



Homo Legens



February Newsletter

Dear Friends of Lingua Latina,

February has been a month of anticipation and accomplishment at Homo Legens. After weeks of preparation, we are thrilled to announce that our most ambitious project yet has finally launch - and we cannot wait for you to experiences and share your impressions with us.

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We promised you a podcast, and we've delivered. Episode 0 – "Why Learn Latin?" – is now live on Spotify and available directly through our website.

This inaugural episode explores why Latin still matters in the twenty-first century and how it functioned as the international language of learning in the sixteenth century. Marina, a medievalist and your host, is joined by Marcus, a Florentine scholar who moved to Basel during the height of the printing revolution. Together, they bridge five centuries to discuss Latin as a living, adaptable language – one that was used not just for lofty philosophy but for everything from theological debates to tavern excesses.

The episode runs about twenty-five minutes and combines historical insight with personal reflection. Marina shares her own journey from indifferent undergraduate to passionate Latinist, while Marcus offers the perspective of someone for whom Latin wasn't a curiosity but a necessity. The result is a conversation that's both informative and – we hope – genuinely entertaining.

You can find the podcast on Spotify by searching for “Latin with Marina and Marcus” or access it through our website. Future episodes will explore specific texts, historical periods, and the fascinating ways Latin adapted to express everything from medieval mysticism to Renaissance humanism. We'll announce new episodes through our newsletter and social channels, so stay tuned.

We're incredibly proud of how this turned out, and we hope you enjoy listening as much as we enjoyed creating it!

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On the blog this month, we've published a new guided reading from Einhard's *Vita Caroli Magni* – the famous biography of Charlemagne written by his courtier and friend. This particular excerpt describes Charlemagne's physical appearance, daily habits, and personal quirks in surprisingly intimate detail. Einhard tells us about

Charlemagne's love of swimming and hot baths, his refusal to follow his doctors' advice about grilled meat, and his distinctly practical approach to clothing. It's biography with personality – the kind of writing that makes a distant historical figure feel remarkably human. The Latin is clear and elegant, reflecting the revival of classical standards championed by Charlemagne's court during the Carolingian Renaissance. As always, the guided reading includes full vocabulary support and grammar notes, making it accessible to intermediate learners while offering plenty of interest for advanced readers. You can find it in the guided readings section of our website.

Thank you for your continued support as we expand Homo Legens in new directions. Whether you're reading along on the blog or listening to the podcast, we're grateful to have you as part of this community of Latin learners and enthusiasts.

Warm regards,

Marina Schumann

Homo Legens

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