PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

A POET QUOTED IN WALDEN:

CLAUDIUS CLAUDIANUS (*FLORUT* 395-404CE)

Claudius Claudianus seems to have grown up in Alexandria and to have relocated to Rome in 394CE. After 394CE he wrote in Latin rather than Greek. One of his poems, ON THE CONSULSHIP OF STILICHO, provides our only source for an expedition to Britain mounted by General Stilicho the Vandal in 396-398CE. In this poem and another, THE GOTHIC WAR, the poet provided some information on the appearance of the Picts and Caledonians:

> "Next spoke Britannia, dressed in the skin of some Caledonian beast, her cheeks tattooed, her sea-blue mantle sweeping over her footsteps like the surge of ocean." (ON THE CONSULSHIP OF STILICHO)
> "There also came the legion set to guard the furthest Britons, the legion that curbs the savage Scot and scans the lifeless patterns tattooed on the dying Picts." (THE GOTHIC WAR)

Claudian made his mark in Rome with a eulogy of two young patrons, Probinus and Olybrius, thereby becoming court poet. He wrote a number of panegyrics on the consulship of his patrons, praise poems for the deeds of General Flavius Stilicho the Vandal, and invectives directed at Stilicho's rivals in the Eastern court of Arcadius. He seems to have moved on from Rome to Milan for about five years, and then returned. The battle of Pollentia seems to have been the last noted event of his lifetime. Since his poems make no mention of the accomplishments of his patron Stilicho the Vandal after 404CE, we can presume he died in that year.

THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN: CLAUDIUS CLAUDIANUS

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

WALDEN:

"Erret, et extremos alter scrutetur Iberos.
Plus habet hic vitæ, plus habet ille viæ."

Let them wander and scrutinize the outlandish Australians.
I have more of God, they more of the road.

CLAUDIAN

PEOPLE OF WALDEN

"NARRATIVE HISTORY" AMOUNTS TO FABULATION, THE REAL STUFF BEING MERE CHRONOLOGY

THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN: CLAUDIUS CLAUDIANUS

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

370 CE

It must have been at about this point that Claudian was born, perhaps at Canopius.

At about this time the Goths divide into two groups. The Ostrogoths would live between the Dniester River and the shores of the Black Sea, while the Visigoths would live to their west in the region between the Dniester River and the Danube River.

Epiphanius was bishop of Salamis on the island of Cyprus.

The Doctrine of Addai at Edessa proclaimed a 17-book New Testament canon using the DIATESSARON rather than the Gospels according to MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, and JOHN, along with THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES and 15 of Paul's letters such as 3D CORINTHIANS.

NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT

THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN: CLAUDIUS CLAUDIANUS

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

391 CE

While on a visit to the coastal city of Hippo Regius, Augustine was seized upon by the locals and impressed into the priesthood. His new bishop, Valerius, granted him a little time to study for his duties.

During this year or the following one, Augustine's *DE DUABUS ANIMABUS CONTRA MANICHAEOS* and *DE UTILITATE CREDENDI*.

At some period prior to the year 396 CE, Augustine's *DE LIBERO ARBITRIO*.

In Alexandria, Egypt, which was under the control of Christianity, a hidden pagan temple was discovered. The contents of this temple were displayed to the public in a manner that was so mocking that the pagan worshipers were enticed into an attack. The Christian forces were able to rebuff this attack and the pagans took refuge in a temple dedicated to the Hellenistic/Egyptian deity Serapis that was being utilized as one branch of the great Library of Alexandria. That refuge was ordered to be destroyed by Theophilus, the Christian Patriarch of Alexandria, who dedicated its site as a church, and it is plausible that during this unrest a portion of the collection of scrolls of the Library of Alexandria got destroyed. Following this event, Claudian departed from the city.

By this point Ammianus Marcellinus had completed the 31 books of his history *RES GESTAE LIBRI XXXI*, only 18 of which are still extant.

LIFE IS LIVED FORWARD BUT UNDERSTOOD BACKWARD?
— NO, THAT'S GIVING TOO MUCH TO THE HISTORIAN'S STORIES.
LIFE ISN'T TO BE UNDERSTOOD EITHER FORWARD OR BACKWARD.

THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN: CLAUDIUS CLAUDIANUS

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

392 CE

Augustine's *ACTA CONTRA FORUNATUM MANICHAEUM* and *SERMONES*.

At some period prior to 418 CE, Augustine's *ENARRATIONES IN PSALMOS*.

Valentinian II, emperor of the western Roman empire, was murdered by General Arbogast, who set up Eugenius as his replacement. During the reign of Eugenius, which would persist only until 394 CE, Claudian would travel in the eastern portion of the Roman Empire, arriving eventually at Constantinople.

THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT

THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN: CLAUDIUS CLAUDIANUS

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

395 CE

Early January: At Rome, Claudian delivered a panegyric on his friends the Anicii, Probinus and Olybrius before departing for Milan.

CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT

THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN: CLAUDIUS CLAUDIANUS

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

396 CE

January 3: When Honorius for the 3d time was made consul, at Milan, Claudian was honored to read or recite in the emperor's presence a panegyric "De Tertio Consulatu Honorii Augusti."

THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT

THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN: CLAUDIUS CLAUDIANUS

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

398 CE

Early January: At Milan, Claudian delivered a panegyric on the occasion of the appointment of the Emperor Honorius to a 4th consulship.

February: The Emperor Honorius got married with a daughter of General Stilicho, Maria. Claudian authored poems that celebrated this auspicious event.

March: In Africa, after an unsatisfactory termination to the Visigothic war, Gildo held up of the fleet that was to convey the grain harvest to Rome and quickly reduced the city to a state of semi-starvation. General Stilicho sent Gildo's brother Mascezel to Africa and he managed to quiet the insurrection.

April: At Milan, Claudian delivered a recitation in regard to Gildo's African insurrection.

Summer: General Stilicho ordered the execution of Mascezal.

WHAT I'M WRITING IS TRUE BUT NEVER MIND
YOU CAN ALWAYS LIE TO YOURSELF

THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN: CLAUDIUS CLAUDIANUS

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

399 CE

Early January: At Milan, Claudian delivered a panegyric on Flavius Manlius Theodorus.

Spring: At Milan, Claudian delivered a recitation honoring the eunuch chamberlain Eutropius, who was becoming consul.

Summer: The revolt of Tribigildus.

August: The eunuch chamberlain Eutropius was deprived of his position as consul.

September: At Milan, Claudian delivered a recitation in regard to the fall of the eunuch chamberlain Eutropius from his position as consul.

End of the year: At the end of this year, or the beginning of the next one, Claudian traveled from Milan to Rome.

Claudian, and his muse, as they would be imaged in Western art:

DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.

THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN: CLAUDIUS CLAUDIANUS

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

400 CE

Early in January, Claudian delivered a recitation at Milan in honor of General Stilicho, and then in February, he delivered another in honor of his consulship at Rome. During this year, also, a bronze statue would be erected in the poet's honor in the forum of Trajan in Rome, and he would get married and go on honeymoon in Libya.

From an inscription discovered in the forum of Trajan that is now in the Naples Museum: "Rome and its emperors recognize that Claudian combines in one the intellect of Virgil and the inspiration of Homer." Literally, the inscription reads in translation in full "To Claudian Claudianus, a vir clarissimus ["the right honorable"], tribune, and notarius, [among] other elegant arts, the most famed of poets, although the songs written by him are sufficient for his eternal memory, nevertheless for the sake of proof and because of their faith in their own judgment, our lords, the most blessed and learned emperors Arcadius and Honorius, in accordance with the wish of the Senate, order a statue to be erected and located in the Forum of the divine Trajan. Rome and her kings – to one who has combined a Homer's music with a Vergil's mind."

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<Cl.> Claudiani v[iri] c[larissimi]
<Cla>udio Claudiano v. c. tri-
<bu>no et notario inter ceteras
<de>centes artes prae<g>lorissimo
<po>etarum, licet ad memoriam sem-
piternam carmina ab eodem
scripta sufficiant, adtamen
testimonii gratia ob iudicii sui
<f>idem dd. nn. Arcadius et Honorius
<fe>licissimi ac doctissimi
imperatores senatu petente
statuam in foro divi Traiani
erigi collocarique iusserunt.
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Εἰν ἑνὶ Βιργιλίοιο νόον
καὶ Μοῦσαν Ὁμήρου
Κλαυδιανὸν Ῥώμη καὶ
Βασιλῆς ἔθεσαν.

THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN: CLAUDIUS CLAUDIANUS

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

This Claudian Claudianus came to be a "right honorable," and came to be regarded as in the same league with the illustrious Homer and Vergil, by making himself useful as a publicity flack for the Vandal general Flavius Stilicho, pictured here, who as *Magister Militum* was effectively ruling the western Roman empire on behalf of the emperor Theodosius's son Honorius:

Every time the Roman legions commanded by Stilicho the Vandal triumphed, Claudian made sure he was right there to provide the appropriate publicity and adulation. No praises were beneath him, and of course he got his

reward, part of which was that Stilicho's wife Serena, pictured here, helped him obtain a suitably rich bride:

THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN: CLAUDIUS CLAUDIANUS

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN: CLAUDIUS CLAUDIANUS

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

402 CE

April 6, Easter Sunday: General Stilicho defeated Alaric and the Visigoths at Pollentia.

Summer: At the Bibliotheca Templi Apollinis in Rome, Claudian recited a poem on the Gothic war.

THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN: CLAUDIUS CLAUDIANUS

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

404 CE

Augustine's *ACTA CONTRA FELICEM MANICHAEUM.*

Death of Claudian.

222 About this time the Roman empire begins to sink. The Barbarians begin their irruptions, and the Goths have annual tribute not to molest the empire.
260 Valerius is taken prisoner by Sapor, king of Persia, and flayed alive.
274 Silk first brought from India; the manufactory of it introduced into Europe by some monks, 551; first worn by the clergy in England, 1534.
306 Constantine the Great begins his reign.
308 Cardinals first made.
313 The tenth persecution ends by an edict of Constantine, who favours the Christians, and gives full liberty to their religion.
314 Three bishops or fathers are sent from Britain to assist at the council of Arles.
325 The first general council at Nice, when 318 fathers attended against Arius, where was composed the famous Nicene Creed, which we attribute to them.
328 Constantine removes the seat of empire from Rome to Byzantium, which is thenceforwards called Constantinople.
331 ———— orders all the heathen temples to be destroyed.
363 The Roman emperor, Julian, surnamed the Apostate, endeavours in vain to rebuild the temple of Jerusalem.
364 The Roman empire is divided into the eastern (Constantinople the capital), and western (of which Rome continued to be the capital), each being now under the government of different emperors.
400 Bells invented by bishop Paulinus of Campagnia.
404 The kingdom of Caledonia, in Scotland, revives under Fergus.
406 The Vandals, Alans, and Suevi, spread into France and Spain, by a concession of Honorius, emperor of the West.
410 Rome taken and plundered by Alaric, king of the Vizi-Goths.
412 The Vandals begin their kingdom in Spain.
420 The kingdom of France begins upon the Lower Rhine, under Pharamond.
426 The Romans reduced to extremities at home, withdraw their troops from Britain, and never return; advising the Britons to arm in their own defence, and trust to their own valour.

During this year or the following one a Christian monk named Telemachus attempted to stand between gladiatorial contenders in the Flavian Amphitheater. The Romans were unamused by this impiety and beat him to death.

COLOSSEUM

THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN: CLAUDIUS CLAUDIANUS

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

408 CE

August 23: There was an order out for the arrest of Stilicho, and he and his retinue had taken sanctuary in a church. On this day soldiers arrived and, producing an imperial order, assured the bishop of the church that they had no orders to execute him. Once outside the church, however, the soldiers produced a second order, for his immediate execution. Stilicho ordered his followers not to resist, and was executed.

THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN: CLAUDIUS CLAUDIANUS

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

1841

May 10, Monday: In his journal, relying on a source text that is unknown to us (definitely not the Cowley version), Henry Thoreau cited the closing lines of a poem by Claudian, "On an Old Man of Verona who has never been out of the Suburbs" (*De Sene Veronensi qui Suburbium nunquam egressus est*):

A good warning to the restless tourists of these days is contained in the last versus of Claudian's "Old Man of Verona."
"Erret, et extremos alter scrutetur Iberos.
Plus habet hic vitae, plus habet ille viæ."

Thoreau's rendition of this in the essay "Reform and the Reformers" and in the final chapter of WALDEN would alter "Iberians" to "Australians."

WALDEN:

"Erret, et extremos alter scrutetur Iberos.
Plus habet hic vitæ, plus habet ille viæ."

Let them wander and scrutinize the outlandish Australians.
I have more of God, they more of the road.

The full poem as it is recorded in various classic sources reads as follows:

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CLAVDII CLAVDIANI
DE SENE VERONENSI
QUI SVBVRBIVM SVVM NVMQVAM
EGRESSVS EST

Felix, qui patriis aeuum transegit in aruis,
  ipsa domus puerum quem uidet, ipsa senem,
qui baculo nitens in qua reptauit harena
  unius numerat saecula longa casae.
illum non uario traxit fortuna tumultu,
  nec bibit ignotas mobilis hospes aquas;
non freta mercator tremuit, non classica miles,
  non rauci lites pertulit ille fori.
indocilis rerum, uicinae nescius urbis,
  aspectu fruitur liberiore poli.
frugibus alternis, non consule computat annum:
  autumnum pomis, uer sibi flore notat.
idem condit agens soles idemque reducit,
  metiturque suo rusticus orbe diem,
ingentem meminit paruo qui germine quercum
  aequaeuumque uidet consenuisse nemus,
proxima cui nigris Verona remotior Indis
  Benacumque putat litora rubra lacum.
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THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN: CLAUDIUS CLAUDIANUS

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

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sed tamen indomitae uires firmisque lacertis
  aetas robustum tertia cernit auum.
erret et extremos alter scrutetur Hiberos:
  plus habet hic uitae, plus habet ille uiae.
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CLAUDIAN'S POEM

"MAGISTERIAL HISTORY" IS FANTASIZING: HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGY

THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN: CLAUDIUS CLAUDIANUS

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

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"It's all now you see. Yesterday won't be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago."

– Remark by character "Garin Stevens" in William Faulkner's INTRUDER IN THE DUST

Prepared: September 5, 2014

THE PEOPLE OF WALDEN: **CLAUDIUS CLAUDIANUS**

PEOPLE MENTIONED IN WALDEN

ARRGH AUTOMATED RESEARCH REPORT

GENERATION HOTLINE

This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, someone has requested that we pull it out of the hat of a pirate who has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (as above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture (this is data mining). To respond to such a request for information we merely push a button.

Commonly, the first output of the algorithm has obvious deficiencies and we need to go back into the modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and recompile the chronology — but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary "writerly" process you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

First come first serve. There is no charge.
Place requests with <Kouroo@kouroo.info>. Arrgh.