

***Thesaurus linguae Latinae* Fellowship Report**  
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My year at the *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae* was, I hope, unlike the term of any other fellow past or to come. As such, I write this report less as a guide for what to expect in the future than as an acknowledgment of the tremendous merits, tireless efforts, and remarkable generosity of the people who have been part of the project during the pandemic, and whose resilience I witnessed while fortunate enough to be their colleague.

My stay in Munich began with a two-week quarantine in my studio apartment, and continued through a brief flare of hope in the fall into the long, dreary, fearful lockdown of winter 2020-21. Alongside the expected Latin and German vocabulary I encountered came chillingly long lists of terms I had never thought to need in daily life: *die Maskenpflicht, der Abstand, die Impfung, die Ausgangssperre*: mask requirement, distancing, vaccination, curfew. I was exceedingly lucky to have visited the TLL as a graduate student in the summer of 2012, and as such was familiar with the warmth and camaraderie of the place—the *Zusammenarbeit* at the project’s heart—that during the pandemic was only possible in faint echoes of its normal vibrance. The jolly group lunches in the Bavarian ministry cafeterias gave way to huddled, perfunctory gatherings in outdoor markets as eating-places closed and socialization was limited; we used our shared offices in shifts, threw the library windows wide to the freezing winter air for ventilation, and brought blankets and hot water bottles into the stacks. Through it all, however, came flashes of sweetness and joy: the exhilaration of flying down the monumental Ludwigstrasse on my bicycle to work; befriending my colleagues one by one over coffee in the nearby Hofgarten or walks in Munich’s many parks; convivial weekly Zoom “teas” (punningly dubbed *TeeLL*) to break the tedium of lockdown and bring together colleagues far and near; small, bright yellow paperbacks of Heine’s *Deutschland: Ein Wintermärchen* left on our desks as work Christmas presents; being called out of my office by Dr. Hillen, the *Generalredaktor*, to catch a rare and breathtaking glimpse of the Alps from the windows on a clear day.

The *Thesaurus* that year was both emptier and fuller than usual. Although the halls and library were devoid of the normal throng of international visitors, and grew echoingly vacant as caution urged more people to work from home, it was enlivened by the presence of exponentially more young fellows: my predecessor as American fellow stayed on for an extra half-year due to the pandemic, and the heretofore single Swiss fellowship was expanded to three. As a result, the intellectual conversations, commiserations, and exchanges of ideas were in some respects even more lively than I remembered from that glimpse of its workings eight years before, fueled by the additional energy of a group of young scholars apprenticing in the craft. Adversity created other sorts of opportunities as well. In the fall, I was invited to give a lecture introducing the *Thesaurus* to a group of undergraduates at Wellesley College; although I could not go in person, I could give my audience the even better treat of speaking from the *Zettelarchiv* itself, the core of the project.

I mention the work itself, the central aspect of my stay, so late only because it was a welcome continuity to cling to in the midst of so much that was unprecedented. This part of my experience was in many ways like that of my predecessors. All the more acutely in the midst of so many isolating restrictions, researching each instance of each of my lemmata (and reading the slips and library volumes hand-annotated by generations of previous scholars) felt like opening brief windows into a liberating myriad of worlds. Getting a grasp on *reticulum* (“little net”), for instance, took me from catalogues of hair ornamentation and luxurious bed hangings; to a description of an aviary, with netting stretched between columns to contain flocks of birds; to discussions of gender in Latin diminutives; to descriptions of burnt offerings in translations of the Hebrew Bible—necessitating brief forays into modern anatomical texts and a consultation with a Hebrew-speaking colleague, to determine exactly which part of the sacrificial animal’s anatomy was being described. I research loss of voice and silence in Roman imperial literature, and so was especially delighted to be assigned the article for the verb *reticeo*, which represented an illuminating foray into meaningful silences and untold secrets. And, with so much sickness and death in the world around us, it was positively rejuvenating to be able to work on *revalesco*: to grow well again.

I cherish the hope of being able to return to Munich and the library for research stays in happier times, and I am deeply indebted to the members of the project not only for the benefit of their expertise, but for their supportive strength, kindness, and compassion through those difficult days. It was certainly a year that transformed me both personally and intellectually, and an opportunity for which I remain truly grateful. My thanks to the NEH and SCS for making my stay possible, and all my gratitude and affection to my hosts, colleagues, and friends at the Thesaurus.