

told that Alcon and Idas came to Hippomedon's aid 'agus ba foirithin dosum sin ona ceathaib cumasda cruadarm robadar as each aird air'¹¹ ('and that was a help to him from the confused showers of hard weapons that were on him from every quarter'). The key words are 'ceathaib...cruadarm', 'showers of hard weapons', which surely hint at *iaculorum* in the Latin original. It is true that this translation is in most respects very loose, and true also that medieval translators can make mistakes as easily as modern ones. Nevertheless, inconclusive though such evidence must necessarily be, we can consider it as at least possible that the Irish translator had before him a now lost manuscript perhaps as old as or older than *P*¹² and that it may have independently preserved the reading *iaculorum*. Despite Phillimore's belief that the translation is not precise enough for us to identify the family of the original manuscript,¹³ I suspect that careful study of the Irish tradition could well yield something of use to future editors of the *Thebaid*, and I hope to address myself to this subject further.

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¹¹ Calder, p. 220.

¹² Codex Parisinus 8051 (Puteanus) Saec. IX, our oldest and most trustworthy manuscript of the *Thebaid*.

¹³ Calder, p. xix.

A NOTE ON SUETONIUS, *NERO*

defunctoque circa Kal. Ian. altero e consulibus (Nero) neminem substituit, improbens exemplum vetus Canini Rebili uno die consulis.

(*Nero* 15.2)

Circa, implying that the consul died either before or after 1st January, will not do. A consul dying *after* 1st January, with the month or months ahead empty, would have to be replaced; only a consul dying *before* – and shortly before – might not need replacement and would fit the example to which Nero objected.

Read: 'citra Kal. Ian.' Cf. *Aug.* 43.4, 'citra spectaculorum dies'; *DJ* 81.2, 'non ultra Martias Idus'; *Vit.* 14.4, 'intra Kal. Oct.': *Dom.* 13.3, 'ultra Kal. Mai.'; Columella 2.8.3, 'citra Kalendas Octobris'. Gellius (12.13) discusses these phrases but hardly to our present advantage.

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Notice

The Ninth Congress of the International Federation of the Societies of Classical Studies (FIEC) will be held in Pisa from Thursday 24 August to Wednesday 30 August 1989. There will be three main Sections (I, Greek world; II, Roman world; III, More general questions concerning both ancient cultures), besides eight Colloquia on more specific topics. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Professor Franco Montanari, Università di Pisa, Dipartimento di Filologia Classica, Via Galvani 1, I-56100 Pisa, Italy.

One of the Colloquia at the Congress will concern current problems in the editing of classical texts. Scholars wishing to offer papers for this Colloquium are asked to communicate their proposals to Jean Irigoin, Collège de France, 11 Place Marcelin-Berthelot, F-75231 Paris, Cedex 05, France. The four proposals judged most interesting will be selected.