



## SALUTATIO A SANCTO NICOLAO

a Clemente Clark Moore

**D**esper Nativitatis erāt, totāsque per aēdes  
Bēstia nūlla vigīl; dōrmit et Ārgus atrōx!  
Ād focum erānt soccī suspēnsi mūnere māgno  
Vēnturī causā mōx ibi Nīcolāi.  
Cūm nati in lectīs recubārent, ēcce vidēbant  
Dūlcia pēr somnūm prūna salīre modūm.  
Māter amīctoriūm gestāns, ego nōcte galērum,  
Cōēpimus hībernī nāmque sopōre fruī.



**H**xortūs subitō tantūs de grāmīne clāmor  
Mē qui dētraherēt quīppe cubīle meō.

Āsiluī similīs nitidō fulgōre fenēstram

Sīpariīs scissīs iām patuēre forēs.

Ālta nivīs tenerō tegmēnto Lūna redīta

Ūt Sol dōnavīt lūmina rēbus humī.

Āst oculīs appārebāt--mirābile vīsu--

Bīs quadruplīs cervīs dūcta minūta trahā.

Tām vegetīssimus ēt velōx aurīgula rēxit;

Quīsne\_aliūs potuīt? Nōn, nisi Nīcolaūs!

Rēnonēs aquilīs citiūs venēre per āūras,

Nōmina\_et hōrtatūs sīngula vōce quibūs:



ūrsor, Sāltatōr, Persūltor, vādite Vūlpes!

Īte Comāns et Erōs; Brōntea, Fūlmen iō!

Sūmmam\_ad pōrticulām, jam sūmma\_ad mōēnia sūrsum,

Cūrrite vōs omnēs, sūrgite sicut avēs!"

Āc velutī foliā spirāntibus ārida vēntis

Āssiliūnt superīs ōbice vērsa locīs,

Sīc apicī sedīs frenātum vāsīt hoc āgmen

Lūdibriīs plenūm Nīcholaōque quidēm.

Ēst audīta brevī de tēctis tēmpore trūdēns

Ūngula fōrte solō quāēque ferīre levī.

Cūm traherēm penitūs frontēm, mea lūmina vērtī,

Fūmiferūm cecidīt vīrque forāmen inīt.

Vértice quī villīs ad cālces ille volūtus;

Ōb cinerēm planē vēstis opēta nigrūm.

Trāxit onūs donīs in tērgo plūribus īngens;

Īnstitor ēffusīs fōllibus ēsset humī.

Quāmque micāre\_ oculōs, gelasīnos crēscere vīdi;

Ūt cerasūs narēs, ūtraque būcca rosā.



Ōra velūt nodūm subdūxit cōmica plēxum.

Bārba\_habuīt mentūm, cāndidiōrque nivē.

Cōmpressīs carbōnis harūndo\_ab dēntibus ēxit,

Ātque corōna capūt nūbila cīnxit ejūs.

Hūic grandīs faciēs, ventērque rotūndus apērtus,

Quī quaterēt sicūt pōcula pūlte pigrā!



**L**ārgus et āugustūs, jocolāris pūmilus ēsset;  
    Ād speciēm risī, mōre cadēnte mihī.  
Cūm mihi nīctavīt, tum vūltum fēcit amīcum,  
    Quāproptēr sensī nūlla timēnda mihī.  
Hāūd dixīt verbūm, potiūs sua pēnsa recēpit;  
    Lūdibriūs positīs, īn pede vērtit homō.  
Et digitūm nasī jaciēns in cōrpore jūxta,  
    Ānnuit ēt tubulūm scāndit adīre jugūm.  
Dēin saluīt currūm, protēlo sībila fēcit,  
    Quī fugēre velūt sēmen acāntha jacīt.  
Cūm procul ēgissēnt ductōr clamāvit ab āltis:  
    "Nātivitās felīx ōmnibus ātque valē!"

## Adnotationes

*Pagina 3: Natīvitas* – In tempore scriptorium Romanorum, quantitas syllabae secundae longa erat.

**Dormit...atrox** – In carmine exemplare, *ne mus quidem* legitur; Argus erat custos Ionis, qui centum oculos habuit. **Nicolai** – Hic est Sanctus Nicolaus. Quantitas quartarum syllabarum apud scriptores variare videtur; in hoc carmine syllaba prima sola est longa. **Dulcia...pruna** – Ordo verborum insuetus novis discipulis expectandus est. **Salire modos** – Id est *cantica saltare*.

*Pagina 4: Patuēre* – *-ēre* est casus alter pro *-ērunt*. Saepe in versibus legitur, et iterum in his *fugēre* et *venēre* inveni possunt. **Bis quadruplis** – Id est *octo*. **traha** – Syncope de *trahea*.

*Pagina 5: Persultor* – Novum verbum ab auctore de *persulto* creatum est. **Comans** – Id est *comans stella*. **Brontea, Fulmen** – In exemplare, nomina horum cervorum de lingua Germanica concipiebantur; “Donner” de verbo quod tonare indicat, et “Blitzen” de fulmine. E Plinio Maiore, “(Lapis) brontea...e tonitribus cadit” (N. H. 37.52) **Sicut aves** – In exemplare haec verba omittuntur, et *currere* bis redicitur. **Lumina** – Ut saepe in versibus, hoc verbum *oculi* significat.

*Pagina 6: Villis* – Romani non villa gesserunt, itaque verbum Romano novum videatur. **Humi** – Hoc est casus locativus. **Ora** – Hoc verbum, quamquam plurale numero, saepe singulare sententia legendum est. **Carbonis harundo** – Res quae fumificando assumitur. **Hūic** – Synaeresis **Pocula pulte pigra** – In exemplare, *cratera plena cylono*.

*Pagina 7: Semen acantha jact* – *Acantha* de Graeco verbo *ακανθη*, quod *carduum* significant. Semen huius stipis simile lanuae candidae videntur, et facile vento spirantur. **Vale** – Verbum *valet* decentius videatur (in exemplare Nicholas “omnibus bonam noctem” habere vult). Forsitan quemque hominem *vale* dicit!



## Notes

*Page 3: Natīvitas* – In the time of the Roman writers, the quantity of the second syllable was long.

**Dormit...atrox** – “Even severe Argus sleeps.” In the original poem, “not even a mouse”; Argus was the 100-eyed guard of Io. **Nicholai** – Saint Nicholas. The quantity of the four syllables seems to vary among writers; in this poem, only the first syllable is long. **Dulcia...pruna** – New students should expect unusual word order. **Salire modos** – “to leap in time,” or “to dance”.

*Page 4: Patuēre* – *-ēre* is an alternate ending for *-ērunt*. It is often found in verse, and can be found again in the words *fugēre* and *venēre*. **Bis quadruplis** – “Twice a quadruple,” or “eight”. **traha** – A slurring of *trahea*.

*Page 5: Persultor* – A new word created by the author from *persulto* – “to jump repeatedly”. **Comans** – “a long-haired star”, or “comet”. **Brontea, Fulmen** – In the original the names of these reindeer were taken from German; “Donner” from the word indicating “thunder”, and Blitzen “lightning”. From the elder Pliny “(The stone) *Brontea* falls from thunder” (N. H. 37.52). **Sicut aves** – In the original these words do not appear, and “dash away” is repeated twice more. **Lumina** – As is often the case in verse, the word signifies “eyes”.

*Page 6: Villis* – “Shaggy tufts (of hair)”; the Romans did not wear furs, so this word would seem unusual. **Humi** – This is locative case. **Ora** – This word, although plural, should often be read as singular in meaning. **Carbonis harundo** – “a charred reed/pipe,” used for smoking. **Hūic** – Normally two vowels, read here as one. **Pocula pulte pigra** – “A bowl of thick porridge”; in the original, “a bowlful of jelly.”

*Page 7: Semen acantha jact* – *Acantha* is from the Greek word *ακανθη*, which means “thistle”. The seed of this plant is like white wool, and easily blown by the wind. **Vale** – The word *valet* may seem better (in the original Nicholas wishes “to all a good night”). Perhaps he is saying “goodbye” to each person individually!