

Wiktor Steffen , Jan Horowski

The Latin Voice

Poland (1967)

TAGS: [Aeneas Aeneid \(by Virgil\)](#) [Daedalus Icarus](#) [Homer](#) [Labyrinth](#) [Ovid](#) [Baucis and Philemon](#) [Virgil](#)



General information	
<i>Title of the work</i>	Vox Latina
<i>Title of the work in english</i>	The Latin Voice
<i>Year of publication</i>	1967
<i>Country of publication</i>	Poland
<i>Publisher</i>	Państwowe Zakłady Wydawnictw Szkolnych; Wydawnictwa Szkolne i Pedagogiczne
<i>Original language</i>	Polish
<i>Target and Age Group</i>	1st to 4th-grade of high school - in 1967: 15-18 years old
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Creators

Wiktor Steffen

Wiktor Steffen (1903 - 1997) was a classical philologist and a Hellenist, alumnus of the University of Poznań who also studied in Berlin. He was a recognised specialist on the Ancient Greek theatre. He worked as an author of multiple critical editions, a translator, a lexicographer and an educator. He was associated with the Poznań and Wrocław Universities but also worked at the Leipzig University.

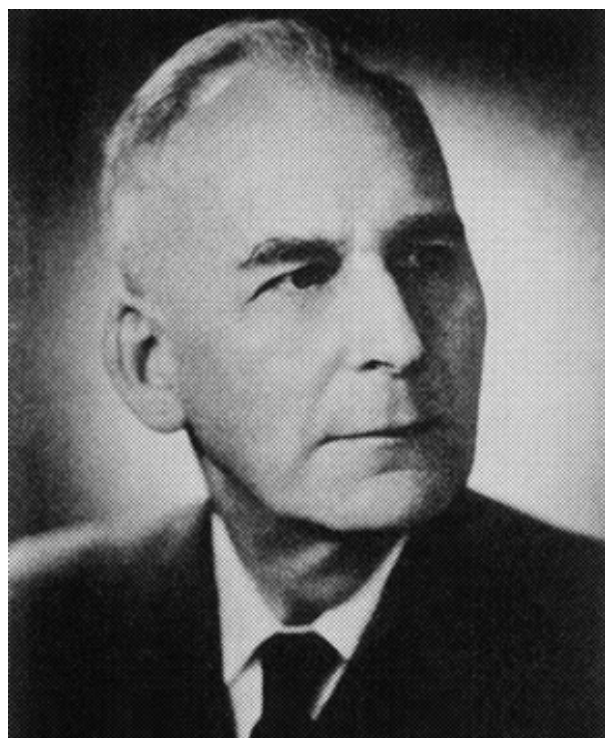
His academic achievements include analyses of the Latin influence on Polish literature, works concerning satyr plays, Greek mime and tragedy, Greek lyric poetry, elegies and the works of Menander, Apollonius of Rhodes, Aeschylus, but also, fewer in number, publications on Roman literature and, in later life, on the history of science.

Steffen prepared critical editions of the works of Greek satire authors, *Ichneutae* [Trackers] of Sophocles et al. His translations include *Antologia liryki aleksandryjskiej* (*Anthology of Alexandrine Lyrical Poetry*), *Works and Days* by Hesiod, *Antologia liryki greckiej* (*Anthology of Greek Lyrical Poetry*), *Argonautica* by Apollonius of Rhodes.

He was also a recognized educator, together with J. Horowski he devised an 8-part coursebook, *Vox Latina*.

On behalf of the Polish Academy of Sciences, he had functional responsibility for the Greek-Polish Dictionary produced by Zofia Abramowiczówna. He himself published the Warmian Dictionary - a dictionary of the Warmian dialect/vernacular, which crowned his interests of linguistics and the Warmian region, to which he devoted about 20 scholarly papers.

source of bio: ipsb.nina.gov.pl, (accessed: August 13, 2019)



Courtesy of Muzeum Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego

Jan Horowski

Jan Horowski (1909-1976) was a classical philologist associated with the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, where he wrote/defended his doctoral thesis under the guidance of Professor Steffen. His academic achievements include monographs, scientific articles, textbooks and methodological guides for teachers. His main interests focussed on the methodology of Latin language teaching and folklore in the ancient culture, but also the folklore of Greater Poland's villages, about which he has also written and published. His extensive experience of teaching Latin at all levels, allowed him to collaborate with Professor Steffen and devise the textbook *Vox Latina* and methodological guides for Latin teachers.

source of bio: I. Lewandowski, "Jan Horowski, filolog klasyczny - uczonek i pedagog. Wspomnienie ucznia w czterdziestą rocznicę śmierci" w: *Symbolae Philologorum Posnaniensium Graecae et Latinae* XXVI/2 (2016): 167-175 [In memoriam](#) (accessed: August 13, 2019)

Additional information

Contents & Purpose

The textbook was adapted to the needs of high school students and was designed to require 4 years of study. The course comprises 8 parts so that for each year of study there was a part 1 dedicated to texts and part 2 containing material for each class, exploring vocabulary and grammar and providing exercises. In addition, in the back of the textbook, there are additional grammatical tables of conjugation and declension along with commonly used phrases, maxims, a glossary and a list of proper names. Part 2 of the 4th year course does not only include grammar but also refers to ancient authors, their works and views and is additionally enriched by a bonus on the metrics as well as a musical partition for Horace's odes *Ad Maecenatem*, *Ad navem* and *Ad Postumum*.

The texts for reading in the first volume of each year of study introduce the reader to the culture and history of Roman Antiquity, including the Roman beliefs and myths. Part 1 of the 1st year course provides short and easy texts, amongst which one can find paragraphs about the temple of Vesta, Neptune, Mars or the story of Leto and the Lycian Peasants. Part 1 of the 2nd year course includes a text according to Cicero about the monument of Diana from Segesta appropriated by Verres. In part 1 of the 3rd year material, the authors do not refer to mythology, but rather to the history of military science or to urbanism. In part 1 of the 4th, the final year of study, the students are to translate original ancient texts, e.g. excerpts from Ovid's *Fasti* or *Metamorphoses* regarding the myth of Areion, Four Ages of Men, Daedalus and Icarus, Philemon and Baucis or fragments of *The Aeneid* by Virgil. The texts are accompanied by topical illustrations: a bas-relief of the temple of Vesta from the Uffizi Gallery, a statue of Neptune from the Lateran Museum, a statue of the Ludovisi Ares, a statue of Diana from the Vatican Museum, a Taranto coin with the eponym Taras hero riding a dolphin, Pompeian graffiti: *Labyrinthus. Hic habitat Minotaurus*, the Pompeian fresco of Daedalus and Icarus, a statue of Aeneas carrying Anchises.

