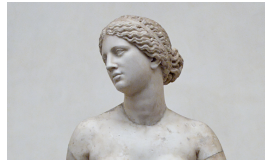


Prof. Gina
Marie Soter

INTERVIEW WITH A
UNIVERSITY OF
MICHIGAN CLASSICS
PROFESSOR



ADVERTISING
CLASSICS TODAY



APHRODITE
MYTHOLOGY



Photo by: Carol Korenstra
GRANT HIGH SCHOOL
JCL AROUND THE
STATE

TAEDA



Photo by: Deb Collins

Friendly Felines

"I came, I PAWED, I conquered!"

An archaeological discovery leads to theories about pet cats in Ancient Rome.

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Did Ancient Roman soldiers have pet cats?

Philomena Engel Mercy High School

President

With all the tedium and historical weight that comes with commonplace findings involving ancient Roman culture, it's always rather refreshing to occasionally discover something a bit more light and fun, a bit *fluffier*. Such was the revelation, in more than one way, when this past July a researcher noticed an unusual imprint in a bit of 2000 year old Roman tile in southwest England's Gloucester City Museum. When piecing through artifacts from a 1969 archaeological dig, a researcher noticed a cat's paw print engraved into a Roman tegula tile that has been dated back to roughly 100 BCE, and dug up in a location right around modern day Berkeley Street in Gloucester. The print is thought to have been caused by a cat running across this piece of roof tiling as it was set out in the sun to dry from its molding. Perhaps the most enjoyable aspect of this discovery is the subsequent theory that, indeed, the almighty Roman soldiers that overtook Britain in the earliest centuries of the world's history, often characterized as whip-smart warrior brutes, kept cute little pet house cats with them in their army stations.

When presented with the question of why these imprints were left unnoticed and thus undisplayed in a museum for nearly 50 years, Gloucester City Museum curator David Rice surmised that the participants of the 1969 dig had more interest in digging up whatever they could find rather than actually inspecting their discoveries. The paw-printed tile has since been placed on display in the Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery, holding the impressive claim to being the museum's only example of Roman domestic cats, though Rice believes that not only are there more tiles like it to be found in Britain, but that such artifacts hold more cat prints impressed into them than any other artifact that has been dug up from the area that once was the great empire of Ancient Rome. The modern day British affinity for feline companions certainly seems to have some impressive historical roots. It just goes to show that close to 2000 years may pass, but when it comes to the world's favorite furry friends, some things may never change.



Mythology in advertisements

Katherine Colleran Mercy High School
TAEDA Editor

Not only is mythology interesting to learn, but it is also integrated in American culture through brand names and designs.

The Sirens of Starbucks

A siren is a creature with the head of a woman and the body of a bird. They would sing sweet, enticing songs, which made sailors so obsessed, they steered their boats right into the rocks and died. Starbucks also wants people to think their food and drinks are irresistible, like the sirens' songs. Many people are addicted to the caffeine in coffee, and people can become obsessed with it, similar to the sailors' obsession with the songs in the myths.

Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company's winged foot

The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company's founder believed the god Hermes, or Mercury, as the Romans, had many qualities for which the company's products were known. Mercury was a quick messenger for the gods and goddesses, so the founder suggested that Mercury's winged foot should be used in the trademark. It shows Goodyear quickly brings goods to customers.

Pandora

In Greek mythology, Pandora and her husband were given a wedding gift from Zeus with a label saying to never open it. However, when her husband was away, Pandora's curiosity was too strong, so she opened the box, which unleashed all the evils known to man. The only good thing in the box was called Hope, which came out of the box last. Today, a jewelry store uses the name Pandora because people can buy their jewelry and give it as gifts to others, like Pandora did.

Other mythological brands include: Nike, an athletic company named after the goddess of victory; Venus, a company that sells women's beauty products and clothing, named after the Roman goddess of love; and Ajax, a brand of cleaning products named for the strong Greek hero of the Trojan War.

Many names and logos allude to mythology.



Upon close inspection, it is clear that many companies' trademarks have mythological symbols to further advertise their products.

Aphrodite

Olivia VanderWall Grant High School

Parliamentarian

Aphrodite, or Venus, as the Romans called her, is the goddess who is associated most often as the goddess of love, beauty, and desire; however, most people don't know that she has several different titles and is also associated with fertility and youth.

The Names of Aphrodite

The goddess of love has many different titles, depending on the region or culture that worshipped her. She was named after two cult sites, which some people believed to be her place of birth: Lady of Cytherea (Cytherea) and Lady of Cypris (Cypris). Different cults used a variety of different names. Her most popular names were Aphrodite and Venus, and uncommon ones include Acidalia, Cerigo and Cytherea. Along with these separate names came separate beliefs and a more common Aphrodite, who was a separate entity from the Celestial Aphrodite.

The Goddess of...

Almost everyone knows that Aphrodite is the goddess of love and beauty, but it is commonly forgotten that she was a symbol of fertility, desire, prosperity, marriage, marital bliss, eternal youth, victory in war, and in some cultures she was even thought of as the goddess of female chastity. Her most prominent symbol is her girdle, but she is also symbolized with a rose, horse, dolphin, scallop shell, myrtle, dove, sparrow, mirror and swan.

Around the State: Grant High School

Tyler Kruzel Grant High School

Secretary

On Wednesday September 16, the Grant High School Latin Club kicked off the school year with the painting of Latin quotes on Mrs. Korenstra's front wall. Not only was it fun, but it also made the room look more like a Latin class, instead of just an ordinary classroom. The first Latin Club meeting was a great success. Thanks to all of the students who showed up, it looks like another wonderful year is ahead. Go Tigers!



Left: Junior Sara St. Arnold paints "Pro bono" on the Latin classroom's wall.

Photo courtesy of: Carol Korenstra

Interview with Professor Gina Marie Soter of the University of Michigan

Ellie Janiz Mercy High School
Historian

Each month an interview with a Classics professor from a Michigan college will be featured. Below, parts of an interview conducted with Professor Gina Soter of the University of Michigan (U of M) are highlighted. She talked about several aspects of the U of M Classics program.



Photo courtesy of:
University of Michigan
Department of Classical
Studies

What makes the U of M Classics program great?

"Great faculty and students," said Professor Soter. When asked to elaborate, she explained that the professors, instead of teaching assistants, teach undergraduate classes, which is unique at a big university like U of M. Some professors have international reputations for teaching Greek and Latin for beginners, something that shows the Classics are available for everyone. The university's Classics program is consistently top ranked.

What is the most popular course?

Professor Soter talked about the Intensive Latin Program at U of M. This is run between the Residential College and the Classics department. Students in this vigorous Latin program are often required to have afternoon tea or lunch together, speaking only in Latin. Another course she described is one in which students put on a play entirely in Latin. They are given a text to read and adapt into a play, which they perform in Latin at the end of the semester.

What do some of your students proceed to do with their degree in the Classics?

Students have gone into all different types of fields, and have become professors, archaeologists, and even computer programmers. "The training for your brain you get with a Classics degree helps you to deal with all sorts of situations," said Soter. The thinking involved, such as translating and synthesizing information, is invaluable no matter what career one decides to pursue. "It's the perfect field for people who can't make up their minds," says Soter, since they must rely on many kinds of tools to learn what happened in antiquity. To have a solid understanding of the ancient world, one must use his or her knowledge of history, archaeology, linguistics, and more. Classics students must engage their minds in many different ways, which translates well into any career.



Quid agitis?

What great things is your JCL chapter doing? Each TAEDA issue will feature stories from around the state, so submit your stories to MJCL Chairperson, Mrs. Lauren Marquard: lemarquard@mhsmi.org. Stories must be received by the third Friday of the month, in order to be published.

Nolite oblivisci: Register your chapter!

Annual MJCL Chapter Dues are \$1 per student, which pay for the TAEDA newsletter and other information. All dues must be received by Dec. 1. Send a check (made out to “Michigan Junior Classical League”) and a list of students to:

Mr. Reed DeMarco
 Brother Rice High School
 7101 Lahser Rd.
 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

Annual NJCL dues are \$2 per student, which pay for the Torch newsletter and other information. All dues must be received by Dec. 1. A \$10 penalty is assessed for dues received after December 1; a \$20 penalty is assessed after April 1.

Additionally, all JCL sponsors must be ACL members and pay annual ACL dues.

Please send a separate check (made out to “National Junior Classical League”) and a list of students to NJCL directly. The form can be viewed on its website www.njcl.org.

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