Introduction

The main aim of this lexicon is to collect all Latin terms relating to textiles, clothes and adornments, broadly understood, as well as to the materials, tools and techniques that made them all possible. In order to collect as many words as possible and to offer a complete guide to the evolution of Roman fashion, terms and texts have been consulted dating from the 3rd century BC to the 4th century AD, when the decay and division of the Empire had become clear (some later texts, like those of Isidore of Seville, for instance, have been consulted when necessary, in order to define and describe certain obscure words).

All sorts of textual remains, together with archaeological studies, have been analysed in the creation of the lexicon, considering all provinces of the Empire as part of the “Roman world”. Some of the peoples either forming part of the Empire or living as their neighbours are studied on their own, in an attempt to describe those clothes, trends and products that were imported to the Roman world or even adopted by the elites in the city.

Words are presented in alphabetical order, after a preliminary section defining certain terms, commonly used by scholars or attested through archaeological remains, that have, nonetheless, not been found in Latin sources.

Each entry offers morphological information on the term, its etymology, when it is attested and its closest translation to Ancient Greek. The word is then defined and described, before a series of examples taken from ancient texts and references to modern bibliography, where appropriate.

After the main lexicon, terms are classified by topic. This is followed by two glossaries, making it possible to track a word from English or Ancient Greek into Latin. At the head of these, under the sign *, Latin words with no direct translation to either language are presented.

In researching the definition and relevant examples for each entry, the databases of Brepolis and Perseus, alongside the Forcellini and Lewis & Short dictionaries, Daremberg, C.V. & Saglio, E. (1873) and the Thesaurus Linguae Latinae have been consulted. Similarly, Lexilogos and the Liddell & Scott lexicon have been used for tracing the Greek translation of each term.

For the consultation of epigraphic sources, the Clauss/Slaby Epigraphik-Datenbank and the Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum were the main sources of information, together with the online database of the Oxyrhynchus papyri and L’Année Philologique in order to search for modern sources. For the etymology of words, the dictionaries by Segura Munguía, S. (2013) and De Vaan, M. (2008) served as the main references. For more details on sources, please refer to the bibliography at the end of this volume.