



NOTANDA BOREA

California Classical Association – Northern Section

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CCA-N SPRING 2013 CONFERENCE: The Last Olympics Hurrah at the Museum

A report from the Spring 2013 Conference on the ancient Olympics

by Holly Coty, CCA-North President



CCA-North Board Members with Susan Stephens, fifth from left, at Spring 2013 Conference.

On Saturday 26 January, we met at the beautiful Legion of Honor Museum in San Francisco for our Spring Conference, cohosted by the Ancient Art Council and featuring Dr. Susan Stephens of Stanford University, whose talk, “The Ancient Olympics: Facts and Fictions” was a perfect complement to the Legion’s special exhibit, “Gifts from the Gods: Art and the Olympic Ideal.” We were fortunate to enjoy a private introduction to the exhibit, led by Dr. Renee Dreyfus, curator of ancient art for the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. The center of this timely retrospective on the Olympics was the stunning assemblage of ancient coins celebrating the Olympic games—the exhibit featured coins from the 5th century BCE through the 3rd century AD, amazing for their compelling and intricately detailed depictions of the wide variety of Olympic events, from the *hoplitodromos* (the foot race in armor) to the *kalpe* (the skilled combination of horseback riding and running) to the *Heraia* (the women’s footrace).

The narrative of the entire exhibit, including as well some of the modern art that has celebrated Olympic and athletic ideals, contextualized the subject matter of these coins in terms of the ancient pageantry and ritual of the gods, the aesthetic of ancient athletics, Greek citizenship and colonialism, and the Hellenic culture celebrated under the rule of Roman emperors.

Deftly maneuvering through these varied approaches to understanding the ancient Olympics, Dr. Stephens masterfully redirected her audience’s attention to the way in which ancient (and modern) ideals of the athletic body are central to understanding Olympic performance, excavating the 19th century Philhellenic celebration of the amateur athlete to expose and discuss the more proper understanding of ancient athletes as professionals and the aesthetic of the masculine body.

Dr. Stephens’s talk encouraged a lively conversation around ancient and modern athletic practices and the ways in which the ancient Olympic ideal was reshaped and retooled to serve modern nationalistic agendas, as she took us through a compelling analysis of the torch relay sequence in Leni Riefenstahl’s 1938 film *Olympia*. A sincere thank you to Dr. Stephens and to Dr. Dreyfus for a stimulating and thoughtful framework in which to consider the exhibit, and to our own board member, Louise Chu, of the Ancient Art Council, for facilitating an excellent conference.

Our meeting, of course, closed with a brief business meeting and the election of our new Board – we thank those of you who stayed to cast a ballot. It was lovely to see so many of our members there on such a beautiful January day, and we’ll look forward to seeing you again in the fall! 🌸



Members of CCA-North with Renée Dreyfus, fourth from left, curator of “Gifts from the Gods,” at the Spring Conference.

CALENDAR

AMERICAN INSTITUTE
OF ARCHAEOLOGY LECTURE
SABRINA AGARWAL

**“BRITTLE OLD BONES:
THE BIOARCHAEOLOGY OF BONE LOSS
AND THE AGING SKELETON”**

Wednesday, May 1, 7:00 p.m.
University of California, Berkeley
370 Dwinelle Hall
(classics.berkeley.edu)

HELEN DILLER FAMILY ANNUAL LECTURE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES IN ISRAEL
THOMAS LEVY

“JOURNEY TO THE COPPER AGE”
Saturday, May 4, 2013, 2:00 p.m.
Florence Gould Theater
Legion of Honor, San Francisco
(legionofhonor.famsf.org/legion/calendar)

MEMORIAL FOR CHARLES MURGIA
Sunday, May 5, 2013, 5 p.m.
University of California, Berkeley
Seaborg Room, Faculty Club
(classics.berkeley.edu)

HUMANITIES WEST
BOOK DISCUSSION
**EGYPTIAN OEDIPUS:
ATHANASIUS KIRCHER**
Wednesday, May 8, 2013, 5:30 p.m.
Commonwealth Club of California
525 Market Street, San Francisco
(www.commonwealthclub.org/events)

TONY WOODMAN
“SOME EARLY ROMAN HISTORIANS”

Monday, May 13, 2013, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Stanford University
Building 110, Room 112
(classics.stanford.edu)

PANAGIOTIS AGAPITOS
**“LATE ANTIQUE OR EARLY BYZANTINE?
THE SHIFTING BEGINNINGS
OF BYZANTINE LITERATURE”**

Thursday, May 16, 2013, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Stanford University
Building 110, Room 112
(classics.stanford.edu)

LISA PIERACCINI
**“INSIGHTS AND INNOVATIONS:
ETRUSCAN WALL PAINTING”**

Saturday, May 18, 2013, 2:00 p.m.
Florence Gould Theater
Legion of Honor, San Francisco
(www.ancientartcouncil.org/programs)

AMERICAN CLASSICAL LEAGUE INSTITUTE
June 26-29, 2-23
University of Memphis, Memphis TN
(http://aclclassics.org/calendar-
of/events/month/2013/06/01)

DR. DAVID OWEN
**“LIFE LOVE AND DEATH ON THE ESTATE
OF A SUMERIAN PRINCESS
IN THE 21ST CENTURY BCE”**

Save the Date: October 5, 2013, 2 p.m.
(www.ancientartcouncil.org)

We're happy to announce your classics event. Let us know about it at ccanorth@yahoo.com

GRATITUDE

The Executive Board of CCA-North would like to thank the following contributors to the Marian McNamara Scholarship for their generous donations over the past several months. (Contributions are encouraged and can be made with the membership form at the end of this newsletter.)



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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CLASSICS SUMMER STUDY 2013

GREEK LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

Greek Workshop (Intensive Greek)*

(equivalent of first three semesters of Greek instruction)
University of California, Berkeley: June 10-August 16, 2013
(classics.berkeley.edu)

LATIN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

Latin Workshop (Intensive Latin)*

(equivalent of first three semesters of Latin instruction)
University of California, Berkeley: June 10-August 16, 2013
(classics.berkeley.edu)

Beginning Latin*

(first semester of Latin instruction)
University of California, Berkeley: June 24-August 16, 2013
(classics.berkeley.edu)

Intensive Beginning Latin*

(equivalent of first year of Latin instruction)
Stanford University: June 24- August 17, 2013
“Intensive Beginning Latin”
(summer.stanford.edu)

Readings in Imperial Latin Literature*

(Readings from Apuleius’ *Golden Ass*)
(upper-division college-credit Latin reading course for students with at least one year of previous Latin study)
University of California, Davis: August 5-September 13
(classics.ucdavis.edu)

Engaging History: Living Latin, Living History in Rome*

(Immersion Program in Latin Language in Rome, Italy)
American Institute for Roman Culture: June 12-July 1, 2013
(romanculture.org)

Rusticationes 2013 and Septimana Californiana

(One-Week Immersion Programs in Latin Language)
S.A.L.V.I: July 4-11 or July 18-25, Charles Town, WV;
Or July 1-8, Malibu, CA
(latin.org)



ENGLISH VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH GREEK AND LATIN ETYMOLOGY

Greek and Latin Elements in English Vocabulary* (“Word Roots”)

University of California, Davis:
Summer Session I: June 14-August 2, 2013,
or Summer Session II: August 5-September 13, 2013
(classics.ucdavis.edu)

Greek and Latin Roots of English*

Stanford University: June 24-August 17, 2013
(summer.stanford.edu)

GREEK AND LATIN CULTURE

Introduction to Roman Civilization*

Berkeley: May 28-July 3, 2013
(classics.berkeley.edu)

Greek Mythology*

Stanford University: June 24-August 17, 2013
(summer.stanford.edu)

Roman Art and Architecture*

University of California, Davis: June 24-August 2, 2013
(classics.ucdavis.edu)

The Classic Myths*

Berkeley: July 8-August 16, 2013
(classics.berkeley.edu)

Introduction to Greek Civilization*

Berkeley: July 8-August 16, 2013
(classics.berkeley.edu)

Greek, Roman, and Near Eastern Mythology*

University of California, Davis: August 5-September 13, 2013
(classics.ucdavis.edu)

Homer and Ancient Epic*

University of California, Davis: August 5-September 13, 2013
(classics.ucdavis.edu)

Vergilian Society Summer Tours

Turkey: June 28-July 13;
Italy: July 2-13, July 15-27 or July 29-August 10, 2013
(ccanorth.org/coming_events)

Travelers in Greece*

(study abroad in Greece)

University of California, Davis: July 2-30, 2013
(ccanorth.org/coming_events)

*Coursed marked with an asterisk give college credit.

CCA-NORTH TREASURER'S REPORT

by Benjamin Schalit, CCA-North Treasurer

As of March 12, 2013, the total assets of CCA-North were \$9,694.18. Inflows between July 1, 2012 and March 12, 2013 totaled \$2,173.62 and included \$1,130.00 in membership dues, \$545.00 in contributions to the Marian McNamara Scholarship, \$465.00 in contributions to the Richard Trapp Grant-in-Aid, \$30.00 in miscellaneous donations, and \$3.62 in interest earned. Outflows during the same period totaled \$1,424.99, which included \$720.64 for supplies, \$250.00 for travel to the American Classical League convention, \$211.75 for the CCA-North website (www.ccanorth.org), \$205.60 for postage, and a \$50.00 contribution to the American Cancer Society in memory of Lou Bolchazy. There was a surplus for the Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 Conferences of \$13.00, including honoraria. Overall, Inflows have exceeded Outflows by \$748.63 so far this year. 🌸

LATIN BEST PRACTICES FORUM

by John Piazza, CCA-North Member, Latin instructor, Cathedral School for Boys, San Francisco



John Piazza

The Latin—Best Practices Forum [LBP] was created by Bob Patrick (Parkview High School, Suwanee, Georgia) and myself in 2006. At the time, we began to recognize a growing need on the part of more and more Latin teachers. Bob and I had met a few years previously at

conferences and found that we shared an interest in using spoken Latin in the classroom as a way to get students more engaged with the language. We had also encountered many teachers who felt the same way, but, like us, did not know where to begin, and felt relatively isolated.

Additional motivation came from the fact that many Latin teachers were beginning to feel pressure from schools to boost enrollment, increase retention rates, increase diversity, and accommodate different types of learners. Modern foreign language pedagogy seemed to us to offer solutions to many of these problems, but adapting these practices to Latin was a daunting task, especially for a few teachers working on their own.

With this project in mind, we were excited about the potential of online fora and resources to bring Latin teachers together, and we were making use of the Internet and e-mail to connect with more and more colleagues. However, we had not felt supported by some of the more outspoken voices on the existing online fora in which we were participating.

We then decided to create LBP in order to provide a safe place for Latin teachers to communicate about their efforts at incorporating the latest research on

language acquisition into their programs, and share their struggles and successes.

After seven years, LBP now has over one thousand members, and this year we have brought on a third co-moderator, David Maust, who teaches Latin at California High School in Whittier, California, and is the former president of the CCA-South. This forum is now one of the primary online destinations for teachers who are interested in refreshing their curricula and building or maintaining a flourishing Latin program. Teachers are encouraged to ask questions, post lesson plans for feedback, share resources, and give and receive moral support. In addition, the site contains a growing collection of helpful files and links that teachers have posted.

I will end this brief description with an invitation that goes out to all members every month as a reminder and a call to action in our classrooms:

“What are you doing, trying, dreaming of doing? What is working? What’s not working? How are you improving on something this year based on what you learned last year? What kind of feedback do you get from your students and how do you gather it? We have some ideas if you are at a loss for that. Share your Latin best practices here, and join the movement.”

Learn more at groups.yahoo.com/group/latin-bestpractices. 🌸

2013 JCL STATE CONVENTION

by Dobbie Vasquez, CCA-North Secretary.



Students enjoying the JCL Convention

On March 15 and 16, 2013, almost 1300 Latin students and their teachers and chaperones gathered at Sage Hill School in Orange County for the 58th

Junior Classical League Convention. Students at Sage Hill, led by Convention Chairs Ryan Lee and Allie Fudge and their teacher Lance Novotny, went all out to make their first convention one of our best. In addition to the traditional plethora of academic, athletic, and artistic competitions, Legion VI Victrix spent all day Saturday camped out in full regalia to instruct us in the grit and glory of the Roman soldier’s life. There was also an obstacle course based on the 12 Labors of Hercules—including Angry Birds disguised as (You guessed it!) the Symphalian birds! In addition, the afternoon brought us entrance into an inflatable planetarium to learn about the mythology of the stars. No one could claim to be bored, because there were

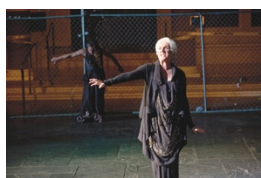
opportunities to watch skits in Latin, to play mythology Jenga, and to make weapons, masks, jewelry, paper sculptures, mosaics, and Roman costumes throughout the convention.

Of the 40 schools in attendance, some 13 came from northern California including Bentley, Classical Home School, Harker, Jesuit, La Entrada, Live Oaks Academy, Menlo, Miramonte, Palma, Palo Alto Inclusive (a consortium of several area private schools), St. Francis, St. Ignatius, and Stanford Online. From Live Oak's six people to Miramonte's one hundred fifteen, everyone came to compete, learn, make friends, and have fun, and everyone brought home awards. Top scoring northern schools included Harker Lower (first for Middle Schools), Palo Alto Inclusive (first for Small Schools), Harker Upper (second for Medium Schools), St. Francis (third for Medium Schools), and Miramonte (first for Large Schools). Congratulations to all those schools and their teachers!

Now we are looking forward to next year's events. After the National Convention at the University of Las Vegas from July 22-27, Ludi will be held at Menlo School in Atherton (date TBD) and the State Convention will be at University High School in Irvine on April 4-5, 2014. How lucky we are that Latin has an organization like this for our students! We encourage all schools with Latin and/or Greek classes to get involved. It can only make your program stronger. Check out the website at cajcl.org or email me at dvasquez@menloschool.org. 🌸

REVIEW OF *ELEKTRA* AT THE AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER IN SAN FRANCISCO

by Clarissa Klein, student, Menlo School



Olympia Dukakis in Elektra

One of the most irritating experiences in life is watching a terrible movie adaptation of a wonderful book. As a high school student of the Classics (both Latin and Greek), I tend to feel the same way about historically inaccurate movie adaptations like *Troy* and *300*. Ergo, while watching a performance of Sophocles' *Elektra* by American Conservatory Theatre (ACT), I noticed the amazing degree to which the troupe was able to preserve the authenticity of the play without sacrificing audience interest.

Timberlake Wertenbaker, the author of this particular translation, elected to stay as true to Sophocles' original as possible. One of the ways in which she managed to accomplish this was by including several of the Greek passages with particularly beautiful phrasing in the original language, which eliminated some of the redundancy from prayers and chorus scenes, cut down awkward translations, and reclaimed

audience focus with the haunting beauty of the original Greek.

At the same time, however, there were several modern infusions. The costuming consisted partially of Greek-inspired modern dress, like Clytemnestra's tunic-like ensemble and Aegisthus' robes, but also included oddities like Chrysothemis' gothic Victorian-like costume, Elektra's bulky cardigan, and Orestes' sixties aura. Instead of using a full chorus, the director decided to substitute a solo cellist, who sung sparingly in Greek while striking minor chords, and a chorus leader (Olympia Dukakis), whom Elektra seemed to adopt as a mother figure (integrating the role in a very personal way). Even more enthralling, the scenery seemed to simultaneously suggest mid-twentieth century and post-Mycenae itself. The House of Atreus loomed over the stage – a beautiful replica of a Greek palace, made of a tan stone that shone almost as if covered in spattered blood depending on the lighting at the time – yet it was enclosed behind a rusty looking chain-link fence with barbed wire. I believe the deliberate vagueness was meant to inspire reflection, evoking the idea that we may not be so different from the Greeks after all – in both matters of justice (the overarching theme of *Elektra*) and in drama as well.

Certainly ACT's *Elektra* is deeply infused with the Classics, and why shouldn't it be? It was the Athenians, after all, who invented the concept of theatre, so it makes sense that traces of original theater have survived with the art itself.

It's impressive that the basic foundation of modern acting is so close to that of the Classical Theater it's rooted in. Then again, it's not so surprising, since the very essence of theater is a quest to understand the mystery of the human condition, and the human condition now is very much the same as it was then. 🌸



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Contact us at our website: ccanorth.org



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