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Collaborative Commentary Project: Women and Family in Tacitus' *Agricola*

This term, we have been invited to provide an intermediate commentary on the women in Tacitus' *Agricola* for the *Online Companion to the Worlds of Roman Women*, edited by Ann R. Raia and Judith L. Sebesta (<http://www2.cnr.edu/home/sas/araia/companion.html>). This site introduces intermediate level students of Latin to women in the Roman Empire through un-adapted Latin texts, essays, and images. Each passage has its own introductory essay to contextualize the reading. Each reading includes hyperlinked glosses with lexical, rhetorical, poetic, and syntactic aids. Links denoted by an SPQR provide images and maps. Our job is to prepare glosses and commentary for passages pertaining to the women of *Agricola*'s family, as well as the introductory essay. Each of you will work on your own section of the text and present it to the class, after which we will revise in collaboration. After submitting our work, the editors and other experts in Latin literature will provide further suggestions to reach the final edited version, and will create the webpage for our commentary. Once the webpage has undergone external review and receives approval by the editors, it will be published!

Outlined below are the process and your role in this commentary project:

1. Choose your passage(s) from the *Agricola* from the list below.
2. Consult published commentaries as models for writing lexical and grammatical glosses (Consult *The Online Companion to the Worlds of Roman Women* as an example of the level we are aiming to reproduce in our commentary.)
3. Consult commentaries on the *Agricola* for sources on the background to the text, Tacitean style, and the difficulties of your chosen passage. (Damon's 2016 online commentary for the *Agricola* (<http://dcc.dickinson.edu/tacitus-agricola/preface>), Woodman's green and gold Cambridge edition, and Ogilvie and Richmond's Oxford commentary are the most useful starting points, although these are intended for advanced undergraduates and scholars, and your commentary will require far more extensive grammar and vocabulary notes.)
4. Research the events, people, and ideas in your chosen passage.
5. Annotate your text for intermediate-level Latin readers. Your annotation should include:
 - a. An introduction to the context of your passage. Introduce the women of the passage and their importance to the worlds of family, marriage, and class. This may include links to further information on the family of *Agricola*, his wife, and Tacitus; links to complementary passages on the roles of wives and daughters of elite Romans; links to articles and further bibliography on the events, people, and customs mentioned in your passage (i.e. marriage law, the writing of wills, inheritance law, etc.).
 - b. Brief (1-2 sentence) introduction to your passage. Where are we in the text? What has just happened that is important for our understanding of this passage?

- c. Your edition of the text, including glosses on any textual problems and discrepancies etc. where you find them important. We will use the DCC as our base text (reprinted below), but you should emend to a different text and add any notes from the *apparatus criticus* if you feel the need to do so, explaining why you have changed this text or found the alternate versions important for understanding the passage in your notes. (Damon's list of textual emendations is here: <http://dcc.dickinson.edu/tacitus-agricola/text>).
- d. A list of glosses on vocabulary, grammar, and syntax. These should be listed in the order in which they appear in the text, and translations of vocabulary items should prioritize your suggested translation first (i.e. If *fero* is more likely to mean "report" than "carry" etc. in this text, "report" should be the first option in your gloss.
- e. Suggested list of images, maps, and other visual material you would like attached to your passage.
- f. Questions for discussion for students reading this passage and teachers discussing this passage with a class.

Passages pertinent to the study of Agricola's family in Tacitus' Agricola:

Mother

Agricola 4.2-4.3: [4.2] Māter Iūlia Procilla fuit, rārae castitātis. In huius sinū indulgentiāque ēducātus per omnem honestārum artium cultum pueritiam adulēscēntiamque trānsēgit. ...[4.3] Memoriā teneō solitum ipsum nārrāre sē p̄mā in iuventā studium philosophiae ācrius, ultrā quam concessum Rōmānō ac senātōrī, hausisse, nī prūdentia mātris incēsum ac flagrantem animum coercuisset. Scīlicet sublīme et ērēctum ingenium pulchritūdinem ac speciem magnae excelsaeque glōriae vehementius quam cautē adpetēbat.

Wife

Agricola 6.1-6.2: [6.1] Hinc ad capessendōs magistrātūs in urbem dēgressus Domitiam Decidiānam, splendidīs nātālibus ortam, sibi iūnxit; idque mātirimōnium ad maiōra nītentī decus ac rōbur fuit. vīxēruntque mīrā concordīā, per mūtuam cāritātem et in vicem sē antepōnendō, nisi quod in bonā uxōre tantō maior laus, quantō in mālā plūs culpa est....

Daughter

Agricola 6.2: Auctus est ibi filiā, in subsidium simul ac sōlācium; nam filium ante sublātum brevī amīsīt.

Agricola 9.6: Cōsul ēgregiae tum speī filiam iuvenī mihi dēspondit ac post cōsulātum collocāvit...

Death and Inheritance in the Time of Domitian

Agricola 43.4: Satis cōstābat lectō testāmentō Agricolae, quō cohērēdem optimae uxōrī et piissimae filiae Domitiānum scrīpsit, laetātum eum velut honōre iūdicīōque. Tam caeca et corrupta mēns adsiduīs adūlātiōnibus erat, ut nescīret ā bonō patre nōn scrībī hērēdem nisi malum prīncipem.

Agricola 44.4: Fīliā atque uxōre superstitibus potest vidērī etiam beātus incolumī dignitāte, flōrente fāmā, salvīs adfīnitātibus et amīcitiīs futūra effūgisse.

Tacitus' Lament and Final Exhortation

Agricola 45.4-5: [45.4] Sed mihi filiaeque eius praeter acerbitatem parentis erepti auget maestitiam, quod adsidere valētudinī, fovēre dēficientem, satiārī vultū complexūque nōn contigit. ... [45.5] ... Omnia sine dubiō, optime parentum, adsīdente amantissimā uxōre superfuēre honōrī tuō: pauciōribus tamen lacrimīs complōrātus es, et novissimā in lūce dēsīderāvēre aliquid oculī tuī.

Agricola 46.2-3: [46.2] Admīrātiōne tē potius [temporālibus] et laudibus et, sī nātūra suppeditet, similitūdine colāmus: is vērū honōs, ea coniūctissimī cuiusque pietās. [46.3] Id filiae quoque uxōrīque praecēperim, sīc patris, sīc marītī memoriā venerārī, ut omnia facta dictaque eius sēcum revolvant, fōrmanque ac figūram animī magis quam corporis complectantur...