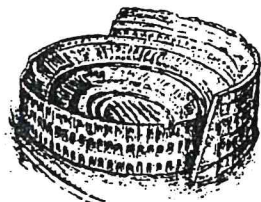


Annual Reports
Department of Classics
Monmouth College
1985-present

*Gentibus est aliis tellus data limite certo:
Romanae spatium est urbis et orbis idem.*

**Other nations have territories limited by fixed boundaries:
The spheres of the city of Rome and of the world are the same.**



Ovid, *Fasti*, II. 683-684



Department of Classics
Annual Report
1984/85

Major staffing changes marked a new direction for the Classics Program at Monmouth College this year, as Dr. Thomas J. Sienkewicz, an Associate Professor from Howard University in Washington, D.C., became Visiting Associate Professor and Chair of the department.

While retaining its traditional emphasis on the study of the Latin language, the Department has begun to expand its mission in the college to include not only the study of Greek and Latin languages and literatures, but also all areas of Classical studies, including literature in translation and archaeology. The long-term goal of the Department is to become a unifying force intellectually for the college, to make members of the college community more aware that the roots of their disciplines and of Western civilization are based on the Classical tradition. The department recognizes that we can no longer reasonably expect every well-educated person to be fluent in Latin and/or Greek, but we must strive that graduates of a liberal arts institutions possess a basic identity with the civilizations of ancient Greece and Rome.

The main thrust of these changes is the new Classics curriculum, passed by the college faculty in February, 1985. Using an innovative curriculum concept called the "Triad" course, the department, beginning next year will offer parallel courses in translation, Latin and Greek, with integration of the language and in-translation students in the same classroom. Language students will meet several times a week with the in-translation students in order to share their different perspectives on their readings. Language students will also meet separately for careful textual study. This is an exciting curriculum challenge which the department looks forward to implementing during the next academic year.

Other curriculum changes have also been directed toward increasing the exposure of Monmouth College students to the study of Classics by the addition of several courses in General Education to the Classics curriculum. In addition to Classical Mythology, which the department has offered for many years, the program will now include a course entitled Ancient Literary Genres, which fulfills the requirement in Beauty and Meaning, and The Ancient Family, which fulfills the micro-component of Human Societies. The department is convinced that a good General Education course can also fill the needs of the type of Classics majors Monmouth College should produce. Monmouth College Classics majors will generally not pursue advanced degrees in

Classics., but rather will become lawyers, teachers, etc. For this reason, their Classics education should be broadly concerned with all areas of Classical civilization, rather than narrowly focused on language studies.

A generous gift by Mr. Keith Capron of Colorado Springs, Colorado, has enabled the department this year to pursue to several projects which might otherwise have been financially impossible: Mr. Capron purchased computer software for the elementary Latin students and those students who have used the program have spoken enthusiastically about this learning tool. One student described the program as "extremely helpful in all aspects of Latin grammar." Another said "it's a fun and effective way to polish up my Latin skills." Mr. Capron's gift also made possible two essay contests, a convocation speaker, and several slide lectures on Classical Mythology.

The department also remains extremely indebted to Bernice L. Fox, Professor Emerita of Classics. Despite her retirement, Miss Fox has proven an invaluable source of counsel, information and assistance. She has helped to keep the department visible outside the college by her continued involvement in the Illinois State Latin Contest and in Eta Sigma Phi, the National Classics Honor Society. A guest editorial in the Review Atlas on December 1, 1984 gave the Monmouth community some historical perspective on the study of Classics at Monmouth. She also provided enthusiastic support for the Monmouth College chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, which she founded twenty four years ago. Miss Fox is currently completing a Latin translation of E. B. White's Charlotte's Web. The publication of this book will be another demonstration to the outside world that Classics are alive and well at Monmouth College.

Professor William Urban of the Department of History has also been a pillar of support for the department. His courses in the History of Greece and the History of Rome are essential elements in the Classics curriculum and are extremely popular, with good enrollments. Without Professor Urban's assistance there really would be no Department of Classics, since a "one-person" department is not really a department at all. Professors Urban and Sienkewicz have been working this year to develop a grant proposal to the Illinois Humanities Council for a summer seminar in Classics for high school teachers in 1986. If this grant is funded, it will be an important means of expanding the Department's reputation among high school teachers.

In addition to developing the new Classics curriculum, the department has made efforts to increase the visibility of Classics outside the classroom by sponsoring numerous lectures, programs, films, etc.

At President Haywood's suggestion the department began a Language and Literature discussion group, which has met several times this year to discuss such texts as the Epic of Gilgamesh, T. S. Eliot's The Waste Land, and Shakespeare's Tempest. These meetings will provide opportunities for informal conversation about literature by all members of the college community. The department plans to continue to sponsor these meetings again next year.

On October 20, 1984, the Classics Department sponsored a Drama Symposium in conjunction with the College Theater Production of Sophocles' Antigone. Speakers included Dr. Steve Fineberg from Knox College, Dr. James Daly from Loyola University, Miss Nancy Sultan from Northern Illinois University, and Monmouth's own Dr. Sienkewicz. The symposium was followed by a Greek dinner in the Highlander Room of the Student Center. The Department also sponsored a film "The Greek Theatre" on October 17, 1984 as part of the Antigone calendar of events.

Another project undertaken by the Department in 1984-85 was the establishment of a chapter of the American Institute of Archaeology in western Illinois. Such a chapter has several advantages for the department and the college. Not only will it bring on campus several good speakers a year, but it also increases involvement of the college in the greater community. The nascent Western Illinois chapter now has twenty five members from Monmouth, Galesburg, Macomb, Peoria and the Quad Cities and is about to receive official recognition by the national organization. The drive to establish this organization began on December 5, 1984 with a public lecture by Rev. Raymond Schoder of Loyola University. Fr. Schoder, who has had a long and congenial relationship with the college over the years, gave an illustrated lecture, "Pompeii and Its Art" which was well received. The Department also had an exhibit of books about Pompeii on display in the Hewes Library.

The department began the new calendar year with a dorm program sponsored together with Leidman Hall and the archaeological society. The program, on January 10, 1985, was presented by Skip Burhans of the Monmouth College library. Mr. Burhans gave an illustrated lecture entitled "A Stone Age Excavation in Greece." Skip's very interesting talk was based upon his summer of excavation at the Franchthi Cave in the Argolid, Greece.

On January 28, 1985 the Departments of Classics and Religious Studies co-sponsored a film entitled "William Foxwell Albright: The Meaning of Archaeology."

The highlight of the Department's Calendar of Events

in 1984-85 was the convocation address by Dr. Frank M. Snowden, Jr. of Howard University. Dr. Snowden's illustrated address was entitled "Before Color Prejudice: Blacks as seen by Ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman Artists".

On April 30, 1985, the Department presented an informal slide program on Cahokia Mounds, near St. Louis. The presentation was given by Ms. Christine Engels of Wataga, Illinois.

The college chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, the Classics Honors Society, underwent revitalization this year. Membership was very low at the beginning of the academic year. The Department hopes to increase interest in this college organization which, in this past, has been nationally known.

Gamma Omicron Chapter commemorated Vergil's birthday with an initiation ceremony on October 15, 1984. Scott H. Buhmann was initiated along with two honorary members, Skip Burhans and Thomas J. Sienkewicz. Mr. Burhans, the Reference Librarian at Monmouth College, was recognized for his life-long interest in the Classics. Dr. Sienkewicz, the new chairman of the Classics Department, is also faculty advisor to Eta Sigma Phi.

On December 19, 1984 the chapter celebrated Saturnalia at the home of Miss Bernice L. Fox, Emerita Professor of Classics at Monmouth and founder of Monmouth's chapter of Eta Sigma Phi in 1956. Miss Fox entertained members with a reading in Latin from the Christmas Story in the Gospel of Luke, with a history of the Roman feast of Saturnalia, and with a slide show on Rome. Festivities were concluded with Miss Fox's traditional and delicious strawberries and ice cream.

On March 18, 1985, the chapter held its second initiation of the academic year. New initiants were: Deborah E. Howard, David E. Kittell, Melinda J. Heikes, James L. Parker, Paul D. Babcock, Rebecca M. Millikan, William C. Myers, and Karen J. Swank. At this meeting the chapter expressed its thanks to Kim Edwards, its outgoing prytanis, for keeping the chapter going almost single-handedly during the past year. The following new officers were elected at this meeting: Karen Swank, prytanis; Jim Parker, hyparchos; Dave Kittell, chrysohylax; and Debbie Howard, grammateus.

On April 17, 1985 the chapter held a public meeting at which Miss Fox presented an illustrated talk entitled "Classical Mythology and Cartoons." All present enjoyed Miss Fox humor and benefited from her learning.

On May 6, 1985 four members, Karen Swank, Debbie Howard, Jim Parker, and Dr. Sienkewicz traveled to Galesburg to establish a new chapter of Eta Sigma Phi at Knox College, where five charter members were inducted.

The chapter looks forward to celebrating its thirtieth anniversary during the next academic year.

During the current year the Department has also renewed the close association with high schools maintained by Bernice Fox for many years. It is very important for the college that its Classics program be well known among area Classicists. For this reason, Dr. Sienkewicz attended the annual meeting of the Illinois Classical Conference in DeKalb in October. He has also given lectures at several Illinois high schools including Monmouth, Pekin, East Peoria, Bergan Catholic, St. Ignatius Prep, Barrington, Marquette, Springfield, Elgin Academy and Marion Catholic. The department sees this not only as a recruiting effort, but also as a basic responsibility of colleges to maintain an active dialogue with and involvement in high school programs. The Department intends to continue this visitation program in the future and also to create programs (such as Latin Day) which will bring high school Latin students and their teachers onto the Monmouth campus. Another important Classics event which the Department would like to see return to the Monmouth campus is the Illinois State Latin Contest. The department has already made the proper contacts to have the contest here within a year or two.

The department established two annual essay contests this year in honor of former Monmouth College professors. The first essay, the Harold J. Ralston Essay Contest, is open to all full-time Monmouth College students. The topic of this year's essay was Sophocles' Antigone and the winner of the \$100.00 prize was Amy Wright, a senior English major. It is hoped that this contest will be another way to make the department a central part of the college. This year's prize was funded by a gift from Mr. Keith Capron. The contest has received permanent funding with a generous gift by Mrs. Harold Ralston to endow the award.

The other essay, the Bernice L. Fox Essay Contest, is open to all high school students in Illinois, Iowa and Indiana. The topic of this year's essay was "The Modern Labors of Hercules." Ninety-eight entries were received from twenty-six high schools in three states. The winning essay was written by Mary M. Boehm of St. Ignatius College Prep in Chicago. Honorable mentions were awarded to David Chesak of Boylan Central Catholic High in Rockford, John Farrall of Culver Military Academy in Culver, Indiana, Morton Ginsparg of Easman Yeshiva High in Skokie, Leigh Roessler of Culver

Academy, and Rachael Wood of Forman High in Manito. This year's prize was funded by a gift from Mr. Keith Capron. In future, the prize will be awarded out of the department's annual budget.

It is difficult to evaluate teaching in the department this year. The department was limited to a course schedule established by previous staff and not appropriate to either present staff or students. Enrollment in Elementary Latin was encouraging. Fourteen were enrolled in first term and eight in second. Two of these chose to continue in a third term of Latin in the spring. The Word Elements course was scheduled at a time when few students could take it, so enrollment was very low (11). This is a course which should have large enrollments with no support from a curriculum requirement. The department hopes that enrollment will improve in this course in the next few years. Classical Mythology, which fulfills a Thought and Belief requirement, had a fair enrollment of 21. The department hopes to maintain high enrollment in this course. Use of audio-visual aids (especially slides) increased in the department this year and this was well received by the students. The use of oral student reports also received favorable student response. Another teaching tool introduced this year was the oral final examination in the advanced Latin and Greek classes. All students who experienced this evaluation technique felt that it was an appropriate testing method.

The department had no majors this year. Lack of majors is not a major concern of the department which sees its mission more in the area of general education. It will gladly serve whatever majors it does get. Efforts this year were rewarded by the announcement by Karen Swank, a freshman Elementary Latin student, that she intended to major in Latin. Karen's excellent work in Latin was recognized at Honors Convocation on May 1, 1985 with a departmental award.

It is the hope of the department that all these activities will serve to develop an academically excellent and exciting program for the college, one which will have an intellectual impact on the Monmouth College community and which will promote the distinctive curricula of the college and of the Classics Department within the college's traditional constituency, within the ACM and GLAC, and among the public at large. The Capron Chair and Classics Program should provide further prestige for the college.

These efforts will be limited by the physical limitations of the department. More could be done if there were more instructional support, either from a second Classicist, or from other members of the college community. As vacancies occur in collateral areas, such as Religious

Studies, Modern Languages and Philosophy, it is hoped that the college would search for individuals who could support not only these areas, but the Classics. For example, the college could hire someone who would regularly teach New Testament Greek and Religious Studies, or Latin and Spanish, etc.

The college must be prepared to support the Classics Program in substantial, financial ways. The mere presence of a Classicist, however dynamic and active, is not enough by itself. The department now has an endowed chair to support its faculty. It is the belief of the department that this endowment should not mean a decrease in support for the department from general college funds. The college must still supplement the Capron fund in specific areas. One is the Classics collection in the library, which is adequate in basic texts in Latin and Greek, in history and in religion, but is poor in good translations and basic resource texts. The new direction of the Classics curriculum into courses in-translation makes it imperative that the library collection be expanded appropriately.

Another dire need of the department is in the area of equipment. The department has no adequate typewriter. The old manual currently available is simply unacceptable. The only present alternative is the College Computer Center, which means that the staff is not available in the Classics office very much. Using the Computer Center rather than having a typewriter (or a computer terminal) in the Classics office is not cost- or time-effective for the department.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. Sienkewicz
Associate Professor and Chair