

The Ancient Graffiti Project

(ancientgraffiti.org)

Featured Graffiti: Warm-Up Activities

Love

The following graffiti are found at: <http://ancientgraffiti.org/Graffiti/themes/Love>

AGP-EDR168048

Methe Cominiaes Atellana amat Chrestum

corde [s]it utreis que Venus Pompeiana
propitia

[e]t sem[per] concordēs veivānt

Methe, a slave of Cominia, from the town of
Atella, loves Chrestus.

May Pompeian Venus be propitious in her
heart to them both

and may they always live harmoniously.

- Who wrote this graffiti? Give specific details.
- Who was Venus and why was Methe addressing these lines to her?
- (N.B. Cominiaes is an archaic form of the genitive.)

AGP-EDR175590

Sabine, calos (=καλός), Hermeros te amat.

Sabinus, handsome guy – Hermeros loves
you

- Who wrote this graffiti and to whom?
- What do you notice about the gender of the names?

AGP-EDR175602

Amantes, ut apes, vita(m) mellita(m) exigunt

Lovers, like bees, lead a honeyed life.

-- Velle(m)!

-- I wish!

- Why might the writer have compared lovers to bees?
- The “Velle(m)” was written by another. Why might this writer have added this sentiment?

The Ancient Graffiti Project

ancientgraffiti.org

AGP-EDR175602

Amores ignes si sentires, mulio,
magi(s) propares, ut videres Venerem.

Diligo iuvenem venustum; rogo punge iamus.

Bibisti, iamus, prende lora et excute!

Pompeios defer, ubi dulcis est amor.
Meus es

If you could feel the fires of love, (mule)-
driver,
you would hurry faster, so that you could
see Venus.

I love a charming young man. I'm asking
you, spur on (the mule), let's go.

You've had a drink. Let's get going! Take the
reins and move it!

Head toward Pompeii where love is sweet.
You are my...

- How is the writer getting to Pompeii?
- Why is the writer in such a rush?
- How do you think the driver is driving?
- We do not have the rest of the poem. How do you think the poem might have ended?

AGP-EDR140983

Fortunatus • amat • Amplianda (:Ampliandam)
Ianuarius • amat • Veneria (:Veneriam)
Rogamus • damna (:domina) • Venus
ut • nos • in • mente • habias (:habeas)
quod te • modo • introrgamus (:interrogamus)

Fortunatus loves Amplianda.
Ianuarius loves Veneria.
We ask mistress Venus
that you keep us in mind
(and also) that which we now ask of you.

- Have you ever seen any modern graffiti about who loves whom?
- Why is the writer calling upon Venus?
- Why do you think there are spelling mistakes?

See **Featured Graffiti for more topics: <http://ancientgraffiti.org/Graffiti/featured-graffiti>