



The 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration

## MMXIII in Review

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Anne with her Watermen

The highlight of 2013 was Anne's father's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration in September. Anne came from Monmouth and Julia from Pittsburgh and together they organized some modest family festivities. With a stop en route visit the New Jersey relatives, Richard made his first trip Downeast in a number of years, with his girlfriend Jessica Zaiken, an attorney from Rochester, Minnesota. Marie came next with her daughter Sylvia, so, in the end, the birthday boy had about two weeks of celebration, i.e., about fourteen days more than he wanted, although he certainly enjoyed seeing all his family and other visitors.

Another highlight of the year was our trip to England at the end of June. Tom read a paper on Hercules in Florence at a conference at the University of Leeds and we took this excuse to visit our good friends Viv Edwards and Chris Morris, to catch up with their growing family, and even to travel north with them to tour Hadrian's Wall, Durham and Newcastle, where we were privileged to be the guests of Viv and Chris' friends Sheila and Tim. The trip also included a day in London so we could see the Globe Theatre and the Roman Amphitheatre under the Guild Hall. Although it rained a lot (*Sic semper in Britannia?*), it was a great trip.

In March Viv and Chris also spent a quiet week in Monmouth as part of their own professional trip to Texas. Anne and Viv began sorting out their correspondence, beginning in 1971. At least two more boxes to go! This visit included a drive to Rockford to meet Julia's Martinez loved ones and to rendezvous with Marie and Sylvia. Tom and Anne were back in Rockford for Aida Martinez' bridal shower and for her wedding to Jonathan Hartounian at a beautiful Japanese Garden in July.



Anne, Richard, Marie and Kyle



Victor and Julia  
at his sister's wedding in Rockford

There were other trips, of course. In early January Tom traveled to Seattle—his first trip to the Pacific Northwest—for a classics conference, where he met up with former students, Anne Cave and Derek Huff, and had a pleasant meal with the Huffs in their family home. He also enjoyed seeing the Space Needle, riding the Monorail and, especially visiting the Chihuly Garden and Glass.

In early February Tom helped Richard move from Milwaukee to St. Paul. The journey was marred by frozen truck locks and dangerous highway white-outs, but they finally reached their destination safely and Tom got to meet Jessica before taking a pleasant Amtrak ride back home, a journey which included his first-ever meal in a dining car.



Richard and Jessica  
at the Mall of America

In March Tom co-led a student trip to Greece where he was especially excited to see, for the first time, the new Acropolis Museum as well as the Antikythera mechanism (Google it!) in the National Archaeological Museum in Athens. In early April another classics meeting gave Tom an opportunity to visit his sister MaryBeth and her daughter Tracy in Durham, North Carolina, shortly before heading to Iowa City to run his first meeting of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South (CAMWS), of which he is now Secretary-Treasurer. Fortunately things seemed to go smoothly despite some April snow flurries (probably better than rain) in Iowa City. These CAMWS meetings will be a regular



Monmouth College at the Temple of Aphaia  
on Aegina in Greece

feature of our lives for the next few years. The 2014 meeting will be in Waco, Texas, to which Tom made a preparatory visit in September to consider ways to herd Classicists successfully across the Brazos. CAMWS also sent him in late May to Waterloo, Ontario, where the 2017 CAMWS meeting will be held!



Feasting with the Edwards-Morris Clan in Reading, England

Father's Day weekend we drove to Minnesota for a visit with Richard. Anne met Jessica and we ate first at the Mall of America and then Cecil's, a great Jewish deli in St. Paul which even sells celery soda! Richard also took us to see the famous Minnehaha Falls and the Minnesota Zoo. We will have to go back and visit again sometime soon when we can catch

Garrison Keillor in Prairie Home Companion at the Fitzgerald Theater.

Summer, of course, means Maine, where Anne spent more than a month. She drove out in early July with Julia and did not return until mid-August with Tom. Julia spent most of her summer writing a draft of a book on Benjamin Labrotte, the architect of the U.S. Capitol. Her husband Victor spent the whole summer in Spain and Italy and did not get to Maine at all this year.

Tom journeyed to Maine alone in late July, via stops in Atlantic City to visit brother Eddie and in Central Jersey to visit sister Toni. On this trip he also managed to see Aunt Doris, nephew Roy, high school friend Richard Michalowski and wife Janet, his parents' good friends, Lou and Gloria Parisi, his father's first cousin, Chester Sienkiewicz and wife Theresa and their children in New Jersey, and his college roommate, Ed Vodoklys, in Worcester. Quite a satisfactory trip!

Anne is enjoying her retirement, which allows her not only the opportunity to take prolonged trips but also to continue transcribing her father's wartime correspondence with his family, as well as the memoirs which he still writes occasionally. Who knows where all that will lead? From Christmas through May she also provided hospice care for Redbone, the beloved coonhound rescued many years ago from experimental labs at the U of Illinois. He will be sorely missed. Anne also spends her time in handwork or in the kitchen, especially in the summer when the garden is flourishing.

Despite a severe lack of rain for most of the summer we had a fairly successful vegetable crop. The eggplant especially liked the hot, dry weather, and we also had a good crop of peaches. The zucchini, cucumbers and peppers were not so prolific but we had enough to keep us happy. We worried for awhile about the tomato crop, but, in the end, even that did well and Tom canned his usual winter store of tomato sauce (AKA "red gold") in the basement on a splendid new gas stove. (He wore the old one out!)



Anne Dining in Our New Screened-in Porch

In November we were blessed with a visit from Bob and Carol Tarantula. Bob and Tom went K-8 and were altar boys together. It was great to show them around western Illinois, including trips to Nauvoo and Springfield. We would love the chance to do the same with other visitors.

As far as our children are concerned, Richard seems to be settling down in St. Paul, where he has managed to find steady employment through legal temp agencies, while he and Jessica prepare to take the bar exam in Minnesota in February.

Julia is still teaching at Duquesne, where she is now coordinator of the Art History program. Victor is finishing his second (and final) year as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Meanwhile, Marie and Kyle are kept very busy with their now three-year-old daughter Sylvia and their canine and feline menagerie. Sylvia, of course, amazes her doting grandparents with her linguistic agility and all-around cuteness.

So much for 2013. We hope that its successor brings you joy and happiness.



At the Globe in London



Marie and Sylvia decorating Anne's birthday cake



At Lake Damariscotta, Maine