

Report from the Triennial Meeting of the International Committee for the *Thesaurus linguae Latinae*

The triennial meeting of the Internationale Thesaurus-Kommission, the international committee overseeing the project to compile the *Thesaurus linguae Latinae*, was held on Zoom in July 2021, postponed from 2020 because of COVID-19. At this meeting, the future of the project was discussed in detail. Coverage within the lexicon is going to change, so the following report will be of importance to all members of the SCS.

The Thesaurus project, which is based at the Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften (BAW), is currently funded until 2025. The delegates at the triennial meeting were informed by the administration of the BAW that an application for a further 25 years of funding requires *inter alia* a detailed plan to complete the project all the way to the letter Z by 2050. Such a plan does not guarantee that the funding will be granted, since all applications are competitive; but without such a plan, an application will not be considered viable.

The first fascicle was published in 1900. As Latin scholars are aware, the letters completed so far comprise A–M and O–P. The letter N has been completed as far as *nemus* and R as far as *relinquo*; the goal is to complete R before the current grant expires in 2025. Were the lexicon to continue to include every word at the current level of depth and detail, the requirement to reach the end of the alphabet by 2050 would be impossible to meet. The Kommission has therefore endorsed the plan by the project leaders in Munich to meet the stated requirements by the following means:

While *all* Latin words attested in the period covered by the lexicon (i.e., from the beginning until c. 600 CE) will continue to receive an entry, only selected *lemmata* will be covered at the current level of detail. This seems preferable to reducing the scope of treatment across the board, whereby *all* words would receive reduced coverage and *none* would any longer receive treatment at the traditional standard established by the lexicon. A working group of editors and contributors at the Thesaurus, to be joined by members of the Kommission, is accordingly working on criteria for inclusion in (and, correspondingly, exclusion from) the list of *lemmata*.

For material excluded from full treatment, other possibilities for scholarly analysis and publication might be envisaged (including projects for PhD dissertations or Habilitationen). Or, if alternative funding materializes later, words that were omitted could be treated in detail and re-integrated into the digital version at the appropriate place. Since it is envisaged that the print version will continue to be produced, it would not be possible to include such words in alphabetical order in print, but supplementary volumes, as with the Supplementbände to Pauly-Wissowa, could be compiled.

The only way to speed up the work at the current level of detail is to provide funding for more contributors. The SCS is very proud to have been able to send a TLL Fellow every year since 1984, thanks to generous funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities. In addition, it is possible for scholars to spend shorter periods in Munich contributing to the

lexicon under guidance from staff at the Thesaurus, so long as they have the funding and the aptitude; anyone interested in such an opportunity, either for themselves or for a student, should contact me, Kathleen Coleman, as the SCS delegate to the Kommission: kcoleman@fas.harvard.edu.

The Thesaurus administration and contributors, and the Kommission, fully recognize that the scholarly community expects coverage to continue at the current level of depth and detail all the way to the end of the alphabet. This is indeed the ideal for which the Thesaurus has striven since work first began on this project in 1894. The sword of Damocles represented by the requirement to reach Z by 2050 therefore requires all users, as well as all contributors, to re-adjust their expectations. This is painful. But this prospect is far better than an abrupt end to the project in the middle of N and R. The administration, the team of editors and contributors, and the Kommission are therefore fully committed to submitting the strongest application possible, in the hope of securing the remaining 25 years of funding, probably in two installments: 2026–2037 and 2038–2050.

Alert readers will have noticed the phrase *inter alia* attached to the mention of requirements in the second paragraph of this report. These include a plan for digitization to supply an open-access, fully searchable lexicon, beyond the free pdfs currently available on the Thesaurus web site: <https://thesaurus.badw.de/en/tll-digital/tll-open-access.html>. A further working group to tackle this challenge envisages collaborating with De Gruyter to achieve it. The rest of the requirements represent far less of a challenge, since the Thesaurus is already doing well on all of them, although always striving (of course) to do even better. These involve the training of young scholars (cf. the annual reports of the SCS-NEH TLL Fellows: <https://classicalstudies.org/publications-and-research/tll-fellows>); international reach (the international committee currently includes delegates from 25 learned societies in Europe, Asia, Australasia, Africa, and North America: <https://thesaurus.badw.de/en/organisation/international-commission-for-the-tll.html>); gender equality (<https://thesaurus.badw.de/en/people.html>); and communication within the scholarly community (<https://thesaurus.badw.de/en/news.html>).

It is therefore with the utmost determination that the editors, the contributors, and the international committee have committed themselves to completing the project. As your delegate to the international committee, I promise to keep you up to date on developments.

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