



Notanda Borea

California Classical Association – Northern Section

CCA SPRING 2010 CONFERENCE:

Please join us Saturday, April 10th at the Stanford Archaeology Center for our Spring Conference! The morning session (9:30-11:30) will feature a triad of lectures and discussion on Caesar and *De Bello Gallico*. We'll be listening to some fresh perspectives on Caesar and his authorship, to benefit teachers and scholars at both secondary and postsecondary levels, as well as those of you with a keen interest in the topic. 11:30 to 1:00 will be time for lunch and to catch up with friends and meet new colleagues. Lunch will be followed by a special afternoon session (1:00-3:00): "CCA, Classics, and You", during which the CCA will host an exchange for its membership about how we can best serve our members' needs at both the secondary and collegiate levels and to unite and support the Classics community. Palo Alto Strategy Studios and the Stanford Strategy Studio will be on hand to moderate and listen to your concerns and questions related to the field of Classics in your own purview and more generally.

CCA needs your attention and time in this regard in order to mutually support our common goals. We want to hear what you need from us as an organization, and how our resources could best support you. Please be a valuable contributor to this critical discussion.

A registration form is included with this newsletter!

CCA FALL 2009 CONFERENCE in review:

On an autumnal morning last November, we were treated to a private tour of the Tut exhibition at the de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park. After a hiatus of 30 years, King Tut came back to San Francisco bringing with him his family. Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs provides us not only with objects from Tut's tomb but also from other royal and nonroyal tombs in the Valley of the Kings. We all have heard and read about—and fascinated by—the glittering gold in Tut's tomb since Howard Carter discovered it in 1922. Quality, craftsmanship, conspicuous consumption, range of objects and their religious and social functions, symbolism and the cult of the dead all testify to the grandeur that was Egypt. Afterwards, the lecture entitled After Amarna: Tutankhamen, Horemheb, and Ancient Egyptian

Responses to Political Crisis by Janet Richards, Egyptology professor at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, added to the information gleaned from the exhibition. The "wonderful things" (to quote Carter) bear witness to the wealth, riches, and power of the Eighteenth Dynasty. Dying prematurely without an heir, Tut created a vacuum in the New Kingdom marking the end of a great era. Many thanks to museum docents, Peggy Gordon and Guy Sapp, whom we can describe as indefatigable, for their knowledge, and professionalism, and for making our visit so memorable and edifying. (*L. Chu*)

Humanities West Honors Alexander and Alexandria

Humanities West's 2009-2010 season celebrates its 25th anniversary of providing stimulating lectures and performances encompassing the fine arts, social history, music, politics, and philosophy of the arts to Bay Area audiences. This year's three offerings include:

- Copernicus, Galileo, and Kepler: Redefining Our Place in the Universe (October 2-3, 2009)
- Alexander/Alexandria: The Flowering of Hellenistic Culture (February 5-6, 2010)
- The Florence of the Medici: Commerce, Power, and Art in Renaissance Italy (April 30-May 1, 2010)

On February 5 and 6, in the second of this year's three-part series, co-sponsored by the Center for Modern Greek Studies at San Francisco State University, six distinguished scholars discussed one of history's most enigmatic and influential personalities: Alexander the Great, and the city that became the royal seat of the Hellenistic world, Alexandria.

Asserting that "no figure had greater immediate impact on his world than Alexander the Great", William S. Greenwalt, professor of Classics, Santa Clara University, moderated the gathering of experts in history, classics and archaeology, for a packed Herbst Theater audience. These scholars reviewed the life and accomplishments of the Macedonian wonder-boy and examined the Hellenistic culture that followed his conquest of the eastern Mediterranean world, including the Nile mosaic from Praeneste, the Alexander mosaic from Pompeii, and various other works of history, art and

literature, to assess the impact of Alexander on the culture of the Mediterranean.

Eugene N. Borza, Professor Emeritus of Ancient History, Pennsylvania State University, opened the program with the question, “Alexander the Great: Agent for Change?” claiming that Alexander’s “ego knew no bounds” but that the human tendency to delineate the ends and beginnings of eras masquerades the reality of cultural continuity, giving short shrift to the Hellenistic Age between two great eras of Greece and Rome. He sees Alexander of a kind of bridge between old and new: Alexander consciously cultivated his Homeric roots, but at the same time broke traditional convention and attitudes through his new administrative relationships with “barbarians”. He also commented on the mixed reaction to Alexander’s legacy among different peoples: while Macedonians revered him, others ignored him or were even hostile to his memory. Finally, Professor Borza questioned whether Alexander’s motive was to establish a “new world order” or simply to satisfy his thirst for conquest and glory (he concluded the latter) and claimed that the cultural consequences of Alexander’s feat were largely unintentional and were launched by his successors, rather than by Alexander himself.

Andrew Stewart, (Nicolas C. Petris Professor of Greek Studies and of Ancient Mediterranean Art and Archaeology at UC Berkeley) gave a guided tour of the enormous (5m x 6m) Nile mosaic found at Praeneste, created in or about 100 B.C. most probably a copy of a wall painting from Hellenistic Alexandria. Rather than viewing it as an ancient “AAA Trip-Tik”, attempting to represent an actual map of the Delta, middle and upper Egypt, Professor Stewart explained it as a description of Hellenistic culture and social attitudes toward Egypt: the civilized Hellenic and high-Egyptian society of the Delta, the “civilized barbarians” of the Chora, and the barbarians of Nubia.

The doors of the famous Library at Alexandria were opened by Susan Stephens (Professor of Classics, Stanford University), who revealed the long history of libraries and repositories of knowledge in Egypt and other Near Eastern kingdoms long before Alexander. In a city where less than half the population was Greek/Macedonian, a massive library of Greek literary works served as a support and reminder of Greek heritage and pride. But the concept and staffing of such a library were more likely based on Egyptian models like the “House of Life” and “House of Books” and the Serapeum at Memphis. Scribes had been honored with high status in Egypt since at least 2500 B.C. Evidence for the history and collections of the Alexandrian Library is conjectural and controversial, and in various legends, the Library contained between 200,000 and 500,000 rolls, an impossibly huge estimate, given the typical size and length of papyrus rolls, with a ratio of about ten rolls equaling 300 pages of text.

Theories about the destruction and disappearance of the fabulous Library are even more subject to conjecture and fantasy, as modern fiction readily attests. (Just to mention a few: *The Alexandria Link*, by Steve Berry; *The Scribes from Alexandria*, by Caroline Lawrence; and a new Marcus Didius Falco mystery by Lindsey Davis: *Alexandria*) Single event? Accident? Intentional?

Erich Gruen, (Gladys Rehard Wood Professor of History and Classics, UC Berkeley) described how Ptolemy II commissioned a translation of the Hebrew Bible into Greek, providing insight into the political and social status of Jews in Alexandria: a relatively untroubled and comfortable existence given their free reign in establishing religious institutions, equal access to military, political and economic administrative positions, and access to the upper echelons of the Alexandria intelligentsia. The questions of Ptolemy supposedly asked of 72 Jewish sages, and their answers, reveal nuanced criticism, humor and even subversive wit.

Martha Klironomos, (Professor of English and Modern Greek Studies, Director of the Center for Modern Greek Studies, Nikos Kazantzakis chair at San Francisco State University) brought the discussion forward to the renowned poet of Alexandria, Constantine Cavafy, with readings and translations of several of his poems set in Ptolemaic Alexandria.

Ada Cohen (Associate Professor of Art History at Dartmouth College) spoke of Alexander’s pictorial legacy in the Alexandria mosaic from Pompeii and other examples of his iconography, holding Alexander to be the first truly “famous” person of the ancient world. Oliver Stone’s somewhat disappointing rendering of Alexander in his 2004 movie is only one in a continuous stream of interpretation and fascination.

The two-day event closed with a panel moderated by William Greenwalt, which allowed audience members to submit questions to any and all presenters. 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 next year’s season, which promises to be equally thought-provoking and illuminating:

- Venice: Queen of the Adriatic (October 22-23, 2010)
- Toledo and the Multicultural Challenges of Medieval Spain (February 4-5, 2011)
- Minoan Crete: Dawn of European Civilization (April 29-30, 2011) (M. McCarty)

Classics in Coming Attractions

The success of *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief* and the lurid Starz series *Spartacus: Blood and Sand* are just the tip of the iceberg. The ancient world is planning to take over the media this year, with a retelling of the Antony and Cleopatra story set in the 1920's, a remake of *Ben Hur*, and the return of *Clash of the Titans*. Also set to debut are *Centurion* and *Eagle of the Ninth*, two movies set against the backdrop of Late Antique Roman soldiers on the British frontier. And 2011 may finally see the release of *Hannibal the Conqueror*, with Vin Diesel in both producing and starring roles, so you'd better get caught up now while you have the chance... (D. Smith)

Treasurer's Report

As of February 28, 2010, the total assets of CCA-North were \$9,965.50. Inflows between July 1, 2009 and February 28, 2010 totaled \$1,228.78 and included membership dues (from 56 regular members, 27 retired members, and 15 student members) totaling \$1,050.00, contributions to the Marian McNamara Scholarship fund totaling \$670.00, contributions to the Richard Trapp Grant-in-Aid fund totaling \$395.00, contributions for *Laetaberis* totaling \$110.00, and \$3.78 in interest earned. Outflows during the same period totaled \$1,673.05 and exceeded inflows by \$444.27, in part because of a disbursement of \$1,000.00 to Shibani Mehta, the 2008 winner of the Marian McNamara Scholarship. Other outflows included contributions of \$250.00 to the National Committee for Latin and Greek and \$100.00 toward Bentley School's participation in Ludi in fall 2009. So far this fiscal year, \$378.60 has been expended for supplies, \$323.00 for travel, \$185.50 for the CCA-North Fall 2009 Conference, \$176.10 for postage, \$125.65 for the CCA-North website (www.ccanorth.org), \$73.20 in gifts, and \$61.00 for bank charges. (Respectfully submitted by Benjamin Schalit, CCA-North Treasurer)

McNamara Scholarship

On behalf of the Marian McNamara Scholarship Selection Committee (Charlayne Allen, Holly Coty, and Helen Moritz), I am delighted to announce that this grant of \$1,000 has been awarded to Kelly Lougheed, a member of Castilleja School's class of 2009. Ms. Lougheed will study classics at Brown University. Information about the McNamara Scholarship can be found on the CCA-N web site. (J. Klopacz)

Through March at the SFO International Terminal

Scenes from Myths and Daily Life: Ancient Mediterranean Pottery from the Collections of the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology

The 18th Annual Spring Lecture Series at San Francisco State University: *Oracles, Prophecy, and Divination in the Ancient World*

4/14 TBA

4/21 Sarah Morris (UCLA) *The Delphic Oracle: Origins and Functions of Apollo's Prophetic Shrine* | 7-9 p.m. | Humanities 587

4/28 Ronald Mellor (UCLA) *The Political Context of Roman Astrology* | 7-9 p.m. | Humanities 217

5/5 Gillian McIntosh (SFSU) *An Ancient Prophecy: Indeterminate Polysemy, Absolute Authorial Control, or Somewhere In Between* | 7-9 p.m. | Humanities 587

Upcoming Lectures at UC Berkeley

"Mediation Becomes Elektra": (The Zurich Opera Production, 2005) April 9 | 4-6 p.m. | 142 Dwinelle Hall

Remembering the Sumerians April 22 | 4-6 p.m. | 254 Barrows Hall

Probing the Persian Destructions: Archaeology and the Beginning of the Classical Style April 30 | 6-9 p.m. | 370 Dwinelle Hall

CCA-N OFFICERS AND BOARD: 2009-2011

Officers:

CCA-North President: Michael Shanks (Stanford)

Vice-President: Mary McCarty (St. Ignatius)

Treasurer: Benjamin Schalit

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Past President/Newsletter: David Smith (SFSU)

**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
Spring Conference – April 10, 2010
at the Stanford Archaeology Center

RECONSIDERING CAESAR AND *DE BELLO GALLICO*

to be followed by
a professionally moderated discussion
on concerns for Classics and CCA's membership

CCA, CLASSICS, AND YOU

9:30-11:30 Morning Session: “Reconsidering Caesar and *De Bello Gallico*”

Please join us for a triad of lectures and discussion on Caesar and *De Bello Gallico*. We'll be listening to some fresh perspectives on Caesar and his authorship, to benefit teachers and scholars at both secondary and postsecondary levels, as well as those of you with a keen interest in the topic. Speakers will include:

Rex Stem, UC Davis
Charles Hedrick, UC Santa Cruz

11:30-1:00 Lunch and Libations

A time to catch up with friends and meet new colleagues

1:00-3:00 Afternoon Session: “CCA, Classics, and You”

CCA will host an exchange for its membership about how we can best serve our members' needs at both the secondary and collegiate levels and to unite and support the Classics community. Palo Alto Strategy Studios and the Stanford Strategy Studio will be on hand to moderate and listen to your concerns and questions related to the field of Classics in your own purview and more generally. CCA needs your attention and time in this regard in order to mutually support our common goals. We want to hear what you need from us as an organization, and how our resources could best support you. Please be a valuable contributor to this critical discussion.



California Classical Association — Northern Section

Membership Application Form

2009-2010

Please Check One: New Renewal

Name: _____

Please Check One: Home Address Work/Office/School Address

Street: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Please Check One: Home Phone Work/Office/School Phone

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Institutional Affiliation: _____

Please Check Your Membership Category:

- Regular — \$15.00 \$ _____
- Student — \$5.00 \$ _____
- Retired — \$5.00 \$ _____
- Affiliate Membership with CCA-South — \$5.00 \$ _____
- Richard Trapp Grant-In-Aid \$ _____
- Laetaberis* (Journal of the CCA) \$ _____
- Marian McNamara Scholarship \$ _____
- TOTAL \$ _____

Please mail this form and your check payable to CCA-North to:

Benjamin Schalit, Treasurer
California Classical Association — Northern Section
6415 Schmidt Ln Apt B210
El Cerrito, CA 94530-1737

**California Classical Association – Northern Section
SPRING 2010 Conference Registration Form**

*RECONSIDERING CAESAR
AND DE BELLO GALLICO*

with

CCA, CLASSICS, AND YOU

_____ # of attendees (member) @ \$20 each = _____

_____ # of attendees (non-member) @ \$25 each = _____

Membership/Membership Renewal:

_____ # Regular @ \$15 each = _____

_____ # Student/Retired @ \$5 each = _____

_____ # CCA-South Affiliate @ \$5 each = _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED = _____

Name(s): _____

Please include any address changes, email addresses, or additional information here:

Return this form and your check payable to CCA-North via first class mail to:

Benjamin Schalit

CCA-North Treasurer

6415 Schmidt Ln Apt B210

El Cerrito, CA 94530-1737