

# Sortes

## Spring 2014

### Letter from the President

Spring has finally come to New England as I write my first letter as president, taking a break from producing my own contribution to this year's exciting Symposium Cumanum on the subject of translation, organized by Professor Zara Torlone of Miami University of Ohio. Papers will be presented by more than 20 scholars, including contributors from the University of Naples Federico II, which will host one of our sessions, the others taking place at the Villa. We have in addition already scheduled the 2015 Symposium on the topic of "Revisiting Vergil and Roman Religion," organized by Professors John Miller of the University of Virginia and Christopher Nappa of the University of Minnesota. Calls for papers will be issued shortly. In addition the Society will be staging two tours this summer, one based at the Villa ("Greeks and Romans in Town and Country"), the other in Greece ("Alexander and Aeneas in Northern Greece")

We were all saddened to hear of the death of Mr. Harry Wilks on March 11 of this year, his 89th birthday. Many members have by now witnessed the fruits of Mr. Wilks' great generosity consisting firstly of a gift that has led to complete renovation of the Villa. Mr Wilks took a great interest in the project and we were at least pleased he was able to see the results of his generosity. Pictures are available on the Society's website. It is our hope that members will look into the possibility of bringing groups to the Villa; these may range from scholarly organizations such as the annual Symposium to high school groups. We depend on the revenue that comes from such group involvement at the Villa, where the warm hospitality and delicious food provided by Mina and the family are a perfect complement to the beauty of the location. Indeed Mr. Wilks' second gift came in the form of a scholarship program that has made it possible for high school students to visit Italy and study at the Villa's Harry Wilks Study Center.

Our session at the American Philological Association in a very frigid Chicago, on "Vergil's commentaries: La Cerda to Horsfall," was well attended and well received, and for the 2015 New Orleans session on "Vergil, Epigram, and Elegy," we received a good number of submissions, from which we have selected five excellent papers. Last, but by no means least, our scholarly activities continue to be focused on our journal, *Vergilius*. Our editor Professor Christine Perkell is eager for you to submit your best work to the journal, which is flourishing under her energetic editorship.

Richard Thomas (Harvard University)

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"Tempest! France shaken by gale force winds!" So read the headlines on the day Vergilians on the long version of Roman France were to gather in Autun, ancient Augustodunum and in imperial times the center of the Aedui. For my part I was nearly swept down the Rhone at Vienne by a 100 km. gust, and one participant's plane was diverted from Paris to Zurich, but nonetheless all four of us were able to rendez-vous in Autun by 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve, braving the weather in the tradition of Caesar's Gallic exploits. Christmas day was spent in Autun, a beautiful little town with the best Roman remains in long-haired Gaul. We began by walking out a Roman gateway to view the lofty wall of a Gallo-Roman temple picturesquely situated by the Arroux river among green fields and great white Charolais cattle. The rest of the day was devoted to an additional Roman gate, impressive city walls, the largest Roman theater in France, and the cathedral with its famous medieval tympanum depicting Christ judging the saved and the damned. There was only was one thing missing, food! Restaurants were either closed for the holiday or booked solid. Finally we turned to an automatic pizza machine let into a wall near our hotel. After inserting euros and answering questions (bacon? mushrooms?) we were rewarded by our pizzas issuing from a slot. Next morning, starting before dawn, Lauren Rogers, in training for a marathon, ran 19 miles, doing the circuit several times over of gates, temple, walls, and theater which had taken us all the previous day.

We then moved south on the Agrippa Way, leaving Burgundy and crossing the boundary between Gallia Comata which Caesar had conquered and the more ancient province of Transalpina, renamed Narbonensis by Augustus. My plan to preview Vienne, our first stop in the Rhone valley, had been aborted by the storm, but the town proved easy to navigate. Favorite relics there of Rome included the temple to Augustus and Livia, and Saint Romain en Gal across the Rhone, still an active excavation site where large townhouses, a warehouse, and an industrial area have been meticulously uncovered. The new museum there is outstanding for its clever displays that illustrate everyday Roman life. That evening we were back on the train and arrived in time for dinner in Orange, where we met up with the three participants on the short version of the program.

The lovely towns of Orange, Avignon, and Arles were the locations of our three Provençal hotels. The weather was mild and, with the exception of a brief downpour in the theater of Orange, dry. These cities, along with Nimes, offered us some of the best preserved Roman monuments in existence, including the arch at Orange, the Pont du Gard aqueduct close to Avignon, the theater and amphitheater at Arles, and the almost perfectly preserved Maison Carree temple in Nimes, which inspired Jefferson. We also took day trips by public bus out to excavations at Vaison la Romaine and Glanum, two small Roman towns with well-preserved remains of private houses. An hour was spent studying the arch and mausoleum of Glanum near Saint Remy and comparing the sculptural programs of these monuments to that of the Orange arch. I found the site of Glanum to be much better signed than on my previous visit. At Vaison it was warm enough to eat outside in the central town square, which recent excavation suggests overlies the ancient forum.

The grandeur of Roman monuments in southern France was only one factor in making the program memorable. The enthusiasm, compatibility, and flexibility of the participants were equally outstanding. With mild weather and unbeatable, uncrowded sites, Roman France proved an ideal destination for a winter program.

Director: Beverly Berg

Participants: Tamara Botiuk, Teri Kawamata, Janet Lawler, Bill Murray, Lauren Rogers, and Roger Sinnott



## FINALISTS AND COMMENDATIONS, Vergilian Society Translation Contest 2014

First Prize (\$75) Yianni Laloudakis

student of Matthew Lindbloom, of Chandler Preparatory School, Chandler, Arizona

Second Prize (\$50) Zarrin Subha

student of Jonathan Lamm, of Atlantic City High School, Atlantic City, New Jersey

Third Prize (\$25) June Ge

student of Patricia Lister, of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Alexandria, Virginia

Commendable Papers :: Recipients of ex libris Bookplate Gifts

Emily Ho

student of Karen McQuaid, of Charlotte Latin School, Charlotte, North Carolina

Wyatt Joyner

student of Susan Schearer, of Classical Cottage School, Winchester, Virginia

Sophia Ellingham

student of Nancy Howell, of Martin Luther King Magnet School, Nashville, Tennessee

Emma Leeds Armstrong & Rowyn Brunner

students of Beverly McCaskill, of Monticello High School, Charlottesville, Virginia

Caroline Howard

student of Patrick Yaggy, of North Gwinnett High School, Suwanne, Georgia

Sam Bowers & Ram Raval

students of Kelly Arble, of Princess Anne High School, Virginia Beach, Virginia

Zachary Hall

student of Deborah Shaw, San Francisco University High School, San Francisco, California

Ben Robertson

student of Nora Murphy, Shaker Heights High School, Shaker Heights, Ohio

Austin Chen, Andrew Coffee, Sara Felsen, Emma Hastings, Brian Higgins, Owen Hoffman, & Sienna Lotenberg

students of Christine Conklin, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Alexandria, Virginia

Adrian Abel-Bey, Virginia Cook, Julia Lee, Robert Malpass, Jiha Min, Grace Ragi, & Ariana Tafti

students of Donald Connor, Trinity School, New York City, New York

Julianna Lewis

student of Diane Sorrel, University School of Nashville, Nashville, Tennessee

Lev Kendrick & Meg Young

students of Valerie Gemskie, Walter Payton Magnet High School, Chicago, Illinois

### About Vergil and the Translation Contest:

Students of Vergil represent some of the strongest, best prepared Latin students among all learners of classical languages. Vergil has been taught as a master of Latin poetry since the 1st century AD. Then, the *Aeneid* was the acme of Latin verse, and Vergil is also part of the current Advanced Placement examination in Latin. This is a rare accomplishment indeed. We commend the schools and teachers who participated for their initiation into this distinguished tradition of poetry and scholarship. Fewer than ten percent of all students earned either a First Place, Second Place, Third Place or Commendable Paper. This was a broad and very inclusive tournament; overall we had over 335 entries drawn from almost fifty teachers across the breadth of the United States and overseas, from schools large and small; private and public and charter and homeschools.

### THE VERGILIAN SOCIETY 2014 ELECTION CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

The Vergilian Society will hold its annual election this fall. Below are the nominees for Trustee (two positions available). Members have the option to propose additional candidates. Any such proposal should be sent on a petition with the names of at least 20 current Vergilian Society members to Craig Kallendorf <kalendrf@tamu.edu> within the next 60 days (from June 20th, 2014).

Nominee for Trustee (three-year term) -- Donald Connor

I started studying Latin and Greek in high school and continued them at Fordham University, graduating with a BA in Classics in 1965. I then attended Yale University where I earned a MA and MPhil in Classics. I started to teach at Roxbury Latin School in Boston, MA in 1969 and moved to the Brunswick School in Greenwich, CT in 1971. There I started to teach AP and became the chair of a department that grew to two and a half people by the time I left in 1983. When I moved to Trinity School in New York City in 1983, I was hired to be the department head and have seen the department grow from three full-time and three part-time (one course each) to seven full-time teachers. With a student population of 640 kids in grades 6-12 where Latin is taken, over half the students take Latin and about 20 take Greek in grades 10-12. Since 1971 I have taught AP Vergil and AP Catullus-Horace (now Latin Literature) every year. I have been an AP consultant from the late 1980's and have been a reader of the AP exams in many of the years since the early 1990's. For 2000-2004 I served on the AP Development Committee, which writes the two AP exams. I traveled some in Greece and Turkey in 2001 and spent six weeks in 2004 at the American Academy Summer Program in Rome.

Nominee for Trustee (three-year term) -- Timothy Moore

Timothy J. Moore is John and Penelope Biggs Distinguished Professor of Classics at Washington University in St. Louis. He holds degrees from Millersville University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is the author of *Artistry and Ideology: Livy's Vocabulary of Virtue* (Frankfurt 1989), *Playing to the Audience: The Theater of Plautus* (Austin 1998), *Music in Roman Comedy* (Cambridge 2012), and *Roman Theatre* (Cambridge 2012) and co-editor (with Wolfgang Polleichtner) of *Form und Bedeutung im lateinischen Drama / Form and Meaning in Latin Drama* (Trier 2013). He has also written numerous articles on ancient music and music archaeology, Latin literature, American musical theatre, and Japanese *kyōgen* comedy.

Sicily is a true crossroads of history, with striking archaeological remains from antiquity and beautiful churches from Medieval and Baroque times. Our program takes a complete circle of this magical island. We begin with a visit to Taormina, then on to Syracuse, where Timoleon and Plato once walked. We contemplate the golden temples of Agrigento, Selinunte, and Segesta, some of the best preserved temples of Classical Greek times. The program ends in Palermo, and there is an optional post-classical continuation to see more of Palermo, once a Punic town, beautified by Norman French rulers in the 12th century and Aragonese rulers thereafter.

\*Overview: 8 night program: 1 night Palermo, 2 nights Syracuse, 2 nights Piazza Armerina, 1 night Agrigento, 2 nights Palermo. 11 night program: 3 nights continuation in Palermo.

\*Weather: Director has visited Sicily thrice in January and experienced excellent weather. There is no sunshine guarantee, but this program is for those who prefer temperatures in the high 50's over the high 90's of summer. Please see notes below on price, deposit deadline, and contacting director.

\*Fri Dec 26, 2014, Participants depart their homes in the U.S.

\*Sat Dec 27, Participants arrive in Palermo, afternoon walking tour of the city for those who have arrived in time, welcome dinner for all and overnight in Palermo (included).

\*Sun Dec 28, Pick up by our coach, drive to visit Taormina with its world famous Greek theater and view of Mount Etna, continue to Syracuse, first overnight in Syracuse.

\*Mon Dec 29, Walking tour of Ortygia island including the temples of Apollo and Athena. In the afternoon we visit the archaeological park of Syracuse with its theater, amphitheater, and quarries. Overnight in Syracuse.

\*Tue Dec 30, Pack up, tour the Paolo Orsi Archaeological Museum of Syracuse, after lunch make a brief visit to Castel Eurialo with its overlook of Syracuse harbor, arrive in Piazza Armerina, overnight in Piazza Armerina.

\*Wed Dec 31, Morning visit to the striking late Roman mosaic floor mosaics of Villa Romana, afternoon visit to Aidone Museum, then Morgantina, a Hellenistic-Roman city, second overnight in Piazza Armerina.

\*Thu Jan 1, Drive to Agrigento, see the fine archaeological museum of Agrigento and the dramatic golden temples, some of the best preserved of the ancient world. Overnight in Agrigento.

\*Fri Jan 2, Drive to Marinella, a pretty coastal town. Visit the nearby temples at Selinunte, a site which offers six major temples in all, some upright, others tumbled, and the sanctuary of Demeter. Overnight in Palermo.

\*Sat Jan 3, Morning visit to the archaeological museum of Palermo. Afternoon drive and visit to Segesta, where Verres stole the statue of Diana, to see the remarkable temple in a beautiful setting and the ancient theater with a view of the sea. Overnight in Palermo.

\*Sun Jan 4, Early morning bus to Palermo airport for those on the 8 night program. For those continuing on the post-classical segment, morning visit to the interesting ancient site of Solunto, a town of Punic origin transformed in Greco-Roman times. Our hired bus will drop us off for an afternoon visit to the cathedral of Cefalu with its spectacular mosaic Pantocrator. We return to Palermo via train, overnight there.

\*Mon Jan 5, Walking tour of Palermo, including a visit to the Martorana church with its 12th century mosaics, and the Norman Palace with its mosaic Capella Palatina. Afternoon visit to the evocative 19th century Palazzo Mirto. Overnight in Palermo.

\*Tue Jan 6, Visit to the medieval Palazzo Chiaramonte; afternoon visit via public bus to the twelfth century cathedral of Monreale in the hills above Palermo.

\*Wed Jan 7, Departure. Convenient buses from the station to the airport are available, or taxis (not included).

Price: 8 night version: \$1,595 per person, single supplement of \$200. 11 night version: \$1,995, single supplement \$275. Price will include hotels, breakfasts, dinners except in Syracuse and the extra nights in Palermo, ground transportation, and entry fees. Price will NOT include airfare, dinners in Syracuse and on post-classical extension in Palermo, and transfer from Palermo airport to hotel, or (for those on post-classical extension) from hotel to airport. Due to the need to procure hotels in the holiday season participants must have signed up and submitted their deposits of \$750 by Sept 1. Final payments are due Oct 1. It is recommended that participants submit their deposits as early as possible to hold their place. Deposits are refundable if the Society cancels a program, but not if a participant cancels. Participants should contact the Society secretary to sign up and pay, but should also contact the director (bberg@linfield.edu) as soon as they decide to join.

Vergilian Society - Societas Vergiliana  
Annual Membership Renewal

Your Vergilian Society Membership includes: *Vergilius*; the *Sortes Vergiliana*e (delivered electronically); opportunity to stay at the Villa as a Visiting Scholar or Vergilian Society Fellow; support for the Harry Wilks Study Center at the Villa Vergiliana at Cumae, Italy; priority consideration for Vergilian Society tours; and eligibility for VS scholarships and fellowships. Contributing Members receive a 5% discount and Life Members a 10% discount when staying at the Villa as a Visiting Scholar. (Discounts are for individual members only and are not extendable to include any group brought by the members to the Villa.)

Membership Categories:

K-12 Student (all benefits except <i>Vergilius</i> ) \$10 _____	Student \$18 _____
New Member \$30 _____	Retired \$35 _____
Regular \$45 _____	
Regular, three year option \$125 _____	Regular, requiring overseas mailing (outside U.S.) \$50 _____
Supporting \$60 _____	Supporting, three year option \$170 _____
Contributing \$110 _____	Contributing, three year option \$330 _____
Life \$750 _____	Life Benefactor* \$1500 _____
Institutional** \$150 _____	High School Exchange student \$50 _____

\* Life Benefactor indicates those who intend to will a portion of their estate to the Vergilian Society and the Villa Vergiliana. Those wishing to upgrade a current Life Membership to Life Benefactor may contact Keely Lake, Secretary.

\*\* An Institutional Membership allows for groups from that institution (space permitting) to use the Villa for groups on overseas trips.

Please note that the society also requires that all who stay at the Villa to be at least "New Members."

I wish to make special contributions to support:

Vergilian Society General Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Alexander McKay Memorial Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The Restoration of the Villa Fundraising Effort: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Society Scholarship Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ J. Appleton Thayer Library Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cookbook Offer: La Cucina Sgariglia contains recipes used at the Villa Vergiliana, with notes by Angela Lloyd, drawings by Marshal Lloyd, and edited by Susan and Hartley Schearer.

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ cookbooks at \$11 each, totaling \$ \_\_\_\_\_

As a convenience to our members, you may obtain the following:

American Classical League membership, including Classical Outlook, and ACL Newsletter (\$55) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The Classical World, including membership in the Classical Association of the Atlantic States (\$35) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Please complete this form and return it with your check  
(made out to The Vergilian Society and payable in US currency)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

( ) check here if this is a new address and/or a new e-mail address

Check the appropriate box below

( ) College/University ( ) K-12 ( ) Retired ( ) Student ( ) Other \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you so very much for your on-going support of the Vergilian Society.

Keely Lake

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