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William M. Barton and Raf Van Rooy, “Editorial Note,” JOLCEL 11 (2025): pp. 1-4. DOI: 10.21825/jolcel.96300.

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NOTE

This editorial note introduces the four main articles that form the current issue of JOLCEL. The other contributions are “Toward a Tongueprint of Classical Bilingual texts: Latin and Greek in Erasmus’ *Moria* and Aleandro’s Diaries” by Raf Van Rooy and Wouter Mercelis (pp. 5–29), “Greek Thresholds to the Stars: Nicolaus Copernicus, Georg Joachim Rheticus, and the Ideal Reader of *De revolutionibus*” by Irina Tautschnig (pp. 30–53), “Usages du néo-latin et du néo-grec ancien dans les paratextes des éditions du théâtre grec du XVIe s. Florent Chrestien et la pratique de l’*eiusdem uersio*, entre traduction et composition bilingue” by Malika Bastin-Hammou (pp. 54–83), and “Greek–Latin Code-Switching in Early Modern Greek Disputation Prints (1615–1725)” by Janika Päll (pp. 84–125).

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Editorial Note

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Omne trinum perfectum! This special issue constitutes the final part of our triptych on Latin–Greek code-switching in the early modern period.¹ The overarching aim of this collection of papers has been to explore the beneficial applications of the concept of code-switching towards a better understanding of early modern uses of Latin and Greek against the backdrop of the increasingly diverse languagescape of that period. The first two issues already addressed various themes, studying: (1) several early modern correspondences, the traditional domain of code-switching following classical models, especially Cicero; (2) Latin–Greek code-switching as part of a broader multilingual competence in the variegated oeuvre of Lorenz Rhodoman and Anna Maria van Schurman, in both poetry and prose; (3) the subversion that Greek could embody or represent by questioning gender roles or taking over the role of Latin as the main language in a publication.

¹ For the previous two issues, see Barton and Van Rooy, eds., *Latin–Greek Code-Switching in Early Modernity (JOLCEL 9)*, <https://jolcel.ugent.be/issue/25766/info/> (accessed June 15, 2025); Barton and Van Rooy, eds., *Latin–Greek Code-Switching in Early Modernity II (JOLCEL 10)*, <https://jolcel.ugent.be/issue/25908/info/> (accessed June 15, 2025). For our general introduction to the triptych, see Barton and Van Rooy, “Introduction: Latin–Greek Code-Switching”. This research was funded in whole or in part by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) [Y 1519-G], (Grant-DOI: 10.55776/Y1519) www.lagoos.org. For the purpose of Open Access, the author has applied a CC-BY public copyright license to this publication. Co-funded by the European Union (ERC, ERASMOS, 101116087). Views and opinions expressed are, however, those of the author only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Council. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

The present issue widens this perspective even further to include studies on the phenomenon of Latin–Greek code-switching in the multilingual early modern world from early sixteenth-century Brindisi to eighteenth-century Wittenberg. In the first article, Raf Van Rooy and Wouter Mercelis jointly apply computational and close-reading methods aiming to establish code-switching profiles for Erasmus of Rotterdam (ca.1466–1536) and Girolamo Aleandro (1480–1542). This methodology reveals the use of code-switches by both authors in the construction of their authorial personas—a feature testified extensively in ancient code-switching practice—but constructed via markedly different strategies in these early modern authors, who also expanded the range of genres in which code-switching was possible.

The next two contributions illustrate that Greek and Latin went side-by-side in distinctly early modern genres, too, such as paratextual poetry and dedication letters. Irina Tautschnig's contribution on a Greek paratextual poem by Joachim Camerarius (1500–1574) for Copernicus' (1473–1543) *De revolutionibus* shows that, just as for ancient authors, Greek technical and scientific themes could act as code-switch trigger for early modern writers. The Greek liminary texts also acted as markers of prestige for a publication; they addressed a privileged audience defined by its knowledge of Greek that was deemed receptive for Copernicus's system through their knowledge of that language and the ancient scientific literature in it. Malika Bastin-Hammou, in turn, looks at Latin–Greek paratexts in early modern editions and translations of ancient theatre from France, showing that the use of Greek by the editors of Greek theatre in France is constant. She emphasizes that code-switching there appears as only one option next to bilingual composition and translation, taking the productive New Ancient Greek author Florent Chrestien (1540–1596) as her case study and paying particular attention to the practice of self-translation.

The wider context of Latin–Greek code-switching within early modern multilingualism included not only the vernaculars (see JOLCEL 9) but also other learned languages and literary dialects. This point is crystallised in Janika Päll's contribution on code-switching in Greek university disputations from the Swedish (including Tartu and Turku) and the German (including Basel, Königsberg, and Strasbourg) areas from the beginning of the seventeenth to the first quarter of the eighteenth century. Here, the dynamics of Greek–Latin code-switching are examined within an extensive corpus of ninety-six texts, which includes publications where words in other languages are inserted into the main text. The material and book-historical aspects of code-switching are thrown into focus when dealing with changes in font for different languages, for example.

On the basis of these detailed studies of code-switching customs among early modern authors, comparison with the received image of classical practices becomes possible for the first time, as studied exemplarily in Elder and Mullen's *The Language of Roman Letters*.² The articles in the triptych show the richness and inventiveness of approaches that all in their own way contribute to our understanding of earlier sociolinguistic practices, adding the perspective of fully

² Elder and Mullen, *The Language of Roman Letters*.

nonnative code-switching to the picture. As editors, we see this tripartite JOLCEL collection as a kaleidoscopic beginning rather than a definitive endpoint, since much basic work remains to be done to systematically map the phenomenon of Latin–Greek code-switching in early modernity. To do so, we need *inter alia* searchable and machine-readable text corpora, capable classicists that are willing to stray from their usual period of interest, and thorough theoretical and methodological reflection on the phenomenon of code-switching and the broader multilingualism it was part of—ideally in dialogue with other contexts of code-switching, whether (partly) native or not.

Finishing this third special issue, we should thank everyone involved in turning the code-switching triptych into a success, in the first place all the contributors for their invaluable papers, their intelligent insights, and their patience. No less important was the role of the JOLCEL editors, in particular Jeroen De Gussem, Victoria Moul, and Simon Smets, whose professionalism is exemplary. They significantly contributed to the quality of the papers through meticulous peer review and stylistic advice. We look back with great gratitude to the entire process, which started out with the organization of a focused workshop in Leuven in October 2022. During this event, we had stimulating discussions on Latin–Greek code-switching based on pre-circulated drafts. Through these discussions and detailed peer-review, the drafts turned into full-fledged papers that—we are confident—correspond to the highest of academic standards. We look forward to reading responses to the JOLCEL triptych and to continuing the discussion on the uses of Greek in the Neo-Latin world of early modernity.

References

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