

Quotations and phrases used in Little Wychwell Mystery Novels 1-6 - with translations if not in English

Apologies for any inaccuracies in this file, e.g. quotations which are accidentally omitted, for any mistyped quotations either here or in the books themselves, or for quotations whose original author has been accidentally omitted.

1) LATIN QUOTATIONS – LISTED ALPHABETICALLY

A bove majori discit arare minor.

From the older ox, the younger learns how to plough

Abundans cautela non nocet – an overdose of caution does no harm

Abyssus abyssum invocat

Hells calls hell (Psalm 41:8 from the Vulgate translation of the Bible)

Acta deos numquam mortalia fallunt (Ovid) – the actions of mortals never deceive the gods.

Ad astra per alia porci – to the stars on the wings of a pig - This is an extension of the phrase 'ad astra', to the stars. Attributed to John Steinbeck.

Ad perpetuam rei memoriam – for the perpetual remembrance of the thing

Aequam memento rebus in ardis servare mentem Remember that when life's path is steep you must keep your mind even – i.e. keep calm in the face of overwhelming odds.

Amo ut invenio – I love as I find – used as Amat ut invenit - he loves as he finds, insincere love of the sort that Walls is constantly displaying.

Amantes sunt amentes Lovers are mad

Ante victoriam ne canas triumphum. Do not sing your triumph before the victory.

THE AENEID Book 1 verses 1-11

Arma virumque cano, Troiae qui primus ab oris
Italian, fato profugus, Laviniaque venit
litora, multum ille et terris iactatus et alto
vi superum saevae memorem Iunonis ob iram;
multa quoque et bello passus, dum conderet urbem,
inferretque deos Latio, genus unde Latinum,
Albanique patres, atque altae moenia Romae.

Musa, mihi causas memora, quo numine laeso,
quidve dolens, regina deum tot volvere casus
insignem pietate virum, tot adire labores
impulerit. Tantaene animis caelestibus irae?

I sing of arms and the man, who, exiled by fate,
first came from the coast of Troy to Italy, and to
Lavinian shores – thrown about endlessly by land and sea,
by the will of the gods, by remorseless Juno's anger,
suffering long in war, until he founded a city
and brought his gods to Latium: from this the Latin people
came, the lords of Alba Longa, they who built the walls of noble Rome.
Muse, tell me the cause: how was [Juno] offended in her divinity,

how was she so upset, the Queen of Heaven, to drive a man,
a man who was renowned for virtue, to endure such dangers, to face so many
trials? Can there be such anger in the minds of the gods?

Arrectis auribus (Virgil) with ears pricked up.

ars gratia artis – art for arts sake

Assiduus usus uni rei deditus et ingenium et artem saepe vincit. (Cicero)

Constant practice devoted to one subject often outdoes both intelligence and skill.

Aut viam inveciam aut faciam – I'll either find a way or make one

bonum vinum laetificat cor hominis
Good wine gladdens a person's heart

brevis spem nos vetat incohare longam (Horace), Life is so short that we cannot cling to far
off hope

Caesar si viveret, ad remum dareris - If Caesar were alive, you'd be chained to an oar

Castigat ridendo mores, (Jean de Santeul) you can correct customs by ridiculing them

Cave ab homine unius libri - Beware of anyone who has only one book.

Cave quid dicis, quando, et cui -Beware of what you say, when and to whom

Cave tibi cane muto, aqua silente. - Beware of the silent dog and the still water.

Carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero (Horace)- Seize the day, trust as little as possible in tomorrow

Cineri gloria sera venit (Martial) Fame after death (literally 'Fame to ashes') comes too late

Cito maturum cito putridum, early ripe, early rotten - precocious children will be troublesome later

Cogito summere potum alterum – I think therefore I'll have another drink

Conscientia mille testes - conscience is worth a thousand witnesses

Corpora lente aucescent cito extinguuntur (Tacitus)– bodies grow slowly but die fast

cuiusvis hominis est errare, nullius nisi insipientis in errore perseverare (Cicero) Anyone can err, but only the fool persists in his fault

Damna minus consulta movent (Juvenal) Losses to which we are accustomed affect us less deeply.

data venia - literally means 'with all due respect' but is used before disagreeing.

De mortuis nil nisi bonum (Horace) only speak good of the dead

Disiderantem quod satis est neque tumultuosum sollicitat mare, non verberatae grandine vineae fundusque mendax (Horace)

He who desires only what is enough, is not troubled when seas rage, or when hail smites his vineyard, or if his farm has an unproductive year

Eheu fugaces labuntur anni (Horace)- Alas, the fleeting years slip by.

The full quotation for this is

Eheu fugaces, Postume, Postume, labuntur anni, nec pietas moram, rugis et instanti senectae, adferet indomitaeque morti (Horace)

Alas, Postumus, the fleeting years slip by, nor will piety give any stay to wrinkles and pressing old age and untameable death.

Equo ne credite, Teucri. quidquid id est, timeo Danaos et dona ferentes (Virgil)

Do not trust the horse, Trojans, Whatever it is, I fear the Grecians, even bearing gifts

Eram quod es, eris quod sum - I was what you are, you will be what I am. (inscription on a grave)

Est modus in rebus (Horace) there is a middle ground

Est quaedam flere voluptas (Ovid) - There is a certain pleasure in weeping.

Et supposition nil ponit in esse –saying [or suggesting] something doesn't make it true

Experientia docet (Tacitus) experience teaches, 'you learn from experience', Priscilla is applying this with rather double meaning

Fabas indulcet fames – Hunger sweetens the beans, i.e all food tastes good when hungry

Familia supra omnia – family over everything else

Felix qui potuit rerum cognoscere causas (Virgil) Happy is he who can discover the causes of things

Festina lente – hurry slowly, i.e. more haste less speed

Fructu non foliis arborem aestima. Judge a tree by its fruit, not by its leaves.

Hic locus est ubi mors gaudet succurrere vitae – This is the place where death delights in helping life (*more usually used on pathological laboratories and similar places – Flipper is referring to his own supposedly dead state*)

In alio pediculum, in te ricinum non vides (Petronius) You see a louse on someone else, but not even a tick on yourself

(Erasmus) - In the country of the blind the one eyed man is king

lupus in fabula (Terence) – literally translates as ‘the wolf in the story’ but is generally interpreted as "speak of the wolf, and he will come" Terence was a Roman playwright who used this phrase in his play Adelphoe

malis mala succedunt – troubles are followed by troubles

Manebo semper fidelis ad locum nativitatis, Fidus ero prae ceteris omnibus locum nativitatis,
Promitto vobis - **The loyalty oath of the boggart dancers though not necessarily accurate**
Latin - I will remain ever faithful to the place of birth
in preference to others, I will be loyal to that place of birth
I promise you

Mendacem memorem esse oportet - It is necessary for a liar to be a man of good memory

Mens sana in corpore sano (Juvenal) a healthy mind in a healthy body

But what Juvenal actually said was

It is to be prayed that the mind is healthy in a healthy body.

Ask a brave soul who lacks the fear of death,

who places the length of life last among the blessings that nature gives,

who is able to bear any kind of suffering,

who does not know anger, lusts for nothing and believes

that the suffering and hard labours of Hercules are better than

the pleasures, feasts, and feather bed of an Eastern king.

I will tell you the gift you are able to give to yourself;

It is certain that the only path you can follow to a tranquil life

lies through virtue.

orandum est ut sit mens sana in corpore sano.

fortem posce animum mortis terrore carentem,

qui spatium uitae extremum inter munera ponat

naturae, qui ferre queat quoscumque labores,

nesciat irasci, cupiat nihil et potiores

Herculis aerumnas credat saeuosque labores

et uenere et cenis et pluma Sardanapalli.

monstro quod ipse tibi possis dare; semita certe

tranquillae per uirtutem patet unica uitae.

Nemo liber est qui corpore seruit (Seneca) No one is free who is a slave to his own physical desires, Seneca

Nemo repente fuit turpissimus (Juvenal) no one ever became thoroughly evil in one step

Nil ego contulerim iucundo sanus amico (Horace)- While I am sane I shall compare nothing to the joy of a friend.

Nomen est omen – a name holds portentous meaning

Non est ad astra mollis e terris via – (Seneca) – there is no easy way from the earth to the stars, Priscilla uses this because Ustin has ‘died’ at least twice

Non ignara mali miseris succurrere disco (Virgil) - Being no stranger to misfortune myself, I have learned to relieve the sufferings of others

non mihi, non tibi, sed nobis -Not for you, not for me, but for us

nullum magnum ingenium sine mixtura dementiae fuit – There has been no great wisdom without an element of madness

numquam minus solus quam cum solus - never less alone than when alone

paruola ne nigras horrescat Erotion umbras, oraque Tartarei prodigiosa canis. (Martial)

May little Erotion not fear the dark shades nor the vast mouths of the Tartarean dog

Part of Martial’s epitaph to a slave girl, who died aged 5, which Barnabus adapts by putting Priscilla in instead of Erotion

Pelle sub agnina latitat mens lupine – beneath the lamb’s skin lurks a wolf’s mind

Pendant opera interrupta – (Virgil) – the work is in limbo due to being interrupted

per angusta ad augusta Through difficulties to honour

Per ardeus ad astra – through the thorns to the stars

Periculum in mora – danger in delay

Piscem nature docem – teach fish to swim – Erasmus believed this saying was originally Greek

Plenus annis abiit, plenus honoribus! – (Pliny) – he has gone from us, full of years, full of honours

Pons asinorum – bridge of asses – an obstacle that is hard to cross for stupid people

Pol! – by Pollux! (short interjection used by Priscilla on hearing of the marriage of Tony and Flic.

Possunt quia posse videntur – they can because they seem able to – positive thinking can get you anywhere (Elodea is annoying Priscilla on purpose)

Post hoc ergo propter hoc – after this, therefore because of this (a logical error due to a person assuming that the first thing causes the second)

Proprium humani ingenii est odisse quem laeseris - It is human nature to hate a person whom you have injured

Pueri, pueri, pueri puerilia tractant – children are children therefore children do childish things

Quem di diligunt, adolescens moritur (Plautus translated from Menander who wrote it in Greek). - Whom the gods love dies young

Qui bibit, dormit; qui dormit, non peccat; qui non peccat, sanctus est; ergo qui bibit sanctus est

Who drinks sleeps, who sleeps does not sin, who does not sin is blessed, therefore those who drink are blessed

Qui totum vult totum perdit! (attrib to Seneca) he who wants everything loses everything

Quidquid agas prudenter agas. Whatever you do, do with caution.

The full proverb is Quidquid agas prudenter agas et respice finem i.e. Whatever you do, do with caution, and look to the end.

Quidquid Latine dictum sit altum videtur – anything that is said in Latin sounds profound

Quieta non movere. Don't disturb things that are at peace; i.e- Let sleeping dogs lie or Don't mend things unless they are broken.

Quod erat demonstrandum – literally 'which had to be demonstrated' and put at the end of a mathematical proof, as QED, but more generally used as 'that proves it!'

Quod gratis asseritur, gratis negatur – what is asserted without reason may be denied without reason

Quod me nutrit me destruit (ascribed to Christopher Marlowe) What nourishes me also destroys me

Retine vim istam falsa enim dicam si coges – restrain your strength for if you compel me I will tell lies (an utterance by the Delphic Oracle, originally in Greek)

Rides si sapis – (Martial) – laugh if you are wise

Risum tenatis amici – Can you help laughing, my friends?

Scio me nihil scire (Socrates or possibly Plato)- I know that I know nothing. (one cannot know anything with absolute certainty)

Si bene commemini, causae sunt quinque bibendi; hospitis adventus, praesens sitis, atque future, aut vini bonitas, aut quaelibet altera causa : Père Sermond

If I remember correctly there are five excuses for drinking, the visit of a guest, thirst right now, thirst due in the future, the quality of the wine or any other reason you choose.

Si hoc legere scis nimium eruditionis habes - if you can read this, you're overeducated (Flipper's reply to Priscilla who had quoted Socrates - Scio me nihil scire)

Si vis pacem para bellum – if you want peace you must prepare for war

Sum ergo edo – I am therefore I eat

sumus semper in excrementum sed alter variat. We are always in the muck, only the depth varies – although this Latin may be questionable

Spero nos familiares mansuros - I hope we'll still be friends

Studium immane loquendi an insatiable desire for talking

Tanta stultitia mortalium est – Such is the foolishness of mortals

Tempus edax rerum – time consumes everything, essentially means the same as tempus fugit. (Which is why Priscilla rephrases it to this when tempus fugit, time flies, makes Elodea giggle and launch into “fruit flies like a banana”)

Tempus fugit – time flies

Timidi mater non flet - a coward's mother does not weep

Tu ne cede malis sed contra audentior ito – do not surrender to misfortunes but advance boldly against them

Ut biberet quoniam esse nollet – (*Publius Claudius Pulcher before the battle of Drepana as he threw the sacred chickens which had refused to eat grain, a sign of bad luck, overboard, recorded by Cicero and Suetonius*) so that they might drink since they refuse to eat

Ut Roma cadit sic omnis terra – as Rome falls so falls the whole world

Viva enim mortuorum in memoria vivorum est posita (Cicero)– The dead are kept alive in the memory of the living.

2) SOME OF THE ENGLISH QUOTATIONS WHICH ARE REFERRED TO IN ALL THAT GLISTERS IS NOT SILVER

O hell! what have we here?
A carrion Death, within whose empty eye
There is a written scroll! I'll read the writing.
All that glisters is not gold;
Often have you heard that told:
Many a man his life hath sold
But my outside to behold:
Gilded tombs do worms enfold.
Had you been as wise as bold,
Young in limbs, in judgment old,
Your answer had not been inscroll'd:
Fare you well; your suit is cold.

(Shakespeare, the Merchant of Venice)

I consider as lovers of books not those who keep their books hidden in their store-chests and never handle them, but those who, by nightly as well as daily use thumb them, batter them, wear them out, who fill out all the margins with annotations of many kinds, and who prefer the marks of a fault they have erased to a neat copy full of faults. (Erasmus on books)

For all sad words of tongue and pen, The saddest are these, It might have been (John Greenleaf Whittier)

Modern man likes to pretend that his thinking is wide-awake. But this wide-awake thinking has led us into the mazes of a nightmare in which the torture chambers are endlessly repeated in the mirrors of reason (Octavio Paz).

Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read. (Groucho Marx)

Wanted: a dog that neither barks nor bites, eats broken glass and shits diamonds (ascribed to Goethe)

I have shown you the methods that lead to liberation but you should know that liberation depends upon yourself. (Buddha)

‘Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck!’ Dalai Lama

I believe that the very purpose of our life is to seek happiness. That is clear. Whether one believes in religion or not, whether one believes in this religion or that religion, we are all seeking something in life. So, I think, the very motion of our lives is towards happiness. Dalai Lama

3) QUOTATIONS IN SPANISH

A quien madruga, Dios le ayuda. God helps those who get up early.

Por mucho madrugar, no amanece mas temprano. Day dawns none the sooner because we rise early.

4) QUOTATIONS IN ANGLO SAXON

verses 92-102 from chapter 2 of the Anglo Saxon version of Genesis A.

þa þeahtode þeoden ure
modgeþonce, hu he þa mæran gesceaft,
eðelstaðolas eft gesette,

swegltorhtan seld, selran werode,
þa hie gielpsceaþan ofgifen hæfdon,
heah on heofenum. Forþam halig god
under roderas feng, ricum mihtum,
wolde þæt him eorðe and uproder

and sid wæter geseted wurde
woruldgesceafte on wraðra giield,
þara þe forhealdene of hleo sende.

Which translates roughly as

Then our Lord took counsel in his innermost heart as to how He might fill, with a better set of candidates, the great creation, the native seats and gleaming mansions, high in heaven, from which these boasting foes had come forth. Therefore with his mighty power Holy God ordained, that in the earth and the sky and the huge sea, that lay below these wide stretching heavens, earth-creatures should appear, as a replacement for those rebels whom He had cast out of heaven.