



NOTANDA BOREA

California Classical Association – Northern Section

We are the Classics Association for Northern California • www.ccanorth.org

California Classical Association— Northern Section Fall 2014 Conference:

by Mary McCarty, Former CCA—North President

Lovers of the Classics have no doubt reached *Roma Aeterna* through many different portals: perhaps as a child you read or were told ancient myths; maybe you were inspired by tales of heroic figures like Horatius at the Bridge, or Mucius Scaevola, or Cleopatra. Visitors to countless national and state capitols have appreciated the classical domes and



Angelica Kauffmann, "Cornelia [center], Mother of the Gracchi" (1785)

columns of ancient Roman architecture; for many, your first love of a foreign language began with "*amo, amas, amat...*" Or maybe you found yourself wandering through the ruins of the Roman Forum, or the Pont du Gard, or Hadrian's Wall, and wondered, "Who (continued...),

REMEMBER!

**It's time to renew
your membership!**

(See the form on the last page!)



CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Humanities West presents:

The Roman Republic: (509-27 BCE)

Friday, October 24, 2014, 7:30-9:30 p.m.;

Saturday, October 25, 2014,

10:00 a.m. - noon and 1:30-4:00 p.m.,

Marines' Memorial Theatre

609 Sutter St, San Francisco

Convenient parking can be found at various places around Union Square, notably the Sutter-Stockton Garage.

There is no formal CCA—North registration; simply buy tickets from Humanities West.

However, a block of seats in both the orchestra and balcony sections has been reserved by the CCA so our members can sit together. Buy your tickets soon to receive these reserved seats. To attend either or both days and receive discounts and claim a CCA reserved seat, please call the City Box Office (415-392-4400) rather than buy tickets online.

- Members of the CCA get a 10% discount.
- Educators can get discounted tickets for \$25 per day for balcony seating. Please note that there is no elevator to the balcony.
- Students under 26 years get free tickets by emailing info@humanitieswest.org.

Join The CCA—North at a Post-Event Symposium/Commissatio!

Meet and socialize with other CCA members after the event at a local venue to be announced. On Saturday of the conference we will have tokens for free drinks at our information station in the theater's lobby. You can claim one if you are a member and tell us in advance you are coming. Do so by returning the form on this newsletter's last page or emailing us at ccanorth@yahoo.com.

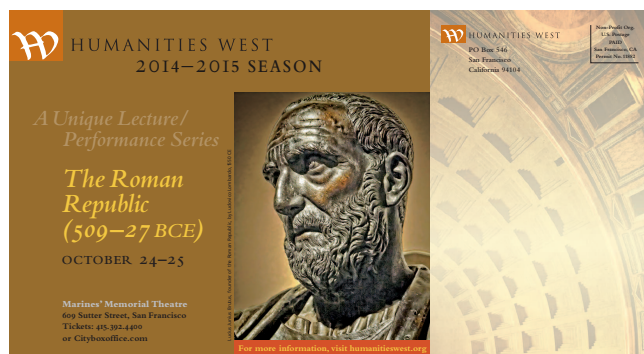
(...continued) were these Romans, anyway?” Whatever drew you to Classics, Humanities West’s October program, *The Roman Republic (509-27 BCE)* is sure to refresh and reawaken your interest in *Res Publica*, and quite probably lead you to new depths, perspectives and understandings. Presented Friday, October 24, and Saturday, October 25, at Marines’ Memorial Theatre in San Francisco, this collection of experts will remind us how, in some way, *omnes sumus romani*, and CCA—North invites you to join us in a variety of interesting offerings.

Walter Scheidel of Stanford University will lead off the program Friday night, with “City State, Republic, Empire: What was the Roman Republic Really Like?”—an exploration of the contradictory aspects of Roman civilization: liberty of citizens versus slave exploitation, popular assemblies managing domestic and foreign policy versus the tight grip of a handful of aristocratic families; a Mediterranean-spanning empire that sprang from a small village of outcasts. How did it all work for such a long time, and why did it stop working?

Following this overview, members of Stanford Classics in Theater (SCIT) will delight the audience with an original translation and adaptation of Plautus’ *Casina*, offering a new twist on the stock characters, themes and situations of Roman comedy, set in an updated but not dissimilar setting of Gold Rush-era San Francisco.

The Saturday program will begin with a look at Roman art and the motifs, subjects and styles that express Roman culture, ideology and identity, presented by Lisa Pieraccini of UC Berkeley.

Dan-el Padilla Peralta (Stanford and Columbia) will trace the development of the Roman pantheon, the ritual observances and mechanisms of divinations that Romans employed to honor and appease their gods, and compare the pragmatic approach to religion with other religious and philosophical movements of the time.



Rhetoric and Eloquence did not begin or end with the Romans, as Christopher Krebs (Stanford) will demonstrate through excerpts of speeches by ancient orators Pericles, Cicero and Tacitus, and comparisons to modern rhetorical accomplishments of American Presidents.

For two thousand years, the poems of Virgil have offered a mirror and meditation on humans’ relationship to the land (*Eclogues*, *Georgics*) and to the gods, state and family (*Aeneid*), and Susanna Braund (University of British Columbia) will examine the various messages readers have discovered therein. And finally, Bay Area actors James Carpenter and Julian Lopez-Morillas will delight us with a performance of Virgil’s First Eclogue, as reimagined in Seamus Heaney’s pastoral “Glanmore Eclogue.”

Be sure to attend these intriguing presentations and bring your questions and comments to a final Panel Discussion and Q & A with all presenters, moderated, *ut semper*, by George Hammond of Humanities West.

Much more information about the program, presenters and related events can be found at humanitieswest.org. ☼

CCA—North Treasurer’s Report

by Benjamin Schalit, CCA—North Treasurer

As of the last CCA—North Board meeting on August 23, 2014, the total assets of CCA—North were \$8,423.00 (with \$2,821.10 in the checking account and \$5,538.90 in the savings account, both at Wells Fargo Bank, and \$63.00 in postage stamps). Net Inflows during the 2013-2014 fiscal year (July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014) totaled \$922.77 and included: \$1,085.00 in membership dues, \$420.00 in donations to the Marian McNamara Scholarship (minus the \$1,000 award to Emily DePangher), \$405.00 in donations to the Richard Trapp Grant-In-Aid, \$10.00 in miscellaneous donations, and \$2.77 in interest earned. Net Outflows during the same period totaled \$2,424.64 and included: \$1,092.94 for supplies and printing, \$500.00 for travel, \$155.40 for the CCA—North website (www.ccanorth.org), \$400.00 in contributions to other organizations (\$200.00 to the National Committee for Latin and Greek, and \$200.00 to Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco), \$157.20 in postage, \$1.47 in PayPal fees and \$0.00 in bank fees. In addition to the expenses already enumerated, the net expenses for the Fall 2013 Conference and the Spring 2014 Conference were \$117.63, including \$800.00 in honoraria. For the entire fiscal year, net Outflows exceeded Net Inflows by \$1,501.87.



A new CCA—North fiscal year has begun, so it is time to renew memberships (unless you know you have already done so recently). A form on this newsletter’s last page is provided for that very purpose! Consider also making a donation to the Marian McNamara Scholarship and the Richard Trapp Grant-In-Aid. Your generosity is essential to the activities and purposes of CCA—North, so I urge you now to renew your membership as soon as possible and to invite a colleague to join CCA—North as well. ☼

CALENDAR

At the time of this newsletter's production, Stanford University Classics had not yet published its events. Please visit classics.stanford.edu to learn about Stanford events.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

KATHERINE VAN STACKELBERG

"From Homer to Horace:

How to Excavate an Imaginary Garden"

Tuesday, September 30, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

370 Dwinelle Hall, University of California, Berkeley.
classics.berkeley.edu

BERKELEY CLASSICS DEPARTMENT

BERKELEY ANCIENT ITALY ROUNDTABLE

Friday—Saturday, October 3-4

See page five of this newsletter.

HUMANITIES WEST

BOOK DISCUSSION WITH LYNN HARRIS

Livy's *The Dawn of the Roman Empire: Books 31-40*

Editor: W. Heckel, Translator: J.L. Yardly

October 9, 2014, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Commonwealth Club of California, 595 Market Street, SF

RSVP: commonwealthclub.org or 415-597-6700

Club members free, non-members \$5

commonwealthclub.org

HUMANITIES WEST

DRYDEN LIDDLE

"Emperor Augustus: A Force for Civilization"

October 13, 2014, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Commonwealth Club of California, 595 Market Street, SF

RSVP: commonwealthclub.org or 415-597-6700

Club members free, non-members \$20

commonwealthclub.org

FINE ARTS MUSEUMS OF SAN FRANCISCO

ANCIENT ART COUNCIL

DAVID STRONACH

**"From the Gardens of Assyria to the Gardens of Iran:
Cyrus the Great's Contribution to Garden Design"**

Saturday, October 18, 2014, 2 p.m.

Florence Gold Theater, Legion of Honor, 100 34th Ave., SF

www.ancientartcouncil.org

BERKELEY CLASSICS DEPARTMENT

SATHER LECTURES

RICHARD P. MARTIN

Comic Community: Laughter and Loathing in Athens

First lecture: Thursday, October 16, 2014, 8 p.m.,

315 Wheeler Hall, University of California, Berkeley;

Subsequent lectures every Thursday

till November 13, 5:30 p.m.,

370 Dwinelle, University of California, Berkeley

classics.berkeley.edu

HUMANITIES WEST

FIRESIDE CHAT WITH GEORGE HAMMOND

The Roman Republic

October 21, 2014, 6:30 p.m.

Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA

ccclib.org/locations/orinda.html

CALIFORNIA CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION—NORTHERN

SECTION FALL CONFERENCE:

HUMANITIES WEST:

THE ROMAN REPUBLIC (509-27)

Friday-Saturday, October 24-25, 2014

Marines' Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter St, San Francisco

See first page of this newsletter for details.

LEONARDO DA VINCI SOCIETY

CARLOS NORENA

"The Roman Republic:

Significance for Western Civilization"

October 30, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

Museo Italo-Americano, Fort Mason, San Francisco.

RSVP events@davincisanfrancisco.com

Members free, suggested donation by the public \$10

davincisanfrancisco.com

FINE ARTS MUSEUMS OF SAN FRANCISCO

ANCIENT ART COUNCIL

YORKE ROWAN

**"New Rituals, New Religion? Death's Dominion
during the Copper Age of the Southern Levant"**

Saturday, November 1, 2014, 2 p.m.

Florence Gold Theater, Legion of Honor, 100 34th Ave., SF

www.ancientartcouncil.org

HUMANITIES WEST

BOOK DISCUSSION WITH LYNN HARRIS

**Christopher Krebs' *A Most Dangerous Book. Tacitus's
Germania from the Roman Empire to the Third Reich***

November 5, 2014, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Commonwealth Club of California, 595 Market Street, SF

RSVP: commonwealthclub.org or 415-597-6700

Club members free, non-members \$5

commonwealthclub.org

JUNIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE

LUDI NOVEMBRES

Saturday, November 15, 2014

An event for grade 6-12 students of Latin and Classics.

Saint Francis High School, 5900 Elvas Ave., Sacramento

www.cajcl.org

(continued...)

CALENDAR

(...continued)

FINE ARTS MUSEUMS OF SAN FRANCISCO

ANCIENT ART COUNCIL

MARTIN SCHWARTZ

“Oral Poetry and Aural Patterns:

On Zoroaster’s Poetry and Religion”

Saturday, November 15, 2014, 2 p.m.

Florence Gold Theater, Legion of Honor, 100 34th Ave., SF

www.ancientartcouncil.org

FINE ARTS MUSEUMS OF SAN FRANCISCO

ANCIENT ART COUNCIL

TOURAJ DARAYAEI

“On How the Ancient World Became Connected”

Saturday, December 6, 2014, 2 p.m.

Florence Gold Theater, Legion of Honor, 100 34th Ave., SF

www.ancientartcouncil.org

JUNIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE

CARCER

Saturday, February 21, 2015

A special event for grade 6-12 students of Latin
and classical antiquity.

St. Ignatius College Preparatory

2001 37th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116.

www.cajcl.org

JUNIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE
CALIFORNIA STATE CONVENTION

A special event for grade 6-12 students of Latin
and classical antiquity.

Friday and Saturday, March 27-28, 2015

Miramonte High School, 750 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA.

www.cajcl.org

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

YANNIS GALANAKIS

**“Revisiting the Grave: Post-funeral Performances
in Late Bronze Age Aegean Tombs”**

Tuesday, April 14, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

370 Dwinelle Hall, University of California, Berkeley.

Sponsored by the San Francisco Society
of the Archaeological Institute of America
classics.berkeley.edu

AMERICAN CLASSICAL LEAGUE

SUMMER INSTITUTE 2015

June 26-28, 2014; Pre-Institute June 25-26

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

aclclassics.org

JUNIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONVENTION 2014

July 27-August 1, 2015

Trinity University, San Antonio, TX

www.njcl.org



**CCA—NORTH
OFFICERS AND BOARD: 2013-2014**

Officers:

President: Holly Coty (Live Oak Academy)

Vice-President: Richard Martin (Stanford)

Treasurer: Benjamin Schalit

Secretary: Dobbie Vasquez (Menlo School)

Past President: Mary McCarty (Saint Ignatius, SF)

Newsletter Editor: John Rundin (UC Davis)

CCA-South President: Stanley Burstein (CSULB)

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Louise Chu (Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco)

John Klopacz (Stanford)

Gillian McIntosh (SFSU)

David Smith (SFSU)

Contact us at our website: ccanorth.org

***Have Something
to Say or Announce?***

*The CCA—North is always looking for material to
include in its newsletter. Email us at
ccanorth@yahoo.com to send or
suggest articles, advertise events, or
to otherwise contribute to the newsletter.*

California Classics Association— Northern Section Vice-President will be Sather Lecturer

by John Rundin, CCA—North newsletter editor

CCA-North Vice-President Richard P. Martin will give this fall's series of Sather Lectures at the University of California, Berkeley. The Sather Lectureship is a great honor in the world of Classics. His lecture series is entitled *Comic Community: Laughter and Loathing in Athens*. The lectures will take place Thursday evenings from October 16 through November 13. Please see the Calendar on page three for more information.



Richard P. Martin

Richard P. Martin interprets Greek poetry in the light of performance traditions and social practices. His primary interests are in Homeric epic, Greek comedy, mythology, and ancient religion. His research is informed by comparative evidence ranging from fieldwork on oral traditions in contemporary Crete to studies in

medieval Irish literature.

A native of Boston, he received his B.A. in Classics and Celtic Literature and Ph.D. in Classical Philology from Harvard University. Before becoming Antony and Isabelle Raubitschek Professor at Stanford in 2000, Prof. Martin taught for eighteen years at Princeton University.

Among his major publications are *Healing, Sacrifice, and Battle: Amechania and Related Concepts in Early Greek Poetry* (1983) and *The Language of Heroes: Speech and Performance in the Iliad* (1989). He has also published books for general audiences (*Myths of the Ancient Greeks*, 2003; *Bulfinch's Mythology*, edit. 1991) and a number of articles on Greek, Latin, and Irish literature. ☼

2014 Berkeley Ancient Italy Roundtable

adapted by John Rundin, CCA—North newsletter editor, from Chair of the Berkeley Ancient Italy Roundtable Steering Committee Ted Peña's announcement

The 2014 Berkeley Ancient Italy Roundtable (BAIR) will take place October 3 and 4 at the University of California, Berkeley. This will be the fourth edition of a biannual event for students of ancient Italy (its history, archaeology, art, and languages) in the Bay Area and the western United States. It promotes interaction to develop a more cohesive professional community. Interested members of the public are also welcome and are encouraged to attend.

Friday evening, Professor Frank Vermeulen of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Ghent, will deliver the keynote address, "From the Mountains to the Sea: Romanization and Town Formation in Central Adriatic Italy." Professor Vermeulen will summarize his fifteen years of archaeological work, offering important new insights into Roman colonization and the creation of a Roman cultural *koine* in the Italian peninsula.

Saturday, ten 20-25 minute papers in four sessions: Self-Representation in Pre-Roman Italy, Archaeological Field Projects, Iconography, and Paths to Status and Power in Roman Italy. Speakers come from Cornell University; Stanford University; Santa Clara University; University of California, Davis; San Diego State University; and, of course, University of California, Berkeley. The final program will be available at the UC Berkeley Classics website (classics.berkeley.edu).



Please email the organizers if you will attend the conference (bair-rsvp@berkeley.edu) by Friday, September 26.

The organizers would be most happy to receive donations in support of BAIR 2014 and future installments of BAIR. Go to classics.berkeley.edu and click on the "Give to Classics" button at the upper right, and designate BAIR as the recipient of your gift. ☼

Winner of the CCA—North Award for Excellence in Classics Writing

By Holly Coty, CCA—North President

Ashley Bacchi, a doctoral candidate in History at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, currently working with Erich Gruen, and who also completed a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Classics at UC Davis with Emily Albu and Rex Stem, was our winner of the 2014 Award for Excellence in Classics Writing. In addition to the award, we welcome Ashley to CCA—North as a new member this year! Her essay on Lucretius' *De Rerum Natura* is printed on the next two pages of this newsletter.

CCA—North hosts this contest every spring, and it is open to students at the high school, college, and graduate levels (multiple awards may be granted). Along with a cash prize, winners are granted a year of free membership in CCA—North. Please see details on page twelve of this newsletter about this year's contest, and be sure to share this opportunity with your students and colleagues. ☼

**Winning Essay in the CCA—North Award
for Excellence in Classics Writing:
“The Changing Shape of Venus in
Lucretius’ *De Rerum Natura*”**

by Ashley Bacchi, Doctoral Candidate in History at the
Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley

Lucretius’ *De Rerum Natura* offers an Epicurean view of physics and atom theory to explain the world in order to free his friend, Gaius Memmius, from the fear of death and the supernatural. Lucretius’ work has been viewed as “a poem designed to expel the gods from this world” (E. Asmis, “Lucretius’ Venus and Stoic Zeus,” *Hermes* 110, no. 4 [1982], 458.) This view results from the assumption that the challenging of the traditional function or roles of the divine means that the author is attempting to dismantle those roles altogether. The following paper argues that language relating to the gods was not abandoned or rendered meaningless; rather it was expanded upon to accommodate new conceptions of belief. Lucretius’ *De Rerum Natura* does not reject but rather re-appropriates the symbolic language of the gods, and as such reflects the new range these divine symbols are capable of in religious dialogue.



Ashley Bacchi

Lucretius opens with the following invocation to Venus, “I desire you to be an ally for the verses to be written which I try to compose on the nature of things” (1.24-25; all translations are the author’s). Although he is challenging the traditional interpretation of the nature, he writes in an established style and

employs the help of Venus, an established religious symbol, to impart his message. Lucretius could have invoked the Muses rather than Venus if his purpose was to utilize a Homeric convention. The Muses would have been able to inspire Lucretius’ writing, but they would not have been able to support the juxtaposition of traditional style and untraditional content. Venus is the symbolic force of attraction in the world that Lucretius is trying to explain and break down into its primary elements.

Lucretius is conscious that he is offering traditional forms as a conduit for his alternative view in order to attract people to his philosophy.

To touch it with sweet honey of the Muse (or Orpheus),
If by some chance I might hold your mind on these lines of ours
While you see through the nature of all things,
And how the interwoven frame (figure) is arranged. (1.947-50)

This does not mean that the forms are used superficially; rather Lucretius is trying to dismantle the fears that are

associated with the divine realm and the vocabulary of that realm is thus necessary in order to supplant the idea that Venus and her cohort can actively interfere in human affairs in the manner they do in myths. Lucretius is revealing Epicurean physics and atomic theory showing how the gods work according to a set law of nature as well.

And for the rest, unoccupied ears and astute spirit
Removed from trouble, turn to true judgments
Lest my gifts arranged for you with eager sincerity,
are abandoned in contempt before they are understood
For you I examine the supreme law of the sky and gods,
And the beginning of things and the primordial split
From which nature creates all things. (1.50-56)

Lucretius asks his audience to listen to his propositions with a clear mind and resist the urge to reject his message before they understand what he is proposing. Lucretius must proceed in a calculated manner to keep his audience, but he does not feel that it is impossible for him to win them over. By book four, Venus is primarily used as a metonymy for sex because Lucretius feels he has successfully given the audience a modified access point to the Venus that he opened with in book one.

Venus is traditionally connected with love and a refusal to fall in love would be a refusal of her. Lucretius acknowledges Venus’ characteristic traits in book one by mentioning pleasure she brings to man, which is associated with the pleasure of romantic love, but Lucretius is intentionally vague because he will later reveal his distrust of love. The invocation is a continuous stream of pastoral images demonstrating how nature and its animals are struck by the power of Venus. The imagery he uses promotes her role in procreation and her generative powers.

And since you alone govern the nature of things nor without
you does anything happy happen nor anything pleasurable.
(1.21-3)

This bolsters Venus’ role as progenitor and affirms a connection between pleasure and happiness, traits that can be employed later when his true meaning of the role of Venus is re-contextualized in an Epicurean rationalization. The versatility of this language ensures that he does not technically contradict himself later when he shifts to using Venus as strictly tied to the physical act of procreation. This is necessary in order to reassure the audience that there is at least one common denominator between them and Lucretius.

In book four Lucretius again calls forth the image of Venus, this time as a scientific metaphor for the body’s reaction to arousal and the yearning one feels for another person he lusts after. The physical and emotional affects that have always been under Venus’ sphere of influence are exposed down to their bare mechanics. The illusions that love creates are ripped away as he describes the true appearance of women that have been fashioned into beauties by the blindfold of love. (continued...)

(...continued) Although used in two different ways, both instances draw on Venus' authority as a deity to embrace the audience with a sense of normality. Lucretius downplays romance and emphasizes the physical aspects of sex in book four. He shares negative views on love and his pessimistic attitude towards the cloudy affects that it brings to a man's perception clarifies his choice not to stress romantic love as one of Venus' characteristic powers. He describes the distractions and loss of wealth and property that are a typical result of love, "these evils are found in prospering and fulfilling love" (4.114). This implies that the happiness aforementioned, if dependent on romantic love, is outweighed by the losses it incurs. He suggests men avoid love and enjoy sex purely as a physical activity because "you are able to take those pleasures which grant no punishments" (4.1074). Lucretius' definition of Venus as a metaphor for bodily mechanics allows him to advocate the alternative of sex without love while retaining the association of Venus' power over procreation.

There is one seemingly romantic passage in book one between Mars and Venus that could be seen as a supportive nod by Lucretius to the romantic power of Venus.

Since valiant Mars rules the fierce duties of war, who always lets himself sink into your lap subdued by the eternal wound of love, and thus looking up his shapely neck laying back he feeds his greedy sight with love longingly gazing at you, goddess, and the breath of the reclining one hangs from your mouth. You, goddess, pour around this reclining one from above with your sacred body, pour forth sweet little nothings from your mouth seeking serene peace for the Romans, illustrious Venus. (1.32-40)

This description of Mars and Venus is a peaceful and seemingly innocent scene until it is compared with the ulterior motives Lucretius reveals in book four. There Lucretius explains how women manipulate the love men have for them in order to receive gifts. This is exactly what Venus is doing to Mars in book one. Lucretius asks Venus to subdue Mars in order to gain peace for the Romans, thus demonstrating by example how easy it is for a man, even a male god, to be used when enchanted by love. Venus is able to calm Mars by using his feelings for her and her body in order to keep him from his natural inclination to create strife. Therefore, Lucretius is being consistent in his view that romantic love is manipulative throughout *De Rerum Natura*. The distance between the books allows the scene in book one to retain

its sweetness because Mars is seemingly being manipulated for a good cause. Nevertheless the scene is not taking place because of a mutual love between Venus and Mars. It was necessary to distance this illusion of romantic love created by Lucretius because he does not want to over emphasize the anthropomorphic associations of the deities.

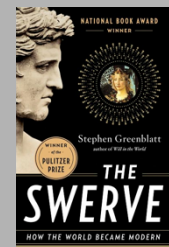
Just as Venus lulls Mars into sweet surrender, Lucretius weaves a safety blanket of reassuring sounds, ideas, and faces for his audience in order to soften them as much as possible towards his own ideas. He eases the audience in gently and then as the work progresses he recalls those ideas in an apparently new context that the audience is then able to accept. Venus is introduced in a standard format flanked by her typical traits creating a conventional atmosphere for the reader. By examining the later tone and definition changes a return to the beginning reveals the deeper meanings of what Lucretius was originally saying and clarifies the choices he

made. He successfully uses Venus by exploiting her malleability to connect with the reader and to encapsulate both large abstract ideas of generative powers and basic physical reactions. Lucretius proves himself to be a gifted rhetorician as his audience is subconsciously led into new terrain via old roads. ☼



Frans Floris, "Mars and Venus"

If this contest-winning essay has piqued your interest in Lucretius, *De Rerum Natura* and ancient scientific theories, read on:



In *The Swerve: How the World Became Modern*, Stephen Greenblatt has crafted both an innovative work of history and a thrilling story of discovery, in which one manuscript, plucked from a thousand years of neglect, changed the course of human thought and made possible the world as we know it.

2012 Pulitzer Prize
2011 National Book Award

Northern California at National Junior Classical League Convention, 2014

by Dobbie Vasquez, CCA—North Secretary

On July 28, some 1765 students, teachers, and chaperones gathered on the beautiful campus of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, for six days of intensive competition, learning, and socializing with some of the most dedicated and hard-working students and teachers on the planet. They came from 38 states and Canada – 76 from California alone. The weather (normally unbearably hot and sticky) was generally a balmy 75-80 degrees with little humidity – a sharp contrast to our experience there some 22 years ago.

On the state level, California won first place in State Chapter Growth, first in Membership Statewide, and second in Digital Scrapbook. We can also boast a new National Officer from the Harker School, who will serve for the coming year as our First Vice President in Charge of Membership. This is a logical choice, since it was this same student who singlehandedly increased our chapter and membership growth in California over this past year in her role as First Vice President for California. She will make a real difference as a National Officer and will represent California well.

The California students as individuals earned medals in every aspect of the convention: academics, arts, and sports, and they made friends from all over the country. The northern schools in attendance were the Harker School in San Jose, Menlo School in Atherton,

“California students as individuals earned medals in every aspect of the convention”

Miramonte High in Orinda, Palo Alto Inclusive (all students from Hillel) in Palo Alto, St. Ignatius in San Francisco, and University Preparatory School in Redding. New to Nationals, University Preparatory

brought home more than its share of awards in all areas and had the most students in attendance from California! Harker won second in Digital Scrapbook while Menlo won third for Community Service and sixth for their Traditional Scrapbook. Miramonte won second in the nation for Publicity losing by very little to Woodbridge High of Irvine. In fact, all the schools performed well. In addition students from Hillel and Menlo placed in the top three in Greek Language, Literature, History, and Culture exams.

Teachers from northern California also contributed to the success of this year’s convention. Lisa Masoni of Harker was Co-Chair of Open Certamen; John Hawley, also of Harker, trained our three Certamen teams; and Dobbie Vasquez of Menlo served as Communications Chair on the National Committee. Two of our three Certamen teams made it into the semi-finals, and the Intermediate

Team (composed entirely of Hillel students) placed fourth in the nation. This is a major victory since most of the winning teams from other states spend the entire month of July together in Latin camps preparing for the Certamen competition.

Emory University boasts an excellent teaching museum called the Carlos Museum, which was open to NJCL every day. This is not a large collection, but every piece in it is worthy of examination, beautifully displayed, and thoroughly documented for its importance in the history and culture of the ancient world. Check them out online, if you cannot schedule a visit to Emory in the near future.

Finally, those of you who are ACL members will know the name Geri Dutra. She has been the Chief Administrator of ACL and JCL for the past 31 years, but will be retiring at the end of October to travel with her husband Jack and Classics professor emeritus at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and, until recently, the administrator for the TMRC (Teaching Materials Resource Center).

Geri was honored at our Thursday Assembly and at the Sponsor and Chaperone Dinner. Stylishly dressed in the latest Roman fashion, she was carried into the auditorium to watch That’s Entertainment



*NJCL First Vice President
from Harker School in San José*

on a litter shouldered by four straight-backed men with nine members of her family and the entire National Committee, all similarly attired, trailing behind. The auditorium burst into cheers of “Hail, Empress Dutra!” This was surely a send-off worthy of her many years of service to the classics at a national level, and we managed to keep it all a secret! It is difficult to imagine ACL and JCL without Geri at the helm, but we are all delighted that Sherwin Little, former ACL President and high school Latin teacher for many years, will be stepping in to lead us further into the twenty-first century.

If you are thinking about joining JCL, please check us out online at cajcl.org (for California) and njcl.org (for National membership). JCL has so much to offer both teachers and students. Please note that you do NOT have to attend Nationals to benefit from JCL. There are other opportunities: the National Latin Honor Society, three online tests, and the Publicity, Membership, Website, and Essay Contests, all designed for individual students and chapters to enjoy. If you have any questions, please contact Dobbie Vasquez at communications@njcl.org. We would love to have you join us. ☀

From the *Georgics* to Jefferson: A Report from the 67th Annual ACL Institute in Williamsburg, Virginia

By Holly Coty, CCA—North President

Wednesday, 25 June 2014, marked the first day of the American Classical League (ACL) 67th Annual Institute, held this year at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. This year's Institute was attended by some 349 members, presenters, or representatives (going by the attendee list) from all over the United States (and a few from abroad). By my count, at least fifteen of us represented California, but despite our joy at recognizing familiar faces, the strength of the Institute is that it allows Classics teachers to strengthen professional relationships fostered across miles; I find myself making new friends every year and enjoying the opportunity to reconnect with others with whom I share a passion for Latin (and Greek) teaching. As I write this, I've already received and sent so many messages from these colleagues as we prepare for and begin our new academic year, and I am always bolstered by the certainty that there are at least another dozen people I could call upon to talk about my Latin classes. For most of us, our work for preparing for the new year is reinvigorated by the engaging workshops, conversations and teaching materials offered at ACL.

The Pre-Institute Workshops this year focused on the now two-year-old revised AP Latin course, using technology for various aspects of Latin teaching, curriculum choices, and as always, strategies for teaching effectively. In the last category, several workshops focused predominantly on how to address the learning standards promulgated by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), which in turn drives the ACTFL

“The Pre-Institute Workshops this year focused on the now two-year-old revised AP Latin Course”

Latin Interpretive Reading Assessment (ALIRA), a newer test being used in some schools that have adopted these standards. ALIRA is a computer-adaptive assessment (to be completed in 50 minutes) that then generates an ACTFL performance score, and for schools whose administration requires that Latin be taught in keeping with the ACTFL standards, ALIRA is an additional tool. It was clear to me that teachers who face the challenge of matching their Latin programs to foreign language teaching standards appreciated the opportunity to share some wisdom with their colleagues; the rest of us were somewhat interested in ALIRA and eager to share successful strategies.

As has been the case for the last two years, there was a very high attendance at the “AP Latin: Exam Question Types and Latin Reading Skills” session, offered by

Robert Cape (the AP Latin 2014 Chief Reader), Victoria Jordan and Keely Lake. This year there was quite the buzz around the session because in 2014, two operational exams were administered (a regular practice, as it turns out, for new AP exams to “provide more material for statistical model building,” according to the Chief Reader's Report shared at the workshop). This practice gave occasion for Robert Cape to remind AP teachers that the AP Latin essay question will not necessarily require students to address *both* Caesar and Vergil; it may be the case that they write about two passages from the same author. Regardless, the score distributions were very similar to last year's scores: 14.1% of students taking the exam earned a 5 (compared to last year's 14.2%), 21.7% earned a 4 (compared to last year's 21.1%), and 30.3% earned a 3 (compared to last year's 31.6%). I know most of you will be reading more about this in the ACL Newsletter that will detail the AP Exam results and “debrief” the questions on the released exam. The core of the workshop focused on how to help the students to succeed on the exam and to build a manageable plan for the year: how to guide students in literal translation, to answer the “spot” questions with the greatest accuracy, and how to map out a reading pace that allows both for review and more frequent short essay practice. This group of workshop leaders are always generous in providing a huge number of digital teaching resources (from course plans to vocabulary lists to links to curricular material); workshop attendees brought their USB flash drives and left with resources that they can use throughout the year, always a boon to AP teachers!



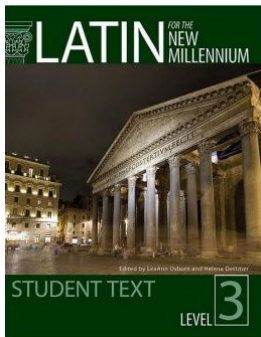
Robert Cape

Yet another pre-Institute Workshop was offered by Julian Morgan, of the European School Karlsruhe in Baden-Württemberg, Germany, which led teachers through the process of designing their own application using a programming tool called LiveCode, easy enough for the non-programmers among us to be able to practice with Julian's hands-on training session. With this tool you could, for example, build a vocabulary quiz that is linked to a particular image: You might import a drawing for instance of a Roman family, and then ask students to click on some part of the image that matches the vocabulary term. The appeal for most of the teachers was the idea of being able with some practice to use a tool to create more engaging assessments and learning tools that they can easily individualize to suit their own purposes and curricula.

With the Pre-Institute Workshops behind us, the Institute moved on to its usual smorgasbord of workshops, and I always find myself wanting to bilocate for at least three or four of the sessions. My strategy? Find a **(continued...)**

(...continued) friend or colleague and divide and conquer! Barbara Weiden Boyd's workshop on "Aeneas, Augustus and Rome" focused on the patrilineal relationships that are so evident in Roman funeral monuments and that become a centerpiece (and subtext) of imperial monuments as well, as she highlighted the ways in which Julius Caesar's adoption of Octavian was at its core a very conservative tradition with a history in elite Roman families, and that at the core of these traditions we see the celebration of a legacy of a *gens* as opposed to an individual. She moved into a careful discussion of key passages from the *Aeneid* to develop the argument about the interdependent relationship between father and son as a critical piece of this legacy. Her talk supported the idea that Octavian was actually very carefully and strategically concerned about legitimacy, and she wove together the strands of her argument with compelling evidence.

I followed the crowd to some of the technology workshops, such as the "ACL Tech Smackdown" which



featured short (5-7 minute) demonstrations of tools that teachers can use in the classroom for all sorts of learning activities. My favorite there perhaps was the newly developed iOS app for practicing vocabulary from *Latin for The New Millennium* and from the AP readings, available in the App Store from developer gWhiz,

LLC. The app is available for Level 1, Level 2, and the Caesar and Vergil AP selections, and allow students to self-test their vocabulary knowledge in a number of different formats using their iPhone or iPad devices; sadly, this doesn't seem to be available yet for Android-based devices, but I think that that can't be far behind! We previewed Prezi, Moovly, Museumbox, and the crowd-pleasing Kahoot, which allows you to build quick digital quizzes that you can run as games for some fun competition in class, with students logging in simultaneously with a game pin. For teachers in schools where students are now using iPads or other tablets in class every day, I think we can expect to see more and more of these tools previewed and featured in teaching workshops. As the dust settles around this new flurry of teaching activity, the conversations will become richer about how and why students are learning what they learn, and I heard many teachers already focused on carefully selecting which tools might be most useful for their curriculum and content.

As so many teachers continue to explore Caesar's *Commentarii de Bello Gallico*, a number of workshops offered some fresh perspectives on Caesar's writing: I point to Gus Grissom's talk on Caesar's text, with the subtitle "Grammar Matters (And So Does Leadership),"

where he discussed how Caesar's use of historical infinitives highlight the fact that in war, leaders will have to make decisions with imperfect intelligence and with little to no time to weigh every option, and in more than one instance, character is key to making effective decisions. Gus focused on a careful analysis of the Sabina and Cotta episode, and he was careful to underscore that we can use the text to remind students that character is what counts in making critical decisions and in how their decision-making is perceived, because Caesar is effectively nudging his readers into making decisions for themselves about given situations. Gus's tagline for the takeaway from Caesar's narration of the episode is simple: "Failing to plan is planning to fail." The workshops addressing various aspects of Caesar's work abounded – some focusing on specific aspects of the text, and other focusing on tools to be used for helping students to understand the text and demonstrate that understanding with more varied assessment.

As always, the Institute makes plenty of room for the rich array of material we can introduce students to beyond our Latin language and AP curricula: workshops on introducing students to mythology, archaeology and other topics in Roman history and culture were introduced in every session in addition to those focused on language acquisition. A favorite in my category here might have been the very rich and thoughtful presentation on Roman gardens, presented by William Prueter of Ohio, who shared a beautiful slideshow of his own long-developing Roman garden integrated with careful consideration of how Roman gardens were featured in the literary imaginings and the cultural practices of ancient Romans. He focused some of his talk on the various sites where one can visit ancient Roman gardens including Pompeii and the Villa D'Este, but also carefully addressing the rich imagery of the *Ara Pacis*. He left many of us ready to delve back into Pliny and to rethink the role of settings for some of

*"A number of
workshops offered some
fresh perspectives on
Caesar's writing"*

Cicero's key works, such as *De Oratore*, and he also integrated discussion of the figure of Epicurus and the Stoic's reply in *De Natura Deorum*. This talk brought aesthetics, philosophy, and literature together with vibrant illustration.

And of course, with William's talk planting the seed, it was easy to make one's way to one of the sessions about traveling with students; this year's presentations focused on Roman Spain as well as Rome and other Italian landmarks for Classicists. If travel was your quest, you could visit the WorldStrides table at the Teaching Materials Exhibit room to discuss options for educational travel with students. WorldStrides (formerly Casterbridge) is one of the top-notch programs that provides teachers with some excellent options for (continued...)

(...continued) educational travel, whether they are looking to adopt one of the extensive itineraries already developed or to plan their own.

Whether you wanted to attend a workshop to help you prepare students for the Medusa Mythology exam, develop a JCL chapter at your school, incorporate more projects among the assessments you use in your classroom, consider the rich connections between teaching ancient Greek drama and classical opera, or revisit strategies for helping students to read more challenging texts (I cite David Pellegrino's "Sentence Mapping and Vocabulary Strategies to Improve Reading Strategies for Authentic Latin"), there really is something there for every Latin teacher. Workshops are typically substantive, thoughtful, and led by teachers willing to share their material with their colleagues. With the trend for digitally sharing handouts and notes from workshops, I found myself revisiting materials all summer, and many of them will continue to be resources to share with colleagues and to plan other aspects of my courses.

Since I was making the trek across the country for the Institute, it made perfect sense to take advantage of the Pre-Institute workshop to see some of the history of colonial Virginia and the early United States that I had not yet seen firsthand: our tour of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello was the centerpiece of the trip (which focused on the architectural legacy that was one part of Jefferson's affinity with the classical past), and even with a 6am departure from the College of William and Mary followed by a packed (and very humid) day visiting the University of Virginia and the state capitol in Richmond (where we had another excellent tour), we were energized for the evening of pre-Institute workshops that followed.



Monticello

Monticello is stunning and interesting at the same time: a testament to some of Jefferson's amazing architectural vision. A number of us were quite excited to see an archaeological team at work on Mulberry Row – where so much of the agricultural work and life of the plantation was centered. Jefferson's affinity for farming, so evident in every part of the planning of Monticello, was underscored in a way only a Classicist could appreciate: in the display cases that are housed in the visitor center can be found Jefferson's schoolboy edition of Vergil's poetry



Archaeologists working on Mulberry Row

(a 1743 edition), and it was open, naturally, to a page from *The Georgics*. From Monticello to my day after the Institute spent exploring colonial Williamsburg, the trip was rich with history.

This was only my second Institute, having been unable to attend last year's meeting in Memphis, and I found myself again already looking forward to the next year. It was a pleasure to represent the California Classical Association, along with Dobbie Vasquez (our current Secretary), and I hope that any of our younger members or new teachers who haven't yet been able to attend the Institute will be first in line to apply for aid from the CCA—North or from the more generously endowed ACL so that they can get to the University of Connecticut in Storrs. You really do need to go. If any of you have questions about the Institute, be sure to ask one of us at your next CCA conference. Perhaps I'll have a chance to meet more of our members there next year! ☀

The Marian McNamara Scholarship

by John Rundin, CCA—North Newsletter Editor

Each year, in memory of Marian McNamara, the CCA—North grants a high school student who plans to continue studying a classical language (Latin or Greek) at the college level a scholarship of one thousand dollars.

Colleagues, friends and former students of Marian McNamara (1924-2003) established this scholarship in 2004. Marian taught Latin at both Gunn and Palo Alto High Schools for over thirty years. She was an active member of many national and local classical associations, serving on the CCA—North board for many years in a variety of offices. This scholarship is meant to encourage our top high school graduates to continue their study of classical languages in college and to consider a career in the teaching of classics.

For more information on applications and nominations, please email us (info@ccanorth.org). The scholarship application form is available at our website, ccanorth.org.

You can contribute to the scholarship fund by using the form at the end of this newsletter. ☀

The Annual CCA—NORTH Award For Excellence in Student Classics Writing

by Holly Coty, CCA—North President

This annual award recognizes a piece of writing that addresses a general interest in Classics to a wide audience of Classics scholars and enthusiasts and that is accurate, engaging and elegant. Essay submissions of between 750 and 1500 words should be ready to publish (free of mechanical and formatting errors), and, if part of a longer piece of academic writing, should be edited appropriately for a wide audience so that the piece can be appreciated intelligibly in its shorter form.



Last year's winning essay by Ashley Bacchi appears on pages six and seven of this newsletter.

We will read and consider all entries of appropriate length, and awards may be granted at more than one level.

Submission Details:

- **Application deadline: March 31, 2015**
- **Eligibility:** This award may be granted to any current student of Classics at a secondary, collegiate, and/or graduate level institution in California or Nevada.
- **Include a cover sheet with the following information:**
 1. Your name and address
 2. Your email address
 3. The name and address of your school
 4. Your academic level for the 2014-2015 year
 5. The name(s) of your current Classics teacher(s) or professor(s).
- Include no identifying information in the body of the essay.
- Please send your submission and cover sheet by e-mail to: applications.ccanorth@yahoo.com. Include "Classics Essay Entry" in the subject line. Please submit only .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf files.
- Essays will be judged on the basis of their thoughtfulness, creativity, style, and appeal to wide audience, and should be free of grammatical and typographical errors.
- There will be a cash prize of \$250 for each winning entry, and prizes may be awarded at each level, depending on the quality of the entries.
- The winning essay(s) may be published on the CCA—North website and in an edition of the CCA—North Newsletter.

- All entrants will be granted membership in CCA—North for the 2015-2016 year.
- Winners will be notified by the President of CCA—North by mail and/or e-mail, and will be recognized publicly at the fall 2015 CCA conference. ☼

Richard Trapp Grant-in-Aid

by John Rundin, CCA—North Newsletter Editor

If you are a member of the CCA—North and are a teacher of Latin, Greek, or Classical Studies, you are eligible for a Richard Trapp Grant-in-Aid.

Two grants of \$250 each are awarded annually. One is for classics-related travel or study. The other is for attendance at the American Classical League's annual meeting.

Applicants submit one letter of recommendation and a brief description of the activity to be supported. Details are available in the application, available at ccanorth.org. Applications are due March 1. Checks are mailed out by April 15.

Dr. Trapp (1923-1996), an inspiring and innovative teacher, was both department chair and professor of classics at San Francisco State University. He was a long-time Board Member of CCA—North. ☼



Latin Evensong at Stanford

by John Klopacz, CCA—North board member

The Episcopal-Lutheran Campus Ministry at Stanford invites everyone, regardless of religious tradition or lack of one, to Latin Evensong. This meditative service of congregational chant and organ music follows the 1560 Latin version of the Book of Common Prayer and takes place in the side chapel of Stanford's Memorial Church at 5:15 p.m. the third Wednesday every month from September to May. For more information contact: jklopacz@stanford.edu. ☼





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And look for us on
Facebook!*



California Classical Association – Northern Section

Membership & Fall 2014 Conference Registration Form

IMPORTANT: Please Complete All Information

Conference Registration:

For our fall conference, we invite you to attend Humanities West's event, *The Roman Republic (510-27 BCE)*, which will take place on October 24 and 25, 2014. Please register not through us but directly through Humanities West. For more details, see the first page of this newsletter. If you send in this form indicating you are attending the event or tell us so by email at ccanorth@yahoo.com, you will get a token at the conference for a free drink with us at a local venue.

☐ I will be attending with _____ other people.
(fill in number)

Please support us by joining if you are not already a member!

Membership & Renewal:

Please Check One: ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Name: _____

Institutional Affiliation: _____

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

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

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

Phone Number: (_____) _____ – _____ Ext. _____

Email Address: _____

(Please indicate your current email address, even if renewing. Thanks!)

Please Check Your Membership Category:

☐ Regular (1 year) — \$20.00\$ _____

☐ Student/Retired (1 year) — \$10.00\$ _____

Your Additional Contribution Would be Greatly Appreciated for:

☐ Richard Trapp Grant-in-Aid Fund\$ _____

☐ Marian McNamara Student Scholarship Fund\$ _____

☐ CCA-South Affiliate Membership (1 year) — \$5.00\$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED\$ _____

Please mail this form and include a check payable to "CCA-North" for the total amount you indicated above to:

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

Rev. 9/14

Fall Conference

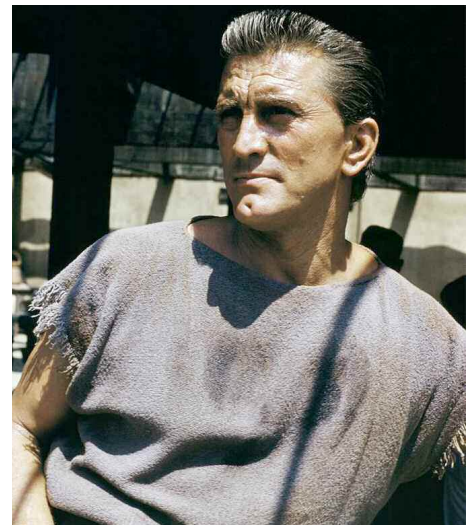
Humanities West

presents

The Roman Republic (510-27 BCE)

Friday and Saturday,
October 24 and 25

Performances, lectures, and discussions relevant to the five centuries of the Roman Republic. See first page of this newsletter for details.



Spartacus

We are the regional association for Northern California classicists. We hold conferences, produce a newsletter, and maintain close relations with the California Classical Association — Southern Section, the Junior Classical League, the American Classical League, the American Philological Association, the National Committee for Latin and Greek, and the Foreign Language Association of Northern California. In addition we support the field through scholarships and grants.

Please become a member or renew your membership by filling out the information at left. Include your check for your annual membership or renewal, and any additional contributions you would like to make. *Thank you for supporting Classics in Northern California.*

Visit us on the web: www.ccanorth.org