

Ovatio for Lillian Doherty

Feminam mihi narra, Musa, multiversam¹ et doctam, quae multas terras lustravit multosque locos classicos, per cuius labores feminae antiquitatis clariores factae sunt. Artium Baccalaureae quo collegio ‘spes unica’ imprimis diligitur² et Doctoris Philosophiae illa in universitate quae exhortatur ut ‘crescat scientia, vita excolatur’³ gradum adeptam est. Denique ad ‘factorum fortium et lenium verborum’ universitatem⁴ ingenia sua tulit, qua Pierides inspiraverunt ei vocem divinam ut celebret futura atque praeterita.⁵ Lillianae nostrae primum ad linguam discendam, deinde ad studia superiora adipiscenda, iam quinque lustra discipulos studentes educandi causa viam ad patriam alteram patefacere sagaci cordi fuit. Gallia, quae quondam propter Ausonium filium suum culta est, praeconem esse Lillianam hodie gaudet, ut alumnis una gratias agentibus nobiscum conlegis dilectam se aestimet. Diligit alteram, alteram colit; civis in hac est, “consul” in ambabus.⁶ Ecce! Pergaudet sedibus in Elysiis umbra Homeri atque exultat. Stylo enim peritissime adposito Lilliana illum principem poetarum dulcibus verbis callidisque adornavit in libro praeclarissimo quem de *Odyssea* multo studio, maiori arte, maximo ingenio composuit ipsa Musarum socia. Quis nescit qua subtilitate praedita sit mentis Lilliana gratiaque, quanta elegantia permultis in operibus diversisque perlucescat eius litterarum scientia Graecarum, quali facilitate eius verborum ordo atque sententiarum fluat, instruat, edoceat? Plaudamus igitur laudemusque Lillianam Doherty.

Muse, tell me of a woman of many turns, a learned one, who has traversed many lands and examined many classical texts, and through whose efforts the women of antiquity have become more renowned. She received her B.A. from St. Mary’s College of Indiana and her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. Finally, she brought her talents to the University of Maryland, where the Muses have breathed into her a divine voice to celebrate the things that shall be and the things that were before. Lillian has wisely loved to open the way to a second homeland, first in order to learn the language, then to pursue higher education, now for two decades to enrich her eager students. France, which once was celebrated because of her son Ausonius, today is glad to have Lillian as her herald, so that she considers herself beloved when she hears students with one voice, together with us colleagues, giving thanks. She loves the one country, reveres the

¹ Homer, *Odyssey* 1.1, ἄνδρα μοι ἔννεπε, μοῦσα, πολύτροπον.

² *spes unica*, motto of St. Mary’s College, Notre Dame, IN.

³ *crescat scientia, vita excolatur*, motto of the University of Chicago.

⁴ “Strong deeds and gentle words,” the Calvert motto that, while not official to the University, appears on the Great Seal of the State of Maryland. The original is in Italian, “fatti maschii, parole femine.”

⁵ Hesiod, *Theogony* 31-2, ἐνέπνευσαν δέ μοι αὐδὴν / θέσπιν, ἵνα κλείομι τὰ τ’ ἐσσόμενα πρό τ’ ἐόντα, a nod to Lillian’s work both in ancient studies and in classical reception.

⁶ Ausonius, *Ordo Urbium Nobilium* 20.40–41.

other; she is a citizen here, “consul” in both. Behold! Homer’s shade thoroughly rejoices in his Elysian resting place, and he exults. For Lillian very skillfully applied her stylus and honored that prince of poets with sweet and sagacious words in the outstanding book that she, the Muses’ companion, wrote on the *Odyssey* with much diligence, still more skill, and the greatest ability. Who doesn’t know the subtlety and finesse of mind that Lillian commands, with how much elegance her knowledge of Greek literature shines forth in her many different works, and the ease with which the arrangement of her words and thoughts flows and informs and teaches? Let us therefore applaud and laud Lillian Doherty.

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