

ὑπομνήματα*

Notes from the Department of Greek and Roman Studies

NEW SERIES • VOLUME I

Notes from the Chair

We'd like to hear from you.

This newsletter gives a glimpse of the many activities and achievements of the Department of Greek and Roman Studies at the University of Victoria. Please come by and see us. We can be found on the fourth floor of the Clearihue Building (B wing). For more information or to make an appointment, phone the chair, Professor Gordon Shrimpton (250-721-8518, email gshrimpt@uvic.ca) or the administrative assistant, Sonja Bermingham (250-721-8514, email sberming@uvic.ca). We look forward to hearing from you and meeting with you.

Remembering Peter Smith

Greek and Roman studies (Classics as the department used to be called) have a long history at the University of Victoria going well back to the Victoria College days and before. Our tradition of dedicated teaching began with George Black, who

was succeeded by John Carson and Peter Smith. Peter, a Victoria boy who went to Yale and came back with a PhD, began teaching at Victoria College in 1960. Peter retired in 1998, but remained heavily involved with his many research interests and community projects right up to his sudden death on August 29, 2006, the result of a stroke. News of his death drew reactions of shock and a flood of tributes from all parts of Canada and from people in the UK who knew and admired him. Dedicated to his family, Peter was known as an unfailingly kind man who had time for everyone. He was a man of many talents, a superb translator, a historian of the University of Victoria, an accomplished tour guide, a singer, an actor, but, above all, one of the most inspiring teachers this university has seen. It is difficult to know what we will miss more, his awe-inspiring capacity and love for languages, his meteoric wit, his energy or the support he gave so generously to any who needed it.



Dr. Peter Smith

When Peter retired, a scholarship was established in his name. Inside, you will see two students who have benefited from this fund.

- Dr. Gordon S. Shrimpton



University
of Victoria

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Photo by Ian Babbitt

Student profile

Digs enrich student learning experience

Students have opportunities to excavate with our two archaeologists, Professor John Oleson and Dr. Brendan Burke. Professor Oleson has been excavating at Humeima in Jordan for several years now, and Dr. Burke's current site is in Gordium, Turkey, the home of the legendary king Midas. Students travel to these excavations at their own cost, for the most part, but thanks to a generous donation from the von Rudloff family the department has a fund (The Margareta von Rudloff Travel Assistance Fund) from which it can draw to help with some of their expenses.

Tina Ross is a student who participated in Dr. Burke's excavation. "My specific involvement at this site was ceramic analyst and illustrator," she explains. "All the pottery that was found at the site would be brought in at the end of the day and washed. Afterward, I would categorise and record the types and shapes of vessels that the sherds belonged to. This analysis helps to date the stratigraphic layers in which the

pottery was found. This in turn helps give a better understanding of the use of the room it was found in. After the analysis was finished, I would draw the

"This experience enriched my academic life," says Tina, "but I was also able to... experience Turkish culture."

pottery. I also drew several of the objects found during excavations, such as decorated roof tiles, ivory inlays, and figurines. One roof tile was particularly interesting because it depicted the myth of Theseus slaying the Minotaur."

When Tina came to us, she had been awarded a prestigious Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGS) from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). Now she is doing a PhD at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Previous Page: Student Laura Enns and a Bedouin worker excavating in the Roman fort at Humayma in Jordan.

Right: Students Mary Deminion and Jonathan Fox, Peter Smith award recipients



Student awards funds

George Marsden Scholarship Fund established

On Christmas day, 2005, the department lost a very dear old friend. Though 95 years of age when he died, George Marsden never really grew old, he was just a friend of long standing to us. He attended both Greek and Latin classes right through his seventies. Had he been interested in acquiring the credit for all those courses, he might have graduated many times over. Every one of us

looked forward to seeing him with his text in front of him translating, posing stimulating questions and interacting with students young enough to be his grandchildren. With George, there were no generation gaps, just great texts to be appreciated in the company of enquiring people. At the request of the family, it is our pleasure to establish a scholarship fund in George's memory.



George Marsden



Peter Smith Scholarship Fund

When Peter Smith retired, he helped to establish a scholarship. In a very short time, the Peter L. Smith Scholarship in Greek and Roman Studies became sufficiently well endowed to provide awards to more than one student in most years. On these pages, you see two exceptional students, Mary Deminion and Jonathan Fox, in the department's newly refurbished reading room, both recipients of the Peter Smith award.

John Fitch Scholarship Fund

When John Fitch retired in 1999, he established a scholarship in his own name (the Fitch Bursary) with a generous donation. John says that he wishes also to commemorate the commitment of his parents to education by helping to perpetuate the study of the classics. John was a distinguished teacher while he was with us and a leading expert and innovator in the study of Seneca.

Department news

Announcing a four-week travel and study trip to Greece in May 2007 under the supervision of Dr. Brendan Burke. Participation is open to the public. Three units of credit will be given for GRS 493 and 495. For more information go to <http://web.uvic.ca/~bburke/UVicinGreece2007.htm>.

Professor John Oleson (FRSC) was appointed University of Victoria Distinguished Professor in 2003, the first such appointment in the humanities.

Professor Oleson has won research awards totaling over \$1.5 million since he came to UVic. Others, Professor Shrimpton and now Professor Rowe, have also won large SSHRC research grants in recent years.

National Student Awards

In the last two years, Brian Moss, Derek Klapecki, Jamie Nay and Miranda Robinson have won Canada Graduate Scholarships and Sarah Prest was awarded a Killam, one of the highest distinctions available in Canada. In addition, Gillian Ramsey won a SSHRC doctoral to study at Exeter and Brian Moss won a SSHRC doctoral to study at Oxford. We congratulate all these students on their outstanding achievements.

Right: Silver denarius of Trajan on horseback (or equestrian statue of Trajan) to left, holding spear, from Humayma in Jordan. Excavated and photographed by John Oleson.



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* *The Greek word (hypomnemata) means notes, or memoranda.*