

## College of the Holy Cross Classics Annual Manuscript Challenge

Sponsored by the Holy Cross Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi and the HC Manuscripts,

### Inscriptions, and Documents Club

#### Challenge Description & Rules

As a group of 3-5 students, pick one of the following four manuscripts to work on:

#### **Sallust: Coniuration Catillinae**

St. Gallen, Stiftsbibliothek, Cod. Sang. 636

(<https://www.e-codices.unifr.ch/en/csg/0636/1>)

(from the beginning of the folio to “habetur”)

#### **Vergil: Eclogues**

Bern, Burgerbibliothek, Cod. 165

<https://www.e-codices.unifr.ch/en/bbb/0165/2r/0/Sequence-1382>

(stop at “non umquam” in the second to last line of the second folio)

#### **Horace: Odes**

Cologny, Fondation Martin Bodmer, Cod. Bodmer 88

<https://www.e-codices.unifr.ch/en/fmb/cb-0088/37v/0/Sequence-837>

(The Ode Titled “O Fonte Bandusiae”)

## **Pliny: Natural History**

St. Gallen, Stiftsbibliothek, Cod. Sang. 752

<https://www.e-codices.unifr.ch/en/csg/0752/91/0/Sequence-658>

(the section entitled “de eruca”)

The challenge pertains only to the folio linked and section described for each manuscript.

The challenge will be conducted in the following manner:

1. Make a transcription of the designated portion, rendering on paper what your team believes to be the most accurate rendering of the text on that page.
2. Translate the designated portion of the chosen manuscript into clear readable English while remaining faithful to the Latin. Do not copy from a published translation.
3. Analyze the manuscript for unique qualities that would be difficult to reflect in a translation. These could include images on the page (“folio”), ambiguous text, the handwriting, accents and other grammatical marks, etc.
4. Consider what your observations of the manuscript itself can tell us about the scribal process.
5. Send in your transcription, translation, observations, and conclusions in a single orderly pdf document with your school name and the names of the students participating. The deadline for submitting the Classics Day Manuscripts Challenge will be Monday, March 27th, 2017 at 7:53 PM
6. Holy Cross will evaluate each school’s entry and select the top contenders to present their findings in order to decide who wins first prize etc. BE PREPARED TO PRESENT in the event that your school is chosen. Presentations should be no more than 10 minutes long, and cover your procedures, findings, observations and any questions that you raised or struggled with while completing the challenge. Presenters will be informed roughly one week before Classics Day.

Thank you for your interest in the Manuscript Challenge. Send submissions to the email [cjschu@g.holycross.edu](mailto:cjschu@g.holycross.edu) with the subject line MANUSCRIPT CHALLENGE. In addition, send any questions or concerns you might have to that email address. We are more than willing help you in working through any problems. Good luck to all competitors!

### Descriptions of Manuscript Choices

1) **(Sallust)** This manuscript, probably not written in St. Gall, contains two works by the ancient author Sallust (Gaius Sallustius Crispus): p. [1-95](#) *Coniuratio Catilinae*, (history of the Catiline Conspiracy); p. [95-206](#) *Bellum Jugurthinum* (history of the Jugurthine War). The codex is written by various hands; several chapters are repeated, e.g., *Coniuratio Catilinae*, chap. 46-52 (p. [195-206](#)).

2) **(Vergil)** This magnificent complete edition of the works of Virgil (Bucolics, Georgics, Aeneid) was given to the Benedictine Monastery of St. Martin in Tours by the Levite Berno (note and book curse on f. [1v](#)). Virgil's text is interspersed with numerous commentaries (scholia) from late antiquity by Servius and Donatus, which have been transmitted in this form almost exclusively in manuscripts from the Bongarsiana collection. However, Cod. 165 does not present the true Scholia Bernensia as in [Cod. 167](#) und [Cod. 172](#), but rather a collection by various scholiasts which was compiled in Tours — hence the name Scholia Turonensia.

3) **(Pliny)** Manuscript CB 88, which combines the *Odes*, the *Epodes*, and the *Carmen saeculare*, a piece interpreted by children's choirs of the Roman nobility during secular performances, is an unusual example of a Horace manuscript from the turn of the 10th to the 11th century. Its many marginal and interlinear glosses, which frequently consist of *scholia* by Pseudo-Acro, explain the verses and praise their metrical accuracy and verbal virtuosity. The alphabetical tables and the title were added in the 14th century at the end of the volume . (gam)

4) **(Pliny)** Collection of medical manuscripts from the monastery of St. Gall, written in about 900, with five longer and several shorter medical-pharmaceutical treatises, representing in some cases the best, or even the only surviving copies worldwide. Among these may be found, for example, Pliny the Younger's chapter on medicine, the *Medicinae ex oleribus et pomis* (Medicines from vegetables and fruits) by the Roman agrarian and medical author Gargilius Martialis (3rd century), and the treatise *Oxea et chronia*

passiones Yppocratis, Gallieni et Urani, which is found in very few manuscript copies. This manuscript also includes (on page [82](#)) a magic sphere for predicting life and death.

Descriptions obtained from [www.e-codices.unifr.ch/](http://www.e-codices.unifr.ch/)

**Key Terms for Certamen and Manuscripts Challenge** (taken from 2015's list)

Recto - the right hand side of a double page, or the front of a folio, in a book, abbreviated

Verso - the left hand page of a double page of a book, or the reverse of a folio, abbreviated as v.

Folio - a single leaf or page of a manuscript; they are numbered with r (recto) for the front or right hand page and v (verso) for the back or left hand page.

Quire - a bundle of rectangular parchment sheets, folded and stitched to form a section of a book prior to binding; also called a gathering.

Majuscule - any script composed entirely of capital letters.

Minuscule - script composed of lower case letters.

Cursive - script, which is rapidly written as letters are joined together.

Uncial - script derived from late Roman form, comprising rounded capitalized letters.

Scholion - are grammatical, critical, or explanatory comments, either original or extracted from pre-existing commentaries, which are inserted on the margin of the manuscript of an ancient author. The earliest attested use of the word dates to the 1st century BC.

Illuminated Manuscript - the decoration of a manuscript with gold leaf; the term is used loosely, but not strictly correctly, to refer to any illustrated manuscript.

Codex - a manuscript in the form of a book.

Gloss - a commentary on, or sometimes a translation of, a manuscript work written between the lines or around the margins of the main text.

Hand - the distinctive features of the handwriting of an individual.

Incunabula - a book printed before 1500.

Papyrus - writing membrane made from the stem fibres of reeds beaten together in layers at right angles.

Ligature - a method of writing certain letter combinations in which two separate letters are joined into a new form.

Palimpsest - a manuscript, which has been re-used by scraping off the original text and writing over the top.

Scribe - a person who transcribes documents or undertakes dictation by hand

Definitions obtained from <http://medievalwriting.50megs.com/glossary2.htm> found courtesy of **Nikolas Churik, '15.**