

TAEDA

MARMOREA RELICTA | A CITY LEFT IN MARBLE

Advice Column

Jeanne: "Hey, I'm stuck here! Ruins and gelato are nice and all, but I need to get back..."

Alain de Lille: "All roads lead to Rome, my friend. It's not a problem at all! We loved Rome in the medieval times."

Jeanne: "... ok boomer."

(Liber Parabolarum, by medieval scholar Alain de Lille: *mille viae ducunt homines per saecula Romam* .)

Gaius: "I really wish I could go back to Rome...I've got quite the opposite problem as that person above..."

Cicero: "View the whole world as one city."

(*id est*, there's so many interesting places to visit all over the world!)

(*omnem orbem terrarum unam urbem*)



MARIA AND HANS IN FRONT OF THE COLOSSEUM

Roaming around Rome

Salvete omnes!

The TAEDA, Latin for *torch*, is the Michigan JCL's newsletter for conference updates and officer-contributed articles on the classics. Our goal is to shed light on interesting topics in classics that are also relevant to our world today.

In this issue, we'll cover our trips to Rome. Hans and I visited Rome as a part of our school's cultural exchange trip, and Dalia went to Europe over the summer! Sophia also will provide important information about an essential stop in visiting Rome.

Rome wasn't built in a day, and you'll likewise need more than a day to truly appreciate the city. Fortunately, that's what a classics education is all about!

Hope you enjoy the issue, and stay tuned for more! *Valete!*

- Maria Cheriyan, TAEDA Editor

Aqueducts and Arenas

In this issue, you'll read about Rome and Roman influence in the surrounding Italian cities. Our editor has also made a mini travelogue!

Our Contributors

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Hope you're enjoying the issue! Feel free to reach out at michiganMJCL@gmail.com.

Roman Holiday

Hans Liu

This past February has been a thrill with 11 whole days for the Italy trip. I had many fantastic experiences. This was all from the Italy exchange trip with a Country Day sister school in Todi. The trip began on February 13. It was a long journey, but a very exciting one. Our school bus took us the Detroit airport after morning classes, and we flew from Detroit to Rome with transition in Amsterdam. I could not sleep because I was so excited.

It felt great to be back to Rome again after having visited Italy back in July,

2014. After we all got our luggage, we were greeted at Rome airport by four Todi sister school peers including Lorenzo, my host; we formed a great bond with each other within minutes.

The sister school arranged a bus to take us to our final destination, Todi which is about a two-hour ride.

“So, we started our trip with a beautiful and exciting day in Italy, just like what I expected... Each of the following days there was fascinating with new experiences.”

During this trip, I got closer feeling about mid Italian countryside which I did not have in 2014. I instantly fell in love with the rolling landscape of the country. Lorenzo and I hung around the school while Lorenzo introducing me to his cousin and friends in the school before his father arrived to us pick up. So, we started our trip with a beautiful and exciting day in Italy, just like what I expected. Todi is a beautiful city.

Each of the following days there was fascinating with new experiences every day. We saw cisterns still filled with water; We saw cathedrals with beautiful Rose windows; we saw the Italian education system and how different it was from back home at DCDS. The true Roman highlights were Carsulae and the city of Rome itself. Dr. McNellen, our Latin teacher, guided us through the key sights of both cities. Dr. McNellen's tour description added more color to this trip with us

gaining additional information from his perspective. My host family was kind and made me feel like home. They took me around to a couple of cities in the mid part of Italy, they introduced me to their extended family and relatives. I enjoyed their home-made meals as well. I am thankful that I had such wonderful host family!

It was a terrific and unique trip with my peers and teachers. I brought back home a lot of great memories to share with my family and schoolmates. I miss Italy and hope to go back sometime soon in the near future! ■

Rome Trip

Dalia Housey

“More than any other destination, Rome made me feel right at home. It was so powerful to see what some would consider a “dead language” come alive...”

This summer I had the once in a lifetime opportunity to take a trip with Latin students at my school. We were lucky enough to not only visit Rome, but places like Paris, Barcelona, as well as many places in Italy and much more! In just two jam-packed weeks, we went to more than 15 major cities and countries. It was incredible to see how Roman culture influenced each of the cities we went to in different ways.

One of my favorite places to see, not surprisingly, was Rome. The years of building up this moment in my head led finally to this moment, and trust me, it was worth the wait. Until that point, when I was walking through the actual Roman Forum, did it truly hit me how innovative Roman culture was. Seeing an actual aqueduct in Pont du Gard that I had learned about just a short year before absolutely blew my mind. So many inventions that one would think are necessities were thought of and created by Romans over fifteen-hundred years ago! Before then I had only seen pictures of such breathtaking monuments; such as the Colosseum which is almost two-thousand years old! It was a completely different experience actually walking through these places and taking in well over a thousand year old architecture. To my amazement, we even got to see the site where Julius Caesar’s ashes were spread.

More than any other destination, Rome made me feel right at home. It was so powerful to see what some would consider a “dead language” come alive not only through architecture and modern day items, but through other people there who shared the same passion for Latin as I. Seeing Rome, and really my entire trip helped further enrich my love for Latin as a whole and Roman culture ■

The Temple of Julius Caesar — 2000 Years Later

Sophia Tesic

The city of Rome is a marvelous place to visit. The rich history of the city is evident in the abundant number of historical sights that are open to the public to see and appreciate. One of these sights in particular, the Roman Forum, is especially significant because of the amazing preservation of ancient buildings that can be seen. Sights such as these are the reason that the Forum deserves its reputation as a must-see in Rome.

Inside the Forum, the Temple of Caesar is among the less preserved. While it is perhaps underwhelming to the eye at first glance, it can be appreciated once its history is understood. At first glance, the Temple of Caesar, or more accurately, the ruins of the Temple of Caesar, seem to be an ancient altar surrounded by rough stone. In comparison to other structures such as the



THE TEMPLE OF CAESAR

Arch of Septimius Severus or the

Temple of Saturn, the Temple of Caesar seems less grand or impressive. This site is still very significant, however, because the location of the ruins is the site of Julius Caesar's grave. Although Caesar was assassinated, he came to be seen as a martyr and was given a public funeral in the Forum. After his death, Caesar became the dedication of a cult. This led to the construction of a temple in the location of his funeral.

Augustus later completed this temple, but by the late 15th century, much of the stone had been carried off and used for other construction projects. Most of what remained was part of the base, which was much less to behold than the original construction.

Today, while the Temple of Caesar lacks its beautiful original marble stone, many people still visit it and place flowers on what is left of the altar. To a visitor who does not know the history of the site, the fresh flowers on the ancient altar may be confusing. They are placed there, however, simply because some people wish to honor one of Rome's most famous citizens. Ultimately, it is amazing to see a location that has preserved its meaning to the present day, even if its physical composition has not been so fortunate. Therefore, anyone planning a trip to Rome should make a note to visit the Forum and the Temple of Caesar. ■

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FLOWERS AT THE TEMPLE

Rome Is Where the Heart Is

Maria Cheriyan



THE ALPS SEEN FROM OUR FLIGHT

This February, I went on my school's exchange trip to Italy with Hans and Dr. McNellen! Our host school was in Todi, a town about an hour north of Rome; we were able to visit many of the province of Perugia's towns and historical sites and of course, Rome itself.

From the time I boarded the plane to Italy, I was most excited to visit Rome. Our first stop was the Forum. The arch of Septimius Severus captured our attention almost immediately. We saw the Curia Julia, where the Senate would have met, and the spot where Cicero probably gave many of his speeches. Right next to the Forum was the house of the Vestal Virgins; many of the statues surrounding the center of the courtyard were broken or worn, but despite — or maybe because of — their imperfections, they had a certain charm. Next, we went to the Arch of Titus, and then the Colosseum; I found it amazing that the Romans could have built something of such size. Unrelated to the history of Rome, but still very important: we found a cat there! That day, I wished that all roads really did lead back to Rome, and that we could have stayed for a bit longer.



THE ARCH OF CONSTANTINE

This wouldn't be an article about Rome and Italy without a short tangent on sewers and aqueducts. In the town of Narni — known as *Narnia* in Latin — we walked into an aqueduct tunnel and even learned how the Romans used technology to build aqueducts through mountains and fields alike. In Todi, we traveled through a reservoir built right under the city square! The small, nondescript entrance gave way to cavernous rooms with a ceiling over 20 feet tall that would fill with water in case of heavy rains. In Rome, we saw the ending of the (in)famous Cloaca Maxima in the Forum! Lastly, we saw the ancient ruins at Carsulae, where we sat in an amphitheater, crossed countless arches, and even climbed on top

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THE COLOSSEUM ON A SUNNY DAY

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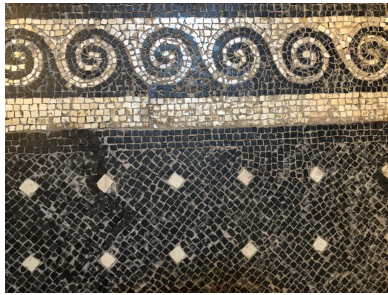
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A PERSISTENT PLANT AT NARNI

of a burial ground.

My host family also took me to visit Spoleto, where we toured a preserved Roman house.

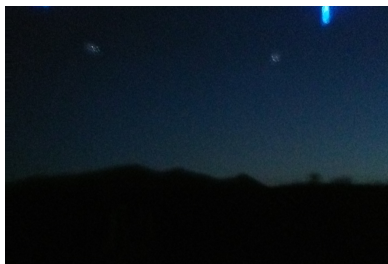


MOSAIC FLOOR AT CASA ROMANA

Almost under our feet were the very mosaics that decorated the floor some rich Roman family owned years ago — the detail in the geometric patterns and colors was wonderful to see for myself! I’m glad such meticulous work has lasted so long. Inside the house, we saw artifacts of everyday objects and remnants of inscriptions.



MARBLE PILLAR PIECES AT CASA ROMANA



MOUNT SORACTE (HORACE WROTE A POEM ABOUT IT) AT NIGHT

All in all, I’m very glad I got to go on the exchange trip last year. The history of Rome and Italy was such a big part of the vibrant life my host family and friends were living in the present day — from the streets they walked to the monuments they passed. I hope to visit Italy again and take a closer look at Rome, but there are pictures of our trip are all around this TAEDA issue! ■

THANK YOU FOR READING | GRATIAS AGIMUS TIBI ET VALE!
