

ANOTHER LATIN TRIUMPH FOR MINIMUS THE MOUSE!

Barbara Bell carries off prestigious £5000 prize

Minimus the Mouse, whose primary school Latin course has already sold 60,000 copies and is used in 1,500 schools, has done it again.

His author, Barbara Bell, has won the first ever Classical Association prize for ‘the individual who has done the most to promote the study of language, literature and civilisation of Ancient Greece and Rome’.

Mrs Bell, who teaches Classics at Clifton High School for Girls in Bristol, said: ‘When I was working with the Joint Association of Classical Teachers, I received dozens of enquiries about teaching Latin to young children. I was also becoming increasingly concerned about children’s understanding of English grammar.’

‘I had learned all my English grammar through Latin so I decided to write a simple introduction to Latin for young children. The idea is to make Latin accessible to a new generation of children. Now, children as young as six come up to me to tell me that Latin is so cool – *lingua Latina mirabilis est!*’

Minimus, published by Cambridge University Press, introduces Latin to 7-13 year-olds. The books centre on a real family who lived at Vindolanda, close to Hadrian’s Wall: Flavius the fort commander; his wife Lepinda; their three children; assorted household slaves; their cat Vibrissa – and Minimus the mouse. Pupils learn basic grammar and Latin vocabulary as well as the history and culture of Roman Britain.

Minimus - Starting out in Latin, for 7 – 10 year olds, was published in 1999 and was followed in 2004 by *Minimus Secundus – Moving on in Latin*, for 11 – 13 year olds. The Minimus books are illustrated by Helen Forte and published by Cambridge University Press. For more information, see www.minimus.com.