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This year began with Julia's departure in January for a semester program in Siena, Italy, where she had a good experience filled with art, good food new friends, and reunions with old friends and family. She even managed to persuade her Aunt Mary Beth and her family to visit her there. Italy will never be the same. Tom rendezvoused with her in Lyons, France, at the start of a tour of Roman France which he led right after college graduation. His tour followed Roman sites down the Rhône from Lyons to Orange, Avignon, Nîmes, and Arles, then on to Nice and up to Paris. He highly recommends this itinerary even to non-Classicalists.

Julia and Tom got back to Monmouth barely in time to see Richard graduated from Monmouth High School. It was a springtime marked by "lasts," the last Sienkewicz performing in a Monmouth high school band halftime show or concert, school play (Richard was a skeleton in "Wizard of Oz"), participating in a National Honors Society ceremony. etc. It is odd for us to have no more formal ties with the Monmouth Public Schools after sixteen years, but maybe the schools have just breathed a sigh of relief? In September Richard matriculated at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, where he is undecided about his major but is enjoying his classes, especially geology, calculus, and Japanese history.

Our summer was no less complicated. No sooner had Richard graduated than Anne changed jobs and moved from the United Way in Monmouth to the American Red Cross in Galesburg. She was not entirely happy to

move from a part-time job within walking distance to a full-time position 14 miles away but the move has been a good one. Meanwhile, Julia hopped on a plane back across the Atlantic to Britain, where she had a summer internship at the University of Portsmouth to learn computer-designed mapmaking (GIF). She also spent time with Viv Edwards and Chris Morris and their family in Reading and ended her summer back in her beloved Italy, where she saw the Palio in Siena. Meanwhile, Tom and Richard traveled East to New Jersey for Christina Gallo's high school graduation and for Richard's performances in NYC with the Monmouth Ecumenical Choir Tour. They performed, among other places, at the Statue of Liberty and Old St. Patrick's Church. Naturally, Tom and Richard stole time to catch a Yankee game while they were there. (Unfortunately, the Yankees lost that one.) While Richard visited his Aunt Mary Beth in North Carolina, Tom also served as tour guide for Debbie Waterman and her sons, Tim and Nick. He took them to the Statue of Liberty, the new planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History, and a performance of "Annie Get Your Gun."

Eventually, all of us except Julia gathered at the camp on Lake Damariscotta in Maine where we spent too short a time listening to loons (birds, not politicians) and swimming in the lake.

Marie is still working on her masters in library science at the University of Illinois. Her parents enjoy having her closer to home. She spent a good deal of time this fall preparing her application to veterinary school for next year. We make no predictions what she will be doing by this time next year. She may be in vet school or she may be a librarian somewhere. Julia's future, too, is uncertain, as she prepares to graduate from Mt. Holyoke this spring. She will probably apply for a masters program in urban studies at the University of Illinois as a preliminary step towards an architecture program somewhere.⁸ Meanwhile, Tom looks forward to a sabbatical this spring, and a possible tour of Roman Tunisia in May.

We wish you all a happy 2001.

Anne, Tom, Marie, Julia and Richard Sienkewicz