

THE ASSOCIATION OF ANCIENT HISTORIANS

April 1975

NEWSLETTER 3

1. PRELIMINARY AGENDA FOR THE BUSINESS MEETING

4.30 p.m. May 3, 1975 at Columbus, Ohio.

- 1) Report of President.
- 2) Report of Secretary-Treasurer (financial statement will be distributed at the meeting).
- 3) Resolution to absolve incumbent officers for their failure to notify the membership a full three months before the meeting of the pending vacancy in the presidency (see Constitution, art. 8.a: N.B. Incumbent officers sought to circulate Newsletter 2 in time at least to meet the month required, but mails were slow. They hope due constitutional procedures will become automatic as the Association progresses.)
- 4) Election of President.
- 5) Amendments to the Constitution (those received up to the time this Newsletter is prepared appear below in 2).
- 6) Report of proposed summer institute (see 3: a fuller statement will be available at the meeting itself).
- 7) Other business.

2. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

We regret that economy forbids including a copy of the whole Constitution in this Newsletter. A copy will be sent to any member who requests one and a supply will be available at Columbus. The President and Secretary submit the following additions to the Constitution. (Reasons for proposals are given in brackets.)

- i) In art. 3 the word "normally" shall be struck. (One member of the Association has pointed out that inclusion of this adverb weakens the legal position of the Association.)
- ii) In art. 8 the following paragraph shall be added as section (f):

" If the president or secretary of the Association is unable to function for any reason, the remaining officer shall appoint an interim successor to serve until the next annual meeting, provided the vacancy is one of less than four months. If the vacancy until the next annual meeting is longer than four months, then the remaining officer shall invite nominations from the membership and conduct a mail ballot as expeditiously as possible. Should both officers of the Association become unable to serve at the same time, then the immediately preceding ex-president of the Association shall temporarily serve as president to invite nominations and conduct a mail ballot for both officers."

*Placed & used.*

iii) The following paragraphs shall be added as art. 18:

" (a) The Association shall be carried on without purpose of gain for its members and any profits or other accretions to the Association shall be used in promoting its objects.

(b) In the event of the dissolution or winding up of the Association, all its remaining assets, after payment of liabilities, shall be distributed to recognised charitable organisations."(Canadian Revenue rule.)

### 3. PROPOSAL FOR A SUMMER INSTITUTE IN ANCIENT HISTORY

#### I. Purpose

The Association of Ancient Historians proposes the creation of a Summer Institute to bring together established scholars in Ancient History with teachers in the smaller colleges and universities who do not have ready access to research materials or current work in the field. The principal activity will be to conduct seminars on topics broad enough to appeal to a reasonable number of college teachers but sufficiently taut to encourage intensive investigation. Such an institute would stimulate communication and interchange among persons of similar interests. And it would bring the results of recent research to the attention of a larger segment of our college instructors.

#### II. Host Institution

The host institution ought probably to be in the East or Midwest, thereby to hold down travel expenses to a reasonable figure. It should have a significant research library with strong holdings in Classics and Ancient History, preferably a separate collection which encompasses the principal materials. At least two seminar rooms and one lecture room should be made available. And dormitory facilities for about 55 persons would be needed. If the program is successful and support is available for more than one summer, the site of the institute would change from year to year in order to service different geographical areas.

#### III. Personnel

A director or co-ordinator from the host institution would be in charge of arrangements and administration of the program. Four faculty members with established reputations in Ancient History would organise and conduct the seminars. Participants (or "students") in the Institute would number 48. Most will be chosen from smaller colleges and universities without research facilities but some places may be reserved for younger scholars who can present research in progress to relevant seminars. In addition, a number of visiting lecturers can be invited to offer greater variety and depth to the program.

#### IV. Format

We envision an eight-week session running from late June to late August. Eight seminars would be offered, each faculty member responsible for two and each seminar meeting once a week. Participants would enroll in two seminars. Hence, the numbers in any given seminar should range from 10 to 15.

Two principles will guide the selection of topics for the seminars. First, there should be at least one in each major chronological period of classical antiquity. Second, they should, as a group, provide a variety of approaches and aspects of Ancient History. So, to meet the first criterion: one seminar in Bronze Age or Archaic Greece, two in Classical Greece, one in Hellenistic Greece, one in Early or Middle Roman Republic, one in Late Republican Rome, one in the Early Empire, one in the Late Empire. And, to meet the second criterion: one seminar in constitutional history, two in political or diplomatic history, two in social and economic history, one in cultural or intellectual history, two seminars applying ancillary techniques or disciplines (e.g., epigraphy, numismatics, papyrology).

In addition to the seminars we envision two lectures per week. Eight visiting lecturers, one each week, would account for half of them. (The visitor might also participate in a seminar meeting during his stay.) The other lectures would be delivered by faculty members, each responsible for two. The lectures ought to tie into and supplement the topics of the seminars.

This format should provide variety and breadth. Sessions will be frequent enough to encourage sustained and intensive interaction while leaving ample time for individual work.

#### 4. TEACHING

Lawrence J. Bliquez sends us the following account of methods successfully used at the University of Washington, Seattle:

" We wish to report that in recent years we have turned increasingly to visual aids (principally slides) and find this approach fruitful. C. N. Edmonson, for example, is currently using slides of Athenian monuments of the Periklean Age to illustrate something of the intellectual background into which the events and monuments of the period fit. Carol Thomas feels that slide lectures in her Roman history course offer her a wider range of options and definitely enhance student interest. I, myself, have inaugurated a new course, "Public and Private Lives of the Greeks and Romans", which is principally made up of slide lectures, as its title suggests. The course acquaints students with the legal and political machinery of the Greeks and Romans, as well as their social institutions and professional occupations. We consider the course a useful and enjoyable introduction not only to ancient history but to classical literature as well."