



The Three Magi. A detail from the silver altar of St. James in the Crucifix Chapel of the Cathedral of San Zeno in Pistoia, Italy. Photograph by Tom Sienkewicz, 2011.

The Year 2011 in Review
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Anne and Tom in Paestum, Italy.
April 2011

2011 began with Anne and Tom preparing for a five-month sojourn in Florence, Italy, where Tom had a return engagement as visiting professor for the ACM Florence Program. Packing for only two people made us wonder how we had managed the first time back in 1992 with three children and thirteen suitcases (including a keyboard, trombone, french horn and trumpet).

Saying good-bye to our family, and, especially to our granddaughter, six-week old Sylvia Marie Bond, was difficult, especially since we knew how much she would change in the time we would be away, but thank goodness for Skype, which enabled us to stay in touch much better than we'd imagined.



Tom giving a Roman salute at the Colosseum

has filled her in on many gaps in the history of her Gilchrist family from Fraserburgh, Scotland.

By remarkable coincidence we wound up living in a palatial 15th-century (but very modern) apartment in Florence just around the corner from the one we had in 1992, so we felt right at home in a neighborhood we remembered with great fondness. Of course, there were subtle changes, both good and bad. Many of the little shops had closed or changed hands and many bus routes and traffic patterns were different, but we could still buy fresh pasta, fresh meat cut to order by a friendly butcher, and chianti from the wine merchant downstairs. We had blood oranges and fennel nearly every day and enjoyed reading in the still-thriving Italian newspapers about the on-going Berlusconi political scandal



Anne in cloisters of Santa Catherina in Naples

Before leaving the country, Tom flew down to a professional meeting in San Antonio to celebrate the formal publication of *Disce!*, the elementary Latin course he had been writing with his friend Ken Kitchell for several years.

Then he and Anne flew to London, where Anne visited our friends Viv Edwards and Chris Morris for a week before joining Tom in Florence. While in Britain Anne had a chance to meet one of her Gilchrist cousins, Ron Ely, a genealogy buff who

We traveled as much as we could in Italy. With the students we



Anne in a gondola in Venice



At the Arena in Verona



With Jack and Debbie in Siena



**Tom with the Tetrarchs
in Venice**

went to Venice, Rome and Pompeii twice as well as Siena, Pistoia and Arezzo. On our own we also visited many Italian cities we had never seen before, including Volterra, Verona, Benevento, Capua and Pozzuoli, all of which we highly recommend. We traveled in the south to visit Tom's cousins near Pompeii and also found time to see more of Naples and Herculaneum and to discover some off-the-tourist-track nearby archeological sites like Baiae and Boscoreale which we had to ourselves during our visit. At mid-semester break Tom even flew back to Texas for a meeting of Eta Sigma Phi, the national Classics honorary society of which he is currently the executive secretary.

We were also blessed with several sets of visitors including Anne's brother Jack and wife Debbie, our friends Viv and Chris from Britain, and Mary Bruce (one of Tom's colleagues) and her son John. In addition, daughter Julia managed to find professional funding to visit us not

once, but twice. The first time, in March, she gave the first public lecture sponsored by the ACM in Florence. Her talk was on the American artist Horatio Greenough, who not only lived in Florence for a number of years but actually worked in the studio where Julia spoke, now an art studio used by ACM students.

We also missed several momentous events while we were in Italy. In mid-May Tom's niece Theresa was married in California and our Richard graduated from Marquette Law School and was admitted to the bar in the State of Wisconsin, where he wants to settle, at least for the time being. It took him three months after graduation, but he eventually landed a job in Milwaukee with a large, nationwide bankruptcy firm.

By the end of May Anne was ready to go home to see the grandbaby but she almost literally had to drag Tom kicking and screaming onto the plane by reminding him that his garden back in Monmouth badly needed him. She was right about that. He spent several weeks in June frantically playing catch-up with Mother Nature. In the end, we managed to have a good crop of tomatoes, cucumbers and zucchini and so many delicious cantaloupes that we were even giving them away for awhile! We are still enjoying our own tomatoes and brussel sprouts in December.



**Celebrating Julia's Birthday
in Florence**

Julia's big news of the year was that she accepted a tenure-track position at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. She spent the summer in D.C. with a fellowship in the office of the Architect of the Capitol and then packed up her worldly belongings in Montgomery, Alabama, and moved to Pittsburgh, which she seems to like a lot better than the Deep South. The only flaw is that her husband Victor is still working at the University of Missouri at Columbia. So they are still in a commuter marriage.

Marie and her husband Kyle have been devoting nearly all their time to daughter Sylvia, who is a gem if you can trust the word of her doting grandparents. The three of them managed a visit to Maine this summer so Sylvia could meet her great-grandfather Richard as well as her uncles, aunt and cousins. Anne and Tom were there for part of the visit and enjoyed some very happy moments lakeside with the family.

By comparison to the rest of the year, the fall has been relatively quiet. The only major event was Anne's unexpected retirement from the American Red Cross at the end of September. The ARC has been retrenching for a number of years and moving many parts of its operation from the local to the regional or even national level. As a result, many positions have been eliminated or reduced in time. Anne's was one of the latter, but she had accumulated enough time to retire instead. So she has spend most of the fall knitting, reading and caring for our very elderly dog until Allegra died at the end of November.

We spent Thanksgiving with the whole family gathered at Victor's family home in Rockford for a multi-ethnic meal.

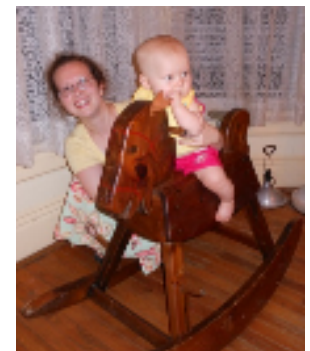
May you leap into 2012 with much joy and happiness! If you feel so inclined, you are invited to Monmouth on June 9th to help us celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary!



Viewing Easter treats in Florence



**Richard at his Signing in as
a member of the Bar**



**Sylvia on the ancestral rocking
horse in Monmouth**