

CNES Newsletter



Classical and Near Eastern Studies

College of Liberal Arts

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Fall

2006

Volume 6

**Mystery Cuneiform
Inscription Found During
CNES Move to Nicholson!**

Story Inside, pages 6-7

DEPARTMENT FACULTY

Eric Adler

Temporary Assistant Professor. Classics
adler@umn.edu

Elizabeth S. Belfiore

Professor. Ancient Philosophy; Greek
Tragedy; Greek Literature.
esb@umn.edu

Andrea M. Berlin

Professor. Archaeology of the Hellenistic and
Roman Near East; Archaeology of Palestine.
aberlin@umn.edu

Alex Jassen

Temporary Assistant Professor.
Early Judaism
jassen@umn.edu

Nita Krevans

Associate Professor. Greek and Latin Poetry;
Hellenistic Greek Literature.
nkrevans@umn.edu

Bernard M. Levinson

Associate Professor. Berman Family Chair
in Jewish Studies and Hebrew Bible.
levinson@umn.edu

Christopher Nappa

Director of Undergraduate Studies
Associate Professor. Republican & Augustan
Latin Poetry; Roman Satire.
cnappa@umn.edu

Oliver Nicholson

Associate Professor. Patristics;
Late Roman History; Medieval Latin.
opn@umn.edu

S. Douglas Olson

Distinguished McKnight University
Professor. Greek poetry of 8th-4th cents.,
esp. Aristophanes, Homer.
sdolson@umn.edu

Jonathan Paradise

Professor Emeritus. Hebrew Bible,
Cuneiform.
jparadis@umn.edu

Calvin Roetzel

Professor. Sundet Chair in New Testament
and Christian Studies. Pauline Theology
roetzel002@umn.edu

Renana S. Schneller

Hebrew Language Coordinator. Teaching
Specialist. Modern Hebrew Language and
Literature; Biblical Hebrew.
schne068@umn.edu

CNES

Classical and Near Eastern Studies

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

CNES is an interdisciplinary department that brings together faculty and students who might in other settings be dispersed among programs in Classics, Art History, Archaeology, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Biblical Studies, Jewish Studies, Ancient Near Eastern Studies, and Linguistics.

The mission of the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies is to produce and disseminate knowledge about the civilizations of the ancient Mediterranean and Near East from the neolithic period through late antiquity. Department faculty conduct research and teach courses in the languages and literatures of Greece, Rome, and the Near East (including Modern Hebrew); and in the archaeology, art, history, and religious traditions of these civilizations, including the development of early Judaism and Christianity.



Mystery Cuneiform Inscription Found During
CNES Move to Nicholson!
Story Inside, pages 6-7

Philip H. Sellew

Director of Graduate Studies
Associate Professor. Greek and Roman
Religion; New Testament Studies.
psellew@umn.edu

George A. Sheets

Department Chair.
Associate Professor. Historical Linguistics;
Latin Literature; Legal History.
gasheets@umn.edu

Stephen C. Smith

Latin Language Coordinator.
Lecturer. Latin.
smith504@umn.edu

Robert P. Sonkowsky

Professor Emeritus. Latin Literature;
Oral Performance; Medieval Latin.
sonko001@umn.edu

Jeffrey Stackert

Temporary Assistant Professor.
Hebrew Bible
stackert@umn.edu

Eva von Dassow

Assistant Professor. Ancient Near Eastern
Studies; Akkadian and Ugaritic.
vonda001@umn.edu

ASSOCIATED FACULTY IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS

Thomas S. Clayton

Regents' Professor. English. Drama and
Theater, Shakespeare, Classical Tradition.

Frederick Cooper

Professor. Art History.
Greek Art, Architecture and Archaeology.

Andrew Gallia

Assistant Professor. History. Roman History;
Latin Literature; Greek History; Roman
Archaeology and Topography.

Thomas Kelly

Professor Emeritus. History. Greek History.

Sheila McNally

Professor. Art History.
Roman and Medieval Archaeology, Roman Art.

Sandra L. Peterson

Professor. Philosophy. Ancient Philosophy.

Edward Schiappa

Professor. Communication Studies.

Theofanis Stavrou

Professor. History. Modern Greek Studies.

<http://cnes.cla.umn.edu>

Chair's Report

by George Sheets

Dear Friends,

I take great pleasure in writing to you from our new quarters in Nicholson Hall. Those readers who remember Nicholson Hall in its old dilapidated state would hardly recognize the new building. After removal of the east wing and demolition of an ill-fitting auditorium dating from the 1960s, the look of the original structure has been restored to its 19th-century architectural splendor. One of the building's original turrets has been rebuilt, and the whole building is now surrounded by pleasant greenspace. Inside, the structure has been literally rebuilt from the ground up. On the new ground floor are the CLA Writing Center and the CLA Honors Office. The other three floors house CNES, the Department of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature, and magnificent new classrooms and lecture halls. Physical improvements to the department's space as compared with our old home in Folwell are substantial. Our new central office is spacious and filled with natural light, and the department facilities include an archaeology lab, a slide library, and new furniture throughout the building. For the first time our graduate students are well-equipped with sufficient computers and printers, shared access to their own copier, and private desks and file cabinets for each student. With CSCL we have control over three seminar rooms, which include the elegant paneled "fireplace" room, a library with ample student study space, a copier room with three high-end Xerox machines, and a well-equipped kitchen. We also enjoy priority scheduling in all of the building's classrooms. The newly-restored Nicholson and Jones Halls are intended to form the core of a new "Humanities Quarter" that will occupy most of what constituted the pre-World War I campus of the University. Eventually all the Humanities departments and programs will be housed in this cluster of stately and venerable buildings, including Folwell (now dedicated to modern foreign languages), Pillsbury (where the department of English will move), Nolte (the current home of the new Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities), and Eddy Hall, as well as Jones and Nicholson. The college's decision to allocate these splendid new facilities to CNES in the first phase of the project is testimony of the high value that it places on our mission and that of the Humanities in general. We hope to host an event this spring to welcome our alumni and friends to the new quarters.



George Sheets, Chair, CNES

Quite apart from our move to Nicholson, last year was an eventful one for CNES. To our great regret, three valued assistant professors departed for other positions. Each left for different reasons, but a common thread in all the departures was the prospect of more attractive positions for their academic spouses. Our only consolation, though a small one, was that in our attempts to retain these excellent colleagues we were bested by three fine institutions. Ra'anah Boustan accepted a position at UCLA, Lauren Monroe assumed an endowed chair at Cornell University, and Amanda Wilcox joined the faculty of Williams College. Fortunately, we were able to hire three outstanding temporary assistant professors, who are introduced elsewhere in this newsletter. The College has returned all three tenure-track lines to the department, and we are currently searching to fill them. On a happier note, we succeeded last year in filling our Sundet Professorship in New Testament with the hire of Calvin Roetzel, one of the world's leading scholars on the writings and figure of Paul. Cal was already a long-time friend and occasional lecturer in the department, since for many years he held the Arnold H. Lowe Professorship of Religious Studies at Macalester College. Elsewhere in this newsletter he writes about his current research and projects.

It was also another year of noteworthy achievement for our students. PhD graduate Aaron Poochigian accepted a position at the University of Utah. Several graduate students presented papers at the APA, CAMWS, and other professional meetings. Two of our graduating seniors accepted multi-year funding packages to study for the PhD in Classics at Berkeley and Bryn Mawr, and several of our undergraduate majors won highly competitive Selmer Birkelo Scholarships. I invite you to read other news of current faculty, emeriti, alumni, and students in the pages that follow.

Faculty News

Betty Belfiore

During the winter and spring I enjoyed my first semester of phased retirement. I continued working on my monograph on Socrates, presented papers at the Arizona Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy and the Minnesota Conference on Ancient Philosophy, and submitted drafts of two other articles. I also published an article on Plato's Phaedrus, in the course of which I discovered what hard work it is to obtain permissions to publish images. On the personal side, I enjoyed visiting my granddaughter and spending time in California. I'm happy to be teaching again this fall.

Andrea Berlin

I continue to work on my next book, provisionally titled *Ceramic Cultures of the Hellenistic Near East*, in collaboration with my co-author Mark Lawall of the University of Manitoba. This book will be the first comprehensive presentation of Hellenistic pottery from all regions of the Eastern Mediterranean and the Near East, fleshed out with interpretive chapters evaluating the pottery as historical evidence. This past summer I was able to return to Tel Kedesh, the excavation in northern Israel that I co-direct with Sharon Herbert of the University of Michigan. Three AMAA graduate students were able to join us as well. I remain involved in the excavations at Gordion and Hacimusalar in Turkey, sites that have by now provided several CNES graduate students opportunities for fieldwork and dissertation research.

Tom Clayton

During my sabbatical (2005-06) I served as president and conference-program chair of the Association of Literary Scholars and Critics, which meets October 13-15, 2006, in San Francisco. The conference promises to be intellectually invigorating, with panel and seminar topics ranging from Graeco-Roman Lyric and Its Legacy (a panel that includes Chris Nappa) to *The Pleasures of the Imagination in Science Fiction*. I spent a month in London during the summer, catching up on theater (30 productions) and working on my apparently novel and possibly demented theory of meter in Shakespeare (and probably in English accentual-syllabic verse in general), to the effect that meter doesn't just harmonize meaning, it makes meaning. I call it "semetrics." So far, my theory has proved more congenial to theater professionals than to literary academics.

Andrew Gallia (Department of History)

I've become interested in the relationship between Greek and Roman ideas about history. In the fall I completed an article that deals with the question of how Greek chronological systems influenced the Roman annalists, in particular their portrait of the Cumaean tyrant Aristodemus. This led, after a fashion, to another paper on Roman attitudes towards Hellenistic historiography, which I presented at a conference

in New Zealand over the summer. In the meantime, I continue to work on the manuscript of my first book, entitled *Remembering the Republic: Culture, Politics, and History at Rome, AD 68-117*. A central text for this discussion, Tacitus' *Dialogus*, is fraught with problems of interpretation, and I attempted to resolve some of them in a paper presented at the CAMWS meeting last spring.

Nita Krevans

I continue to work on Hellenistic poetry and book production. Two pieces have appeared this past year: one on Hellenistic literature (with Alex Sens, in the *Cambridge Companion to the Hellenistic World*) and one on Theocritus. An essay on epigram collections is forthcoming in a Brill volume co-edited by Peter Bing and Jon Bruss. (The latter is a recent CNES PhD, and I admit being a bit embarrassed to get deadline reminder emails from my own advisee.) This year I am participating in a series of workshops bringing together philosophers and literary critics to discuss the links between Hellenistic philosophy and poetry.

Bernard M. Levinson

I had a very productive year, and was particularly pleased to have a new book come out in French (*L'Herméneutique de l'innovation: Canon et exégèse dans l'Israël biblique*), while one article appeared in German ("Du sollst nichts hinzufügen und nichts wegnehmen" (Dtn 13,1): Rechtsreform und Hermeneutik in der Hebräischen Bibel," *Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche*), and another article came out in the *Cardozo Law Review* ("The First Constitution: Rethinking the Origins of Rule of Law and Separation of Powers in Light of Deuteronomy"). Over the summer I attended the International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Edinburgh, where I co-organized a series of five panels concerned with the social and historical context for the promulgation of the Pentateuch in the Second Temple period.

Chris Nappa

I spent my sabbatical (2005-2006) working on several projects, including a book on Juvenal, an essay on the reception of the poetry of Catullus by Vergil, a paper on Propertius, and articles on the Aeneid and on Propertius (again). I spent the summer mostly in Italy, where I gave a paper on Vergil and Roman satire at a conference in Cuma, convenient to Naples and the Underworld. In October, at the meeting of the Association of Literary Scholars and Critics in San Francisco (presided over by Tom Clayton), I am presenting a paper called "When Did Catullus Become a Lyric Poet?" Otherwise, I am back in the saddle as Director of Undergraduate Studies, and teaching a graduate seminar on Vergil's Aeneid.

Oliver Nicholson

I remain General Editor of the *Oxford Dictionary of Late Antiquity*, for which OUP are now allowing all of a million words; initial publication is likely to be on the Internet, followed by a book in due course. I am beginning to see why no one has yet produced a comprehensive reference book on Late Antiquity. During the past year I lectured to the department on martyrdom, did my usual Lent courses (on the Life of Saint Antony of Egypt), and gave a paper at a conference on Pagan

Monotheism at Exeter University in the summer. Meanwhile, I continue to co-operate with Stephen Smith on Latin College in the Schools, and for 2006-07 have revived my old quarter course on The Age of Justinian and Muhammad (AD 500-700).

S. Douglas Olson

I've been hard at work for the last year on my new Loeb edition of Athenaeus; Volumes 1 and 2 (of a projected 7) will be coming out late this fall, and Volume 3 will be submitted to the Press by early spring. In addition, *Broken Laughter: Select Fragments of Greek Comedy* (over 200 fragments, from all periods, with an extensive introduction and commentary) is undergoing copy-editing and should appear from Oxford University Press in April 2007. I will be on leave this spring, and hope to complete another volume of Athenaeus, as well as a separate project on a collection of inscriptions that provide a basic source for our knowledge of the history of the comic competitions in Athens. For my work as editor of *Classical Journal*, see the article elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Philip Sellew

This past year I have directed most of my research efforts toward completing my anthology of texts in Coptic, the final form of the ancient Egyptian language, which was used primarily by Christian authors and translators from roughly 200 to 1000 CE. Up until now, students and teachers of Coptic have lacked any resource for making the transition from learning elementary grammar to reading actual texts in critical editions. My work on this anthology, tentatively entitled *Reading Coptic Literature*, has been aided tremendously by our graduate student Justin Schedtler, whose assistance was supported by a Graduate Research Partnership grant from CLA.

In the meantime, I am co-editing, with Jim Smith of Bethel Seminary in San Diego, a small volume celebrating my Doktorvater Helmut Koester, now officially retired as

Research Professor of New Testament Studies at Harvard Divinity School, for his 80th birthday this December.

George Sheets

I completed a chapter on "Elements of Style in Catullus" for the forthcoming Blackwell's Companion to Catullus, edited by Marilyn Skinner. I also completed an article on ambiguous constituents in Roman legislative language. It will appear in *Revue internationale des droits de l'antiquité* 52 (2005) [2006].

Stephen Smith

This year I'm teaching Greek, in addition to my usual Latin courses, which has been very enjoyable - I've always suspected Greek students of being a bit more engaged! The first-year instructors and I are working to make the beginning Greek and Latin courses more effective and (with luck) more fun, and the Latin cohort in College in the Schools (which Oliver Nicholson and I "co-coordinate") will be enjoying new field days and workshops. On top of all that, I have been getting some research done. My article on Brutus in Livy will appear in a forthcoming issue of *Mnemosyne*, and I am currently working on an article on Ceres (and mothers and children) in the *Aeneid*.

Eva von Dassow

This past summer I completed the manuscript of my book, *State and Society in the Late Bronze Age: Alalakh Under the Mittanni*

Empire, to be published in 2007 by CDL Press. The book

is about the formation of hierarchically ranked social classes in the kingdom of Alalakh, located in what is now the Hatay Province of Turkey, during the 15th century BCE. More accurately, it is about the historical context of class formation, the innovations in military technology that promoted the emergence of classes, and the phenomenon of documenting the classification of people in writing, at this particular place and time in ancient Near Eastern history. I'm now looking forward to writing pieces shorter than a book, like an article about the cuneiform cone featured elsewhere in this newsletter.



Main Atrium, Nicholson Hall

Visiting Faculty News

Eric Adler

Temporary Assistant Professor of Classics, 2006-07.

I completed my PhD in Classical Studies at Duke University in May 2005. My dissertation, *The 'Enemy' Speaks: Oratory and Criticism of Empire in Roman Historiography*, examines the degree to which ancient historians of Rome were capable of and interested in criticizing the vicissitudes of Roman imperialism and, more generally, Roman society. This work relates to my interests in Greek and Latin prose, Roman history, Roman imperialism, and postcolonial criticism. Last year, I served as a lecturer in the History Department at Rice University. I am delighted to have the opportunity to teach and do research at the University of Minnesota, and to be in the Twin Cities, especially since the area offers lots of opportunities to hear great jazz.

Alex Jassen

Temporary Assistant Professor of Early Judaism, 2006-07.

My research concentrates on the literary heritage of Second Temple period Judaism and the important role this literature plays in reconstructing the history and development of classical Judaism. I am particularly interested in the ways that Jews in the Second Temple period continued to seek access to God through means such as prophecy, mysticism, and biblical interpretation. My forthcoming book, *Mediating the Divine: Prophecy and Revelation in the*

Dead Sea Scrolls and Second Temple Judaism (Brill), based on my 2006 New York University dissertation, examines how the Qumran community conceptualized the meaning of prophecy and divine revelation in dialogue and in contrast with received biblical models. My wife Leslie and I, having moved to the Minneapolis after spending five years in New York City, are happily acclimatizing to life in Minnesota.

Jeffrey Stackert

Temporary Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible, 2006-07.

I recently completed my PhD at Brandeis in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies. My dissertation, *Rewriting the Torah: Literary Revision in Deuteronomy and the Holiness Legislation*, explores the literary relationship between topically related laws in the Pentateuch and especially the connection between similar legislation in Deuteronomic and Priestly law. This work grows out of my larger interests in biblical and ancient Near Eastern literature and especially Priestly ritual, cult, and legislation in the Bible. My wife Richelle and I are originally from Valparaiso, Indiana and we are enjoying our transition back to the Great Lakes region after several years living in Boston. We especially appreciate the many opportunities for outdoor activities here in town, including running around the lakes in Minneapolis and along the Minnehaha Creek and the Mississippi River.



L-R: Jeffrey Stackert, Eric Adler, Alex Jassen

Emeritus Faculty News

Jack Hershbell keeps very busy in retirement. Besides guest lectures and some teaching at Randolph Macon Women's College, Washington and Lee University, and Virginia Military Academy, he has lately visited Crete twice to present papers at the International Plutarch Conference. His recent and forthcoming publications include those two papers, "Solon and Sophia" and "Plutarch and Plato's Cretan City"; a translation of Iamblichus' *De mysteriis*, in collaboration with E.C. Clarke and J.M. Dillon; an essay on "Philostratus and Early Christianity," in the volume *Philostratus Heroikos. Religion and Cultural Identity in the Third Century*; and a study, "Plutarch's Political Philosophy, Peripatetic and Platonic," in a supplement to *Mnemosyne*. On a personal note, he and his wife Anne rejoice in the birth of their first grandchild, Fern Elena, this past February.

Eva Keuls opened the 2006-2007 academic year at the American Association of University Women in Minneapolis, with a talk on "Women in early Christianity," on September 25, 2006.

Jonathan Paradise continues to teach courses on the Holocaust and Judaism at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, and this fall is also teaching a course on the Hebrew Bible at Macalester College. He recently gave a public lecture on the poetry of the Hebrew poet Dan Pagis. Last spring, Jonathan taught Hebrew classes at World Language Day, an annual event organized by the CLA Language Center for high school students. He and his wife Ruth continue to burn the midnight oil working on computer programs for teaching Hebrew.

Robert Sonkowsky appeared on Garrison Keillor's "Prairie Home Companion" this past January to recite, in *The Restored Pronunciation of Classical Latin*, Horace, 1.22 (*Integer vitae ...*) and the beginning of Cicero's *First Catilinarian*. Recently, with Othild Schwartzkopff, et al., he presented "Ancestors of the Extended Cosinor in What Became Chronobiology, Chronomics, Chronobioethics, and Chronoastronomy," at the International Conference on the Frontiers of Biomedical Science, held in Chengdu, China, from September 24-26, 2006. This paper traces, in the field of history of science, the origin of the field of Chronobiology from Thales and Archilochus of Paros to present-day chronoastronomy.



Nicholson Hall

Lost and Found: Shoebox Yields Cuneiform Cone

by Eva von Dassow

Moving house often entails rediscovering things you forgot you owned. So it was when CNES moved from Folwell to Nicholson Hall last winter. Our new quarters include an Archaeology Lab, and setting up this facility gave Professor Andrea Berlin occasion to unpack the contents of the teaching collection assembled in generations past by William McDonald, Professor of Classics and Archaeology from 1948 to 1980. This collection was stored in scores of ballet-shoe boxes, of 1950s and 1960s vintage; the boxes contained potsherds, small vessels or reproductions of vessels, coins, and other kinds of artifacts. Among them - forgotten, evidently, since McDonald's day - was a clay cone inscribed in cuneiform! Andrea handed the cone over to me, saying, "Look what I found." After all, I'm a cuneiformist, so presumably I could read it.

But this cone gave me trouble. First, its surface bears as many scratches and gouges as cuneiform strokes, and this damage partly obliterates numerous signs. Second, I usually read cuneiform tablets from the mid-2nd to mid-1st millennium BCE, but clay cones like this were used for a type of royal foundation inscription primarily during earlier periods, in the late 3rd to early 2nd millennium BCE. Handwriting changes over the centuries, and so does the language of writing. For me, then, reading this cone was like the average literate English speaker trying to make out a document from the time of Christopher Columbus, or maybe William the Conqueror, or even Charlemagne. I couldn't even know how old the cone was, until I could read it. On its base was glued a label, which says, "Cuneiform [sic] document. Mesopotamian. Time of Moses. Bovey Collection. Goldstein." That was no help - when did the writer of the label think the time of Moses was?

Finally, one afternoon when the sun beamed in my office window at the perfect angle, I saw what the first line said: the royal name Naram-Sin. No way, I thought - this couldn't be Naram-Sin, grandson of Sargon of Akkad (c. 2300 BCE), creator of the world's first empire! For one thing, his scribes wrote in Akkadian, but the cone was inscribed in Sumerian. (After the fall of Akkad, scribes resumed using Sumerian for royal inscriptions.) There were also two later and less important Naram-Sins: a king of Ashur, and a king of the



Eva von Dassow

trans-Tigridian city of Eshnunna, who both ruled in the 19th century BCE; could it be one of them? Naram-Sin of Ashur, of whom no inscription is yet known, was excluded, since royal inscriptions from early 2nd-millennium Ashur were not written on cones, and not in Sumerian. As for his namesake at Eshnunna, I couldn't find "king of Eshnunna," or the like, anywhere on the cone; nor could I recognize much else in the text. I was busy teaching my courses and writing a book, so I put the cone aside for the time being.

In August, with the book manuscript finished and a new school year in prospect, I examined the cone afresh. I compared it to the known inscriptions of the Naram-Sins and their contemporaries, all of which have been collected and edited by Douglas Frayne and A. Kirk

Grayson in the fat blue volumes of the series *Royal Inscriptions of Mesopotamia*, published by the University of Toronto. Meanwhile, I began to make a copy of the text, sign by sign - and scratch by scratch. The cone matched nothing from any of the Naram-Sins, though bits of the text matched bits of other royal inscriptions. For example, halfway around it I could read "He built his royal palace" (in Sumerian: é-gal nam-lugal-la-ke4 mu-dù). Well, of course, that's what I thought he did! But it was comforting to see this clearly stated on the clay, since I still wasn't certain how to read much of the rest. Indeed, I almost wondered whether what I was expending all this effort on wasn't a forgery. "Naram-Sin ... gobbledegook ... built his royal palace ... jabber-jabber-jabber" - the object looked ancient, but the text inscribed on it did not quite compute. This Naram-Sin was neither the king of Akkad, the king of Ashur, nor the king of Eshnunna; there was no other known king named Naram-Sin; and no one but kings had cones inscribed for them. I had to consult with someone who specialized in the relevant periods and text genres, so I e-mailed my copy of the text to Douglas Frayne in Toronto.

The following day Doug called me back, pretty excited. The cone turns out to bear an inscription of Naram-Sin, king of Uruk, hitherto entirely unknown! Together on the phone we worked out most of the text, restoring the damaged bits by comparison with other royal inscriptions from the early 2nd millennium BCE. We decided that our newly-discovered Naram-Sin probably reigned just before Sin-kashid, a minor but well-attested king who ruled Uruk about when Hammurabi's great-grandfather ruled Babylon (early to mid-19th century BCE). Sin-kashid is well attested because his palace has been excavated, and lots of his cones and tablets were found in it. In fact, three inscriptions of Sin-kashid are in local collections, one at the Science Museum of Minnesota and two in the University Library's Special Collections and Rare Books in the Elmer L. Andersen Library.

The newly-rediscovered cone of the hitherto-unknown Naram-Sin is now having its picture taken in the Department of Anthropology, across the Mississippi on the West Bank. Actually, it's having 3-D imaging done and movies

made, under the direction of John Soderberg, Manager of the Evolutionary Anthropology Laboratories (EAL). This is part of a major project to produce videos and 3-D rotatable images of material housed in collections pertaining to the University of Minnesota, for which John was awarded a grant from the CLA InfoTech Fees Committee. Having produced images of skeletal material in the Department of Anthropology's collection, John and his team are now beginning work on (inter alia) the University's collection of cuneiform texts, starting with this cone, beautifully photographed by graduate student Sabrina Curran. The images will soon be available to the public on the EAL web site:

http://anthropologylabs.umn.edu/html/vr_presentations.html, as well as the CNES web site: <http://cnes.cla.umn.edu>. Meanwhile, Doug Frayne and I are preparing to co-author a scholarly article publishing the inscription and discussing its historical context.

Our Naram-Sin can hardly have ruled Uruk very long, or surely more than one record would have survived from his reign. Perhaps he got as far as laying the foundations of the palace and having this one single cone inscription drafted to record the construction, before Sin-kashid usurped the throne as well as the palace. Or perhaps - just possibly - a scribe made it all up, while practicing at his job writing royal inscriptions. We may never know, unless another text attesting Naram-Sin, king of Uruk, turns up, maybe in another shoebox no one has opened since it was packed away back in the 20th century CE ...



Photo by Sabrina Curran, Graduate Student, Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota

News of the Graduate Program

by Philip Sellew, Director of Graduate Studies

The graduate faculty in Classics recently approved a comprehensive set of revisions to our MA and PhD programs in Classics, Greek, and Latin. We adopted these reforms with an eye toward streamlining our requirements in order to help students finish their degrees in a reasonable amount of time. We also want to offer more predictability and more of a shared experience along the way. These changes bring our expectations closer to national norms, while allowing us to provide clearer benchmarks of progress.

We now assign all new grad students a faculty mentor, who can complement the technical advising of the DGS with personal direction and support. The mentors help entering students understand the demands and challenges of our profession more quickly. At a later point in the program, we will offer a new course (CNES 8794) to help advanced PhD students make the transition from course work to dissertation research, preparation of a strong teaching portfolio, grant writing, and the job search.

We have also introduced new approaches to language preparation and testing. Translation proficiency exams will now be drawn from our published reading lists in Greek and Latin, and a briefer list for MA students has been selected from the longer lists already in place to help prepare PhD students for their prelims. This fall we also have begun offering ungraded weekly sight-reading classes on authors from both the Greek and the Latin lists to help students gain confidence and experience. Starting next year we will offer diagnostic exams in both languages during orientation week to assist us in placing students in appropriate courses more efficiently.

The system of preliminary exams in Classics has been given a major overhaul as well. Our former system both allowed and required students to construct their own exam committees and negotiate the contours of their written exams with individual members of the faculty. This arrangement led to a laudable amount of individual initiative and control, but also permitted overspecialization and even idiosyncrasy. Starting with this year's class of PhD students, the written prelims will be replaced with general exams in Greek and Latin litera-

ture in their historical contexts taken during orientation week in the fall of the fourth year. The exams will be prepared and graded by a faculty committee, with an eye toward general knowledge and competence in Classics. All students will thus know from the start of their program when they will take their exams and in general what they will be responsible for knowing. After passing these exams, students will prepare a detailed thesis prospectus to be submitted by December 1st of that year. The preliminary oral exam will cover the proposed research topic as well as the relevant subjects and methods a scholar working in the subfield should control.

In addition, we have taken significant steps to help MA students finish their degrees more expeditiously without sacrificing standards. We have brought the credit requirements in Classics, Greek, and Latin closer to the U of M minima and have connected Plan B papers closely to departmental seminars. To encourage a shared and focused experience, MA oral exams in the language and literature fields will now involve questions drawn from the reading lists, in addition to topics related to the Plan B papers.

I am grateful for the contributions of my colleagues, as well as the comments and suggestions of many students as we embark on these important reforms.



Christy Marquis, Latin Instructor, PhD Student, Classics

Classical Journal at the University of Minnesota

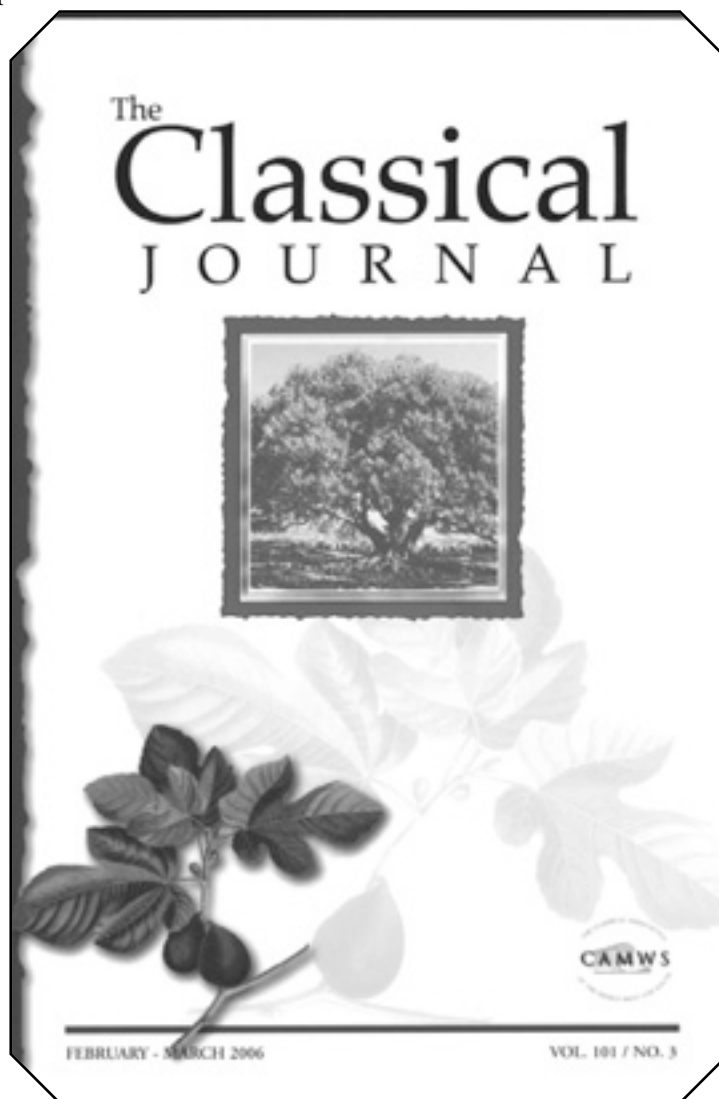
by S. Douglas Olson

When Classicists speak of editing texts, they generally mean ancient texts: Homer, Euripides, or Tacitus. But journals also require editors, and while the tasks involved are not all the same, the amount of time and care the process requires is, I have learned, strikingly similar.

About two years ago, the Classical Association of the Middle West and South advertised for a new editor for *The Classical Journal*. To my delight—and trepidation—I was selected for the post. My editorial team now includes Emily West of Saint Catherine's University (CNES PhD 2004) as Forum editor, Chris Nappa as Book Review Editor, and Tim Beck (CNES MA 2006) as Editorial Assistant (a position partially funded by the CLA Dean's Office). We have published one full volume of CJ and are about to begin the second; most likely the editorial offices will remain in Minnesota for about five years.

CJ receives around 70 submissions a year, from authors all over the world. We publish three to five articles in each of our four annual issues, and often a Forum piece or two, plus book reviews. This means that we accept approximately one-third of the manuscripts submitted to us, keeping the journal accessible even to scholars near the beginning of the careers, but allowing us to publish only material we find interesting, compelling, and well thought-out. The editing process begins with a search for referees. Before I took over CJ, I had no idea how difficult this task could be. Fairness to the author requires referees with something approaching genuine expertise in the topic at hand. There are often only a few likely suspects, and many of the individuals we call on are both responsible and generous with their time. But one of my least happy discoveries in the last year and a half is that many tenured scholars—the people gen-

erally in the best position to provide expert refereeing—refuse such requests. The excuse is always the same (“I am unfortunately far too busy at the moment”), and I have come to see this as a serious ethical issue for the discipline. Everyone in a position to referee articles for a journal has benefitted from similar services provided anonymously by others in the past, and while there are some good reasons to turn such requests down, established scholars should generally be willing to shoulder this obligation.



Usually, referees' reports either are produced almost immediately or else straggle in only after several months, occasionally following gentle editorial prodding. Referees are almost universally critical of the material they read, but also almost universally agree in their assessment of its value. As a result, the decision about what to accept and what to reject is often easier than an outsider to the process might imagine. In addition to offering authors the referees' reports and encouraging them to respond to the suggestions and criticisms they contain, I have made it a policy to edit the manuscripts CJ accepts for style on a line-by-line basis. As far as I can tell, this makes the journal unique in the field, and the writing in it is increasingly good. Once the manuscript returns to us, with editorial changes approved (or, occasionally, disapproved!), Tim formats it, in a process that takes many hours of painstaking work. I then assemble the articles

into a huge .pdf file, bundling in advertisements, front- and back-page matter, and the like; send it off electronically to our printer; and get to work on the next issue.

CJ is a challenge, but a wonderful one. Emily, Chris, Tim, and I are proud of the work we do, and thankful for the support the University of Minnesota has provided for doing it; and we hope that many of you are both reading and enjoying the journal.

New Sundet Chair: Calvin J. Roetzel



Cal Roetzel

A bit over a year ago I was pleased and honored to receive the invitation to join CNES as the occupant of the Sundet Chair in New Testament and Early Christianity. My graduate work at Duke had been in biblical studies with two minor fields—one in World Religions and the other in the Social and Cultural History of the Graeco-Roman world. By the time the Sundet Chair became open, I had spoken my piece to try to correct a view of Paul as anti-Semitic that I deemed historically false; my commentary on Paul's 2 Corinthians was almost done; I had had a dream job teaching and doing research for over thirty years at Macalester College in the Department of Religious Studies; and I had filled in for three years for CNES and found my contacts with students and faculty enormously stimulating and rewarding. I found the inclusion of faculty and courses in Jewish Studies and early Christianity to be exciting, if not unique. So even though I was looking forward to some leisure with my wife, Caroline, to enjoy our cabin on the North Shore of Lake Superior and complete two books I had under contract, I was open to this new and exciting professional opportunity. I thought about this long and hard, but when the invitation came to join this distinguished Department, I readily accepted it. I have less of a vision for the Sundet chair than a hope that I can be of use to an outstanding Department and the University in the years I have left. I can only express my heartfelt gratitude for the warm reception both faculty and students have given me.

My first semester and a good part of the summer have been devoted to working with Ra'anana Boustany, now at UCLA, and Andrew Gallia (History, UMN) to plan a graduate seminar to be offered in the spring of 2007 tentatively entitled "Religious Violence in the Early Roman World: Jews, Christians and 'Pagans'", and an associated conference, planned for October 6-8, 2007, called "Sanctified Violence in Ancient Mediterranean Religion: Discourse, Ritual, Community." We struggled with the title and chose the term "sanctified" violence to point to violence inflicted or suffered by religious groups. And even though we are all historians of the ancient world, we are well aware that no one comes to a study of the ancient world free of issues in one's own time. The scope of the conference we envisioned would be deliberately broad, stretching from the Maccabean period to the early Islamic period. After a process of framing a description that took months, we were enormously pleased when nineteen junior and senior scholars working both here and abroad accepted with alacrity our invitation to participate in the conference a year from now. At the conference they will offer papers that explore discourses and practices of violence that operated across the full range of ethnic, linguistic, and religious communities throughout the Graeco-Roman world from the early Roman period until the rise of Islam (c. 150 BCE to 750 CE). Five of these scholars will also visit the graduate seminar to discuss their own work on "religious violence" and have an informal lunch with University facul-

ty on the current state of their research. The conference will be opened by a major address on the evening of Oct. 6 by Bruce Lincoln of the University of Chicago, who will place this study in its modern context; this address will be open to the public. University faculty from a wide range of departments with an interest in some aspect of the topic will be asked to respond to papers and participate in the public discussion. The scholars who have accepted our invitation to come include:

Clifford Ando, Professor of Classics and the College, University of Chicago

Beth Berkowitz, Assistant Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics, Jewish Theological Seminary

Daniel Boyarin, Hermann P. and Sophia Taubman Professor of Talmudic Culture, Departments of Near Eastern Studies and Rhetoric, University of California at Berkeley

David Cook, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Rice University

Natalie Dohrmann, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, University of Pennsylvania.

David Frankfurter, Professor of History and Religious Studies, University of New Hampshire

Paula Fredriksen, William Goodwin Aurelio Professor of the Appreciation of Scripture in the Department of Religion, Boston University

Chris Frilingos, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Michigan State University

Jennifer Glancy, Joseph C. Geog Professor of Religious Studies, LeMoyné College

Hermann Lichtenberger, Senior Scholar, Eberhard-Karls-Universität in Tübingen

Bruce Lincoln, Caroline Haskell Professor, University of Chicago Divinity School (keynote speaker)

Shelly Matthews, Associate Professor of Religion, Furman University

Margaret M. Mitchell, Professor of New Testament and Early Christian Literature, University of Chicago Divinity School

Lauren Monroe, Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible, Cornell University

Carol A. Newsom, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Old Testament, Emory University

Celia Schultz, Assistant Professor of Classics, Yale University

Brent Shaw, Andrew Fleming West Professor of Classics, Princeton University

Thomas Sizgorich, Assistant Professor of History, University of New Mexico

Steve Weitzman, M. Glazer Chair in Jewish Studies in the Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University

It is our aim to publish an edited volume based on the papers and responses delivered at the conference which will reach not only a scholarly audience but also a wider public.

While this is an academic conference, we can hardly imagine an issue of greater public interest or importance for our own time. Questions surrounding the relationships between violence and religious conviction permeate our contemporary situation, not only in light of the on-going violence in the Middle East, but also with respect to what is perceived as a growing militancy within some Christian groups in the United States. While the focus of the conference is on the ancient world, we have little doubt that participants will be eager to explore the ways in which history speaks to the contemporary world. We sincerely hope that the readers of this Newsletter will place this Conference on their calendar and plan to attend.

NAPH at the University of Minnesota

by **Renana Schneller**

This past June, the CNES Hebrew program hosted the 2006 conference of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew (NAPH). The annual NAPH conferences are a forum for the exchange of research on Modern and Biblical Hebrew language and literature, and on pedagogical methods for teaching Hebrew as a second language.

The 2006 NAPH conference brought people from all over the world to the University of Minnesota. Considering that the 2005 conference took place in Stanford and the 2007 conference will take place in Sydney, Australia, I was afraid that NAPH members would choose to pass on this one. After all, can you compare Minnesota with those attractive places? I had to persuade people that, despite Minnesota's reputation, the snow DOES melt eventually. But after touring the Highlights of Minnesota by bus, and ending the day with a Middle Eastern dinner at my house, they began to believe that Minnesota might be a nice place. In addition, the Marriott City Center in downtown Minneapolis turned out to be a good conference location, because people enjoyed being in the center of town and taking the Light Rail to see other parts of the metropolitan area. Of course the conference attendees spent most of their time attending lectures. They say the lectures were very good, and I'll have to take their word on that, because as the organizer of the conference I was not able to attend any of them.

Holding the conference here proved to be a great way to reach out to the Jewish community on both sides of the river. The NAPH association has been offering annual conferences for more than 20 years, but this was the first time one was held in Minnesota, so local members did not want to miss the opportunity to attend. In par-

ticular, College in the Schools teachers, who usually do not have the chance to attend NAPH conferences, found it very enriching. One wrote to me as follows: "I have no doubt that all the teachers who participated in the conference came out fulfilled as professionals, equipped with material, and had renewed energy to continue with their profession on a higher level."

Both Minneapolis and St. Paul Jewish federations, as well as Talmud Torah Hebrew schools, contributed funding for the conference. Their sponsorship supplemented the funding provided by CNES, the Center for Jewish Studies, the Center for Global Studies, and the Paradise Hebrew Language Fund. The combined contributions of university and community sponsors made it possible not only to host the conference, but to provide some "extra-curricular" activities that no doubt helped make the 2006 NAPH conference a huge success.

It was a lot of work to organize this conference - I might compare the process to a two-year pregnancy. Though the labor was long and sometimes painful, the baby turned out beautiful! I am not ready for more babies yet, but in a few years? Who knows?



L to R: back - Tamar Ghidalia, Yosi Gordon, Dalia Vlodaver;
middle - Rita Shachar, Missy Lavintman, Renana Schneller, Tamy Kaiyalethe;
front - Yaakov Levi, Karen Kramer, Tal Fishman, Nathelie Benjamin

Alumni Spotlight: Emily West

A fond hello to everyone in (or formerly in) the Department of CNES! After submitting my dissertation in 2004, I did a job search in January of 2005, and got a tenure-track job at the College of St. Catherine, a scant five miles from CNES as the crow flies. I had never known much about St. Kate's, and had mentally classified it as "that cemetery on Cleveland down by Ford Parkway," because that's what the big iron fence and the rolling lawns looked like to me as I drove by. I was therefore

delighted to find that St. Kate's is a collegial and exciting place to be, with terrific students and an all-around great atmosphere. I teach first- and second-Year Latin, Classical Mythology, and Women in Antiquity; next semester, by popular demand, I'll be starting a New Testament Greek reading group in the evening.



Emily West

Shortly after I got the St. Kate's job, I was coming over to campus for a meeting and happened to park in front of a beautiful house for sale a block away from my office-to-be. As I got out of my car, the realtor came walking out, so I got him to show me around, and we put in an offer that night. The whole family is much happier there; Bob has old and new friends teaching in the Math department, and my son went to the preschool on the St. Kate's campus last year and loves to play on the expansive, beautifully landscaped grounds. The college also provides us with a bottomless well of superb childcare, so Bill spends a fair amount of time hanging out in the dorms. And I am glad to still be so close to the U—the perfect combination of my old life and a new one.

Hobbies:

Rock climbing

Last Non-classical Book Read:

Elizabeth Peters, *The Golden One*
(if Egyptological murder mysteries count as non-classical)

Current Obsession:

"Lost"

Pets:

3 cats, 1 frog, 1 newt,
6 fish, and 2 rabbits
(one of them a 20-pound Flemish Giant)

Cool Thing:

I am going to Hawaii in January
(instead of the APA).

Giving To CNES

A special thank you to all of the generous donors noted in this newsletter. Your contributions are valued and help the department continue its tradition of excellence. Gifts received over the years have developed into undergraduate student scholarships, two faculty chairs to secure the brightest and best professors, and fellowships that woo dazzling graduate students to Minnesota.

This year, the department has identified support for graduate fellowships as its most significant need. The importance of graduate student fellowships cannot be overstated. Fellowships allow the department to recruit the very best students from across the country and once here, allow them to take full advantage of field work programs.

If you would like to make a gift to support graduate students in the department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies, please go to www.giving.umn.edu. If you would like to double the impact of your gift through the 21st Century Graduate Fellowship match or the Promise of Tomorrow Scholarship match program, please contact me today at 612-624-2848 or tapli001@umn.edu. I look forward to hearing from you!

Thank you for making an investment that truly makes a difference.

Warm regards,

Betsy Taplin
Development Officer
CLA External Relations

Recent Donors to CNES

Abraham Franck Scholarship in Hebrew Studies

Professor Abraham Franck
Reverend Alice V. Tobler

Classical Studies Development Fund

Dr. Lee A. Borah Jr.
Dr. Michael P. Browne
Ms. Susan G. Cole
Claudia B. & Henry M. Colvin
Steven F. Friedell
C. L. Fundingsland
Dr. Linda W. Gillison
Dr. Mark T. Gustafson
Ms. Stacie C. Haugen
Dr. Madeleine M. Henry
Anne S. & Jackson P. Hershbell
Mrs. Cynthia C. Jorgenson
Miss Kathy J. Keleher
Mrs. Miriam W. Kieffer
Dr. Catherine Clark Kroeger
Mr. Michael B. Kunin
Dr. Frederick M. & Catherine A. Lauritsen
Ms. Patricia M. Leefeldt
Mrs. Gertrude McCutcheon
Dr. William A. McDonald Estate
Dr. Stephen A. Nimis
Mr. Don Peretz
Dr. Leland & Betty Peterson
Rohm & Haas Co.
Christian Steven Schultz
Prof. George A. & Janet D. Sheets
Dr. Rabun M. Taylor
Richard A. Young & Dr. Ann C. Vasaly

Endowment in Biblical Archaeology

Mr. Michael J. Abrams
Garelick Steel Co. Inc.
Mr. Bruce E. Goldstein

Gerry M. Erickson Award in Classics

3M Foundation Inc.
Prof. Tom Clayton & Janice Derksen
Prof. Frederick A. Cooper
Dr. Judd S. Copeland
Prof. Gerald M. Erickson
Prof. Nita Krevans
Ms. Barbara L. Lehnhoff
Dr. Hugh C. Parker
Mr. Brian W. Pugh
Renana Schneller
Judith A. & John A. Scullin
Prof. Philip H. Sellew

Harold C. Anderson Scholarship

Dr. Harold C. Anderson
Mary E. Horsley
Drs. Geri H. & William W. Malandra
The Honorable David M. Ransom
Various Donors
Scott M. Wagner

Jonathan Paradise Hebrew Language Fund

Jewish Community Relations Council-MN & Dakotas
Michael A. Johnson
K. J. International Resources Ltd.
Dr. Leonard H. & W. Joyce Levitan
Dr. Kimberly K. Amrami
Mr. Robert E. Cronin Jr.
Ms. Tanya M. Feldberg
Ms. Lynn Golberstein
Drs. Anna C & Kenneth R. Hampton
Mr. Ralph K. Jacobus
Dr. Bernard M. Levinson
Mr. David Levy
Mrs. Dorothy F. Papermaster
Mrs. Ruth S. Paradise
Dr. Jonathan S. Paradise
Mrs. Goldie Schwartz
Dr. Buddy & Judith K. Tennebaum

Mary J. Dovolis Fellowship in New Testament and Christian Studies

Chris Dovolis

Berman Family Chair in Jewish Studies and Hebrew Bible

Mr. Lyle A. Berman
Mrs. Theresa Berman
Ms. Janis R. Berman
Mrs. Stanley Goodman
Mrs. Sylvia J. Howard
Harriet K. Kronick
Lyle & Janis Berman Family Foundation
Claire J. Roberts
Donald E. & Helen L. Swartz

Sundet Family Chair in New Testament and Christian Studies

Robert W. Maynard
Leland N. & Louise C. Sundet

Tel Kedesh Archaeology Expedition

Dr. Jeannette A. & Stanley W. Bakke
Mr. Stanford M. Baratz
Baratz Family Foundation Inc.
Dr. Susan L. & John R. Camp
Dr. Marilyn J. & Harvey J. Chiat
Ms. Linda M. Clougherty
Dr. Dale T. Dobrin
Mrs. Nomi Dworkin
David E. Quimby
Mr. Edgar J. Shaw Jr.
Shaw & Associates Inc.

Traust Group Fund

Traust Group Inc.

William A. McDonald Endowment for Classical Archaeology

John Y. Christopher



CLA COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

CLASSICAL AND NEAR EASTERN STUDIES

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

216 PILLSBURY DRIVE S.E.

245C NICHOLSON HALL

MINNEAPOLIS, MN. 55455