

MEDIEVAL INSTITUTE LATIN EXAM, FALL 2024

The exam consists of **three passages**.

The **first** is a passage for unaided translation, i. e., it must be translated without a dictionary or any other kind of aid.

In your translation of the **second** and **third** passages you may make use of **any instruments** you wish (dictionaries, grammar books, Latin Bible, etc.).

You will be allowed **three hours** for this exam.

Please write your translation on **lined paper**, skipping **every other line**, **numbering** the pages consecutively, and labeling each with your **exam number**; please leave **wide margins** and use only **one side** to facilitate photocopying!

☞ **You are not permitted to use a computer during the exam period.**

To pass the exam:

- You must translate the **entire** passages (apart from possible minor omissions).
- The translation must show a good **overall understanding** of the text.
- The **syntactical structure** of the majority of single sentences must be correctly rendered.
- There should be very few grave errors in the translation of single **word-forms** (tense, number, case, etc.) per passage.

Please produce an intelligible and grammatically correct English translation. If necessary, add a more literal translation in brackets or notes to show your understanding of the Latin text.

Procedure: After each paper has been graded independently by the members of the MI Latin Exam Committee, the Committee will determine your final grade (**pass/fail**). You will be informed of the result by the Director of the Medieval Institute or the DGS of the Department of History.

Please schedule an appointment with the Chair of the Committee (hmuller@nd.edu) to discuss your exam paper!

PASSAGE NO 1: UNAIDED PASSAGE

Smaragdus of Saint Mihiel (9th cent.), *Diadema monachorum* 2: On Psalm-Singing

Oportet enim nisibus totis obedire illi, qui nos per Prophetam admonet dicens: *Psallite sapienter*, id est, non quaeramus sonum auris, sed lumen cordis: et quod lingua cantamus, opere compleamus. Cantat sapienter, qui quod psallit intelligit. Nemo enim sapienter agit, qui quod operatur non intelligit. Quod enim est in omnibus cibis gustus, quo dignoscitur cuius saporis sit, hoc est et in verbis sanctae scripturae prudentia et sensus. Si quis ergo ita animam suam intendat in singula verba psalmodiae, sicut gustus intentus est in discretione saporis ciborum: iste est qui complevit quod dicitur, *Psallite sapienter*. Bonum est corde semper orare, bonum etiam sono vocis Deum spiritualibus hymnis glorificare. Sicut orationibus regimur, ita psalmodiarum studiis delectamur. Psallendi enim utilitas tristia corda consolatur, gratiores mentes facit, fastidiosos delectat, inertes exsuscitat, peccatores ad lamenta invitat. Nam quamvis dura sint carnalium corda, statim ut psalmi dulcedo intonuerit, ad affectum pietatis animum eorum inflectit. Multi enim reperiuntur qui cantus suavitate commoti, sua crimina plangunt, atque ex ea parte magis flectuntur ad lacrimas, ex qua psallendi insonuerit dulcedo suavissima.

1	<i>nisus</i>	labor, effort
4; 5	<i>gustus</i>	(sense of) taste
5	<i>psalmodia</i>	psalmody, psalm-singing
9	<i>exsuscito</i>	to incite, arouse
12	<i>ex qua</i>	as soon as

1; 6 *Psallite sapienter*: Ps. 46:8

PASSAGE NO 2: FIRST AIDED PASSAGE

Helmold of Bosau, *Chronica Slavorum* 1.8: Wars of the German kings

Helmold was a 12th-century priest from Saxony who chronicled the settlement, culture and conversion of the Western Slavs. In this selection, he recounts wars between the German kings and their enemies to the North and East in the 10th century.

Itaque regnante Conrado orta est Ungarorum gravis irruptio, qui non solum nostram Saxoniam aliasque cis Rhenum provincias, verum etiam trans Rhenum Lotharingiam et Franciam demoliti sunt. Tunc incensis ecclesiis cruces a barbaris truncatae et ludibrio habitae, sacerdotes ante altaria trucidati, clerus vulgo mixtus aut interfectus aut in captivitatem ductus. Cuius signa furoris ad nostram duraverunt etatem. Dani quoque Slavos auxilio habentes magno Saxoniam terrore quassabant. Apud Danos eo tempore Worm regnavit, crudelissimus, inquam, vermis et Christianis non mediocriter infestus. Ille Christianitatem quae in Dania fuit prorsus demolire molitus sacerdotes a finibus suis depulit, plurimos etiam per tormenta necavit. At vero Heinricus rex, filius Conradi, iam tunc a puero timens Deum et in eius misericordia omnem ponens fiduciam, Ungaros quidem maximis preliis triumphavit, Slavorum populos uno grandi prelio ita percussit, ut ceteri, qui perpauca remanserant, et regi tributum et Deo Christianitatem ultro promitterent. Deinde cum exercitu Daniam ingressus Worm regem primo impetu adeo perterritus, ut imperata se facere mandaret et pacem supplex deposceret.

3	<i>ludibrio habere</i>	to hold up to ridicule, to scorn
7	<i>demolire</i>	= <i>demoliri</i>
8	<i>a puero</i>	from childhood
12	<i>mando</i>	to promise

Proper names (in alphabetical order)

<i>Conradus</i>	Conrad I (911 – 918), East Frankish (German) king
<i>Dani</i>	the Danes
<i>Dania</i>	Denmark
<i>Francia</i>	leave untranslated (not yet “France”)!
<i>Heinricus</i>	Henry I (“the Fowler”, 919 – 936), East Frankish (German) king <u>Note:</u> Henry was actually not Conrad’s son or even related to him. The author is wrong.
<i>Lotharingia</i>	Lorraine
<i>Slavi</i>	the Slavs
<i>Ungari</i>	the Hungarians (the Magyars)
<i>Worm</i>	Gorm (“the Old”, c. 936 – c. 958), King of the Danes <u>Note:</u> the author is punning on the name, connecting it with <i>vermis</i> , “worm”, to which it is probably not related.

PASSAGE NO 3: Second AIDED PASSAGE

Paul the Deacon, c. 22: *Epitaphium Hildegardis reginae*

Hildegard was married to the Frankish king Charlemagne until her death in 783 and gave birth to nine children.

Hic regina iacet, regi praeclsa potenti
Hildegard Karolo quae bene nupta fuit.

Tu mitis, sapiens, solers, iocunda fuisti,
Dapsilis et cunctis condecorata bonis.

5 Sed quid plura feram? cum non sit grandior ulla
Laus tibi, quam tanto complacuisse viro!

Cumque vir armipotens sceptris iunxisset avitis
Cignigerumque Padum Romuleumque Thybrim,

10 Tu sola inventa es, fueris quae digna tenere
Multiplicis regni aurea sceptrum manu.
Te Francus, Suevus, Germanus et ipse Britannus,
Cumque Getis duris plangit Hibera cohors.

Accola te Ligeris, te deflet et Itala tellus,
Ipsaque morte tua anxia Roma gemit.

15 Movisti ad fletus et fortia corda virorum,
Et lacrimae clipeos inter et arma cadunt.
Solatur cunctos spes haec – sed certa – dolentes,
Pro dignis factis quod sacra regna tenes.

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| 2 | <i>Karolus</i> | Charles, i.e. Charlemagne |
| 8 | <i>cigniger</i> | swan-carrying, teeming with swans |
| 11 | <i>Suevus</i> | Alemannian (Hildegard's mother was Alemannian) |
| 12 | <i>Geta</i> | Goth |
| | <i>Hiberus</i> | Iberian, Spanish |
| 13 | <i>Liger, -eris</i> | the Loire |
| 16 | <i>clipeos inter et arma</i> : read <i>inter clipeos et arma</i> | |