

ASSOCIATION OF ANCIENT HISTORIANS
NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER 19

MAY, 1980.

MEETINGS

The Classical Association of the Pacific Northwest has scheduled its annual meeting for April 17-19, 1980, at the University of Montana, Missoula, Montana. Included on the program are papers by Professor Kenneth Kitchell, Louisiana State University, on recent archaeological discoveries on Crete, and Professor Walter Rast, Valparaiso University, Indiana, on excavations on the site of Biblical Sodom.

The Classical Association of Canada will hold its annual meeting at the Université de Québec à Montréal, May 31-June 2, 1980. The annual meeting of the Canadian Historical Association will be held June 5-7, 1980, on the same campus.

John Ward-Perkins, F.B.A., formerly director of the British Academy in Rome, was a visitor at the University of British Columbia March 17-21, 1980, under the auspices of the university's "Distinguished Visitors Programme." He delivered three public lectures: "From Rome to Roman Italy: an essay in Historical Geography"; "Rome and Central Italy"; and "Ptolemais: a Greco-Roman City in Cyrenaica."

The Vanier Lectures at the University of Ottawa this year were on Roman Africa, with contributions by Larry Stager (University of Chicago); Marcel Benabar (Université de Paris VII); Brent Shaw (University of Lethbridge); Michel Janow (Université de Provence); Timothy Barnes (University of Toronto); and Khaled Belkhdja (Université de Moncton). The Vanier Lectures were inaugurated by the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ottawa in 1968, to honour the former Governor-General of Canada, Georges-P. Vanier.

On May 9-11, 1980, a symposium entitled "East of Byzantium: Syria and Armenia in the Formative Period" will be held at Dumbarton Oaks. The symposium will run from Friday through Sunday.

Deadline for registration is May 1, and the maximum number of participants that can be accommodated is 200. Write to "Symposium," Centre for Byzantine Studies, 1703, 32nd Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007, U.S.A.

BOOKS

THOUGHT, a Fordham University Quarterly, has published a special issue on Rome (vol. 55, March, 1980). Contents are:

- David L. Stockton, Augustus sub specie aeternitatis.
- Thomas N. Mitchell, The Inevitability of the Principate.
- Meyer Reinhold, Augustus' Conception of Himself.
- Henry C. Boren, Rome: Republican Disintegration, Augustan Reintegration: Focus on the Army.
- Raymond V. Schoder, Vergil's Humane Message.
- Frederick E. Brenk, The Twofold Gleam: Vergil's Golden Age and the Beginnings of Empire.
- J. Rufus Fears, Rome: The Ideology of Imperial Power.
- Francis E. Peters, Regional Development in the Roman Empire: The Lava Lands of Syria.
- Robert J. Penella, A Lowly Born Historian of the Late Roman Empire: Some Observations on Aurelius Victor and his De Caesaribus.

The individual issue may be ordered (\$4.00) from:

Manager, Thought
Canisius Hall
Fordham University
Bronx, New York 10458

The second volume (new series) of Studies in Medieval and Renaissance History, edited by J.A.S. Evans, which has just been published, contains the following articles:

- Ex Fornicatione Nati: Studies on the Position of Priests' Sons from the Twelfth to the Fourteenth Century, by Bernhard Schimmelpfennig.
- New Testament Scholarship at Louvain in the Early Sixteenth Century, by Jerry J. Bentley.
- Techné, Labor et Natura: Ideas and Active Life in the Medieval Winter, by LeRoy Dresbeck.
- Medieval Villainy. A Study in the Meaning and Control of Crime in an English Village, by M. Patricia Hogan.

Copies (\$17.00 each) may be ordered from the Department of History, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1W5, Canada.

CORRESPONDENCE

Department of History
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
January 15, 1980

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

Dear Professor Evans:

I have been a member of the AAH for three years and have attended the last two annual meetings. First in Boulder, Colorado and then in Seattle, Washington I watched silently as the vote on the Equal Rights Amendment was stifled on constitutional technicalities. Rather than wait for a similar occurrence in Cincinnati, I would like to take the opportunity afforded me by the appearance of Professor Raphael Sealey's letter to make a statement to this organization.

While the vote on the Equal Rights Amendment may be considered a political issue by some, the subject of equal rights for members of our profession especially within the ranks of our own organization is not. In supporting a public discussion of this issue, I am certainly not advocating the politicization of our organization, especially since an affirmative vote would have no practical effect on the passage of the amendment; our meetings in the near future are scheduled in states that have already ratified the amendment.

A public vote on this issue could have acted, however, as a public statement of support for the rights of female members of our organization and profession. Ancient history, even more than classics and classical archaeology suffers a noticeable lack of women in its ranks, and the discipline has no one but itself to blame. A vote of confidence for those of us who have chosen to struggle in this business despite the lack of personal and financial support and ever declining job opportunities would have been much appreciated. Lack of support from our colleagues, disdain for non-traditional scholars and the public treatment of women's issues as marginal and not deserving of serious attention, all serve to reinforce the sexist nature of this business as much as discriminatory hiring practices.

Professor Sealey is certainly correct in observing that the pursuit of knowledge and discrimination are not mutually exclusive but, then again, neither does one serve to excuse the other. I am sure that none of us would like to see it become fashionable for scholars, however learned or influential, to express discriminatory views.

I sincerely hope that whatever the outcome of the vote in Cincinnati, the issue will be debated with brevity and sensitivity.

Very sincerely yours,

Rose Mary Sheldon

The Editor
AAH Newsletter

Dear Sir,

Since I shall not be able to attend the AAH Meeting at Cincinnati, I feel I ought to write and put before you my reasons for hoping that Mr. Twyman's motion on the Equal Rights Amendment will not be voted on.

While I respect his strong feelings on this issue, which will be shared by other members (and feelings against it may be equally strong among others still), I think that this Association is not the right forum for expressing those feelings and that the actual sanctions proposed make no real sense.

The former opinion rests chiefly on two arguments. First, we are an international organization. We should not therefore express opinions on political issues in either the U.S.A. or Canada. To put it more concretely: if this motion were voted on, it would put us under an obligation to entertain and vote on (say) a motion, some other time, from a Canadian member who has equally strong feelings on the issue of independence for Quebec. I don't think either of these (completely parallel) motions would be proper for us to entertain.

Furthermore, we are (or aim at being) a learned organization. It is not for us to express an opinion on a political or (for that matter) a moral issue at all. And even from the narrowly practical point of view, introducing the practice of voting on such divisive (and quite legitimately divisive) issues would threaten to disrupt our small community and undo all the good that has been achieved in the few years of its existence. Most members, surely, want us to get on with our business of devoting ourselves to Ancient History.

The motion, of course, has been presented fully in accordance with our constitution. I am not quite sure that it follows that it is in order: that will be for the Chairman and the Meeting to decide. It might be held that a motion can only be in order if it is within the general province of the Association in the first place, so that a motion on an Act of Congress or of Parliament, or an amendment to the Constitution of either nation, or (for that matter) on the second law of thermo-dynamics, may be ipso facto out of order. But as I said: this is for the Meeting to decide.

My second point is that, even if the motion as such is a proper one to entertain, the sanction proposed (as distinct from the principle of support for ERA) seems a misconceived one. It appears to be thoughtlessly modelled on resolutions passed by bodies whose circumstances are very different. I am not even merely referring to our small size: obviously, whether 100 members of AAH do or do not meet at a certain place makes little difference to its economy; but it might be held that this is a matter of principle. It seems to me that the principle itself is the wrong one. Unlike large organizations, we normally (admittedly not always) meet on a College or University campus. As all reports and surveys show, ERA is likely to have had strong support at such institutions, even

in states that oppose ratification. We would in fact, far from showing support for those who have fought for an unpopular cause, be letting them down, and lumping them together with the politicians they have fought against. And again, from a purely practical point of view: we are not now in a climate of such economic prosperity that we should refuse an invitation from such an institution, merely because those over whom it has no power have taken a political (or, if you like, moral) stance that we dislike.

If the motion comes to a vote, it is pretty obvious that the (probably) large number of members who favor ERA will be in a difficult position. It tends to be a "When-Did-You-Stop-Beating-Your-Father?" situation. A vote against the motion might give the impression that the person voting is against ERA (though that may not in fact be the case; he or she may be voting against the undesirable nature and consequences of the motion as such). A vote for the motion will imply acceptance of all those undesirable consequences and may in fact threaten the survival of the Association.

It would be (I think) by far the best solution if Mr. Twyman could be prevailed upon to withdraw it.

Yours truly,
E. Badian
Harvard University

FRIENDS OF ANCIENT HISTORY

The Friends of Ancient History will hold a panel on "Myth and History" at the next meeting of the American Philological Association in New Orleans. Papers are solicited, and ancient historians who want to participate should submit abstracts of no more than 250 words before September 1, 1980, to Professor K.R. Walters, chairman, Friends of Ancient History, Wayne State University, Department of Greek and Latin Languages and Literatures, Detroit, Michigan, 48202, U. S. A.

All submissions will be anonymously refereed, and of these three will be selected, of 30-40 minutes each.

NOTICE

The AAH Newsletter would be happy to carry notices of vacancies in ancient history. Vacancies to appear in the first Newsletter in autumn, 1980, should be in my hands by Sept. 15, 1980. Deadline for the second autumn Newsletter is Nov. 10, 1980.

J. A. S. Evans

DISSERTATIONS

The last Newsletter carried an appeal for information about doctoral dissertations that had been completed recently, or were on the verge of completion. The following have been reported:

- Peter Krantz: The Thirty at Athens, at Yale University. Supervisor, Donald Kagan.
Robert Delia: A Study in the Reign of the Ancient Egyptian King Senwosret III, at Columbia University. Supervisor: John D. Schmidt.
John M. Lawrence: Hepatoscopy and Extispicy in Graeco-Roman and Early Christian Texts, at Miami University, (Ohio). Supervisor: Edwin M. Yamauchi.
Donald G. Kyle, An Historical Study of Athletics in Ancient Athens to 322 B.C., at McMaster University (Hamilton, Ontario). Supervisor: D.J. Geagan (To be completed, 1980).
Alberta Fiore Delia, Studies in the Social and Economic History of Roman Corinth, at Columbia University, N.Y.C. Supervisor, William V. Harris (In progress)
Craig L. Hanson, From Roman Slave to Christian Saint:

The Life and Hagiographical Traditions of Onesimus of Colossae, at the University of Washington,

Seattle. Supervisor: Solomon Katz. Mr. Hanson

has accepted an assistant professorship at Old

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All subscriptions must be accompanied by this form, and sent to the Secretary-Treasurer, AAH, Dept. of Classics, University of British Columbia, 265-1866 Main Mall, Vancouver, Canada V6T 1W5. Checks must be made payable to the Association of Ancient Historians.

Dominion University, Norfolk, Va., to begin
this fall.

PERSONALIA

Patrick O'Mara of Los Angeles City College published in December his work, The Palermo Stone and the Archaic Kings of Egypt, first volume in the Paulette series, "Studies in the Structural Archaeology of Ancient Egypt." Excerpts from the work were read earlier in the year before the annual meeting in Philadelphia of the American Research Center in Egypt.

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Professor Frank Moore Cross, Harvard University, was a Distinguished Visitor at the University of British Columbia, March 3-7, 1980.... Professor Allan Evans, University of British Columbia, gave a guest lecture at Concordia University, Montreal, on "Herodotus and Oral Tradition," November 1, 1979.... Professor Matthew Dickie, University of Illinois at Chicago Circle, gave a public lecture at the University of British Columbia, March 24th, 1980, on "The Ideology of Greek Athletics," under the auspices of the local chapter of the Humanities Association of Canada and the Department of Classics at the university.

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Allan Evans, University of British Columbia, has been appointed general editor of the CAUT (Canadian Association of University Teachers) Monograph Series on university education, published by Clarke Irwin, Ltd. Publishers (Toronto, Canada).

NOTICES

UNDENA PRESS, 1100 Glendon Avenue, Suite 1745,

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2075 WESBROOK MALL

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Professor A.B. Bosworth, of the University of Western Australia, whom members will recall as a speaker at the Boulder Meeting of AAH, will be a Visiting Professor of the Classics and of History at Harvard in 1980-81, from September at least through May.

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NOTICE OF MOTION

The following motion has been proposed by Professor John W. Eadie of the University of Michigan for the annual meeting of the AAH in Cincinnati:

"The association will make available to the host institution a subsidy (not to exceed \$500.00) which will be used to defray the costs of 'hospitality' at the annual meeting."

Los Angeles, CA 90024, wants to draw the attention of members to its capabilities both as a publisher interested in ancient history, and as a printer. UNDENA PRESS now uses a new "IBYCUS" photo-composition computer system which can take "scanner ready" typed copy and put it directly into the computer which will forthwith produce printed galleys. UNDENA PRESS is prepared to make quotations for academic publications, etc. Write Nancy Strowbridge, Production Manager.

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