

Martial: Dē Spectāculīs XXIX

Cum traheret Prīscus, traheret certāmina Vērus,

esset et aequālis Mars utriusque¹ diū,

missio saepe virīs magnō clāmōre petīta est;

sed Caesar lēgī pāruit² ipse suae;

lex³ erat, ad digitum positā concurrere parmā:

5

quod licuit, lancēs dōnaque saepe dedit.

Inventus tamen est fīnis discrīminis aequī:

pugnāvēre parēs, subcubuēre parēs.

Mīsit utrīque rudēs et palmās Caesar utrīque:

hoc pretium virtūs ingeniōsa tulit.

10

Contigit hoc nūllō nisi tē sub prīncipe, Caesar:

cum duo pugnārent, victor uterque fuit.

¹ the first *u-* in *utriusque* is short because *tr* (and other pairs of consonants where the second letter is *l* or *r*) do not necessarily make the preceding vowel long

² in the verb *pāruit*, the *ui* is not a diphthong; the *i* is part of the ending *-it*, not part of the verb stem

³ *x* is a double consonant