

Janusz Ryba , Elżbieta Wolanin , Aleksandra Klęczar

Homo Romanus 1 [The Roman Man]. Textbook for Learning Latin and Ancient Culture

Poland (2017)

TAGS: [Aeneas](#) [Prometheus](#) [Pandora](#) [Olympian gods](#) [Europa](#) [Arachne](#) [Jupiter](#) [Mercury](#) [Venus](#) [Romulus](#) [Sibyl](#) [Mars](#) [Minerva](#) [Pythia](#) [Vulcan](#) [Daedalus](#) and [Icarus](#)



General information	
<i>Title of the work</i>	Homo Romanus I. Podręcznik do języka łacińskiego i kultury antycznej
<i>Title of the work in english</i>	Homo Romanus 1 [The Roman Man]. Textbook for Learning Latin and Ancient Culture
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Creators

Janusz Ryba

Janusz Ryba – is an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Classical Philology at the Jagiellonian University of Kraków and a classic languages teacher at a high school. His research interests cover the history of teaching of classical languages in the Polish education system and methodology of teaching classical languages. He is also interested in the problems associated with the classical educational model in the Polish school system, state policy in that area and their impact on the teaching of classical languages.

source: ifk.filg.uj.edu.pl (accessed: October 31, 2019)



Courtesy of the author

Elżbieta Wolanin

Elżbieta Wolanin is a Latin language teacher. She has taught a course of Latin and ancient culture for examiners conducting final graduation assessments at high school, led a nationwide exam grading team (and graded exams herself), and designed resources to be used in workshops on excellence in grading and formulating exam questions for teachers. As an expert appointed by the Ministry of National Education, she co-created the national core curriculum for Latin and the ancient culture. She is the author of *Ad astra* - a set of exercises for high school students preparing for (matura) the final exam (ZamKor, Cracow 2006). She is the secretary of the Regional Committee for the Latin Olympics



in Cracow (Komitet Okręgowy Olimpiady Języka Łacińskiego w Krakowie) organized by the Polish Philological Society (PTF).

source: wydawnictwodraco.pl *Homo Romanus* (accessed: October 31, 2019)



Courtesy of the author

Aleksandra Klęczar

Aleksandra Klęczar is an alumna of the Jagiellonian University and the University of Oxford. She has taught Latin, Greek and the ancient culture at high schools in her hometown of Kęty and in Cracow. She currently holds a PhD and is an Associate Professor at the Jagiellonian University. She has been nominated for the Gdynia Literary Prize in the category of Polish translation for a volume of Catullus' poems, *Poezje wszystkie* (co-authored with Grzegorz Franczak).

She is interested in both Greek and Latin literature, with a special emphasis on the concept of Hellenism and on its influence on the later phenomena in Greek and Roman culture. In her research she deals with the Graeco-Oriental cultural contacts (Adonis, Attis, Hellenistic Jewish writings) and the presence of Hellenistic tradition in Roman literature (Catullus, Statius). Her academic interests are also closely connected to popular culture studies, especially the presence of classical tradition within the popular culture context (she published papers on, among others, J. R. R. Tolkien, J. K. Rowling, Neil Gaiman and Arthur Conan Doyle, as well as on methodology of popular culture studies).

source: ifk.filg.uj.edu.pl (accessed: October 31, 2019)



Marta Pszczolińska, "Entry on: Homo Romanus 1 [The Roman Man]. Textbook for Learning Latin and Ancient Culture by Janusz Ryba , Elżbieta Wolanin , Aleksandra Klęczar ", peer-reviewed by Elżbieta Olechowska, Ayelet Peer. *Our Mythical Childhood Education* (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2024). Link: <http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/education-survey/item/65>.



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Additional information

Contents & Purpose

Homo Romanus is a textbook for teaching of Latin language and ancient culture aimed at higher grades of secondary schools. It consists of two parts, which facilitates its use as an advanced course as well as at a basic level with fewer hours of instruction (using only part 1). Each part is divided into 5 thematic modules (*moduli*). Each module contains 5 lessons (*lectiones*) and an additional recap unit (*repetitio*). The course includes also a Latin-Polish glossary and an appendix on grammar.

The team of authors who are experienced educators offers to the students a modern Latin textbook using the same method as in teaching modern languages. It's layout is deliberate, logical, and clear; the book is colourful (which makes studying and memorization more attractive, for example in the case of tables of conjugation) and well illustrated with carefully selected resources concerning ancient culture, including photographs or engravings. The modules in the first volume explore various human activities and are entitled *Homo viator*, *Homo fabulosus*, *Homo ludens*, *Homo civis* and *Homo miles*. Each lesson features a text on the theme announced in the title and includes related grammatical and cultural data.

Since the textbook was not designed as a traditional Latin course, it contains a considerable amount of materials on Greek and Roman mythology. It is multidimensional - Latin texts, exercises, and additional cultural texts in Polish, little boxes with fun facts, figures and contextual illustrations displaying works of art, artifacts, or reconstructions. Already on the first pages figures the myth of the founding of Rome rooted in the Trojan history.

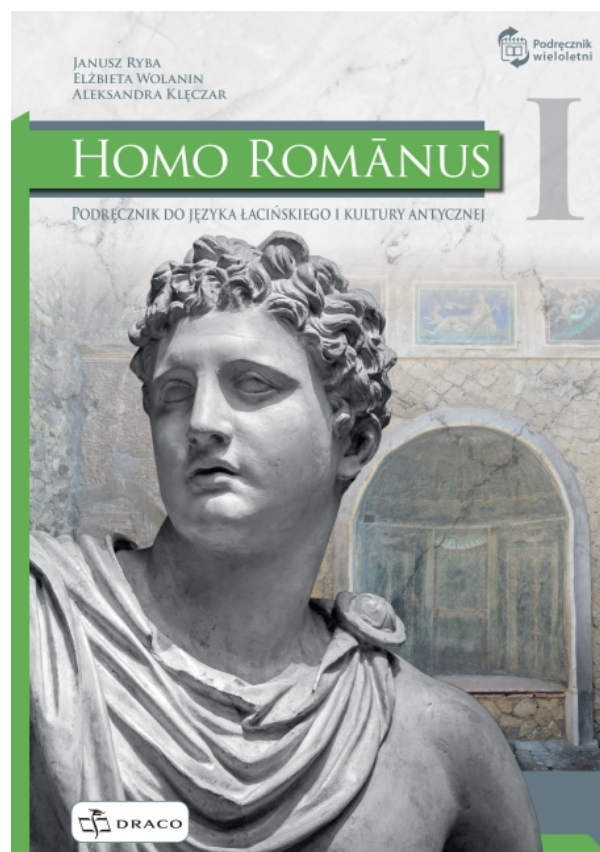
Module II *Homo fabulosus* is especially focused on mythology and rich in ancient and receptive representations. Its lessons are as follows: VI *Aeneas*, *Romulus*, *Prometheus*, VII *Europa*, VIII *De Minerva*, IX *De oraculis*, X *De deis* and revision *De Daedalo et Icaro*. Each lesson centers exclusively on its theme, for example the lesson about Minerva contains three passages referring to the goddess - one general about the goddess, one about her dispute with Neptune and the gifting of the olive tree to Athens, and one about her rivalry with Arachne resulting in the transformation of the latter into a spider. The Latin texts passages are accompanied by questions in Latin and two additional texts in Polish - about Minerva and the metamorphoses. The lesson is also



enriched with relevant drawings and photographs: a relief of Athena, a sculpture of Athena and Neptune, as well as Athena's effigies on 'ancient dollars/euro' - popular Athenian tetradrachms called 'owls'. The grammatical material is less abundant - such structure of the lesson allows to learn and consolidate not only linguistic, but also mythological knowledge.

In lesson X about deities, the authors provide a table listing Greek and Roman gods along with their respective roles, as well as illustrated resources aiming at helping the students to write their own stories about the Roman gods.

Addenda



Courtesy of Wydawnictwo Draco
