Classical Armundic
Translation Guide

Congratulations on acquiring this handcrafted translation guide! You will be translating from Classical Armundic, an a priori conlang from the Armundic branch of the Seligonian Language Family. Its mostly isolating grammar is on the verge of becoming synthetic; while most functions are still expressed through grammatical particles, these have strong enclitic tendencies, and verbal morphology is already partly synthetic.

This guide aims to give only a brief overview of sentence and phrase structures and all regular forms necessary for translating the torch; irregular forms, especially verb stems and enclitic concatenations, are given in the lexicon (clitic boundaries are marked with '=').

The Noun Phrase (NP)

Noun phrases are right-branching and consist of at least two items, a noun and a grammatical (primarily case-marking) particle. Nouns themselves are not morphologically modified, but case, number, and gender are reflected in the particles.

The Armundic case-system is ergativic and distinguishes nine cases, *absolutive*, *ergative*, *genitive* (inalienable possessions), *possessive* (alienable possessions), *dative*, *locative*, *allative*, *ablative*, and *instrumental*. Particles further distinguish two numbers, *singular* and *plural*, and two genders, *utrum* (animate) and *neuter* (inanimate). The following table gives an overview of all nominal particles:

ABS	*nae*	*nē*	*mae*	*mē*
ERG	*hecci*	—	*haecī*	—
GEN	*hecci*	*ne*	*iecce*	*iecce*
POSS	*qui*	—	*qui*	—
DAT	*tītte*	*tī*	*tētte*	*tētte*
LOC	*quo*	*quontī*	*iuquo*	*quontī*
ALL	*nāne*	*nenti*	*māne*	*māttī*
ABL	*nē*	*nē*	*mē*	*mē*
INS	*pūne*	*pūne*	*pūni*	*pūni*
	U	**N**	**U**	**N**
	SG		**PL**	

Adjectives, numerals, determiners, and other attributes appear between the noun and the closing particle, as in (1) *faena fēcanti ques aepūni* 'with these two appropriate gifts':

(1)	faena	fēcanti	ques	ae=	pūni
	gift	appropriate	two	DEM=	INS.PL.N
	NOUN	ADJ	NUM	DET	PARTICLE

Demonstratives and other particles frequently appear as clitics, attaching to other particles but never nouns (all such concatenations appearing in the torch are listed separately in the lexicon).

The Verb Phrase (VP/IP)

Verbal complementation is entirely left-branching, whereas grammatical marking is always located to the right of the verb. Unlike noun phrases, verb phrases contain both analytic and synthetic elements. Verbs take suffixes marking for person and number; three rather than two numbers are distinguished, *singular*, *plural*, and *collective* (with a plural subject):

	SG	PL	COL
1ST	*-ci*	*-ne*	*-cun*
2ND	*-cu*	*-cē*	*-cui*
3RD	*-ve*	*-vī*	*-cuvī*

Infinitives are formed in *-no* (also dictionary form), gerunds in *-ne*. Tense, mood, and polarity are encoded in particles following the finite or infinite verb form:

PRETERITE: *nēs*

PLUPERFECT: *tāno*

RELATIVE PAST: *ruque* or *caelo*

RELATIVE PRESENT*: anta*

IMPERATIVE: INF + *cā*

NEGATION: *tī*

The negation particle always appears last in the verb phrase and will attach to any preceding particles, as in *dūheci nēstī* 'I did not know.' *ruque* and *caelo* are relatively similar in their use insofar as they both denote a past relative to the present of the narrative; in general, *ruque* is preferred in subordinate clauses and *caelo* in matrix clauses. *ruque* and *anta* are used to mark the verbs in relative clauses.

Infinite verb forms always precede finite verbs. The gerund can be treated as either a noun or a verb; if treated as a noun, it will head an NP with all possible modifiers and a closing particle; if treated as a verb, it can take a maximum of one argument (usually a pronoun) and will precede the main verb like an infinitive.

Syntax

Word order is generally SOV. Subordinate clauses precede matrix clauses (left-branching verbal complementation); relative clauses appear as fully formed CPs (with a verb marked by either *anta* or *ruque*) and are embedded into NPs as attributes (right-branching nominal complementation). If you are not a linguist and this sounds confusing, don't worry, none of that's actually relevant for translating the torch.

Questions are formed with the interrogative particle *iaque*, which appears either sentence-initially or pronominally in a noun phrase, replacing the noun the question is asking for. Like all particles, it is highly enclitic and will attach to any other particles, especially case markers. When in sentence-initial position, it will also fetch the negative particle from the VP, forming *iaquetī*.