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# Graecissāre: Ancient Greek Loanwords in the LiLa Knowledge Base of Linguistic Resources for Latin 

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#### Abstract

English. This paper describes the addition of an index of 1, 763 Ancient Greek loanwords to the collection of Latin lemmas of the LiLa: Linking Latin Knowledge Base of interoperable linguistic resources. This lexical resource increases LiLa's lemma count and tunes its underlying data model to etymological borrowing.


## 1 Introduction

"Graecia capta ferum victorem cepit" ${ }^{1}$
Horace, Epistles, II, 1, 156
Boasting over two thousand years' worth of written attestation, Latin's evolutionary history is among the longest in existence. The diachronic and geographical reach of the Roman Empire exposed Latin, an Indo-European Italic language, to many regional dialects and languages, including Ancient Greek. The mutually profitable linguistic contact between Latin and Ancient Greek ${ }^{2}$, facilitated by their similar morphosyntactic structures and characteristic syntheticity (Ledgeway, 2012, pp. 10-28), is most evident in their vocabulary, chiefly calques and loanwords. Both lexemes presuppose a certain knowledge of the donor language, but while the former takes from the donor with translation, the latter does not (Hock and Joseph, 2009, p. 252).

Examples of Latin words calqued from Ancient Greek are unicornuus "unicorn" (unus "one" +
 жépas "horn"), and infans "infant" (in- "not" + fans "speaking") from $\nu \dot{\eta} \pi \operatorname{los}^{(n e g a t i v e ~ p r e f i x ~} \nu \eta$ -

[^0]+ है $\pi о \varsigma$ "speech"). Calques can also involve affixes, as is the case of Latin's suffix -us being substituted for the Greek -os (Hock and Joseph, 2009, p. 253). The adjective "dramatic", for instance, is attested as both dramaticos and dramaticus.

Example loanwords in Latin are crocodilus "crocodile", imported from the Ancient Greek xрохóбєı入оऽ, and liquiritia "liquorice" from $\gamma \lambda \cup \varkappa \dot{\rho} р \triangleright 亡 \boldsymbol{\alpha}$. Adams identifies three categories of Greek loans in Latin (2003, p. 443):
(1) words for which there existed a Latin equivalent; the writer was so familiar with the local Greek term that he adopted it in response to local conditions; (2) local Greek technical terms for which it might have been difficult to find a Latin equivalent; and (3) transfers determined by a writer's lack of fluency in Latin, as a result of which he either adopted Greek words because he was unaware of their Latin equivalents, or did so unconsciously because of his poor command of Latin.

For each category, Adams provides a handful of examples, including (1) (h)amaxa from ${ }_{\alpha} \mu \alpha \xi \alpha$ "wagon", (2) buneurum from $\beta$ oúveupov "whip of oxhide" and (3) arura from "́poupa "land".

Over the course of its long history, Latin lexicography has produced a plethora of lexical resources, notably dictionaries, thesauri and lexica. Many are available in machine-readable form but their differing annotation schemes and formats are seldom interoperable. In an effort to offset the issue, the LiLa: Linking Latin project is leveraging Linked Data technology to dovetail a wide range of Latin resources into an interoperable whole, producing an ever-growing lexically-based data model capable of accommodating etymological, morphological, syntactic and semantic informa-
tion, and more besides (Passarotti et al., 2020) ${ }^{3}$. In LiLa, glossaries, lexica, treebanks, textual resources and tools intersect and interact through their common denominator, the lemma (itself, incidentally, a loanword from the Ancient Greek $\lambda \tilde{\eta} \mu \mu \alpha)$. Indeed, the LiLa Knowledge Base hinges on a lemma bank of approximately 130, 000 lemmas largely derived from the lexical basis of LEMLAT (Passarotti et al., 2017). As textual and lexical resources are added to the Knowledge Base, LiLa's lemma bank and coverage of the Latin lexicon grow in size.

Though chiefly targeting readily available lemmatised resources on the web, LiLa also creates linguistic resources in-house as a means of further developing its underlying data model. Examples of these are the Index Thomisticus Treebank (Passarotti, 2019) and Latin VALLEX (Passarotti et al., 2016). Here, we describe the addition of a new homegrown lexical resource, the Index Graecorum Vocabulorum in Linguam Latinam (Saalfeld, 1874), to the LiLa Knowledge Base of Linguistic Resources for Latin.

## 2 Data and Methodology

Etymological data is not new to LiLa. Mambrini and Passarotti (2020) describe the inclusion of 1,391 entries from the Etymological Dictionary of Latin and the other Italic Languages (De Vaan, 2008) modelled against the lemonETY etymological extension (Khan, 2018) of the OntoLex Lexicon Model for Ontologies (lemon) (McCrae et al., 2017), which have provided LiLa with 1,465 Proto-Italic and 1,393 Proto-Indo-European reconstructed forms. Whereas those entries came to Latin via inheritance, the work described here targets (nativised) loans from Ancient Greek ${ }^{4}$.

The Index Graecorum vocabulorum in linguam Latinam translatorum quaestiunculis auctus (hereafter IGVLL) is a list of 1,763 Ancient Greek loanwords in the Latin language published in 1874 by classical scholar Günther Alexander E. A. Saalfeld. An extended edition of the Index, published in 1884 as Tensaurus Italograecus: Ausfürliches historisch-kritisches Wörterbuch der Griechiscen Lehn- und Fremdwörter im Latenischen, is the most comprehensive lexicographic

[^1]collection of its kind, counting roughly six to eight thousand entries (Saalfeld, 1884) ${ }^{5}$.

Of the two, the size and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) quality of the 1874 edition best suited a first development of a derivative linguistic resource, conducted as part of a Master's internship at the CIRCSE Research Centre in Mi$\operatorname{lan}^{6}$.

IGVLL is structured into three columns of information: the Latin loanword (occasionally accompanied by variants), the Ancient Greek source lemma(s) (multiple lemmas include graphical, morphological and dialectal variants), and a record of attestations (see Figure 1). Explanatory notes at the bottom of the page provide additional context. In thirteen cases, question marks indicate some level of uncertainty ${ }^{7}$, and, as is convention, asterisks are used to identify thirty-nine unattested -and thus reconstructed- Ancient Greek forms.
> acanthus ${ }^{\prime} x \alpha \alpha \vartheta \vartheta{ }^{3}{ }^{3}$ ) Verg. ge. 4. acapnos ${ }^{\circ} \times x \alpha \pi v o{ }_{\text {M Mart. }} 13,15 \mathrm{in}$ lemm. acatalectus $\dot{\alpha} x \alpha \tau \alpha \dot{\lambda} \eta \eta \tau \tau o g$ Gramm.

Figure 1: Three lexical entries in IGVLL, translating to "Bear's Foot (plant)", "without smoke", and "acatalectic (line of verse)", respectively.

### 2.1 Data Preparation

Judging by the illegible Greek, the engine used to produce the OCR'd text available from Internet Archive (ABBYY FineReader 8.0) was set to recognise the Latin alphabet only (see Figure 2).

```
acanthus axav&og 3 ) Verg. ge. 4.
acapnos awrcvog Mart. 13, }15\mathrm{ in lemm.
acatalectus axaTah]%%og Gramm.
```

Figure 2: Latin OCR of Fig. 1, Internet Archive.
The OCR quality of the text written in the Latin alphabet, however, was sufficient to automatically isolate and tabulate the Latin lemmas, which were then manually cleaned. Next, this list was automatically mapped against the LiLa lemma bank to measure the degree of lexical overlap, which came up at 1,488 unique matches ( $84.40 \%$ ), 207

[^2]ambiguous matches ( $11.74 \%$ ) and 68 unmatched lemmas ( $3.85 \%$ ). Unique matches inherited their respective LiLa identifier, ambiguous matches were manually disambiguated, and unmatched lemmas were added -once again, manually- to the LiLa lemma bank. Ambiguities were caused by homography between lemmas belonging to different categories, be those morphosyntactic (the lemma philosophus, for instance, matched against LiLa's adjective philosophus "philosophical" and common noun philosophus "philosopher") or inflectional (the common noun er might refer to the masculine er, eris "hedgehog" or the invariable er (graphical variant of $R$ ) "seventeenth letter of the Latin alphabet"). Of the 68 unmatched lemmas, 33 were graphical variants of lemmas already present in LiLa and 35 were new additions.

Next, we OCR'd IGVLL with Tesseract v. 4.1.1 set to Ancient Greek recognition (Smith, 2007) ${ }^{8}$. As Figure 3 shows, contrary to the Latin OCR the noise affecting Greek lemmas required heavy manual intervention for clean tabulation, e.g. the rectification of instances of $x$ (cappa) misread as $\chi$ (chi) or of $\pi$ (pi) misread as $\tau \tau$ (double tau) and viceversa, missing breathings and incorrect accents, to mention but a few.

[^3]Figure 3: Ancient Greek OCR of Fig. 1, Tesseract.

In LiLa, a lemma can have one or more graphical variants, known as "written representations" (e.g. the verb sacrifico "to sacrifice" is also attested as sacrufico), as well as inflectional variants, with which it holds a symmetric "lemma variant" property or relation in the Knowledge Base (the active sacrifico, sacrufico vs. the deponent sacrificor, sacruficor).

Therefore, for the purposes of LiLa, where the editor provides multiple Ancient Greek lemmas for a single Latin loanword, e.g. burrus "red" $\pi \cup p \rho o ́ s ~(\pi \cup p \sigma o ́ s) ; ~ c y p e r u m ~ " r u s h ~(b o t a n y) " ~ " ~$
 into written representations of the same lemma (i.e. $\pi \cup \rho p o ́ s ~ v s . ~ \pi u p \sigma o ́ s) ~ a n d ~ l e m m a ~ v a r i a n t s ~(i . e . ~$ the neuter $\chi \cup ́ \pi \varepsilon ı \rho о \nu$ vs. the masculine $\chi$ útгıроऽ).

Compounds such as authepsa "an urn, boiler",

[^4]( $\alpha$ ủtós \& ๕ै $\psi \omega$ ) were tabulated as two separate words, and entries followed by a question mark (13 in total) were marked as "uncertain".

### 2.2 Data Model

The transformation of IGVLL into an RDF lexicographic resource bound for LiLa relied on a combination of vocabularies. In line with previous etymological work, we integrated the aforementioned lemon and lemonETY modules of OntoLex to represent lexical entries in IGVLL. The example lemma abacus "sideboard" shown in Listing 1 is treated as an ontolex:LexicalEntry linked to LiLa's own abacus (lemma ID 86829) through the property ontolex:canonicalForm.


We employed the Simple Knowledge Organization System (SKOS) (Miles and Bechhofer, 2009) to point Ancient Greek lemmas to their corresponding canonical forms in a machine-readable version of the Greek-English Liddell-Scott Jones (LSJ) lexicon (Blackwell, 2018). As Listing 2 shows, we modelled the Ancient Greek source lemma of abacus, ${ }^{\alpha} \beta \alpha \xi$, as an etymon, which, in the absence of a Linked Data Knowledge Base for Ancient Greek, currently points to a blank node.


The skos property stores the LSJ identifier of $\alpha \beta \alpha \xi$ as an exactMatch to denote an exact correspondence between the Ancient Greek lemma of IGVLL and that of LSJ. Failing an exact match, the property skos:broadMatch is used to indicate that the IGVLL lemma is incorporated in a different entry of LSJ (e.g. the IGVLL noun quown' "science of nature, physics" does not have its own entry in LSJ but is listed as a nominalised adjective under the adjectival entry puoぃxós "natural"); further, failing both exact and broad matches, the property skos:relatedMatch is used to indicate a loose relation between IGVLL and LSJ (e.g. IGVLL's rop $\quad$ upíov "purple
dye pigment", neuter present participle of ropчирі泣, and LSJ's verb тор甲ирíc "to be purplish"). As LSJ is not currently equipped with a URN resolver, no actionable link can be made between LiLa and LSJ.

If multiple written representations of a Greek word are listed in the IGVLL, those are all assigned to the canonical form of the related etymon, for instance ontolex:canonicalForm [ ontolex:writtenRep "గuppós", " $\pi \cup p \sigma o ́ s " ~] . ~$

In the case of multiple Ancient Greek variant lemmas, these are all treated as individual etyma, with the difference that the primary etymon points to the $\operatorname{URI}(\mathrm{s})$ of the other et-yma-classed as both lemonEty: etymon and lemonEty:cognate- via the additional property lemonEty : cognate (Listing 3).


Latin composite words in IGVLL never point to an Ancient Greek compound but to the two constituent lemmas. In contrast, in the LSJ lexicon seven of the total thirteen multi-word lexical entries in IGVLL are traced back to a Greek compound lemma, e.g. authepsa (IGVLL: aủtós \& है $\psi \omega$; LSJ: $\alpha \cup \cup \vartheta \varepsilon ́ \psi \psi \eta s^{9}$ ). In keeping with the IGVLL, we employed the decomp : subterm property of lemon ${ }^{10}$ to point the Latin lexical entry to its two constituent Ancient Greek etyma and reconciled these with LSJ using the skos: relatedMatch property.

The etymology of abacus is expressed with the CIDOC Conceptual Reference Model (CRM) class E89 Propositional Object ${ }^{11}$ as a borrowing by way of the lemonEty:etyLinkType property. This set-up is also valid for calques, should these become available in future.

The $C R M_{\text {inf }}$ extension of CRM and the Open Vocabulary (Davis, 2004) were used to rep-

[^5]resent uncertainty as a "belief" or confidence value (Stead et al., 2019; Doerr, 2003; Mambrini and Passarotti, 2020). Specifically, we coded uncertainty as a $\mathrm{CRM}_{\text {inf }}$ Belief class (crminf:I2) carrying an arbitrary Belief Value (crminf:I6) of 0.5 (Listing 4).


Additionally, we employed the Dublin Core ${ }^{T M}$ Metadata Terms vocabulary to supply the resource with descriptive metadata, such as publisher and licence (DCMI, 2020).

All editorial notes in IGVLL were excluded from the data model.

As previously mentioned, with this development LiLa's etymological purview now covers both direct inheritance and borrowing. Figure 4, for example, shows all etymological information in the Knowledge Base associated with LiLa's common noun muscus "moss, musk" (top row, centre node). LiLa's "muscus" is connected to the "muscus" lexical entries of both IGVLL and the Brill Etymological Dictionary via the bidirectional OntoLex property canonicalForm. These lexical entries point to their respective etyma via the directed lemonETY etymology and etymon properties.

## 3 Conclusion

This paper describes the preparation and integration of Saalfeld's Index Graecorum Vocabulorum in Linguam Latinam (1874) in the LiLa Knowledge Base of Linguistic Resources for Latin. This first list of 1, 763 Latin loans from Ancient Greek adds 68 new Latin lemmas to LiLa, stretches its data model to include borrowing and has been mapped to the digitised Greek-English Liddell-Scott-Jones lexicon. Beyond LiLa, this linguistic resource might be integrated in other resources, such as dictionaries (Bowers and Romary, 2016) or digital scholarly editions. Future improvements might acquire a list of calques (Detreville, 2015; Fruyt, 2011) and the extended edition of Saalfeld's Index (1884).

The data and code for the project are available at: https://github.com/CIRCSE/ index-graecorum-vocabulorum.


Figure 4: Etymology of muscus "moss, musk" in LiLa.

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    "'Captive Greece captured her savage conqueror" (our translation).
    ${ }^{2}$ In Egypt, for instance.

[^1]:    ${ }^{3}$ https://lila-erc.eu/
    ${ }^{4}$ The Latin verb gracisso used in the title of this paper is a nativised version of the Greek $\gamma \rho \alpha \iota x \iota \omega$ "to imitate the Greeks; speak Greek". For a detailed overview of linguistic "nativisation", see Hock and Joseph (2009, pp. 247-57).

[^2]:    ${ }^{5}$ Crude estimate of an average ten to fifteen entries per page, for a total 592 pages.
    ${ }^{6}$ https://centridiricerca.unicatt.it/ circse_index.html
    ${ }^{7}$ The specific uncertainty remains unclear as no editorial documentation is provided.

[^3]:    
    
    , ठобí $]$ 日оі̃ı8. $\dot{\alpha} \chi \alpha \tau \alpha ́ \lambda \eta к \chi \tau о \varsigma ~ ү ı \alpha \tau . ~$

[^4]:    ${ }^{8}$ For the most recent overview of Ancient Greek optical character recognition, see Robertson and Boschetti (2017).

[^5]:    ${ }^{9}$ http://folio2.furman.edu/lsj/?urn= urn:cite2:hmt:lsj.chicago_md:n17373
    ${ }^{10}$ https://lemon-model.net/ lemon-cookbook/node21.html
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