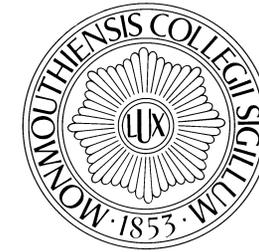


The goal of this lecture series, established in 1985 to honor Dr. Bernice L. Fox, is to illustrate the continuing importance of Classical studies in the modern world and the intersection of the Classics with other disciplines in the liberal arts.

### Previous Fox Lectures

- 1985-86 **Bernice L. Fox** "Living Latin: Twentieth Century Literature in Latin"  
1986-87 **Robert Ketterer** "A Monkey on the Roof: Comedy, Rome and Plautus"  
*Boastful Soldier*"  
1987-88 **Mary R. Ryder** "The Universal and True: Myth in Willa Cather's  
*O Pioneers!*"  
1988-89 **Andrew J. Adams** "Off the Beaten Track in Rome"  
1989-90 **Nelson T. Potter, Jr.** "Pirsig's and Plato's *Phaedrus*"  
1990-91 **Raymond Den Adel** "Hadrian: Emperor and Builder"  
1991-92 **Richard Lederer** "*Latina Non Mortua Est*"  
1992-93 **Jeremy McNamara** "Ovidius Naso Was the Man: Shakespeare's Debt to  
Ovid"  
1993-94 **LeaAnn Osburn** "Classics Across the Curriculum: A Practitioner's View"  
1994-95 **Thomas H. Watkins** "Imperator Caesar Augustus and Duce Benito  
Mussolini: Ancient Rome and Fascist Italy"  
1995-96 **Albert Watanabe** "Into the Woods: The Symbolism of the Forest"  
1996-97 **Deborah Rae Davies** "Myth, Media, and Culture: Odysseus on the Baseball  
Diamond"  
1997-98 **Anne Groton** "Goofy Gods and Half-Baked Heroes: Comic Entertainment in  
the Ancient City"  
1998-99 **Kenneth Kitchell** "Always Something New From Africa: Ancient Africa and  
its Marvels"  
1999-00 **Alden Smith** "Looks Count: Erotic Glances in Roman Art and Poetry"  
2000-01 **Michele Ronnick** "Evidence Concerning Fishing in Antiquity and Its Later  
Influence"  
2001-02 **Gregory Daugherty** "Her Infinite Variety: Cleopatra in Twentieth-Century  
American Popular Culture"  
2002-03 **James E. Betts** "'*Che Faró Senza Euridice?*' The Role of Greco-Roman  
Culture in the Creation and Development of Opera"  
2003-04 **Anne Browning Nelson** "Education in Fourth Century Alexandria: Didymus  
the Blind's Commentaries on the *Psalms*"  
2004-05 **James DeYoung**, "'Let the Tears Fall': On Producing Euripides' *Trojan  
Women* for a Modern Audience"  
2005-06 **Mark Golden**, "Olive-Tinted Spectacles: Myths in the History of the Ancient  
and Modern Olympics"  
2006-07 **Carol Goodman** "A Classical Muse: Creative Writing and the Classics"  
2007-08 **James M. May** "Re-constructing and Rowing on the Trireme Olympias"  
2008-09 **Monica S. Cyrino** "Power, Passion and Politics: the Women of HBO's  
Rome"  
2009-10 **Timothy Moore** "Musical Comedy: Roman and American"  
2010-11 **John Gruber-Miller** "Peeking into a Periegete's Mind: Probing Pausanias'  
*Description of Greece*"  
2011-12 **Daniel B. Levine** "Tuna in Ancient Greece and Modern Tuna Population  
Decline"  
2012-13 **Georgia L. Irby** "Mapping Vergil: Cartography and Geography in the  
*Aeneid*"  
2013-14 **Robert Hellenga** "Confessions of a Fictional Classicist"  
2014-15 **W. Robert Connor** "Classics Now!"



The Monmouth College  
Department of Classics  
presents  
the Thirty-First Annual  
Bernice L. Fox Classics Lecture

## America a New Rome? Reflections on Decline and Fall

by  
William L. Urban  
Professor Emeritus of History  
Monmouth College



Monday, February 29, 2016, 6 P.M.  
Pattee Auditorium  
Center for Science & Business 100  
Monmouth College  
Monmouth, Illinois

## About the Lecturer

William Urban came to Monmouth in 1966 after a year at the University in Hamburg in Germany, and a year as visiting assistant professor at the University of Kansas.

His duties were five courses of western civilization, Greek history, Roman history, and Medieval history; with more than 300 students each year.

From 1968 to 1981 he was coach of the soccer club and the varsity men's team; later he assisted women's soccer get started; and his players helped start the YMCA youth soccer program. He was the founding advisor of ZBT, 1968-1974.

He has won academic honors, among them the Harry E. Pratt award of the Illinois State Historical Society for "The People versus Nicholas Earp", the Vitols Prize of the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies for "Victims of the Baltic Crusade"; and the Burlington Northern Foundation Faculty Achievement Award (the first given at Monmouth College).

He directed ACM programs in Florence, Zagreb and Olomouc, taught one summer in Tallinn, Estonia, and several summers accompanied art students across Europe for Eastern Michigan University.

He has received a Fulbright senior research grant, several Deutscher Akademische Austauschdienst (DAAD) grants, and three NEH summer grants; he was on Global Awareness program in Russia and at the West Point Military History Workshop.

From 1989 to 1994 he was editor of *the Journal of Baltic Studies*, with assistance from Jim Betts *inter alios*.

## About the Lecture

Three great events occurred in 1776: the first edition of *the Encyclopedia Britannica*, the American Revolution, and the publication of Edward Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. All three are related to the most important question any historian can ask, "Why do nations rise and fall?"

As Romans and Americans alike saw their history, they rose quickly from small settlements to great states, both became great military powers and centers of culture, and their languages became spoken across the known world.

In recent years the decline of American influence in the world has invited comparisons with Gibbon's model. Is this justified?

## About Bernice L. Fox

From 1947 until 1981 Bernice L. Fox, Professor of Classics, served Monmouth College tirelessly as professor of English, Latin and Greek. In 1956 she founded the Gamma Omicron Chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, the National Classics Honorary Society, and for over a decade was chair of the Department of Classics. She had a special love for the Latin language and was well known for her Latin translations. One of her earliest translations was *Fabula de Quarto Mago* (Van Dyke's *Story of the Other Wise Man*). In 1990 she published *Sex Fabulae Breves*, a collection of Latin translations of six short stories including Maupassant's "The Necklace" and O. Henry's "The Gift of the Magi." In 1991 *Tela Charlottae*, her translation of E. B. White's *Charlotte's Web*, was published by Harper Collins. In 1985 the college named this annual lectureship in her honor, and in 1991 the college awarded her an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. She died in 2003.