Europatria

Francisco de Oliveira

Coordinator

Biography

Francisco de Oliveira is Full Professor of the Institute of Classical Studies of the University of Coimbra, Portugal; member of the Center of Classical and Humanistic Studies of the University of Coimbra and Director of the Latin Studies; former Dean of the Faculty of Letters (1996-2002); former President of the Euroclassica and of the Portuguese Association for Classical Studies; former Director of the Institute of Classical Studies and of Teacher Training Programmes including in-service training. Conferences presented in many countries and publications in Portuguese, French, Spanish, English and German.

Main research subject: theatre in general and especially sociology of theatre and the tragedy of Seneca; political theory in antiquity, actually Cicero and Pliny the Younger; currents of thought in the High Roman Empire; classical education in Portugal.

Summary

The present anthology of texts in Latin, drawn from classical antiquity to the present, containing seventeen chapters dedicated to different countries of the European Union and the candidate countries, intends to fulfil the following aims: 1) to consolidate the European heritage through collective, national and transnational reflection on its past; 2) to present an image of Europe in its unity and diversity, as envisioned by a group of classical language teachers from each of the member countries and from those who are candidates for inclusion; 3) to reflect upon what the European Union has been, what it is and what it will be, using as a basis our cultural inheritance as it is written in the Latin language.

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Work Published

With the sponsorship of
1. Introduction

1.1. The Middle Ages

The first contact with Latin culture came with the christianization of Sweden. The first missionary was Ansgar (801-865), also known as "the apostle of the North", who was sent out from the see of Hamburg to the city of Birka in Mälaren (close to present day Stockholm). This first attempt at christianization seems to have been of short duration, but from ca 1000 Sweden became a Christian nation. Descriptions of the Nordic countries can be found in Adam of Bremen’s *Gesta hamburgensis ecclesiae pontificum* from ca 1070. With the introduction of monasteries a school system came into being, and the monastery and cathedral schools were of course Latin speaking. From the 13th century we hear of Swedish students visiting the university of Paris. The first Latin text by a Swedish hand that has been preserved to us is the biography of the Beguin Christina of Stommeln, written by the monk Petrus de Dacia (c 1230-1289), together with a correspondence between Petrus and Christina.