell

C. Plinius Caninio suo s. 4
Gaius Pliny to-Caninius his-own greeting

Optime facis quod bellum Dacicum scribere paras. Nam 4.1
excellently you-do that the-war Dacian to-write you-are-preparing for
quae tam recens tam copiosa, tam lata, quae denique tam
what so recent so copious so broad what in-short so
poetica et quamquam in verissimis rebus tam fabulosa materia?
poetic and although in most-true matters so fabulous material

Dices inmissa terris nova flumina, novos pontes 4.2
you-will-tell-of let-into the-lands new rivers new bridges
fluminibus iniectos, insessa castris montium abrupta, pulsum
over-the-rivers thrown occupied by-camps of-mountains the-steeps driven
regia, pulsum etiam vita regem nihil desperantem;
from-his-palace driven even from-life a-king nothing despairing
super haec actos bis triumphos, quorum alter ex invicta
over these celebrated twice triumphs of-which the-one over an-unconquered
gente primus, alter novissimus fuit.
nation the-first the-other the-last was

Una sed maxima difficultas, quod haec aequare dicendo 4.3
one but very-great difficulty that these-things to-equal in-speaking
arduum inmensum, etiam tuo ingenio, quamquam altissime
arduous immense even for-your talent although most-highly
adsurgat et amplissimis operibus increscat. Non nullus et
it-may-rise and in-most-ample works may-grow not none also

in illo labor, ut barbara et fera nomina, in primis
in that labor that barbarous and wild names among the-first
regis ipsius, graecis versibus non resultent.
of-the-king himself in-Greek verses not resound

4.4 Sed nihil est quod non arte curaque, si non potest vinci,
but nothing is which not by-art and-care if not it-can be-overcome
mitigetur. Praeterea, si datur Homero et mollia vocabula
may-be-softened besides if it-is-granted to-Homer both soft words
et graeca ad levitatem versus contrahere, extendere,
and Greek for the-smoothness of-the-verse to-contract to-extend
inflectere, cur tibi similis audentia, praesertim non delicata
to-inflect why to-you a-similar boldness especially not self-indulgent
sed necessaria, non detur?
but necessary not should-be-granted

4.5 Proinde iure vatum invocatis dis et inter deos
therefore by-the-right of-the-bards having-invoked the-gods and among the-gods
ipso, cuius res opera consilia dicturus es, immitte
him-himself whose deeds works counsels about-to-tell you-are let-out
rudentes, pande vela, ac siquando alias, toto ingenio
the-cables spread the-sails and if-ever otherwise with-whole talent
vehere. Cur enim non ego quoque poetice cum poeta?
be-carried why for not I also poetically with a-poet

4.6 Illud iam nunc paciscor: prima quaeque ut absolveris,
this already now I-stipulate the-first each as-soon-as you-have-finished
mittito, immo etiam ante quam absolvas, sicut erunt
send nay even before than you-finish as they-will-be
recentia et rudia et adhuc similia nascentibus.
fresh and rough and still like things-being-born

4.7 Respondebis non posse perinde carptim ut contexta,
you-will-answer not to-be-able equally piecemeal as connected
perinde inchoata placere ut effecta. Scio: itaque et a
equally things-begun to-please as things-finished I-know and-so both by

me aestimabuntur ut coepta, spectabuntur ut membra
me they-will-be-judged as things-begun they-will-be-viewed as limbs
extremamque limam tuam opperientur in scrinio nostro.
and-the-final file your they-will-await in desk my
Patere hoc me super cetera habere amoris tui pignus, ut
allow this me beyond the-rest to-have of-love your a-pledge that
ea quoque norim quae nosse neminem velles.
those-things also I-may-know which to-know no-one you-would-wish
In summa potero fortasse scripta tua magis probare 4.8
in sum I-shall-be-able perhaps writings your more to-approve
laudare, quanto illa tardius cautiusque, sed ipsum te
to-praise by-how-much they more-slowly and-cautiously but yourself you
magis amabo magisque laudabo, quanto celerius et
more I-shall-love and-more I-shall-praise by-how-much more-quickly and
incautius miseris. Vale.
more-incautiously you-send farewell

C. Plinius Gemino suo s. 5
Gaius Pliny to-Geminus his-own greeting

Grave vulnus Macrinus noster accepit: amisit uxorem 5.1
a-heavy wound Macrinus our has-received he-has-lost a-wife
singularis exempli, etiam si olim fuisset. Vixit cum hac
of-singular example even if long-ago she-had-been he-lived with her
triginta novem annis sine iurgio, sine offensa. Quam illa
thirty nine years without quarrel without offense what she
reverentiam marito suo praestitit, cum ipsa summam
respect to-husband her-own showed when she-herself the-highest
mereretur! Quot quantasque virtutes ex diversis aetatibus
deserved how-many and-how-great virtues from different ages
sumptas collegit et miscuit!
taken she-gathered and mixed

5.2 Habet quidem Macrinus grande solacium, quod tantum
has indeed Macrinus a-great solace that so-great
bonum tam diu tenuit: sed hinc magis exacerbatur, quod
a-good so long he-held but from-this more he-is-exasperated that
amisit. Nam fruendis voluptatibus crescit carendi dolor.
he-has-lost-it for with-enjoyed pleasures grows of-lacking the-pain
5.3 Ero ergo suspensus pro homine amicissimo, dum admittere
I-shall-be therefore in-suspense for a-man most-friendly until to-admit
avocamenta et cicatricem pati possit, quam nihil aeque ac
distractions and a-scar to-bear he-can which nothing equally as
necessitas ipsa et dies longa et satietas doloris inducit. Vale.
necessity itself and time long and surfeit of-grief brings-on farewell

6 C. Plinius Montano suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Montanus his-own greeting

6.1 Cognovisse iam ex epistula mea debes adnotasse me
to-have-learned already from letter my you-ought to-have-noticed me
nuper monumentum Pallantis sub hac inscriptione, 'Huic
lately the-monument of-Pallas under this inscription to-him
senatus ob fidem pietatemque erga patronos ornamenta
the-senate on-account-of loyalty and-devotion toward his-patrons the-insignia
praetoria decrevit et sestertium centies quinquagies, cuius
praetorian decreed and of-sesterces ten-million five-million with-whose
honore contentus fuit.'
honor content he-was

6.2 Postea mihi visum est pretium operae ipsum senatus
afterward to-me seemed has worth the-trouble the-very of-the-senate
consultum quaerere. Inveni tam copiosum et effusum, ut ille
decree to-seek-out I-found-it so copious and effusive that that
superbissimus titulus modicus atque etiam demissus videretur.
most-arrogant inscription modest and even humble seemed
Conferant se misceantque, non dico illi veteres, Africani,
let-them-compare themselves and-mix not I-say those old-ones the-Africani

Achaici Numantini, sed hi proximi, Marii, Sullae, Pompeii,
the-Achaici the-Numantini but these most-recent the-Marii the-Sullae the-Pompeii
nolo progredi longius; infra Pallantis laudes iacebunt.
I-do-not-wish to-go farther below of-Pallas the-praises they-will-lie
Urbanos qui illa censuerunt putem an miseros? 6.3
witty those-who those-things proposed should-I-think or wretched
Dicerem urbanos, si senatum deceret urbanitas; miseros,
I-would-call-them witty if the-senate befitted wit wretched
sed nemo tam miser est, ut illa cogatur. Ambitio
but no-one so wretched is that to-those-things be-be-compelled self-seeking
ergo et procedendi libido. Sed quis adeo demens, ut per
therefore and of-advancing the-lust but who so mad that through
suum, per publicum dedecus procedere velit in ea
his-own through the-public disgrace to-advance should-wish in that
civitate, in qua hic esset usus florentissimae dignitatis, ut
state in which this was the-use of-the-most-flourishing rank that
primus in senatu laudare Pallantem posset?
first in the-senate to-praise Pallas be-could
Mitto quod Pallanti servo praetoria ornamenta offeruntur; 6.4
I-pass-over that to-Pallas a-slave the-praetorian insignia are-offered
quippe offeruntur a servis: mitto quod censent non
naturally they-are-offered by slaves I-pass-over that they-propose not
exhortandum modo verum etiam compellendum ad usum
to-be-exhorted only but even to-be-compelled to the-use
aureorum anulorum; erat enim contra maiestatem senatus,
of-gold rings it-was for against the-majesty of-the-senate
si ferreis praetorius uteretur.
if iron-ones a-praetorian-man should-wear
Levia haec et transeunda; illa memoranda, quod nomine 6.5
trifles these and to-be-passed-over those to-be-remembered that in-the-name
Pallantis senatus, nec expiata postea curia est, Pallantis
of-Pallas the-senate nor purified afterward the-senate-house was of-Pallas

nomine senatus gratias agit Caesari, quod et ipse cum
in-the-name the-senate thanks gives to-Caesar because both he-himself with
summo honore mentionem eius prosecutus esset et senatui
the-highest honor mention of-him honored had and to-the-senate
facultatem fecisset testandi erga eum benivolentiam suam.
the-opportunity had-made of-testifying toward him goodwill its-own
6.6 Quid enim senatui pulchrius, quam ut erga Pallantem satis
what for for-the-senate finer than that toward Pallas sufficiently
gratus videretur? Additur 'ut Pallas, cui se omnes pro
grateful it-should-seem is-added that Pallas to-whom themselves all for
virili parte obligatos fatentur, singularis fidei, singularis
their-manly share obliged confess of-singular loyalty of-singular
industriae fructum meritissimo ferat'. Prolatos imperii
industry the-fruit most-deservedly should-carry-off extended of-the-empire
fines, redditos exercitus rei publicae credas.
the-bounds restored armies to-the-thing public you-would-believe
6.7 Adstruitur his 'cum senatui populoque Romano liberalitatis
is-built-on to-these since to-the-senate and-people Roman of-liberality
gratior repraesentari nulla materia possit, quam si
more-welcome to-be-presented no material could than if
abstinentissimi fidelissimique custodis principalium opum
of-the-most-abstemious and-most-faithful guardian of-the-imperial wealth
facultates adiuvare contigisset'. Hoc tunc votum senatus,
the-means to-assist it-should-befall this then the-wish of-the-senate
hoc praecipuum gaudium populi, haec liberalitatis materia
this the-chief joy of-the-people this of-liberality the-material
gratissima, si Pallantis facultates adiuvare publicarum opum
most-welcome if Pallas' means to-assist of-public wealth
egestione contingeret.
by-the-expenditure it-should-befall

Iam quae sequuntur? Voluisse quidem senatum censere 6.8
now what-things follow to-have-wished indeed the-senate to-propose
dandum ex aerario sestertium centies quinquagies et
to-be-given from the-treasury of-sesterces ten-million five-million and
quanto ab eius modi cupiditatibus remotior eius animus
by-how-much from of-this kind desires more-remote his mind
esset, tanto inpensius petere a publico parente ut eum
was by-so-much more-urgently to-ask from the-public parent that him
compelleret ad cedendum senatui.
he-should-compel to yielding to-the-senate
Id vero deerat, ut cum Pallante auctoritate publica ageretur, 6.9
this indeed was-lacking that with Pallas by-authority public it-be-dealt
Pallas rogaretur ut senatui cederet, ut illi superbissimae
Pallas be-asked that to-the-senate he-should-yield that for-that most-arrogant
abstinentiae Caesar ipse advocatus esset, ne sestertium centies
abstinence Caesar himself called-in should-be lest of-sesterces ten-million
quinquagies sperneret. Sprevit, quod solum potuit tantis
five-million he-should-spurn he-spurned-it which alone he-could with-so-great
opibus publice oblatis adrogantius facere, quam si accepisset.
wealth publicly offered more-arrogantly do than if he-had-accepted-it
Senatus tamen id quoque similis querenti laudibus tulit, 6.10
the-senate however this also like one-complaining with-praises bore
his quidem verbis: sed cum princeps optimus parensque
with-these indeed words but since the-emperor best and-parent
publicus rogatus a Pallante eam partem sententiae quae
public asked by Pallas that part of-the-proposal which
pertinebat ad dandum ei ex aerario sestertium centies
pertained to giving to-him from the-treasury of-sesterces ten-million
quinquagies remitti voluisset, testari senatum, etsi
five-million to-be-remitted had-wished to-testify the-senate although
libenter ac merito hanc summam inter reliquos honores
gladly and deservedly this sum among the-other honors

ob fidem diligentiamque Pallanti decernere coepisset,
on-account-of loyalty and-diligence to-Pallas to-decree it-had-begun
voluntati tamen principis sui, cui in nulla re fas
to-the-wish yet of-emperor its-own whom in no matter right
putaret repugnare, in hac quoque re obsequi.
it-thought to-oppose in this also matter to-comply

6.11 Imaginare Pallantem velut intercedentem senatus consulto
imagine Pallas as-if vetoing of-the-senate the-decree
moderantemque honores suos et sestertium centies
and-moderating honors his-own and of-sesterces ten-million
quinquagies ut nimium recusantem, cum praetoria ornamenta
five-million as excessive refusing when the-praetorian insignia
tamquam minus recepisset:
as-if less he-had-accepted

6.12 Imaginare Caesarem liberti precibus vel potius imperio
imagine Caesar to-the-freedman's prayers or rather command
coram senatu obtemperantem (imperat enim libertus patrono,
before the-senate obeying commands for the-freedman his-patron
quem in senatu rogat): imaginare senatum usquequaque
whom in the-senate he-asks imagine the-senate everywhere
testantem merito libenterque se hanc summam inter reliquos
testifying deservedly and-gladly itself this sum among the-other
honores Pallanti coepisse decernere et perseveraturum
honors to-Pallas to-have-begun to-decree and to-be-going-to-persevere
fuisse, nisi obsequeretur principis voluntati, cui non
to-have-been unless it-were-complying the-emperor's with-the-wish whom not
esset fas in ulla re repugnare. Ita ne sestertium centies
it-was right in any matter to-oppose thus lest of-sesterces ten-million
quinquagies Pallas ex aerario ferret, verecundia ipsius,
five-million Pallas from the-treasury should-carry-off the-modesty his

obsequio senatus opus fuit in hoc praecipue non
by-the-compliance of-the-senate need there-was in this especially not
obsecuturi, si in ulla re putasset fas esse non obsequi.
about-to-comply if in any matter it-had-thought right to-be not to-comply
Finem existimas? Mane dum et maiora accipe: 'Utique, cum 6.13
an-end do-you-think wait a-while and greater-things hear that-indeed since
sit utile principis benignitatem promptissimam ad laudem
it-be useful the-emperor's benevolence most-ready for praise
praemiaque merentium inlustrari ubique, et maxime iis
and-rewards of-the-deserving to-be-made-illustrious everywhere and especially in-those
locis quibus incitari ad imitationem praepositi rerum eius
places in-which to-be-incited to imitation the-ones-placed-over of-affairs his
curae possent, et Pallantis spectatissima fides atque innocentia
for-the-care could and Pallas' most-tested loyalty and integrity
exemplo provocare studium tam honestae aemulationis posset,
by-example to-provoke the-zeal of-so honorable emulation could
ea quae X. Kal. Februarias, quae proximae
those-things which the-tenth-day before-the-Kalends of-February which the-next
fuissent, in amplissimo ordine optimus princeps recitasset
had-been in the-most-ample order the-best emperor had-read-out
senatusque consulta de iis rebus facta in aere inciderentur,
and-the-senate's decrees about those matters made in bronze should-be-engraved
idque aes figeretur ad statuam loricatam divi Iulii'.
and-that bronze should-be-fixed to the-statue cuirassed of-the-deified Julius
Parum visum tantorum dedecorum esse curiam testem: 6.14
too-little it-seemed of-so-great disgraces to-be the-senate-house the-witness
delectus est celeberrimus locus, in quo legenda praesentibus,
chosen was a-most-frequented place in which to-be-read by-those-present
legenda futuris proderentur. Placuit aere signari
to-be-read by-those-to-come they-might-be-handed-down it-pleased in-bronze to-be-recorded
omnes honores fastidiosissimi mancipii, quosque repudiasset
all the-honors of-the-most-disdainful chattel both-those-which he-had-refused

quosque, quantum ad decernentis pertinet, gessisset. Incisa
and-those-which as-far-as to the-decreers pertains he-had-held engraved
et insculpta sunt publicis aeternisque monumentis praetoria
and carved were on-public and-eternal monuments the-praetorian
ornamenta Pallantis, sic quasi foedera antiqua, sic quasi
insignia of-Pallas as as-if treaties ancient as as-if
sacrae leges.
sacred laws

6.15 Tanta principis, tanta senatus, tanta Pallantis ipsius — quid
so-great of-the-emperor so-great of-the-senate so-great of-Pallas himself what
dicam nescio, ut vellent in oculis omnium figi, Pallas
I-should-say I-know-not that they-wished in the-eyes of-all to-be-fixed Pallas
insolentiam suam, patientiam Caesar, humilitatem senatus.
insolence his patience Caesar humility the-senate
Nec puduit rationem turpitudini obtendere, egregiam
nor were-they-ashamed a-reason to-the-baseness to-put-before an-excellent
quidem pulchramque rationem, ut exemplo Pallantis
indeed and-fine reason that by-the-example of-Pallas
praemiorum ad studium aemulationis ceteri provocarentur.
of-rewards to the-zeal of-emulation the-rest might-be-provoked

6.16 Ea honorum vilitas erat, illorum etiam quos Pallas non
such of-honors the-cheapness was of-those even which Pallas not
dedignabatur. Inveniebantur tamen honesto loco nati qui
disdained there-were-found however of-honorable station born who
peterent cuperentque quod dari liberto, promitti servis
sought and-desired what to-be-given to-a-freedman to-be-promised to-slaves
videbant.
they-saw

6.17 Quam iuvat quod in tempora illa non incidi, quorum
how it-pleases-me that into times those not I-fell of-which
sic me, tamquam illis vixerim pudet! Non dubito similiter
so me as-if in-them I-had-lived it-shames not I-doubt similarly

adfici te. Scio quam sit tibi verus et ingenuus
to-be-affected you I-know how be to-you a-true and frank
animus: ideo facilius est ut me; quamquam indignationem
mind therefore easier it-is that me although indignation
quibusdam in locis fortasse ultra epistulae modum extulerim,
certain in places perhaps beyond of-a-letter the-measure I-have-carried
parum doluisse quam nimis credas. Vale.
too-little to-have-grieved than too-much you-should-believe farewell

II · THE SPRING OF CLITUMNUS

Pliny receives Tacitus' book and promises to correct it freely as its master. He tells Ursus that friends' business has kept him from his books, describes to Romanus the spring of the Clitumnus, its temple and shrines, writes Fabatus and Hispulla of his wife's miscarriage and recovery, is glad Genialis reads his speeches with his father, praises Titinius Capito's accounts of the deaths of famous men, and asks Aristo whether he was right to make the senate count separately its three proposals on the freedmen of Afranius Dexter.

C. Plinius Tacito suo s. 7
Gaius Pliny to-Tacitus his-own greeting
Neque ut magistro magister neque ut discipulo discipulus 7.1
neither as to-a-master a-master nor as to-a-pupil a-pupil
(sic enim scribis), sed ut discipulo magister (nam tu
so for you-write but as to-a-pupil a-master for you
magister, ego contra; atque adeo tu in scholam revocas,
the-master I the-opposite and indeed you into school recall
ego adhuc Saturnalia extendo) librum misisti.
I still the-Saturnalia prolong the-book you-have-sent

7.2 Num potui longius hyperbaton facere atque hoc ipso
surely-not could-I a-longer hyperbaton make and by-this very-thing
probare eum esse me, qui non modo magister tuus sed ne
prove him to-be me who not only master your but not
discipulus quidem debeam dici? Sumam tamen personam
pupil even ought to-be-called I-will-assume yet the-role
magistri exseramque in librum tuum ius quod dedisti
of-master and-I-will-exercise on book your the-right which you-gave
eo liberius, quod nihil ex meis interim missurus sum
the-more freely because nothing of mine meanwhile going-to-send am-I
tibi in quo te ulciscaris. Vale.
to-you in which yourself you-may-avenge farewell

8 C. Plinius Romano suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Romanus his-own greeting

8.1 Vidistine aliquando Clitumni fontem? Si nondum (et puto
have-you-seen ever of-Clitumnus the-spring if not-yet and I-think
nondum; alioqui narrasses mihi), vide; quem ego (paenitet
not-yet otherwise you-would-have-told me see-it which I it-irks-me
tarditatis) proxime vidi.
of-my-slowness lately saw

8.2 Modicus collis adsurgit, antiqua cupresso nemorosus et
a-modest hill rises with-ancient cypress wooded and
opacus: hunc subter exit fons et exprimitur pluribus
shady this beneath comes-out the-spring and is-pressed-out in-many
venis, sed inparibus, eluctatusque quem facit gurgitem
veins but unequal and-having-struggled-out which it-makes the-pool
lato gremio patescit purus et vitreus, ut numerare
in-a-broad bosom spreads pure and glassy so-that to-count
iactas stipes et relucentis calculos possis.
thrown coins and shining pebbles you-can

Inde non loci devexitate, sed ipsa sui copia et 8.3
thence not by-the-place's slope but by-its-very own abundance and
quasi pondere inpellitur, fons adhuc et iam amplissimum
as-it-were weight it-is-driven a-spring still and already a-most-ample
flumen, atque etiam navium patiens, quas obvias
river and even of-ships capable which coming-toward-each-other
quoque et contrario nisu in diversa tendentes transmittit
also and with-opposite effort in different-directions heading it-takes-across
et perfert, adeo validus ut illa qua properat ipse,
and carries so strong that that-way where it-hastens itself
quamquam per solum planum, remis non adiuvetur, idem
although over ground level by-oars not it-is-helped the-same
aegerrime remis contisque superetur adversus.
with-the-greatest-difficulty by-oars and-poles is-overcome going-against-it
Iucundum utrumque per iocum ludumque fluitantibus, ut 8.4
pleasant either-thing by-way-of jest and-play to-those-floating as
flexerint cursum, laborem otio, otium labore variare. Ripae
they-turned their-course labor with-ease ease with-labor to-vary the-banks
fraxino multa, multa populo vestiuntur, quas perspicuus
with-ash many with-many poplars are-clothed which the-transparent
amnis velut mersas viridi imagine adnumerat. Rigor aquae
stream as-if sunken in-green image counts the-cold of-the-water
certaverit nivibus, nec color cedit.
would-rival the-snows nor the-color yields
Adiacet templum priscum et religiosum: stat Clitumnus 8.5
lies-near a-temple ancient and holy stands Clitumnus
ipse amictus ornatusque praetexta: praesens numen atque
himself clothed and-adorned in-a-bordered-toga a-present deity and
etiam fatidicum indicant sortes. Sparsa sunt circa sacella
even prophetic indicate the-lots scattered are around shrines
complura totidemque di. Sua cuique veneratio, suum
several and-as-many gods his-own to-each worship his-own

nomen, quibusdam vero etiam fontes. Nam praeter illum
name to-some indeed even springs for besides that-one
quasi parentem ceterorum sunt minores capite discreti; sed
as-if parent of-the-rest there-are lesser-ones in-source separated but
flumini miscentur, quod ponte transmittitur.
with-the-river they-mingle which by-a-bridge is-crossed

8.6 Is terminus sacri profanique: in superiore parte navigare
it the-boundary of-sacred and-profane in the-upper part to-sail
tantum, infra etiam natare concessum. Balineum Hispellates,
only below also to-swim is-granted a-bath the-Hispellates
quibus illum locum divus Augustus dono dedit, publice
to-whom that place the-deified Augustus as-a-gift gave publicly
praebent, praebent et hospitium. Nec desunt villae, quae
provide they-provide also lodging nor are-lacking villas which
secutae fluminis amoenitatem margini insistunt.
having-followed of-the-river the-charm on-the-edge stand

8.7 In summa nihil erit, ex quo non capias voluptatem.
in sum nothing will-there-be from which not you-may-take pleasure
Nam studebis quoque: leges multa multorum omnibus
for you-will-study also you-will-read many-things of-many on-all
columnis omnibus parietibus inscripta, quibus fons ille deusque
columns on-all walls inscribed by-which spring that and-god
celebratur. Plura laudabis, non nulla ridebis; quamquam
is-celebrated many-things you-will-praise not none you-will-laugh-at although
tu vero, quae tua humanitas, nulla ridebis. Vale.
you indeed such your kindness none you-will-laugh-at farewell

9 C. Plinius Urso suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Ursus his-own greeting

9.1 Olim non librum in manus, non stilum sumpsi, olim
long-since not a-book into my-hands not a-pen I-have-taken long-since
nescio quid sit otium, quid quies, quid denique illud iners
I-know-not what be leisure what rest what in-short that idle

quidem, iucundum tamen nihil agere, nihil esse: adeo multa
indeed pleasant however nothing to-do nothing to-be so many
me negotia amicorum nec secedere nec studere patiuntur.
me the-affairs of-friends neither to-retire nor to-study allow
Nulla enim studia tanti sunt, ut amicitiae officium 9.2
no for studies of-such-worth are that of-friendship the-duty
deseratur, quod religiosissime custodiendum studia ipsa
be-deserted which most-scrupulously to-be-guarded the-studies themselves
praecipiunt. Vale.
teach farewell

C. Plinius Fabato prosocero suo s. 10
Gaius Pliny to-Fabatus grandfather-in-law his-own greeting

Quo magis cupis ex nobis pronepotes videre, 10.1
by-how-much the-more you-desire from us great-grandchildren to-see
hoc tristior audies neptem tuam abortum fecisse,
by-so-much sadder you-will-hear granddaughter your a-miscarriage to-have-had
dum se praegnantem esse puellariter nescit ac per
while herself pregnant to-be girlishly she-knows-not and by
hoc quaedam custodienda praegnantibus omittit, facit
this some-things to-be-observed by-the-pregnant omits does
omittenda. Quem errorem magnis documentis expiavit
what-is-to-be-omitted which error by-great lessons she-has-expiated
in summum periculum adducta.
into the-utmost danger brought

Igitur ut necesse est graviter accipias senectutem tuam quasi 10.2
therefore as necessary it-is heavily you-take old-age your as-if
paratis posteris destitutam, sic debes agere dis gratias,
from-ready posterity deprived so you-ought to-give to-the-gods thanks
quod ita tibi in praesentia pronepotes negaverunt, ut
that so to-you for the-present great-grandchildren they-have-denied that
servarent neptem, illos reddituri, quorum nobis spem
they-might-save your-granddaughter them going-to-give-back of-whom to-us the-hope

certiorem haec ipsa quamquam parum prospere explorata
more-certain this very although too-little prosperously tested
fecunditas facit.
fertility makes

10.3 Isdem nunc ego te quibus ipsum me hortor moneo
with-the-same now I you with-which myself me I-exhort I-advise
confirmo. Neque enim ardentius tu pronepotes, quam ego
I-strengthen nor for more-ardently you great-grandchildren than I
liberos cupio, quibus videor a meo tuoque latere pronum
children desire to-whom I-seem from my and-your side an-easy
ad honores iter et audita latius nomina et non subitas
to honors road and heard more-widely names and not sudden
imagines relicturus. Nascantur modo et hunc nostrum
ancestral-masks to-be-going-to-leave let-them-be-born only and this our
dolorem gaudio mutent. Vale.
grief with-joy change farewell

11 C. Plinius Hispullae suae s.
Gaius Pliny to-Hispulla his-own greeting

11.1 Cum adfectum tuum erga fratris filiam cogito etiam
when affection your toward your-brother's daughter I-consider even
materna indulgentia molliorem, intellego prius tibi quod est
than-maternal indulgence more-tender I-understand first to-you what is
posterius nuntiandum, ut praesumpta laetitia sollicitudini
later to-be-announced so-that anticipated joy to-anxiety
locum non relinquat. Quamquam vereor ne post gratulationem
room not leave although I-fear lest after the-congratulation
quoque in metum redeas atque ita gaudeas periculo
also into fear you-return and so you-rejoice from-danger
liberatam, ut simul quod periclitata sit perhorrescas.
freed that at-the-same-time that endangered she-was you-shudder

Iam hilaris, iam sibi, iam mihi reddita incipit refici 11.2
now cheerful now to-herself now to-me restored she-begins to-be-restored
transmissumque discrimen convalescendo metiri. Fuit alioqui
and-the-passed peril by-recovering to-measure she-was otherwise
in summo discrimine, inpune dixisse liceat, fuit
in the-utmost peril with-impunity to-have-said be-it-permitted she-was
nulla sua culpa, aetatis aliqua. Inde abortus et
by-no her-own fault of-her-age some thence the-miscarriage and
ignorati uteri triste experimentum.
of-the-unknown womb a-sad proof
Proinde, etsi non contigit tibi desiderium fratris 11.3
therefore although not it-has-befallen to-you longing for-your-brother
amissi aut nepote eius aut nepte solari, memento
lost either with-a-grandson his or a-granddaughter to-console remember
tamen dilatum magis istud quam negatum, cum salva
yet postponed rather that than denied since safe
sit ex qua sperari potest. Simul excusa patri tuo
she-is from whom to-be-hoped it-can at-the-same-time excuse to-father your
casum, cui paratior apud feminas venia. Vale.
the-accident to-whom readier among women the-pardon farewell

C. Plinius Miniciano suo s. 12
Gaius Pliny to-Minicianus his-own greeting

Hunc solum diem excuso: recitaturus est Titinius Capito, 12.1
this one day I-beg-off about-to-recite is Titinius Capito
quem ego audire nescio magis debeam an cupiam.
whom I to-hear I-know-not whether-more I-ought or desire
Vir est optimus et inter praecipua saeculi ornamenta
a-man he-is most-excellent and among the-chief of-the-age ornaments
numerandus: colit studia, studiosos amat fovet provehit,
to-be-counted he-cultivates studies the-studious he-loves fosters advances
multorum qui aliqua conponunt portus sinus gremium,
of-many who something compose the-harbor the-bay the-bosom

omnium exemplum, ipsarum denique litterarum iam
of-all the-example of-the-very in-short of-letters already
senescentium reductor ac reformator.
growing-old the-restorer and reformer

12.2 Domum suam recitantibus praebet, auditoria non apud se
house his-own to-those-reciting he-offers lecture-halls not at his-own
tantum benignitate mira frequentat; mihi certe, si modo in
only with-kindness wonderful he-attends to-me certainly if only in
urbe, defuit numquam. Porro tanto turpius gratiam
the-city he-was-absent never moreover so-much more-shamefully a-favor
non referre, quanto honestior causa referendae.
not to-return as more-honorable the-cause for-returning

12.3 An si litibus tererer, obstrictum esse me crederem
or if by-lawsuits I-were-worn-down bound to-be me I-would-believe
obeunti vadimonia mea, nunc, quia mihi omne negotium,
to-one-attending bail-appearances my now because for-me all business
omnis in studiis cura, minus obligor tanta sedulitate
all in studies care less am-I-obliged with-such assiduity
celebranti in quo obligari ego, ne dicam solo, certe
to-one-honoring in which to-be-obliged I not to-say alone certainly
maxime possum?
most can

12.4 Quodsi illi nullam vicem, nulla quasi mutua officia
but-if to-him no return no as-it-were mutual services
deberem, sollicitarer tamen vel ingenio hominis
I-owed I-would-be-tempted yet either by-the-talent of-the-man
pulcherrimo et maximo et in summa severitate dulcissimo
most-beautiful and greatest and in the-utmost severity most-sweet
vel honestate materiae. Scribit exitus inlustrium virorum,
or by-the-honorableness of-his-subject he-writes the-deaths of-illustrious men
in his quorundam mihi carissimorum.
among these of-some to-me most-dear

Videor ergo fungi pio munere, quorumque exequias 12.5
I-seem therefore to-perform a-dutiful office and-of-whom the-funerals
celebrare non licuit, horum quasi funebribus
to-celebrate not it-was-permitted at-their as-it-were funeral
laudationibus, seris quidem sed tanto magis veris interesse.
eulogies late indeed but so-much more true to-be-present
Vale.
farewell

C. Plinius Geniali suo s. 13
Gaius Pliny to-Genialis his-own greeting

Probo quod libellos meos cum patre legisti. Pertinet 13.1
I-approve that little-books my with your-father you-have-read it-pertains
ad profectum tuum a disertissimo viro discere, quid
to progress your from a-most-eloquent man to-learn what
laudandum, quid reprehendendum, simul ita institui,
to-be-praised what to-be-blamed at-the-same-time so to-be-trained
ut verum dicere adsuescas.
that the-truth to-tell you-grow-used

Vides quem sequi, cuius debeas inplere vestigia. O te beatum, 13.2
you-see whom to-follow whose you-ought to-fill footsteps O you fortunate
cui contigit vivum atque idem optimum et coniunctissimum
to-whom has-befallen a-living and the-same best and most-closely-joined
exemplar, qui denique eum potissimum imitandum habes,
model who in-short him above-all to-be-imitated have
cui natura esse te simillimum voluit. Vale.
to-whom nature to-be you most-like has-wished farewell

C. Plinius Aristoni suo s. 14
Gaius Pliny to-Aristo his-own greeting

Cum sis peritissimus et privati iuris et publici, cuius pars 14.1
since you-are most-expert both in-private law and in-public of-which a-part
senatorium est, cupio ex te potissimum audire, erraverim in
the-senatorial is I-desire from you above-all to-hear whether-I-erred in

senatu proxime necne, non ut in praeteritum (serum enim),
the-senate lately or-not not that for the-past late for
verum ut in futurum, siquid simile inciderit, erudiar.
but that for the-future if-anything similar shall-happen I-may-be-instructed

14.2 Dices 'Cur quaeris quod nosse debebas?' Priorum temporum
you-will-say why do-you-ask what to-know you-ought of-former times
servitus ut aliarum optimarum artium, sic etiam iuris
the-slavery as of-other excellent arts so also of-law
senatorii oblivionem quandam et ignorantiam induxit.
senatorial a-forgetting some and ignorance induced

14.3 Quotus enim quisque tam patiens, ut velit discere quod
how-few for each so patient that he-wish to-learn what
in usu non sit habiturus? Adde quod difficile est tenere
in use not he-is going-to-have add that difficult it-is to-retain
quae acceperis, nisi exerceas. Itaque reducta libertas
what-things you-have-received unless you-practice-them and-so restored liberty
rudes nos et inperitos deprehendit; cuius dulcedine accensi
raw us and inexperienced has-caught by-whose sweetness inflamed
cogimur quaedam facere ante quam nosse.
we-are-compelled some-things to-do before than to-know

14.4 Erat autem antiquitus institutum ut a maioribus natu
it-was moreover anciently established that from the-older by-birth
non auribus modo verum etiam oculis disceremus quae
not with-ears only but even with-eyes we-should-learn what-things
facienda mox ipsi ac per vices quasdam tradenda
to-be-done soon ourselves and by turns certain to-be-handed-down
minoribus haberemus.
to-the-younger we-should-have

14.5 Inde adulescentuli statim castrensibus stipendiis imbuebantur,
thence as-youths at-once in-camp service they-were-imbued
ut imperare parendo, duces agere, dum secuntur adsuescerent:
that to-command by-obeying leaders to-act while they-follow they-might-grow-used

inde honores petituri adsistebant curiae foribus et
thence offices about-to-seek they-stood-by of-the-senate-house at-the-doors and
consilii publici spectatores ante quam consortes erant.
of-the-council public spectators before than partners they-were
Suus cuique parens pro magistro, aut cui parens 14.6
his-own to-each father in-place-of a-teacher or to-whom a-father
non erat, maximus quisque et vetustissimus pro parente.
not was the-greatest each and oldest in-place-of a-father
Quae potestas referentibus, quod censentibus ius, quae vis
what power to-those-moving what for-proposers right what force
magistratibus, quae ceteris libertas, ubi cedendum, ubi
to-magistrates what for-the-rest freedom when to-yield when
resistendum, quod silendi tempus, quis dicendi modus, quae
to-resist what of-silence the-time what of-speaking the-measure what
distinctio pugnantium sententiarum, quae exsecutio prioribus
the-distinction of-conflicting motions what the-procedure to-the-earlier
aliquid addentium; omnem denique senatorium morem, quod
something of-those-adding all in-short senatorial custom which
fidissimum praecipiendi genus, exemplis docebantur.
the-surest of-teaching kind by-examples they-were-taught
At nos iuvenes fuimus quidem in castris; sed cum suspecta 14.7
but we as-young-men were indeed in the-camps but when suspected
virtus, inertia in pretio, cum ducibus auctoritas nulla,
virtue sloth in esteem when to-the-leaders authority none
nulla militibus verecundia, nusquam imperium, nusquam
none to-the-soldiers respect nowhere command nowhere
obsequium, omnia soluta, turbata atque etiam in contrarium
obedience all-things loosened disordered and even into the-contrary
versa, postremo obliviscenda magis quam tenenda.
turned finally to-be-forgotten rather than to-be-retained

14.8 Iidem prospeximus curiam, sed curiam trepidam et
we-also looked-at the-senate-house but a-senate-house fearful and
elinguem, cum dicere quod velles periculosum, quod
speechless when to-say what you-wished dangerous what
nolles miserum esset. Quid tunc disci potuit, quid
you-did-not-wish wretched was what then to-be-learned could what
didicisse iuvit, cum senatus aut ad otium summum aut
to-have-learned helped when the-senate either to leisure utmost or
ad summum nefas vocaretur et modo ludibrio modo
to the-utmost wickedness was-called and now for-mockery now
dolori retentus numquam seria, tristia saepe censeret?
for-grief kept never serious-things sad-things often decreed

14.9 Eadem mala iam senatores, iam participes malorum multos
the-same evils now as-senators now as-sharers in-the-evils many
per annos vidimus tulimusque, quibus ingenia nostra in
through years we-saw and-bore by-which talents our for
posterum quoque hebetata fracta contusa sunt.
the-future also dulled broken crushed have-been

14.10 Breve tempus (nam tanto brevius omne quanto felicius
a-short time for so-much shorter every as happier
tempus), quo libet scire quid simus, libet exercere quod
time in-which it-pleases to-know what we-are it-pleases to-exercise what
scimus. Quo iustius peto, primum ut errori, siquis
we-know by-which the-more-justly I-ask first that to-the-error if-any
est error, tribuas veniam, deinde medearis scientia tua,
is error you-grant pardon then that-you-remedy-it with-knowledge your
cui semper fuit curae sic iura publica ut privata, sic
to-whom always it-was a-care so laws public as private so
antiqua ut recentia, sic rara ut assidua tractare.
ancient as recent so rare as constant to-handle

Atque ego arbitror illis etiam, quibus plurimarum rerum 14.11
and I think to-those also to-whom of-very-many matters
agitatio frequens nihil esse ignotum patiebatur, genus
the-handling frequent nothing to-be unknown allowed the-kind
quaestionis quod adfero ad te aut non satis tritum aut
of-question which I-bring to you either not sufficiently worn or
etiam inexpertum fuisse. Hoc et ego excusatior, si forte
even untried to-have-been in-this both I more-excused if perhaps
sum lapsus, et tu dignior laude, si potes id quoque
I-have slipped and you more-worthy of-praise if you-can that also
docere, quod in obscuro est an didiceris.
teach which in obscurity is whether you-have-learned
Referebatur de libertis Afrani Dextri consulis, incertum 14.12
there-was-a-motion about the-freedmen of-Afranius Dexter the-consul uncertain
sua an suorum manu, scelere an obsequio perempti. Hos
by-his-own or his-people's hand by-crime or by-obedience killed these
alius ('quis?' inquis: ego: sed nihil refert) post quaestionem
one-man who you-say I but nothing it-matters after the-inquiry
supplicio liberandos, alius in insulam relegandos, alius
from-punishment to-be-freed another to an-island to-be-banished another
morte puniendos arbitrabatur. Quarum sententiarum tanta
with-death to-be-punished thought of-which opinions such-great
diversitas erat, ut non possent esse nisi singulae.
the-diversity was that not they-could be except singly
Quid enim commune habet occidere et relegare? Non hercule 14.13
what for in-common has to-kill and to-banish not by-Hercules
magis quam relegare et absolvere: quamquam propior aliquanto
more than to-banish and to-acquit although nearer considerably
est sententiae relegantis quae absolvit, quam quae occidit
is to-the-opinion of-one-banishing that-which acquits than that-which kills
(utraque enim ex illis vitam relinquit, haec adimit), cum interim
each for of those life leaves this takes-away while meanwhile

et qui morte puniebant et qui relegabant una sedebant
both those-who with-death were-punishing and those-who were-banishing together were-sitting
et temporaria simulatione concordiae discordiam differebant.
and by-a-temporary pretense of-agreement disagreement were-postponing
14.14 Ego postulabam ut tribus sententiis constaret suus numerus
I demanded that for-the-three opinions should-stand its-own number
nec se brevibus indutiis duae iungerent. Exigebam ergo
nor themselves by-brief truce two join I-demanded therefore
ut qui capitali supplicio adficiendos putabant discederent
that those-who with-capital punishment to-be-afflicted thought should-separate
a relegante nec interim contra absolventis mox dissensuri
from the-banisher nor meanwhile against the-acquitters soon about-to-disagree
congregarentur, quia parvulum referret an idem
should-gather because very-little it-mattered whether the-same-thing
displiceret quibus non idem placuisset.
displeased those-whom not the-same-thing had-pleased
14.15 Illud etiam mihi permirum videbatur, eum quidem qui
this also to-me very-strange seemed he indeed who
libertos relegandos, servos supplicio adficiendos censuisset
the-freedmen to-be-banished the-slaves with-punishment to-be-afflicted had-proposed
coactum esse dividere sententiam; hunc autem qui
compelled to-have-been to-divide his-opinion this-man moreover who
libertos morte multaret cum relegante numerari. Nam si
the-freedmen with-death punished with the-banisher to-be-counted for if
oportuisset dividi sententiam unius, quia res duas
it-had-been-necessary to-be-divided the-opinion of-one because things two
comprehendebat, non reperiebam quem ad modum posset
it-comprised not I-found in-what to manner could
iungi sententia duorum tam diversa censentium.
be-joined the-opinion of-two so different proposing

Atque adeo permitte mihi sic apud te tamquam ibi, sic 14.16
and indeed permit me so before you as-if there so
peracta re tamquam adhuc integra, rationem iudicii
done the-matter as-if still open the-reason of-judgment
mei reddere quaeque tunc carptim multis obstrepentibus
my to-render and-what-things then piecemeal with-many interrupting
dixi nunc per otium iungere.
I-said now at leisure to-join
Fingamus tres omnino iudices in hanc causam datos esse, 14.17
let-us-suppose three in-all judges to this case assigned to-have-been
horum uni placuisse perire libertos, alteri relegari,
to-one of-these to-have-pleased to-perish the-freedmen to-the-second to-be-banished
tertio absolvi. Utrumne sententiae duae collatis viribus
to-the-third to-be-acquitted whether opinions two with-joined forces
novissimam periment, an separatim una quaeque tantundem
the-last will-destroy or separately one each as-much
quantum altera valebit, nec magis poterit cum secunda
as the-other will-be-worth nor more will-be-able with the-second
prima conecti, quam secunda cum tertia?
the-first to-be-joined than the-second with the-third
Igitur in senatu quoque numerari tamquam contrariae debent 14.18
therefore in the-senate also to-be-counted as contrary-ones ought
quae tamquam diversae dicuntur. Quodsi unus atque idem
those-which as different are-spoken but-if one and the-same
et perdendos censeret et relegandos, num ex sententia
both to-be-destroyed proposed and to-be-banished surely-not from the-opinion
unius et perire possent et relegari? Num denique omnino
of-one both to-perish they-could and to-be-banished surely-not in-short at-all
una sententia putaretur quae tam diversa coniungeret?
one opinion would-be-thought which so different-things joined

14.19 Quem ad modum igitur, cum alter puniendos, alter censeat
in-what to manner therefore when the-one to-be-punished the-other proposes
relegandos, videri potest una sententia, quia dicitur a
to-be-banished to-seem can one opinion because it-is-spoken by
duobus, quae non videretur una, si ab uno diceretur? Quid?
two which not would-seem one if by one it-were-spoken what
Lex non aperte docet dirimi debere sententias occidentis
the-law not openly teaches to-be-separated ought the-opinions of-the-one-killing
et relegantis, cum ita discessionem fieri iubet, 'Qui
and of-the-one-banishing when thus the-division to-be-made it-orders you-who
haec sentitis, in hanc partem, qui alia omnia, in illam
these-things think into this side who other all-things into that
partem ite, qua sentitis'? Examina singula verba et expende:
side go which you-think examine single words and weigh
'qui haec sentitis', hoc est qui relegandos putatis: 'in hanc
you-who these-things think that is who to-be-banished think into this
partem', id est in eam in qua sedet qui censuit relegandos.
side that is into that in which sits he-who proposed to-be-banished
14.20 Ex quo manifestum est non posse in eadem parte
from which clear it-is not to-be-able in the-same side
remanere eos qui interficiendos arbitrantur. 'Qui alia omnia':
to-remain those who to-be-killed think who other all-things
animadvertis, ut non contenta lex dicere 'alia' addiderit
you-notice how not content the-law to-say other added
'omnia'. Num ergo dubium est alia omnia sentire eos
all surely-not then doubtful is other all-things to-think those
qui occidunt quam qui relegant? 'In illam partem ite, qua
who kill than who banish into that side go which
sentitis': nonne videtur ipsa lex eos qui dissentiunt in
you-think surely seems the-very law those who disagree into
contrariam partem vocare, cogere, impellere? Non consul
the-opposite side to-call to-compel to-drive not the-consul

etiam, ubi quisque remanere, quo transgredi debeat, non
also where each to-remain where to-cross-over ought not
tantum sollemnibus verbis sed manu gestuque demonstrat?
only by-solemn words but by-hand and-gesture shows
At enim futurum est ut, si dividantur sententiae interficientis 14.21
but for going-to-be it-is that if be-divided the-opinions of-the-one-killing
et relegantis, praevaleat illa quae absolvit. Quid istud
and of-the-one-banishing prevail that-one which acquits what that
ad censentes? Quos certe non decet omnibus artibus, omni
to the-proposers whom certainly not befits by-all arts by-every
ratione pugnare ne fiat quod est mitius. Oportet tamen eos
means to-fight lest happen what is milder it-is-proper yet those
qui puniunt et qui relegant absolventibus primum, mox inter
who punish and who banish with-the-acquitters first then among
se comparari. Scilicet ut in spectaculis quibusdam sors
themselves to-be-compared evidently as in shows certain the-lot
aliquem seponit ac servat, qui cum victore contendat, sic in
someone sets-aside and keeps who with the-victor may-contend so in
senatu sunt aliqua prima, sunt secunda certamina, et ex duabus
the-senate are some first are second contests and of two
sententiis eam quae superior extiterit, tertia expectat.
opinions that which superior shall-have-emerged the-third awaits
Quid, quod prima sententia conprobata ceterae perimuntur? 14.22
what that with-the-first opinion approved the-others are-destroyed
Qua ergo ratione potest esse non unus atque idem locus
by-what then reasoning can be not one and the-same the-place
sententiarum, quarum nullus est postea?
of-opinions of-which none is afterward

14.23 Planius repetam. Nisi dicente sententiam eo qui relegat illi
more-plainly I-will-repeat-it unless with-speaking his-opinion him who banishes those
qui puniunt capite initio statim in alia discedant, frustra
who punish with-death at-the-start at-once to another-side withdraw in-vain
postea dissentient ab eo cui paulo ante consenserint.
afterward they-will-dissent from him with-whom a-little before they-agreed
14.24 Sed quid ego similis docenti? Cum discere velim, an
but why I like one-teaching when to-learn I-wish whether
sententias dividi, an iri in singulas oportuerit.
the-opinions to-be-divided or to-be-gone to individual-ones it-was-proper
Obtinui quidem quod postulabam; nihilo minus tamen quaero,
I-obtained indeed what I-was-demanding nothing less however I-ask
an postulare debuerim. Quem ad modum obtinui? Qui
whether to-demand-it I-ought in-what to manner did-I-obtain-it he-who
ultimum supplicium sumendum esse censebat, nescio an
the-ultimate punishment to-be-inflicted to-be proposed I-know-not whether
iure, certe aequitate postulationis meae victus, omissa
by-right certainly by-the-fairness of-demand my overcome having-dropped
sententia sua accessit releganti; veritus scilicet ne, si
opinion his-own went-over to-the-banisher fearing evidently lest if
dividerentur sententiae, quod alioqui fore videbatur, ea
were-divided the-opinions which otherwise to-be-going-to-be seemed that
quae absolvendos esse censebat numero praevaleret. Etenim
which to-be-acquitted to-be proposed in-number should-prevail for
longe plures in hac una quam in duabus singulis erant.
far more in this one than in two individually were
14.25 Tum illi quoque qui auctoritate eius trahebantur transeunte
then those also who by-authority his were-drawn crossing-over
illo destituti reliquerunt sententiam ab ipso auctore desertam
him deserted left the-opinion by its-own author abandoned
secutique sunt quasi transfugam quem ducem sequebantur.
and-followed have as-if a-deserter him-whom as-leader they-were-following

Sic ex tribus sententiis duae factae, tenuitque ex duabus 14.26
thus from three opinions two made and-prevailed of two
altera tertia expulsa, quae, cum ambas superare non posset,
the-one the-third driven-out which since both to-overcome not it-could
elegit ab utra vinceretur. Vale.
chose by which it-should-be-defeated farewell

III · THE TIBER IN FLOOD

Pliny sends Junior a load of books, mourns the deaths in his household, and describes to Macrinus the flood of the Tiber and the Anio. He tells Rufinus how Domitius Tullus' will surprised the legacy hunters, sends Maximus a book written in grief, and describes to Gallus Lake Vadimon and its floating islands.

C. Plinius Iuniori suo s. 15
Gaius Pliny to-Junior his-own greeting
Oneravi te tot pariter missis voluminibus, sed 15.1
I-have-burdened you with-so-many together sent volumes but
oneravi primum quia exegeras, deinde quia scripseras
I-burdened-you first because you-had-demanded-it then because you-had-written
tam graciles istic vindemias esse, ut plane scirem tibi
so slender there the-vintages to-be that plainly I-knew for-you
vacaturum, quod vulgo dicitur, librum legere.
to-be-going-to-be-free as is-commonly said a-book to-read
Eadem ex meis agellis nuntiantur. Igitur mihi quoque 15.2
the-same-things from my little-fields are-reported therefore for-me also
licebit scribere quae legas, sit modo unde chartae
it-will-be-permitted to-write what you-may-read be-there only whence paper
emi possint; aut necessario quidquid scripserimus boni
to-be-bought can or of-necessity whatever we-shall-have-written good
malive delebimus. Vale.
or-bad we-shall-erase farewell

16 C. Plinius Paterno suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Paternus his-own greeting

16.1 Confecerunt me infirmitates meorum, mortes etiam, et
have-worn-out me the-illnesses of-my-people deaths too and
quidem iuvenum. Solacia duo nequaquam paria tanto dolori,
indeed of-young-men solaces two by-no-means equal to-so-great grief
solacia tamen: unum facilitas manumittendi; videor enim non
solaces however one the-readiness of-manumitting I-seem for not
omnino inmaturos perdidisse quos iam liberos perdidi:
altogether prematurely to-have-lost those-whom already free I-lost
alterum, quod permitto servis quoque quasi testamenta
the-other that I-permit to-slaves also as-it-were wills
facere eaque ut legitima custodio.
to-make and-these as lawful I-keep

16.2 Mandant rogantque quod visum; pareo ut iussus: dividunt
they-direct and-ask what has-seemed-good I-obey as ordered they-divide
donant relinquunt, dumtaxat intra domum: nam servis res
they-give they-leave only within the-house for to-slaves a-thing
publica quaedam et quasi civitas domus est.
public some and as-it-were state the-house is

16.3 Sed quamquam his solaciis adquiescam, debilitor et frangor
but although in-these solaces I-rest I-am-weakened and broken
eadem illa humanitate, quae me ut hoc ipsum permitterem
by-the-same that humanity which me that this very-thing I-should-permit
induxit. Non ideo tamen velim durior fieri. Nec
induced not therefore however I-would-wish harder to-become nor
ignoro alios eius modi casus nihil amplius vocare quam
am-I-unaware others of-this kind misfortunes nothing more to-call than
damnum eoque sibi magnos homines et sapientes videri.
loss and-by-this to-themselves great men and wise to-seem
Qui an magni sapientesque sint nescio; homines non sunt.
who whether great and-wise they-be I-know-not men not they-are

Hominis est enim adfici dolore, sentire, resistere tamen 16.4
of-a-man it-is for to-be-affected by-grief to-feel to-resist however
et solacia admittere, non solaciis non egere.
and solaces to-admit not of-solaces not to-have-need
Verum de his plura fortasse quam debui; sed pauciora 16.5
but about these-things more perhaps than I-ought but fewer
quam volui. Est enim quaedam etiam dolendi voluptas,
than I-wished there-is for a-certain even of-grieving pleasure
praesertim si in amici sinu defleas, apud quem lacrimis
especially if in a-friend's bosom you-weep with whom for-tears
tuis vel laus sit parata vel venia. Vale.
your either praise be ready or pardon farewell
C. Plinius Macrino suo s. 17
Gaius Pliny to-Macrinus his-own greeting
Num istic quoque inmite et turbidum caelum? Hic adsiduae 17.1
surely-not there also harsh and stormy weather here constant
tempestates et crebra diluvia. Tiberis alveum excessit et
storms and frequent floods the-Tiber its-bed has-overflowed and
demissioribus ripis alte superfunditur:
over-lower banks deeply pours
Quamquam fossa, quam providentissimus imperator fecit, 17.2
although by-the-channel which the-most-provident emperor made
exhaustus premit valles, innatat campis, quaque planum
drained it-presses the-valleys it-floats-over the-fields and-wherever level
solum, pro solo cernitur. Inde quae solet flumina
the-ground in-place-of ground it-is-seen thence those-which it-is-wont rivers
accipere et permixta devehere velut obvius sistere cogit
to-receive and mixed to-carry-down as-if meeting-them to-stand it-compels
atque ita alienis aquis operit agros, quos ipse non tangit.
and so with-others' waters it-covers the-fields which itself not it-touches

17.3 Anio, delicatissimus amnium ideoque adiacentibus villis
the-Anio most-delicate of-rivers and-therefore by-the-adjacent villas
velut invitatus retentusque, magna ex parte nemora, quibus
as-if invited and-detained in-great from part the-groves by-which
inumbratur, et fregit et rapuit: subruit montes et
it-is-shaded both has-broken and swept-away it-has-undermined mountains and
decidentium mole pluribus locis clausus, dum amissum
of-falling-things by-the-mass in-many places blocked while its-lost
iter quaerit, impulit tecta ac se super ruinas evexit
course it-seeks it-has-struck-down buildings and itself over the-ruins has-borne
atque extulit.
and raised

17.4 Viderunt quos excelsioribus terris illa tempestas deprehendit
saw those-whom on-higher grounds that storm caught
alibi divitum apparatus et gravem supellectilem, alibi
in-one-place of-the-rich the-furnishings and heavy household-goods in-another
instrumenta ruris, ibi boves aratra rectores, hic soluta
the-implements of-the-farm here oxen plows plowmen here loose
et libera armenta, atque inter haec arborum truncos aut
and free herds and among these of-trees trunks or
villarum trabes atque culmina varie lateque fluitantia.
of-villas beams and roofs variously and-widely floating

17.5 Ac ne illa quidem loca malo vacaverunt, ad quae non ascendit
and not those even places from-harm were-free to which not climbed
amnis. Nam pro amne imber adsiduus et deiectis
the-river for in-place-of the-river rain constant and with-cast-down
nubibus turbines, proruta opera, quibus pretiosa rura cinguntur,
clouds whirlwinds overturned the-walls by-which valuable estates are-enclosed
quassata atque etiam decussa monimenta. Multi eius modi
shaken and even thrown-down monuments many of-this kind
casibus debilitati obruti obtriti et aucta luctibus damna.
by-misfortunes maimed buried crushed and increased by-griefs the-losses

Ne quid simile istic pro mensura periculi vereor 17.6
lest anything similar there in-proportion-to the-measure of-the-danger I-fear
teque rogo, si nihil tale, quam maturissime sollicitudini meae
and-you I-ask if nothing such as soonest for-anxiety my
consulas; sed et si tale, id quoque nunties. Nam parvulum
you-provide but also if such that also you-report for very-little
differt, patiaris adversa an expectes; nisi quod tamen
it-differs whether-you-suffer adversities or await-them except that yet
est dolendi modus, non est timendi. Doleas enim quantum
there-is of-grieving a-limit not there-is of-fearing you-grieve for as-much-as
scias accidisse, timeas quantum possit accidere. Vale.
you-know to-have-happened you-fear as-much-as can happen farewell

C. Plinius Rufino suo s. 18
Gaius Pliny to-Rufinus his-own greeting

Falsum est nimirum quod creditur vulgo, testamenta 18.1
false it-is clearly what is-believed commonly wills
hominum speculum esse morum, cum Domitius Tullus longe
of-men a-mirror to-be of-character since Domitius Tullus far
melior apparuerit morte quam vita.
better has-appeared in-death than in-life

Nam cum se captandum praebuisset, reliquit filiam 18.2
for although himself to-be-courted he-had-offered he-left his-daughter
heredem, quae illi cum fratre communis, quia genitam
heir who to-him with his-brother common because born
fratre adoptaverat. Prosecutus est nepotes
from-his-brother he-had-adopted-her honored he-has his-grandchildren
plurimis iucundissimisque legatis, prosecutus etiam
with-very-many and-most-pleasant legacies he-honored also
proneptem. In summa omnia pietate plenissima, ac
his-great-granddaughter in sum all-things with-devotion most-full and
tanto magis, quoniam inexpectata sunt.
so-much more because unexpected they-are

18.3 Ergo varii tota civitate sermones: alii fictum ingratum
therefore various in-the-whole city talk some false ungrateful
inmemorem loquuntur seque ipsos, dum insectantur illum
forgetful call-him and-themselves themselves while they-attack him
turpissimis confessionibus produnt, ut qui de patre
by-the-most-shameful confessions betray as men-who about a-father
avo proavo quasi de orbo querantur: alii
grandfather great-grandfather as-if about a-childless-man complain others
contra hoc ipsum laudibus ferunt, quod sit frustratus
on-the-other-hand this very-thing with-praises extol that he-has frustrated
improbas spes hominum, quos sic decipere pro moribus
the-shameless hopes of-men whom thus to-deceive according-to the-character
temporum prudentia est. Addunt etiam non fuisse ei
of-the-times prudence is they-add also not to-have-been for-him
liberum alio testamento mori; neque enim reliquisse opes
free with-another will to-die nor for to-have-left the-wealth
filiae, sed reddidisse quibus auctus per filiam fuerat.
to-his-daughter but to-have-restored-it by-which enriched through his-daughter he-had-been

18.4 Nam Curtilius Mancia perosus generum suum Domitium
for Curtilius Mancia hating son-in-law his-own Domitius
Lucanum (frater is Tulli), sub ea condicione filiam eius,
Lucanus brother he of-Tullus on that condition daughter his
neptem suam, instituerat heredem, si esset manu
granddaughter his-own had-instituted heir if she-were by-the-hand
patris emissa. Emiserat pater, adoptaverat patruus,
of-her-father emancipated had-emancipated-her her-father had-adopted-her her-uncle
atque ita circumscripto testamento consors frater in fratris
and so with-circumvented will the-partner brother into his-brother's
potestatem emancipatam filiam adoptionis fraude revocaverat,
power the-emancipated daughter of-adoption by-fraud had-recalled
et quidem cum opibus amplissimis.
and indeed with wealth most-ample

Fuit alioqui fratribus illis quasi fato datum ut divites 18.5
it-was otherwise to-brothers those as-if by-fate given that rich
fierent invitissimis a quibus facti sunt. Quin
they-should-become to-the-most-unwilling by whom made they-were nay
etiam Domitius Afer, qui illos in nomen adsumpsit,
even Domitius Afer who them into his-name took
reliquit testamentum ante decem et octo annos nuncupatum
left a-will before ten and eight years declared
adeoque postea inprobatum sibi, ut patris eorum bona
and-so-much afterward disapproved by-himself that of-father their the-property
proscribenda curaverit.
to-be-confiscated he-procured
Mira illius asperitas, mira felicitas horum: illius 18.6
wonderful his harshness wonderful the-good-fortune of-these his
asperitas, qui numero civium excidit quem socium
harshness who from-the-number of-citizens struck him-whom as-partner
etiam in liberis habuit; felicitas horum, quibus successit
even in children he-had the-good-fortune of-these to-whom succeeded
in locum patris qui patrem abstulerat.
into the-place of-their-father he-who their-father had-taken-away
Sed haec quoque hereditas Afri ut reliqua cum fratre 18.7
but this also inheritance of-Afer as the-rest with his-brother
quaesita transmittenda erant filiae fratris, a quo Tullus
acquired to-be-transmitted were to-the-daughter of-his-brother by whom Tullus
ex asse heres institutus praelatusque filiae fuerat, ut
for the-whole heir instituted and-preferred to-his-daughter had-been that
conciliaretur. Quo laudabilius testamentum est, quod pietas
he-might-be-reconciled by-which more-praiseworthy the-will is which devotion
fides pudor scripsit, in quo denique omnibus adfinitatibus
good-faith modesty wrote in which in-short to-all relations
pro cuiusque officio gratia relata est, relata et uxori.
according-to each-one's service thanks returned has-been returned also to-his-wife

18.8 Accepit amoenissimas villas, accepit magnam pecuniam uxor
received most-charming villas received a-great sum-of-money the-wife
optima et patientissima ac tanto melius de viro
most-excellent and most-patient and so-much better of her-husband
merita, quanto magis est reprehensa quod nupsit.
having-deserved by-how-much more she-was blamed that she-married
Nam mulier natalibus clara, moribus proba, aetate
for a-woman by-birth distinguished in-character upright in-age
declivis, diu vidua, mater olim, parum decore secuta
declining long a-widow a-mother long-ago too-little becomingly to-have-sought
matrimonium videbatur divitis senis ita perditi morbo, ut
marriage seemed of-a-rich old-man so ruined by-disease that
esse taedio posset uxori, quam iuvenis sanusque duxisset.
to-be a-weariness he-could to-a-wife whom young and-healthy he-had-married
18.9 Quippe omnibus membris extortus et fractus, tantas opes
indeed in-all limbs twisted and broken so-great wealth
solis oculis obibat ac ne in lectulo quidem nisi ab
with-eyes alone he-surveyed and not in bed even except by
aliis movebatur. Quin etiam (foedum miserandumque dictu)
others was-he-moved nay even foul and-pitiable to-tell
dentes lavandos fricandosque praebebat: auditum frequenter
his-teeth to-be-washed and-to-be-rubbed he-offered it-was-heard frequently
ex ipso, cum quereretur de contumeliis debilitatis suae,
from himself when he-complained about the-indignities of-debility his-own
digitos se servorum suorum cotidie lingere.
his-fingers himself of-slaves his-own daily to-lick
18.10 Vivebat tamen et vivere volebat, sustentante maxime uxore,
he-lived however and to-live wished sustained especially by-his-wife
quae culpam inchoati matrimonii in gloriam perseverantia
who the-blame of-the-begun marriage into glory by-perseverance
verterat.
had-turned

Habes omnes fabulas urbis; nam sunt omnes fabulae Tullus. 18.11
you-have all the-stories of-the-city for are all the-stories Tullus
Expectatur auctio. Fuit enim tam copiosus, ut amplissimos
is-awaited the-auction he-was for so well-stocked that very-large
hortos eodem quo emerat die instruxerit plurimis
gardens on-the-same on-which he-had-bought-them day he-furnished with-very-many
et antiquissimis statuis: tantum illi pulcherrimorum operum
and very-ancient statues so-much to-him of-most-beautiful works
in horreis, quae neglegebat. Invicem tu, siquid istic epistula
in storehouses which he-neglected in-turn you if-anything there of-a-letter
dignum, ne gravare.
worthy do-not grudge-it
Nam cum aures hominum novitate laetantur, tum ad 18.12
for while the-ears of-men with-novelty rejoice then for
rationem vitae exemplis erudimur. Vale.
the-conduct of-life by-examples we-are-instructed farewell

C. Plinius Maximo suo s. 19
Gaius Pliny to-Maximus his-own greeting

Et gaudium mihi et solacium in litteris, nihilque tam 19.1
both joy for-me and solace in letters and-nothing so
laetum quod his laetius, nihil tam triste quod non
glad which than-these more-glad nothing so sad which not
per has minus triste. Itaque et infirmitate uxoris et
through these less sad and-so both by-the-illness of-my-wife and
meorum periculo, quorundam vero etiam morte turbatus
of-my-people by-the-danger of-some indeed even by-the-death disturbed
ad unicum doloris levamentum studia confugi, quae praestant
to the-sole of-grief relief studies I-fled which ensure
ut adversa magis intellegam, sed patientius feram.
that adversities more I-understand but more-patiently I-bear

19.2 Est autem mihi moris quod sum daturus in manus
it-is moreover for-me of-custom what I-am about-to-give into the-hands
hominum ante amicorum iudicio examinare, in primis
of-men before of-friends to-the-judgment to-examine among the-first
tuo. Proinde si quando, nunc intende libro, quem cum
to-yours therefore if ever now attend to-the-book which with
hac epistula accipies, quia vereor ne ipse ut tristis
this letter you-will-receive because I-fear lest I-myself as sad
parum intenderim. Imperare enim dolori ut scriberem potui;
too-little have-attended to-command for my-grief that I-should-write I-could
ut vacuo animo laetoque non potui. Porro ut ex studiis
that with-a-free mind and-glad not I-could moreover as from studies
gaudium, sic studia hilaritate proveniunt. Vale.
joy so studies from-cheerfulness come farewell

20 C. Plinius Gallo suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Gallus his-own greeting

20.1 Ad quae noscenda iter ingredi, transmittere mare solemus,
for which to-be-known a-journey to-undertake to-cross the-sea we-are-wont
ea sub oculis posita neglegimus, seu quia ita natura
those under the-eyes set we-neglect whether because so by-nature
comparatum, ut proximorum incuriosi longinqua sectemur,
arranged that of-the-nearest incurious the-far-off we-pursue
seu quod omnium rerum cupido languescit, cum facilis
or because of-all things desire grows-languid when easy
occasio, seu quod differimus tamquam saepe visuri quod
the-opportunity or because we-postpone as-if often about-to-see what
datur videre, quotiens velis cernere.
it-is-granted to-see whenever you-wish to-look

20.2 Quacumque de causa, permulta in urbe nostra iuxtaque
whatever from reason very-many-things in city our and-near
urbem non oculis modo sed ne auribus quidem novimus, quae
the-city not with-eyes only but not by-ears even we-know which

si tulisset Achaia, Aegyptos, Asia aliave quaelibet miraculorum
if had-produced Achaea Egypt Asia or-other any wonders'
ferax commendatrixque terra, audita perlecta lustrata haberemus.
fertile and-advertiser land heard read surveyed we-would-have
Ipse certe nuper quod nec audieram ante nec videram 20.3
I-myself certainly lately what neither I-had-heard before nor had-seen
audivi pariter et vidi. Exegerat prosocer meus ut
I-heard at-once and saw had-demanded grandfather-in-law my that
Amerina praedia sua inspicerem. Haec perambulanti mihi
the-Amerian estates his I-should-inspect these walking-through to-me
ostenditur subiacens lacus nomine Vadimonis: simul
is-shown lying-below a-lake by-name of-Vadimon at-the-same-time
quaedam incredibilia narrantur.
certain incredible-things are-told
Perveni ad ipsum. Lacus est in similitudinem iacentis rotae 20.4
I-came to it-itself the-lake is in the-likeness of-a-lying wheel
circumscriptus et undique aequalis: nullus sinus, obliquitas
circumscribed and on-all-sides even no bay obliquity
nulla, omnia dimensa, paria et quasi artificis manu
none all-things measured equal and as-if by-a-craftsman's hand
cavata et excisa. Color caerulo albidior, viridi *** or
hollowed and cut-out the-color than-blue whiter than-green (lacuna) (-er)
et pressior, sulpuris odor saporque medicatus, vis qua
and deeper of-sulfur the-smell and-the-taste medicinal the-power by-which
fracta solidantur. Spatium modicum, quod tamen sentiat
broken-things are-knit the-extent modest which however may-feel
ventos et fluctibus intumescat.
the-winds and with-waves swell
Nulla in hoc navis (sacer enim), sed innatant insulae, 20.5
no on this ship sacred for but there-float islands
herbidae omnes harundine et iunco, quaeque alia fecundior
grassy all with-reed and rush and-whatever other the-more-fertile

palus ipsaque illa extremitas lacus effert. Sua cuique
marsh and-that very edge of-the-lake brings-forth its-own to-each
figura ac modus: cunctis margo derasus, quia frequenter
shape and size for-all the-edge rubbed-off because frequently
vel litori vel sibi inlisae terunt terunturque.
either against-the-shore or against-each-other dashed they-rub and-are-rubbed
Par omnibus altitudo, par levitas; quippe in speciem
equal for-all the-height equal the-lightness for into the-shape
carinae humili radice descendunt:
of-a-keel with-low root they-descend

20.6 Haec ab omni latere perspicitur eademque suspensa pariter
this from every side is-seen-through and-the-same suspended alike
et mersa. Interdum iunctae copulataeque et continenti
and submerged sometimes joined and-coupled and to-the-mainland
similes sunt, interdum discordantibus ventis digeruntur, non
similar they-are sometimes by-conflicting winds they-are-scattered not
numquam destitutae tranquillitate singulae fluitant.
never deserted by-the-calm singly they-float

20.7 Saepe minores maioribus velut cumbulae onerariis
often smaller to-larger like little-boats to-merchant-ships
adhaerescunt, saepe inter se maiores minoresque quasi
cling often among themselves larger and-smaller as-if
cursum certamenque desumunt; rursus omnes in eundem
a-race and-contest take-up again all into the-same
locum adpulsae, qua steterunt promovent terram et modo
place driven where they-have-stood they-push-forward the-land and now
hac modo illa lacum reddunt auferuntque ac tum demum,
here now there the-lake give-back and-take-away and then at-last
cum medium tenuere, non contrahunt.
when the-middle they-have-held not they-contract-it

Constat pecora herbas secuta sic in insulas illas ut 20.8
it-is-agreed cattle the-grass having-followed so onto islands those as
in extremam ripam procedere solere nec prius intellegere
onto the-farthest bank to-advance to-be-wont nor before to-perceive
mobile solum, quam litori abrepta quasi inlata et
the-mobile ground than from-the-shore snatched-away as-if carried and
inposita circumfusum undique lacum paveant; mox quo
placed the-poured-around on-all-sides lake they-fear soon where
tulerit ventus egressa, non magis se descendisse
has-carried the-wind having-gone-out not more themselves to-have-gone-down
sentire, quam senserint ascendisse.
to-feel than they-felt to-have-gone-up
Idem lacus in flumen egeritur, quod, ubi se paulisper 20.9
the-same lake into a-river is-discharged which when itself a-little
oculis dedit, specu mergitur alteque conditum meat, ac
to-the-eyes it-has-given into-a-cave is-plunged and-deeply hidden flows and
siquid, antequam subduceretur, accepit, servat et profert.
if-anything before it-was-drawn-under it-received it-keeps and brings-forth
Haec tibi scripsi, quia nec minus ignota quam mihi 20.10
these-things to-you I-have-written because neither less unknown than to-me
nec minus grata credebam. Nam te quoque, ut me, nihil
nor less welcome I-believed-them for you also as me nothing
aeque ac naturae opera delectant. Vale.
equally as of-nature the-works delight farewell

Pliny tells Arrianus of a two-day recital of his light verses before friends. He reflects on Thrasea's saying that he who hates vice hates mankind, mourns Junius Avitus, a young aedile-elect who died before his time, and advises Maximus, sent to set in order the free cities of Achaia, to respect the Greeks' ancient glory and freedom.

21 C. Plinius Arriano suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Arrianus his-own greeting

21.1 Ut in vita sic in studiis pulcherrimum et humanissimum
as in life so in studies most-beautiful and most-humane
existimo severitatem comitatemque miscere, ne illa in
I-think severity and-affability to-mix lest the-former into
tristitiam, haec in petulantiam excedat.
gloom the-latter into petulance go-too-far

21.2 Qua ratione ductus graviora opera lusibus iocisque
by-which reason led weightier works with-amusements and-jests
distinguo. Ad hos proferendos et tempus et locum
I-punctuate for these to-be-brought-out both a-time and a-place
opportunissimum elegi, utque iam nunc adsuescerent et
most-opportune I-chose and-that already now they-might-grow-used both
ab otiosis et in triclinio audiri, Iulio mense, quo
by the-idle and in a-dining-room to-be-heard in-the-July month when
maxime lites interquiescunt, positis ante lectos cathedris
most lawsuits rest with-placed before the-couches chairs
amicos collocavi.
my-friends I-seated

21.3 Forte accidit ut eodem die mane in advocationem
by-chance it-happened that on-the-same day in-the-morning to an-advocacy
subitam rogarer, quod mihi causam praeloquendi dedit.
sudden I-was-asked which to-me a-cause of-speaking-a-preface gave

Sum enim deprecatus ne quis ut inreverentem operis
I-have for begged that-not anyone as irreverent toward-the-work
argueret, quod recitaturus, quamquam et amicis et
should-accuse-me because about-to-recite although both to-friends and
paucis, id est iterum amicis, foro et negotiis non
to-few that is again to-friends from-the-forum and business not
abstinuissem. Addidi hunc ordinem me et in scribendo
I-had-abstained I-added this order me also in writing
sequi, ut necessitates voluptatibus, seria iucundis
to-follow that necessities to-pleasures serious-things to-pleasant-ones
anteferrem ac primum amicis, tum mihi scriberem.
I-should-prefer and first for-friends then for-myself I-should-write
Liber fuit et opusculis varius et metris. Ita solemus, qui 21.4
the-book was both in-little-works varied and in-meters so we-are-wont who
ingenio parum fidimus, satietatis periculum fugere. Recitavi
in-talent too-little trust of-satiety the-danger to-flee I-recited
biduo: hoc adsensus audientium exegit: et tamen ut
over-two-days this the-assent of-the-hearers demanded and yet as
alii transeunt quaedam imputantque quod transeant, sic
others pass-over some-things and-make-a-merit that they-pass-over so
ego nihil praetereo atque etiam non praeterire me dico.
I nothing pass-over and even not to-pass-over me I-say
Lego enim omnia ut omnia emendem, quod contingere non
I-read for all-things that all-things I-may-correct which to-befall not
potest electa recitantibus.
can selections to-those-reciting
At illud modestius et fortasse reverentius; sed hoc simplicius et 21.5
but that more-modest and perhaps more-respectful but this more-frank and
amantius. Amat enim qui se sic amari putat, ut taedium
more-loving loves for he-who himself so to-be-loved thinks that weariness
non pertimescat. Et alioqui quid praestant sodales, si conveniunt
not he-fears and otherwise what render companions if they-gather

voluptatis suae causa? Delicatus ac similis ignoto est
of-pleasure their-own for-the-sake fastidious and like to-a-stranger is
qui amici librum bonum mavult audire quam facere.
he-who of-a-friend a-book good prefers to-hear than to-make

21.6 Non dubito cupere te pro cetera mei caritate quam
not I-doubt to-desire you in-keeping-with the-rest for-me affection as
maturissime legere hunc adhuc musteum librum. Leges,
soonest to-read this still new-wine book you-will-read-it
sed retractatum, quae causa recitandi fuit; et tamen non
but revised which the-cause of-reciting was and yet not
nulla iam ex eo nosti. Haec vel emendata postea, quod
none already of it you-know these either corrected afterward which
interdum longiore mora solet, deteriora facta quasi nova
sometimes with-longer delay is-wont worse made as-if new
rursus et rescripta cognosces. Nam plerisque mutatis
again and rewritten you-will-recognize for with-most changed
ea quoque mutata videntur, quae manent. Vale.
those-things also changed seem which remain farewell

22 C. Plinius Gemino suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Geminus his-own greeting

22.1 Nostine hos qui omnium libidinum servi sic aliorum
do-you-know these who of-all lusts slaves so at-others'
vitiis irascuntur, quasi invideant, et gravissime puniunt
vices are-angry as-if they-envied-them and most-severely punish
quos maxime imitantur? Cum eos etiam qui non indigent
those-whom most they-imitate when them even who not need
clementia ullius, nihil magis quam lenitas deceat.
the-clemency of-anyone nothing more than gentleness would-become

Atque ego optimum et emendatissimum existimo qui 22.2
and I the-best and most-faultless I-think him-who
ceteris ita ignoscit, tamquam ipse cotidie peccet, ita peccatis
the-others so pardons as-if himself daily he-sinned so from-sins
abstinet, tamquam nemini ignoscat.
abstains as-if no-one he-pardoned
Proinde hoc domi, hoc foris, hoc in omni vitae genere teneamus, 22.3
therefore this at-home this abroad this in every of-life kind let-us-hold
ut nobis inplacabiles simus, exorabiles istis etiam qui
that to-ourselves implacable we-be easily-entreated to-those even who
dare veniam nisi sibi nesciunt, mandemusque memoriae
to-give pardon except to-themselves know-not and-let-us-commit to-memory
quod vir mitissimus et ob hoc quoque maximus,
what a-man most-gentle and on-account-of this also greatest
Thrasea, crebro dicere solebat, 'Qui vitia odit, homines odit.'
Thrasea often to-say was-wont he-who vices hates men hates
Quaeris fortasse, quo commotus haec scribam.
you-ask perhaps by-what moved these-things I-write
Nuper quidam — sed melius coram; quamquam ne tunc 22.4
lately a-certain-man but better face-to-face although not then
quidem. Vereor enim ne id quod inprobo insectari carpere
even I-fear for lest that which I-disapprove to-attack to-carp-at
referre huic quod cum maxime praecipimus repugnet. Quisquis
to-report to-this which just now we-teach be-opposed whoever
ille, qualiscumque sileatur, quem insignire exempli
he whatever-sort let-him-be-passed-over whom to-mark-out of-example
nihil, non insignire humanitatis plurimum refert. Vale.
nothing not to-mark-out of-humanity very-much matters farewell

23 C. Plinius Marcellino suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Marcellinus his-own greeting

23.1 Omnia mihi studia, omnes curas, omnia avocamenta
all from-me studies all cares all distractions
exemit, excussit, eripuit dolor, quem ex morte Iuni
has-taken-away shaken-out snatched grief which from the-death of-Junius
Aviti gravissimum cepi.
Avitus most-heavy I-received

23.2 Latum clavum in domo mea induerat: suffragio meo adiutus
the-broad stripe in house my he-had-put-on by-vote my helped
in petendis honoribus fuerat: ad hoc ita me diligebat, ita
in seeking offices he-had-been to this so me he-loved so
verebatur, ut me formatore morum, me quasi magistro uteretur.
revered that me as-shaper of-character me as-if as-teacher he-used

23.3 Rarum hoc in adulescentibus nostris. Nam quotus quisque
rare this among young-men our for how-few each
vel aetati alterius vel auctoritati ut minor cedit? Statim
either to-the-age of-another or to-the-authority as lesser yields at-once
sapiunt, statim sciunt omnia, neminem verentur, imitantur
they-are-wise at-once they-know all-things no-one they-revere they-imitate
neminem atque ipsi sibi exempla sunt. Sed non
no-one and themselves to-themselves examples are but not
Avitus, cuius haec praecipua prudentia, quod alios prudentiores
Avitus whose this the-chief prudence that others wiser
arbitrabatur, haec praecipua eruditio, quod discere volebat.
he-thought this the-chief learning that to-learn he-wished

23.4 Semper ille aut de studiis aliquid aut de officiis vitae
always he either about studies something or about the-duties of-life
consulebat, semper ita recedebat ut melior factus; et erat
consulted always so he-withdrew as better made and he-was
factus vel eo quod audierat vel quod omnino quaesierat.
made either by-that which he-had-heard or that at-all he-had-asked

Quod ille obsequium Serviano, exactissimo viro praestitit! 23.5
what he deference to-Servianus a-most-exacting man showed
Quem legatum tribunus ita et intellexit et cepit, ut ex
whom as-legate as-tribune so both he-understood and won that from
Germania in Pannoniam transeuntem non ut commilito, sed
Germany into Pannonia passing not as a-fellow-soldier but
ut comes adsectatorque sequeretur. Qua industria, qua
as a-companion and-attendant he-followed with-what industry with-what
modestia quaestor consulibus suis (et plures habuit) non
modesty as-quaestor to-consuls his-own and several he-had not
minus iucundus et gratus quam utilis fuit! Quo discursu,
less pleasant and welcome than useful was-he with-what running-about
qua vigilantia, hanc ipsam aedilitatem, cui praereptus
with-what vigilance this very aedileship from-which snatched
est, petiit! Quod vel maxime dolorem meum exulcerat.
he-has-been he-sought which even most grief my ulcerates
Obversantur oculis cassi labores et infructuosae preces 23.6
hover-before my-eyes the-empty labors and fruitless prayers
et honor quem meruit tantum: redit animo ille latus
and the-office which he-deserved only returns to-my-mind that broad
clavus in penatibus meis sumptus, redeunt illa prima, illa
stripe in household-gods my assumed return those first those
postrema suffragia mea, illi sermones, illae consultationes.
last votes my those conversations those consultations
Adficior adulescentia ipsius, adficior necessitudinum casu. 23.7
I-am-affected by-the-youth his-own I-am-affected by-the-relatives' plight
Erat illi grandis natu parens, erat uxor, quam ante annum
there-was to-him great by-birth a-parent there-was a-wife whom before a-year
virginem acceperat, erat filia, quam paulo ante sustulerat.
as-a-virgin he-had-received there-was a-daughter whom a-little before he-had-taken-up
Tot spes, tot gaudia dies unus in adversa convertit.
so-many hopes so-many joys day one into adversity turned

23.8 Modo designatus aedilis, recens maritus, recens pater, intactum
just designated aedile recent husband recent father an-untouched
honorem, orbam matrem, viduam uxorem, filiam pupillam
office a-bereaved mother a-widowed wife a-daughter orphan
ignaram patris reliquit. Accedit lacrimis meis quod absens
unaware of-father he-left is-added to-tears my that absent
et inpendentis mali nescius pariter aegrum, pariter decessisse
and of-the-impending evil unaware at-once ill at-once to-have-died
cognovi, ne gravissimo dolori tempore consuescerem. In tantis
I-learned lest to-most-heavy grief by-time I-should-grow-used in such
tormentis eram, cum scriberem haec, scriberem sola: neque
torments I-was when I-wrote these-things I-wrote these-alone nor
enim nunc aliud aut cogitare aut loqui possum. Vale.
for now anything-else either to-think or to-speak can-I farewell

24 C. Plinius Maximo suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Maximus his-own greeting

24.1 Amor in te meus cogit, non ut praecipiam (neque
love toward you my compels not that I-should-instruct nor
enim praeceptore eges), admoneam tamen, ut quae
for of-an-instructor do-you-have-need that-I-should-admonish however that what
scis teneas et observes, aut nescire melius.
you-know you-hold and observe or not-to-know better

24.2 Cogita te missum in provinciam Achaiam, illam veram et
consider yourself sent into the-province Achaea that true and
meram Graeciam, in qua primum humanitas litterae, etiam
pure Greece in which first humanity letters even
fruges inventae esse creduntur; missum ad ordinandum
crops discovered to-have-been are-believed sent to regulating
statum liberarum civitatum, id est ad homines maxime
the-condition of-free states that is to men most

homines, ad liberos maxime liberos, qui ius a natura datum
men to free-men most free who the-right by nature given
virtute, meritis, amicitia, foedere denique et religione tenuerunt.
by-virtue by-merits by-friendship by-treaty in-short and by-religion have-held
Reverere conditores deos et numina deorum, reverere 24.3
revere the-founder gods and the-divinities of-the-gods revere
gloriam veterem et hanc ipsam senectutem, quae in
the-glory ancient and this very old-age which in
homine venerabilis, in urbibus sacra. Sit apud te honor
a-man venerable in cities sacred let-there-be with you honor
antiquitati, sit ingentibus factis, sit fabulis quoque.
to-antiquity let-it-be to-great deeds let-it-be to-legends also
Nihil ex cuiusquam dignitate, nihil ex libertate, nihil
nothing from anyone's dignity nothing from freedom nothing
etiam ex iactatione decerpseris.
even from boasting shall-you-pluck
Habe ante oculos hanc esse terram quae nobis miserit iura, 24.4
have before your-eyes this to-be the-land which to-us sent laws
quae leges non victis, sed petentibus dederit, Athenas
which laws not to-the-conquered but to-the-asking gave Athens
esse quas adeas, Lacedaemonem esse quam regas; quibus
to-be which you-approach Lacedaemon to-be which you-rule from-whom
reliquam umbram et residuum libertatis nomen eripere
the-remaining shadow and the-residual of-freedom name to-snatch
durum ferum barbarum est.
harsh cruel barbarous is
Vides a medicis, quamquam in adversa valetudine nihil servi 24.5
you-see by doctors although in adverse health nothing slave
ac liberi differant, mollius tamen liberos clementiusque
and free-man differ more-gently yet the-free and-more-mildly

tractari. Recordare quid quaeque civitas fuerit, non ut
to-be-treated recall what each state was not that
despicias, quod esse desierit: absit superbia asperitas.
you-despise-it because to-be it-has-ceased let-be-absent pride harshness
24.6 Nec timueris contemptum. An contemnitur qui imperium,
nor fear contempt or is-he-despised who command
qui fasces habet, nisi humilis et sordidus et qui se
who the-fasces has unless humble and mean and who himself
primus ipse contemnit? Male vim suam potestas aliorum
first himself despises badly force its-own power by-others'
contumeliis experitur, male terrore veneratio adquiritur,
insults tests badly by-terror veneration is-acquired
longeque valentior amor ad obtinendum quod velis quam
and-far stronger love for keeping what you-wish than
timor. Nam timor abit, si recedas; manet amor, ac sicut
fear for fear departs if you-withdraw remains love and as
ille in odium hic in reverentiam vertitur.
that into hatred this into reverence is-turned
24.7 Te vero etiam atque etiam (repetam enim) meminisse oportet
you indeed again and again I-will-repeat for to-remember it-behooves
officii tui titulum ac tibi ipsum interpretari, quale
of-office your the-title and for-yourself itself to-interpret what-sort
quantumque sit ordinare statum liberarum civitatum. Nam
and-how-great it-is to-regulate the-condition of-free states for
quid ordinatione civilius, quid libertate pretiosius?
what than-regulation more-civic what than-freedom more-precious
24.8 Porro quam turpe, si ordinatio eversione, libertas servitute
moreover how base if regulation into-overthrow freedom into-slavery
mutetur! Accedit quod tibi certamen est tecum: onerat te
be-changed is-added that for-you the-contest is with-yourself burdens you
quaesturae tuae fama, quam ex Bithynia optimam revexisti,
of-quaestorship your the-fame which from Bithynia the-best you-brought-back

onerat testimonium principis, onerat tribunatus, praetura
burdens-you the-testimony of-the-emperor burdens-you the-tribunate the-praetorship
atque haec ipsa legatio quasi praemium data.
and this very legateship as-if a-reward given
Quo magis nitendum est ne in longinqua provincia quam 24.9
by-which the-more to-be-striven it-is lest in a-distant province than
suburbana, ne inter servientes quam liberos, ne sorte quam
in-a-suburban lest among the-serving than the-free lest by-lot than
iudicio missus, ne rudis et incognitus quam exploratus
by-judgment sent lest raw and unknown than tested
probatusque humanior melior peritior fuisse videaris, cum
and-approved more-humane better more-skilled to-have-been you-seem since
sit alioqui, ut saepe audisti, saepe legisti, multo deformius
it-is otherwise as often you-have-heard often read much more-unseemly
amittere quam non adsequi laudem.
to-lose than not to-attain praise
Haec velim credas, quod initio dixi, scripsisse 24.10
these-things I-would-like you-to-believe as at-the-beginning I-said to-have-written
me admonentem, non praecipientem; quamquam praecipientem
me admonishing not instructing although instructing
quoque. Quippe non vereor in amore ne modum excesserim.
also indeed not I-fear in love lest the-measure I-have-exceeded
Neque enim periculum est ne sit nimium quod esse
nor for danger is lest be too-much what to-be
maximum debet. Vale.
greatest ought farewell

BOOK IX

I · CIRCUS AND COMEDY

Pliny urges Maximus to publish his books against Planta, apologizes to Sabinus for short letters, writes to Paulinus of fame and to Macrinus of a long speech, praises Tiro's justice, tells Calvisius he spent the circus days reading, describes to Romanus his two villas on Lake Larius, Tragedy and Comedy, thanks Augurinus for his writings about him, praises Colonus' grief for Pompeius Quintianus, and tells Tacitus that, with no boars to hunt, his poems rest while he revises a speech or two.

C. Plinius Maximo suo s. 1

Gaius Pliny to-Maximus his-own greeting

Saepe te monui, ut libros quos vel pro te vel in 1.1

often you I-have-advised that the-books which either for yourself or against

Plantam, immo et pro te et in illum (ita enim materia

Planta nay both for yourself and against him so for the-material

cogebat) composuisti quam maturissime emitteres; quod

required you-composed as soonest you-should-publish which

nunc praecipue morte eius audita et hortor et moneo.

now especially with-the-death his heard both I-urge and I-advise

Quamvis enim legeris multis legendosque dederis, 1.2

although for you-have-read-them to-many and-to-be-read you-have-given

nolo tamen quemquam opinari defuncto demum inchoatos,

I-do-not-wish however anyone to-suppose with-him-dead only begun

quos incolumi eo peregisti. Salva sit tibi constantiae

those-which with-unharmed him you-completed safe let-be for-you of-constancy

fama. Erit autem, si notum aequis iniquisque fuerit

the-reputation it-will-be moreover if known to-the-fair and-the-unfair it-shall-have-been

non post inimici mortem scribendi tibi natam esse

not after the-enemy's death of-writing for-you born to-have-been

fiduciam, sed iam paratam editionem morte praeventam.

the-confidence but already ready the-edition by-death forestalled

1.3 Simul vitabis illud οὐχ ὁσίη φθιμένοισι. Nam quod
at-the-same-time you-will-avoid that not righteous over-the-dead for what
de vivente scriptum, de vivente recitatum est, in
about one-living written about one-living recited has-been against
defunctum quoque tamquam viventem adhuc editur, si
one-dead also as-if living still is-published if
editur statim. Igitur, siquid aliud in manibus, interim
it-is-published at-once therefore if-anything else in your-hands meanwhile
differ; hoc perfice, quod nobis, qui legimus, olim absolutum
postpone-it this finish which to-us who have-read-it long-ago finished
videtur. Sed iam videatur et tibi, cuius cunctationem nec
seems but now let-it-seem also to-you whose hesitation neither
res ipsa desiderat et temporis ratio praecidit. Vale.
the-matter itself desires and of-time the-reckoning cuts-off farewell

2 C. Plinius Sabino suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Sabinus his-own greeting

2.1 Facis iucunde, quod non solum plurimas epistulas meas
you-act pleasantly that not only very-many letters my
verum etiam longissimas flagitas; in quibus parcior fui
but even very-long-ones you-demand in which more-sparing I-was
partim quia tuas occupationes verebar, partim quia ipse
partly because your occupations I-feared partly because I-myself
multum distringebar plerumque frigidis negotiis, quae simul
much was-distracted mostly by-dull affairs which at-once
et avocant animum et comminuunt. Praeterea nec materia
both distract the-mind and break-it-down besides nor material
plura scribendi dabatur.
more of-writing was-given

2.2 Neque enim eadem nostra condicio quae M. Tulli, ad
nor for the-same our condition as of-Marcus Tullius to
cuius exemplum nos vocas. Illi enim et copiosissimum
whose example us you-call to-him for both a-most-copious

ingenium et par ingenio qua varietas rerum qua magnitudo
talent and equal to-his-talent partly the-variety of-matters partly the-greatness
largissime suppetebat.
most-abundantly was-available

Nos quam angustis terminis claudamur, etiam tacente me 2.3
we in-how narrow bounds we-are-enclosed even with-silent me
perspicis, nisi forte volumus scholasticas tibi atque, ut ita
you-perceive unless perhaps we-wish scholastic to-you and as so
dicam, umbraticas litteras mittere.
I-may-say shadowy letters to-send

Sed nihil minus aptum arbitramur, cum arma vestra, cum 2.4
but nothing less suitable we-think when arms your when
castra, cum denique cornua tubas sudorem pulverem soles
camps when in-short horns trumpets sweat dust suns
cogitamus.
we-consider

Habes, ut puto, iustam excusationem, quam tamen dubito 2.5
you-have as I-think a-just excuse which however I-doubt
an tibi probari velim. Est enim summi amoris
whether by-you to-be-approved I-would-wish it-is for of-the-highest love
negare veniam brevibus epistulis amicorum, quamvis scias
to-deny pardon to-short letters of-friends although you-know
illis constare rationem. Vale.
to-them to-stand a-reason farewell

C. Plinius Paulino suo s. 3
Gaius Pliny to-Paulinus his-own greeting

Alius aliud: ego beatissimum existimo qui bonae 3.1
one-man another-thing I most-happy I-think him-who of-good
mansuraeque famae praesumptione perfruitur certusque
and-lasting fame the-anticipation enjoys and-certain

posteritatis cum futura gloria vivit. Ac mihi nisi praemium
of-posterity with future glory lives and to-me unless the-reward
aeternitatis ante oculos, pingue illud altumque otium placeat.
of-eternity before my-eyes rich that and-deep leisure would-please
3.2 Etenim omnes homines arbitror oportere aut inmortalitatem
for all men I-think to-be-bound either their-immortality
suam aut mortalitatem cogitare, et illos quidem contendere
their-own or their-mortality to-consider and those indeed to-strive
eniti, hos quiescere remitti nec brevem vitam
to-exert-themselves these to-rest to-be-relaxed nor short life
caducis laboribus fatigare, ut video multos misera simul
with-perishable labors to-weary as I-see many with-a-wretched at-once
et ingrata imagine industriae ad vilitatem sui pervenire.
and thankless semblance of-industry to cheapness of-themselves to-come
3.3 Haec ego tecum, quae cotidie mecum, ut desinam mecum,
these-things I with-you which daily with-myself that I-may-cease with-myself
si dissenties tu; quamquam non dissenties, ut qui
if you-shall-disagree you although not you-will-disagree as one-who
semper clarum aliquid et inmortale meditere. Vale.
always brilliant something and immortal you-meditate farewell

4 C. Plinius Macrino suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Macrinus his-own greeting

4.1 Vererer ne inmodicam orationem putares, quam cum hac
I-would-fear lest immoderate the-speech you-should-think which with this
epistula accipies, nisi esset generis eius, ut saepe incipere,
letter you-will-receive unless it-were of-a-kind such that often to-begin
saepe desinere videatur. Nam singulis criminibus singulae
often to-end it-seems for in-single charges single
velut causae continentur.
as-it-were cases are-contained

Poteris ergo, undecumque coeperis, ubicumque desieris, 4.2
you-will-be-able therefore wherever you-have-begun wherever you-have-ended
quae deinceps sequentur et quasi incipientia legere et quasi
what next will-follow both as-if beginning to-read and as-if
cohaerentia meque in universitate longissimum, brevissimum
connected and-me in the-whole very-long very-short
in partibus iudicare. Vale.
in the-parts to-judge farewell

C. Plinius Tironi suo s. 5
Gaius Pliny to-Tiro his-own greeting

Egregie facis (inquiro enim), et persevera, quod iustitiam 5.1
excellently you-do I-inquire for and persevere that justice
tuam provincialibus multa humanitate commendas; cuius
your to-the-provincials with-much humanity you-commend of-which
praecipua pars est honestissimum quemque complecti, atque ita
the-chief part is the-most-honorable each to-embrace and so
a minoribus amari, ut simul a principibus diligare.
by the-lesser to-be-loved that at-the-same-time by the-leading-men you-be-esteemed

Plerique autem, dum verentur ne gratiae potentium nimium 5.2
most moreover while they-fear lest to-the-favor of-the-powerful too-much
inpertire videantur, sinisteritatis atque etiam malignitatis
to-share they-seem of-perversity and even of-malice
famam consequuntur.
the-reputation obtain

A quo vitio tu longe recessisti. Scio; sed temperare 5.3
from which fault you far have-withdrawn I-know-it but to-restrain
mihi non possum quo minus laudem similis monenti, quod
myself not I-can that not I-praise-you like one-advising that
eum modum tenes, ut discrimina ordinum dignitatumque
that measure you-keep that the-distinctions of-orders and-ranks

custodias; quae si confusa turbata permixta sunt, nihil est
you-guard which if confused disordered mixed are nothing is
ipsa aequalitate inaequalius. Vale.
itself than-equality more-unequal farewell

6 C. Plinius Calvisio suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Calvisius his-own greeting

6.1 Omne hoc tempus inter pugillares ac libellos iucundissima
all this time among tablets and little-books in-most-pleasant
quiete transmisi. 'Quemadmodum' inquis 'in urbe potuisti?'
quiet I-have-passed how you-say in the-city could-you
Circenses erant, quo genere spectaculi ne levissime
the-circus-games were-on by-which kind of-spectacle not most-lightly
quidem teneor. Nihil novum nihil varium, nihil quod non
even am-I-held nothing new nothing varied nothing which not
semel spectasse sufficiat.
once to-have-watched suffices

6.2 Quo magis miror tot milia virorum tam pueriliter
by-which the-more I-wonder so-many thousands of-men so childishly
identidem cupere currentes equos, insistentes curribus homines
repeatedly to-desire running horses standing on-chariots men
videre. Si tamen aut velocitate equorum aut hominum
to-see if however either by-the-speed of-the-horses or of-the-men
arte traherentur, esset ratio non nulla: nunc favent
by-the-skill they-were-drawn there-would-be reason not none now they-favor
panno, pannum amant, et si in ipso cursu medioque
a-rag a-rag they-love and if in the-very race and-in-the-middle-of
certamine hic color illuc, ille huc transferatur, studium
the-contest this color there that here be-transferred zeal
favorque transibit, et repente agitatores illos, equos illos,
and-favor will-cross-over and suddenly drivers those horses those
quos procul noscitant, quorum clamitant nomina, relinquent.
whom from-afar they-recognize whose they-shout names they-will-abandon

Tanta gratia, tanta auctoritas in una vilissima tunica, mitto 6.3
such favor such influence in one most-cheap tunic I-pass-over
apud vulgus, quod vilius tunica, sed apud quosdam
among the-crowd which more-cheap than-a-tunic but among certain
graves homines; quos ego cum recordor in re inani
serious men whom I when I-recall in a-matter empty
frigida adsidua, tam insatiabiliter desidere, capio aliquam
cold constant so insatiably to-sit-idle I-take some
voluptatem, quod hac voluptate non capior.
pleasure that by-this pleasure not I-am-taken
Ac per hos dies libentissime otium meum in litteris 6.4
and through these days most-gladly leisure my on letters
conloco, quos alii otiosissimis occupationibus perdunt. Vale.
I-spend which others in-most-idle occupations waste farewell
C. Plinius Romano suo s. 7
Gaius Pliny to-Romanus his-own greeting
Aedificare te scribis. Bene est: inveni patrocinium; 7.1
to-be-building yourself you-write well it-is I-have-found a-defense
aedifico enim iam ratione quia tecum. Nam hoc quoque
I-build for now with-reason because with-you for this also
non dissimile, quod ad mare tu, ego ad Larium lacum.
not dissimilar that by the-sea you I by Larius the-lake
Huius in litore plures villae meae, sed duae maxime ut 7.2
of-this on shore several villas of-mine but two most as
delectant ita exercent.
they-delight so they-keep-busy
Altera inposita saxis more Baiano lacum prospicit, altera 7.3
the-one set on-rocks in-the-manner Baian the-lake overlooks the-other
aeque more Baiano lacum tangit. Itaque illam tragoediam,
equally in-the-manner Baian the-lake touches and-so that-one tragedy
hanc appellare comoediam soleo; illam, quod quasi cothurnis,
this to-call comedy I-am-wont that-one because as-if on-tragic-boots

hanc, quod quasi socculis sustinetur. Sua utrique amoenitas
this because as-if on-slippers it-is-supported its-own to-each charm
et utraque possidenti ipsa diversitate iucundior.
and each to-the-one-owning-it by-the-very difference more-pleasant
7.4 Haec lacu propius, illa latius utitur; haec unum sinum
this the-lake more-nearly that more-widely enjoys this one bay
molli curvamine amplectitur, illa editissimo dorso duos
with-a-gentle curve embraces that by-a-most-lofty ridge two
dirimit: illic recta gestatio longo limite super litus
divides there a-straight drive with-a-long path above the-shore
extenditur, hic spatiosissimo xysto leniter inflectitur; illa
extends here by-a-most-spacious terrace gently it-bends that-one
fluctus non sentit, haec frangit: ex illa possis despicere
the-waves not feels this-one breaks-them from that you-can to-look-down-on
piscantes, ex hac ipse piscari hamumque de cubiculo ac
those-fishing from this yourself to-fish and-the-hook from your-bedroom and
paene etiam de lectulo ut e naucula iacere. Hae mihi
almost even from your-bed as from a-little-boat to-cast these to-me
causae utrique quae desunt adstruendi ob ea
the-reasons to-each what-things are-lacking of-adding on-account-of those-things
quae supersunt.
which are-there-in-excess
7.5 Sed quid ego rationem tibi? Apud quem pro ratione
but why I a-reason to-you with whom in-place-of a-reason
erit idem facere. Vale.
will-be the-same to-do farewell

8 C. Plinius Augurino suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Augurinus his-own greeting

8.1 Si laudatus a te laudare te coepero, vereor ne non tam
if praised by you to-praise you I-begin I-fear lest not so-much
proferre iudicium meum quam referre gratiam videar. Sed
to-bring-forward judgment my as to-return a-favor I-seem but

licet videar, omnia scripta tua pulcherrima existimo, maxime
though I-seem all writings your most-beautiful I-think most
tamen illa de nobis.
however those about us

Accidit hoc una eademque de causa. Nam et tu, quae 8.2
happens this one and-the-same from cause for both you what-things
de amicis, optime scribis et ego, quae de me, ut
about friends most-excellently write and I what-things about me as
optima lego. Vale.
most-excellent read farewell

C. Plinius Colono suo s. 9
Gaius Pliny to-Colonus his-own greeting

Unice probo, quod Pompei Quintiani morte tam dolenter 9.1
uniquely I-approve that of-Pompeius Quintianus at-the-death so grievingly
adficeris, ut amissi caritatem desiderio extendas; non
you-are-affected that of-the-lost-man the-affection by-longing you-prolong not
ut plerique, qui tantum viventes amant seu potius amare
as most who only the-living love or rather to-love
se simulant ac ne simulant quidem nisi quos
themselves pretend and not they-pretend even except those-whom
florentes vident. Nam miserorum non secus ac defunctorum
flourishing they-see for the-wretched not otherwise than the-dead
obliviscuntur. Sed tibi perennis fides tantaque in amore
they-forget but in-you perennial faithfulness and-such in love
constantia, ut finiri nisi tua morte non possit.
constancy that to-be-ended except by-your death not it-can

Et hercule is fuit Quintianus, quem diligi deceat ipsius 9.2
and by-Hercules such was Quintianus whom to-be-loved it-befits by-his-own
exemplo. Felices amabat, miseros tuebatur, desiderabat
example the-fortunate he-loved the-wretched he-protected he-longed-for
amissos. Iam illa quanta probitas in ore! Quanta in sermone
the-lost now that how-great uprightness in his-face how-great in speech

cunctatio! Quam pari libra gravitas comitasque! Quod
deliberateness with-how equal a-balance gravity and-affability what
studium litterarum! Quod iudicium! Qua pietate cum
zeal for-letters what judgment with-what devotion with
dissimillimo patre vivebat! Quam non obstabat illi quo
a-most-unlike father he-lived how not it-prevented him by-which
minus vir optimus videretur, quod erat optimus filius!
the-less a-man most-excellent should-seem that he-was a-most-excellent son

9.3 Sed quid dolorem tuum exulcero? Quamquam sic amasti
but why grief your do-I-ulcerate although so you-loved
iuvenem ut hoc potius quam de illo sileri velis;
the-young-man that this rather than about him to-be-silent you-wish
a me praesertim cuius praedicatione putas vitam eius
by me especially by-whose proclamation you-think the-life his
ornari, memoriam prorogari ipsamque illam qua est
to-be-adorned the-memory to-be-prolonged and-the-very that in-which he-was
raptus aetatem posse restitui. Vale.
snatched age to-be-able to-be-restored farewell

10 C. Plinius Tacito suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Tacitus his-own greeting

10.1 Cupio praeceptis tuis parere. Sed aprorum tanta penuria
I-desire precepts your to-obey but of-boars such scarcity
est, ut Minervae et Dianae, quas ais pariter colendas,
is that for-Minerva and for-Diana whom you-say equally to-be-worshiped
convenire non possit.
to-come-together not can

10.2 Itaque Minervae tantum serviendum est, delicate tamen, ut
and-so to-Minerva only to-be-served it-is luxuriously however as
in secessu et aestate. In via plane non nulla leviora
in retirement and summer on the-road plainly not none lighter-things
statimque delenda ea garrulitate, qua sermones in
and-at-once to-be-erased with-that chatter with-which conversations in

vehiculo seruntur, extendi. His quaedam addidi in villa,
a-carriage are-strung I-spun-out to-these some-things I-added at the-villa
cum aliud non liberet. Itaque poemata quiescunt, quae
when anything-else not it-pleased and-so the-poems rest which
tu inter nemora et lucos commodissime perfici putas:
you among groves and woods most-conveniently to-be-completed think
Oratiunculam unam alteram retractavi. Quamquam id genus 10.3
a-little-speech one another-one I-have-revised although that kind
operis inamabile, inamoenum magisque laboribus ruris
of-work unlovely unpleasant and-more to-the-labors of-the-country
quam voluptatibus simile. Vale.
than to-the-pleasures similar farewell

II · THE AVENGING OF HELVIDIUS

Pliny is glad his books sell at Lugdunum, and tells Junior of a father who scolded his son. He then tells Quadratus how, after Domitian's death, he accused Publicius Certus in the senate of laying hands on Helvidius: the protests and warnings, the speeches for and against, the shouting down of Veiento, Certus' loss of the consulship, and his death soon after.

C. Plinius Gemino suo s. 11
Gaius Pliny to-Geminus his-own greeting
Epistulam tuam iucundissimam accepi, eo maxime, quod 11.1
letter your most-pleasant I-received by-this most that
aliquid ad te scribi volebas, quod libris inseri
something to you to-be-written you-wished which into-my-books to-be-inserted
posset. Obveniet materia, vel haec ipsa quam monstras
could will-turn-up material either this very-one which you-point-out

vel potior alia. Sunt enim in hac offendicula non nulla:
or a-better other there-are for in this stumbling-blocks not none
circumfer oculos, et occurrent.
cast-around your-eyes and they-will-meet-you

11.2 Bibliopolas Lugduni esse non putabam, ac tanto libentius
booksellers at-Lugdunum to-be not I-thought and so-much more-gladly
ex litteris tuis cognovi venditari libellos meos, quibus peregre
from letter your I-learned to-be-sold little-books my for-which abroad
manere gratiam, quam in urbe collegerint delector. Incipio
to-remain the-favor which in the-city they-gathered I-am-delighted I-begin
enim satis absolutum existimare, de quo tanta diversitate
for sufficiently finished to-think-that about which with-such diversity
regionum discreta hominum iudicia consentiunt. Vale.
of-regions separated of-men the-judgments agree farewell

12 C. Plinius Iuniori suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Junior his-own greeting

12.1 Castigabat quidam filium suum, quod paulo sumptuosius
was-scolding a-certain-man son his-own because a-little too-extravagantly
equos et canes emeret. Huic ego iuvene digresso
horses and dogs he-bought to-him I with-the-young-man gone-away
‘Heus tu, numquamne fecisti quod a patre corripi
hey you have-you-never done what by your-father to-be-rebuked
posset? “Fecisti” dico? Non interdum facis quod filius tuus,
could done do-I-say not sometimes do-you-do what son your
si repente pater ille, tu filius, pari gravitate reprehendat?
if suddenly father he you son with-equal severity would-reprove
Non omnes homines aliquo errore ducuntur? Non hic in
not all men by-some error are-led not this-one in
illo sibi, in hoc alius indulget?’
that to-himself in this another indulges

Haec tibi admonitus inmodicae severitatis exemplo 12.2
these-things to-you warned of-immoderate severity by-the-example
pro amore mutuo scripsi, ne quando tu quoque filium
in-keeping-with love mutual I-have-written lest ever you also son
tuum acerbius duriusque tractares. Cogita et illum puerum
your more-harshly and-more-severely you-should-treat consider both him a-boy
esse et te fuisse atque ita hoc quod es pater utere,
to-be and you to-have-been-one and so this that you-are a-father use
ut memineris et hominem esse te et hominis patrem. Vale.
that you-remember both a-man to-be you and of-a-man the-father farewell

C. Plinius Quadrato suo s. 13
Gaius Pliny to-Quadratus his-own greeting

Quanto studiosius intentiusque legisti libros quos de 13.1
by-how-much more-studiously and-more-intently you-have-read the-books which on
Helvidi ultione composui, tanto impensius postulas ut
of-Helvidius the-avenging I-composed by-so-much more-urgently you-demand that
perscribam tibi quaeque extra libros quaeque circa
I-write-out to-you both-what-things outside the-books and-what-things around
libros, totum denique ordinem rei, cui per aetatem
the-books the-whole in-short course of-the-affair at-which because-of your-age
non interfuisti.
not you-were-present

Occiso Domitiano statui mecum ac deliberavi esse magnam 13.2
with-killed Domitian I-resolved with-myself and considered to-be great
pulchramque materiam insectandi nocentes, miseros vindicandi,
and-beautiful the-material for-attacking the-guilty the-wretched for-avenging
se proferendi. Porro inter multa scelera multorum nullum
oneself for-bringing-forward moreover among many crimes of-many none
atrocius videbatur, quam quod in senatu senator senatori,
more-atrocious seemed than that in the-senate a-senator on-a-senator
praetorius consulari, reo iudex manus intulisset.
a-praetorian on-a-consular on-a-defendant a-judge hands had-laid

13.3 Fuerat alioqui mihi cum Helvidio amicitia, quanta
there-had-been besides for-me with Helvidius friendship as-great-as
potuerat esse cum eo qui metu temporum nomen ingens
could have-been with one who from-fear of-the-times a-name huge
paresque virtutes secessu tegebat; fuerat cum Arria
and-equal virtues by-retirement covered there-had-been with Arria
et Fannia, quarum altera Helvidi noverca, altera mater
and Fannia of-whom the-one of-Helvidius the-stepmother the-other the-mother
novercae. Sed non ita me iura privata ut publicum fas
of-the-stepmother but not so me rights private as public right
et indignitas facti et exempli ratio incitabat.
and the-indignity of-the-deed and of-the-precedent the-reckoning incited
13.4 Ac primis quidem diebus redditae libertatis pro se quisque
and in-the-first indeed days of-restored liberty for himself each
inimicos suos, dumtaxat minores, incondito turbidoque
enemies his-own only lesser-ones with-disordered and-turbulent
clamore postulaverat simul et oppresserat. Ego et modestius
clamor had-impeached at-once and crushed I both more-modestly
et constantius arbitratus immanissimum reum non communi
and more-steadfastly having-thought a-most-monstrous defendant not by-the-common
temporum invidia, sed proprio crimine urgere, cum iam satis
of-the-times odium but by-his-own crime to-press when already sufficiently
primus ille impetus defremuisset et languidior in dies ira ad
first that onslaught had-ceased-roaring and more-languid in days anger to
iustitiam redisset, quamquam tum maxime tristis amissa nuper
justice had-returned although then most sad with-lost lately
uxore, mitto ad Anteiam (nupta haec Helvidio fuerat), rogo
my-wife I-send to Anteia married she to-Helvidius had-been I-ask
ut veniat, quia me recens adhuc luctus limine contineret.
that she-come because me recent still grief at-the-threshold kept

Ut venit, 'Destinatum est' inquam 'mihi maritum tuum 13.5
when she-came determined it-is I-said for-me husband your
non inultum pati. Nuntia Arriae et Fanniae' (ab exilio
not unavenged to-allow report to-Arria and Fannia from exile
redierant): 'consule te, consule illas, an velitis adscribi
they-had-returned consult yourself consult them whether you-wish to-be-enrolled
facto, in quo ego comite non egeo; sed non ita gloriae
in-the-deed in which I a-companion not need but not so glory
meae faverim, ut vobis societate eius invideam.' Perfert
my I-would-favor that you the-partnership of-it I-should-grudge carries
Anteia mandata, nec illae morantur.
Anteia the-messages nor they delay
Opportune senatus intra diem tertium. Omnia ego semper 13.6
opportunely the-senate within the-day third all-things I always
ad Corellium rettuli, quem providentissimum aetatis nostrae
to Corellius referred whom the-most-provident of-age our
sapientissimumque cognovi; in hoc tamen contentus consilio
and-wisest I-have-known in this however content with-counsel
meo fui, veritus ne vetaret: erat enim cunctantior
my was-I having-feared lest he-forbid he-was for more-hesitant
cautiorque. Sed non sustinui inducere in animum quo
and-more-cautious but not I-endured to-bring into my-mind that
minus illi eodem die facturum me indicarem quod
not to-him on-the-same day to-be-going-to-do me I-should-indicate what
an facerem non deliberabam, expertus usu de eo
whether I-should-do not I-was-deliberating having-learned by-experience about that
quod destinaveris non esse consulendos quibus consultis
which you-have-determined not to-be to-be-consulted those-whom having-consulted
obsequi debeas.
to-obey you-ought

13.7 Venio in senatum, ius dicendi peto, dico paulisper
I-come into the-senate the-right of-speaking I-seek I-speak for-a-little-while
maximo adsensu. Ubi coepi crimen attingere, reum
with-the-greatest assent when I-began the-charge to-touch the-defendant
destinare, adhuc tamen sine nomine, undique mihi
to-designate still however without a-name from-all-sides at-me
reclamari. Alius 'Sciamus, quis sit de quo extra ordinem
to-be-shouted-back one let-us-know who it-is about whom out-of order
referas'; alius 'Quis est ante relationem reus?'; alius 'salvi
you-move another who is before the-motion a-defendant another safe
simus, qui supersumus.'
let-us-be who survive

13.8 Audio inperturbatus, interritus: tantum susceptae rei
I-hear unperturbed undaunted so-much of-an-undertaken thing
honestas valet tantumque ad fiduciam vel metum differt,
the-honorableness avails and-so-much to confidence or fear it-differs
nolint homines quod facias, an non probent. Longum
whether-do-not-wish men what you-do or not approve long
est omnia quae tunc hinc inde iacta sunt recensere.
it-is all-things which then from-this-side from-that thrown were to-review

13.9 Novissime consul 'Secunde, sententiae loco dices, siquid
at-last the-consul Secundus of-opinion in-place you-will-speak if-anything
volueris.' 'Permiseras' inquam 'quod usque adhuc omnibus
you-wish you-would-have-permitted I-said what up-to now to-all
permisisti.'
you-have-permitted

13.10 Resido: aguntur alia. Interim me quidam ex
I-sit-down are-dealt-with other-things meanwhile me a-certain-man of
consularibus amicis, secreto curatoque sermone quasi nimis
consular friends in-secret and-careful talk as-if too
fortiter incauteque progressum corripit, revocat, monet ut
boldly and-incautiously having-advanced rebukes recalls advises that

desistam, adicit etiam ‘Notabilem te futuris principibus
I-desist adds even conspicuous yourself to-future emperors
fecisti.’ ‘Esto’ inquam, ‘dum malis.’
you-have-made so-be-it I-said provided to-wicked-ones
Vix ille discesserat, rursus alter ‘Quid audes? Quo ruis? 13.11
scarcely he had-gone-away again another what do-you-dare where do-you-rush
Quibus te periculis obicis? Quid praesentibus confidis,
to-what yourself dangers do-you-expose why in-the-present do-you-trust
incertus futurorum? Lacessis hominem iam praefectum
uncertain of-the-future you-provoke a-man already prefect
aerarii et brevi consulem, praeterea qua gratia, quibus
of-the-treasury and shortly consul besides by-what influence by-what
amicitiis fultum!’ Nominat quendam, qui tunc ad orientem
friendships supported he-names a-certain-man who then in the-east
amplissimum et famosissimum exercitum non sine magnis
a-very-ample and very-famous army not without great
dubiisque rumoribus obtinebat.
and-doubtful rumors held
Ad haec ego ‘“Omnia praecepi atque animo mecum ante 13.12
to these-things I all-things I-have-foreseen and in-mind with-myself before
peregi,” nec recuso, si ita casus attulerit, luere poenas
have-gone-through nor do-I-refuse if so chance shall-have-brought to-pay the-penalty
ob honestissimum factum, dum flagitiosissimum ulciscor.’
on-account-of a-most-honorable deed while a-most-shameful-one I-avenge
Iam censendi tempus. Dicit Domitius Apollinaris, consul 13.13
now of-voting the-time speaks Domitius Apollinaris consul
designatus, dicit Fabricius Veiento, Fabius Maximinus, Vettius
designate speaks Fabricius Veiento Fabius Maximinus Vettius
Proculus, collega Publici Certi, de quo agebatur, uxoris
Proculus colleague of-Publicius Certus about whom it-was-being-dealt of-wife
meae, quam amiseram, vitricus, post hos Ammius Flaccus.
my whom I-had-lost the-stepfather after these Ammius Flaccus

Omnes Certum nondum a me nominatum ut nominatum
all Certus not-yet by me named as named
defendunt crimenque quasi in medio relictum defensione
defend and-the-charge as-if in the-middle left with-their-defense
suscipiunt.
take-up

13.14 Quae praeterea dixerint, non est necesse narrare; in libris
what besides they-said not it-is necessary to-relate in the-books
habes. Sum enim cuncta ipsorum verbis persecutus.
you-have-it I-have for all-things in-their-own words set-down

13.15 Dicunt contra Avidius Quietus, Cornutus Tertullus: Quietus,
speak against Avidius Quietus Cornutus Tertullus Quietus
iniquissimum esse querellas dolentium excludi, ideoque
most-unjust to-be the-complaints of-the-grieving to-be-shut-out and-therefore
Arriae et Fanniae ius querendi non auferendum, nec
to-Arria and Fannia the-right of-complaining not to-be-taken-away nor
interesse, cuius ordinis quis sit, sed quam causam habeat:
to-matter of-what order anyone be but what cause he-may-have

13.16 Cornutus, datum se a consulibus tutorem Helvidi filiae
Cornutus given himself by the-consuls as-guardian to-Helvidius' daughter
petentibus matre eius et vitrico; nunc quoque non sustinere
at-the-request-of her-mother her and stepfather now also not to-endure
deserere officii sui partes, in quo tamen et suo
to-desert of-duty his-own the-part in which however both to-his-own
dolori modum inponere et optimarum feminarum perferre
grief a-limit to-impose and of-most-excellent women to-convey
modestissimum adfectum; quas contentas esse admonere senatum
the-most-modest feeling who content to-be to-remind the-senate
Publici Certi cruentae adulationis et petere, si poena flagitii
of-Publicius Certus' bloody flattery and to-ask if the-penalty of-a-crime
manifestissimi remittatur, nota certe quasi censoria inuratur.
most-manifest be-remitted a-mark at-least as-if censorial be-branded

Tum Satrius Rufus medio ambiguoque sermone 'Puto' inquit 13.17
then Satrius Rufus in-a-middle and-ambiguous speech I-think he-said
'iniuriam factam Publicio Certo, si non absolvitur: nominatus
a-wrong done to-Publicius Certus if not he-is-acquitted named
est ab amicis Arriae et Fanniae, nominatus ab amicis suis.
he-has-been by the-friends of-Arria and Fannia named by friends his-own
Nec debemus solliciti esse: iidem enim nos, qui bene sentimus
nor ought-we anxious to-be the-same for we who well think
de homine, et iudicaturi sumus: si innocens est, sicut et spero
about the-man also going-to-judge are if innocent he-is as both I-hope
et malo et, donec aliquid probetur, credo, poteritis absolvere.'
and I-prefer and until something be-proved I-believe you-will-be-able to-acquit
Haec illi, quo quisque ordine citabantur. Venitur 13.18
these-things they in-what each order they-were-called-on there-is-a-coming
ad me: consurgo, utor initio quod in libro est, respondeo
to me I-rise I-use the-opening which in the-book is I-reply
singulis. Mirum qua intentione, quibus clamoribus omnia
to-each-one wonderful with-what attention with-what shouts all-things
exceperint qui modo reclamabant: tanta conversio vel
received those-who just-now were-shouting-back such-a change either
negotii dignitatem vel proventum orationis vel actoris
of-the-affair the-dignity or the-success of-the-speech or of-the-pleader
constantiam subsecuta est.
the-steadfastness followed has
Finio. Incipit respondere Veiento: nemo patitur: obturbatur, 13.19
I-finish begins to-reply Veiento no-one allows-it he-is-interrupted
obstrepitur, adeo quidem ut diceret 'Rogo, patres conscripti,
there-is-a-din so-much indeed that he-said I-ask fathers conscript
ne me cogatis inplorare auxilium tribunorum.' Et statim
lest me you-compel to-implore the-help of-the-tribunes and at-once

Murena tribunus ‘permitto tibi, vir clarissime Veiento,
Murena the-tribune I-permit to-you man most-distinguished Veiento
dicere.’ Tunc quoque reclamatur.
to-speak then also there-is-shouting-back

13.20 Inter moras consul citatis nominibus et peracta discessione
amid the-delays the-consul with-called names and completed division
mittit senatum ac paene adhuc stantem temptantemque
dismisses the-senate and almost still standing and-trying
dicere Veientonem reliquit. Multum ille de hac (ita vocabat)
to-speak Veiento he-left much he about this so he-called-it
contumelia questus est Homerico versu ὦ γέρον, ἦ μάλα
insult complained has with-a-Homeric verse oh old-man truly very
δή σε νέοι τείρουσι μαχηταί.
indeed you young wear-down warriors

13.21 Non fere quisquam in senatu fuit, qui non me complecteretur,
not almost anyone in the-senate was who not me embraced
exoscularetur certatimque laude cumularet, quod intermissum
kissed and-competitively with-praise heaped because the-interrupted
iam diu morem in publicum consulendi susceptis propriis
already long custom for the-public-good taking-counsel with-taken-on personal
simultatibus reduxissem, quod denique senatum invidia
enmities I-had-brought-back because in-short the-senate from-odium
liberassem, qua flagrabat apud ordines alios, quod
I-had-freed with-which it-was-burning among the-orders other because
severus in ceteros senatoribus solis dissimulatione quasi
severe toward the-rest to-senators alone by-concealment as-if
mutua parceret.
mutual it-spared

13.22 Haec acta sunt absente Certo: fuit enim seu tale aliquid
these-things done were with-absent Certus he-was for either such something
suspicatus sive, ut excusabatur, infirmus. Et relationem
having-suspected or as he-was-excused ill and the-motion

quidem de eo Caesar ad senatum non remisit; obtinui
indeed about him Caesar to the-senate not did-send-back I-obtained
tamen quod intenderam:
however what I-had-aimed-at
Nam collega Certi consulatum, successorem Certus accepit, 13.23
for the-colleague of-Certus the-consulship a-successor Certus received
planeque factum est quod dixeram in fine: 'Reddat
and-plainly done it-was what I-had-said at the-end let-him-return
praemium sub optimo principe, quod a pessimo accepit.'
the-reward under the-best emperor which from the-worst he-received
Postea actionem meam, utcumque potui, recollegi, addidi multa.
afterward speech my as-well-as I-could I-recollected I-added much
Accidit fortuitum, quod editis libris Certus intra 13.24
there-happened a-chance-thing that with-published books Certus within
paucissimos dies inplicitus morbo decessit.
very-few days seized by-illness died
Audivi referentes hanc imaginem menti eius, hanc 13.25
I-heard men-reporting this image before-the-mind his this
oculis oberrasse, tamquam videret me sibi cum
before-the-eyes to-have-wandered as-if he-saw me over-himself with
ferro imminere. Verane haec adfirmare non ausim;
a-sword to-threaten whether-true these-things to-affirm not I-would-dare
interest tamen exempli, ut vera videantur.
it-matters however for-example that true they-seem
Habes epistulam, si modum epistulae cogites, libris 13.26
you-have a-letter if the-measure of-a-letter you-consider than-the-books
quos legisti non minorem; sed inputabis tibi, qui
which you-have-read not smaller but you-will-impute-it to-yourself who
contentus libris non fuisti. Vale.
content with-the-books not were farewell

Pliny tells Tacitus of their hope for posterity. He describes his Tuscan days to Falco, promises Mamilianus verses, defends a different taste in entertainment to Genitor, compares to Ruso the epitaph of Verginius Rufus with Frontinus' refusal of a monument, pleads for Sabinianus' freedman, thanks Sabinus for his long letters, asks Venator about his vintage, rejoices at Passennus Paulus' recovery, and tells Maximus of the knight who asked Tacitus whether he was Tacitus or Pliny.

14 C. Plinius Tacito suo s.

Gaius Pliny to-Tacitus his-own greeting

14.1 Nec ipse tibi plaudis, et ego nihil magis ex
nor yourself to-yourself do-you-applaud and I nothing more from
fide quam de te scribo. Posteris an aliqua cura
good-faith than about you write to-posterity whether any care
nostri nescio; nos certe meremur ut sit aliqua, non
for-us I-know-not we certainly deserve that there-be some not
dico ingenio (id enim superbum), sed studio et labore
I-say for-talent that for proud but for-zeal and labor
et reverentia posterorum. Pergamus modo itinere instituto,
and respect for-posterity let-us-go-on only on-the-road set
quod ut paucos in lucem famamque provexit, ita multos
which as few into light and-fame has-advanced so many
e tenebris et silentio protulit. Vale.
from darkness and silence has-brought-forth farewell

15 C. Plinius Falconi suo s.

Gaius Pliny to-Falco his-own greeting

15.1 Refugeram in Tuscos, ut omnia ad arbitrium meum
I-had-fled to the-Tuscan-estate that all-things at will my
facerem. At hoc ne in Tuscis quidem: tam multis
I-might-do but this not on the-Tuscan-estate even with-so many

undique rusticorum libellis et tam querulis inquietor, quos
from-all-sides of-the-peasants petitions and so querulous I-am-disturbed which
aliquanto magis invitus quam meos lego; nam et meos invitus.
considerably more unwillingly than mine I-read for also mine unwillingly
Retracto enim actiunculas quasdam, quod post intercapedinem 15.2
I-am-revising for little-speeches certain which after an-interval
temporis et frigidum et acerbum est. Rationes quasi absente
of-time both cold and bitter is the-accounts as-if with-absent
me negleguntur.
me are-neglected
Interdum tamen equum conscendo et patrem familiae 15.3
sometimes however a-horse I-mount and the-father of-the-household
hactenus ago, quod aliquam partem praediorum, sed pro
so-far I-play that some part of-the-estates but for
gestatione percurro. Tu consuetudinem serva nobisque sic
exercise I-ride-over you the-custom keep and-to-us so
rusticis urbana acta perscribe. Vale.
rustic urban doings write-out farewell
C. Plinius Mamiliano suo s. 16
Gaius Pliny to-Mamilianus his-own greeting
Summam te voluptatem percepisse ex isto copiosissimo 16.1
the-highest you pleasure to-have-received from that most-abundant
genere venandi non miror, cum historicorum more scribas
kind of-hunting not I-wonder since in-historians' manner you-write
numerum iniri non potuisse. Nobis venari nec
the-number to-be-reckoned not to-have-been-able for-us to-hunt neither
vacat nec libet: non vacat quia vindemiae in
is-there-leisure nor does-it-please not there-is-leisure because the-vintage in
manibus; non libet, quia exiguae.
hand not it-pleases because slight

16.2 Devehimus tamen pro novo musto novos versiculos
we-are-bringing-down however in-place-of new must new little-verses
tibique iucundissime exigenti, ut primum videbuntur
and-to-you most-pleasantly demanding-them as soon-as they-will-seem
defervisse, mittemus. Vale.
to-have-done-fermenting we-shall-send farewell

17 C. Plinius Genitori suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Genitor his-own greeting

17.1 Recepi litteras tuas, quibus quereris taedio tibi
I-have-received letter your in-which you-complain for-weariness to-you
fuisse quamvis lautissimam cenam, quia scurrae cinaedi
to-have-been however most-sumptuous dinner because buffoons catamites
moriones mensis inerrabant.
fools among-the-tables wandered

17.2 Vis tu remittere aliquid ex rugis? Equidem nihil tale habeo,
will you relax something from your-wrinkles for-my-part nothing such do-I-have
habentes tamen fero. Cur ergo non habeo? Quia nequaquam
those-having-it however I-bear why then not do-I-have because by-no-means
me ut inexpectatum festivumve delectat, siquid molle a
me as unexpected or-witty it-delights if-anything soft by
cinaedo, petulans a scurra, stultum a morione profertur.
a-catamite petulant by a-buffoon foolish by a-fool is-produced

17.3 Non rationem, sed stomachum tibi narro. Atque adeo quam
not a-reason but my-stomach to-you I-tell and indeed how
multos putas esse, quos ea quibus ego et tu capimur
many you-think to-be whom those-things by-which I and you are-captivated
et ducimur partim ut inepta partim ut molestissima offendant!
and are-led partly as silly partly as most-annoying offend
Quam multi, cum lector aut lyristes aut comoedus inductus
how many when a-reader or a-lyre-player or a-comic-actor brought-in

est, calceos poscunt aut non minore cum taedio recubant,
is their-shoes call-for or not less with weariness recline
quam tu ista (sic enim appellas) prodigia perpessus es!
than you those so for you-call-them prodigies endured have
Demus igitur alienis oblectationibus veniam, ut nostris 17.4
let-us-grant therefore to-others' amusements pardon that for-ours
impetremus. Vale.
we-may-obtain-it farewell

C. Plinius Sabino suo s. 18
Gaius Pliny to-Sabinus his-own greeting

Qua intentione, quo studio, qua denique memoria 18.1
with-what attention with-what zeal with-what in-short memory
legeris libellos meos, epistula tua ostendit. Ipse igitur
you-have-read little-books my letter your shows yourself therefore
exhibes negotium tibi qui elicis et invitas, ut quam
you-make trouble for-yourself who draw-out and invite that as
plurima communicare tecum velim.
very-many-things to-share with-you I-should-wish

Faciam; per partes tamen et quasi digesta, ne istam ipsam 18.2
I-will-do-it in parts however and as-if arranged lest that very
memoriam, cui gratias ago, adsiduitate et copia turbem
memory to-which thanks I-give by-continuity and abundance I-disturb
oneratamque et quasi oppressam cogam pluribus singula
and-burdened and as-if overwhelmed I-compel by-more the-single
posterioribus priora dimittere. Vale.
by-the-later the-earlier to-let-go farewell

19 C. Plinius Rusoni suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Ruso his-own greeting

19.1 Significas legisse te in quadam epistula mea iussisse
you-indicate to-have-read you in a-certain letter my to-have-ordered
Verginium Rufum inscribi sepulcro suo:
Verginius Rufus to-be-inscribed on-tomb his-own

hic situs est Rufus, pulso qui Vindice quondam
here laid is Rufus routed who Vindex once
imperium adseruit non sibi sed patriae.
the-empire claimed not for-himself but for-his-fatherland

Reprehendis quod iusserit, addis etiam melius rectiusque
you-blame-him that he-ordered-it you-add also better and-more-rightly
Frontinum, quod vetuerit omnino monumentum sibi
Frontinus that he-forbade at-all a-monument for-himself
fieri, meque ad extremum quid de utroque sentiam
to-be-made and-me in the-end what about both I-think
consulis.
you-consult

19.2 Utrumque dilexi, miratus sum magis quem tu reprehendis,
both I-loved admired I-have more him-whom you blame
atque ita miratus, ut non putarem satis umquam posse
and so admired that not I-should-think enough ever he-could
laudari, cuius nunc mihi subeunda defensio est.
be-praised whose now by-me to-be-undertaken defense is

19.3 Omnes ego qui magnum aliquid memorandumque fecerunt,
all I who great something and-memorable have-done
non modo venia verum etiam laude dignissimos iudico,
not only of-pardon but even of-praise most-worthy I-judge

si immortalitatem, quam meruere, sectantur, victurique
if immortality which they-have-deserved they-pursue and-going-to-live
nominis famam supremis etiam titulis prorogare nituntur.
of-a-name the-fame by-last even inscriptions to-prolong they-strive
Nec facile quemquam nisi Verginium invenio, cuius tanta in 19.4
nor easily anyone except Verginius do-I-find whose so-great in
praedicando verecundia quanta gloria ex facto.
proclaiming modesty as-great-as the-glory from the-deed
Ipse sum testis, familiariter ab eo dilectus probatusque, 19.5
I-myself am a-witness intimately by him loved and-approved
semel omnino me audiente provectum ut de rebus suis
once only with-me hearing to-have-been-led-on that about affairs his-own
hoc unum referret, ita secum aliquando Cluvium locutum,
this one-thing he-related thus with-himself once Cluvius to-have-spoken
'scis, Vergini, quae historiae fides debeatur: proinde siquid
you-know Verginius what to-history faithfulness is-owed therefore if-anything
in historiis meis legis aliter ac velis, rogo ignoscas'.
in histories my you-read otherwise than you-would-wish I-ask that-you-pardon-it
Ad hoc ille 'Tune ignoras, Cluvi, ideo me fecisse
to this he you-then do-not-know Cluvius for-this-reason me to-have-done
quod feci, ut esset liberum vobis scribere quae libuisset?'
what I-did that it-might-be free for-you to-write what-things it-pleased
Age dum hunc ipsum Frontinum in hoc ipso in 19.6
come now this very Frontinus in this very-thing in
quo tibi parcior videtur et pressior comparemus.
which to-you more-sparing he-seems and more-restrained let-us-compare
Vetuit extrui monumentum: sed quibus verbis? 'Inpensa
he-forbade to-be-built a-monument but with-what words the-expense
monumenti supervacua est: memoria nostri durabit, si vita
of-a-monument superfluous is the-memory of-us will-last if by-our-life
meruimus.' An restrictius arbitraris per orbem terrarum
we-have-deserved-it or more-restrictedly do-you-think through the-circle of-the-lands

legendum dare duraturam memoriam suam, quam uno in
to-be-read to-give a-going-to-last memory his-own than one in
loco duobus versiculis signare quod feceris?
place in-two little-verses to-mark what you-have-done

19.7 Quamquam non habeo propositum illum reprehendendi, sed
although not I-have the-purpose that-one of-blaming but
hunc tuendi; cuius quae potest apud te iustior esse
this-one of-defending of-whom what can with you more-just be
defensio, quam ex conlatione eius quem praetulisti?
defense than from comparison of-him whom you-preferred

19.8 Meo quidem iudicio neuter culpandus, quorum uterque
in-my indeed judgment neither to-be-blamed of-whom each
ad gloriam pari cupiditate, diverso itinere contendit,
to glory with-equal desire by-a-different road strove
alter, dum expetit debitos titulos, alter, dum mavult videri
the-one while he-seeks his-due inscriptions the-other while he-prefers to-seem
contempsisse. Vale.
to-have-despised-them farewell

20 C. Plinius Venatori suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Venator his-own greeting

20.1 Tua vero epistula tanto mihi iucundior fuit, quanto longior
your indeed letter by-so-much to-me more-pleasant was by-how-much longer
erat, praesertim cum de libellis meis tota loqueretur; quos tibi
it-was especially since about little-books my wholly it-spoke which to-you
voluptati esse non miror, cum omnia nostra perinde ac nos ames.
for-pleasure to-be not I-wonder since all-things ours just as us you-love

20.2 Ipse cum maxime vindemias, graciles quidem, uberiores
I-myself just now the-vintage slight indeed more-abundant
tamen quam expectaveram, colligo; si colligere est non
however than I-had-expected am-gathering if to-gather is not
numquam decerpere uvam, torculum invisere, degustare de
never to-pluck a-grape the-wine-press to-visit to-taste from

lacu mustum, obrepere urbanis, qui nunc rusticis
the-vat the-must to-creep-up-on the-urban-slaves who now over-the-rustic
praesunt meque notariis et lectoribus reliquerunt. Vale.
preside and-me to-secretaries and readers have-left farewell

C. Plinius Sabiniano suo s. 21
Gaius Pliny to-Sabinianus his-own greeting

Libertus tuus, cui suscensere te dixeras, venit ad me 21.1
freedman your with-whom to-be-angry you you-had-said came to me
advolutusque pedibus meis tamquam tuis haesit. Flevit
and-having-thrown-himself at-the-feet my as-if yours clung he-wept
multum, multum rogavit, multum etiam tacuit, in summa
much much he-begged much also he-was-silent in sum
fecit mihi fidem paenitentiae. Vere: credo emendatum quia
he-made to-me belief of-repentance truly I-believe reformed because
deliquisse se sentit.
to-have-done-wrong himself he-feels

Irasceris; scio, et irasceris merito, id quoque scio: sed 21.2
you-are-angry I-know and you-are-angry deservedly that also I-know but
tunc praecipua mansuetudinis laus, cum irae causa
then the-chief of-gentleness the-praise when of-anger the-cause
iustissima est.
most-just is

Amasti hominem et, spero, amabis: interim sufficit ut 21.3
you-have-loved the-man and I-hope you-will-love meanwhile it-suffices that
exorari te sinas. Licebit rursus irasci, si meruerit,
to-be-entreated you you-allow it-will-be-permitted again to-be-angry if he-deserves-it
quod exoratus excusatius facies. Remitte aliquid
which having-been-entreated more-excusably you-will-do grant something
adulescentiae ipsius, remitte lacrimis, remitte indulgentiae tuae:
to-the-youth his-own grant to-his-tears grant to-indulgence your

ne torseris illum, ne torseris etiam te. Torqueris
do-not torment him do-not torment also yourself you-are-tormented
enim, cum tam lenis irasceris.
for when so gentle you-are-angry

21.4 Vereor ne videar non rogare, sed cogere, si precibus
I-fear lest I-seem not to-ask but to-compel if to-the-prayers
eius meas iunxero. Iungam tamen tanto plenius et
his mine I-join I-will-join-them however by-so-much more-fully and
effusius, quanto ipsum acrius severiusque corripui
more-effusively by-how-much him more-sharply and-more-severely I-rebuked
destricte minatus numquam me postea rogaturum. Hoc
strictly having-threatened never me afterward to-be-going-to-ask this
illi, quem terreri oportebat, tibi non idem. Nam
to-him whom to-be-frightened it-behooved to-you not the-same for
fortasse iterum rogabo, impetrabo iterum: sit modo tale
perhaps again I-shall-ask I-shall-obtain again let-it-be only such
ut rogare me, ut praestare te deceat. Vale.
that to-ask me that to-grant you befit farewell

22 C. Plinius Severo suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Severus his-own greeting

22.1 Magna me sollicitudine adfecit Passenni Pauli valetudo, et
great me with-anxiety has-affected of-Passennus Paulus the-illness and
quidem plurimis iustissimisque de causis. Vir est optimus,
indeed very-many and-most-just for reasons a-man he-is most-excellent
honestissimus, nostri amantissimus. Praeterea in litteris
most-honorable of-us most-loving besides in letters
veteres aemulatur exprimit, reddit, Propertium in primis,
the-ancients he-emulates expresses reproduces Propertius among the-first
a quo genus ducit, vera suboles eoque simillima illi,
from whom his-family he-derives a-true offspring and-therefore most-like to-him
in quo ille praecipuus.
in which he excelled

Si elegos eius in manus sumpseris, leges opus tersum 22.2
if elegies his into your-hands you-take you-will-read a-work polished
molle iucundum et plane in Properti domo scriptum. Nuper
soft pleasant and plainly in Propertius' house written lately
ad lyrica deflexit, in quibus ita Horatium, ut in illis illum
to lyrics he-has-turned in which so Horace as in those that
alterum effingit: putes, siquid in studiis cognatio valet,
other he-portrays you-would-think if-anything in studies kinship avails
et huius propinquum. Magna varietas, magna mobilitas:
too of-this-one a-relative great variety great versatility
amat ut qui verissime, dolet ut qui inpatientissime,
he-loves as one-who most-truly he-grieves as one-who most-impatiently
laudat ut qui benignissime, ludit ut qui facetissime,
he-praises as one-who most-kindly he-jests as one-who most-wittily
omnia denique tamquam singula absolvit.
all-things in-short as-if single he-perfects
Pro hoc ego amico, pro hoc ego ingenio non minus 22.3
for this I friend for this I talent not less
aeger animo, quam corpore ille, tandem illum, tandem me
sick in-mind than in-body he at-last him at-last myself
recepi. Gratulare mihi, gratulare etiam litteris ipsis,
I-have-recovered congratulate me congratulate also letters themselves
quae ex periculo eius tantum discrimen adierunt, quantum
which from the-danger his as-great a-peril faced as-much-as
ex salute gloriae consequentur. Vale.
from his-recovery of-glory will-attain farewell

C. Plinius Maximo suo s. 23

Gaius Pliny to-Maximus his-own greeting

Frequenter agenti mihi evenit ut centumviri, cum 23.1
frequently pleading to-me it-has-happened that the-centumvirs when
diu se intra iudicum auctoritatem gravitatemque
long themselves within of-judges the-authority and-gravity

tenuissent, omnes repente quasi victi coactique consurgerent
they-had-kept all suddenly as-if conquered and-compelled rose
laudarentque;
and-praised

23.2 Frequenter e senatu famam qualem maxime optaveram
frequently from the-senate a-reputation such-as most I-had-wished
rettuli: numquam tamen maiorem cepi voluptatem, quam
I-brought-back never however greater have-I-taken pleasure than
nuper ex sermone Corneli Taciti. Narrabat sedisse secum
lately from the-conversation of-Cornelius Tacitus he-told to-have-sat with-himself
circensibus proximis equitem Romanum. Hunc post varios
at-the-circus-games last a-knight Roman this-man after varied
eruditosque sermones requisisse 'Italicus es an provincialis?':
and-learned conversation to-have-asked Italian are-you or provincial
se respondisse 'Nosti me, et quidem ex studiis.'
himself to-have-answered you-know me and indeed from studies

23.3 Ad hoc illum 'Tacitus es an Plinius?' Exprimere non possum,
to this him Tacitus are-you or Pliny to-express not I-can
quam sit iucundum mihi quod nomina nostra quasi litterarum
how it-be pleasant to-me that the-names our as-if of-letters
propria, non hominum, litteris redduntur, quod uterque nostrum
the-property not of-men to-letters are-rendered that each of-us
his etiam ex studiis notus, quibus aliter ignotus est.
by-these even from studies known by-whom otherwise unknown he-is

23.4 Accidit aliud ante pauculos dies simile. Recumbebat
there-happened another-thing before a-few days similar was-reclining
mecum vir egregius, Fadius Rufinus, super eum municeps
with-me a-man distinguished Fadius Rufinus above him a-townsman
ipsius, qui illo die primum venerat in urbem; cui Rufinus
his-own who that day first had-come to the-city to-whom Rufinus

demonstrans me 'Vides hunc?' Multa deinde de studiis
pointing-out me you-see this-man many-things then about studies
nostris. Et ille 'Plinius est' inquit.
our and he Pliny it-is he-said
Verum fatebor, capio magnum laboris mei fructum. An si 23.5
truly I-will-confess I-take a-great of-labor my fruit or if
Demosthenes iure laetatus est, quod illum anus Attica
Demosthenes rightly rejoiced has that him an-old-woman Attic
ita noscitavit, οὗτός ἐστι Δημοσθένης, celebritate nominis mei
thus recognized this is Demosthenes in-the-celebrity of-the-name my
gaudere non debeo? Ego vero et gaudeo et gaudere me dico.
to-rejoice not ought-I I indeed both rejoice and to-rejoice me I-say
Neque enim vereor ne iactantior videar, cum de me 23.6
nor for do-I-fear lest more-boastful I-seem when about me
aliorum iudicium, non meum profero, praesertim apud te,
others' judgment not my-own I-bring-forward especially with you
qui nec ullius invides laudibus et faves nostris. Vale.
who neither anyone's you-envy praises and you-favor ours farewell

Pliny thanks Sabinianus for forgiving his freedman and promises Mamilianus more verses. He defends to Lupercus a bold style with examples from Homer, Demosthenes, and Aeschines, tells Paternus of friends who begged a historian not to read on, and answers Romanus' three letters.

24 C. Plinius Sabiniano suo s.

Gaius Pliny to-Sabinianus his-own greeting

24.1 Bene fecisti, quod libertum aliquando tibi carum
well you-did that the-freedman once to-you dear
reducentibus epistulis meis in domum in animum
with-bringing-him-back letters my into your-house into your-heart
recepisti. Iuvabit hoc te: me certe iuvat, primum quod
you-received it-will-please this you me certainly it-pleases first that
te tam tractabilem video, ut in ira regi possis, deinde
you so tractable I-see that in anger to-be-guided you-can then
quod tantum mihi tribuis, ut vel auctoritati meae pareas
that so-much to-me you-grant that either to-authority my you-yield
vel precibus indulgeas. Igitur et laudo et gratias ago.
or to-prayers you-indulge therefore both I-praise and thanks I-give
Simul in posterum moneo ut te erroribus tuorum,
at-the-same-time for the-future I-advise that yourself to-the-errors of-your-people
etsi non fuerit qui deprecetur, placabilem praestes. Vale.
even-if not there-be one-who intercede placable you-show farewell

25 C. Plinius Mamiliano suo s.

Gaius Pliny to-Mamilianus his-own greeting

25.1 Quereris de turba castrensium negotiorum et tamquam
you-complain about the-crowd of-military business and as-if
summo otio perfruare, lusus et ineptias nostras legis,
the-utmost leisure you-enjoyed the-amusements and trifles our you-read

amas flagitas meque ad similia condenda non mediocriter
you-love you-demand and-me to similar-things to-be-composed not moderately
incitas.
you-incite

Incipio enim ex hoc genere studiorum non solum 25.2
I-begin for from this kind of-studies not only
oblectationem verum etiam gloriam petere post iudicium
delight but even glory to-seek after the-judgment
tuum, viri eruditissimi gravissimi ac super ista
your of-a-man most-learned most-weighty and above those-things
verissimi.
most-truthful

Nunc me rerum actus modice, sed tamen distringit: quo finito 25.3
now me of-affairs the-business moderately but yet distracts which finished
aliquid earundem camenarum in istum benignissimum sinum
something of-the-same muses into that most-kind bosom
mittam. Tu passerculis et columbulis nostris inter aquilas
I-shall-send you to-the-little-sparrows and little-doves our among eagles
vestras dabis pennas, si tamen et sibi et tibi placebunt;
your will-give wings if however both to-themselves and to-you they-shall-please
si tantum sibi, continendos cavea nidove curabis. Vale.
if only to-themselves to-be-kept in-a-cage or-nest you-will-see-to farewell

C. Plinius Luperco suo s. 26
Gaius Pliny to-Lupercus his-own greeting

Dixi de quodam oratore saeculi nostri, recto quidem et 26.1
I-said about a-certain orator of-age our correct indeed and
sano, sed parum grandi et ornato, ut opinor, apte ‘Nihil
sound but too-little grand and ornate as I-think aptly nothing
peccat, nisi quod nihil peccat.’
he-sins except that nothing he-sins

26.2 Debet enim orator erigi, attolli, interdum etiam
ought for an-orator to-be-raised to-be-lifted sometimes even
effervescere efferri, ac saepe accedere ad praeceps.
to-boil-over to-be-carried-away and often to-approach to the-precipice
Nam plerumque altis et excelsis adiacent abrupta: tutius
for mostly to-high and lofty-places lie-near sheer-drops safer
per plana sed humilius et depressius iter: frequentior
through the-level but humbler and lower the-road more-frequent
currentibus quam reptantibus lapsus, sed his non labentibus
for-runners than for-crawlers a-fall but for-these not falling
nulla, illis non nulla laus, etiamsi labantur.
no for-those not none praise even-if they-fall

26.3 Nam ut quasdam artes, ita eloquentiam nihil magis quam
for as certain arts so eloquence nothing more than
ancipitia commendant. Vides qui per funem in summa
dangers commend you-see those-who on a-rope to the-heights
nituntur quantos soleant excitare clamores, cum iam
strive what-great they-are-wont to-rouse shouts when now
iamque casuri videntur.
and-now about-to-fall they-seem

26.4 Sunt enim maxime mirabilia quae maxime insperata,
are for most wonderful the-things-which most unhoped-for
maxime periculosa, utque Graeci magis exprimunt, παράβολα.
most dangerous and-as the-Greeks better express hazardous
Ideo nequaquam par gubernatoris est virtus, cum placido et
therefore by-no-means equal of-a-helmsman is the-merit when on-a-calm and
cum turbato mari vehitur: tunc admirante nullo, inlaudatus
when on-a-stormy sea he-sails then with-admiring no-one unpraised
ingloriosus subit portum; at cum stridunt funes, curvatur arbor
inglorious he-enters harbor but when creak the-ropes is-bent the-mast
gubernacula gemunt, tunc ille clarus et dis maris proximus.
the-rudders groan then he famous and to-the-gods of-the-sea nearest

Cur haec? Quia visus es mihi in scriptis meis 26.5
why these-things because seemed you-have to-me in writings my
adnotasse quaedam ut tumida quae ego sublimia, ut inproba
to-have-marked some-things as bombastic which I sublime as shameless
quae ego audentia, ut nimia quae ego plena arbitrabar.
which I daring as excessive which I full thought
Plurimum autem refert, reprehendenda adnotes an insignia.
very-much moreover it-matters things-to-be-blamed you-mark or striking-things
Omnis enim advertit quod eminet et extat; sed acri 26.6
everyone for notices what stands-out and projects but with-keen
intentione diiudicandum est, inmodicum sit an grande,
attention to-be-decided it-is whether-immoderate it-be or grand
altum an enorme. Atque ut Homerum potissimum attingam,
lofty or monstrous and that Homer above-all I-may-touch
quem tandem alterutram in partem potest fugere ἀμφὶ δὲ
whom pray to-either in side can to-escape around and
σάλπιγξεν μέγας οὐρανός, ἠέρι δ' ἔγχος ἐκέκλιτο et
trumpeted great heaven in-the-mist and spear was-leaned and
totum illud οὔτε θαλάσσης κῦμα τόσον βοάᾳ?
whole that neither of-the-sea a-wave so-great roars
Sed opus est examine et libra, incredibilia sint haec 26.7
but need there-is of-weighing and balance incredible be these-things
et inania an magnifica et caelestia. Nec nunc ego me
and empty or magnificent and heavenly nor now I me
his similia aut dixisse aut posse dicere puto: non ita
to-these similar-things either to-have-said or to-be-able to-say think not so
insanio; sed hoc intellegi volo, laxandos esse eloquentiae
I-am-mad but this to-be-understood I-wish to-be-loosened to-be of-eloquence
frenos nec angustissimo gyro ingeniorum impetus refringendos.
the-reins nor in-the-narrowest circle of-talents the-onrush to-be-checked

26.8 At enim alia condicio oratorum, alia poetarum. Quasi vero
but for other the-condition of-orators other of-poets as-if indeed
M. Tullius minus audeat. Quamquam hunc omitto; neque
Marcus Tullius less dares although him I-omit nor
enim ambigi puto. Sed Demosthenes ipse, ille norma
for to-be-doubted I-think but Demosthenes himself that standard
oratoris et regula, num se cohibet et conprimit, cum
of-the-orator and rule surely-not himself does-be-restrain and press-down when
dicit illa notissima ἄνθρωποι μιαροὶ καὶ κόλακες καὶ ἀλάστορες
he-says those well-known men foul and flatterers and avenging-spirits
et rursus οὐ λίθοις ἐτείχισα τὴν πόλιν οὐδὲ πλίνθοις ἐγώ et
and again not with-stones I-walled the city nor with-bricks I and
statim οὐκ ἐκ μὲν θαλάττης τὴν Εὔβοιαν προβαλέσθαι πρὸ
at-once not from indeed the-sea the Euboea to-put-forward before
τῆς Ἀττικῆς et alibi ἐγὼ δὲ οἶμαι μέν, ὦ ἄνδρες Ἀθηναῖοι,
the Attica and elsewhere I but think indeed O men Athenians
νὴ τοὺς θεοὺς ἐκεῖνον μεθύειν τῷ μεγέθει τῶν πεπραγμένων?
by the gods him to-be-drunk with-the greatness of-the done-deeds
26.9 Iam quid audentius illo pulcherrimo ac longissimo excessu,
now what bolder than-that most-beautiful and longest digression
νόσημα γάρ? Quid haec, breviora superioribus, sed audacia
a-disease for what these-things shorter than-the-former but in-daring
paria: τότε ἐγὼ μὲν τῷ Πύθωνι θρασυνομένῳ καὶ πολλῷ ῥέοντι
equal then I indeed to Python being-insolent and much flowing
καθ' ὑμῶν? Ex eadem nota ὅταν δὲ ἐκ πλεονεξίας καὶ
against you from the-same mark when and from greed and
πονηρίας τις ὥσπερ οὗτος ἰσχύσῃ, ἡ πρώτη πρόφασις καὶ
wickedness someone like this-man grows-strong the first pretext and
μικρὸν πταῖσμα ἅπαντα ἀνεχαίτισε καὶ διέλυσε. Simile his
small stumble all-things overthrew and dissolved like to-these
ἀπεσχοινισμένος ἅπασι τοῖς ἐν τῇ πόλει δικαίοις et ibidem
roped-off from-all the in the city just-things and in-the-same-place

σὺ τὸν εἰς ταῦτα ἔλεον προδέδωκας, Ἀριστόγειτον, μᾶλλον
you the toward these-things pity have-betrayed Aristogeiton rather
δ' ἀνῄρηκας ὅλως. μὴ δή, πρὸς οὓς αὐτὸς ἔχωσας λιμένας
but have-destroyed wholly not indeed to whom yourself you-heaped-up harbors
καὶ προβόλων ἐνέπλησας, πρὸς τούτους ὁρμίζου. Et dixerat
and with-moles filled to these anchor and he-had-said
τούτῳ δ' οὐδένα ὁρῶ τῶν τόπων τούτων βάσιμον ὄντα, ἀλλὰ
for-him and no-one I-see of-the places these passable being but
πάντα ἀπόκρημνα, φάραγγας, βάραθρα. Et deinceps δέδοικα,
all-things sheer ravines chasms and next I-fear
μὴ δόξητέ τισι τὸν ἀεὶ βουλόμενον εἶναι πονηρὸν τῶν
lest you-seem to-some the always wishing to-be wicked of-those
ἐν τῇ πόλει παιδοτριβεῖν, nec satis οὐδὲ γὰρ τοὺς προγόνους
in the city to-train nor enough nor for the ancestors
ὑπολαμβάνω τὰ δικαστήρια ταῦτα ὑμῖν οἰκοδομῆσαι, ἵνα
I-suppose the courts these for-you to-have-built that
τοὺς τοιούτους ἐν αὐτοῖς μοσχεύητε, ad hoc εἰ δὲ κάπηλός
the such-men in them you-may-graft to this if and a-huckster
ἐστι πονηρίας καὶ παλιγκάπηλος καὶ μεταβολεύς et mille
he-is of-wickedness and a-retail-huckster and a-dealer and a-thousand
talia, ut praeteream quae ab Aeschine θαύματα, non
such-things that I-may-pass-over what-things by Aeschines marvels not
ῥήματα vocantur.
words are-called

In contrarium incidi: dices hunc quoque ob 26.10
into the-opposite I-have-fallen you-will-say this-man also on-account-of
ista culpari. Sed vide, quanto maior sit qui reprehenditur
those-things to-be-blamed but see how-much greater be he-who is-blamed
ipso reprehendente, et maior ob haec quoque.
than-the-very blamer and greater on-account-of these-things also
In aliis enim vis, in his granditas eius elucet.
in others for the-force in these the-grandeur his shines-out

26.11 Num autem Aeschines ipse his, quae in Demosthene
surely-not moreover Aeschines himself from-these-things which in Demosthenes
carpebat abstinuit? χρὴ γὰρ τὸ αὐτὸ φθέγγεσθαι τὸν
he-carped-at abstained it-is-necessary for the same to-utter the
ῥήτορα καὶ τὸν νόμον; ὅταν δὲ ἑτέραν μὲν φωνὴν ἀφιῇ ὁ
orator and the law when but another indeed voice sends-forth the
νόμος, ἑτέραν δὲ ὁ ῥήτωρ. Alio loco ἔπειτα ἀναφαίνεται
law another but the orator in-another place then it-appears
περὶ πάντων ἐν τῷ ψηφίσματι iterum alio ἀλλ' ἐγκαθήμενοι
about all-things in the decree again in-another but sitting-in
καὶ ἐνεδρεύοντες ἐν τῇ ἀκροάσει εἰσελαύνετε αὐτὸν εἰς τοὺς
and lying-in-wait in the hearing you-drive him into the
παρανόμους λόγους.
illegal arguments

26.12 Quod adeo probavit, ut repetat, ἀλλ' ὥσπερ ἐν ταῖς
which so-much he-approved that he-repeats-it but as in the
ἱπποδρομίαις ἐς τὸν τοῦ πράγματος αὐτὸν δρόμον εἰσελαύνετε.
horse-races into the of-the matter itself course you-drive
Iam illa custoditius pressiusque: σὺ δὲ ἑλκοποιεῖς, ἢ
now those-things more-guardedly and-more-restrainedly you and make-sores or
συλλαβόντες ὡς λῃστὴν τῶν πραγμάτων διὰ τῆς πολιτείας
having-seized as a-pirate of-the affairs through the state
πλέοντα;
sailing

26.13 Exspecto, ut quaedam ex hac epistula ut illud 'gubernacula
I-expect that some-things from this letter as that the-rudders
gemunt' et 'dis maris proximus' isdem notis quibus
groan and to-the-gods of-the-sea nearest with-the-same marks with-which
ea de quibus scribo confodias. Intellego enim me,
those-things about which I-write you-will-stab I-understand for me
dum veniam prioribus peto, in illa ipsa quae adnotaveras
while pardon for-the-former I-seek into those very-things which you-had-marked

incidisse. Sed confodias licet, dum modo iam nunc
to-have-fallen but stab-them you-may provided only already now
destines diem, quo et de illis et de his coram
you-appoint a-day on-which both about those and about these face-to-face
exigere possimus. Aut enim tu me timidum aut ego
to-thrash-it-out we-can either for you me timid or I
te temerarium faciam. Vale.
you rash shall-make farewell

C. Plinius Paterno suo s. 27
Gaius Pliny to-Paternus his-own greeting

Quanta potestas, quanta dignitas, quanta maiestas, quantum 27.1
how-great the-power how-great the-dignity how-great the-majesty how-great
denique numen sit historiae, cum frequenter alias
in-short the-divinity be of-history both often at-other-times
tum proxime sensi. Recitaverat quidam verissimum librum
and lately I-felt had-recited a-certain-man a-most-truthful book
partemque eius in alium diem reservaverat.
and-part of-it to another day had-reserved

Ecce amici cuiusdam orantes obsecrantesque ne reliqua 27.2
look friends of-a-certain-man begging and-beseeching that-not the-rest
recitaret. Tantus audiendi quae fecerint pudor, quibus
he-should-recite so-great of-hearing what they-had-done the-shame in-those-whom
nullus faciendi quae audire erubescunt. Et ille quidem
no-shame of-doing what to-hear they-blush and he indeed
praestitit quod rogabatur: sinebat fides. Liber tamen,
granted what was-asked allowed-it his-good-faith the-book however
ut factum ipsum manet, manebit legeturque semper, tanto
like the-deed itself remains will-remain and-will-be-read always so-much
magis, quia non statim. Incitantur enim homines ad
more because not at-once are-incited for men to
cognoscenda quae differuntur. Vale.
knowing the-things-which are-postponed farewell

28 C. Plinius Romano suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Romanus his-own greeting

28.1 Post longum tempus epistulas tuas, sed tres pariter recepi,
after a-long time letters your but three together I-received
omnes elegantissimas amantissimas et quales a te venire
all most-elegant most-loving and such-as from you to-come
praesertim desideratas, oportebat. Quarum una iniungis mihi
especially longed-for it-was-fitting of-which in-one you-enjoin on-me
iucundissimum ministerium, ut ad Plotinam, sanctissimam
a-most-pleasant service that to Plotina a-most-holy
feminam litterae tuae perferantur: perferentur.
woman letter your be-delivered it-will-be-delivered

28.2 Eadem commendas Popilium Artemisium: statim praestiti
the-same you-commend Popilius Artemisius at-once I-performed
quod petebat. Indicas etiam modicas te vindemias collegisse:
what he-asked you-indicate also modest you the-vintage to-have-gathered
communis haec mihi tecum, quamquam in diversissima parte
common this to-me with-you although in the-most-different part
terrarum, querella est.
of-the-lands the-complaint is

28.3 Altera epistula nuntias multa te nunc dictare nunc
in-the-second letter you-announce many-things you now to-dictate now
scribere, quibus nos tibi repraesentes. Gratias ago;
to-write by-which us to-yourself you-make-present thanks I-give
agerem magis si me illa ipsa quae scribis aut dictas
I-would-give-them more if me those very-things which you-write or you-dictate
legere voluisses. Et erat aequum ut te mea ita me tua
to-read you-had-wished and it-was fair that you mine so me your
scripta cognoscere, etiamsi ad alium quam ad me pertinerent.
writings to-know even-if to another than to me they-pertained

Polliceris in fine, cum certius de vitae nostrae ordinatione 28.4
you-promise at the-end when more-certainly about of-life our the-arrangement
aliquid audieris, futurum te fugitivum rei familiaris
something you-have-heard to-be-going-to-be you a-runaway of-affairs domestic
statimque ad nos evolaturum, qui iam tibi compedes
and-at-once to us to-be-going-to-fly-off who already for-you fetters
nectimus, quas perfringere nullo modo possis.
are-weaving which to-break-through in-no way you-can
Tertia epistula continebat esse tibi redditam orationem 28.5
the-third letter contained to-have-been to-you delivered the-speech
pro Clario, eamque visam uberiorem, quam dicente me,
for Clarius and-it seemed fuller than speaking me
audiente te, fuerit. Est uberior; multa enim postea inserui.
hearing you it-was it-is fuller many-things for afterward I-inserted
Adicis alias te litteras curiosius scriptas misisse: an
you-add another you letter more-carefully written to-have-sent whether
acceperim quaeris: non accepi et accipere gestio. Proinde
I-received-it you-ask not I-received-it and to-receive-it I-long therefore
prima quaque occasione mitte, appositis quidem usuris, quas
at-the-first each opportunity send-it with-added indeed interest which
ego (num parcius possum?) centesimas computabo. Vale.
I surely-not more-sparingly can-I at-twelve-percent shall-compute farewell

Pliny writes to Rusticus of attempting many kinds, to Geminus of true generosity, and to Sardus and Titianus. He tells Caninius of the dolphin at Hippo that befriended a swimming boy, asks Tranquillus whether to have his freedman read his verses, describes to Fuscus his summer and winter days, explains his farm leases to Paulinus, thanks Appius for his book, praises to Saturninus a book of Rufus', and asks Mustius to buy marble for a temple of Ceres.

29 C. Plinius Rustico suo s.

Gaius Pliny to-Rusticus his-own greeting

29.1 Ut satius unum aliquid insigniter facere quam plurima
as better one something strikingly to-do than very-many-things
mediocriter, ita plurima mediocriter, si non possis unum
moderately so very-many-things moderately if not you-can one
aliquid insigniter. Quod intuens ego variis me studiorum
something strikingly which considering I in-various myself of-studies
generibus, nulli satis confisus, experior.
kinds in-none sufficiently having-trusted try

29.2 Proinde cum hoc vel illud leges, ita singulis veniam ut non
therefore when this or that you-read so to-single-pieces pardon as not
singulis dabis. An ceteris artibus excusatio in numero,
to-single-ones you-will-give or in-other arts the-excuse in number
litteris durior lex, in quibus difficilior effectus est? Quid
for-letters a-harsher law in which more-difficult the-achievement is why
autem ego de venia quasi ingratus? Nam si ea facilitate
moreover I about pardon as-if ungrateful for if with-that ease
proxima acceperis, qua priora, laus potius speranda quam
the-latest you-receive with-which the-earlier praise rather to-be-hoped than
venia obsecranda est. Mihi tamen venia sufficit. Vale.
pardon to-be-begged is to-me however pardon suffices farewell

C. Plinius Gemino suo s. 30

Gaius Pliny to-Geminus his-own greeting

Laudas mihi et frequenter praesens et nunc per epistulas 30.1

you-praise to-me both often in-person and now through letters

Nonium tuum, quod sit liberalis in quosdam: et ipse

Nonius your that he-is liberal toward some and I-myself

laudo, si tamen non in hos solos. Volo enim eum qui

praise-him if however not toward these alone I-wish for him who

sit vere liberalis tribuere patriae, propinquis, adfinibus,

is truly liberal to-bestow on-his-fatherland on-his-relatives on-in-laws

amicis, sed amicis dico pauperibus, non ut isti qui iis

on-friends but friends I-mean poor not as those who to-those

potissimum donant, qui donare maxime possunt.

above-all give who to-give most can

Hos ego viscatis hamatisque muneribus non sua promere 30.2

these I with-limed and-hooked gifts not their-own to-bring-out

puto, sed aliena corripere. Sunt ingenio simili qui quod huic

think but others' to-snatch they-are of-character similar who what to-this-man

donant auferunt illi famamque liberalitatis avaritia petunt.

they-give take-away from-that and-the-fame of-liberality by-avarice seek

Primum est autem suo esse contentum, deinde quos 30.3

first is moreover with-one's-own to-be content then those-whom

praecipue scias indigere sustentantem foventemque orbe

especially you-know to-be-in-need sustaining and-cherishing in-a-ring

quodam socialitatis ambire. Quae cuncta si facit iste,

certain of-fellowship to-encircle which all if does that-man

usquequaque laudandus est; si unum aliquid, minus quidem,

everywhere to-be-praised he-is if one some less indeed

laudandus tamen.

to-be-praised however

30.4 Tam rarum est etiam imperfectae liberalitatis exemplar. Ea
so rare is even of-imperfect liberality an-example such
invasit homines habendi cupido, ut possideri magis quam
has-invaded men of-having the-desire that to-be-possessed rather than
possidere videantur. Vale.
to-possess they-seem farewell

31 C. Plinius Sardo suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Sardus his-own greeting

31.1 Postquam a te recessi, non minus tecum, quam cum apud
after from you I-withdrew not less with-you than when at
te fui. Legi enim librum tuum, identidem repetens
your-house I-was I-read for book your repeatedly going-over
ea maxime (non enim mentiar), quae de me scripsisti,
those-things especially not for I-will-lie which about me you-wrote
in quibus quidem percopiosus fuisti. Quam multa, quam
in which indeed very-copious you-were how many-things how
varia, quam non eadem de eodem nec tamen diversa dixisti!
various how not the-same about the-same nor yet different you-have-said

31.2 Laudem pariter et gratias agam? Neutrum satis possum,
should-I-praise equally and thanks should-I-give neither enough can-I
et si possem, timerem ne arrogans esset ob ea
and if I-could I-would-fear lest arrogant it-be on-account-of those-things
laudare, ob quae gratias agerem. Unum illud addam,
to-praise on-account-of which thanks I-should-give one-thing this I-will-add
omnia mihi tanto laudabiliora visa quanto iucundiora,
all-things to-me by-so-much more-praiseworthy seemed as more-pleasant
tanto iucundiora quanto laudabiliora erant. Vale.
by-so-much more-pleasant as more-praiseworthy they-were farewell

C. Plinius Titiano suo s. 32

Gaius Pliny to-Titianus his-own greeting

Quid agis? Quid acturus es? Ipse vitam iucundissimam, 32.1

what are-you-doing what going-to-do are-you I-myself a-life most-pleasant

id est otiosissimam, vivo. Quo fit ut scribere

that is most-leisured live by-which it-comes-about that to-write

longiores epistulas nolim, velim legere, illud

longer letters I-am-unwilling I-am-willing to-read-them the-one

tamquam delicatus, hoc tamquam otiosus. Nihil est enim

as self-indulgent the-other as idle nothing is for

aut pigrius delicatis aut curiosius otiosis. Vale.

either lazier than-the-self-indulgent or more-curious than-the-idle farewell

C. Plinius Caninio suo s. 33

Gaius Pliny to-Caninius his-own greeting

Incidi in materiam veram sed simillimam fictae 33.1

I-have-come upon material true but most-like to-invented

dignamque isto laetissimo altissimo planeque poetico ingenio;

and-worthy of-that most-joyful loftiest and-plainly poetic talent

incidi autem, dum super cenam varia miracula hinc

I-came-upon-it moreover while at dinner various marvels from-this-side

inde referuntur. Magna auctori fides. Tametsi quid

from-that are-related great in-the-teller the-credit although what

poetae cum fide? Is tamen auctor, cui bene vel historiam

for-a-poet with credit he however a-teller whom well even history

scripturus credidisses.

going-to-write you-would-have-believed

Est in Africa Hipponensis colonia mari proxima: adiacet 33.2

there-is in Africa the-Hipponian colony to-the-sea very-near lies-beside-it

navigabile stagnum: ex hoc in modum fluminis aestuarium

a-navigable lagoon from this in the-manner of-a-river a-channel

emergit, quod vice alterna, prout aestus aut repressit aut
emerges which by-turn alternate as the-tide either has-held-back or
impulit, nunc infertur mari, nunc redditur stagno.
has-driven now is-carried to-the-sea now is-returned to-the-lagoon

33.3 Omnis hic aetas piscandi navigandi atque etiam natandi
every here age of-fishing of-sailing and even of-swimming
studio tenetur, maxime pueri, quos otium lususque sollicitat.
by-zeal is-held especially the-boys whom leisure and-play tempt
His gloria et virtus altissime provehi: victor ille qui
for-them glory and virtue most-deeply to-be-carried-out victor he who
longissime ut litus ita simul natantes reliquit.
farthest as the-shore so at-the-same-time those-swimming has-left

33.4 Hoc certamine puer quidam audentior ceteris in ulteriora
in-this contest a-boy certain bolder than-the-rest into farther-parts
tendebat. Delphinus occurrit et nunc praecedere puerum,
was-heading a-dolphin meets-him and now to-go-before the-boy
nunc sequi, nunc circumire, postremo subire, deponere,
now to-follow now to-go-around finally to-go-under-him to-put-him-down
iterum subire trepidantemque perferre primum in altum,
again to-go-under and-him-trembling to-carry first into the-deep
mox flectit ad litus redditque terrae et aequalibus.
soon it-turns to the-shore and-returns-him to-land and to-his-companions

33.5 Serpit per coloniam fama: concurrere omnes, ipsum
creeps through the-colony the-report to-run-together all himself
puerum tamquam miraculum aspicere, interrogare, audire,
the-boy as a-marvel to-look-at to-question to-hear
narrare. Postero die obsident litus, prospectant mare et
to-tell on-the-next day they-besiege the-shore they-gaze-out-at the-sea and
siquid est mari simile. Natant pueri, inter hos ille, sed
if-anything is to-the-sea like swim the-boys among these he but
cautius. Delphinus rursus ad tempus, rursus ad puerum.
more-cautiously the-dolphin again at the-time again to the-boy

Fugit ille cum ceteris. Delphinus, quasi invitet revocet,
flees he with the-others the-dolphin as-if it-invites it-recalls
exilit mergitur variosque orbes implicat expeditque.
leaps-out dives and-various circles twines and-untwines
Hoc altero die, hoc tertio, hoc pluribus, donec 33.6
this on-the-second day this on-the-third this on-more until
homines innutritos mari subiret timendi pudor. Accedunt
the-men raised by-the-sea came-over of-fearing shame they-approach
et adludunt et appellant, tangunt etiam pertrectantque
and play-with-it and call-it touch-it even and-handle-it
praebentem. Crescit audacia experimento. Maxime puer qui
offering-itself grows boldness by-experience most the-boy who
primus expertus est adnatat, insilit tergo, fertur referturque,
first tried has swims-up leaps on-its-back is-carried and-carried-back
agnosci se et amari putat, amat ipse: neuter timet,
to-be-recognized himself and to-be-loved he-thinks loves himself neither fears
neuter timetur: huius fiducia, mansuetudo illius augetur.
neither is-feared his confidence the-tameness of-the-other is-increased
Nec non alii pueri dextra laevaque, simul eunt 33.7
nor not other boys on-the-right and-left at-the-same-time go
hortantes monentesque. Ibat una (id quoque mirum)
urging and-warning there-went with-them that also wonderful
delphinus alius, tantum spectator et comes: nihil enim
a-dolphin another only a-spectator and companion nothing for
simile aut faciebat aut patiebatur, sed alterum illum ducebat
similar either it-did or suffered but the-other that it-led
reducebatque, ut puerum ceteri pueri.
and-led-back as the-boy the-other boys
Incredibile, tam verum tamen quam priora, delphinum 33.8
incredible so true however as the-earlier-things the-dolphin
gestatorem collusoremque puerorum in terram quoque
carrier and-playmate of-the-boys onto the-land also

extrahi solitum harenisque siccatum, ubi incaluisset,
to-be-drawn-out wont and-on-the-sands dried when it-had-grown-warm
in mare revolvi.
into the-sea to-roll-back

33.9 Constat Octavium Avitum, legatum proconsulis, in litus
it-is-agreed Octavius Avitus legate of-the-proconsul onto the-shore
educto religione prava superfudisse unguentum,
over-it-drawn-out from-superstition perverse to-have-poured-over ointment
cuius illum novitatem odoremque in altum refugisse nec nisi
from-whose it the-novelty and-smell into the-deep to-have-fled nor except
post multos dies visum languidum et maestum, mox redditis
after many days seen languid and sad soon with-restored
viribus priorem lasciviam et solita ministeria repetisse.
strength its-former playfulness and usual services to-have-resumed

33.10 Confluebant omnes ad spectaculum magistratus, quorum
flocked-together all to the-spectacle the-magistrates by-whose
adventu et mora modica res publica novis sumptibus
arrival and stay modest the-thing public by-new expenses
atterebatur. Postremo locus ipse quietem suam secretumque
was-worn-down finally the-place itself quiet its-own and-seclusion
perdebat. Placuit occulte interfici ad quod coibatur.
was-losing it-was-decided secretly to-be-killed to which they-came-together

33.11 Haec tu qua miseratione, qua copia deflebis, ornabis,
these-things you with-what pity with-what abundance will-lament will-adorn
attolles! Quamquam non est opus adfingas aliquid aut
will-raise although not it-is necessary that-you-invent something or
adstruas; sufficit ne ea quae sunt vera minuantur. Vale.
add-on it-suffices that-not those-things which are true be-diminished farewell

C. Plinius Tranquillo suo s. 34

Gaius Pliny to-Tranquillus his-own greeting

Explica aestum meum: audio me male legere, dumtaxat 34.1

resolve agitation my I-hear me badly to-read at-least

versus; orationes enim commode, sed tanto minus versus.

verses speeches for well but so-much less verses

Cogito ergo recitaturus familiaribus amicis experiri libertum

I-think therefore about-to-recite to-intimate friends to-try freedman

meum. Hoc quoque familiare, quod elegi non bene, sed

my this also intimate that I-chose not well but

melius lecturum, si tamen non fuerit perturbatus.

better to-be-going-to-read if however not he-shall-have-been flustered

Est enim tam novus lector quam ego poeta. Ipse nescio 34.2

he-is for as new a-reader as I a-poet I-myself know-not

quid illo legente interim faciam, sedeam defixus et

what with-him reading meanwhile I-should-do whether-I-should-sit fixed and

mutus et similis otioso, an, ut quidam, quae pronuntiabit

silent and like one-idle or as some what he-shall-deliver

murmure oculis manu prosequar. Sed puto me non minus

with-murmur eyes hand I-should-accompany but I-think me not less

male saltare quam legere. Iterum dicam, explica aestum

badly to-dance than to-read again I-will-say resolve agitation

meum vereque rescribe, num sit melius pessime legere,

my and-truly write-back whether it-be better worst to-read

quam ista vel non facere vel facere. Vale.

than those-things either not to-do or to-do farewell

C. Plinius Appio suo s. 35

Gaius Pliny to-Appius his-own greeting

Librum quem misisti recepi et gratias ago. Sum tamen 35.1

the-book which you-sent I-have-received and thanks I-give I-am however

hoc tempore occupatissimus: ideo nondum eum legi,

at-this time most-occupied therefore not-yet it have-I-read

cum alioqui valdissime cupiam. Sed eam reverentiam cum
although otherwise most-strongly I-desire-to but that reverence both
litteris ipsis tum scriptis tuis debeo, ut sumere illa nisi
to-letters themselves and to-writings your I-owe that to-take-up them except
vacuo animo inreligiosum putem.
with-a-free mind irreverent I-should-think

35.2 Diligentiam tuam in retractandis operibus valde probo. Est
diligence your in revising works greatly I-approve there-is
tamen aliquis modus, primum quod nimia cura deterit
however some limit first because excessive care wears-away
magis quam emendat, deinde quod nos a recentioribus
more than it-corrects then because us from more-recent-things
revocat simulque nec absolvit priora et inchoare
it-calls-back and-at-the-same-time neither finishes the-earlier and to-begin
posteriora non patitur. Vale.
the-later not allows farewell

36 C. Plinius Fusco suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Fuscus his-own greeting

36.1 Quaeris quem ad modum in Tuscis diem aestate
you-ask in-what to manner on the-Tuscan-estate the-day in-summer
disponam. Evigilo cum libuit, plerumque circa horam
I-arrange I-wake when it-has-pleased-me mostly about the-hour
primam, saepe ante, tardius raro: clausae fenestrae manent.
first often before later rarely closed the-windows remain
Mire enim silentio et tenebris ab iis quae avocant
wonderfully for by-silence and darkness from those-things which distract
abductus et liber et mihi relictus non oculos animo
withdrawn and free and to-myself left not my-eyes with-my-mind
sed animum oculis sequor, qui eadem quae mens
but my-mind with-my-eyes I-follow which the-same-things which the-mind
vident, quotiens non vident alia.
see whenever not they-see other-things

Cogito, siquid in manibus, cogito ad verbum scribenti 36.2
I-think-out if-anything in hand I-think-it-out to the-word to-one-writing
emendantique similis, nunc pauciora nunc plura, ut vel
and-correcting like now fewer-things now more as either
difficile vel facile componi tenerive potuerunt. Notarium
with-difficulty or easily to-be-composed and-held they-could a-secretary
voco et die admisso quae formaveram dicto: abit
I-call and the-day let-in what I-had-shaped I-dictate he-goes-away
rursusque revocatur rursusque dimittitur.
and-again is-recalled and-again is-dismissed
Ubi hora quarta vel quinta (neque enim certum dimensumque 36.3
when at-the-hour fourth or fifth nor for fixed and-measured
tempus), ut dies suasit, in xystum me vel cryptoporticum
the-time as the-day has-recommended to the-terrace myself or the-covered-colonnade
confero, reliqua meditor et dicto. Vehiculum ascendo: ibi
I-take the-rest I-think-out and dictate a-carriage I-mount there
quoque idem quod ambulans aut iacens: durat intentio
also the-same as walking or lying lasts the-concentration
mutatione ipsa refecta. Paulum redormio, dein ambulo, mox
by-the-change itself refreshed a-little I-sleep-again then I-walk soon
orationem graecam latinamve clare et intente non tam vocis
a-speech Greek or-Latin aloud and intently not so-much of-the-voice
causa quam stomachi lego; pariter tamen et illa firmatur.
for-the-sake as of-the-stomach I-read equally however also that is-strengthened
Iterum ambulo, ungor, exerceor, lavor. Cenanti mihi, si 36.4
again I-walk I-am-anointed I-exercise I-bathe dining to-me if
cum uxore vel paucis, liber legitur: post cenam comoedus
with my-wife or a-few a-book is-read after dinner a-comic-actor
aut lyristes: mox cum meis ambulo, quorum in numero
or a-lyre-player soon with my-people I-walk whose in number

sunt eruditi. Ita variis sermonibus vespera extenditur et
are learned-men so by-various conversations the-evening is-extended and
quamquam longissimus dies cito conditur.
although longest the-day quickly is-laid-to-rest

36.5 Non numquam ex hoc ordine aliqua mutantur. Nam si
not never from this order some-things are-changed for if
diu iacui vel ambulavi, post somnum demum lectionemque
long I-have-lain or walked after sleep at-last and-reading
non vehiculo, sed quod brevius, quia velocius, equo
not in-a-carriage but which is-shorter because faster on-horseback
gestor. Interveniunt amici ex proximis oppidis partemque
I-am-carried there-come-in friends from neighboring towns and-part
diei ad se trahunt interdumque lasso mihi opportuna
of-the-day to themselves draw and-sometimes tired to-me with-timely
interpellatione subveniunt.
interruption they-come-to-help

36.6 Venor aliquando, sed non sine pugillaribus, ut, quamvis nihil
I-hunt sometimes but not without tablets that although nothing
ceperim, non nihil referam. Datur et colonis, ut videtur
I-have-caught not nothing I-may-bring-back is-given also to-the-tenants as it-seems
ipsis, non satis temporis, quorum mihi agrestes querellae
to-themselves not enough of-time whose to-me rustic complaints
litteras nostras et haec urbana opera commendant. Vale.
letters our and these urban works commend farewell

37 C. Plinius Paulino suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Paulinus his-own greeting

37.1 Nec tuae naturae est translaticia haec et quasi publica officia
nor of-your nature is-it customary these and as-if public duties
a familiaribus amicis contra ipsorum commodum exigere, et
from intimate friends against their-own convenience to-exact and
ego te constantius amo, quam ut verear ne aliter ac velim
I you more-steadfastly love than that I-should-fear lest otherwise than I-wish

accipias, nisi te kalendis statim consulem videro, praesertim
you-take-it unless you on-the-Kalends at-once consul I-see especially
cum me necessitas locandorum praediorum plures annos
since me the-necessity of-estates to-be-let several years
ordinatura detineat, in qua mihi nova consilia sumenda sunt.
going-to-regulate detains in which for-me new plans to-be-taken are
Nam priore lustro, quamquam post magnas remissiones, 37.2
for in-the-former lustrum although after great remissions
reliqua creverunt: inde plerisque nulla iam cura minuendi
the-arrears have-grown thence for-most no now care of-reducing
aeris alieni, quod desperant posse persolvi; rapiunt
of-money of-another which they-despair to-be-able to-be-paid-off they-snatch
etiam consumuntque quod natum est, ut qui iam putent
even and-consume what born is as men-who already think
se non sibi parcere.
themselves not for-themselves to-be-sparing
Occurrendum ergo augescentibus vitiis et medendum est. 37.3
to-be-met therefore growing vices and to-be-remedied it-is
Medendi una ratio, si non nummo, sed partibus locem
of-remedying one method if not for-money but for-shares I-let
ac deinde ex meis aliquos operis exactores custodes
and then from my-people some of-the-work as-overseers as-guards
fructibus ponam. Et alioqui nullum iustius genus reditus,
over-the-crops I-set and otherwise no more-just kind of-income
quam quod terra caelum annus refert.
than that-which the-earth the-sky the-year returns
At hoc magnam fidem acris oculos numerosas manus poscit. 37.4
but this great good-faith keen eyes numerous hands requires
Experiendum tamen et quasi in veteri morbo quaelibet
to-be-tried yet and as-if in an-old disease any
mutationis auxilia temptanda sunt.
of-change remedies to-be-attempted are

37.5 Vides, quam non delicata me causa obire primum consulatus
you-see how not trivial me a-cause to-attend the-first of-consulship
tui diem non sinat; quem tamen hic quoque ut praesens
your day not allows which however here also as-if present
votis gaudio gratulatione celebrabo. Vale.
with-prayers joy congratulation I-shall-celebrate farewell

38 C. Plinius Saturnino suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Saturninus his-own greeting

38.1 Ego vero Rufum nostrum laudo, non quia tu ut ita
I indeed Rufus our praise not because you that so
facerem petisti, sed quia est ille dignissimus. Legi enim
I-should-do asked but because is he most-worthy I-have-read for
librum omnibus numeris absolutum, cui multum apud me
a-book in-all respects perfect to-which much with me
gratiae amor ipsius adiecit. Iudicavi tamen: neque enim
of-favor love for-the-man added I-judged yet nor for
soli iudicant qui maligne legunt. Vale.
alone judge those-who maliciously read farewell

39 C. Plinius Mustio suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Mustius his-own greeting

39.1 Haruspicum monitu reficienda est mihi aedes Cereris in
by-the-soothsayers' warning to-be-rebuilt is by-me the-temple of-Ceres on
praediis in melius et in maius, vetus sane et angusta,
my-estate for the-better and for the-larger old certainly and narrow
cum sit alioqui stato die frequentissima.
since it-is otherwise on-the-fixed day most-crowded

39.2 Nam idibus Septembribus magnus e regione tota coit
for on-the-Ides of-September a-great from the-region whole gathers
populus, multae res aguntur, multa vota suscipiuntur,
people many affairs are-transacted many vows are-undertaken

multa redduntur. Sed nullum in proximo suffugium aut
many are-paid but no in the-vicinity shelter either
imbris aut solis.
from-rain or from-sun
Videor ergo munifice simul religioseque facturus, si 39.3
I-seem therefore munificently at-the-same-time and-piously to-be-going-to-act if
aedem quam pulcherrimam extruxero, addidero porticus
the-temple as most-beautiful I-shall-have-built I-shall-have-added porticoes
aedi, illam ad usum deae, has ad hominum.
to-the-temple that for the-use of-the-goddess these for of-men
Velim ergo emas quattuor marmoreas columnas, cuius 39.4
I-would-like therefore that-you-buy four marble columns of-whatever
tibi videbitur generis, emas marmora, quibus solum,
to-you shall-seem kind that-you-buy marbles with-which the-floor
quibus parietes excolantur. Erit etiam vel faciendum
with-which the-walls may-be-decorated there-will-be also either to-be-made
vel emendum ipsius deae signum, quia antiquum illud
or to-be-bought of-herself of-the-goddess a-statue because ancient that
e ligno quibusdam sui partibus vetustate truncatum est.
from wood in-some of-itself parts by-age mutilated is
Quantum ad porticus, nihil interim occurrit, quod 39.5
as-much to the-porticoes nothing meanwhile occurs which
videatur istinc esse repetendum; nisi tamen ut formam
seems from-there to-be to-be-sought unless however that a-plan
secundum rationem loci scribas. Neque enim possunt
according-to the-nature of-the-place you-draw nor for can-they
circumdari templo: nam solum templi hinc flumine
be-placed-around the-temple for the-ground of-the-temple on-one-side by-a-river
et abruptissimis ripis, hinc via cingitur.
and by-very-steep banks on-the-other by-a-road is-enclosed

39.6 Est ultra viam latissimum pratum, in quo satis apte contra
there-is beyond the-road a-very-broad meadow in which quite aptly opposite
templum ipsum porticus explicabuntur; nisi quid tu melius
the-temple itself the-porticoes will-be-unfolded unless something you better
inveneris, qui soles locorum difficultates arte superare. Vale.
shall-have-found who are-wont of-places the-difficulties by-art to-overcome farewell

40 C. Plinius Fusco suo s.
Gaius Pliny to-Fuscus his-own greeting

40.1 Scribis pergratas tibi fuisse litteras meas, quibus cognovisti,
you-write very-welcome to-you to-have-been the-letter my from-which you-learned
quem ad modum in Tuscis otium aestatis exigerem:
in-what to manner on the-Tuscan-estate the-leisure of-summer I-spent
requiris quid ex hoc in Laurentino hieme permutem.
you-ask what of this on the-Laurentine-estate in-winter I-change

40.2 Nihil, nisi quod meridianus somnus eximitur multumque
nothing except that the-midday sleep is-taken-out and-much
de nocte vel ante vel post diem sumitur, et si agendi
from the-night either before or after day is-taken and if of-pleading
necessitas instat, quae frequens hieme, non iam comoedo
the-necessity presses which frequent in-winter no longer for-the-comic-actor
vel lyristae post cenam locus, sed illa quae dictavi
or for-the-lyre-player after dinner room but those-things which I-dictated
identidem retractantur, ac simul memoriae frequenti
repeatedly are-revised and at-the-same-time the-memory by-frequent
emendatione proficitur.
correction is-benefited

Habes aestate hieme consuetudinem: addas huc licet ver 40.3
you-have for-summer for-winter my-routine add to-this you-may spring
et autumnum, quae inter hiemem aestatemque media, ut
and autumn which between winter and-summer midway as
nihil de die perdant, de nocte parvulum adquirunt. Vale.
nothing of the-day they-lose of the-night a-little they-gain farewell