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## Those mysterious words, Part 5

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# Those mysterious words

## – what do they mean? Part 5

### Church book Latin

Latin was the language that young men, wanting to become clergymen, started to learn as soon as they started school. Latin was the language of the learned world, and could be used anywhere in Europe during foreign travels.

For a clergyman in Sweden during the 1600s and 1700s it was often more natural to write the church records in Latin than in Swedish, so there are some words that a genealogist should be familiar with:

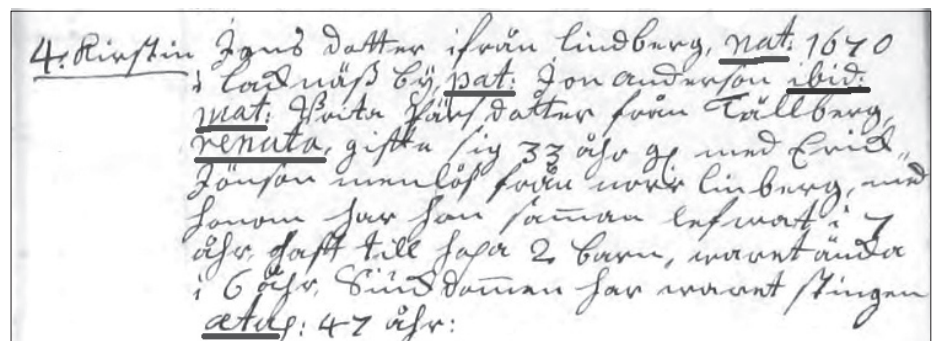
<b>Absens</b>	absent
<b>Absolved (abs.)</b>	forgiven, pardoned
<b>Adm.</b>	admitted
<b>Aetas</b>	age
<b>Ancilla</b>	maid
<b>Ante</b>	before
<b>Antecessor</b>	predecessor
<b>Ante nuptias</b>	before marriage
<b>Anno Domini</b>	in the year of the Lord
<b>Avunculus</b>	uncle
<b>Baptizati</b>	baptized
<b>Cathecumeni</b>	children going to confirmation lessons
<b>Charta Sigillata</b>	stamped paper
<b>Coena Domini</b>	Holy Communion
<b>Conjugati</b>	married
<b>Conjux</b>	husband, wife
<b>Copulati</b>	married
<b>Cum</b>	with
<b>Deflorata</b>	no longer a virgin
<b>Denati</b>	dead
<b>Dies</b>	day
<b>Dominica (Dom.)</b>	Sunday
<b>Ebriatus</b>	drunk
<b>Ejusdem</b>	in the same month
<b>Eodem die</b>	same day
<b>Et</b>	and
<b>Ex officio</b>	on behalf of an official agency

<b>Faber</b>	blacksmith
<b>Frater</b>	brother
<b>Furtus</b>	thief
<b>Gemini</b>	twins
<b>Hoc loco</b>	in this place
<b>Hujus</b>	in this month
<b>Ibidem (ibm.)</b>	in the same place
<b>Infans</b>	child
<b>Infra</b>	below
<b>In loco</b>	in this place
<b>Item</b>	likewise
<b>Liber</b>	children
<b>Literatus</b>	can read
<b>Locus Sigillus (L.S)</b>	place of seal
<b>Mater (Mat.)</b>	mother
<b>Matrimonio</b>	marriage
<b>Mensis</b>	month
<b>Mortuus</b>	dead
<b>Natus (Nat.)</b>	born
<b>Obitus</b>	death
<b>Oratio Dominica</b>	The Lord's Prayer
<b>Pater (Pat.)</b>	father
<b>Pastor Loci (P.L.)</b>	the local clergyman
<b>Pupillus, -illa</b>	orphan
<b>Rediit</b>	returned
<b>Renatus</b>	baptized

<b>Scholaris</b>	school boy
<b>Sepulti</b>	buried
<b>Soror</b>	sister
<b>Spiritus Sancti</b>	Holy Spirit
<b>Spuria</b>	illegitimate girl
<b>Spurius</b>	illegitimate boy
<b>Successor</b>	successor
<b>Supra</b>	above
<b>Susceptrix (susc.)</b>	The woman who carried the baby at baptism
<b>Testes</b>	witnesses at baptism
<b>Tumulus</b>	grave
<b>Tutor</b>	teacher
<b>Ut supra</b>	as above
<b>Uxor</b>	wife
<b>Vidua</b>	widow
<b>Vir</b>	man

One has to remember that the *female* form of a word ends in **-a**.

The clergymen often made little remarks in Latin when they wanted to write something bad about someone, like “being always drunk,” “accused of stealing,” etc.



Here is a death notice from the death book from Leksand in 1717 [Leksand F:4, p. 75, AD Online], with the Latin words underlined. The text is:

#4. Kirstin Jonsdotter ifrån Lindberg, nat: 1670 i Laknäss by, pat: Jon Andersson ibid: mat: Brita Pärs dotter från Tällberg, renata, gifte sig 33 år gl. med Erik Jönsson Menlös från Norr Lindberg, med honom har hon samman lefwat i 7 år, haft till hoga 2 barn, warit änka i 6 år. Siukdomen har warit stingen, ætas: 47 år: