

Handout of Diagrams & Texts Referenced + Selected Bibliography

What is *der soziative Plural*, anyway?

Pinkster 11.122-123; Leumann-Hofmann-Szantyr v. 2, §30

Pluralis inclusivus / auctoris

- A common narratival feature—e.g., *let us now consider* . . .

Pluralis maiestatis / dignitatis

- “Used by dignitaries to underline their authority” (Pinkster)
- Not found until the third century CE, and not common until the fifth.

Pluralis modestiae / affectus

- Used to ingratiate oneself to a *supplicandus* or establish closeness
- Often—but not always—found in poetry

***De Officiis* III.1-2:**

An epistolary *contentio et comparatio*

Vellem nobis hoc idem vere dicere liceret. Sed si minus imitatione tantam ingenii praestantiam consequi possumus, voluntate certe proxime ***accedimus.*** Nam et a republica forensibusque negotiis armis impiis vique prohibiti otium ***persequimur,*** et ob eam causam urbe relicta rura peragrantes saepe soli ***sumus.*** Sed nec hoc otium cum Africani otio nec haec solitudo cum illa comparanda est. Ille enim requiescens a reipublicae pulcherrimis muneribus otium sibi sumebat aliquando, et e coetu hominum frequentiaque interdum tamquam in portum se in solitudinem recipiebat, ***nostrum*** autem otium negotii inopia, non requiescendi studio constitutum est.*

*OCT text, 1994

I wish [*Vellem*] I could say [*nobis . . . liceret*] the same of myself and say it truly. But if by imitation I cannot attain to such excellence of character, in aspiration, at all events, I approach it as nearly as I can; for as I am kept by force of armed treason away from practical politics and from my practice at the bar, I am now leading a life of leisure. For that reason I have left the city and, wandering in the country from place to place, I am often alone. But I should not compare this leisure of mine with that of Africanus, nor this solitude with his. For he, to find leisure from his splendid services to his country, used to take a vacation now and then and to retreat from the assemblies and the throngs of men into solitude, as, into a haven of rest. But my leisure is forced upon me by want of public business, not prompted by any desire for repose.*

*trans. Walter Miller, 1975

Looking at the Letters #1: *ad Fam 168*

This singular to plural switch is no fluke!

Quid fieri placeret scripsi ad Pomponium, serius quam oportuit. cum eo si locuta eris, intelleges quid fieri velim. apertius scribi, quoniam ad illum scripseram, necesse non fuit. de ea re et de ceteris rebus **quam primum velim nobis** litteras mittas. valetudinem tuam cura diligenter.

I wrote to Pomponius, later than I ought, telling him what I thought should be done. When you have had a talk with him, you will understand my wishes. There is no need to write more explicitly, since I have written to him. Please send me [*velim nobis*] a letter as soon as possible [*quam primum*] on this and other matters. Take good care of your health.*

*text and trans. D. R. Shackleton Bailey, 2001

Looking at the Letters #2: *ad Att 3*

Apud matrem recte est eaque nobis curae est. L. Cincio HS xxcd constitui me curaturum Id. Febr. tu **velim** ea quae **nobis** emisse <te> et parasse scribis des operam ut **quam primum habeamus**. et **velim** cogites, id quod mihi pollicitus es, quem ad modum bibliothecam **nobis** conficere possis. omnem spem delectationis **nostrae**, quam cum in otium **venerimus** habere **volumus**, in tua humanitate positam **habemus**.

All is in order at your mother's and I am not forgetting her. I have arranged to pay L. Cincius HS 20,400 on the Ides of February. I should be grateful if you would see that I get [*velim . . . nobis . . . habeamus*] the articles which you say you have bought and have ready for me [*nobis*] as soon as possible [*quam primum*]. And please give some thought to how you are to procure a library for me [*velim cogites . . . nobis conficere possis*] as you have promised. All my hopes of enjoying myself as I want to do when I get some leisure depend upon your kindness.*

*text and trans. D. R. Shackleton Bailey, 1999

Looking at the Letters #3: *ad Fam 344*

Qua re spes est omnis in vobis. qui si idcirco abestis ut sitis in tuto, ne in vobis quidem; sin aliquid dignum vestra gloria cogitatis, **velim salvis nobis**, sin id minus, res tamen publica per vos brevi tempore ius suum reciperebit.

So all our hope lies in yourselves. If you are keeping away for your safety's sake, even that hope fails. On the other hand, should you be planning something worthy of your glory, I hope I may be alive to see it [*velim salvis nobis*]; but if I am not, at any rate the commonwealth will soon regain its rights through you.

*text and trans. D. R. Shackleton Bailey, 2015

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