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Thursday March 17, 2016

CAMWS 2016

Alcibiades in America:

“Sic semper tyrannis” and the Colonial Williamsburg origins of Virginia’s Latin legend.



1.

Source: Edward S. Evans, "The Seals of Virginia" Seventh Annual Report of the Library Board of the Virginia State Library (1909-1910), 7-47. Available online at http://lawlibrary.wm.edu/wytheopedia/index.php/Seals_of_Virginia

2. Thucydides, *Historiae* VI.89.4:

τοῖς γὰρ τυράννοις αἰεὶ ποτε διάφοροί ἐσμεν

Thucydidis de Bello Peloponnesiaco Libri Octo, ed. Henricus Stephanus, Amsterdam 1731:

Semper enim tyrannis fuimus infesti

3. *The specious origins of “sic semper evello mortem tyrannis”: a cautionary tale in crowdsourcing*

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Sic semper tyrannis

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Thus always to tyrants* redirects here. For the Scott Miller album, see *Thus Always to Tyrants (album)*.*

Sic semper tyrannis is a Latin phrase meaning "thus always to tyrants". It is a shortened version of the phrase *Sic semper evello mortem tyrannis* ("Thus always I bring death to tyrants").

A. Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sic_sempar_tyrannis (all sources retrieved 2/18/16)

sic semper tyrannus

Expression of Latin origin which means: "Thus always to tyrants.", but maybe more easier to digest as: "This is what (had/have/will) always happen/-s/-ed to tyrants."
[Taken from Dr.Weevil/www.doctorweevil.org]

Sic semper evello mortem tyrannus; Thus death always comes to tyrants.

by Smkngmgc June 21, 2004

B. <http://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=sic+semper+tyrannus>

April 13, 2003

Today's Latin Lesson

After the thrilling events of the last few days, lot of webloggers have been quoting the Virginia state motto, but not all have gotten it quite right. The correct form is:

Sic semper tyrannis

.....

when translating.) The whole phrase could be paraphrased and spelled out in various ways:

This is what always happens to tyrants.
This is what always has happened to tyrants.
This is what always will happen to tyrants.
This is what always should happen to tyrants.

Of course, these meanings overlap, and there's no need to rule any of them out. The motto is w

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Turning back to the spelling, I have seen more than one weblogger write:

Sic Semper Tyrannus

C. Source: <http://www.drweevil.org/archives/000613.html>



- **evho** : (-vexi, vectum) to carry out (+ relexive) sail away, ride away.
- **evello** : to tear out, pluck out / turn out, result.
- **evello** : (-ere, velli, vulsum) to happen, occur, come about, befall.
- **evenio** : to come to pass, happen, befall.

D. Source: <https://web.archive.org/web/20030817214817/http://the-orb.net/latwords.html>

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