CCA-N FALL 2011 CONFERENCE:

What can the study of the past tell us about the future?

Please join us Saturday, November 5th at Menlo School in Atherton for our Fall Conference. The morning session will be an extended conversation with Professor Ian Morris, Professor of Classics and History at Stanford University and author of *Why the West Rules - For Now: The Patterns of History, and What They Reveal About the Future*, which has been called “…what few modern academics would dare to attempt: a single-volume history of the world that offers a bold and original answer to the question, Why did the societies that make up ‘the West’ pull ahead of ‘the Rest’?”

Why does the West rule? In this magnum opus, eminent Stanford polymath Ian Morris answers this provocative question, drawing on 50,000 years of history, archeology, and the methods of social science, to make sense of when, how, and why the paths of development differed in the East and West - and what this portends for the 21st century. There are two broad schools of thought on why the West rules. Proponents of "Long-Term Lock-In" theories such as Jared Diamond suggest that from time immemorial, some critical factor - geography, climate, or culture perhaps - made East and West unalterably different, and determined that the industrial revolution would happen in the West and push it further ahead of the East. But the East led the West between 500 and 1600, so this development can't have been inevitable; and so proponents of "Short-Term Accident" theories argue that Western rule was a temporary aberration that is now coming to an end, with Japan, China, and India resuming their rightful places on the world stage. However, as the West led for 9,000 of the previous 10,000 years, it wasn't just a temporary aberration. So, if we want to know why the West rules, we need a whole new theory. Ian Morris, boldly entering the turf of Jared Diamond and Niall Ferguson, provides the broader approach that is necessary, combining the textual historian's focus on context, the anthropological archaeologist's awareness of the deep past, and the social scientist's comparative methods to make sense of the past, present, and future - in a way no one has ever done before.

A registration form is included with this newsletter!

CCA-N SPRING 2012 CONFERENCE

Save the date: April 27-28, 2012

Humanities West's 2011-2012 season celebrates its 27th anniversary of providing stimulating lectures and performances encompassing the fine arts, social history, music, politics, and philosophy of the arts to Bay Area audiences. The California Classical Association is proud to join forces with them once again for

Pompeii & Herculaneum: Rediscovering Roman Art & Culture
At the height of the Roman Empire in 79AD, a massive volcanic eruption from long-silent Mount Vesuvius tragically destroyed Pompeii and Herculaneum, creating an archaeological snapshot of everyday life in two very different towns. Buried, lost, and forgotten for centuries, the ruins of the bustling city of Pompeii and the nearby seaside resort of Herculaneum were accidentally rediscovered in the eighteenth century, triggering a wave of popular excitement about Roman art and culture and providing an inexhaustible resource for archaeological research. Ongoing scientific excavations and art historical investigations continue to offer fresh insights into ancient daily life and culture, the nature of Roman urbanism, how we understand the distant past, and how that past influences the modern world.

Presented in collaboration with Consul General of Italy, the Italian Cultural Institute, the Center for Modern Greek Studies and the Classics Department, San Francisco State University.

As with all Humanities West series, additional pre- and post-talk discussions were held at various Bay Area locations (the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, Stanford University, UC Berkeley, and Orinda Public Library). Substantial background material and suggested reading lists for each program, as well as more information and ticket reservations, can be downloaded from their website: www.humanitieswest.org

Be sure to check out the rest of the season, which promises to be equally thought-provoking and illuminating:

- Notre Dame: The Soul of Medieval Paris 
  (November 4 and 5, 2011)
- The Power and Glory of China’s Ming Dynasty 
  (February 10 and 11, 2012)

THE MARIAN McNAMARA SCHOLARSHIP

Report from the 2011 Award recipients:

Iam Tandum Classicae Collegietae Fugientis Prendimus Oras
(Now at Last We Reach the Shores of Collegiate Classics)

iam tandem Italicae fugientis prendimus oras
(Aeneid 6.61)

By Kelly Lougheed (Castilleja ’09, Brown ’13) and
Catherine Teitz (St. Ignatius ’10, Brown ’14)

Like Aeneas and his comrades, Kelly and Catherine have finally reached the long-awaited shores of Brown University. They landed in 2009 and 2010 respectively, and were immediately consumed by the Sybil’s cave of Classics. If you can’t tell, they are currently in a class that revolves around perceptions of death in the Republic, using Book VI of the Aeneid and the “Somnium Scipionis” from Cicero’s De Re Publica.

While navigating the slippery shores of Latin grammar, their experiences in class resemble that of the infamous “Romanes eunt domus” scene of Monty Python’s Life of Brian. Challenged by the rigorous Latin literature classes, their careers as Latinists have become more clear than a future more vivid conditional. They have also taken upon themselves the mantle of the Greek language, covering the chalkboards around campus (including the Computer Science building) with the entire synopsis of ἐπιστὸς.

Across the shores of college Classics, they construct the monuments of the Roman world as they studied Roman Art and Architecture, supported by two semesters of Roman History. Powered by waffles and Nutella, Kelly and Catherine have now acquired the ability to recite a dated chronological survey of the fall of the Republic and the rise of the Empire. They especially love the Republic for its fantastic literature and dramatic historical narrative. In celebration of Rome’s birthday on April 21st, they even baked cookies for their Latin class (on death!) depicting dead Remus, temples, and birds from the augury.

Kelly and Catherine additionally plan to proferre (they frequently converse in Latin) their love of Classics across the Atlantic, just as Aeneas bore the Penates to Rome. After Catherine spends the summer hiking Hadrian’s Wall and excavating the Roman camp Vinovium at Binchester, Kelly will spend her fall semester studying abroad in Rome with ICCS. But despite their international travels, they have as much pride in Brown as the Romans did in their patria!

For more information on how to apply for, or donate to, the Marian McNamara Scholarship, go to www.ccanorth.org

CCA-N TREASURER’S REPORT

As of June 30, 2011, the last day of the 2010-2011 fiscal year, the total assets of CCA-North were $8,651.78. Inflows between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011 totaled $873.28 and included membership dues totaling $840.00, contributions to the Marian McNamara Scholarship fund totaling $565.00 (minus $1,000.00 paid to a recent scholarship winner), contributions to the Richard Trapp Grant-in-Aid fund totaling $325.00, contributions for Laetaberosis totaling $50.00, and $8.27 in interest earned. Outflows during the same period totaled $1,592.21. For fiscal year 2010-2011, $250.00 was paid to the recipient of the Essay Contest, $205.75 was the aggregate cost of the Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 Conferences, $566.26 has been expended for supplies, $343.20 for postage, and $227.50 for the CCA-North website (www.ccanorth.org). Bank charges previously reported have been refunded by Wells Fargo Bank, resulting in a $0.50 credit. Thus Outflows exceeded Inflows by $718.94. (Respectfully submitted by Benjamin Schalit, CCA-North Treasurer)
MODERN JOURNEYS AND ANCIENT LANDS
September 30 – October 1, Stanford University

The aim of this workshop is to bring renewed scholarly attention to the rich tradition in the study of travel literature by focusing on a specific type of modern travel: the exploration of the past. It has long been recognized that the experience of the modern traveler is defined by a sense of absence, of “knowing that the ‘real journeys’ belong to others, in the past” (Elsner and Rubiés 1999: 6). But what should we say about travelers who journey with the specific goal of reaching the past—or for that matter, those who stumble upon what they come to see as the ancient past of the lands they are experiencing in the present? How do we think of travelers to ancient lands within the complex interplay between distance in time and distance in place?

This workshop seeks to foster an interdisciplinary dialogue by inviting perspectives from a variety of geographical, chronological and methodological contexts. The wide comparative scope of this workshop promises to enrich the study of travel by shedding fresh light on familiar dynamics, as well as by raising new questions altogether.

External participants include: Mary Beard (Cambridge UK), Anthony Grafton (Princeton), Tamara Griggs (Harvard), Suzanne Marchand (Louisiana State University), Jonathan Sachs (Concordia University, Montreal, CA), Phiroze Vasunia (Reading UK), Noah Heringman (University of Missouri, Columbia), John-Paul Ghobrial (Cambridge UK)

For more, see: www.stanford.edu/dept/classics

CCA-N OFFICERS AND BOARD: 2011-2013

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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
CCA-N FALL 2011 CONFERENCE PREVIEW
Saturday, November 5th, 2011
Menlo School | 50 Valparaiso Avenue | Atherton

9:30-10:00   Continental Breakfast
10:00-11:00   Ian Morris

Ian Morris is Jean and Rebecca Willard Professor of Classics and Professor of History at Stanford University and a Fellow of the Stanford Archaeology Center and author of:

Why the West Rules - For Now:
The Patterns of History, and What They Reveal About the Future

11:00-11:30   Questions
11:30-11:45   Break
11:45-12:15   Musical Interlude
12:15-12:30   CCA-N Business Meeting
12:30-1:30    Lunch

For more information, go to: www.ccanorth.org

Jan Groschupf (Head Royce) with Fr. Reginald Foster at the ACL Institute
California Classical Association – Northern Section

Membership

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NEW / RENEWAL (CIRCLE ONE)

Regular ($20.00) $ _________
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CCA-South Affiliate Membership w/newsletters ($5.00) $ _________

Fall 2011 Conference Registration

TITLE

LUNCH INCLUDED

Regular ($40.00) $ _________
Student ($20.00) $ _________

Please Also Consider

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION!

The Richard Trapp Grant-In-Aid Fund $ _________
The Marian McNamara Scholarship Fund $ _________

Total Check Enclosed (payable to “CCA-North”) $ _________

RETURN THIS FORM AND YOUR CHECK VIA 1ST CLASS MAIL TO:

Benjamin Schalit, Treasurer
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