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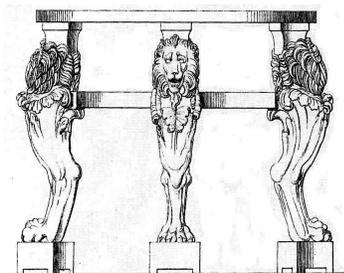
Winter/Spring 2003

2002-2003 ANA BESNÉ PRIZE AWARDED TO CLASSICS STUDENT

Stephanie Dickson, a third year Classical Civilization major was awarded the Classical and Modern Languages department's 2002-2003 Ana Besné prize.

This annual award is presented to a departmental major with excellent academic standing at the 200 level and above who has also contributed significantly to the department. Ms. Dickson, an A student, has been on the 2001-2002 Dean's honour roll and was also one of the 2002-2003 student representatives in the department.

Kudos Stephanie! DEPARTMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY



LECTURE

The Department of Classical and Modern Languages is proud to be sponsoring an upcoming talk on the subject of Cypriote archaeology.

On Friday, March 7 from 2:30 to 4:00 P.M. Mary Grace Weir will present a talk entitled *Aphrodite's Island: Archaeology on Cyprus* at Lambton Tower, room 6118 (the Classical and Modern Languages conference room). Mrs. Weir, the wife of our own Hellenist Dr. Robert Weir, is a doctoral candidate



in Classical Archaeology at Princeton University, presently working on a thesis entitled "Cypriote Sanctuaries in the Period of Persian Domination, ca. 500-330 B.C."

All are welcome!

C L A S S I C S TRIVIA CORNER

PANGRAMS AND LIPOGRAMS

The Greeks invented numerous poetic forms (such as epic, iambic, lyric, and dramatic) but also first developed a technique of writing verse known as the pangram, in which all the letters of the alphabet are used in one line (see *Anth. Pal.* 9.538-539), as well as the much more popular lipogram, in which a certain letter of the alphabet is studiously avoided through-out a work.

It seems that there were those Greeks who objected to the sibilance of the letter sigma ("s") and thus avoided using it entirely in songs and poems (Athen., 11.467a-b and Dionys., *De comp. verb.* 14). The early fifth century B.C. poet Pindar even wrote a poem against the sigma (see Athen., 10.448d and 455b-c). But even before then the first known lipogrammatist (or is it lipogrammarian?), the poet Lasus of Hermione from the late sixth century **CONTINUED
O N R E V E R S E**

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 B.C., wrote a hymn to the goddess Demeter in which there appeared no sigmas. Only three lines survive (in Athen., 14.624e-f, and see 10.455c-d), which can be rendered lipogrammatically in regard to s's in English as follows:

I chant of Demeter and Kore,
 wife of the famed one [Pluto],
 Lifting forth a gentle-voiced
 hymn,
 In the deep-toned Aeolian mode.

Lasus also wrote another piece without sigmas, "Centauris" (Κένταυροι), of which nothing survives (see Athen., 10.455c).

Poems were also written with other letters omitted. Thus we hear that in around A.D. 200 Lucius Septimius Nestor of Laranda rewrote Homer's *Iliad* with a different letter of the alphabet missing from every one of the books. About two centuries later, the poet Tryphiodorus from Egypt wrote an *Odyssey* on the same principle (*Suda* s. v. Νέστωρ and Τρυφιδώροϋ; however, Eustathius [*Od.* proem 1379] said that the latter simply omitted sigmas).

The Greeks were not the only ones adept at lipograms. Around A.D. 500, the Christian author Fulgentius wrote in Latin a short history from Creation on, which is still extant, with a different letter missing from each of its fourteen books (*De aetatibus mundi et hominis*).

STATESIDE ARCHAEOLOGY LECTURES

The Archaeological Institute of America along with the Antiquaries of the Detroit Institute of Arts will be sponsoring two lectures to take place in Detroit in the near future.



First, Janet Rhodes, assistant professor of Egyptology at the University of Michigan and assistant curator for Dynastic Egypt at the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology in Ann Arbor, will be presenting a lecture entitled: "Excavating at Abydos: the Abydos Cemetery in the Late Old Kingdom." This will take place at 8:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 27, at the Detroit Institute of Arts (at 5200 Woodward Avenue in Detroit).

Second, Richard de Puma, F. Wendell Miller Distinguished Professor of Classical Art and Archaeology at the University of Iowa, will be speaking about Etruscan forgeries at 8:00 P.M. on Thursday, April 10, again at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

All are welcome to attend!
 For more information on the Detroit Society Archaeological

Institute of America and archaeological lectures at the Detroit Institute of Arts, see http://www.geocities.com/whp_48202/.

THE OLDS AND THE NEWS: CURRENT EVENTS IN LATIN

Each week the important international news is disseminated worldwide in Latin from Finland. For the weekly transcript of Nuntii Latini, go to the website <http://www.yle.fi/fbc/latini/>.

SOLUTION FOR THE LATIN PUZZLE FROM THE LAST NEWSLETTER

	I	II	III	IV
I	C	E	D	O
II	E	D	I	S
III	D	I	E	S
IV	O	S	S	A

Thanks to Eric Marcuzzi for coming up with the motto featured on the last page.

If you would like to submit a short article, announcement, letter, pangram, lipogram, motto, blooper, puzzle, or note of any kind to this newsletter, please contact the editor Dr. Max Nelson at mnelson@uwindsor.ca.

STUDENT BLOOPERS

THE ROMANS

Aeneas's first task upon reaching the shores of Italy was to fight for the hand of princess Labia. His ancestor Romulus later founded Rome, which had a fine defensive position, being seven miles from the mouth of the Tiber. History calls people Romans because they never stayed in one place very long.

In the early Republic, the reason the plebeians revolted was because they had to learn Latin. At the same time Roman upperclassmen demanded to be known as Patricians. Senators wore purple togas as a sign of respect.

Eventually, in the mid second century B.C., the Romans conquered the Greeks (unlike them, a highly sculptured people, as well as makers of the Apocalypse). From them the Romans took myths (a myth is a female myth).

Around the 120s B.C. the Gretzky brothers failed to stop these and other injustices. The Roman Republic was bothered by intestinal wars. Spartacus led a slave revolt and later was in a movie about this.

A Caesarian section is a district in Rome named after Julius Caesar, who held positions in every facet of Rome and spent money, both private and public, on lavender pleasures. In the 50s

B.C., Caesar extinguished himself on the battlefields of Gaul. After Caesar met Cleopatra he said, "I came, I saw, I conquered". Caesar was strongly warned by the suit salesman to beware the Ideas of March. As he was being murdered, Caesar looked up and said, "You two brutes!" Cleopatra was later put to death by a wasp.

After many tumultuous events, the shrewd Augustus (a.k.a. Octavian) founded the Roman Catholic Empire and punished those involved in sibillancy and adultery. Augustus did have to leave the Empire due to his death.

The second century was the period of the five good Emperors. One of these, Trajan, was digested with the subsidies paid to the Dacian King. During Hadrian's reign there were no incidents, though it was said that he sacrificed his boyfriend Antinous. The Emperor Marcus Aurelius was huge for the military. This man was followed by the terrible Commodus. The Emperor Pertinax was killed by the pretorian prefect.

The Romans controlled much of the world through their spears of influence. Armies and naval forces made up of citizen and non-citizen soldiers were stationed throughout the Empire, although slaves did not help to deafen the borders. Soldiers would practice for war with light wooden shields, but even in battle they did not wear any leg protection. One of

Rome's early victories was against the Samnites, a tough people. Among other successes, the Romans drove back the Saxons over Hadrian's Wall. When the Romans triumphed they triumphed hard.

At Roman banquets, the guests wore garlands in their hair as they reclined on one elbow and ate with the other. Salves provided many of the functions of Roman life. Girls who did not marry could become Vestal Virgins, a group of pure and chaste women who were dedicated to burning the internal flame.

Rome came to have too many luxuries and baths. Romans took two baths in two days, and that's the cause of the fall of Rome. Finally, Rome was overthrown by invasions of Huns, Visigoths, and Osteopaths.

Sources:

Those listed in the last newsletter as well as:
Henriksson, A. *Non Campus Mentis: World History According to College Students* (New York 2001).
Lederer, R. *Anguished English* (New York 1989).

In the next issue:
THE HEBREWS