

Translations and Notes

1. Greek :

You who tend the Muses without ceasing , you who greatly help scholars , now flourish in this , your centennial year : we , your partners in endeavour , pay you our solemn respects – you , who have won laurels worthy of the shining genius of Aristophanes . For all your advancing years , may you for ever , untouched by age , continue to educate those who know well the ancient tongues (to be sure , they to whom such benefits are lacking may well show their envy – but whom do you ever not allow into your grove ?). Hail , then , you of many branches , you who welcome strangers , fondly loved by all : may you in all serenity continue in youthful strength to time immemorial !

Notes :

- (a) the word for centennial is handily found in Pindar at Pythian 4, 282 ;
- (b) of course , Aristophanes of Byzantium ;
- (c) the Greek word meaning “ of many branches “ is actually a botanical term – but the punning use cried out for inclusion.

2.Latin :

Long-lived and venerable nurturer of the Latin language , we dutifully pay you honour – you who so freely give a shining example to our own Society . Wherever men of learning prepare a Conference , it is with you that it is achieved , whether it takes place where icy cold chills the freezing Britons , or where the sun warms grateful limbs in kinder regions . Perpetually steadfast , even in those ” difficult times “ of which Horace sang, in war and peace , you have endured : and now after one hundred years you flourish still . If the study of Roman lore remains vigorous and distinctive– and that , without any help from the powers that be – it will be only fitting for us to celebrate you in these our verses.

Notes :

- (a) SDP stands for salutem dicit plurimam ;
- (b) Horace Odes 2.3.1 ;
- (c) Necnon etc : reference to the Government`s unhelpful attitude to the Classics ; the form “ potentum “ I owe to Vergil , Aeneid 12 , 519. ;
- (d) the second stanza refers to a particularly icy CA meeting held in Scotland some years ago.

Colin Leach , 29.10.2003