History

Down to the end of the nineteenth century, the comprehensive historical lexicon of classical Latin was only a dream. Its realisation began in 1893, with the decision by the First German-speaking academies that in resistance to the Thesaurus Linguae Latinae as a joint project, the manuscripts are being edited and published in Munich, which has been the home of the project since the /first appearance in 1910.

Even in the early years, however, it became apparent that - as with all lexica on this scale - both the difficulties and the time needed to complete had been drastically underestimated. Suitable methods of compilation could only be developed from practical experience and basic data, not least in the period of the interregnum, especially in the areas of Christian texts and Late Latin. As a result, during the fifteen years originally estimated for the whole project, the Thesaurus had got only as far as the first fascicle of the letter D.

Time and again, the political catastrophes of the twentieth century brought the work to a standstill, so that it was necessary to start afresh and concentrate on building up the foundations of the International Thesaurus-Committee in 1949. At present the lexicon is a continuing undertaking of the academies, which are engaged, and under the aegis of the University of Munich, to complete the project in more than two-thirds complete.

The following portions of the Thesaurus linguae Latinae have appeared:

Vol. I (A – M)
Vol. IX 1 (N) and XI 2 (R) are in the process of compilation.

Omnamction, Vol. II and III (C – D)

Omnamction, Vol. II and III (C – D)

The 'Treasury of the Latin Language' is the first comprehensive dictionary of ancient Latin, it puts our knowledge of this language on an entirely new footing.

De Gruyter
The Thesaurus Linguae Latinae is a comprehensive dictionary of Latin words, compiled at the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Munich. It contains lexical information about the Latin language, including etymology, grammar, and usage, with a focus on the ancient period. The dictionary is organized into articles, each signed by the compiler and arranged chronologically within groups that are mutually exclusive and presented in a hierarchy. Insofar as this is both possible and reasonable, articles and sections are arranged in a way that makes it easy to find the necessary information.

### Compiling the articles

The contributor is a particular need of the Thesaurus, and the library of texts for which the word appears. With the help of modern editors, commentaries, and other reference tools, the compiler can access the relevant texts and data, and also, to an extent, from previous works. The Thesaurus does not provide translations, and instead focuses on the interpretation of the material presented in the article. This interpretation of the material leads to the development of a comprehensive picture of the word, including its meanings, uses, and context.

### Assembling the material

Assembling the material can be time-consuming, but this work is done with care and attention to detail. The Thesaurus does not quote all the collected instances; an asterisk before the headword means that the article is not necessarily exclusive and presented in a hierarchy. This is followed by the etymology, provided when necessary by an external Indo-Europeanist. For unremarkable meanings, often only a few passages are cited; for less common words, every attestation is documented. The original text of the quotations is printed in roman script; textual notes on individual passages are printed in italics, as are all other editorial additions. The compiler of an article receives support and advice from the team of approximately twenty contributors. More than two thirds of the work has been completed and published for the word.

### Technical notes on individual passages

The headword is given in its basic form, with indications of the diversity of the structure (short vowels remain unmarked). This is followed by the listing of words with the same sound and with variant spellings. Before the word and its meanings are described, the so-called "head" of the article gathers together information about the word, including its etymology, grammar, and usage. For longer articles, an outline gives an overview of the contents, and also, to an extent, from previous works. The Thesaurus does not provide translations; to avoid misunderstandings arising from false analogies with modern languages, it uses Latin to describe all linguistic phenomena (which does not exclude the occasional appearance of Greek, especially in the case of basic words).

A large number of cross-references by column and line numbers are provided, but also for less common words, the original of translated texts is provided, as are parallel versions. For unremarkable meanings, often only a few passages are cited; for less common words, every attestation is documented. The original text of the quotations is printed in roman script; textual notes on individual passages are printed in italics, as are all other editorial additions. The compiler of an article receives support and advice from the team of approximately twenty contributors. More than two thirds of the work has been completed and published.