ASSOCIATION OF ANCIENT HISTORIANS

NEWSLETTER

No. 43 October, 1987

1988 AAH MEETING AT UTAH

The University of Utah will host the 1988 meeting of the Association of Ancient Historians, during the first weekend of May. Proposals are invited for papers on the following topics: Fourth-Century Greece and Macedon, Ancient Imperialism, Roman-Red Sea Trade, and Hellenistic and Roman Nabataea. Abstracts should be sent be November 15, 1987 to Prof. W.L. Adams, Dept. of History, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT 84112.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS FOR OFFICE OF SECRETARY-TREASURER

The term of the Secretary-Treasurer expires in 1987 and, having served two terms, Secretary Stanley M. Burstein is ineligible for reelection. Nominating petitions for the position signed by three members in good standing not belonging to the same institution and countersigned by the nominee must be received by Secretary by April 15, 1988.

NOTICE

Paid-up members of the Association are entitled to a $12.80 (20% discount) subscription rate to the American Journal of Ancient History. Write to AJAH, Department of History, Robinson Hall, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

I am happy to report on the recent success of the NEH Summer Institute for College and University Faculty. This project, directed by Carol G. Thomas at the University of Washington, is the second such institute proposed and co-sponsored by the Association, the first having been held at the University of Michigan in 1977.

The theme of the 1987 Institute was “Modern Approaches to Ancient History,” and highlighted the relationship between archaeological and anthropological theory and practice and the study of ancient history. Specialist faculty included John Cherry, (Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge) on the “New Archaeology,” Cynthia W. Shelmerdine and Thomas G. Palaima (Univ. of Texas, Austin) on the Greek Bronze Age, Carol G. Thomas (Univ. of Washington) on the Greek Dark Ages, and Eugene N. Borza (Penn State Univ.) on recent trends in Macedonian history and archaeology.

Twenty participants representing 17 different colleges and universities met for readings and discussions with the specialists in a very comfortable setting provided by the University of Washington, June 28-August 7. They represented a variety of disciplines, including history, art history and archaeology, political science, fine arts and languages and literature. A number of existing Association members participated and several new members were recruited.

In addition to a dedicated group of specialists and a very lively and challenging group of participants, the expert direction of Carol Thomas contributed heavily to the success of the Institute. The Association must express its appreciation not only to Professor Thomas for an enormous service, but also to the NEH for having provided an opportunity to enrich the professional lives of all participants.

On another matter, we were pleased at the appearance of the first volume of the Association’s new series, Publications of the Association of Ancient Historians. Chester Starr’s Past and Future in Ancient History was released in late Spring gratis to all members, and as a bonus to those joining the Association in the near future. The book was co-published with University Press of America, and will also be sold on the market, with the Association sharing in the royalties.

I announced at the 1987 general meeting at McMaster University the necessity to plan for future publications in the series, and urged members to make suggestions as to topics and authors. As a result, the informal publications committee consisting of Stanley M. Burstein, John Eadie and your president are pleased to announce that Alan Samuel of the University of Toronto will produce a second volume, concerning recent trends in the study of the Hellenistic Near East, with an emphasis on Egypt, scheduled for release in 1989. Future volumes will be written by Carol G. Thomas on the late Greek Bronze Age, and Arthur Ferrill on grand military strategy in the Roman Empire.

Now that the series is launched and we have both author commitments and financial backing for the foreseeable future, it seems prudent to leave the planning for additional volumes to those who will succeed as a publications committee.

Speaking of which, at least one vacancy on the existing committee will appear in Spring, 1988, with the retirement from office of the Secretary of the Association. Whether we shall continue to operate as an informal committee consisting of the two officers plus one other, or whether the committee should be constituted otherwise is a matter in the hands of the members. I would urge that, whatever the makeup of the committee in future, it be kept small, represent a variety of fields and be composed of scholars who themselves possess a wideranging knowledge of ancient history and publication experience.

Finally, for those who plan ahead, future general meetings of the Association will be held as follows: 1988 (Univ. of Utah), 1989 (Brown Univ.), 1990 (Univ. of Southern California), 1991 (Univ. of North Carolina) and 1992 (Loyola Univ. of Chicago).

Eugene N. Borza
POSITIONS AVAILABLE

ROMAN HISTORY. Ancient historian with demonstrated expertise in Roman history. Rank and salary open; but as substantial graduate instruction is involved, a senior appointment is envisaged. Appointment is effective July 1, 1988. Letter of application and c.v. should be sent to the Chairman of the Search Committee, Prof. Michael R. McVaugh, Department of History, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. AA/EEO. Application deadline December 1, 1987.


SENIOR CLASSICIST with specialty in Latin language or other aspect of Roman Civilization. Substantial publications and distinguished record of teaching and professional service required. Position carries tenure and salary competitive at full professor rank. Send detailed c.v. by December 1, 1987, to Sheila K. Dickison, Chair, Search Committee, Dept. of Classics, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611. AA/EEO.


ANCIENT HISTORY. Assistant professor, tenure track. Candidates may have research interests in either Greek or Roman history, but must be willing to teach both at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Reply with letter and c.v. by Nov. 15, 1987 to T.F.X. Noble, Chair, Ancient History Search, Dept. of History, Randall Hall, Univ. of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22903. AA/EEO.

ANCIENT/MEDIEVAL HISTORY. Tenure-track assistant professor specializing in either ancient or medieval history with the ability to teach upper-level courses in both areas. Position begins August 15, 1988. Duties include teaching Western civilization surveys and upper-level courses in candidate's specialty. Ph.D. by August 15, 1988. Preference given to those with teaching experience and publications. Candidates should submit a letter of application, c.v., dossier, transcripts (undergraduate and graduate), and letters of recommendation to Dr. Alice Vines, Search Committee, Dept. of History, Univ. of Dayton, Dayton, OH 45469. Deadline: Dec. 1, 1987. AA/EEO.

PERSONALIA

E. Badian (Harvard Univ.) has been elected an Honorary Fellow of University College, Oxford.

Shaye J.D. Cohen's (Jewish Theological Seminary) new book, From the Maccabees to the Mishnah, has been chosen as an alternate selection for the History Book Club.

Thomas R. Martin (Pomona College) has received an NEH Research Fellowship for a project entitled "Freedom of Speech in Classical Athenian Democracy."


George Szemler (Loyola Univ.) will be in residence at the Rome Center of Liberal Arts, Loyola University, Via Massimi, 114-A, 00136 Roma from 1987 to 1989.

Mark Tober (Union College) will be a Junior Fellow of the Center for Hellenic Studies, Washington, D.C., working on "Archaic Greek and Roman Funerary Legislation and Mortuary Rites."

CALL FOR PAPERS

PACIFIC COAST BRANCH/AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, August 10-13, 1988, to be held in conjunction with the Western Association of Women Historians at San Francisco State University. Papers in all areas of history invited. Deadline for submission is December 15, 1987. Send to Jess Flemion, Program Chair, PCB, Department of History, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA 92181.

THE INSTITUTE FOR THE CLASSICAL TRADITION at Boston University and Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt will jointly sponsor a series of supplement volumes to ANRW edited by M. Reinhold, J.R. Fears and W. Haase on aspects of the Classical Tradition in the United States, Canada and Latin America. Scholars interested in contributing to these volumes should send a brief statement of their proposed subject to: Prof. M. Reinhold, Institute for the Classical Studies, Boston University, 745 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02215.

JOURNALS

The Secretary has been informed of the following new journals:

The Ancient History Bulletin, a journal intended to provide quick publication and exchange of scholarly views. Papers (12 typewritten pages or less) and inquiries concerning subscriptions should be sent to: Brian M. Lavelle, Dept. of Classical Studies, Loyola University, Chicago, IL 60626, or W. Heckel or J. Vanderspoel, University of Calgary, Dept. of Classics, Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4.
Mediterranean Historical Review, a journal aiming to pursue the integration of various problems in the ancient, medieval and modern history of the Mediterranean basin as a whole. Interested persons should contact either Shlomo Ben-Ami, editor, or Irid Malki, associate editor, Ariane School of History, Tel Aviv University, Ramat Aviv, Tel Aviv 69978, Israel.

MISCELLANEA


The December, 1986 (vol. 48.2) issue of The Journal of the Rutgers University Libraries includes an obituary of Moses I. Finley and an appreciation of his scholarship by Jack Cargill.

The Croom Helm Ancient History Prize for 1986 has been awarded to Paul McKechnie for his study, Outsiders in the Greek Cities of the Fourth Century B.C. The book will be published by Croom Helm in 1988.

The annual award is funded by Croom Helm and includes both a cash prize and publication of a typescript of 70-120,000 words. Manuscripts for consideration (two copies) should be sent to Richard Stoneman at Croom Helm Ltd., Provident House, Burrell Row, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1 AT, England.

BOOKS

Jack M. Balcer, Herodotus and Bistuan: Problems in Ancient Persian Historiography, Historia Einzelschriften 49.


SPANISH INSTITUTE

A proposal has been offered to found an INSTITUTO UNIVERSITARIO DE INVESTIGACION SOBRE EL MEDITERRANEO ANTIGUO at the Universidad de Malaga. The Institute will have as a main objective the coordination of research in Mediterranean studies, and in particular the study of Islamic and Byzantine cultures as agents of reception and transmission of Classical Antiquity and its effect on the development of Spanish humanism.

The institute will be organized in several sections dealing with History (prehistory, archaeology, ancient history), Philology (Greek, Latin, Arabic), Transmission of the Ancient Legacy (Arabic studies, humanism) and Auxiliary Disciplines (paleography, codices and textual transmission, epigraphy and papyrology.)

A number of European scholars have endorsed the proposal, and members of AAH who wish to do likewise should contact Dr. Aurelio Perez Jimenez, Professor de Filologia Griega, Departamento de Filologia Clasica, Facultad de Filosofia y Letras, Campus de Teatinos, Universidad de Malaga, 29071 Malaga (Spain).

ON-LINE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SEARCHES

(The Editor of this newsletter will solicit from specialists in their field essays on subjects of potential interest to AAH members. The following is another essay in this series — Ed.)

In my work as a librarian and researcher, I am constantly addressed with the statement: “But there’s nothing on the computer for Ancient History; that’s why I don’t use that library service.” Sometimes I get, “I’ve done all the historical and book research. Now I just need to look at the journals for current articles. What’s the easiest way to do that?” There are helpful resources available at your academic library, or through computer networks. The indices and especially the databases are useful tools and time saving devices, particularly for those topics not found all in one place.

Although the needs of Ancient History and Classics are not well addressed by commercial databases, there are still ways to get information. Perhaps the best known database is the MLA International Bibliography. It is available in paper, and online, that is, on the computer. In either form, this index can be used to retrieve citations to articles and books on literature, linguistics and specific genres such as legends and folklore. The MLA bibliography does not have a specific category for Classics or Greek and Latin Literature. It does, however, include all the articles on Classical Literature, within each country’s section. For example, articles on Aeschylus can be found within a country’s literature and in the genre category for plays and drama. To use the paper index one must check each section, for their indexing depends upon the nationality of the contemporary author, not Aeschylus. Searching the database of the MLA Bibliography under the term “Aeschylus” will pull up only articles where his name is mentioned in the title or as a subject. In both forms of the index, one could also look for the historical authors such as Thucydides, Livy or Ammianus Marcellinus to see which current authors are writing on them, or for the historical genre or folklore motif genre. The basic difference between the paper and on-line forms of the MLA Bibliography is the way information is retrieved.

The Religion Index and the Philosopher’s Index are not often consulted by ancient historians and classicists researching interdisciplinary topics. Both are available in paper and on-line formats. Philosopher’s Index contains references to books and articles about specific philosophers, schools and subjects.
The subject is taken from the title and the abstract; for example, one can look for "neo-platonism" as well as the specific philosophers such as "Plotinus". The material is international in scope and covers all time periods.

Religion Index is useful for research in biblical literature, church history, the history of religion, and all their interdisciplinary aspects. It contains references to books and articles as well as Festschriften. Although the Religion Index primarily contains English language materials, there are some non-English citations. Examples of material you will find in Religion Index: the effect of Mithraism in Rome of Zoroastrianism then and now. As in the case of MLA Bibliography, retrieval of information differs in the paper and on-line formats. Information in paper form must be sought from every conceivable subject heading one at a time, where on-line a single term will be retrieved from all the places it is mentioned in a single step.

There is now an on-line concordance to the Bible, the Authorized (King James) Version. It is searchable by word or phrase and can be useful for finding references to historical places and figures, as well as for word frequency studies. Unfortunately you cannot search by subject such as Babylonia Exile, for you must look for an exact word or expression. You also must know the way in which the words are used in the Authorized (King James) Version. The computer will then produce a list of chapter and verse or the exact quotations as a result of each search.

United States publishers have produced only the four indices mentioned above. There is, however, a database produced in France that serves most of the needs of ancient historians and classicists. The vendor is Questel-Telesystems and the database is called "Francis". It contains references to articles and books in Archaeology (Near East, Asia, America), Art History, Pre- & Protohistory, Philosophy, Linguistics, Religion, the history of Science and the History of Literature. It also includes L'année Philologique from 1972 to the present in its database. Searches in "Francis" produce results in minutes that would have taken hours or days to find manually.

What do you do if your library is too small or poor to provide on-line database searching for you? First you could ask for a referral to a larger library that will run a search for you, or you could ask a colleague to have it run for you, or you could contact a professional searcher. Library policies vary in determining both who is permitted to use on-line services and in assessing cost to non-affiliates or non-faculty. The base cost for a fairly simple search run in a few of the databases mentioned above can run $20-40. The cost is also dependent upon the number of citations found.

The most common complaint is that the search yielded no usable results. Be aware that the search is only as good as the searcher. It helps if you take the time to explain what you are doing and why and what you want to find, such as "To confirm that nobody is writing in that subject area." The ideal situation would be to find a librarian or database searcher who is trained in ancient history or classics or a related humanities discipline. This can be done by asking at your library if any one has that background, or by conferring with your colleagues.

If a search is not available to you, there are some indices that should be available at most libraries. International Index to Periodicals, Social Science & Humanities Index, Humanities Index and Art Index. The first will give you articles from 1900 to 1960, the second from 1960 to 1974. Art Index covers materials from 1929 to the present and Humanities Index from 1974 to the present. These paper indices will give you access to articles, and in some cases, books, in history, literature, archaeology, etc. These indices are a starting point and are searchable by subject and author. You can look for articles about and by Carl Blegen or about Thucydides and Livy. An important fact to remember is that most on-line indices only contain references to articles as far back as 1972, or in some cases 1966. For citations prior to 1972, paper indices must be used.

—Miriam Kahn
Univ. of South Dakota

† A.D. MOMIGLIANO

Arnaldo Dante Momigliano, who died on 1 September in London, was never a conventional ancient historian. Educated by tutors, then a pupil of Gaetano de Sanctis in Turin, Momigliano had produced by the age of 25 three monographs (on the Maccabees, [1930], the emperor Claudius [1932], and Philip of Macedon [1934]), that placed him in the first rank of Italian scholars and earned him successive chairs in Rome and Turin. What would have been a brilliant career in Italy was cut short in 1939, however, when the Fascists imposed antisemitic laws that led to the execution of his parents and forced Momigliano to emigrate to England.

By this time, of course, the intellectual interests that would mature in exile were already well-advanced. In spite of the fact that he thereafter composed most of his important essays and monographs in English, it is difficult to detect in the selections of topics for investigation or in the questions he put much influence of British empiricism. Momigliano, in fact, had little interest in the pursuits of most British ancient historians, the reconstruction of discrete historical events or the recovery of data through the refinement of archeometric methods. His domain was the history of inquiry and interpretation from antiquity to the present, his purpose "to study the development in successive periods." A broad prospectus, encompassing the seven Contributi (the last published in 1984) reveals a more idiosyncratic pattern. Momigliano was attracted to savants of all periods who shared his unfettered curiosity, his respect for rigorous inquiry, and his commitment to freedom of expression. His range was legendary, his learning unique, but it is nonetheless striking that his earliest interests—Hellenistic Judaism, classical and modern historiography—remained the principal themes throughout his long and remarkably productive career.

Though he returned often to Italy after World War II, for several months each year occupying the restored chair at Turin, Momigliano resided in England for the rest of his life. After a period as privatus in Oxford, during which he published widely on archaic Rome, Momigliano took up his first academic appointment to the chair held by A.H.M. Jones, in University College. In retirement he divided the year between England and the University of Chicago, the
institution that first (in 1959) invited him to the U.S., and for more than a decade served as Alexander White Visiting Professor.

Assessing Momigliano’s contribution to the field of ancient history is impossible—he contributed to an amazing number of fields, ancient and modern. Critics have complained that he failed to produce “a single major work on a concentrated theme”; others have lamented his failure to publish the heralded Sather Lectures (1962), “The Classical Foundations of Modern Historiography.” Momigliano has left much to ponder, nonetheless, in the vast program of lectures, delivered in this country and abroad, in several enduring monographs (including the magisterial Alien Wisdom), and in the hundreds of essays graced by elegant wit and expressed in compelling style, assembled in the Contributi. It is more than any of us is likely to comprehend fully.

— John Eadie

ASSOCIATION OF ANCIENT HISTORIANS

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