

## Proper Names

This list collects Classically resonant names of people, places, and things in Trollope's novels, alphabetized according to the first part of the name with the tie to Classics.

Authors for individual entries are identified by their initials in square brackets, along with the year in which the entry was originally written or revised. Contributor names and source abbreviations are provided at the end of the document.

*Trollope's Apollo*  
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### **ADITUS**

- in *The Fixed Period*

- This was the name that President Neverbend had proposed for the college, which is finally named Necropolis instead. This Latin noun means "an access" or "entrance." It is probable that Neverbend considered the name appropriate on multiple levels: the college being an entrance for those deposited into a year of peace before a calm departure, and the Fixed Period being the entrance into a new age of rationality and civilization. The proposal of a Classically inspired name could be considered part of Neverbend's overall language program that attempts to acclimate Brittanula to the Fixed Period through words of Classical origin. [CMC 2012]

### **ALEXANDRINA De Courcy (married name, Crosbie)**

- in *Doctor Thorne* and *The Small House at Allington*; mentioned as deceased in *The Last Chronicle of Barset*

- This name of one of Lady De Courcy's daughters is a feminized, Anglicized version of the Greek name Alexandros. This name may contain references to more than one Classical figure. Alexandrina's ambitious pursuit of Crosbie is reminiscent of the strong-willed Greek leader Alexander the Great. Alexander is also another name used to refer to Paris, whose adulterous relationship with Helen causes the Trojan War. Similarly, Alexandrina interferes with Crosbie and Lily's engagement and causes trouble for them both. [EB 2006]

### **Mr. ALPHABET PRECIS**

- in *The Three Clerks*

- Mr. Alphabet Precis has a penchant for language and stylized writing, and his first name, which comes from the first two letters of the Greek alphabet (alpha and beta), underscores his verbal leanings. His last name, derived from Latin *praecisus*, "cut short," ironically contrasts with his writing style. [GZ & RR 2016; rev. RR 2020]

**Lady ALTAMONT**

- in *Dr. Wortle's School*

- Lady Altamont makes a brief appearance at Bowick when her son, a pupil at Dr. Wortle's school, falls ill. Her name underscores her lofty position in society, since *alt-* in Latin means "high" and *mont-* means "mountain." [RR 2014]

**PESSIMIST ANTICANT**

- in *The Warden*

- Pessimist from Latin *pessimus* "worst;" Anticant from Greek *anti* "against or in opposition," and Latin *cantare* "to sing." In English, *cant* comes to refer to language that is hypocritical, conventional, affected, and/or highly specialized. [JM & RR 2005]

**AUGUSTA Gresham**

- in *Doctor Thorne, Framley Parsonage, and The Small House at Allington*

- Of Mr. Gresham's six named daughters, five have names with Classical connections: Selina, Helena, Sophy, Beatrice, and Augusta. Augusta is a feminine form of the title held by the first Roman emperor and means "venerable." While most of the girls' names seem to be rather arbitrary, Augusta's does seem to have been chosen to suit her personality. She seems to have more of her mother's De Courcy blood than any of her other siblings, and she certainly has an idea that her blood entitles her to respect. She also has a very Roman attitude towards her engagement with Mr. Moffat, agreeing to it in order to do her duty to her family although she has no particular fondness for her fiancé. [JC 2005]

**AUGUSTA Hall**

- in *An Old Man's Love*

- One of Mr. Hall's four daughters is named Augusta. Augusta is the feminine form of the Latin adjective *augustus*, *-a*, *-um*, "venerable;" the masculine form Augustus was used for Roman emperors. Her name perhaps reflects her father's penchant for waxing Classical. [RR 2018]

**AUGUSTA Proudie**

- in *Barchester Towers*

- The name of one of Bishop Proudie's daughters, Augusta is the feminine version of the title of Rome's first emperor, Augustus Caesar. This Classical reference might be poking fun at the authoritative situation in the Proudie household. Unlike Augustus Caesar, Bishop Proudie is a weak, pathetic ruler; however, his wife, Mrs. Proudie, is a powerful matriarch who makes her husband's decisions for him. The fact that one of their children is named Augusta instead of Augustus shows that the woman ultimately has the power in the family. [MD 2005]

**AUGUSTUS Green**

- in *Barchester Towers*

- The name Augustus recalls the first Roman emperor, Augustus Caesar. It is no wonder (and perhaps a source of amusement) that Augustus Green, who comes from such a wealthy family that he is able to “devote the whole proceeds of his curacy to violet gloves and unexceptionable neck ties,” would have been named after such high-status Classical figure. [JC & RR 2005]

**AUGUSTUS Lookaloft**

- in *Barchester Towers*

- The Lookalofts are part of the tenantry of Ullathorne who, as their name suggests, think themselves of much higher status than the rest of the tenantry. It is fitting then, that they would name their eldest son after one of the great Roman emperors. [JC 2005]

- There is humor in the very juxtaposition of the Latin first name and the straightforward English surname—which itself reveals the pretension of the first name. [RR 2011]

**AUGUSTUS MOMSON**

- in *Dr. Wortle’s School*

- Augustus Momson, the worst behaved and dullest boy in Bowick, is named after the first emperor of Rome. After the emperor’s death Augustus (meaning “venerable,” “magnificent”) was passed on to later emperors as a title. There is humor in the fact that the Latin imperial honorific is given to such an unworthy recipient. The use of the name here shows some arrogance in the family that has spoiled the boy. [BL 2013]

- There may be further humor in that Augustus Momson’s last name recalls Theodor Mommsen, a noted Roman historian who lived and wrote in the 19th century. It is ironic that the name of such an unpromising student is given a name with a doubly Classical resonance. [RR 2014]

**AUGUSTUS Musselboro**

- in *The Last Chronicle of Barset*

- Augustus was the first of the Roman emperors. His reign is often characterized as a golden age of peace, prosperity, efficiency, and literary activity. On the surface, the name of the Augustus in this chapter conveys a sense of strength and ability. However, perhaps Mr. Musselboro’s name is used ironically, since his business is dependent upon the financial support of Mrs. Van Siever. Mr. Musselboro does not in fact rule or control anything and is subject to the bidding of Mrs. Van Siever. [AM 2006]

**Lord and Lady AUGUSTUS Trefoil**

- in *The American Senator*

- Lord and Lady Augustus Trefoil are the parents of Arabella Trefoil, the fiancée of John Morton. Trollope humorously names them, as they are not august in any sense of the word. This

name was borne most famously by the Roman emperor Augustus, who won a civil war for control of the Roman empire and through wealth and political power brought about an era of relative peace and prosperity. Lord Augustus is not particularly important and has little money, living in the shadow of his brother, a duke. Lady Augustus has even less money and spends her time traveling from friend to friend with her daughter, who searches for a rich bachelor to marry. [CD 2012]

### **BEATRICE Gresham**

- in *Doctor Thorne*

- Of Mr. Gresham's six named daughters, five have names with Classical connections: Selina, Helena, Sophy, Beatrice, and Augusta. Béatrice is the French form of the Latin Beatrix, which means "one who makes happy or blessed." Beatrix is perhaps a form of *viatrix* "one who travels," altered under the influence of the Latin adjective *beatus*, *-a*, *-um*, "happy" or "blessed." [JC 2005; rev. RR 2020]

- source: behindthename.com

### **BRITTANULA**

- in *The Fixed Period*

- *Brittan-*, from the country Great Britain, and the Latin diminutive ending *-ula*. Brittanula is culturally developed from Great Britain, especially in its language and sports. Brittanula is the means by Trollope satirically explores British society, especially attitudes on reform. [CD 2012]

### **Crabtree CANONICORUM**

- in *The Warden* and *Barchester Towers*

- *Canonicorum* is derived from the Latin adjective *canonicus*, which means "canonical, related to the clergy;" *canonicorum* is the genitive plural, meaning "of the people/things belonging to the clergy." The name Crabtree Canonicorum asserts an ecclesiastical tie, sounds prestigious, and makes the reader imagine the place to be large and attractive. [TH 2005; rev. RR 2020]

### **Literary CENSOR**

- in *The Three Clerks*

- Charley Tudor's literary efforts are recognized by the *Literary Censor*, a periodical whose name recalls the Roman office of censor charged with overseeing public morals (among other things). The Classically resonant name adds authority to the journal's stamp of approval for Charley's writing. [RR 2017]

### **Doctor CENTURY**

- in *Doctor Thorne*

- Dr. Century is one of the other doctors who work in the same region as Doctor Thorne, but he lives close to the town of Silverbridge. Dr. Century's name is probably a reference to his age and antiquated medical knowledge. The word *century* comes from the Latin word *centuria*, which referred to 100 soldiers, objects, or a group of voters in ancient Rome. The word *century* began being used to refer to the years of a person's life as early as 1626, according to the OED. [MD 2005]

### **CLARA Van Siever**

- in *The Last Chronicle of Barset*

- Clara's first name is the Latin word meaning "clear" or "bright." Clara tends to take a balanced, clear-minded perspective on events, making this a suitable name. [EB 2006]

### **Mr. COMPAS**

- in *An Old Man's Love*

- We hear of Mr. Compas as the man whom Catherine Bailey married rather than Mr. Whittlestaff. It is attractive to think Trollope is punning with the name of the winning suitor here, if only because the name Compas sounds invented. Mr. Compas is missing the double S of *compass*, which would have made the name seem directed. The Greek verb *kompazein* means "boast" (with an aorist stem *kompas-* meaning "upon boasting," "just having boasted") while the noun *kompos* is a noise that can also be a boast; thus is Mr. Whittlestaff's rival degraded (and soon after being named Compas is overtly referred to as "so poor a creature"). Possibly, however, the name describes the man's conquest of Catherine Bailey: the Latin adjective *compos* means "in possession of," or "having control over;" the name could thus reinforce the man's possession of Catherine in marriage. [RR & CMS 2018]

### **CONSTANCE VANE**

- in *The Claverings*

- We do not meet Constance Vane directly as a character, but Lady Ongar mentions her to Harry Clavering as a type of a fashionable English girl not particular appealing to either of them, though neither says so explicitly. Though Trollope does not tell us much about Constance, he tells us enough to realize that her name is partly ironic and partly fitting. Her first name, Constance, is related to the Latin participle *constans*, meaning "standing firm" or even "remaining unchanged." But Constance has not been constant in her looks: she has changed from "a waxen doll of a girl" to a "stout mother of two or three children." Her maiden name, Vane, recalls the Latin adjective *vanus*, meaning "empty" and is apt, since Trollope asserts that "she had never had a thought in her head, and hardly ever a word on her lips." By giving her this name, Trollope adds linguistic depth to an otherwise insubstantial character. [RR 2013]

**Sir COSMO MONK**

- in *Can You Forgive Her?*

- Sir Cosmo Monk's first name is derived from Greek *cosmos*, "order." His support is deemed crucial for Plantagenet Palliser's aspirations to move up in the political order. While that part of Sir Cosmo's name may be fitting, his surname—derived from Greek *monakhos*, "solitary"—contrasts with his social networking. [RR 2020]

**Gabriel CRASWELLER**

- in *The Fixed Period*

- From the Latin adverb *cras*, "tomorrow," and the English adjective *well*, plus the suffix *-er*, which denotes agency. Crasweller's name foreshadows his escape from his deposition and eventual euthanasia. [CD 2012]

**Lord ECHO**

- in *The Bertrams*

- Echo was a mythological figure, a nymph who could talk only by repeating the words of others. Trollope, in naming a character (mentioned only in passing) Lord Echo, focuses on the Lord's lack of originality, either in thought or word. Lord Echo probably repeats much of what he hears from others. [CD 2012]

**Mr. EMBRYO**

- in *The Three Clerks*

- Mr. Embryo is the name of a new worker at the Office of Weights and Measures. His name comes from the ancient Greek *en* ("in") and *bryō* ("grow"), which refers to his status as a newcomer. A junior clerk in the office, he gives to Alaric Tudor a sheet with many numbers and calculations on it. Although he is new to his job, he bears the eager and dedicated attitude associated with a beginner, just as his name suggests. [GZ 2016]

**Plumstead EPISCOPI**

- in all the Barchester novels

- Episcopi comes from *episcopus*, Latin (and earlier, Greek) for "bishop." Plumstead Episcopi is the home of archdeacon Grantly, the son of the bishop of Barchester; when the bishop dies in *Barchester Towers*, archdeacon Grantly is disappointed that he is not appointed as the next bishop. Greek *episcopos* also means "overseer," and the Latin form *episcopi* means "of the overseer." The archdeacon, who conducts most of the bishop's business while his father is alive, certainly counts as an overseer of the diocese. His watchfulness in this regard is marked by Trollope's comparison of Dr. Grantly to the many-eyed mythological figure of Argus; see commentary for Chapter 2 of *The Warden*. [TH & RR 2005; rev. RR 2011 & 2013]

**EUPHEMIA Palliser**

- in *Can You Forgive Her?*

- Euphemia is a cousin of Plantagenet Palliser, and her first name is Greek, meaning “good speech.” Like her sister Iphigenia, Euphemia is serious in her pursuits, and their Classically weighted names enact such gravity. Those close to Euphemia, however, call her Phemy. While her full first name is a bit stiff, her nickname—like her sister’s, Iphy—seems comically casual for her disposition. [RR 2020]

**Mr. EXORS**

- in *The Fixed Period*

- Mr. Exors is one of the oldest men in Brittanula and is scheduled to be deposited not long after Crasweller. His name may be derived from the Latin *exsors*, meaning “chosen one.” He is mentioned in a group of others who are due to be deposited. All have said in their own way that they will not set foot in the college. The idea of “chosen one” has an almost sacrificial connotation in *The Fixed Period*, as though Trollope is signaling that Exors is chosen by Neverbend’s law to be sacrificed and lead Brittanula and the world into a new age of enlightened living (and dying). [CMC 2012]

**Lady FLORA Macleod**

- in *Can You Forgive Her?*

- Lady Flora Macleod is an older relative of Alice Vavasor who cares for Alice but whose advice is often unwelcome. Her first name, Flora, is Latin for “flower,” and is at odds with her age as well as her rigid views. [RR 2020]

**GATHERUM Castle**

- Mentioned in many of Trollope’s novels, Gatherum is the name of the Duke of Omnium’s castle. This is a play on the British phrase *omnium gatherum*, or “gathering of everyone/everything,” used to refer to a gathering of many kinds of people. *Gatherum* is actually a faux Latin word, simply comprised of the English *gather* and the Latin ending *-um*. [EB 2006]

- source: OED

**GLADSTONOPOLIS**

- in *The Fixed Period*

- *Gladston-*, which comes from the liberal 19th century British Prime Minister William Gladstone, and *-opolis*, a combining form derived from the Greek noun *polis*, “city, city-state.” Naming the capital of Brittanula Gladstonopolis highlights the society’s progressive nature in ratifying the Fixed Period as well as its desire to link itself to Classical forms of expression. [CD & RR 2012]

**Captain GLOMAX**

- in *The American Senator*

- Captain Glomax is the master of the hunt for the Ufford and Rufford United Hunt Club.

Trollope refers to him in Chapter 8 of *The American Senator* as a “celebrated sportsman,” perhaps activating an echo of Latin *maximus*, “greatest,” in the captain’s last name. [RR 2012]

**HELENA Gresham**

- in *Doctor Thorne*

- Of Mr. Gresham’s six named daughters, five have names with Classical connections: Selina, Helena, Sophy, Beatrice, and Augusta. Helena is the Latin name for Helen, the mythological character whose abduction starts the Trojan War. [JC 2005]

**HERMIONE Clavering**

- in *The Claverings*

- In Greek mythology, Hermione is the daughter of Helen and Menelaus. Trollope’s use of the name in *The Claverings* probably owes more to Shakespeare than to Classics: in Shakespeare’s *Winter’s Tale*, Hermione is a wife treated poorly by her husband, and in *The Claverings* Hermione is mistreated by her spouse, Sir Hugh Clavering. [RR 2012]

**IPHIGENIA THEODATA Palliser**

- in *Can You Forgive Her?*

- Iphigenia Theodata Palliser is a cousin of Plantagenet Palliser. In Greek mythology, Iphigenia is the daughter of the Greek commander Agamemnon, and she is sacrificed by him so that the Greek troops can sail to Troy. Theodata is a compound of *theo-*, “god,” and *dat-* “given;” the *-a* makes the word feminine. Like her sister Euphemia, Iphigenia is serious in her pursuits, and their Classically weighted names enact such gravity. Those close to Iphigenia, however, call her Iphy. While her full first name is a bit stiff, her nickname—like her sister’s, Phemy—seems comically casual for her disposition. [RR 2020]

**JULIA Brabazon**

- in *The Claverings*

- The *gens Julia* was a long-standing aristocratic clan in ancient Rome, the most famous member of which was Julius Caesar. Julia Brabazon’s bearing befits an association of her name with Caesar: she often tries to take command of situations, she is ambitious for herself, and she is concerned about her status. [RR 2012]



**Lady JULIA De Guest**

- in *The Small House at Allington* and *The Last Chronicle of Barset*

- Julia, a feminine form of Julius, was a name for Roman women. This name is particularly associated with the famous Julio-Claudian dynasty of the Roman Empire, reflecting Lady Julia's status and pride in her position. [EB 2006]

**The JUPITER**

- appearing throughout Trollope's novels; sometimes called the *Daily Jupiter*

- Jupiter is the greatest of the Roman gods and can hurl lightning bolts at will, hence the usage of "thunderbolt" for articles appearing in *The Jupiter*. In using this name for the newspaper, Trollope playfully presents the paper as omnipotent and authoritative, like the king of the gods himself. Trollope sometimes includes *The* as part of the newspaper's title (*The Jupiter*) and sometimes doesn't (the *Jupiter*)—it's worth noting that not including *The* in the paper's name personifies it even more and thereby increase the identification with the king of the gods. [JM & RR 2005; rev. RR 2011]

**LACTIMEL Neverbend**

- in *The Three Clerks*

- Lactimel Neverbend's first name is composed of Latin components: *lact-* ("milk") and *mel-* ("honey"). Lactimel's first name thus recalls the Biblical phrase "land of milk and honey," used to describe the promised land and its bounty. The name seems fitting for someone who "had a theory that every poor brother might eat of the fat and drink of the sweet, might lie softly, and wear fine linen, if only some body or bodies could be induced to do their duties." [RR 2020]

- source: Exodus 3:8

**Sir LAMDA MEWNEW**

- in *Barchester Towers*

- Both first and last names are Greek letters, spelled out. [JM 2005]

**Mr. MASTERS**

- in *The American Senator*

- From Latin *magister*, "leader, master." By the end of *The American Senator* Mr. Masters becomes a strong head of the family and lives up to his name's etymology. This happens through the marriage of his daughter, Mary, to Reginald Morton, the new squire. This marriage reinstalls Mr. Masters as attorney to the Morton family and ends his struggle with his wife over Mary's refusal to marry Larry Twentyman. [CD 2012]

**Mr. A. MINUSEX**

- in *The Three Clerks*

- Mr. A. Minusex is one of the likely candidates for the position of senior clerk in the office of Weights and Measures. Mr. A. Minusex is an “arithmetician” whose name underscores his algebraic background: A minus X. Algebra is a branch of mathematics which uses letters as symbols for unsolved quantities, and the English word *minus* comes from the Latin adjective *minus*, meaning smaller or less. [GZ & RR 2016]

**Mr. MORTMAIN**

- in *The Bertrams*

- The undertaker who prepares the body of the elder Mr. Bertram for burial has a fitting surname. Mortmain means “dead hand.” The name is composed of Latin elements filtered through French: *mort-* (death, dead) and *man-* (hand). Not only does Mr. Mortmain handle the dead, but he also provides George Bertram with black gloves for the funeral. [RR 2012]

**NECROPOLIS**

- in *The Fixed Period*

- The name that was decided upon for the college is Necropolis, a Greek term that literally means “city of the dead.” Here, the Greek word is being used as a euphemism to obfuscate the nature of the college and lessen the anxiety of the citizenry of Brittanula surrounding the Fixed Period. Further, the London Necropolis Company was controversial in Trollope’s time for constructing a massive cemetery complex, complete with multiple railway stations, a telegraph station, and different areas for different religions. This caused debate in London, as many were reluctant to move away from the traditional churchyards within their respective cities and towns. [CMC 2012]

- source: *Encyclopedia Britannica*

**President NEVERBEND**

- in *The Fixed Period*

- The elected ruler of Brittanula is aptly named, since he resolutely promotes adherence to the Fixed Period. Although the surname Neverbend is composed of Germanic components, we can find in Sophocles’ *Antigone* the idea of a ruler not bending to popular feeling. Creon, the ruler of Thebes, condemns his niece Antigone because she performed burial rights for her brother, an enemy of the city. Creon’s son Haemon urges him to moderate his views by reminding him that unbending trees can be destroyed. In *The Fixed Period*, President Neverbend’s son Jack will also oppose his father. [RR 2012]

- source: Sophocles, *Antigone* 712-714

**Henry NORMAN**

- in *The Three Clerks*

- Henry's last name might echo the Latin noun *norma*, which refers to a carpenter's square or any standard rule of measure (hence English *norm* and *normal*). Henry's surname befits a clerk in Weights and Measures and more broadly suggests that Henry himself embodies gentlemanly norms. [RR 2016]

**Sir OMICRON PIE**

- in *Barchester Towers*, *Doctor Thorne*, and *The Small House at Allington*

- Both first and last names are Greek letters, spelled out. [JM 2005]

- There is some humor in the spelling P-I-E, recalling the baked good, rather than P-I. [RR 2020]

**Duke of OMNIUM**

- in many of Trollope's novels

- Translated from the Latin, "the Duke of All." Since the Duke is first introduced as sort of a stock character rather than a developed one, it is fitting that his name reflects his status and power. [JC 2005]

- The Latin form *omnium* is genitive plural and itself implies an *of*—so there is some humor in the redundancy of "the Duke of of All." [RR & CMS 2020]

**Duke and Duchess of OMNIUM**

- primarily in the Palliser series, but mentioned in *The American Senator* and other novels in passing

- Glencora McCluskie marries Plantagenet Palliser, and they become the Duke and Duchess of Omnium when Plantagenet inherits the title and wealth of his uncle, a character first appearing in the Barsetshire series. *Omnium* is a Latin word meaning "of all things," so the very name bespeaks the riches accompanying the title. [RR 2012]

**ONESIPHORUS Dunn**

- in *The Last Chronicle of Barset*

- The Latinized Greek word *onesiphorus* literally means "benefit bearer." The name is apt because Onesiphorus in the novel is a help to Lily Dale when she sees Crosbie for the first time after he slighted her in *The Small House at Allington*. Onesiphorus also does many favors for Mrs. Thorne. [KD 2006]

**OPTIMUS Grey**

- in *Framley Parsonage*

- Latin, “very good, best.” A fitting first name for the Reverend Grey, given how highly Mrs. Proudie thinks of him. Perhaps Trollope is humorously suggesting that he is the best at being grey. [JM 2005]

**Crabtree PARVA**

- in *The Warden* and *Barchester Towers*

- The Latin adjective *parvus*, -a, -um means “small.” In *The Warden* Crabtree Parva is mentioned in the same paragraph as Crabtree Canonicorum, and while Canonicorum imparts prestige (see above), the use of Latin in the case of Crabtree Parva lends it a perhaps jarring sense of Classical dignity. It is a somewhat humorous approach to describing the place. [TH 2005; rev. RR 2020]

**PATERNOSTER Row**

- in *The Warden*

- The name of a real street in London, on which is located the fictitious publishing shop which published Mr. Harding’s *Church Music*. This name consists of two Latin words, *pater* and *noster*, and refers to the Christian prayer the “Our Father,” or *Pater Noster* in Latin. The ecclesiastical echo of the street’s name befits both Mr. Harding’s profession and his publication. [MD 2005; rev. RR 2014]

**PENELOPE Gauntlet**

- in *The Bertrams*

- Penelope Gauntlet is the aunt of Adela Gauntlet. Penelope lives in Littlebath, and allows Adela to visit and thus be with Caroline Waddington. In Greek mythology, Penelope is the name of Odysseus’ extremely dutiful wife. This aspect of the name does not appear to be used by Trollope. However, Penelope Gauntlet is seen at one point in a manner not befitting the character she was named for: when Adela needs her after the death of her father, her aunt is not at home but traveling. This is in contrast to the Penelope of the *Odyssey*, who stayed at home while waiting for Odysseus to return. [CMC & RR 2012]

**PHOEBE**

- in *The Claverings*

- In Chapter 16 of *The Claverings* Trollope mentions that Lady Ongar’s maid Phoebe grows tired as she waits for her mistress. The name Phoebe means “shining one” in Greek and may recall either the sun or the moon: Phoebus Apollo is the Classical god of the sun, and Phoebe (the feminine form of Phoebus and originally the name of a Titan) is often used as an alternate name for the moon or for Artemis, the sister of Apollo who is herself associated with the moon. If the

resonance with Phoebus is active here, the maid's name aptly illustrates her difficulty retaining consciousness, since the sun which her name recalls has long since set. If the connection to Phoebe is pursued, the maid's name serves to underscore the lateness of the hour: even the moon is tired. [SH 2012 & RR 2013]

### **The PYTHAGOREAN club**

- in *The Three Clerks*

- Alaric and Harry's club in London is called the Pythagorean, after the ancient Greek philosopher Pythagoras (c. 6th century BCE). Although the club has no ostensible connection to Pythagorean philosophy, its name draws on the cultural cachet of Classics. [RR 2016]

### **REGINALD Morton**

- in *The American Senator*

- Reginald Morton's name is derived from the Latin *rex* (stem *reg-*) meaning "king." When first introduced, Reginald is far from regal: he is not the squire of Dillsborough, and he is unable to articulate his feelings about Mary Masters. However, by the end of *The American Senator*, he has come into the Latin root of his name. Reginald has become squire and is engaged to Mary Masters. It is no coincidence that Trollope introduces his nickname of Reg (which is very phonetically similar to *rex*) at the end of the novel once he has become the "king" of Dillsborough. [CMC 2012]

### **The Musical SCRUTATOR**

- in *Barchester Towers*

- *Scrutator* is a Latin word meaning "examiner," "investigator," or "scrutinizer." The OED cites instances of the word used in English as early as 1593. Trollope uses it as a part of the name of a periodical which is dedicated to the topic of music. This publication presents critical reviews of musical composers and their works. It is said to have commented on Mr. Harding's work, *Harding's Church Music*, and given it praise. [MD 2005]

### **SELINA Gresham**

- in *Doctor Thorne*

- Of Mr. Gresham's six named daughters, five have names with Classical connections: Selina, Helena, Sophy, Beatrice, and Augusta. Selina may come from Selene, the Greek name of the moon goddess. [JC 2005]

- source: [behindthename.com](http://behindthename.com)

### **SEPTIMUS Harding**

- in *The Warden*, *Barchester Towers*, *Framley Parsonage*, *The Small House at Allington*, and *The Last Chronicle of Barset*

- The warden's given name is Septimus, from the Latin word for "seventh." As Harding is arguably the holiest character in *The Warden*, it is appropriate that his name would correspond to a holy number. [JC 2005]

- source: the *Catholic Encyclopedia's* article on the use of numbers

### **SOPHIA Wilkinson**

- in *The Bertrams*

- Trollope gives this name to one of Arthur Wilkinson's sisters. Sophia comes from the Greek word for "wisdom." As a very minor character in *The Bertrams*, Sophia Wilkinson does not have much opportunity to show her eponymous trait, but in Chapter 42 Trollope calls her "more prudent" than her sister Mary because she understands that Adela Gauntlet loves Arthur. [RR 2012]

### **SOPHIE Gordeloup**

- in *The Claverings*

- Sophie Gordeloup is the sister of Count Pateroff and Julia's persistent, though increasingly undesired, companion. While she makes a pretense of her willingness to help various other characters throughout the novel, her primary concern is for herself, and she schemes for ways to stay connected to Julia. She is also rumored to be a foreign spy. Her caginess may justify the etymology of her name: it comes from Greek *sophia*, "wisdom." Sophie's unappealing craftiness contrasts with the winning sweetness of the similarly named Sophy Burton in the same novel. [RR 2013]

### **SOPHY Burton**

- in *The Claverings*

- The name Sophy comes from the Greek noun *sophia*, meaning "skill," "knowledge," or "wisdom." Sophy Burton is only about four years old, so it is difficult to tell if her name speaks to her character. However, it is ironic that her father, who disdains traditional Classical education and the airs it gives young men, would bestow a Classical name upon his daughter. The winning sweetness of this Sophy contrasts with the unappealing scheming of another, similarly named character in *The Claverings*: Sophie Gordeloup. [SH 2012 & RR 2013]

### **SOPHY Gresham**

- in *Doctor Thorne*

- Of Mr. Gresham's six named daughters, five have names with Classical connections: Selina, Helena, Sophy, Beatrice, and Augusta. Sophy is a shortened form of the name Sophia, which comes from the Greek word for "wisdom." [JC 2005]

### **The SPECTATOR**

- in *The Small House at Allington*

- A spectator is a person who watches a certain event. *Spectator* comes from the Latin verb *spectare* which means “to watch” and the related noun *spectator*, “watcher” or “onlooker.” The name of the newspaper which John Eames and Major Grantly exchange is called *Spectator*. [KD 2006]

### **StogPINGUM = Stoke PINGUIUM**

- in *The Warden*, *Barchester Towers*, and *The Last Chronicle of Barset*

- The original name of this parish contains a form of the Latin word *pinguis*, meaning “fat” or “fertile.” In *The Last Chronicle of Barset*, the narrator humorously comments that its current name, Stogpingum, is the result of “barbarous Saxon tongues [having] clipped it of its proper proportions.” [EB 2006]

### **THEODORE Burton**

- in *The Claverings*

- The name Theodore is composed of the Greek words for “god” (*theos*) and “gift” (*dōron*) Although Harry Clavering sometimes mentally disparages his future brother-in-law Theodore Burton, Theodore and his family become a sort of god-send for Harry in his troubles. [RR 2012]

### **THEOPHILUS Grantly**

- in all the Barchester novels

- Dr. Grantly has a significant first name. The name Theophilus is Greek, meaning either “God-loving” or “beloved of God.” This name creates some irony as we see that Dr. Grantly seems to love the church as an institution more than he loves God. [JC 2005]

### **UNDECIMUS Scott**

- in *The Three Clerks*

- Also known as Undy, Undecimus Scott is the eleventh son of a noble family. In Latin, *undecimus* is an adjective meaning “eleventh.” Numbering one’s children was an ancient Roman tradition, with two common examples being Quintus, meaning “fifth,” and Octavius, meaning “eighth.” However, the name Undecimus takes a Classical tradition to an exaggerated and humorous end. Although Undy comes from an influential family, it would have been customary at this time that only the first born son (and occasionally the first few sons) would be fully supported financially—and his position as the eleventh son signals to us that Undy has to support himself. While we see that Undy comes from a privileged background, reinforced by his Latin name, we are simultaneously reminded by his generic name that he is left to make his own name (and living) for himself. [GZ 2016]

**VERAX Corkscrew**

- in *The Three Clerks*

- Verax Corkscrew is a clerk at the Office of Internal Navigation and is introduced to us in a humorous episode. Planning to attend a party on Thursday instead of going to work, Verax drafts a letter to his superior on Wednesday evening, writing that he became ill on Thursday morning due a bad plate of pork chops the night before. However, the letter was delivered on the same day as it was written, and his boss realizes Verax's plot. The name of this character fits nicely: the Latin adjective *verax* means truthful, while his last name, Corkscrew, alludes to his tendency to bend the truth. [GZ 2016]

**Mr. Whip VIGIL**

- in *The Three Clerks*

- As the “whip-in-chief” of his party’s parliamentary members, Mr. Whip Vigil ensures the rallying of enough votes to accomplish the party’s goals. While his first name refers to his role in the story, his last name is a Latin word from which English gets the adjective *vigilant*. In Latin, *vigil* can be an adjective meaning “awake” or “alert” as well as a noun meaning “guard” or “watchman.” Thus, Whip Vigil’s last name speaks to his ability to safeguard the interests of his party. Ironically, however, our introduction to the character of Mr. Whip Vigil details a scene in which he is not awake and fails to guard his party’s interests. [GZ & RR 2016]

**Source abbreviations**

OED : *Oxford English Dictionary*

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