

NEW HAMPSHIRE CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

OF THE 33RD CLASSICS DAY FOR TEACHERS,
"THE RECTITUDE OF RELIGIOUS RITES,"

OF

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION,
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2010,
IN PENMEN ROOM

AT SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY
IN MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Registration and coffee lasted from 9:00 to 9:45 A.M. This hour gave us enough much-needed time to mingle and learn about what was going on in the busy lives of our colleagues and friends.

At 9:45 A.M., President Diane Provost called the meeting to order. She began by greeting us with a warm "Salvete." Then, wanting to allay any fears about Classics Day, the President praised the upcoming program and briefly mentioned the importance of the Business Meeting.

Not wanting to keep us from the program any longer than necessary, the President proceeded to introduce our first speaker, the Rev. Dr. Constantine Newman of the University of New Hampshire, whose lecture was entitled "Violence or Dinner: A

Look at Greek Sacrificial Ritual." The Rev. Dr. Newman felt honored to have been asked to speak to us about the centrality of sacrifice in Greek ritual. He called it the "dark side" of ritual because it dealt with slaughter and death.

After a few words about the need for man to kill in order to survive, Dr. Newman focused on how man experiences the divine through killing and eating in a religious context.

Much of his talk centered around two schools of thought:

- (1) Sacrifice is a ritualized version of hunting.
- (2) Its meaning lies in the hunting and eating of the sacrifice.

Sacrifice involves two stages. The first begins with bathing (ritual purity), the adorning of the victim, etc., and ends with a priestly prayer. The second begins with casting barley at the animal and ends with the collecting of blood and putting it on the altar.

Dr. Newman then discussed in great detail what happened to the different parts of the sacrificial victim and how the banquet that followed the sacrifice was prepared. For him, sacrifice was symbolic and representative of the socializing of hunting (the roles of men and women) and of the new role of hunting in an agricultural society.

Dr. Newman's talk ended with a discussion of sacrifice in art. Sacrifice was not focused upon in art because what led up to it was more important. The representation of such preparatory acts validated the ritual and reflected the divine.

At the end of his talk, Dr Newman tied together his two main sources for us: the scholars Jean-Paul Vernant and Walter Burkert. This part of was bolstered by various quotations, none of whose content I was able to note down.

A lively Q-and-A period followed, but despite its liveliness a break was needed, and so we took a short break from 10:47 to 11:10. At 11:10, President Provost introduced our second speaker, Dr. Anna Newman. The President spoke about Dr. Newman's academic work in Switzerland and her stipendium at the Thesaurus Linguae Latinae in Munich, Germany, where she met her husband, our first speaker.

Dr. Newman began her talk, "Ubi tu Gaius, ego Gaia' — Marriage Rites in Antiquity," by sharing with us a Latin poem written for a wedding. It employed the verb *nubere*, a verb used for both men (ages 22–25) and women (13–15). The handout that she provided us with, she said, would support the importance of consent in Roman marriages, of which there are three types: (1) *confarreatio*, (2) *coemptio*, and (3) *usus*.

Marriage also meant that the bride became a member of her husband's *gens*; hence the traditional marriage vow "Ubi tu Gaius, ego Gaia." Then, after describing the aforementioned three types, Dr. Newman discussed everything from the betrothal to the wedding couch.

This led to a detailed exegesis of Catullus' famous epithalamium, Poem 61, which includes all aspects of a traditional wedding. His second wedding poem, 62, is related to the Greek wedding ritual, and so this gave Dr. Newman a chance to discuss this ritual.

She concluded by saying that much of Greek and Roman wedding rituals survive in our wedding rituals, which makes it important for us to learn about these rituals and their meaning for us.

After allowing a short Q-and-A period, President Provost reminded us of the need to move forward to the Business Meeting and lunch. However, before convening the Business Meeting, she presented a special gift to the Newmans and read an accompanying letter, which thanked the Newmans for agreeing to be this year's speakers and presented us with a wealth of information to take home to our individual schools.

President Provost began the Business Meeting at 12:00. First, she called upon Secretary Clairmont to read his Minutes because Secretary Emeritus Desrosiers could not be at last year's meeting.

After the Secretary read his Minutes, the President asked if there were any corrections or additions. There were none, and so the President asked for a motion to be made to accept the Secretary's Minutes. Ms. Selma Naccach-Hoff made the motion that the Secretary's Minutes be accepted. This motion was seconded by Ms. Flora Sapsin, and the Minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

The President then proceeded to the Treasurer's Report. As of September 24, the balance of our Saving Account was \$6,367.42, including the O'Leary Memorial Fund (\$745.00) with its accompanying interest (\$5.79). As of September 24, the balance of our Checking Account was \$5,182.96 (\$143.05 more than last year's balance on September 25, 2009). The President asked for a motion to be made to accept the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Selma Naccach-Hoff made the motion that the Treasurer's Report be

accepted. This motion was seconded by Secretary Clairmont, and the Report was accepted by unanimous vote.

After the Treasurer's Report, President-elect Bonnie Allen reported the results of this year's NHCA Exam-Contests. She also thanked Secretary Clairmont and Immediate Past President R. Scott Smith for correcting the exams.

Next, Dr. Paul Langford, our Representative to the Classical Association of New England, was called to the podium, but since he was unable to attend, President Provost read his detailed report. Next year's annual CANE meeting will take place at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts, on Mary 18 and 19. Proposals for papers and other presentations are due December 1.

In the 2009 CANE Writing Contest, the top three papers in New Hampshire were as follows:

1st place: Amanda Purcell, Pinkerton Academy, Mathew Olkovikas, teacher

2nd place: Danielle Osburn, Bedford High School, Bonnie Allen, teacher

3rd place: Ateka Mirza, Bedford High School, Bonnie Allen, teacher.

The topic for this year's contest is "Watch Out What You Wish for (It Just Might Come True)." Projects must be sent to Representative Langford by December 15, 2010.

After Dr. Langford's report, the President proceeded to New Business.

First, Ms. Selma Naccach-Hoff updated us on the O'Leary Memorial Fund. She hoped that it would be available for 2011 seniors. She concluded by giving us background on Carol O'Leary and her family's intent in establishing this fund.

At this point, President Provost thanked the Secretary for his help in making this year's Classics Day for Teachers possible. Of course, he did not do this on his own, and so he would like to take this opportunity to thank the President and Ms. Naccach-Hoff for all that they did to make this day possible.

Next, Ms. Suzanne Henrich of Dover High School asked about how the NHCA exams were prepared. She wondered whether a committee should be formed to prepare the exams.

Right after Ms. Henrich, Ms. Susan Zoller said that she wanted to address the membership: she complained — and rightly so — about her not being notified of the awards in a timely manner, stressing the importance of the awards to both teachers and students.

Professor Brunet then asked if he could speak about the fall Rouman Lecture. On Wednesday, October 20, Professor Josiah Ober of Stanford University would lecture on "What Is Democracy? What Is It Good for?" He would be accompanied by his wife, Professor Adrienne Mayor, who would deliver a lecture on "The Poison King: Mithridates, Rome's Deadliest Enemy" on Thursday, October 21. Professor Brunet stressed how lucky UNH and the Classics community were to have two distinguished

speakers this year. He ended with a plea for all the high school teachers present to send their students to UNH to study Classics.

After Professor Brunet spoke, the President thanked Ms. Kathryn Ford for all the exemplary work she had done for our website this year, and Ms. Naccach-Hoff reminded us that contributions to the O'Leary Fund were always welcome.

Then the President asked for a motion to adjourn. Our President-elect, Ms. Bonnie Allen, was happy to make such a motion, and her motion was unanimously accepted by all those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard E. Clairmont
Secretary of NHCA