

ASSOCIATION OF ANCIENT HISTORIANS  
NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER 17

DECEMBER, 1979

VACANCIES

DENISON UNIVERSITY, Granville, Ohio, 43023  
Instructor of assistant professor in Classical Civilization, pending administrative approval. Three-year contract, reappointment and tenure possible. Ph.D. or teaching experience preferred. Courses in literature and history, as well as Latin and additional responsibilities in Greek. Send dossier to Michael D. Gordon, Chairman, History Department, Denison University.

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UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, Oregon, 97403  
Assistant or associate professor, with research interests in Roman history, to replace Professor Jerzy Linderski. Initial appointment for three years, renewable. Ph.D. required. Send applications to Professor T. A. Brady, Chairman, Search Committee, Department of History, University of Oregon.

MT. HOLYOKE COLLEGE, South Hadley, MA 01075.  
Assistant professor in ancient Mediterranean and early medieval Europe, with emphasis on Rome desirable. Three-year appointment with prospects of tenure. Send applications to Professor Joseph J. Ellis, Department of History.

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UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, Philadelphia, Pa. 19104  
Ancient history, with emphasis on Rome desirable. Ph.D. required, teaching experience and publication desirable. Send applications to Professor R.E.A. Palmer, Department of Classical Studies.

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, Columbia, SC 29208.  
Assistant professor in ancient history, primarily Greece and Rome. Ph.D. and teaching experience. Write Professor John G. Sproat, Chairman, Department of History.

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UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, College Park, MD 20742.  
Assistant or associate professor in Roman history, with emphasis on Republic and early Empire. Publications, and experience with graduate teaching. Write Professor Donald Gordon, chairman, Search Committee, Department of History.

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MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY, Bozeman, MT 59717.  
Possible appointment in ancient history. Write Professor Mentzer, Department of History and Philosophy, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana 59717.

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OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY, Norfolk, VA 23506.

Assistant professor (tenure track) in classical Greece, and Rome, with ability to teach Western Civilization and U.S. Survey. Write Dr. N.H. Pollock, Department of History.

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UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA, VICTORIA, CANADA V8W 2Y2  
Assistant professor with research interests in Roman studies, particularly Roman history or in the Augustan age. Ph.D. required. Write the chairman, Department of Classics.

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NOTICE FOR ANCIENT HISTORY NEWSLETTER:

The American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) invite applications for a series of 1980-1981 post-doctoral research fellowships funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, to start July 1, 1980. A minimum of two fellowships of up to \$20,000 each will be awarded for research at the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem, and a minimum of two fellowships of up to \$20,000 each at the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman, Jordan. The fellowships are intended for research into any aspect of ancient Near Eastern studies (anthropology, archaeology, art history, ancient history, philology, and other related disciplines) that is humanistically oriented. Application deadline: January 15, 1980. For inquiries and further application information, write T.W. Beale, Executive Director, ASOR, 126 Inman Street, Cambridge, MA 02139 (617-547-9780).

Applications should include curriculum vitae, a description of the research project that the applicant has in mind (5-10 pages) and 2 or 3 letters of reference. The c.v. should include the applicant's training, honors, awards, present and previous positions, memberships in professional organizations, publications, languages that the applicant commands, and the names of referees. The description of the research project should make it clear at the ASOR's Jerusalem (AIAR) or Amman (ACOR) Institute.

Fellowships may be awarded for a minimum of 6 months (\$10,000) or a maximum of 12 months (\$20,000).



THE ASSOCIATION OF ANCIENT HISTORIANS

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, SEATTLE

MAY 4th, 1979

4:00 P.M.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of May 5th, 1978 were approved.

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

3. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The President had consulted seven representative members by mail and several others at the meeting to sound out views about the Association's work. There was a consensus that the Association was doing what members wanted and that bureaucracy should be kept to a minimum. Specific points which emerged were:

- a) It would be desirable to have more summer institutes. Professor Eadie reported that the 1977 institute had been a success, but the N.E.H. had refused applications for further institutes in 1978 and 1979. He would submit a new proposal to the Education Section of N.E.H.
- b) Second-class delivery of the Newsletter had sometimes proved unacceptably slow. In 1979-80, it would be feasible to send Newsletters by first-class mail, using current funds, but if the experiment were to continue, it would necessitate an increase in dues. The President would air the question of raising dues in the Newsletter.
- c) Smaller institutions might be deterred from inviting the Association by the cost of hosting meetings. Professor Eadie suggested an increase in dues of \$4 p.a., of which \$1 would be used for postage and \$3 for a fund out of which a subvention of \$1000 would eventually be made available to the host institution. A straw vote indicated some support for this idea.

The President reminded members that the 1980 meeting would be at Cincinnati, the 1981 meeting at Ann Arbor, the 1982 meeting at Pennsylvania State University. A motion (Ferrill-Jones) to accept an invitation for 1983 to Wisconsin (1982 if arrangements with Pennsylvania fell through) was carried unanimously, with an expression of thanks to Professor Clover and the University of Wisconsin.

Professor Gruen then presented two motions on the organization of annual meetings, which, it was decided after discussion, would be published in a Newsletter and submitted to the 1980 Business Meeting.

4. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

The Secretary-Treasurer reported on the Association's finances and membership (325 paid-up in 1978).

The former President, Professor Starr, thanked the retiring Secretary-Treasurer (proteron hysteron).

5. REPORT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE A.H.A.

Professor Katz reported inconclusive discussions at a meeting for representatives of affiliated societies.

6. ELECTION OF A SECRETARY-TREASURER FOR 1979-1982

There were two candidates, Professor J.A.S. Evans and Professor C.D. Hamilton. After a secret ballot, Professor Evans was declared elected (33 votes to 28).

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A motion (Thomas-Treggiari) to congratulate Sir Moses Finley on his knighthood was carried.

Professor Culham announced that the topic for the meeting of the Friends of Ancient History in December would be the minor Greek and Roman historians.

8. VOTE OF THANKS

A vote of thanks to the University of Washington and especially Professor Ferrill was moved by Professor Reinhold and carried unanimously.

LOST NAMES

We do not have addresses for the following A.A.H. members, and would appreciate help from anyone in tracing them:

Professor D. K. Clift  
Professor M. B. Arthur  
Mr. J. Ober  
Mrs. Lloyd Drummond  
R. J. A. Talbert  
Mr. K. Rodriguea  
Mr. Ch. Christodoulos  
Mme. Anita Demers  
Mr. Robert L. Dise  
Mr. Leonard Curchin

MEETINGS, CONGRESSES, ETC.

1. The Second Burdick Symposium, sponsored by the University of Wisconsin - Madison's Institute for Research in the Humanities, and the School of Law, will be held at Madison, April 9-13th, 1980. Topic: "The Formation of States in History and Theory." Contributors: E. A. Thompson (Nottingham); T. D. Barnes (Toronto); K. Skelton (Chicago); and possibly J. Schlumberger (Tübingen).

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PERSONALIA

Robert O. Edbrooke is Assistant Professor of Ancient History at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, as of 1979.

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Thomas Figueira is presently a member of the classics department at Douglass College, Rutgers University.

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Peter Krentz completed his requirements for the Ph.D. at Yale University in June, 1979, by submitting a dissertation entitled "The Thirty at Athens" and he is now assistant professor in the department of history, Davidson College, Davidson, N.C.

#### BOOKS

A HISTORY OF BOEOTIA, by R.J. Buck. The University of Alberta Press, Edmonton, Canada, T6C 2E8. Pp.205, (Aug.) 1979, ISBN 0-88864-051-X, \$12.50.

I: The Land of Boeotia; II: Archaeological Evidence from the Neolithic and Bronze Ages; III: Legends and Traditions of the Bronze Age: The Three Traditions; IV: Traditions and History of the Bronze Age; V: The Coming of the Boiotoi; VI: Boeotia in the Archaic Period; VII: The Formation of the Boeotian League, 520-526 B.C.; VIII: The Early Boeotian League, 506-479 B.C.; IX: Boeotia, 479-431 B.C.; X: Conclusions.

STUDIES IN MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE HISTORY, Volume 2 (1979). Editor: J.A.S. Evans; Associate Editor: R.W. Unger. Advisory Editors: Brian Stock; David Herlihy; Lynn White; William Bowsky; Michael Sheehan. To appear, Jan., 1980. \$17.00. Order from department of history, University of British Columbia, Vancouver Canada, V6T 1W5. This series prefers long articles on the period from the third century A.D. to the Renaissance.

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The secretary-treasurer would be happy to hear of books by members that have appeared, or are about to appear in the near future, or about research projects that are moving towards publication.

#### TELL MARDĪKH (EBLA)

Tell Mardī (ncient Ebla) is located c. 55 km. south of Aleppo in Syria. The actual mound is one of the largest in Syria, about 50 ft. high; the total area of the acropolis and lower city is over 140 acres.

Tel Mardikh was first identified with Ebla when the 1967/68 excavations produced an inscribed basalt statue which mentioned Ebla. This identification was secured when the first unified archive of tablets (42 in number) came to light during the 1974 season: one tablet contained a list of the personal names of Ebla's inhabitants.

An Italian archaeological team under the direction of Paolo Matthiae, Professor of Archaeology and the History of Art at the University of Rome, has conducted excavations at Tell Mardikh since 1964. The most significant discoveries at the site did not surface before the 1973 season. During the following four years, a magnificent palace (Palace G) of the third millennium B.C. was uncovered. Near the large "Audience Court" in the southwestern sector of the palace, over 16,000 tablets were recovered from three separate rooms.

These tablets were written in both the Sumerian language (80% of the total) and in the local North-west Semitic language, Eblaite. Over 80% of the documents were of an economic/administrative nature, just as one might expect from an Ancient Near Eastern cuneiform archive. The remaining tests may be classified as lexical, literary and historical-juridical; a final category includes what Assyriologists term syllabaries - grammatical texts, bilingual vocabularies, and the like.

Although few tablets have been published, it is already clear that the area of Syria-Palestine in the third millennium B.C. was made up of numerous urban centres, each with its own ruler, and all in close contact (at least commercially) with one another. The economic frontiers of Ebla's empire stretched from Sinai in the south to the Anatolian plateau in the north, from Cyprus in the west to the eastern highlands of Mesopotamia. Ebla seems to have been the foremost among the Syro-Palestinian city-states, one of the most powerful and influential urban units in the Ancient Near East of the time.

According to G. Pettinato, the epigrapher who initially worked on the tablets, the structure of the Eblaite state was headed by a king (EN) who shared much of his power with the queen (DAM.EN). The internal affairs of state were reportedly handled by the crown prince while the second-born was in charge of foreign affairs. Four administrative centres on the acropolis were managed by city-officials (UGULA).

The dating of the flourit of Ebla heralded a series of disagreements between Matthiae, the archaeologist in charge of the expedition, and Pettinato, the epigrapher. On paleographic grounds, coupled with a secure synchronism between Ebla and a pre-Sargonic king of Mari, Pettinato maintains that Ebla flourished contemporaneously with the Early Dynastic period in Mesopotamia (ending c. mid-24th century B.C.). Matthiae, citing the evidence of ceramics and of stylistic comparisons with Mesopotamian sculpture and minor arts, equates the period of Ebla's cultural ascendancy with that of Mesopotamia's Akkadian Empire period, c. 2350 - c. 2200 B.C. The debate continues, the dating remains uncertain, and Pettinato no longer associates with Matthiae.

The initial furor over the points of contact between the culture of Ebla and that of the Patriarchal period as described in the book of Genesis has, predictably, subsided. The similarities between Eblaite culture of the third millennium B.C. and Hebrew culture of the first millennium B.C. are limited, but they do exist. The language of Ebla, however, is not as closely related to Hebrew as Pettinato originally suggested: I. J. Gelb has pointed out that Akkadian, Amorite and even Ugaritic are more closely related to Eblaite than Hebrew is. Historical continuity between the two cultures simply does not exist.

The archives, the architecture, the glyptic and other minor arts uncovered at Tell Mardikh will ultimately prove to be of the highest importance for our study of the culture, history and commerce of the Ancient Near East in the third millennium B.C. Our assessment of the various economic, political, linguistic, religious and socio-cultural phenomena of the second millennium B.C. will henceforth be prefaced by the knowledge gleaned from this extraordinary urban culture.

To bring that goal closer to reality, a nine-

member international committee (sans Pettinato) has been organized by Matthiae to implement the study and publication of the tablets. Already it is obvious that Ebla must be regarded as an important urban cultural centre involved in a significant cultural exchange with the rest of the Ancient Near East during the third millennium B.C. Only those who expect Ebla to confirm the doctrines of the Old Testament will be frustrated by these marvellous discoveries. To conclude, we can agree with Matthiae that Ebla was indeed the "Akkad of the West," and with I. J. Gelb who feels that these may be the most important and dramatic finds ever made in the field of Ancient Near Eastern Studies.

A. Bernard Knapp  
Dept. of Near Eastern Studies  
U.C. Berkeley

CORRESPONDENCE:

Professor J.A.S. Evans, Editor  
Newsletter of the Association of  
Ancient Historians

October 23, 1979

Dear Allan,

I refer to the proposal made by Professor Briggs  
Twyman and published in the Newsletter for October  
1979.

When I joined the Association of Ancient Hist-

orians, I was not warned that it might be used for political purposes. Its aims do not include support or advocacy of political causes. The proposed resolution makes a false statement in saying that dedication to public service and the pursuit of knowledge cannot be reconciled with invidious discrimination on the basis of sex. Within living memory scholars whose dedication to public service and the pursuit of knowledge was beyond dispute have practised equally invidious discrimination on the basis of religion.

I may add 1. that in 1968 I withdrew from the American Historical Association because it took a stand in a similar manner on a political issue, and I believe I could have claimed refund of my subscription; 2. that I am in favor of the Equal Rights Amendment, since it offers some hope of better treatment for men on questions of child-custody and alimony.

Sincerely yours,

Raphael Sealey

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