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WHEELOCK'S LATIN, 7th edition, by Frederic M. Wheelock and Richard A. LaFleur, HarperCollins(2011) h/b 608pp £19.18 (ISBN 978-0-06-199721-1)

Frederic Wheelock wrote his now famous course immediately after WW2 for veterans granted a college education. Each of the 40 chapters introduces grammar and vocabulary first, followed by practice sentences, both invented and from ancient authors (*Sententiae Antiquae*). Since its first appearance in 1956 it has increased in size, with passages of continuous Latin based on Latin authors introduced in the 5th ed. (e.g. Ch.2 has a 3 line adaptation of Catullus 8: *puella mea me non amat. Vale, puella!* etc.). Passages of unadapted Latin (*Loci Immutati*) were included in the 2nd ed. to supplement W's original reading passages after ch. 40 (*Loci Antiqui*) which had minimal alteration (first is now Catullus 8, coyly omitting l.18 quem basiabis? ... which rather spoils the climax – yet lines 15-19 appear in full in ch.19). Self-tutorial Exercises for each chapter were introduced at the back of the book in the 3rd edition (each with a key). All of these significantly expanded the amount of Latin available for students to practise reading and applying their knowledge of grammar and vocabulary. From the beginning careful attention is paid to etymology with vocabulary entries accompanied by lists of English derivatives. These are supplemented by an etymological section in most chapters with derivations from newly encountered words.

Its expansion has not only provided more practice of linguistic features, but has also increased attention to context. Based on ancient authors from the beginning, it inevitably starts with the briefest of texts. One of the new features of the 7th ed. is the introduction of Pompeian graffiti (*Scripta in Parietibus* in each chapter) which provide accessible texts with opportunities for discussion of Pompeian society, handwriting, spelling and other linguistic features. This is a considerable enhancement and along with the section *Latina Est Gaudium – et Utilis*, introduced by L. in the 5th ed, makes the book more lively and engaging.

The 7th ed. has other enhancements too. Grammatical explanations are frequently rephrased, headings for sections are now in Latin (*Grammatica, Vocabula, Lectio et Translatio*), the layout of the text is improved and more illustrations complement the text.

For British learners there is one drawback: cases are, of course, presented in the continental and American order (Nom, Gen, Dat, Acc, Abl). This should not be an insurmountable problem, and in other respects the course is very user-friendly. It now has much ancillary material to support learners, such as audio CDs (reading aloud is strongly encouraged and macra are used throughout), workbook, follow-on reader and companion reader (*Scribblers, Sculptors and Scribes*), vocabulary cards, an online teacher's guide and much more. A visit to the website (www.wheelockslatin.com) is recommended. 56 years on, the venerable *Wheelock* is not looking old and tired, but rather lively and rejuvenated.

Alan Beale