



Homo Legens



March Newsletter

Dear Friends of Lingua Latina,

After months of writing, editing, and meticulous proofreading, we're thrilled to announce that a project years in the making has finally arrived. March brings the publication of a comprehensive Latin handbook designed specifically for students of history, theology,

and the humanities – and we couldn't be more proud to share it with you.

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New Publication: Introduction to Christian Latinity

Uvod u kršćanski latinitet (Introduction to Christian Latinity) by Marina Schumann is now available through the University Centre for Protestant Theology Matthias Flacius Illyricus in Zagreb (izdavastvo@tfmvi.hr). This 371-page handbook represents a significant contribution to Latin pedagogy, moving beyond the classical canon to focus on Christian, medieval, and early modern forms of the language.

The handbook is structured around a practical principle: Latin should be learned as a research tool, not merely as an exercise in grammar.

It assumes no prior knowledge and builds systematically through thirty lessons designed for a one- or two-year university course. Each lesson combines grammatical instruction with authentic historical texts, showing Latin not as a static system of rules but as a living, evolving language that adapted across centuries and contexts.

What makes this handbook distinctive is its deliberate inclusion of texts relevant to the history of the Croatian lands. Students don't just learn Latin – they learn it through sources that connect directly to their own cultural and historical heritage. From the ninth lesson onward, authentic sources take centre stage, gradually shifting the focus from grammar drills to reading comprehension and textual analysis.

The book is currently available in Croatian and published as part of the Bibliotheca Flaciana series. While designed primarily for classroom use with an instructor, the clear structure and systematic progression make it a valuable resource for dedicated self-learners as well.

This publication has been a labour of love, and seeing it finally in print feels like watching years of teaching, refining, and rethinking come together in tangible form. We hope it serves students and instructors well for many years to come.

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This Month's Guided Reading: Flacius on Church History

On the blog this month, we've published a new guided reading from Matthias Flacius Illyricus – one of the most uncompromising figures of the Protestant Reformation and a major force behind the monumental *Magdeburg Centuries*, a multi-volume Church history written to demonstrate that Luther's teaching was the revival of true Christianity, not a novelty.

Scheda was a shorter programmatic draft Flacius sent to learned correspondents to explain the purpose and methodology of his historiographical project. This is not narrative history but confessional and polemical historiography – a blueprint for how Church history should be written to reveal the gradual decline from apostolic purity, periodic restorations by the faithful few, and the full recovery of truth in the Reformation.

The Latin reflects humanist scholarly prose with a distinctly theological edge. Long sentences structured around purpose clauses, heavy use of abstract nouns, frequent antithesis, and a crucial Biblical motif – the seven thousand who did not bow to Baal – all work together to create a text that is both intellectually demanding

and rhetorically powerful. This is advanced intermediate Latin, and the analysis assumes foundational vocabulary and grammar knowledge while focusing on syntax and argumentation. Don't be intimidated by the humanist complexity — the payoff is worth the effort.

Flacius was born in Labin (Istria) and educated at Wittenberg, making him a particularly relevant figure for readers interested in the intersection of Reformation theology and Central European history. His work exemplifies how Latin remained essential for serious intellectual discourse well into the sixteenth century.

Thank you for your continued interest in Homo Legens. Whether you're working through the new handbook, reading along on the blog, or listening to the podcast, we're grateful to have you as part of this growing community of Latin learners and scholars.

Warm regards,

Marina Schumann

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