

# MÉLI NUCESQUE

A Newsletter for Classics at the University of Dallas

## Latin Animal Sounds

In “De Naturis Animantium,” Suetonius lists the various and delightfully onomatopoeic words for animal sounds. Dr. Maurer comments that perhaps “the great poets don't use them because they seemed grotesque, or too much from prosaic daily life.” But, that didn't stop Suetonius and also Varro from appreciating them.



“Leonum est fremere vel rugire. [*It is for lions to growl or to roar.*] tigris rancare. pardorum [*male panthers*] felire. pantherarum [*panthers*] caurire. ursorum [*bears*] uncare vel saevire. aprorum frendere [*wild boars: gnash the teeth*]. lyncum [*lynxes*] urcare. Luporum [*wolves*] ululare. Serpentium [*serpents*] sibilare. onagrorum [*wild donkeys*] mugilare. Ceruorum [*deer*] rugire. Boum [*bulls*] mugire. Equorum [*horses*] hinnire. asinorum [*donkeys*] rudere uel oncare. Porcorum [*pigs*] grunnire. Uerris [*boars*] quiritare. Arietum [*rams*] blatterare. Ouium [*sheep*] balare. Hircorum [*he-goats*] miccire. Haedorum [*young goats*] bebare. Canum [*dogs*] latrare seu baubari. Uulpium [*foxes*] gannire. Catulorum [*whelps of wolves, perhaps*] glattire. Leporum [*bears*] uagire. Mustelarum [*weasels*] drindrare. Murium [*mice*] mintrire uel pipitare. Soricum [*shrews*] desticare. Elephantum [*elephants*] barrire. Ranarum [*frogs*] coaxare. Coruorum [*ravens*] crocicare. Aquilarum [*eagles*] clangere. Accipitrum [*hawks*] plipiari. Uulturum [*vultures*] pulpare. Miluorum [*kites*] lupire uel lugere. Olorum [*swans*] drensare. Gruum [*cranes*] guere. Ciconiarum [*storks*] crotolare. Anserum [*geese*] gliccicare uel scingere. Anatum [*ducks*] tetrissitare. Pauonum [*peacocks*] paupulare. Gallorum [*cocks*] cucurrere uel cantare. Graculorum [*jackdaws*] fringulire. Noctuarum [*owls*] cuccubire. Cuculorum [*cuckoo*] cuculare. Merulorum [*blackbirds*] frendere uel zinziare. Turdorum [*thrushes*] trucilare uel soccicare. Sturnorum [*starlings*] passitare. Hirundinum [*swallows*] fintinnire uel minurrere – dicunt tamen quod minurrere est omnium minutissimarum auicularum – gallinae [*hens*] crispire. Passerum [*sparrows*] titiare. Apum [*bees*] bombire uel bombilare. Cicadarum [*cicadas*] fritinnire.”

([http://www.hs-augsburg.de/~harsch/Chronologia/Lspost02/Suetonius/sue\\_a\\_nim.html](http://www.hs-augsburg.de/~harsch/Chronologia/Lspost02/Suetonius/sue_a_nim.html))

## Introducing Our New Professor: Dr. Travillian

The inimitable Tyler Travillian spent his undergraduate career, like the rest of us peons, on the hallowed grounds of our school, The University of Dallas. He earned his B.A. in Classics in 2005. Subsequently, He earned his M.A. in Latin in 2006 and his Ph.D. in Classical Studies in 2011 from Boston University. In 2010, he won the Arthur C. Ross Predoctoral Rome Prize in Ancient Studies and spent 2010-2011 at the American Academy in Rome. Dr. Travillian has now returned to his alma mater as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Classics.

### Events Hosted by the Classics Club

- October 15, 11 am, Annual Zoo Scavenger Hunt, Fort Worth Zoo.
- More to be announced!

For more information, contact Kimberly Read at [kread1@udallas.edu](mailto:kread1@udallas.edu).



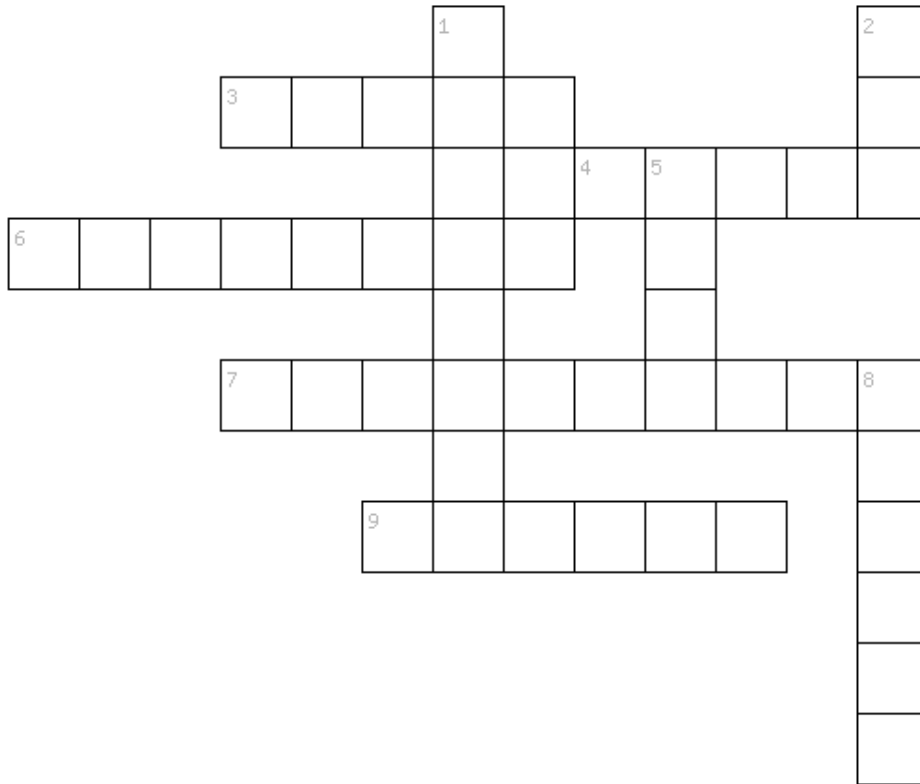
*Plain of Marathon (c. 1801 A.D.) by Edward Dodwell*

If you would be interested in contributing to *Meli Nucesque*, please contact Rebekah Spearman at [r.l.spearman@gmail.com](mailto:r.l.spearman@gmail.com)

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## LATIN CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### DOWN

1. The city that Cato the Elder declared must be razed (*delenda est*).
2. The one syllable word equivalent to the English ah! or alas!
5. The first word of the Roman epic, *Aeneid*.
8. The cognomen of the Roman whose *somnium*, or dream, was the subject of one of the books of Cicero's *De Re Publica*.

### ACROSS

3. The seemingly disparaging, or perhaps endearing, word with which Catullus referred to his own lyric poems.
4. The ablative present participle that is spelled the same way as the name of one of the authors in the core.
6. The verb in the motto of the University of Dallas.
7. Caesar Augustus' name before he was Augustus.
9. The place upon which the severed head and hands of arguably the greatest statesman were placed.

The solution will appear in next month's edition of *Meli Navesque*.

