

THE ASSOCIATION OF ANCIENT HISTORIANS

November 1974

NEWSLETTER I

1. PROLEGOMENA

This first newsletter can only be a rough sketch of the types of information and comment which we hope to circulate periodically. Your president and secretary cannot hope to know all that goes on; so we urgently ask your assistance in providing us with information. In all aspects of the Association's activities success will be the result of the active co-operation of its members.

During the early fall your president tapped the advice of a small sample of the membership across the continent, in varying types of schools. There was agreement that the Association should concern itself with all three of the following possible functions:

- 1) encouragement of good teaching of ancient history
- 2) promotion of training and placement of graduate students
- 3) general support of scholarly activity and promotion of the position of ancient history in the US/Canada.

More specifically, there was universal stress on a listing of jobs, both permanent and one-year replacements (see below, our no. 5). A need for discussion of teaching was also prominent (see below, our no. 3); but the collection of statistics on actual enrollments and numbers of courses appeared to respondents (and to your officers!) both difficult and time-consuming.

The possibility of a summer institute for teachers in Classics/History who are rusty or ill-prepared in ancient history was much favored, and your president is investigating the matter.

2. MEMBERSHIP

Up to November 1, the Association had accepted 94 people as members under the terms of its constitution. Clearly the membership could be larger; we would welcome your proselytising. So far those who attended the Harvard meeting in May and the Friends of Ancient History have been invited to join; notices have appeared in some of the journals. In a recent profile of membership in the American Historical Association $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ of its members considered themselves ancient historians: we hope they will all join the A.A.H. too.

Subscriptions will run for the calendar year and should therefore be paid in the fall for the following year. The subscriptions which have been paid already and are currently being paid are valid until December 1975.

Steps are being taken to have the Association declared a tax-exempt organisation in the eyes of both the U.S. and the Canadian revenue services. The secretary would like to thank members for their courteous co-operation in signing the form which attests their bona fides as ancient historians. This documentation is for the benefit of any inspector who wants proof that we are a group of scholars. The president has obtained the following information:

Publication 557 (revised April 1973), US Internal Revenue Service, chapter 2, page 6, states: "Organizations having annual gross receipts normally not more than \$5,000, and which are not private foundations . . . are automatically exempt if they meet the requirements described in this chapter." The Association of Ancient Historians appears to fall under Sect. 501 (c) (3) of 1954 Internal Revenue Code, covering "religious, educational and charitable organisations". In Publication 557, chapter 2, page 13, it is further provided that "Contributions to domestic organizations described in this chapter, except organizations testing for public safety, are deductible as charitable contributions on the donor's Federal income tax return." Let us hasten to add that we are not seeking contributions over and above annual dues, but we have actually received an unexpected and pleasant gift toward secretarial expenses and postage.

3. TEACHING

Respondents to the president's letter urged communication through this newsletter of unusual or experimental approaches to teaching. If we may quote one letter, "What we really need to ascertain is the kind of approaches -- both methodological and conceptual -- that are attracting students. For example, might students be interested in a biographical survey of the ancient world? or a course whose reading centered nearly entirely on ancient sources? or on women and children and other minority groups? I believe that we must be more open to new formats and structures for our presentation of ancient history. If we teach it well and if we take hold of themes that are of current concern, students will enroll."

Let us ask any of you who have ideas on the subject of teaching to send in brief accounts (not more than 250-300 words) on fruitful approaches you are using. In this connection it might be noted that a newsletter called Ralph (mostly after Ralph Roister Doister) has been started in medieval studies, designed not so much for scholars as for teachers of medieval studies. In 1960 there were two centers in this subject in North America; now there are more than 40 (Chronicle of Higher Education, May 13, 1974).

One respondent has suggested that we may be training too many graduate students in history, and not as well as they must be trained. This respondent notes that there will not be a number of retirements in the next few years, and the market is not expanding at present. He goes on to suggest that it would be better to have only three or four centers for advanced study in ancient history, and that other schools should limit

themselves to the M.A. level if they lack full depth in the wide range of ancillary studies necessary for complete training in ancient history. We set this down as food for future thought.

4. SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

At the 8th Annual History Forum of Duquesne U. in October, I. Velikovsky defended his reconstruction of ancient history; commentators were E. Rivkin, G. E. Kadish, and R. H. Hewson. Another session considered power politics in the classical world (S. Klein, G. K. Tipps, S. J. Simon).

At the Second Berkshire Conference on the History of Women held at Radcliffe College on October 25-27, there were sessions on Images of women in ancient times (Sonya Quitsland and Frances Kohler, comment by Marylin Arthur) and on Women in Rome (Phyllis Ertman, Susan Treggiari and Beatrice Green, comment by Sarah Pomeroy) as well as numerous panels on topics from The emergence of medieval feminism onwards. Although ancient historians were a minority group in the crowd of 1800 delegates, contacts with scholars tackling similar problems in other periods were very stimulating.

For the calendar:

- a) a joint session of APA/AHA on December 30 (9-12 a.m.) will take up ancient history in early nineteenth-century Germany.
- b) our Columbus meetings will be May 2-3 next year.
- c) for the 1976 meetings arrangements are being made to have one session at Berkeley after those at Stanford.

5. JOBS AND GRADUATES

Here we have nothing to list for this letter. Or rather, it would be inappropriate for your president to name forthcoming Ph.D.'s just from Michigan, nor is there any special utility in repeating the positions noted in the October bulletin of the American Historical Association. May we ask you EARNESTLY therefore to let us know of jobs (either permanent or one-year) and also give us the following information on those of your students who will certainly finish their Ph.D. work this year: name, major fields, subject of dissertation, major professor.

6. THE JOURNAL OF ANCIENT HISTORY

The Association looks forward to a close relationship with the new and very welcome Journal of Ancient History, which is now in active preparation and expected to appear for the first time in 1975. Ernst Badian is the editor, and articles to be considered for publication should be sent to him (Department of History, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 02138). There must be no indication of the author's name on the typescript (this

includes clues such as "cf. my article in..."). We hope for more news of the Journal in the next newsletter.

7. PERSONALS

The following are members of the Institute for Advanced Study this year: A. Giovannini, M. K. Hopkins, D. M. Pippidi, Ann Britt Tilia, J. Ward Perkins, H. J. Wolff. Giuseppe Tilia and Z. Yavetz are also visiting the Institute. A. B. Bosworth and A. E. Astin will be there next term.

Russell Meiggs is teaching at Swarthmore and Alan Watson at the University of Virginia, both for the first semester. S. Perlman is at Haverford the first term and the University of Massachusetts the second. J. Mertens will be at the University of Ottawa in March.

Ramsay Macmullen is in Oxford this year. R. Develin, who taught last year at Michigan State, vice E. Huzar, has moved to the University of Queensland. C.V.E. Nixon has moved from Duke to Macquarie. D. U. Schilardi is at Ottawa for the first term.

A. Momigliano has been appointed Alexander White Professor at Chicago and will be there each fall term, beginning next year.

8. J.A.O. LARSEN

Jakob Aall Ottesen Larsen died in Columbia, Missouri, in the early autumn. After a Rhodes scholarship he served in World War I and taught at the University of Washington and Ohio State before finishing his Ph.D. with Ferguson at Harvard. His career thereafter was at the University of Chicago, where he edited Classical Philology for many years, until his retirement in 1953. From 1960 he was part-time professor of ancient history at the University of Missouri, where he made many friends. He was president of the American Philological Association in 1952 and Sather professor in 1954, when he delivered lectures on representative government in antiquity. Jake Larsen was also a noted authority on Greek federal leagues and continued publishing reviews and articles, marked always by straightforward common sense and deep learning. Blunt and direct, he was warm-hearted and gave encouragement to many budding scholars (your president, for example, remembers his helpful advice on his first serious article), and was an outstanding member of what might be termed the second generation of distinguished scholars in ancient history in North America.

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Thank you; we hope that your co-operation will produce a much fuller newsletter next time. Items for the next newsletter and comments on this one may be sent to either the President, Chester G. Starr (Department of History, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104) or the Secretary-Treasurer, Susan Treggiari (Department of Classical Studies, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario. K1N 6N5).