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[Review of] *Lateinische Musterprosa und Sprachpflege der Neuzeit (17.–Anfang des 19. Jhs.): Ein Wörterbuch.* Oleg Nikitinski. Leiden: Brill, 2017.

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Lateinische Musterprosa und Sprachpflege der Neuzeit (17. Anfang des 19. Jhs.): Ein Wörterbuch. Oleg Nikitinski.
Leiden: Brill, 2017. xxxii + 234 pp. $160.

Lateinische Musterprosa und Sprachpflege der Neuzeit is a posthumously published work by Oleg Nikitinski (1967 2015), a Latin philologist born and educated in Russia, who spent much of his professional life in Germany and Italy. The actual preface to this book, placed before Nikitinski's explanatory prologue, is a Latin life and appreciation of Nikitinski, composed by Dirk Sacré, professor of Latin at the Katholieke Universiteit Leu ven, who also edited and prepared Nikitinski's manuscript for publication. Nikitinski's lexicon is slim in size, but it offers an important contribution to Neo Latin lexicography.

While Latin prose written from the time of Petrarch to that of Justus Lipsius is the focus of René Hoven's *Lexique de la prose latine de la Renaissance*, Nikitinski provides the first Latin dictionary devoted to the usage of posthumanistic authors, who wrote Latin prose from about 1650 to the early part of the nineteenth century. Selectivity was essen tial in approaching such vast material, and Nikitiniski focused on model prose (*Mus terprosa*) namely, texts produced by authors who were themselves philologists and highly regarded in their own time as Latin stylists, such as Pierre Daniel Huet (1630 1721) or Johann August Ernesti (1707 81). These authors were purists, who used late antique or medieval words and expressions much more sparingly than their Renaissance predecessors. Yet even these posthumanistic authors of model prose do not absolutely es chew medieval Latin words in all contexts. So, in Nikitinski's dictionary we encounter such terminology as *archicancellarius*, *archidux*, *archiepiscopatus*, *cardinalatus*, *parlamen tum*, *realitas*, etc. Nikitinski has documented such words in the currently available lexica of medieval Latin, and he has devised a simple and clear system of sigla to denote words not found in antique Latin (according to the criteria of the *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*), and nonantique words found (with the same meaning) in the dictionaries of medieval Latin, in Hoven's *Lexique*, or in the online *Neulateinische Wortliste* by Johann Ram minger. He also occasionally records place names, where he has judged that a writer's choice among variants is worth noting.

But the most significant part of this lexicon is concerned with the posthumanistic authors' use of ancient Latin words and phrases with nonancient meanings or connota tions. In this tendency of later Neo Latin expression we can detect no small part of a given author's artistry, and we see clearly that imitation and creativity, so far from being

necessarily antithetical, can often be inextricably connected. In the instances of this phe nomenon recorded by Nikitinski, however, we note considerable variation in the extent to which the ancient meaning of a word or phrase is retained in the understanding of its Neo Latin use. For example, one of the primary meanings of *lectio* in ancient Latin texts (a reading aloud) is very much present, with almost no extension, when the word is used with a Neo Latin sense in a university context (a lecture). But considerably more exten sion of meaning is involved when *conspicillum*, which signifies a lookout position or van tage point in Plautus (*Cistellaria* 91), is used to denote a telescope in Neo Latin texts.

Nikitinski's lexicon offers observations on other phenomena, such as neologisms, which were taken in the early modern era to be ancient words, and on the reverse situation namely, words now known to be ancient, which were once thought to be postantique additions. Occasionally Nikitinski, to shed light on different tastes in word choice, re cords material that has nothing to do with postantique words or meanings   such as the remarks of seventeenth and eighteenth century philologists on the very ancient, but non Ciceronian *absque* (synonymous with *sine* [without]).

Moreover, Nikitinski voices the hope (xxvii) that his lexicon can be a useful tool for Latinists in our own time who wish to write polished Latin prose, and who therefore can benefit from the linguistic riches to be found in the relatively recent *auctores Latinitatis* represented in Nikitinski's *Wörterbuch*. To enhance the utility of the lexicon for modern users of Latin, Nikitinski has added a German Latin word index in the final pages. In short, Oleg Nikitinski has produced a remarkable work, which will be useful to a range of people who have reason to study Neo Latin texts.

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