1985 AAH MEETING

A final reminder that the 1985 annual meeting of the Association of Ancient Historians will be held at the University of Pittsburgh, May 2-4. For further information contact: Prof. Harry Avery, Dept. of Classics, 1518 C.L., University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260.

NOTICES

Paid up members of the AAH are entitled to a $10 (20% discount) subscription to the American Journal of Ancient History. Subscriptions should be sent to: Editor, AJAH, Harvard University, Robinson Hall, Cambridge, MA 02138.

DUES

1985 dues are due January 1, 1985. Members whose dues are in arrears will find a note of the last year they paid on their mailing label.

NOMINEE FOR SECRETARY-TREASURER

Valid nominating petitions have been received for one candidate, the present Secretary-Treasurer, Stanley M. Burstein, Professor of History, California State University, Los Angeles.

Professor Burstein was educated at UCLA and has taught at California State University, Los Angeles, since 1968. In addition to articles on various aspects of Hellenistic history, he is the author of Heraclea Pontica: The Emergence of Heracles on the Black Sea, The Babylonica of Berossus and the forthcoming volume on the Hellenistic Period in the series "Translated Documents of Greece and Rome." He has been an Associate Member of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens and is a member of several learned societies.

MINUTES OF THE 1984 BUSINESS MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ANCIENT HISTORIANS held in Mahan Hall, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland at 3:45 p.m., May 4, 1984.

1. Approval of Minutes of 1983 business meeting. MSP.
2. President Treggiari delivered the President’s report. She raised the question of re-establishing the NEH summer institute for ancient history, and recommended that the new president organize a committee to consider this matter. Professor R. Frank suggested that the institute be interdisciplinary in approach. Professor J. Eadie noted that policies of the NEH education division made this a favorable time for such a proposal.
3. Treasurer’s Report. MSP.
4. New Business. Professor B. Twyman invited the AAH to Texas Tech University in 1986, and invited members to submit paper topics to the organizing committee which initially consists of Profs. B. Twyman, J. Roberts and F. Holt. Prof. D. Geagan invited the AAH to McMaster University in 1987, and announced that there would be an open call for papers.
5. Professor R. MacMullen moved that the Association thank the US Naval Academy, its Superintendent, Admiral Larson, Dean Lee, Lt. Commander Gallagher and the corps of midshipmen for their splendid hospitality and the organizing committee for its excellent work.
6. The re-publication of the CW directory of Classical Scholars was announced.
7. Professor W.L. Adams issued a call for papers for the 1984 meeting of the Friends of Ancient History in Toronto.
8. Professor Treggiari declared that Professor E. Borza had been elected president of the AAH.
9. President Borza moved that the association thank Professor Treggiari for three years of careful and responsible stewardship during a period of growth. MSP.
10. Meeting adjourned.

TREASURER’S REPORT, APRIL 1985

Balance Forwarded: $2507.42
Income:
  Dues 2195.55
  Interest 107.08
  Mailing Lists 108.48
  Advertising 25.00
Sub-Total: $4943.53

Transfers from Canadian U.S. Dollar Account: $2697.09
Total: $7640.62

Expenses:
  Travel (Pres & Sec.) $ 822.00
  Printing & Xerox $ 198.15
  Postage $ 275.70
  Misc. $ 45.52
Total: $1341.37
Balance: $7640.62 - $1341.37
Total: $6299.25
Canadian Dollar Account: $ 325.22
FAH CALL FOR PAPERS

The annual meeting of the Friends of Ancient History will be held in conjunction with the meetings of the American Philological Association in Washington, D.C., December 28-30, 1985. The topic will be: “Between Slavery and Freedom. Questions of Status in the Ancient World.”

The topic should be taken to include material dealing with the status of women, subject allies, clientela, coloni, helots or slaves in the ancient societies of the Near East, Greece and Rome. Papers employing mixed methods, archaeology, art history, epigraphy, history, numismatics, papyrology and/or philology are welcomed, according to Professor W. Lindsay Adams, who is coordinator for the session.

The papers are to be no longer than 25 minutes in length (oral presentation). Abstracts of 2-3 pages in length should be submitted to the FAH Executive Board. They should be anonymous with a covering letter, and be mailed to: Prof. Lindsay Adams, Department of History, 211 Carlson Hall, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT 84112, and the envelope should be marked “FAH Abstract.”

The announced deadline for receipt of abstracts is April 15, although for readers of this newsletter for whom this is the first news of the call for papers, an extension will be permitted. Interested persons should submit abstracts as soon as possible.

WCC CALL FOR PAPERS


The works of Ovid, especially the Amores and Ars Amatoria, are often described as celebrations of male power and control over women. Recently this view has been questioned by readers who find a more complex and ironic depiction of gender relations in Ovidian texts.

Papers on this topic are invited. Abstracts of 250-500 words should be sent to: Prof. Mary-Kay Gamel, Cowell College, University of California at Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA 95064. The deadline for receipt is May 1, 1985.

OTHER MEETINGS

Persons interested in presenting papers on the history of women in antiquity at the Berkshire Conference on Women’s History at Wellesley College in June, 1986, should direct inquiries to: Prof. Sarah Pomeroy, Box 1264, Hunter College CUNY, 695 Park Ave., New York, NY 10021.

The Fifth International Patristic and Byzantine Symposium will be held October 17-18, 1985, in Philadelphia, on the topic “East-West Church Relations in the Sixteenth Century: Jeremias Tranos and the Lutherans of Tübingen.” Persons interested in presenting papers should submit one-page abstracts to Prof. C. Tsirpanlis, RR 1, Box 353-A, Minuet Lane, Kingston, NY 12401.

The Dumbarton Oaks Spring Symposium for 1985 will be held on May 3-5 on the topic “Byzantium and the Barbarians in Late Antiquity.”

SPECIAL ISSUE OF HELIOS

Prospective contributors to the forthcoming issue of Helios devoted to the subject “Women in Antiquity” may submit manuscripts before the deadline of October 15, 1985.

All Greek in manuscripts must be transliterated. Citation of secondary literature must conform to the style of the MLA, and ancient sources must use the abbreviations employed by OCD, LSJ and TLL. A style sheet and sample page of notes will be furnished to prospective contributors by the guest editor upon request.

Helios is a journal of classics and comparative literature which welcomes articles studying the impact of classical antiquity on the modern world. According to the guest editor, contributions should be addressed to a general scholarly audience rather than to specialists in classics per se. Consideration will be given to research employing new methods and/or interdisciplinary approaches and to broadly theoretical investigations.

The guest editor hopes to present a comprehensive sample of sophisticated and rigorous current work on Women in Antiquity, and especially invites contributions dealing with aspects of the subject left unexplored or poorly represented by previous collections of research.

For further information contact Prof. Marilyn B. Skinner, Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD TRIP

Students interested in participating in an archaeological field class in Enns-Lorch, Austria (July 8 - August 16, 1985), involving the excavation of a Roman temple next to the legionary camp of Lauriacum should contact Prof. Lawrence Okamura, Dept. of History, Univ. of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-2130. Office: 913-844-3569, home: 913-841-8561. Academic credit will be available through the Medieval Institute, Western Michigan University.

Questions concerning credit, transportation and related matters should be addressed to Prof. H. Edwards, Director, Consortium for Austro-Bavarian Studies, Dept. of Humanities, Wayne State Univ., 631 Merrick, Detroit, MI 48202.

NEWS OF GRANTS

Announcements of grants of interest to readers of this newsletter:

Eugene N. Borza (Pennsylvania State Univ.), American Philosophical Society, a history of the ancient Macedonians.

Shaye Cohen (Jewish Theological Seminary of America), NEH, conversion to Judaism and marriage between Jews and non-Jews in Greco-Roman antiquity.

Michael Gagarin (Univ. of Texas, Austin), NEH, the morality of Homer and Hesiod.

Carolyn G. Koehler (Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore), ACLS, ancient Greek container amphorae and trade, 700-400 B.C.

Hugh M. Lee (Univ. of Maryland), ACLS, the schedule of the ancient Olympic Games.

J. Linderski (Univ. of North Carolina), NEH, religion and politics in Republican Rome.
Marsh H. McCall, Jr. (Stanford Univ.), ACLS, actors' roles and the interpretation of Greek tragedy.

Robert J. Penella (Fordham Univ.), ACLS, philosophers and sophists in the late Roman Empire.

Jennifer T. Roberts (Southern Methodist Univ.), ACLS, Renaissance views of classical Greek government.

Martha T. Roth (Univ. of Chicago), ACLS, marriage agreements and matrimonial property in the Neo- and Late Babylonian periods.

Susan I. Rotroff (Hunter Coll., CUNY), ACLS, a pottery deposit from 5th-century Athens.

Niall W. Slater (Univ. of Southern California), ACLS, the nature of narrative in Petronius' "Satyricon."

Denise Schmandt-Besserat (Univ. of Texas, Austin), ACLS, prehistoric counters in Iraqi museums.

Piotr Steinkeller (Harvard Univ.), ACLS, Sargon's administrative and legal texts in the Iraq Museum.

John Sullivan (Univ. of California, Santa Barbara), ACLS, Spartan: the unexpected classic.

(The Editor has several sources for information about grants, but, inevitably, will miss announcements about some awards. It is thus important for readers to keep the Editor informed of awards and other items of interest to members.)

PERSONALIA

Eugene N. Borza (Pennsylvania State Univ.) will be visiting professor/special research fellow at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens for 1983/86.

Frank M. Clover (Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison) has been re-elected president of the Byzantine Studies Conference for 1984/85.

Suzanne Dixon (Univ. of Queensland) has a postdoctoral Fulbright grant at Stanford University to complete a book on Roman women and property.

Erich S. Gruen (Univ. of California, Berkeley) is the 1985 Semple Lecturer in the Department of Classics, the University of Cincinnati.

Paul B. Harvey, Jr. (Pennsylvania State Univ.) will be professor-in-charge at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome for 1985/86.

Donald Lateiner (Ohio Wesleyan Univ.) was visiting professor at Syracuse University, fall, 1984.

Chester G. Starr (Univ. of Michigan) and Thomas Figuera will present papers to the 16th International Congress of Historical Studies in Stuttgart (August 25-September 1, 1983) on "Crystalization of the Polis" and "Slavery and the Basic Institutions of the Greek Polis."

BOOKS AND DISSERTATIONS

Jack Balcer (Ohio State Univ.), Spartan by the Bitter Sea: Imperial Interaction in Western Anatolia, Brown Judaic Studies 52 (Scholars Press, 1985).

Arthur Ferrill (Univ. of Washington), The Origins of War (Thames and Hudson, 1985).


J.P. Sullivan (Univ. of California, Santa Barbara), Literature and Politics in the Age of Nero (Cornell Univ. Press, 1985).


NECROLOGY

Byron Tsangadas, formerly of the University of South Florida, died January 2, 1985, in Clearwater, Florida. Last summer he was diagnosed as having lymphatic cancer, and had been receiving several treatments. After a good fight he died unexpectedly of cardio-respiratory failure.

He will be remembered by his many friends and students for his warmth and humanity. His recently published monograph, The Fortifications of Constantinople (New York 1980), will stand as a tribute to his scholarship and erudition.

—Lawrence A. Trite
Loyola Marymount University

A MACEDONIAN SKULL

(The Editor of this newsletter will solicit from specialists in their field occasional essays on subjects of potential interest to AAH members. What follows is the first in a series of such essays—Ed.)

In the autumn of 1983 Manolis Andronikos revealed to the Twelfth International Congress of Classical Archaeology at Athens the results of the pathologists' report on the skull fragments from the main chamber of Tomb 2 in the royal Macedonian cemetery at Vergina (ancient Aegae). In a presentation that captured the attention of the international press, Andronikos displayed photographs of a reconstructed head of the deceased, and proclaimed it a likeness of Philip of Macedon. A few weeks later Andronikos repeated this presentation for the Fourth International Symposium on Ancient Macedonia in Thessaloniki, a meeting in which several members of this Association were participants.

The details of the case have now appeared in "The Skull from Tomb II at Vergina: King Philip II of Macedon," JHS 104 (1984) 60-78. This report is the joint effort of Jonathan H. Musgrave (University of Bristol), R.A.H. Neave (University of Manchester) and A.J.N.W. Prag (The Manchester Museum).

Pathologist Musgrave presents a straightforward scientific analysis of the skull fragments. He demonstrates convincingly—based upon idiosyncratic examination plus a series of electric kiln experiments with (other) human bones—that intense fire caused only about 10 percent shrinkage and little other change.

Musgrave also suggests non-cerebral damage to the right cheek bones and the protective bony ridge above the right eye. Both areas show evidence of trauma as reflected by dislocation and healing. The damage and healing are consistent with Philip II's battle injury (an arrow into the eye) suffered 18 years before his death.

It should also be pointed out (and Musgrave acknowledges) that the report on the human remains issued by N.I. Xiortiris and F. Langenscheidt, "The Cremation from the Royal Macedonian Tombs of Vergina," Arch Eph (198) 142-60, was unable to establish the existence of either damage or healing.

Neave, who has worked with the skulls of Egyptian
mummies, describes the fascinating procedure by which the muscle and skin tissue of the head were reconstructed, according to a method used in forensic pathology. He is persuasive in showing that the technique for restoring musculature is reliable, but that hair and soft tissue (lips, eyelids, etc.) are mainly guesswork. Interestingly, the nose, normally problematic, was made more so in this case because of some damage done to the nasal bones during cremation. Neave admits to having altered his initial reconstruction of the nose to conform to Prag’s suggestion that the Argead royal Macedonian family possessed noses with prominent bridges.

Prag’s historical/archaeological analysis is the weak part of the report. Methodologically, his argument runs as follows: We now have a reconstruction of a head (presumably with an Argead nose); let us compare this restored portrait with what is known of the appearance of Philip II and Philip III Arrhidaeus, the two most likely candidates for burial in this place.

Only a handful of probable portraits of Philip II exists, and Arrhidaeus’s appearance is known only from a Hellenistic bust of disputed identity. Prag sees in this latter portrait a weakness of character that tallies with our (wretched) literary evidence on Arrhidaeus’ personality—he may have been feeble-minded or epileptic. Prag makes no attempt to criticize the evidence, nor, astonishingly, does he question the extent to which ancient portraits represented actual appearance. In short, we have our reconstructed head: It does not look like Arrhidaeus, it looks more like Philip II.

Prag’s case is a house of cards built on numerous shaky arguments. Among these are correlations between physical characteristics and personality traits, an analysis of various Argead noses (what is the evidence that the Macedonian ruling family was megalo-proboscid?) the identification of the “Arrhidaeus” head and the subjective assessment of Arrhidaeus’s disability (even epilepsy is not an insurmountable barrier to accomplishment, as every ancient historian knows). The “weak” Arrhidaeus survived both Alexander’s purges and six years of chaos as king himself (one is reminded of the “weak” emperor Claudius).


The reconstructed head might in fact look somewhat like Philip II and, indeed, the bones from the main burial in Tomb 2 might be those of Alexander’s father. One might be persuaded by the force of Musgrave and Neave’s work, which, in the debate over the identity of the occupant of that burial chamber, gives some comfort to the advocates of Philip II. Prag’s arguments, however, are of little value because his method is amiss, and he does archaeology a disservice by dismissing the most important argument favoring a post-Philip II interment.

As in the case of much previous writing on the subject, this report will change few minds; it will reinforce opinions already held for other reasons. The cautious observer must conclude that the identity of those buried in the royal tombs at Vergina is still uncertain.

—Eugene N. Borza
The Pennsylvania State University

BOOK REVIEW


For almost five decades teachers and students of ancient history alike have turned to the familiar red volumes of the Methuen series for convenient surveys of Greek and Roman history that were at once briefer and more coherent than the massive tomes of The Cambridge Ancient History. Despite repeated revision, however, the series’ volumes no longer reflect the current state of classical scholarship. The publication of the first volume of a new Methuen series, therefore, is welcome, especially since it is the work of one of the most talented of the current generation of English Greek historians.

In eighteen chapters the author competently surveys the same turbulent century and a half that M.L.W. Laistner dealt with in his Methuen volume. Comparison between the two books is instructive. Laistner devoted almost a third of his work to the social and cultural history of classical Greece; Hornblower’s volume is entirely political, a curious emphasis in view of the current interest in social history. In compensation, however, Hornblower remedies one of the most serious flaws of the old Methuen volumes, their poor bibliographies and avoidance of controversy. By contrast, references to new inscriptions and their implications dot almost every page of The Greek World 479-323 BC, and his notes are a mine of useful information. With so much that is good in the book, it is a pity to have to conclude this review on a negative note, but this is not the up-to-date textbook of fifth and fourth-century BC history that is so badly needed.

The problems are twofold. The first is the maddening style in which the book is written. The author declares that he tried to avoid the sort of bland narrative that conceals “potholes and bumps of ancient history” from the reader. Unfortunately, he succeeded only too well. Hardly a page does not contain a “pothole” in the form of extended parenthetical remarks containing references, definitions, qualifying explanatory comments or brief summaries of scholarly controversies that ultimately frustrate and confuse a reader instead of enlightening him. More rigorous editing, consigning the most important of these comments to the notes and excising the rest, would have resulted in a much improved book. Second and equally unfortunate is the book’s over-emphasis on “problems.” The chapter on the Peloponnesian War is a good example in that it consists not of an account and analysis of the war but of a survey and discussion book-by-book of the problems posed by Thucydides’ history, a discussion that is
interesting and valuable, to be sure, but of limited usefulness to the novice reader unfamiliar with the course of the war itself.

Graduate students in Greek history and their instructors will find much of interest in The Greek World 479-323 BC, but those seeking a clear and reliable textbook for fifth and fourth-century BC history to give to beginning students will have to look elsewhere.

—Stanley M. Burstein
California State University, Los Angeles

ASSOCIATION OF ANCIENT HISTORIANS

Please enroll me as a member ☐
associate member ☐
of the Association of Ancient Historians.
Enclosed are my dues for:
a) $5.00 (Full Membership)
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Send to: Stanley M. Burstein,
Secretary-Treasurer/AAH
Dept. of History
Calif. State University, Los Angeles
5151 State University Drive
Los Angeles, California 90032
U.S.A.

Name _____________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________

— Henry W. Johnstone Jr.

BREASTED BOOK AWARD

The American Historical Association announces a new prize endowed by Joseph O. Losos, a longtime member of the Association. Commencing annually in 1985, the James H. Breasted Prize will be awarded for the best book in history in any field prior to A.D. 1000.

The fields in which the prize will be offered will rotate annually among the following geographical areas: Near East (including Egypt), Europe, Far West and south Asia, Africa, North America and Latin America. Any book in the designated field published during the preceding four years will be eligible for consideration. Cash award $1,000. Deadline June 15, 1985.

Naming the prize in honor of James Henry Breasted resulted from consultation between the American Historical Association and the officers of AAH.

Further information and guidelines for submitting entries may be obtained from the office of the executive director, American Historical Association, 400 A Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003.
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