



Notanda Borea

California Classical Association--Northern Section

A Day with Jason and the Argonauts
at the Berkeley Repertory Theater
10 November 2007

Members of both the California Classical Association-North and Ancient Art Council made a joint pilgrimage to downtown Berkeley to enjoy Berkeley Rep's performance of the *Argonautika* by Apollonius of Rhodes. We were treated to a morning of pre-performance panel discussions by the theater's docent, Charlotte Martinelli, and Michael Shanks, professor of Classical Archaeology at Stanford University and CCA-North's vice president.

After a lunch break in nearby local restaurants, the members returned to the theatre for the matinee. Mary Zimmerman, true to form, reinterpreted the epic journey of Jason in search of the Golden Fleece and the love episode (and subsequent betrayal) between Jason and Medea to make a familiar myth more accessible and appealing to a contemporary audience. The thespian reenactment of the heroic exploits and grand passion provided a grand time for all of us and an understanding of the Greek epic genre as rendered by a Hellenistic poet.



Many thanks to the Berkeley Repertory Theatre and its staff, especially Charlotte Martinelli, for enhancing our *Argonautika* experience, as well as Dobbie Vasquez, our own past president, for arranging a fun-filled day. We look forward to another co-sponsorship with the Ancient Art Council at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.

Louise Chu

Getty Summer Institute

From Wednesday, June 27 through Saturday, June 30, I participated along with thirty other teachers of grades K-12 in the second Getty Villa Summer Institute for Teachers. This year's topic, "Beyond Borders: The Age of Greek Colonization and Trade," was directly connected to the current special exhibition, "Greeks on the Black Sea" (June 14 - September 3, 2007). In addition to guided tours of the permanent collection and special exhibition led by members of the school programs staff, Getty curators delivered three illustrated lectures on Greek colonization. Vicki Leon, author of *Uppity Women of the Ancient Times* and *Working IX to V*, spent a day with us, sharing her secrets for successful research and imaginative historical recreation.

Early on, participants divided into teams in order to research and present the "object odyssey" for different items selected from the galleries. We were encouraged to use the extensive research facilities of the Getty Center. A personal highlight for me was eating

lunch with my team on the balcony below J. P. Getty's bedroom in the original Ranch. If not quite a summer trip to Italy, my time at the Getty Villa was the next best thing. The program and daily breakfasts are free to participants, but the Villa provides no funds for transportation or housing. Details for next summer's Institute (*The Enduring Legacy of Athens in the Age of Pericles*) are available on the Getty web site at:

http://www.getty.edu/education/for_teachers/villa_institute08.rtf

John Klopacz

Travel to Italy, Greece and beyond with experienced scholars and teachers.

For over 50 years, the Vergilian Society has offered study tours to classical lands designed to appeal to secondary teachers, college students and interested laypeople. We are pleased to offer scholarship support specifically for secondary school teachers! For Itineraries, Applications and Scholarship information, see:

<http://vergil.clarku.edu/>

Alexander G. McKay Prize Announcement

The Vergilian Society is pleased to announce the establishment of the Alexander G. McKay Prize for the best book in Vergilian studies. The prize, which is accompanied by a cash award of \$500 or a life membership in the Vergilian Society (valued at \$750), will be awarded every other year to the book that, in the opinion of the prize evaluation committee, makes the greatest contribution toward our understanding and appreciation of Vergil or topics related to Vergil. Works of literary criticism, biography, bibliography, textual criticism, reference, history, archaeology, and the classical tradition are all eligible, provided that Vergilian studies represent a significant portion of the discussion. The first competition will cover books published during

the years 2005 through 2007. The winner, who will be selected by two members of the prize evaluation committee appointed by the President in consultation with the executive committee, will be announced at the Vergilian Society session at the annual meeting of the American Philological Association in January 2009 and every two years thereafter. The authors of books being considered for the McKay Prize must be members of the Vergilian Society at the time their books are submitted. A copy of each book to be considered must be sent to both members of the prize evaluation committee by April 15 prior to the APA when the prize will be rewarded (2008, 2010, etc.). The two members for this cycle are:

Richard Thomas (chair)	Sarah Spence
Department of the Classics	Department of Classics
204 Boylston Hall	Park Hall
Harvard University	University of Georgia
Cambridge, Mass. 02138	Athens, Ga. 30602

SAVE THE DATE!!

CCA 2008 Fall Meeting

Saturday, 8 November, from 9:30-12

A docent tour in the morning of the Egyptian and near Eastern collections on loan to the de Young Museum from the Berlin Egyptian Museum, followed by a lecture in the Koret auditorium.

San Francisco Opera's *Iphigénie in Tauride*

During the month of June, the San Francisco Opera staged six performances of Christoph Willibald Gluck's *Iphigénie en Tauride*. This long-neglected (on this side of the Atlantic) masterpiece with text after de la Touche's play, itself based on Euripides, was sung in both Chicago and San Francisco last season. In months to come both the Seattle Opera and The Metropolitan will mount a new production. The stark and

claustrophobia-inducing sets provided a suitable venue for this conclusion to the history of the house of Atreus. Conductor Patrick Summers, the other singers, and the Opera Chorus performed admirably and with a real feel for the Classical style and dramatic potential of this work. Soprano Susan Graham's Iphigénie was, in the words of critic Josh Kosman, "a breathtaking blend of anguish and self-command, expressed through a vocal performance of steely virtuosity." I can personally testify that Kosman is not exaggerating. Seldom have I left the opera house feeling so moved by the tragedy of the heroine. While you may have missed the local performances, you can still hear this opera on CD. I especially recommend the Telarc (CD-80546) recording by Martin Pearlman (conductor), Christine Goerke (Iphigénie) and Boston Baroque.

John Klopacz



2007 CCA Joint Meeting

Eheu! What time is it? Turn the alarm off before it reaches full sound. It's 4:30 A.M.! What is going on at this ungodly hour? Oh, yeah, today is the Joint Meeting of the CCA-North and South down in L.A. Blast! I have a 7:45 A.M. flight there to catch.

That is how my Saturday, May 26th started. Once my head cleared sufficiently, I was on my way to L.A.X., fortunately meeting Professor Charlayne Allen there while we waited for our chauffeur(ette?), Dobbie Vasquez, to pick us up in a rented van.

Our first stop was the Crossroads School for a morning meeting with our brethren and sistren from the South. Our 17 members joined with their 35 – 40 members to enjoy a morning of information on archeology. Professor Bruce Erickson of UCSB started

us off with his methods of getting his classes involved in digging through boxes of pottery shards which he had collected in various dig sites, particularly in the area of Crete. He found that after lectures, slide presentations, research projects et al., students' handling materials from real sites became a final touch to his course.

Faculty from the Archer School for Girls (K-12) followed his presentation with their own, not only hands on, but down on one's knees, dirt under the fingernails description. Through slides, we saw a dig site on the grounds of the school, a site that is "salted" ahead of time with artifacts that fit in with the various

grade level studies at the moment. There were slides of the kids carefully measuring, photographing, tooth brush cleaning, recording etc. In addition to the presentations of the several teachers, the staff had kindly put together kits for the audience to take to help us to try our hands at the activity back in our schools.

One last part of the presentation was the dressing of small doll figures in various Roman garb from toga to stola, in many cases sewn up by the students. The dolls were used to help students see and work with the costumes and to have figures for dioramas, puppetry etc. Despite my early rising and my being 7 or 8 hours up already, I was thoroughly fascinated with both segments of the morning program.

After a box lunch in the quad, Dobbie whisked us off to the J. Paul Getty Villa Museum for the afternoon; we had a scheduled docent tour, preceded by an hour or more seeing the building and its displays on our own. I had not been to the Getty for years. Much remains the same, but I was amazed at some of the additions. For instance, there is now a concrete Greek style theater for live programs. Also for those of you who recall entering the grounds from the west side with the ocean at your back, walking along the stoa or in the gardens along side

the reflecting pool, you may be disappointed to find the entrance on the north side where it would be expected to be on the real site.

I have promised myself a return visit soon, not on a Saturday if at all possible. There is a limit to the number of visitors, but I would hope mid-week would be less crowded. Of course the price is right! *Gratis!*

Michael Collins



McNamara Scholarship

On behalf of the Marian McNamara Scholarship Committee (Charlayne Allen, Helen Moritz, and John Klopacz), I am delighted to announce that this award of \$1,000 has been awarded to Elizabeth Grace Palazzolo, a member of St. Ignatius College Preparatory's class of 2007. Ms. Palazzolo will study classics at Yale University. Information about the McNamara Scholarship can be found on the CCA-N web site.

John Klopacz, Chair

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Nota Bene: We are always delighted to receive submissions for future newsletters — please send articles, photographs, and announcements to ccanorth@yahoo.com

**California Classical Association
Northern Section**

Membership Application Form

new / renewal (circle one)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____

E-Mail _____ (Important, as many announcements
and even the newsletter will be in electronic format).

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Choose Membership Category:

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Additional Contributions to:

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Laetaberis Journal	\$ _____
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Total Check Enclosed (payable to "CCA-No.") \$ _____

Please mail this form with payment to:

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