

*Il Panegirico a Traiano di Plinio. "Costrizione alla libertà" e retorica dell'encomio*

1. *In lode dell'Imperatore*

**Bruce Gibson**

(University of Liverpool)

*Trajan the Panegyrist Pliny, paneg. 69-75*

(pagine 249-265)

*Abstract:* This contribution looks at Pliny's treatment of Trajan's role in the senatorial processes for choosing candidates for office in chapters 69-75 of the *Panegyricus*. Although Pliny does not emphasise Trajan as an orator in his evocation of Trajan's excellent qualities at the beginning of the speech, the account of senatorial business does give a sense of Trajan's role in promoting and furthering the careers of those seeking office in Rome. Though he is in broad terms the object of Pliny's praise across the whole speech, Pliny in this section of the speech presents Trajan himself as a giver of praise. Trajan's good judgement in terms of whom he praises is matched by his affirmation of Pliny as consul at the end of the speech, and indeed by Pliny's own role as a giver of judicious and appropriate praise to Trajan.

*Keywords:* Pliny, Trajan, *Panegyricus*, Panegyric, Praise, Self-praise, Elections, Candidates, Senate, Emperor.

**Francesco Busti**

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«AB IOVE PRINCEPS» *Traiano figlio di Giove*

(pagine 266-279)

*Abstract:* When Pliny wrote his *Panegyric*, Trajan had already become son of a god following Nerva's deification right after his death. This paper examines Pliny's subtle strategy to have his reader think of another divine father of Trajan, ultimate origin of his power as an emperor and primary guarantor of his virtuous behaviour, Jupiter himself.

*Keywords:* Pliny, *Panegyric*, Trajan, Nerva, Jupiter, Divine Father, Son of a God, Hercules, *Italica*.

**Clem Wood**

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*Pliny's paneg. 82-88 and trajanic Literature and Culture*

(pagine 280-289)

*Abstract:* This article offers a close reading of chapters 82-88 of Pliny's *Panegyricus*. It examines the ways in which the literary texture and techniques of the *Panegyricus* reflect and shape the social and political climate of the Trajanic age. It is suggested that Pliny's portrait of Trajan's *otium* connects to the contemporary discourse of the recovery of the body politic after Domitian's tyranny, as well as to Pliny's own literary career. This paper also discusses how Pliny presents Trajan's wife and sister, Pompeia Plotina and Ulpia Marciana, as models for how subjects should imitate the emperor, the supreme exemplar.

*Keywords:* Pliny, *Panegyricus*, Tacitus, Trajan, Agricola, Domitian, *otium*, *exempla*, Intertextuality.

**Anna Maria Cimino**

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*Traiano e la predestinazione al trionfo. Appunti per uno studio della semantica trionfale nel Panegirico di Plinio il Giovane*

(pagine 290-303)

*Abstract:* A close reading of Pliny the Younger's *Panegyric* to Trajan reveals that its discursive structure is enriched by several references to the triumph, even if it was held only afterward, in 102 ce. Through the detection of these features and the analysis of selected passages of the text, I will highlight all its details and evidence related to this kind of imagery. My main aim is clarifying the way in which they can interplay with the eulogistic devices of the discourse. Hence, I will demonstrate if and how their presence allows the association of the character of Trajan – the *laudandus* – with those of the great *triumphatores* of the Roman Republican tradition.

*Keywords:* Trajan, Triumph, Predestination, Characterization, Republican Models.

### **Silvia Speriani**

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#### *(Corto)circuiti visivi nel Panegirico di Plinio a Traiano*

(pagine 304-320)

*Abstract:* Pliny's *Panegyric* is both a praise and a portrait of the imperial power, as held and embodied by the figure of Trajan. In shaping this portrait, Pliny appears to pay specific attention to a crucial feature of Roman power-dynamics: the visual communication. Indeed, on the one hand, the figure of the *civilis princeps* that Pliny is concerned to outline is constructed through a mutual pattern of social gazes: in sharp contrast with such secluded imperators as Domitian, Trajan's self-display offers to the spectating community the possibility to visually mirror and confirm his power. On the other hand, however, these mutual gazes take place in the imbalance of power that unavoidably informs the relationship between the emperor and his subordinates: a relationship where truth and appearance may always overlap.

*Keywords:* *Panegyricus*, Pliny the Younger, Social Gaze, Visibility, Spectacle, *simulatio*.

## **2. Modelli, intertesti, linguaggi**

### **Vincenzo Casapulla**

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#### «Nihil quale ante dicamus» Il Panegirico di Plinio e i suoi modelli

(pagine 323-338)

*Abstract:* In this paper Pliny's *Panegyricus* is compared synoptically with Menander Rhetor's treatise on *basilikos logos*. The analysis focuses primarily on five encomiastic themes developed by Pliny: Trajan's ethnicity, his adoption by Nerva, his education, free speech under his reign, his excellence on all his predecessors. In developing these five themes, Pliny proves apparently breaking with the encomiastic conventions described by Menander.

*Keywords:* *Panegyricus*, Menander Rhetor, *basilikos logos*, *optimus princeps*, Trajan.

### **Christopher Whitton**

(Emmanuel College, Cambridge)

#### *The Arts of Self-imitation in Pliny (and the Date of Panegyricus )*

(pagine 339-379)

*Abstract:* This paper puts Pliny's *Panegyricus* into dialogue with his *Epistles*, to reveal abundant self-imitation on both the small scale (brief phrases) and the large (three whole letters, *epist.* III 18, VII 24 and VIII 6). I offer it (1) as a case study in Pliny's minute artistry, and (2) as a contribution towards a better understanding of intertextuality in Latin prose; it also (3) suggests that the *Panegyricus* was completed several years later than usually thought, perhaps at the same time as *Epistles* I-IX

*Keywords:* Pliny the Younger, *Panegyricus*, *Epistles*, Imitation, Prose Intertextuality.

**Andrew Feldherr**  
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*Out of the Past. Pliny's Panegyricus and Roman Historiography*  
(pagine 380-411)

*Abstract:* This article draws attention to the intertextual connections between the *Panegyricus* and key programmatic passages from the Roman historians, especially the preface to Livy's *Ab urbe condita*. Its first section analyzes how Pliny's allusions to these historiographic predecessors contribute to his characterization of Trajan's principate. In section two, I argue that Pliny's evocation of the historiographic tradition complicates his audience's understanding of the genre of the speech itself through the interference it creates with the norms of panegyric. The ways in which Pliny's *gratiarum actio* transcends the limitations of historiography confirm the exceptional nature of both the occasion reproduced in his speech and of its subject, while the continuities with the historical tradition differentiate his representation of Trajan from the panegyrics of earlier emperors.

*Keywords:* Pliny, *Panegyric*, Historiography, Exemplarity, Intertextuality, *libertas*, Divinization.

**Francesca Econimo**  
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*Modelli mitico-letterari nella rappresentazione dell'otium di Traiano (Plin. paneg. 81)*  
(pagine 412-428)

*Abstract:* This paper focuses on the literary representation of Trajan's *otium* (namely hunting and sailing) in Pliny's *Panegyricus* 81. While hunting, Trajan undertakes a series of great tasks thereby showing his heroic virtue: in this regard, the main model for his portrait is Heracles. But an in-depth analysis shows that there is another heroic figure who seems worthy of being considered in this ideal and multi-layered image of the emperor, namely the young Achilles. While sailing, instead, Trajan is depicted as a helmsman steering the ship; his supernatural power of taming the winds and the waves, in particular, makes him a human counterpart of marine gods such as Aeolus and Neptune.

*Keywords:* Trajan's *otium*, Hunting and Sailing, Heroic and Divine Models in the *Panegyricus*, Heracles, Achilles, Encomiastic Strategies.

**Stephen Blair**  
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*The Beast in His Den. The domus flavia and the Rhetoric of Enclosure in Pliny's Panegyricus*  
(pagine 429-439)

*Abstract:* This paper examines the handling of the *domus Flavia* in the younger Pliny's *Panegyricus*. By exploiting the Palatine setting and Trajan's own self-cultivation as Hercules, Pliny casts Domitian as another Cacus, and uses intertextual resonances with Augustan poetry to challenge the depiction of the imperial residence in Martial and Statius.

*Keywords:* Hercules and Cacus, Trajan, Domitian, Pliny the Younger, *Panegyricus*, *domus Flavia*.

**Leonardo Galli**  
(Università di Bologna)

*Un presunto caso di copulativa con valore disgiuntivo in Plin. paneg. 44, 8*  
(pagine 440-444)

*Abstract:* This note aims at reconsidering the text of Pliny, *Panegyricus* 44, 8. An in-depth lexical analysis shows that the paradosis *prout bene ac secus cessit* is corrupted; Bentley suggested to emend *ac* to *aut*: I support this thesis with several *loci paralleli*.

*Keywords:* Pliny the Younger, *Panegyricus*, Copulative and Disjunctive Conjunctions, Bentley, Emendation.

### **3. *Le res gestae dell'Imperatore***

**Roy Gibson**

(Durham University)

*Pliny on the Nile. Panegyricus 29-32*

(pagine 447-467)

*Abstract:* In Panegyricus 29-32 Pliny deals with the Nile flood as part of his praise for Trajan's handling of the annona (Rome's grain supply). The relatively weak Nile inundation of 99 A.D., and Trajan's consequent import of grain to Egypt to mitigate crop failures there, are treated as if they were catastrophic events and a long-awaited opportunity for reversing the balance of power between Egypt the supplier and Rome the receiver of life-giving grain. Why? Pliny's remarkable expression of hostility towards Egypt, which stands at the far extreme of his spectrum of attitudes to the Hellenic east, is a reaffirmation of the Augustan character of Trajan's rule. Pliny seeks to counter the Egyptian sympathies of the Flavian dynasty, particularly those of Domitian, by emulating the Actian decade and its rhetoric of Roman victory over the east.

*Keywords:* Pliny, *Panegyricus*, Egypt, Nile, Domitian.

**Marta M. Perilli**

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*Traiano custode e correttore del passato. La vicesima hereditatum in Plinio, paneg. 37-40*

(pagine 467-480)

*Abstract:* This article focuses on Trajan's overhaul of the *vicesima hereditatum* discussed by Pliny in *paneg. 37-40*. In Pliny's view, the inheritance tax breaks family ties generating a social disruption equivalent to a *bellum civile*. By reforming the *vicesima* and granting the *cognationis iura* to his citizens, Trajan is cast as the unifier of dismembered households and as the guardian of family continuity. Furthermore, by cancelling his citizens' past debts, Trajan corrects retroactively the unfair legislation of the past. This measure is intended by Pliny as a correction of the past itself. Since not even the gods are able to change the past, Trajan is celebrated as superior even to the gods.

*Keywords:* Pliny, *Panegyricus*, Trajan, *vicesima hereditatum*, Inheritance, Family, Past, Civil War.

**Edoardo Galfré**

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*Deus militaris. Moving Across Imperial Space in Pliny's Panegyricus*

(pagine 481-493)

*Abstract:* The article focuses on the section of the *Panegyricus* about Trajan's early career and military virtues (*paneg. 12-20*). After assessing its relevance within Pliny's text itself, I examine the way in which the panegyrist represents Trajan's power over the space of the empire: this is a power of a *deus militaris* who reaches this status along his breathtaking career (1), making it possible to envisage future victories (2) and even to revive eulogistic commonplaces (3).

*Keywords:* Pliny, Trajan, Roman army, Dacian wars, Triumph celebrations, Trajan's Column.

**Adalberto Magnavacca**

(Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa)

*Res gestae optimi Traiani. Le imprese di Augusto rilette da Plinio il Giovane*

(pagine 494-519)

*Abstract:* This article aims to show the close link between the representation of Trajan's deeds in Pliny the Younger's *Panegyric* and those of Augustus as described in the *Res gestae*. The analysis, developed through an in-depth reading of the most relevant passages, defines Trajan's twofold attitude towards his model: on the one hand a singular effort to

broaden Augustus' successes, on the other the tendency to manifest his own self-restraint in contrast to the predecessor's behaviour. The final section of the article is devoted to Pliny's treatment of the word *saeculum*, which powerfully invokes the presence of another Augustan theme: the return of the Golden Age.

*Keywords:* Trajan, *Panegyricus*, Augustus, *Res gestae*, *saeculum*, Return of the Golden Age, Civil War.