



Nota Bene



Vol. 11 No. 2

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HARVARD CLASSICS

Commencement 2006

CLASS OF 2006



Notes from the Chair, by Richard Thomas

Six harvests and six winters after I began as Chair of our wonderful Department, a haven and even asylum in the sometime madness of life in administration at Harvard, I look forward to a year's leave (my first full year off ever), at All Souls College Oxford in the fall, and back here in the spring, with jaunts to the land of my youth, New Zealand, and, perhaps, to Italy's Lake Como and Bellagio. It will, however, seem strange not to teach for a whole year. It has been a humbling and proud experience to have guided our Department and to have seen us flourish in spite of the turmoil at the upper reaches of the University over the last few years. Our nineteen departing seniors and four departing graduate students tell their stories within, and I think you will agree from their testimony that we have continued just fine within our own Department. We also wish good speed and *kalos ploos* to Eric Robinson, Carwina, and Kyle as they move to their new and exciting life in Bloomington, Indiana. As I look back on the years of my watch I feel sorrow at the passing of colleagues, Emily Vermeule, Mason Hammond, Charlie Segal, and my old curmudgeon friend Shackleton Bailey, but the necrologies have found compensation in the renewal coming from a terrific set of new faculty colleagues who have taken the places of those who went before. As the bard wrote: *at genus immortale manet multosque per annos / stat fortuna domus et avi numerantur avorum*. And finally, and most importantly, I cannot imagine having done this job without the devotion, intelligence, and creative hard work of three people, the best that Harvard has, Ivy Livingston, Lenore Parker and Teresa Wu. Teresa, Lenore, and Ivy: long may you run!

What's Inside:

Class of 2006	2	Noteworthy	8
Senior Reflections	4	Latin Oration	9
Valete	6	In Memoriam	10

CONGRATULATIONS

Senior Honors Theses

Leanna Boychenko: *Paulo Peiora Canamus*: Obscenity in Pastoral and Co-medic Amoebean Dialogue

Tobias Wildman Burns: Augustan Elegy as a Modernism

Caitlin Alexandra Donovan: Good Men & Bad Emperors. Tacitus' *Agricola*: A Historical *Exemplum* of Republican Virtue

Ian Goh: To Make a Prairie: Bees as a Marker of Place in Greek and Latin Poetry

Alexa Hirschfield: Truth Replaced by Beauty: Artificiality in the Poetics of Constantine P. Cavafy

Joy S. Hurd IV: *Orator bene dicit*: What It Means to "Speak Well" in Quintilian's *Institutio Oratoria*

Christine Kim: The Pragmatics of Transition in Pindar's Epinician Odes: A Performance-Minded Approach

Benet Magnuson: Back to Aristotle: The Influence of the *Poetics* on the Early Criticism and Poetry of T. S. Eliot

Elizabeth McMillen: Renaissance and Renewal: The Kore of Sardis and Lydian Identity in the First and Second Centuries CE

Anna Rosenblum: The Evolution of Trojan Palladion Iconography on Greek Painted Vases

Ryan Thomas Thornton: *Duplex Est Cognitio*: Knowledge of Universals and Particulars in John Duns Scotus

Yvona Trnka-Amrhein: The Rhetoric of Topography: The City of Rome and *The Satires* of Juvenal

Alexis Zara Tumolo: Golden Apples: Examining Gender Dynamics and Sexuality through Scenes of Apple Courtship in Latin Literature

Prizes and Fellowships

Arthur Deloraine Corey Fellowships:

Anna Rosenblum
Yvona Trnka-Amrhein

Louis Curtis Prize (Latin):

Ian Goh

Department Prizes:

Leanna Boychenko, Fred Brown,
Toby Burns, Benet Magnuson,
Tracy Moore

Hoopes Prizes:

Caitlin Donovan, Ian Goh,
Christine Kim, Elizabeth McMillen

William King Richardson Scholarship (Greek and Latin):

Joy Hurd

Thesis Prizes:

Pease (Latin):

Caitlin Donovan
Yvona Trnka-Amrhein

Smyth (Greek):

Ian Goh
Christine Kim

Vermeule (Classical Archaeology):

Elizabeth McMillen
Anna Rosenblum

Leanna Boychenko



Frederick Brown



Tobias Burns



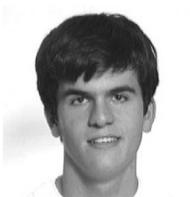
Caitlin Donovan



Ian Goh



Alexa Hirschfield



Joy Hurd



Christine Kim



Benet Magnuson



Elizabeth McMillen

TO THE CLASS OF 2006!

Tracy Moore



Anna Rosenblum



Vaughn Shinall



Gordon Stewart



Ryan Thornton



Yvona Trnka-Amrhein



Alexis Tumolo



Simon Vozick-Levinson



Katherine Zebroski

Future Plans

Leanna Boychenko will continue in Classics at Yale.

Fred Brown will live in Philadelphia and teach Latin part-time at Germantown Friends School, and he hopes to find some way to make music for money.

Toby Burns will spend the summer in Paris before moving to New York where he envisions writing a novel, singing in musicals, and doing something in the fine arts. If all this fails, he will probably head to graduate school.

Caitlin Donovan will work in investment banking at Morgan Stanley's New York office and plans to apply to law school in the near future.

Ian Goh will pursue an MPhil in the sunny climes of Cambridge, England, concentrating on poetry that nobody reads in that charming location labeled by Housman as "an asylum in every sense of the word."

Alexa Hirschfeld leaves for Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand after graduation. Beginning in July she will work for Katie Couric at CBS.

Joy Hurd will spend the summer teaching SAT classes in Seoul, South Korea, for the Princeton Review and plans to go to law school eventually.

Christine Kim has not finalized her post-graduation plans.

Benet Magnuson will attend Harvard Law School.

Elizabeth McMillen leaves for Turkey the day after graduation to help out with the excavations at Sardis. After that she will slave away at Mount Sinai Medical School in New York.

Tracy Moore will do research and start up a few businesses in Cincinnati, Ohio, before attending graduate school.

Anna Rosenblum will participate in a Masters degree program in Skeletal and Dental Bioarchaeology at the University College London Institute of Archaeology (London, UK).

Vaughn Shinall plans to follow his heart, or the winds.

Gordon Stewart will spend next year in the kitchen.

Ryan Thornton will teach English at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv. Afterwards he plans to enter the seminary to become ordained as a Roman Catholic priest.

Yvona Trnka-Amrhein will do an MSt in Classical Archaeology at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, before returning to Harvard for a PhD in Classics.

Alexis Tumolo will intern at a hospital in Boston for one year before attending medical school in the fall of 2007.

Simon Vozick-Levinson will spend the summer in New York as an intern at *Entertainment Weekly* magazine and will likely continue as a freelance music critic for the *Boston Phoenix*.

Katherine Zebroski will work for a law firm in New York while plotting her next great adventure.

SENIOR

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Edward Glaeser, a Harvard professor of Economics, offered policy advice to the state of Louisiana and the federal government: “We have an obligation to people, not to places [...] Given just how much, on a per capita basis, it would take to rebuild New Orleans to its former glory, lots of residents would be much [better off] with \$10,000 and a bus ticket to Houston” (*The Wall Street Journal* 9/13/05). The problem: Category 5 hurricane, 1604 people dead, 705 people missing, subsequent reports of rampant theft, murder and rape, and a total economic impact of \$200 billion. The solution: move to Texas.

A former Applied Math and Economics concentrator, I came to Harvard looking for “answers” such as this one, practical tools which I could later apply to the “real,” post-graduation world of investment banking, law school and politics. Instead of answers, I found generalizations. Instead of satisfaction, I found frustration. While the very power and ultimate value of Economics lies in the objectivity and elegance of its solutions, its methods of analysis seem to simultaneously result in a kind of dulling effect and inevitable oversimplification that constantly serve to irritate and alienate politicians and other inhabitants of the “real world.” As a disappointed and increasingly disinterested Junior, I decided to explore another, somewhat unexpected place at Harvard for the answers to my questions: the Department of the Classics.

While the Economists of Lit-tauer rely on the “best-fit line” of

Statistics to impose a semblance of strict linearity upon a collection of inherently un-linear data points, Classicists search for patterns and similarities between the data of literary and historical works in order to illuminate and understand the outliers, tensions and divergences. In his class on Virgil’s *Aeneid*, a poem that ironically touches upon many of the core issues lying at the root of the Hurricane Katrina tragedy—the devastating destruction of a place, the accompanying suffering and journey of a people, and the eventual founding of a new home—Professor Richard Thomas repeatedly emphasizes that the purpose and power of intertextuality and allusion reside in their ultimate ability to underscore difference, subversion and transformation. Rather than enforce a rigid dichotomy between the inextricably linked and co-dependent notions of people and places, Classical texts and the academics who analyze them strive to grapple with and tackle ambiguity and nuance in an effort to achieve a more complicated, multifaceted and complete solution.

Although I had previously assumed a Classical education to be somewhat remote, irrelevant and inapplicable, my experience in the Department has provided me with a rigorous and compelling way of thinking, a precious supply of highly pertinent texts and ideas with which I can better understand and approach the problems of the world, and the invaluable opportunity to consistently engage in a dialogue

and exchange of thoughts with professors of unparalleled insight and talent. While I doubt the existence of a “Council of Classical Advisors” to the President in our future, I certainly believe that the objective and practical application of an education in the Classics is an unrealized and hugely under-utilized resource. Classical literature and history grapple with relevant and intrinsically “classical” questions, offering convincing and potentially more satisfying solutions to “modern” problems than those of the traditionally “applied” fields of the sciences and social sciences. As Cicero explained to his contemporary statesmen and orators, the words of Classical authors and historians act as “the teacher of life” and “the messenger of truth” (*de Or.* 2.36), presenting their readers with a valuable store of precedents, examples and lessons. Although I cannot claim that I have found all the answers to life’s questions in my two years as a Classicist, it is certain that I can now leave behind the people and places of Harvard in June, equipped with the knowledge and tools necessary to embark on and fully appreciate the multidimensional nature of the conflicts and potential resolutions of the “real world” that awaits me.

Caitlin Donovan '06

REFLECTIONS

The only reason I took Latin was that my mother made me. I had no idea that a simple instance of forceful parenting in high school could have affected my education quite so much. It is even harder to believe that I will soon be graduating from Harvard with a degree in the Classics.

The Department here has quite the reputation among non-Classicists in the Harvard community. My friends hear about my trips to student-faculty lunches at the Faculty Club, my grants to attend Latin classes in Rome, and the weekly Happy Hour offered to students. I have to admit that I feel a certain degree of self-satisfaction when I hear their amazement.

But these “perks” of being a Harvard Classics concentrator are only the tip of the iceberg. The most admirable part of the Department is certainly not its resources or generosity; rather, it is the utterly unusual sense of community that our faculty and students feel and act in accordance with. As I approach the end of my time as an undergraduate, I would like to thank the professors, graduate students, and fellow undergraduates who have made my time here invaluable, both intellectually and personally. Harvard should be

honored to have such a scholarly, dedicated department cloistered within the Yard, and Classics concentrators should recognize just how good they have it, and every way in which they truly

Joy Hurd '06



By the time these paragraphs are published, I will have passed my General Exams (*si fas est*); within a few days, I will be in *Entertainment Weekly*'s Manhattan office, where I will spend the summer helping the magazine cover the latest movies, television, and music. Why does my chosen career draw raised eyebrows and suspicious glances from those who know me as a Latin and Greek concentrator?

I have a complicated relationship with the Classics. Dusty libraries don't suit me, and I've rarely had time at Harvard to pore over grammatical forms the way I did in high school. Perhaps, as a lifelong financial-aid student in a field laden with elite prep-school associations, I'm ready to return to the *plebs* from which I came.

But looking at the last four years, my best experiences studying ancient high art have tapped into my love for contemporary mass culture. Richard Thomas grabbed my attention early on by discussing Virgil's *Aeneid* and Dylan's *Desire* in the same breath. Later, I watched Jan Ziolkowski unpack the most cliché Medieval Latin tropes without a trace of condescension. I've observed Tacitus' and Herodotus' tastes for scandalous celebrity gossip, followed the anti-establishment snipes in Ovid and Lucan, and gleefully absorbed Catullus' foul-mouthed disses to rival versifiers.

So I don't feel like I'm making such a huge leap. Things haven't changed too much in 2000 years. Give it a millennium or two and the most trivial twist of pop culture will seem like a classic.

Simon Vozick-Levinson '06



Nota Bene comes out twice a year, in the fall and spring. Please send, e-mail, or give typed copy to Lenore Parker, *Nota Bene* Editor, Department of the Classics, 204 Boylston Hall, Cambridge, MA 02138; fax: 617-496-6720; e-mail: lparker@fas.harvard.edu. Be sure to include your name, work or e-mail address, and phone number.

VALETE

Over the last six years and more spent in Classics and History at Harvard I have made many friends, and I will miss them dearly when I depart for an associate professorship in the History Department at Indiana University. Teresa and Lenore have been unfailingly helpful and kind (and Raffi unfailingly hungry for treats), and I have enjoyed working with all my colleagues. The students I have taught here have been amazing—it has been a real privilege to instruct them. Nevertheless, I look forward to going to Bloomington and IU, where, in addition to my job, there awaits a clinical law professorship for my wife Carwina Weng at the law school. It will be interesting to have the both of us teaching at the same institution for once! Young Kyle, whom many of you have met, should thrive there. I will be joining a young and energetic group of faculty involved in ancient history at IU in the departments of History, Classical Studies, and Religious Studies. For my own work I expect to finally finish up my book on Classical democracies outside Athens and embark on various new projects, including a study of the sources and scholarship on the battle of Aegospotami that effectively ended the Peloponnesian War. Thanks to everyone for your friendship, and I wish you all the best!



Eric Robinson



Renaud Gagné

I had the privilege to spend an eventful year in the overly stimulating city of Berlin as a collaborator in two “special research groups,” at the Free University and the Humboldt University. With a fellowship from the Onassis Foundation, I am now living in Athens, working at the American School toward finishing my dissertation, “Inherited Guilt in Classical Greece.” In August I will be moving back to Montreal, where I will begin work as an assistant professor in ancient Greek at McGill University.

AMICI!



Sarah Hitch

It is with a mixture of joy and regret that I take my final leave of the Classics Department. I have very much enjoyed the seven years spent in hot pursuit of a PhD in Classical Philology. I started the program in 1999 as a devotee of Apollonius Rhodius, followed by a brief flirtation with Theokritos, before settling on Homer, animal sacrifice, and Apuleius as the topics of my Special Exams. I wrote my dissertation under the direction of Albert Henrichs on “The King of Sacrifice. The Structural and Narratological Role of Sacrifice in the *Iliad*.” I moved to England in 2002, where I currently reside. A very, very fond farewell to all graduate students and staff in Boylston, whose support and encouragement I will always remember with warmth, kindness, and most of all appreciation.

The picture below is one of me when I first arrived at Harvard, many years ago. I’ve changed a lot since then (I hope), and have met many wonderful people along the way. Though I’ve been in Rome for the past two years, it’s nice to know that I always have a community of friends to return to at the Classics Department—with Raffi protecting us all from strangers. Now I am heading to the Athens of the South, where I’ll take up an exciting position at Vanderbilt and be within sight of Nashville’s one-to-one replica of the Parthenon (complete with gilded cult statue). This will be a big change from life in New England, but one that this lifelong New Englander is eager to experience. I can tell you how it goes during one of my periodic trips back to Cambridge and my native state of New Hampshire; alternatively, those who would like to commune with Athena, develop their appreciation for country music at the Grand Ole Opry, or simply visit, should come down and see me.



David Petrain



Alexander Kirichenko

When I came from Saint Petersburg to Harvard in 1999, I was an aspiring Hellenist with a keen interest in the pre-Socratics and early Greek religion. Seven years later, after a few fascinating but ultimately unsuccessful raids into such even more recondite areas as Hellenistic religious syncretism and Greek documentary papyrology, I am leaving the Department as a mainstream Latinist. This sudden switch from Greek to Latin that I have accomplished through my dissertation on Apuleius, “Apuleius’ *Golden Ass*: A Comedy of Storytelling,” is not the only momentous change that the years at the graduate school have brought to my life. The fact that I have spent almost half of my graduate life in Germany means that I now feel more or less at home in three different modern cultures too. However, what has had the most crucial formative influence on me during all these years is the uniquely cosmopolitan atmosphere of Harvard’s Department of the Classics, where I have met a great number of superb friends and inspiring colleagues from all over the world. To be honest, I am pessimistic about the odds of my experiencing anything comparable in the future. I will really miss everybody. Even though it seems that I am going to stay in Europe (at least for now), I hope we’ll be able to keep in touch.

NOTEWORTHY

Undergraduate Prizes and Fellowships

The Sargent Prize for metrical translation into English of a lyric poem of Horace went to **Swift Edgar** ('07). The Lowell Prize testing competence in Greek and Latin language and literature went to **Clem Wood** ('08). **Christine Kim** ('06) was awarded a Norton Fellowship to attend the American School of Classical Studies this summer. Eight undergraduates were awarded Segal Travel and Research Fellowships for this summer: **Anna Bonnell-Freidin** ('08), **Leanna Boychenko** ('06), **Swift Edgar** ('07), **Daniel Mach** ('07), **Katherine Mackey** ('07), **Charles McNamara** ('07), **Lillian Stoner** ('07), and **Clem Wood** ('08).

Graduate News

- **Sally Eliot** (G3) passed her General Exams in September 2005.
- **Jennifer Ferriss** (G4) had her Prospectus approved in December 2005 on "Poetics and Polemics: Horace's Satiric Idiom and the Cosmic Tradition."
- **Marina Haworth** (G6) had her Prospectus approved in August 2005 on "The Image of the Athlete on Red Figure Pottery and its Role in Late Archaic and Early Classical Athenian Culture."
- **Tim Joseph** (G5) had his Prospectus approved in December 2005 on "Tacitus and Roman Epic."
- **Neviana Maximova** (G4) passed her General Exams in January 2006. On April 18th she gave birth to a baby boy, Andrei Jordan Benev.
- **Isaac Meyers** (G2) passed his General Exams in May 2006.
- **Dreya Mihaloew** (G3) passed her General Exams in September 2005.

- **Peter O'Connell** (G2) passed his General Exams in May 2006.
 - **Irene Peirano** (G4) passed her Special Exams in July 2005 on Dionysius of Halicarnassus, Carmina Priapea, and Roman Republic Hexameter Poetry. She had her Prospectus approved in February 2006 on "The Literary Fake in Latin Literature."
 - **John Schafer** (G7) won the Bowdoin Prize for Latin Prose Composition.
 - **Valeria Sergueenkova** (G6) had her Prospectus approved in March 2006 on "Natural Phenomena in Herodotus."
 - **Mike Sullivan** (G5) had his Prospectus approved in May 2005 on "Fable in Augustan Poetry."
 - **Jarrett Welsh** (G3) passed his General Exams in September 2005. He also was awarded a summer pre-dissertation fellowship.
 - **Dissertation Completion Fellowships** for 2006-2007 were awarded to Justin Lake (G5), Larry Myer (G7), John Schafer (G7), Mike Sullivan (G5), and Kate Topper (G6).
 - **Segal Travel and Research Fellowships** were awarded to Emily Allen (G3), David Camden (G1), Elizabeth Engelhardt (G1), Jennifer Ferriss (G4), Paul Kosmin (G1), Dreya Mihaloew (G3), and Nikos Pouloupoulos (G7).
- ### Alumni News
- **Deborah Beck** (PhD '97) published a book on *Homeric Conversation* (HUP 2006).
 - **Olga Levaniouk** (PhD '00) and **Alex Hollmann** (PhD '98) welcomed a son, Anton Arkady Hollmann, on February 23, 2006.

HSCP 103 Due Out

To be published in the winter of 2006 and edited by Albert Henrichs, *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology* volume 103 will contain the following articles: Renaud Gagné, "Winds and Ancestors: The *Physika* of Orpheus"; Jonas Grethlein, "The Poetics of the Bath in the *Iliad*"; Daniel Turkeltaub, "Perceiving Iliadic Gods"; Ruth Scodel, "The Gods' Visit to the Ethiopians in *Iliad* 1"; Alberto Bernabé, "The Derveni Theogony: Many Questions and Some Answers"; Herbert Granger, "The Theologian Pherecydes of Syros and the Early Days of Natural Philosophy"; Olga Levaniouk, "The Toys of Dionysos"; David Wolfson, "*Philia* in Plato's *Lysis*"; Vayos Liapis, "How to Make a *Monostichos*: Strategies of Variation in the *Sententiae Menandri*"; Stanley Hoffer, "The Use of Adjective Interlacing (Double Hyperbaton) in Latin Poetry"; Alan Cameron, "The Imperial Pontifex"; D. R. Shackleton Bailey, "Further to Ps.-Quintilian's Longer Declamations"; Llewelyn Morgan, "Neither Fish nor Fowl? Metrical Selection in Martial's *Xenia*"; Christina Kokkinia, "A Rhetorical Riddle: The Subject of Dio Chrysostom's First Tarsian Oration"; Andrew Turner, "Frontinus and Domitian: *Laudes principis* in the *Strategemata*"; Miriam Griffin, "The Younger Pliny's Debt to Moral Philosophy"; Gregory Hays, "Further Notes on Fulgentius"; Wayne Hankey, "Re-evaluating E. R. Dodds' Platonism"; Seán Hemingway and Henry Lie, "A Copper Alloy Cypriot Tripod at the Harvard University Art Museums"; Maura Giles, "Odysseus and the Ram in Art and (Con)text: Arthur M. Sackler Museum 1994.8 and the Hero's Escape from Polyphemos."

Roma Academica

Salvete omnes! Salvete studentes, amici, parentes, professores laudati! Ante vos sto hodie, Latine loquens. Ridiculum auditu! Fortasse mirum vobis videatur etiam nunc universitatem nostram hunc morem servare, ut in hac celebratione quotannis talem oratorem praebeat. Sed, ut ego credo, per hanc orationem haec universitas gloriam Romanam et vestigia actorum temporum servat. Hic hodie gloria similis Romanae vivit vigetque.

Si recte consideramus, haec universitas appellari potest Roma quaedam academica, florens divitiis, agris, atque facinoribus nobiles. In hoc teatro, nostro Foro Harvardiano, convocati sumus. Ante me stant lapideae columnae Bibliothecae Widenerianae, quae custodiunt thesauros pretiosos, scilicet praestantissimos libros omnium terrarum temporumque. Sicut olim milites Romani in Campo Martio se exercuerunt ad consecutendas omnium gentium victorias, cotidie nos studentes per hunc campum ambulamus, consecutantes omnium rerum scientiam.

Prope patet campus ille vetustior, ubi universitas nostra dudum humilia initia habuit. Sicut Roma antiqua ab vico exiguo ad caput imperii magni crevit, sic etiam crevit academia nostra a parvo pascuo ad eam universitatem, cuius fama gloriaque totum orbem terrarum complevit. Nuper Allstoniam invasimus imperioque nostro adieciimus, flumen Carolinum amplexi, ut olim Romani mare suum. Nos studentes primo anno in Annenbergensi atrio cenavimus, circumstati imaginibus hominum ingeniosorum, quasi in Pantheo quodam, quod sapientiam magis quam divinitatem celebret. Divitiis omnes alios superamus, quia permulti alumni alumnaeque tributum quotannis fisco nostro libenter pendunt. Saepe spectamus gladiatores nostros in Colosseo trans flumen proelium committere, et concertatores, illos stultos barbaros a Novo-Portu, debellare.

Ut Romanis “imperium sine fine” est datum, sic nostri eruditi fines omnes scientiae exarserunt. Studentes professoresque Harvardiani iam diu vitam gentium excoluerunt, dedicantes se honori, sapientiae, atque veritati. Sicut Romani nobis multas res gestas in historia, in litteris, et rhetorica dederunt, sic etiam hodie illi Harvardiani omnibus gentibus opera nobillima tradiderunt.

Una in re tamen Romanis prorsus dissimiles sumus. Illi pigri, ignavi, et indulgentes successu divitiisque facti sunt, nos autem eisdem rebus diligentiores, intentiores, nobiliores sumus. Concupimus scientiam sapientiamque non ad alios dominandos, sed ad alios adjuvandos. Ubi cumque erimus, cives huius universitatis semper erimus, Harvardiani viri feminaeque. Aliis laboravimus, laboramus, et semper laborabimus. Numquam degenerabimus, numquam cademus.

Hic ergo dies sit dies verorum initiorum, cum nos omnes a carissima universitate in omnes terras abimus, instructi scientia sapientiaque. Fortasse haec oratio Latina servata sit ut virtutes temporum actorum aemulare et vitia vitare possimus.

Gratias vobis omnibus ago!

Joy Hurd '06

IN MEMORIAM:

David Roy Shackleton Bailey, Pope Professor of Latin Language and Literature Emeritus at Harvard University, died at 9:45 a.m. on Nov. 28, at the age of 87. Since his retirement from Harvard in 1988 he had been a resident of Ann Arbor, Mich., where he had taught and continued to write as an adjunct professor in the Department of Classical Studies at the University of Michigan.

Shackleton Bailey, or “Shack” as he was known to friends, was a prodigious scholar, a towering figure in textual criticism and the editing of Latin literature, and a brilliant student of Roman Republican history, prosopography, and society. To say that his chief contribution was in the editing of a whole range of Latin texts only begins to describe the enduring importance of his work, which continued through the summer of 2005, and amounts to some 50 volumes and more than 200 articles and reviews.

Along with A.E. Housman, whose last lecture he is, fictitiously but significantly, held to have attended, Shackleton Bailey is recognized as one of the 20th century’s great scholars of Latin textual criticism, the challenging discipline and art of restoring and explicating texts that survive in papyri, codices, and printed



Photo courtesy of the Harvard News Office

editions, in varied states of corruption and error from classical antiquity to the present day. Expertise in this sort of scholarship comes only through a deep immersion in the literary, historical, and social traditions in which the Latin language evolved. Behind the simple reality that he edited, emended, translated, and commented on a variety of authors, in prose and poetry, across several centuries, there is implied a profound industriousness, intelligence, learning, and culture that is unlikely to be seen again.

Shackleton Bailey’s name is most closely associated with

that of Cicero (106-43 B.C.), whose letters in their entirety and speeches selectively he edited, with translation and commentary (the letters in 10 magisterial volumes). Scholars, students, and (through Penguin and Loeb Classical Library translations) that evanescent figure, the general educated reader, will continue to be indebted to Shackleton Bailey, particularly for his work on Cicero’s letters, our best evidence for the twilight years of the Roman Republic. Cicero’s correspondence, very little of which was ever intended for the public eye, reveals much about the most important orator and, in many ways, the most important thinker of the Roman world, and as Achilles was fortunate to find his poet in Homer, so Cicero is lucky to have found his scholar in Shackleton Bailey. Cicero’s letters bristle with literary and other jokes; with oblique references to persons, sometimes unnamed, for whom we have no other evidence; with allusions to political happenings of central importance, again known primarily or only from the letter in question. Brilliant at representing the idiom of this complex Roman statesman, poet, orator, philosopher, and theorist of rhetoric, Shackleton Bailey revealed the depth of his scholarly control of

DECEMBER 10, 1917 - NOVEMBER 28, 2005

DAVID ROY SHACKLETON BAILEY

all aspects of Latin and of late Republican Rome, and so gave us in modern English with the perquisite commentary a Cicero who never meant us to read his correspondence, but who is infinitely more complex, sympathetic and, ultimately, more human for our being able to do so.

Born in England on Dec. 10, 1917, Shackleton Bailey attended the Lancaster Royal Grammar School, where his father, a mathematician, was headmaster, after which he read Classics at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, taking a BA in Classics. Wartime work in Intelligence at Bletchley Park, Bedfordshire, was followed by an appointment for 20 years as Cambridge University Reader in Ancient Tibetan. He returned to the Classics as Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge, and later of Gonville and Caius College, where he also served as college bursar. In 1967 he moved to Ann Arbor, where he taught in the Department of Classics until 1975, when he became a professor of Latin at Harvard. He was a doctor of literature of Cambridge University and (honorary) of The University of Dublin, a Fellow of the British Academy, a member of the American Philosophical Society, an honorary member of the Society for the Promotion

of Roman Studies, and also one of the very few living holders of the British Academy's Kenyon Medal for Classical Studies. He married Hilary Amis in 1967, and he is survived by his second wife, Kristine Zvirbulis, whom he married in 1994.

All of this only begins to capture the enduring scholarly output of Shackleton Bailey, a body of work that assures him an enduring place in a field that flourishes in the face of regular predictions of its demise. But the sum of the man is much more than that in the memory of all whose lives he touched. An eccentric figure by conventional standards—his regular attire was a gray suit and sneakers long before the latter became part of the academic's uniform—but mainly in the true and joyous sense of the word: quirky, difficult, cultured in profound and complex ways; endowed with a rare and keen sense of humor now cutting, now playful; a critic of human foibles and a man whose dedication to logic, reason, judgment, and the primacy of intelligence made those in his presence careful of their thoughts and words. His scholarly magnitude led many to mistake an intense shyness for hostility or dismissal, those too not absent where he felt they were deserved. He was a great lover of cats, but not all cats;

here, as everywhere, he applied judgment, as he believed did the cats who particularly took to him. In a field in which a certain amount of eccentricity is, if not the norm, at least unsurprising, Shackleton Bailey was a legend in his own time, and will not be soon forgotten.

Reprinted, with permission and with minor revisions, from the obituary by Richard Thomas which appeared on December 8, 2005, in the Harvard University Gazette.



AVE ATQUE VALE

Academic Calendar

Summer School:

June 11 (*Sunday*) **Registration Ends**
June 26 (*Monday*) **Classes Begin**
August 11 (*Friday*) **Classes End**
August 18 (*Friday*) **Examinations End**

Fall 2006 Semester:

Sept. 11 (*Monday*) **Freshman Registration**
Sept. 13 (*Wednesday*) **GSAS Registration**
Sept. 15 (*Friday*) **Upperclass Registration**
Sept. 18 (*Monday*) **Academic Year Begins**

(Classics courses on-line at our web site located at <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~classics>)

Nota Bene

Department of the Classics
204 Boylston Hall
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA 02138