SIDE I, Band 1: Introduction

Publius Virgilius Maro (70-19 B.C.) was one of the most famous of Roman poets. His Aeneid, greatest of Latin epic poems, compares with Homer's Iliad and Odyssey, from which Virgil drew inspiration. Among his minor works are the Bucolics, or pastoral idylle, the Georgics, a poetical treatise on farming, and the Eneid, dealing mostly with rural life. The Aeneid was undertaken at the urging of the Emperor Augustus, whose aim it was to stir national sentiment and kindle pride in the past achievements of the Roman race by referring to its mythological origin. It recounts the escape from burning Troy of Aeneas and a band of his Trojan followers, their long vicissitudes before coming to the shores of Latium, their struggles to make themselves masters of the location of Alba Longa, near the mouth of the Tiber.

Our initial passage presents Virgil's opening lines, his invocation to the Muse, and his summary of the subject matter of his poem. Next we have a passage from Book II, in which Aeneas himself, at Queen Dido's Carthaginian court, gives a graphic account of the fall of his native city by reason of the trickery of guileful Ulysses. From Book VI comes the Cumaean Sibyl's description of what lies ahead of Aeneas in his projected descent into Hades to visit the ghost of his father Anchises (this descent into the nether regions, incidentally, inspired Dante, some thirteen centuries later, to write an account of his own descent into the Inferno, with no less a guide than Virgil himself, who had previous experience). Lastly comes a brief passage spoken by the ghost of Anchises, outlining to his son the future destiny of the Roman people who will be his descendants, their world-wide mission to rule and impose peace, to help subject populations and overcome the pride of oppressors.

SIDE I, Band 2: Book I (1-33)

Arma virumque cano, Troiae qui primus ab oris
Italian fato profugus Laviniaque venit
litora, multum ille et terris iactatus et alto
vi superum, sacrum memorem Junonis ob ian,
multa quoque et bello passus, dum corderet urbem
inferrentique deos Latos, genus unde Larini
Albanique patres atque alae moenia Romae.
Musa, mihi causas memora, quo numine laeso
quidve dolens regina deum tot volvere casus
insignem pictate virum, tot adire labores
impulerit. tantaene animis celeribus irae?
urbs antiqua fuit—Tyri tenuere coloni—
Carthago, Italian contra Tiberinaque longe
ostia, dives opum studiose aspersa belli;
quandis Juno tertis magis omnibus unam
posthabita coluisse Samo: hic illius arma,
hic currus fuit: hic regnum dea gentibus esse,
si qua fata sinant, iam tum tenditique foventque.
progeniem sed enim Troia on sanguine duci
audierat, Tyrius olim quae vereret arcas;
hinc populum late regem belloque superbum
venturum excidio Libyae: sic volvere Parcas.
id metues veterisque memori Saturnia belli,
prima quod ad Troiam pro caris gesserat Argis:—
secundum etiam cause iuram saevique dolores
excidant animo; manet alta mense repose
judicium Paridis spectacque intuia format,
et genus inviso, et rapti Ganymedes honores:
his accensa super iactatos acquiro totu
Troas, reliquias Danaum atque inimitis Achili,  
arcabit longe Latium, multosque per annos  
erabat acti fatis maria omnia circum.  
tantae molis erat Romanam condere gentem.

SID 1, Band 3: Book II (1-104)

CONTINUERE omnes, intenique ora tenebant,  
inde toro pater Aeneas sic orsus ab alto:  
infandum, regina, libes renovare dolorem,  
Troianas ut open et lamenteable regnum  
eruere tenebant Danaeus, quaque ipse miserima vidi,  
eque orans pars magna fuit.  
quis talis fando Myrmidonum Dolopumvene aut duri miles Ulixem  
temperet a lacrimis? et iam non umida caelo  
precipitatus, suis demum cadentia sidera somnos.  
sep si tantus amor casus cognoscere nostros,  
et breviter Troiae supremum audire laborem,  
quamquam animus meminisse horret luctuque refugit,  
iniciam.
fracti bello fatigati repulsi  
ductores Danaum, tot iam labentibus annis,  
inter montis equum divina Palladis arte  
aedificans, secaque intextus abiete coas:  
votum pro reditu simulant; ea fama vagatur.  
huc delecta virum sorites corpora furim  
includunt caeco lateri, penitusque cavernas  
ingentes uterque armato milite complent.

Sed in conspectu Tenedos, notissima fama  
insula, divae opus, Priami dum regna mancabant,  
nunc tantum sinus et statio maia fide carinis:  
nunc se proiecti deserto in litore condunt.

In his abisse rati et vento petisse Mycenas.

ergo omnis longo solvit se Telluric luctu:  
panduntur porae; iuvat ira et Dorica castra  
desertoque videre locos et saepe locum.  
hic Dolopum manus, hic saevus tendebat Achilles;  
classibus hic locus, hic aciere solebant.

pars stupet inuuptae donum extuile Minervae,  
et molem miratur equi; primusque Thymoetes  
duci intris muros hortatur et arce locari,  
sive dolo, seu iam Troiae sic fata ferabant.
at Capys, et quorum melior sentirent sententia,  
aus pelago Danaum insidias suspicatae dona  
praepiscari tutebant, subiectisque urere flammis:  
at terebrare cavas ueri et tempus et latebras.

scinditur incertum studia in contraria vulgus.  
primus ibi ante omnes, magna contemnere caterva.

Laocoön ardens summa decurrat arce;  
et procul: 'O miseris, quae tantae insanias, cives?  
creditis avvestos hostes? ut ultra putatis  
dona carere dolis Danaum? sic notus Ulixes?  
aut hoc inclusi ligato occultabant Achivi,  
aus haec in nostros fabricata est machina muros  
spectacula domos venturaque desuper urbi;  
aut aliquid latet error: equo ne credite, 'Teucri.  
quidquid id est, timore Danaos et dona ferentes,  
sic fatum ingeniis virtus hastam  
in latus inque fere curvam compagibus alvum  
contorsit.  
steat illa tremens, uteroque recusus  
insone caro cavae geminusque dedere cavernae.  
et, si fata deum, si mens non laeva fuisset,  
impulerat ferro Argolicas foedere laterbras;  
Troiaque nunc stanc, Priamique arx alta, manere.

ccce, manus iuvenem interea post terga revintum  
pastores magnos ad regem clamore trahebant  
Dardanidae, qui se ignotum venientibus utro.  
hoc ipsum ut struere Troiaque aperiret Achivis.

causes of her rage and keen resentment wrought out of her  
mind; the judgment of Paris dwells deeply rooted in her  
soul, the affront offered to her neglected beauty, the  
detestable [Trojan] race, and the honours conferred  
on ravished Ganymede: she, by these things fired, having  
tossed on the whole ocean the Trojans, whom the Greeks  
and merciless Achilles had left, drove them far from  
Latium; and thus for many years they, driven by fate,  
roamed round every sea; so vast a work it was to found  
the Roman state.

ALL became silent, and fixed their eyes upon him,  
eagerly attentive; then father Aneas thus from his lofty  
couch began:  

Unutterable woes, O queen, you urge me to renew; to  
tell how the Greeks overturned the power of Troy, and  
its deplorable realms; both what seems of misery I myself  
beheld, and those wherein I was a principal party. What  
Myrmidon, or Dolopan, or who of hardened Ulysses'  
band, can, in the very telling of such woes, refrain from  
cries? Besides, humid night is hastening down the sky,  
and the setting stars invite to sleep. But since you are  
so desirous of knowing our misfortunes, and briefly hear-  
ing the last effort of Troy, though my soul shudders at  
the remembrance, and bath shrunk back with grief, you  
will I begin. The Grecian leaders, now disheartened  
by the war, and baffled by the Fates, after a revolution of  
so many years [being assisted] by the divine skill of Pallas,  
build a horse to the size of a mountain, and interweave  
it with ribs with planks of fir. This they pretend to be an  
offering, in order to procure a safe return; which report  
spread. Either having secretly conveyed a select band,  
chosen by lot, they shut them up into the dark sides, and  
fill its capacious caverns and womb with armed soldiers.  
In sight [of Troy] lies Tenedos, an island well known by  
fame, and flourishing while Priam's kingdom stood: now  
only a bay, and a station unfaithful for ships. Having  
made this island, they conceal themselves in that desolate  
shore. We imagined they were gone, and that they had  
set sail for Mycena. In consequence of [this], all Troy  
is released from its long distress: the gates are thrown open;  
with joy we issue forth, and view the Grecian camp, the  
deserted plains, and the abandoned shore. Here were  
the Dolopian bands, there stern Achilles had pitched his  
tent; here were the ships drawn up, there they were wont  
to contend in array. Some view with amazement that  
baleful offering of the virgin Minerva, and wonder at the  
stubborn and impudent habit of the horse; and Thymoetes  
first advises that it be dragged within the walls and lodged  
in the tower, whether with treacherous design, or that the  
destiny of Troy now would have it so. But Capys, and all  
whose minds had wiser sentiments, strenuously urge  
either to throw into the sea the treacherous snare and  
suspected oblation of the Greeks; or by applying flames  
consume it to ashes; or to lay open andransack the  
recesses of the hollow womb. The fickle populace is split  
into opposite inclinations. Upon this, Laocoön,  
accompanied with a numerous troop, first before all, with ardour  
hastens down from the top of the citadel; and while yet  
a great way off [cries out], O, wretched countrymen  
what desperate infatuation is this? Do you believe  
the enemy gone? or think you any gifts of the Greeks can  
be free from deceit? Is Ulysses thus known to you?  
Either the Greeks lie concealed within this wood, or it is  
an engine framed against our walls, to overlook our  
bouses, and to come down upon our city; or some mis-  
chievous design lurks beneath it. Trojans, put no faith  
in this horse. Whatever it be, I dread the Greeks, even  
when they bring gifts. Thus said, with valiant strength  
he hurled his massy spear against the sides and belly of
obtulerat, fidens animi, atque in truncum paratus, seu versare dolos, seu certae occumbere morti. undique visendi studio Troiana iuventus circumfusa ruit, certanque infida capto. accepit nunc Danaorum insidias, e crimine ab uno disce omnes. namque ut conspectus in medio turbatus inermis constituit, atque oculus Phrygia agmina circumspectit: 
heu, quae nunc tellus, inquit, quae me sequor possunt. accepere? aut quid iam miser mihi demique restat, qui neque apud Danaos usque locus, et super ipsi Dardanidae infestis poenas cum sanguine poscant? 
quae gemitu conversi animi, compressus et omnis impetus, hortamus facit; quae sanguine creta, quidve ferae, memore, quae sit fiducia capto, ille haec, desinit tandem formidine, fatuir: cuncta equidem tibi, rex, fuerit quocumque, fatetur vera, inquit, neque me Argolica de gente negabo: hoc primum; nec, si miserum Fortuna Sinonem finxit, vanum etiam mendacemque inproba finget. se fando aliquod si forte tuas pervenit ad aures Belidae nomen Palamedes et inclusa fama gloria, quem falsa sub profidione Pelasgi insolens infando indicio, quia bella vetabit, demiserer eique, nunc casum lumine lugent; illi me comitem et consanguinitate propinquum pauper in arma pater primus hummis ab annis, dum stabat regno incolumis, regnumque vigebat constilis, et nos aliquod nomenque decusque gessimus. invidia postquam pellicis Ulissid 
haud ignota loquor—superessis ab oris, adductus vitam in tenebris luctuque trahebam, et casum insontis mecum indignabat amici. nec tacui demens; et me, fors quia tulisset, qui patrios unquam remeassem victor ad Argos, promisi uoltem, et verbis odia aspers movi, hinc mihi prima mali labes; hinc semper Ulixes criminibus terrere novis; hinc spargere voces in vulgum ambiguis, et querere conscius arma. nec requievit enim, dixit Calchante ministror—sed quid ego haec autem nequissim ingrata revolve? quidve moror, si omnes uno ordine habetis Achilis, idque audire sat est? iamdem umite poenas: hoc Ithacum velit, et magno mercentur Atridae.'

the monster, where it swelled out with its jointed timbers; the weapon stood quivering, and the womb being shaken, the hollow caverns rang, and sent forth a groan. And had not the decrees of heaven [been adverse], if our minds had not been infatuated, he had prevailed on us to mutilate with the sword this dark recess of the Greeks; and thou, Troy, should still have stood, and thou, lofty tower of Priam, now remained! In the meantime, behold, Trojan shepherds, with loud acclamations, came dragging to the king a youth, whose hands were bound behind him; who, to them a mere stranger, had voluntarily thrown himself in the way, to prove this same design, and open Troy to the Greeks; a resolute soul, and prepared for either event, whether to execute his peridious purpose, or submit to inevitable death. The Trojan youth poured tumultuously around from every quarter, from eagerness to see him, and they vie with one another in insulting the captive. Now learn the treachery of the Greeks, and from one crime take a specimen of this whole nation. For as he stood among the gazing crowds perplexed, defenceless, and threw his eyes around the Trojan bands, Ah! says he, what land, what seas can now receive me? or to what further extremity can I, a forlorn wretch, be reduced, for whom there is no shelter anywhere among the Greeks? and to complete my misery the Trojans too, incensed against me, sue for satisfaction with my blood. By which I mournful accents our afflictions at once were moved towards him, and all our resentment suppressed; we exhort him to say from what race he sprang, to declare what message he brings, what confidence we may repose in him, now that he is our prisoner. Then he, having at length laid aside his fear, thus proceeds: I indeed, O king, will confess to you the whole truth, says he, be the event what will; nor will I disown that I am of Grecian extraction: this I promise; nor shall it be in the power of cruel fortune, though she has made Sinon miserable, to make him also false and dissembling. If accidentally, in the course of report, the name of Palamedes, the descendant of B filesize="small">124-155</filesize>

In such terms he proved, and held the altar, when thus the prophetess began to speak: Offspring of the gods, thou Trojan son of Anchises, easy is the path that leads down to hell; grim Priam's gate stands open night and
sed revocare gradum suprasque evadere ad auras, hoc opus, hic labor est. pauca, quos acueus amavit Iuppiter, aut ardens exsorit ad aethera virtus, dis genitio poveere. tenet media omnia silvae, Coecurnyx sinu labens circumvenit alter, quod si tantus amor menti, si tanta cupiditas Stygius innata lacus, bis nigra videre Tartara, et insano iuvat indulgere labori, accipe, quae peraganda prisa. latet arbore opaca arvensis et foliis et lento virens ramus, Lunoni infernae dictus sacer; hunc tegit omnis lucus, et obscuris claudunt convallibus ubræe. sed non ante datur telluris operta subire, Iuicoros quam qui despercere arbore puter. hoc sibi pulchra sium ferri Proserpina manus instituit: primo avulsor non deficit alter, et similis frondesct virga metallo. ergo alte vestiga oculis et rite repertum carpe manu; namque ipse volens facilissque sequetur, si te fata vocant: alter non virtus ullis vinctere nec dum poterit sequi veteris. praetera iacet examinum tibi corpus amici— hec nescis!—tomatore inestasi funere classem, dum consulta petis nostruoque in limine penda. sedibus hunc refer ante sus et alba sepulchro. duc nigra pecces; ea prima piacula surto. sic demum lucos Stygis et regna invia vivi. apiscies ’ dixit, presque obmutuit ore.

SIDE I, Band 5: Book VI (808-853)

quis procul ille autem ramis insignis olivae sacra ferens? nosco crines incanaque menta regis Roman, primam qui legibus urbem fundabit, Curibus parvis et paupere terra missus in imperium magnum. cui deinde subbit, otia qui tumult patriae desidere movebit. Tullius in arma viros et iam desueta triumphus agmina, quem iuxta se quiescimus locantur. Ancus, nunc quoque iam nimium gaudens populibus auris. vis et Tarquinios reges animaque superbam ultoris Brutus fascesque videre receptos? consulis ipse hic primus saecasque secures accipiet, natoso pater, nova bella moventes, ad poenam pulchra pro liberate vocabit, infelix! utcumque ferent ea facta minores, vincet amor patriae laudumque insens concupido. quin Decius Drusos procul, saevumque securi aspice Torquatum, et referentem signa Camillum. illae autem, paribus quas fulgere cernis in armis, concordes animae nunc, et dum noxte premuntur, heu quantum inter se bellum, si lumina vitae attigerint, quantas acies strangemque ciebunt, aggeribus sacer Alpinis atque arce Monoei descenden, gener adversus instructus Eosi! ne, pueri, ne tanta animis asdescite bella, neu patriae validas in viscera vertite vires: tuque prior, tu parce, genus qui ducis Olympo! proice tela manu, sanguis meus! ille triumphata Capitolia ad alta Corinthis victorum ager currum, caesis insignis Achivis, eruct ille Argos Agamemnoniasque Mycenas, ipsumque Aeaciden, genus armipotentis Achilli, ultus avos Troiae, templo et temerata Minervae. quis te, magne Cato, tacitum, aut te, Cosse, relicturus? quis Gracchi genus, aut geminos, duo fulmina bellic, Scipiiades, cladem Libyae, parce sine potentem Fabricium, vel te sulco, Serrane, serenem? quo fessum rapitis, Fabii? tu Maximus ille es, unus qui nobis cunctando restituis rem.

But who is he at a distance, distinguished by the olive boughs, bearing the sacred utensils? I know the locks and hoary beard of the Roman king, who first shall establish this city by laws, sent from little Cares and a poor estate to vast empire. Whom Tullius shall next succeed, who shall break the peace of his country, and robbeth his inactive subjects, and troops now unused to triumphs. Who in due time shall follow the victorious and renown, even too much rejoicing in the breath of popular applause. Will you also see the Tarquin kings, and the haunted soul of Brutus, the avenger of his country's wrongs, and the recovered fasces? He first shall receive the consular power, and the axe of justice inflexibly severe; and the aere shall, for the sake of glorious liberty, summon to death his own sons, raising an unknown kind of war. Unhappy he! however posterity shall interpret that action, love to his country, and the unbounded desire of praise, will [prevail over paternal affection]. See besides at some distance the Decius, Drus, Torquat, inflexibly severe with the axe, and Camillus recovering the standards. But those [two] ghosts whom you observe to shine in equal arms, in perfect friendship now, and while they remain shut up in night, ah! what war, what battles and havoc will they between them raise, if once they have attained to the light of life? the father-in-law descending from the Alpine hills, and the tower of Monoeus; the son-in-law furnished with the troops of the east to oppose him. Make not, my sons, make not such [unnatural] wars familiar to your minds; nor turn the powerful strength of your country against its bowels. And thou, [Cesar], first forbear, who dost derive thy origin from heaven; fling those arms out of thy hand, O thou, my own blood! That one, having triumphed over Corinth, shall drive his chariot victorions to the lofty Capitol, illustrious from the slaughter of Greeks. The other shall overthrow Argos, and Mycenae, Agamemnon's seat, and Eacides himself, the descendant of valorous Achilles; avenging his Trojan ancestors, and the violated temple of
Minerva. Who can in silence pass over thee, great Cato, or thee, Cossus? who the family of Gracchus, or both the Scipios, those two thunderbolts of war, the bane of Africa, and Fabricius in low fortune exalted? or thee, Serranus, sowing in the furrow [which thy own hands made]? Whither, ye Fabii, do you hurry me tired? Thou art that [Fabius justly styled] the Greatest, who alone shall repair our state by delay. Others, I grant indeed, shall with more delicacy mould the breathing brass; from marble draw the features to the life; plead causes better; describe with the rod the courses of the heavens, and explain the rising stars: to rule the nations with imperial sway be thy care, O Romans; these shall be thy arts; to impose terms of peace, to spare the humbled, and crush the proud.

SIDE II, Band 1: Introduction

HORACE

Quintus Horatius Flaccus (65-8 B.C.) is considered the greatest of Roman lyric poets. He brings to his verse the skillful adaptation of complicated Greek metrical forms. In addition to his Odes and Epodes, we have his Satires, Epistles and Carmen Secundum.

We have selected some of his best-known odes. The first is a hymn to the joys of the passing moment, composed in his country villa, with a glimpse of snow-covered Mount Soracte, frozen streams and snow-laden trees, a good cup of wine, and the soft laughter of girls in the far corner.

The second is an admonition to a ship, thought to be symbolic of the Roman ship of state, to avoid the dangers that beset it and steer a direct course toward its manifest destiny.

Next comes a statement to the effect that a man of pure life need fear nothing. Even if he chances upon wolves, as the poet did, they leave his unhurt. And why not? He was singing of his beloved Lalage, and will always sing of her, wherever he may be.

The fourth selection is in more pessimistic vein. Addressed to his friend Postumus, it reminds him that the years roll on, and that we must all grow old and die. It is vain to flee from dangers, nor will anything serve to ward off Death.

The next selection is a proud claim to immortality, based upon the poet's literary achievements. His monument is grander and more enduring than bronze or the Pyramids, and will weather the storms of the ages, for it is built on the most solid of foundations.

The final selection, dedicated to his patron Maecenas, tells of the varied tastes and preferences of men. As for the poet, he only wants to sing his verses.

SIDE II, Band 2: Book I (#9)

Vides ut alta stet nive candidum Soracte, nec iam sustinente onus silvae laborantes, geluque flumina consititerint acuto.

dissolve frigus ligna super foco large reponens atque benignius deprome quadrimum Sabina,

o Thaliarche, merum diota:

permitte divis cetera, qui simul stravere ventos acquare fervido deproeliantis, nec cupressi nec vetere agitantur ornii.

quid sit futurum cras fuge quaerere et quem Fors dicrum cumque dabit lucro appone, nec dulcis amores sperne puer neque tu chorcas.

done virenti canities abest morosa nunc et campus et areac lenesque sub noctem susurri composita repetantur hora,

One dazzling mass of solid snow
Soracte stands; the bent woods fret
Beneath their load; and, sharpest-set
With frost, the streams have ceased to flow.

Pile on great faggots and break up
The ice; let influence more benign
Enter with four-years-treasured wine,
Pretched in the ponderous Sabine cup:

Leave to the gods all else. When they Have once bid rest the winds that war Over the passionate seas, no more Grey ash and cypress rock and away.

Ask not what future suns shall bring
Count to-day gain, whate'er it chance
To be; nor, young man, scorn the dance,
Nor deem sweet Love an idle thing,

Ere Time thy April youth hath changed
To sorrow. Park and public walk
Attract thee now, and whispered talk
At twilight meetings pre-arranged;
Hear now the pretty laugh that tells
In what dim corner lurks thy love;
And snatch a bracelet or a glove
From wrist or hand that scarce rebels.
Charles Stuart Calverley

O ship! new billows are bearing (thee)
Back again into the deep. Oh! what art thou doing?
Resolutely seize the haven; Dost thou not see how bare thy side is of oars?
And thy mast, damaged by an impetuous southwest wind,
and thy yard-arms groan; and thy hull, without cables,
can scarcely endure the increasing violence of the sea?
Thou hast not entire sails, nor gods, whom thou mayest again invoke when overwhelmed with misfortune;
Although of Pontic pine, the noble daughter of the forest,
Thou pridest thyself both (on) thy lineage and unavailing fame. The alarmed sailor trusts not to decorated vessels. Unless thou art doomed (to be) the sport of winds, beware! Thou who wast lately to me (a source of) disquieting weariness, but now (an object of) fond desire and no slight apprehension, mayest thou avoid the seas that flow amid the Cyclades conspicuous (from afar.)

The man of upright life and free from guilt does not need Moorish javelins, Fuscus, nor the bow, nor the quiver laden with poisoned arrows; whether he is about to make a journey through the burning Syrtes or over the inhospitable Caucasus, or the regions which the legendary Hydaspes laves. For in the Sabine wood, while I was singing of my Lalage, and with (my) cares dispelled was wandering beyond my usual limits,
a wolf fled from me unarmed. A
monster such as
neither the warlike Daunia
nourishes in her spacious
forests, nor the land of Juba, the
parished nurse of
lions, produces. Place me in
(those) barren regions where
no tree is fanned by the summer
breeze, in (that)
quarter of the world which clouds
and an inclement
sky (continually) oppress; place (me)
beneath the too-closely
approaching chariot of the sun, in
lands denied to (human)
habitations; and I will love (my)
sweetly-smiling, sweetly-
speaking Lalage.

Alas! Postumus, Postumus! the fleeting
years
glide by; nor will piety cause any
delay to wrinkles
and approaching age, and invincible
death. No,
my friend, (even) though thou
mayest appease inexorable
Pluto with three hundred bulls for
every day
that passes; who imprisons three
bodied Geryon,
(a monster of triple size,) and
Tityus, by (that)
gloomy
stream, that must undoubtedly be
crossed by all
of us who are nourished by (enjoy)
the bounty of the earth,
whether we be kings or needy
husbandmen. In vain
shall we avoid bloodstained (warlike)
Mars, and the broken
waves of the hoarse Adriatic; in
vain shall we dread
the south wind, injurious to our
persons during the
Autumn months; the gloomy
Cocytus flowing with
its languid current, and the notorious
race of Danais
and Sisyphus, son of Aeolus,
condemned to everlasting
labor, must be visited. Thy land, and
mansion,
and
pleasing wife must be forsaken;
nor shall any of those
trees which thou art rearing, except the odious
cypresses, follow thee, (their)
short-lived master.
A worthier heir shall consume thy
Caecuban preserved
under a hundred keys, and shall
stain the pavement
with generous wine superior to (that
quaffed at)
the banquets of the pontiffs.

I have reared a monument more enduring
than brass,
and loftier than the regal structure
of the Pyramids,
which neither the corroding shower, nor
the tempestuous
north-wind, or the countless
succession of years and
the flight of seasons shall be able to
destroy. I shall not
wholly die! And a great portion of
me shall escape
Libitina. I, ever young, shall grow
in the praises
of posterity, as long as the priest
shall ascend the Capitol
with the silent virgin. And where the
rapid Aufidus
roars, and where Daunus, scantily
supplied with water,
rules over a rustic population, I,
(become) powerful
from a lowly degree, shall be
acknowledged (as having been)
the first to have adapted Aeolian
verse to Italian
measures. Melpomene, assume the
pride (of place)
aquired by the merits, and propitiously
wreathe
my hair with Delphian bay.

Maecenas, descended from ancestral kings,
0 (thou)
who are both my protection and my
darling pride:
there are (some whom it delights to have
collected
the Olympic dust in the chariot-race;
and (whom)
the goal, (skillfully) avoided by the
glowing wheels.
and the noble palm exalts to the
 gods - the rulers
 of the world. (It delights) this (man,)
 if a crowd of fickle
 Romans strives to raise (him)
to threefold honors;
(it delights) that (man) if he has stored
in his own
granary whatever is swept from the
Lybian threshing-floors;
(another) who delights to cleave with the
hoe his paternal
fields, you could never tempt for
(all) the wealth
of Attalus (to become) a timid sailor
(and) plough
the Myrtoan sea with a Cyprian bark.

The merchant,
dreading the southwest wind battling
with the Icarian
waves, extols the leisure and the
rural-quiet of his
native-place; (soon) afterwards he
repairs his battered
craft, unaccustomed to entangle
poverty. There is (another)
who scorns neither (to quaff) the cups
of old Massic
(wine,) nor to snatch a part from
the entire day
stretching his limbs now under the green
arbute, again
at the quiet source of some
hallowed stream. The camp
delights many, and the blast of the
trumpet mingled
with the clarion, and wars abhorred
by mothers. The hunter
lingers under the cold sky, unmindful
of his tender
spouse; whether a hind has been
sighted by his faithful
hounds, or a Marsian boar has broken
the fine-meshed
nets. Ivy crowns, the rewards
of learned brows,
associate me with the gods above; a
cool grove,
and the lively dances of Nymphe
with Satyrs
distinguish me from the common crowd;
if neither Euterpe
restrains her pipes, nor Polyhymnia
decides to play
the Lesbian lyre. But if you class me
with the lyric
poets, I shall strike the stars with
my uplifted head.
SIDE II, Band B: Notes on Pronunciation

We have used for these recordings the so-called "Church" pronunciation of Latin current in the Roman Catholic Church, and particularly in Vatican and Italian circles.

This pronunciation is believed to be a fairly exact reproduction of the Vulgar Latin pronunciation current in the spoken tongue of Italy and possibly of other Romance countries from the fourth to the seventh or eighth centuries of the Christian era, before the Romance vernaculars began to appear. It is therefore a legitimate pronunciation of the Latin tongue, though not the best by Classical standards. The chief divergences between it and the Classical language spoken in the cultured circles of the late Republican and early Imperial period (first century B.C. and first century A.D.) are the following:

1. the use of a stress accent instead of the musical pitch recommended by the Roman grammarians;

2. the consequent obliteration of Classical vowel quantities, with the shortening of long vowels in unstressed syllables and the lengthening of short vowels in stressed syllables (but the quality, open or close, of the Classical vowels remained unchanged);

3. the reduction of the diphthong ae (Classically pronounced like the e of English time) and of the diphthong oe (pronounced like the a oi of oil) to open or closed e;

4. the palatalization of c and g, which were invariably velar sounds in the Classical tongue, before the front vowel sounds (e, i, ae, ae), this means that in these positions, a k-sound became a ch-sound, and a g-sound like that of English go became a j-sound as in English jet;

5. the change of y (Classically pronounced like English semivowel w) to the dento-labial fricative sound current in present-day Italian or English j;

6. the shift of ti before a vowel from the sound of tee to that of ey (justitia, originally yoo-tee-ah, to yoo-tee-ah).

In most other respects, the Classical and the Church pronunciation are believed to coincide. There is even, in the Church pronunciation, the restoration of final -g and initial h-, which the scansion of Latin verse and other evidence indicate were very lightly, if at all, pronounced in the most cultured Classical speech.

Our justification for using the late Church pronunciation rather than the Classical (the latter would be contemporaneous with our excerpts) is that the Church pronunciation is still alive and in full spoken use, while the Classical does not appear today save in an occasional classroom.

It is of interest to note that as Latin ceased to be the spoken popular tongue and became more and more an artificial convention or a scholarly koine, each country imparted to the pronunciation of Latin its own individual flavor, derived from its own vernacular usage. What would have been KEE-kay-roh to the Classical speaker became CHEE-chay-roh to the Italian, see-say-roh to the Frenchman, THEE-thay-roh to the Spaniard, THAY-thay-roh to the German, SIE-ub-roh to the English speaker. The Italian usage, however, represents an unbroken tradition, both geographically and ecclesiastically, and is the one that most probably approximates popular Latin usage about the time of the redaction of the Vulgate (ca. 400 A.D.).