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CONFESSIONS

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EDITED BY  
PETER WHITE  
*University of Chicago*



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*To the memory of Nancy Helmbold, who gave me her course and her text*

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## PREFACE

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This commentary is meant for students of classical or patristic literature who wish to read Saint Augustine's *Confessions* in Latin, but who find that that work presents elements with which they are unfamiliar. Classicists will come upon a number of grammatical usages and lexical items not registered in the reference works that they typically consult, they will be unprepared for the extent to which Augustine blends biblical Latin into his own prose, and they may know relatively little about early Christianity and the Late Antique world for which Augustine was helping to develop it. Students of patristic literature may not realize how faithful his Latin remains to the Ciceronian model, how consciously he relies on classical techniques of rhetoric to structure his story, or how much his literary imagination owes to the influence of Latin authors taught in Roman schools. I hope that this commentary will ease the way for both sets of readers at the same time, though at the possible cost of sometimes supplying one of them with information that the other may not need.

Gillian Clark created a niche for the *Confessions* in this series with a commentary on books 1 to 4 in 1995. In carrying that initiative another step forward, I have been encouraged by the availability of several excellent resources, some quite new, that now facilitate the study of Augustine's text. In addition to the pioneering edition and commentary by James O'Donnell, the magnificent *Corpus Augustinianum Gissense* offers a searchable database of the entire corpus, and Brepols offers an online repository of evidence for ancient Latin translations of the Bible. The *Thesaurus linguae Latinae*, the only dictionary that covers Latin of the fourth and fifth centuries, is about two thirds complete. The first half of Harm Pinkster's *Oxford Latin syntax*, now the fullest description of Latin grammar through Augustine's lifetime, has appeared, and publication of the second half (on complex as opposed to simple sentences) is imminent. The *Augustinus-Lexikon*, a modern encyclopedia of all matters relating to Augustine, has reached the letter P. I have tried to make judicious use of all.

My abettors in this project have been, in the first instance, the series editors Philip Hardie and Stephen Oakley, who accepted the proposal for a follow-up to the Clark commentary and then patiently nudged it into the shape it now has. I am grateful to both for their detailed criticisms and for allowing commentary on a somewhat larger scale than in my predecessor's volume. Other readers to whom I am grateful for counsel on parts or the whole of what I have written are Adam Becker, Andrew Feldherr, Robert Kaster, E. J. Kenney, Gabriel Lear, James O'Donnell, and Harm Pinkster. I am particularly indebted to Harm Pinkster, who not only made

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available the files comprising part two of his *Syntax*, but labored greatly to refine my annotations on Augustine's Latin. For helpful interventions from the Press at the production stage, I am grateful to Sarah Starkey, my content manager, and Mary Morton, my copyeditor.

I am also grateful to the National Endowment for the Humanities for a Fellowship in support of this commentary, and to the Division of Humanities of the University of Chicago for partial relief from teaching and other responsibilities at two points in the writing of it.

## ABBREVIATIONS AND SHORT REFERENCES

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A–G	Greenough, J. B. et al. 1903. <i>Allen and Greenough's new Latin grammar</i> . Boston.
A–L	Mayer, C. et al., eds. 1986–. <i>Augustinus-Lexikon</i> . Basel.
BDAG	Bauer, W., W. Arndt, F. W. Gingrich, and F. W. Danker. 2000. <i>A Greek-English lexicon of the new testament and other early Christian literature</i> , 3rd edn. Chicago.
BDF	Blass, F. and A. Debrunner. 1961. <i>A Greek grammar of the new testament and other early Christian literature</i> , rev. and tr. R. W. Funk. Chicago.
BNP	Cancik, H. and H. Schneider, eds. 2002–10. <i>Brill's new Pauly: encyclopedia of the ancient world: antiquity</i> , English edition by C. F. Salazar. Boston.
CAG-online	<i>Corpus Augustinianum Gissense a Cornelio Mayer editum</i> (version 3-0 online resource: <a href="http://www.cag-online.net">www.cag-online.net</a> ). Würzburg 2013.
G–L	Gildersleeve, B. L. and G. Lodge. 1895. <i>Gildersleeve's Latin grammar</i> , 3rd edn. London.
H–S	Hofmann, J. B. and A. Szantyr. 1965. <i>Lateinische Syntax und Stilistik</i> . Munich.
K–S	Kühner, R. and C. Stegmann. 1914. <i>Ausführliche Grammatik der lateinischen Sprache: Satzlehre</i> , 2 vols., 2nd edn. Hanover.
NLS	Woodcock, E. C. 1959. <i>A new Latin syntax</i> . Cambridge, MA.
OCD	Hornblower, S. and A. Spawforth, eds. 2012. <i>The Oxford classical dictionary</i> , 4th edn. Oxford.
ODCC	Cross, F. L. and E. A. Livingstone, eds. 1997. <i>The Oxford dictionary of the Christian church</i> , 3rd edn. Oxford.
OLD	Glare, P. G. W., ed. 2012. <i>Oxford Latin dictionary</i> , 2nd edn. Oxford.
OLS	Pinkster, H. 2015. <i>The Oxford Latin syntax, I: the simple clause</i> . Oxford.
PCBE Afrique	Mandouze, A. 1982. <i>Prosopographie chrétienne du bas-empire, I: Prosopographie de l'Afrique chrétienne (303–533)</i> . Paris.
PCBE Italie	Pietri, C. and L. 2000. <i>Prosopographie chrétienne du bas-empire, II: Prosopographie de l'Italie chrétienne (313–604)</i> , 2 vols. Rome.

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<i>PIR</i> <sup>2</sup>	Groag, A., E. Stein et al. 1933–2015. <i>Prosopographia imperii Romani saec. I. II. III.</i> , 8 vols., 2nd edn. Berlin.
<i>PLRE</i>	Jones, A. H. M., J. R. Martindale, and J. Morris, eds. 1971–92. <i>Prosopography of the later Roman empire</i> , 3 vols. in 4. Cambridge.
<i>RAC</i>	Klauser, T., ed. 1950– <i>Reallexikon für antike und Christentum</i> . Stuttgart.
<i>RSV</i>	The Revised Standard Version of the Bible, cited in its online form at: <a href="https://quod.lib.umich.edu/r/rsv/browse.html">https://quod.lib.umich.edu/r/rsv/browse.html</a>
<i>TLL</i>	<i>Thesaurus linguae Latinae</i> . 1904–. Leipzig.
<i>Vetus Latina</i> online	<i>Vetus Latina</i> database ( <i>Vetus Latina</i> Institut, Beuron): <a href="http://apps.brepolis.net/vld/">http://apps.brepolis.net/vld/</a>

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