

ANCIENT

HISTORIANS

No. 41 January, 1987

NOTICES

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

President Borza's term expires in 1986/7. Nominating petitions signed by three members in good standing and not belonging to the same institution and countersigned by the nominee must be received by the Secretary by April 15, 1987.

1987 dues are due January 1, 1987. Members whose dues are in arrears will find noted on their mailing label the last year they paid dues.

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

TWO SERIOUS CHALLENGES TO CONVENTIONAL AEGEAN BRONZE AGE DATES

Historians who are not specialists in the archaeology of the Aegean Bronze Age often feel uneasy when trying to explain such things as the chronology of Late Minoan at Knossos or the effects the eruption of the Santorini volcano. Two recent studies will do nothing for their composure

Faith C. D. Hentschel, *The Basis for the Standard Chronology of the Late Bronze Age at Knossos* (Diss: Yale, 1982; University Microfilms: Ann Arbor, 1982). It has long been recognized that Sir Arthur Evans' grand tripartite scheme of Minoan chronology based on stylistic analysis of ceramic typology was not without its flaws. John Caskey used to point out that J. D. S. Pendlebury, Evans' devoted disciple, in his definitive *Archaeology of Crete*, had identified the same cup right side up as LM II (pl. 35.2) and upside down as LM IIIA (pl. 40.3). Leonard Palmer's well-argued dating of the final days of Knossos two centuries after Evans' date for the event has convinced most scholars other than the stalwarts of the British School at Athens. But virtually all critics insist that the basic framework should be preserved, that only the details need adjustment (e.g. Vermeule, *AJA* 1963: 195ff). No one who reads Hentschel's dissertation will ever feel the same again. Her method has been to compare statements about the location of pottery in the final publication of *The Palace of Minos* (1921-35) with the original excavation notes as recorded

by Evans and Duncan Mackenzie in their journals. This method is not original; it was used first by Palmer to query Evans' dating of the Linear B tablets. But Hentschel has laboriously compared final publication and original notebook accounts for over thirty rooms, corridors, magazines, and other sites over the entire palace site. The results are devastating. She can show that in room after room MM IIIB pottery was actually found mixed with LM IIIB remains, rather than stratigraphically separated, as the two centuries supposedly separating the two types would seem to demand. But in the *Palace of Minos*, Evans has changed the excavation data to slip some form of stratification in between the sherds, or has attributed the mixing to later disturbances. Hentschel is forthright in blaming the anomalies not to error or the understandable confusion in dealing with such a mass of data but to deliberate falsification in order to support the author's theoretical scheme of societal growth, maturity, and decadence reflected in works of art. She has not been easy on Evans. When he tried to explain LM IIIB cups as having worked their way down to a layer of MM IIIB sherds "by means of chinks and swallow-holes," she responds, "how such quantities of goblets could have filtered into the deposit through mere 'chinks and swallow-holes' . . . is difficult for even the most vivid imagination to envision. Such an abundance of goblets can hardly be considered intrusive and such an escape hypothesis is absurd" (232f.). Elsewhere she can show that even LM I and II sherds are also found happily mixed with their supposed antecedents and descendants, suggesting that "rustic" (MM IIIB), "coarse" (LM IIIB), and fine palace pottery (LM I-II) were not from different eras but were used for different purposes by the same people at the same time, i.e., kitchen crockery and dining room china. She concludes that for nearly four centuries of history at Knossos a ceramic stratigraphy does not exist, that one cannot therefore use ceramic typology to date contexts (e.g., architecture and wall paintings), and that a fresh start is needed based on sound stratigraphy.

V. C. LaMarche, Jr., Katherine K. Hirschboeck, "Frost rings in trees as records of major volcanic eruptions," *Nature* 307 (12 Jan 1984) 121-26. Recent major volcanic eruptions have heightened the interest of scientists in the effects of resulting worldwide atmospheric veils on climate (i.e., the "nuclear winter" effect). Even a two degree drop in temperature at the beginning or end of the growing period can lead to frost damage in trees, damage that leaves a permanent record in the tree ring. Such frost damaged rings can be seen in the bristlecone pines of the White Mountains of California at intervals going back for more than 4000 years. LaMarche and Hirschboeck tested the hypothesis that frost damage was not random but was caused by the atmospheric veils created by

major volcanic events. During the last century, the eruptions of Krakatoa (1883), Pelee and Soufriere (1902), Katmai (1912), and Agung in Bali (1963) were all followed shortly by bristlecone pine rings exhibiting damage from frost. Working backward in time the authors were able to show six more cases of correlation between tree ring damage and volcanic events between 1500 and 1837. There were volcanic eruptions not followed by frost damage and damage that could not be attributed to any known volcano but basic probability theory gave their hypothesis a confidence level of 99.9%. Even further in the past the eruption of Vesuvius in A.D. 79 did not evidently have world wide effects, but the eruption of Etna in 44 B.C. was followed two years later by severe damage in California bristlecones. Finally, the authors tried to find ring damage in the fifteenth century B.C. to correspond with the eruption of Santorini. They could find nothing closer than 1626 B.C. But when they checked the only other indicator of absolute chronology, the radiocarbon dates for organic material found in the Akrotiri excavations on Santorini, they found that most of them fell within the seventeenth century as well. In fact, the scholars who had long insisted that the Santorini eruption caused the fall of Minoan civilization about 1450 did their best to ignore the radiocarbon dates, or blamed them on contamination by "dead" carbon dioxide belched up by the volcano. But the correlation between radiocarbon dates and frost damaged tree rings, it seems to me, places the burden of proof on anyone who proposes to date Santorini at any other time.

To this date neither of these studies has attracted any attention from a scholarly world that often finds silence the best defense against criticism. But the questions raised have severe implications for the chronology of the later Bronze Age. Historians should keep these questions alive; it is time, I believe, to goad the specialists into scrapping the stylistic Minoan framework and replacing it with one based entirely on stratigraphy from sites that were excavated more carefully.

Frank J. Frost
University of California, Santa Barbara

REVIEW

H.W. Parke, *Oracles of Apollo in Asia Minor*, Croom Helm, London, 1985. \$34.50.

The third in Professor Parke's well-known series of monographs on the major Greek oracles, the present work has much in common with its predecessors, particularly, *The Oracles of Zeus* (Oxford, 1967). In what amount to three independent monographs Professor Parke summarizes the known facts concerning the history and antiquities of the oracles of Didyma and Claros together with various minor Apolline oracles scattered throughout Asia Minor from their mythical origins until the unsuccessful attempt of Julian to revive them in the fourth century AD. Two appendices analyze the sources for the functioning of the oracles at Didyma and Claros.

The deficiencies of this work are clear. There is no attempt at synthesis, myth is treated essentially as distorted history, and, most important, hardly any attention is paid to the

religious aspects of these oracles that might explain their prominent role in the life of the Greeks in Asia Minor for almost a millennium. Equally apparent, however, are its merits: most notably, the lucid presentation and analysis of the evidence for their history and functioning and the surviving responses. Two unfortunate departures from the practice followed in the author's previous works should be noted. The responses are not collected together but scattered through the text, and they are quoted only in translation. Nevertheless, like its predecessors, *The Oracles of Apollo in Asia Minor* is a mine of useful and hard to find information and will, therefore, be consulted with profit by all those interested in the long history of Anatolian Hellenism. SMB

PUBLICATIONS

Nels Bailkey, *Readings in Ancient History*, 3rd. ed. (Lexington, 1986).

Frank J. Frost, *Greek Society*, 3rd. ed. (Lexington, 1986).

M.B. Hatzopoulos and L. Gounaropoulou, *Les Milliaires de la Voie Egnatienne entre Heraclee des Lyncestes et Thessalonique*, Meletemata, 1 (Athens, 1985).

George H. Kendal, trans., Synesius, *In Praise of Baldness* (Vancouver, 1986). Order from William Hoffer, Bookseller, 58 & 60 Powell St., Vancouver, BC, V6A 1E7, Canada. \$15 Canadian.

Sarah B. Pomeroy & Stanley M. Burstein, Editors, *Ancient History* 2nd. ed. (New York, 1986).

Meyer Reinhold, "The Classics," in *Thomas Jefferson: A Reference Biography*, Merrill D. Peterson, Editor (New York, 1986).

A NEW JOURNAL OF HISTORICAL DISCUSSION

The Ancient History Bulletin (a new publication, edited at Loyola University [Chicago] and the University of Calgary) provides a forum for scholarly discussion in Ancient History and the ancillary fields of epigraphy and numismatics. The *Bulletin* seeks short articles (normally submissions should not exceed 10-12 typewritten pages) and notes on any aspect of Ancient History from the Near East to late antiquity. Papers which will generate scholarly debate or which respond to views published elsewhere are encouraged, though it is hoped that authors will exchange ideas in an amicable and constructive manner. Copyright is retained by the author. The *Bulletin's* aim is to provide quick publication in a readable but unpretentious format. Issues will appear six times per year. For further information write to: Brian M. Lavelle, Dept. of Classical Studies, Loyola University, Chicago, IL 60626 or Waldemar Heckel, John Vanderspoel, Dept. of Classics, University of Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4, Canada.

PERSONIA

J.A.S. Evans (Univ. of British Columbia) has been asked to prepare for *Lustrum* a bibliography of scholarship on

Herodotus for the years 1960 to 1985. Herodotean scholars are invited to send offprints of their articles to Prof. Evans at: UBC, Dept. of Classics, Vancouver, BC V6T 1W5.

Everett L. Wheeler (Univ. of Louisville) has been awarded a Gugenheim Grant for a study entitled "Origins of the Western Concept of Legitimate Trickery in Warfare and International Law." Prof. Wheeler will conduct his research at Duke University.

NEH SUMMER SEMINARS

The following NEH Summer Seminars for College Teachers may be of interest to AAH members:

The Greek City: An Interdisciplinary Approach. Dates: June 8 to July 31, 1986. Director: Roger S. Bagnall, Dept. of Classics, c/o Summer Session Office, 419 Lewisohn Hall, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027

Classical and Christian Roots of Anti-Semitism. Dates: June 15 to August 7, 1987. Director: Louis H. Feldman, Dept. of Classics, Yeshiva University, 500 West 185th Street, New York, NY 10033.

The Family in Classical and Hellenistic Greece. Dates: June 22 to July 30, 1987. Director: Sarah B Pomeroy, Dept. of Classical Studies, City University of New York, The Graduate Center, New York, NY 10021

Art in the Culture of Pagan and Christian Rome in Late Antiquity. Dates: June 15 to August 7, 1987. Locations: American Academy in Rome. Director: David H. Wright, History of Art Dept., University of California, Berkeley, Calif. 94720.

Stipend for an eight-week seminar: \$3,500. Six-week seminar: \$2,750. Interested persons should contact the directors directly. The application deadline is March 2, 1987.

CONFERENCES

Religion and Magic, Science and Magic: The Distinctions as Cultural Indicators in ancient and medieval times. Date: August 9-13, 1987. For information write: Prof. Ernest S. Frerichs, Director, c/o Mr. Paul Flesher, Conference Director, Program in Judaic Studies, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912.

Dumbarton Oaks Byzantine Symposium 1987. Theme: Mount Athos. Date: May 1-3, 1987. For information write: Byzantine Symposium, Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C. 20007.

Seventh International Patristic-Byzantine Symposium. Theme: Icons in Patristic Theology and Spirituality, Eastern and Western. Date: October 3, 1987. For information write Prof. Constantine N. Tsirpanlis, RR 1, Box 353-A, Minuet Lane, Kingston, NY 12401.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Assistant Professor to teach UD Roman History & Ancient History Survey beginning August 17, 1987. Tenure track. Ph.D in History desired although ABDS will be considered. Salary: \$21,000-22,500. Deadline: Until position filled. Send letter of application, CV, and placement file to: Prof. John J. Contreni, Head, Dept. of History, University Hall, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907. EO/AAE Employer.

MISCELLANEA

An electronic networking service for historians, social scientists and humanists called ScholarNet has recently been established. For information contact: Richard W. Slatta, ScholarNet, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-8101. Tel. 919-737-7908.

ASSOCIATION OF ANCIENT HISTORIANS

Annual Meetings

May 1-4, 1986: McMaster University

Tentative Program

Friday, May 1: Registration: Commons Building, McMaster
Reception: McMaster Art Gallery**

Saturday: 9:30-12 CHRISTIANS AND JEWS IN
THE ROMAN EMPIRE Three
papers and a response*

1:30-3:30 AN INTRODUCTION TO MC-
MASTER'S FACILITIES FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATING,
including the facilities for radio-
graphic dating unique in North
America

3:00-5:30 VALUE AND EXCHANGE IN
THE ANCIENT WORLD Three
papers and a response.*

7:00 DINNER COURTESY OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVER-
SITY

Sunday: 9:00-11:00 THE HELLENOPHONE HIS-
TORIANS OF ROME Three pa-
pers and a response.*

11:15-12:30 BUSINESS MEETING

**During the meeting a selection of coins from the McMaster Collections will be on display in the Art Gallery illustrating "Inflation in the Roman Empire."

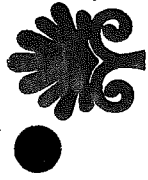
* Titles of papers cannot be announced until final decisions are made. There are opening still for papers on all panels.

+ Book displays by a number of publishers are being arranged for Saturday.

+ If participants find that they must stay over until Monday, excursions can be planned for Sunday afternoon. Possibilities include the Royal Ontario Museum's newly decorated galleries, Niagara Peninsula wineries or Niagara Falls.



MODERN APPROACHES TO ANCIENT HISTORY
 AN NEH SUMMER INSTITUTE
 UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
 JUNE 28-AUGUST 7, 1987



PARTICIPANTS

Participation is limited to full-time faculty teaching in colleges and universities in the United States. Participants need not be fluent in Classical Greek nor be experienced archaeologists. Many will come from educational institutions that emphasize undergraduate teaching rather than research. Some will be teachers of broad survey courses in western civilization; some may come from fields other than history. Criteria for selection will include evidence of the teaching effectiveness of the applicants and of particular interest in multi-disciplinary approaches to the teaching of history.

Participants will receive a stipend of \$3000.00 for travel and other expenses. Successful applicants' institutions are asked to pay a fee of \$200.00 toward the cost of the Institute.



SCHEDULE: June 28-August 7, 1987

- June 28 arrival at the University of Washington; evening: reception and group dinner on Campus
- Week of June 29 Introduction to Institute; Lectures by John Cherry; Discussion; July 4, picnic
- Weeks of July 6 and July 13 Pre-Classical Greece: Bronze Age; C. Shelmerdine and T. Palaima, specialists
- Week of July 20 Pre-Classical Greece: Dark Age; C.G. Thomas, specialist
- Weeks of July 27 and August 3 Post Classical Greece: Macedonia; E. Borza, specialist



APPLICATIONS

College and University teachers wishing to participate in the Summer Institute may obtain applications and further information from:

- Prof. Carol G. Thomas
 Department of History DP-20
 University of Washington
 Seattle, WA 98195
- OR
- Marge Healy
 Department of History DP-20
 University of Washington
 Seattle, WA 98185
 (206) 543-2375

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 1, 1987

The Association of Ancient Historians and the University of Washington will be sponsoring a six-week Summer Institute from June 28 through August 7, 1987. Supported by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, an independent agency, the Institute will introduce college and university teachers to new developments in the field of ancient history. This will be done by concentrating on three major periods: the pre-Classical Bronze Age, the Dark Age, and the post-Classical fourth and third centuries B.C.E. Emphasis will be on collaborative research techniques recently applied to those periods.

DIRECTOR AND FACULTY

Director of the Institute is Carol G. Thomas, Professor of Ancient History, University of Washington, who will also be the specialist conducting the Institute sessions on the Dark Ages. John Cherry, University Lecturer in Aegean Prehistory and Fellow of Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge, will open the Institute with a series of lectures describing the most fundamental and recent developments in the study of antiquity. Cynthia Shelmerdine, Associate Professor of Classics, University of Texas at Austin, and Thomas Palaima, Associate Professor of Classics, University of Texas at Austin and MacArthur Fellow, will be the specialists on the Pre-Classical Bronze Age. Eugene Borza, Professor of Ancient History, University of Pennsylvania, Professor at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens 1985-86 and 1986-87, and President of the AAR, will be the specialist for the post-Classical age. Participants will meet as a group with the Specialist three mornings a week and, in order to discuss the material considered in the lectures, will meet in discussion seminar one afternoon each week. Because the material considered in these four meetings is of a technical nature, there will be a weekly group meeting of participants with the Institute director to examine the broader context of the specific issues.

GOALS

A major goal of the Summer Institute is to provide opportunity for participants to enrich their teaching effectiveness. A weekly Workshop will deal with a specific aspect of instruction: lecturing, the course syllabus, use of media, examinations, and additional resources (local archaeological programs, museums). Each workshop will begin with a short presentation by an individual knowledgeable and skillful in one of these areas. Equally productive should be discussion among the participants of their own approaches to the instruction of ancient history.

In addition to enrichment of teaching, participants will have individual research interests. Projects proposed by each applicant will be considered as one criterion for admission to the Institute. Individuals will meet informally with the Director each week to discuss progress in their particular course of reading and research.

Since a key purpose of the Institute is the interaction among disciplines, it will be important to promote interaction of people. Beyond formal meetings and shared projects, less formal gatherings will be included. Every Friday the entire group will meet for luncheon in a private dining room in one of the residence halls. During each segment of the program, there will be one social gathering.

APPLICATION FORM

MODERN APPROACHES TO ANCIENT HISTORY
AN NEH SUMMER INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
JUNE 28-AUGUST 7, 1987

Please type or print legibly.

NAME: _____ TITLE: _____
INSTITUTION: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
HOME ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
HOME TELEPHONE: _____ OFFICE TELEPHONE: _____
COURSES TAUGHT: _____

AREA(S) OF INTEREST: _____

IN ABOUT 300 WORDS, DESCRIBE A PROJECT YOU WOULD LIKE TO INVESTIGATE DURING
THE INSTITUTE. (Attach sheet if necessary) _____

YOU WILL NEED RECOMMENDATIONS FROM TWO REFEREES WHO CAN DISCUSS YOUR TEACH-
ING STRENGTHS AS WELL AS YOUR RESEARCH ABILITIES; PLEASE HAVE THESE SENT DI-
RECTLY TO THE ADDRESS BELOW. PLEASE GIVE NAMES, ADDRESSES, AND TELEPHONES
OF YOUR REFEREES:

- 1) _____

- 2) _____

PLEASE ATTACH A LETTER FROM YOUR DEAN OR CHAIRMAN INDICATING THAT YOUR
INSTITUTION IS WILLING TO PAY \$200 TOWARD THE COST OF THE INSTITUTE.

MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION AND A SHORT C.V. BEFORE MARCH 1, 1987, TO:

Prof. Carol G. Thomas
Department of History DP-20
University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195

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)
- b) \$3.00 (Associate Membership)

(Only students, retired professors, and non-residents of the United States or Canada are eligible for associate membership).

This is: a) A new membership
b) A renewal for the year _____.

Send to: Stanley M. Burnstein,
Secretary-Treasurer/AAH
Dept. of History
Calif. State University, Los Angeles
5151 State University Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90032
U.S.A.

Name _____

Address _____

Prof. S.M. Burstein
California State University, Los Angeles
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Los Angeles, CA 90032