

T A B U L A E

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS • THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA • FALL, 2000

Inaugurating a New Era

October 12, University Day. On this bright Carolina blue morning James Moeser was installed as Chancellor in Polk Place, bringing new hope and purpose to our often beleaguered *civitas*. His own academic background is in music; and he speaks often, and (for us) reassuringly, of the importance of the Humanities, of how they must not be left behind in the great educational leap forward that UNC is about to make. This is, he says, “a defining moment for higher education in North Carolina.” Most immediately, of course, he was pushing the \$3.1 billion bond issue for November 7, which will bring \$500 million to UNC-Chapel Hill, to modernize some 120 lecture halls and classrooms — some of which we seem to know. Indeed, administrators and visiting legislators are often shown through Murphey Hall, and the *Daily Tar Heel* prints such student comments as, “If you’ve ever taken a class in Murphey 111, you will realize the need....” So, if things go well — *quod felix faustumque sit* — we may well be out of Murphey this summer, pitching our tents elsewhere for maybe eighteen months, waiting for the long-desired renovations to be completed.

This last year was relatively peaceful. Perhaps the prospect of moving — or, differently, of moving toward retirement (Sara Mack, Kenneth Reckford, and Philip Stadter, over the next few years) makes us more grateful for, or patient with, the ordinary business of academic life. George Houston is now in his fifth and last year as Chair of the Department. He has presided over our vagaries and borne the usual pressures with

unusual patience and humor. What about our numbers? Our national rankings? Money for graduate students? The Department library? It’s much less fun to be Chair nowadays than in the golden years of expansion, in the Sixties and early Seventies, when money flowed and fellowships were plentiful. But here he is (in the photo), buoyant and encouraging as ever, as we emerge into the late afternoon sunlight from a Departmental Retreat at the Aqueduct Conference Center, where we have been reformulating goals and strategies and, to put it simply, revamping our entire program for the new era.



Faculty on Dept. Retreat

Present: (front row) M. Lafferty, W. West, C. Connor (back row)

D. Haggis, P. Stadter, K. Reckford, W. Race, N. Terrenato,

P. Smith, G. Houston, K. Sams

Absent: S. James, S. Mack, M. Weiss, C. Wooten

We are happy to welcome **Maura Lafferty** back to Murphey Hall, for Maura took her MA in Classics here in 1987 before she went off to Toronto for advanced work in medieval studies and paleography. She has taught extensively in Canada, the U.S., and Rome; has published a book on the twelfth-century epic *Alexandreis* of Walter of Chatillon, and

is currently studying attitudes toward Latin and Latinity in late antiquity and the Middle Ages. Even the title of her recent talk, *Imperatrix omnium linguarum*, raises tired spirits, rousing us to thoughts of further conquest.

We also welcome **Diane Saylor** to our staff. With Carrie Stolle, Kim Miles, and now Diane working together, the efficiency of our office has greatly increased, and also the laughter — not to mention, the plates of goodies that appear so spontaneously to celebrate who-knows-what happy occasion.

I shall say more below about one special event, the Plutarch colloquium in June organized by Phil Stadter, which was a very model of international collegiality and shared scholarship — the kind of conference that delights and edifies the weary academic mind, and also enhances our visibility on the scholarly map. (Proceedings of our earlier “Kennedy” colloquium on rhetoric and oratory, organized by Cecil Wooten, will be published shortly by Brill.) And, speaking of maps: we rejoice in the emergence, after twelve years’ hard labor, of the *Barrington Atlas of the Greek and Roman World*, edited by the distinguished Roman historian Richard Talbert, Adjunct Professor of Classics and a valued colleague. The *Atlas*, in book form, brings us into the ancient world on a scale, and with a breadth of scope and fidelity of detail, never before attempted. So, yes, we still have — with all due humility — our imperial moments!

KJR

Plutarch and Philip Stadter

“Sage and Emperor: Plutarch and Trajan” (June 24 - 27, 2000): it was an impressive colloquium. Participants came from England, Ireland, Spain, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and Israel, as well as from North Carolina and seven other

states, to talk about history, politics, philosophy, art and architecture, and Greece. This observer learned much of value but was also impressed by the remarkable degree of shared interest, mutual support, and sincere friendship that had evidently developed over the last fifteen years among the far-flung members of the International Plutarch Society, of which Philip Stadter has been a founding father and prime mover. It reminded us of what “scholarly” and “conference” ought to mean. Indeed, it embodied, in small, many of the intellectual and social qualities that the American Philological Association must surely have exhibited in some long-forgotten time.

How Plutarch came to exert such a long-standing attraction on Phil, some later biographer will have to explain. His scholarly career began with a dissertation (under Harvard’s Herbert Bloch) on *Plutarch’s Historical Methods: An Analysis of the Mulierum Virtutes*, which led quickly both to a published monograph and also (the connection is suggestive) to his marrying Lucia Ciapponi in Italy. A later fellowship, however, diverted him from Plutarch, bringing him to Florence to study the history of the Library of San Marco in Florence, especially the contributions of that princely donor, Niccolò Niccoli. In so doing, Philip built on the work of our own Berthold Ullman, who had thought of identifying some manuscripts in San Marco that would prove important. He also received help and encouragement from Lucia’s *Doktorvater* (has one a *Schweigervater*, a scholarly-father-in-law?), Giuseppe Billanovitch of the Catholic University of Milan.

Phil went on from there to work extensively in Greek historiography. He edited one book on *The Speeches of Thucydides* (1973), arising from a highly successful UNC colloquium on that subject, and still very helpful today; and he wrote another on Arrian, the later Greek historian, to whom, he says, his

interest in Alexander the Great led him. But despite these and other far-flung excursions — to the distant lands of Plautus and Virgil, or reexamining narrative elements in Herodotus and even Aristophanes in the light of modern storytelling in the hills of North Carolina — Phil's mind has largely circled back to his beloved Plutarch over the last fifteen years. His massive commentary on Plutarch's *Life of Pericles* appeared in 1989. Conceived originally as a modest textbook in the APA series, it grew (not unlike the Athenian empire), and it contributes largely to our understanding of fifth-century Athens today. (I have to say, it also cured me of parroting rash statements about Pericles and "his intellectual brain trust.") By now, Phil has edited or co-edited three collections of essays on Plutarch; he has provided introductions and notes for two popular Oxford translations (*Nine Greek Lives* [1998], *Eight Roman Lives* [1999]); and, on the side, he has produced articles on such engaging subjects as "Male Sexual Behavior in Plutarch" and Plutarch's *Advice to the Bride and Groom*, etc. His essays, like Plutarch's, are instructive, entertaining, and even (unlike much of what we write) morally edifying at times.

Of course, Plutarch's *Lives* largely illustrate moral virtues, whether present in his protagonists or dangerously absent. "The protagonists are *chosen*," Phil has said, "because of their fame as leaders and their accomplishments in the political and military realm, but they are *presented* first of all as moral actors." Plutarch thus created "a new moral biography, a mode of writing which combined history and ethical philosophy." And his goal is "not a final evaluation of his protagonists as good or bad ... but to expose the moral aspects of their actions and to stimulate the reader's self-examination and self-improvement."

In a similar vein, I want to say something about Phil's quality of *praotes*, which can be translated as "calmness and amiability"

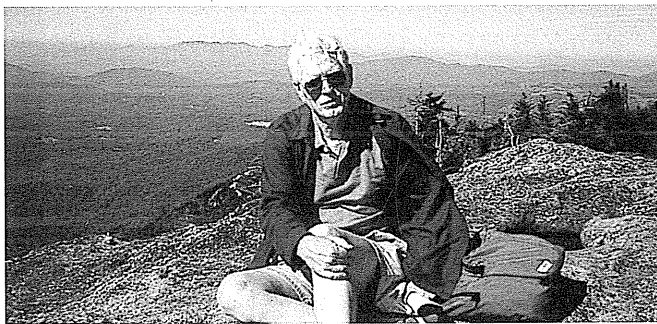
(Stadter), and which Plutarch attributes to Pericles and, perhaps more understandably, to Cimon and Lucullus in their political activities. I said something about this at a festive (not to say, drunken) gathering back in 1986, marking Phil's retirement from a ten-year stint as Chair. [See the excerpts from the *Life of Philophron*, below, a work clearly designed to expose the moral aspects of his actions and to stimulate the reader's self-examination and self-improvement.] Looking back, I think I might have said more about Phil's clarity and decisiveness, which included, sometimes to my discomfiture, the ability to say no; but he did — like Ken Sams and George Houston after him — show "grace under pressure," especially financial pressure in a time of retrenchment and continual demands for "bricks without straw." He has brought similar patience, good sense, and good humor to numerous other administrative responsibilities: on Managing Committees, in APA work, as Director of the Lilly Teaching Fellow Program at UNC, and especially as editor of *The American Journal of Philology*, a job which may test the outer limits of human intelligence and tact. Through all this, he has been an exemplary colleague and teacher. We are especially happy not to be writing in near anticipation of his retirement.

Former students write gratefully of Phil's kindness and patience in working with them, his contagious enthusiasm, his "benevolent guidance," and how he knew "when to intervene with encouragement and criticism, and when to let me just 'do my own thing.'" Let another grateful alum have the last word:

"... I was tired, discouraged, and thinking seriously of dropping out of the program. Philip gave the graduate proseminar on the tradition of Classical Scholarship that afternoon, and as I sat through his presentation I changed my mind about dropping out. He walked into the room visibly enthusiastic about meeting us and about his topic. He

talked through examples of scholarly accomplishment, conveying excitement, respect, and love both of classical literature and the work that preserves, illuminates, and finds it anew in new generations.

...He has continued to be inspiring — always excited by teaching, always curious, always open to new approaches (never taken in by novelty for its own sake), always alight with the awe and pleasure that classical literature and history can evoke when you're not lost in the daily grind of academic labor."



Philip Stadter on Grandfather Mountain.

[What follows is the text of a talk that I gave back in April 1986, at a dinner marking Phil's retirement after ten years as Department Chair. Some inside jokes, now seeming dated or tedious, have been omitted. A possibly obscure allusion to Phil's performance as Callidamates in the 1972 Murphey Hall Players production of Plautus's *Mostellaria* has, however, been retained.]

In Praise of Philophron

The traditional custom, of speaking about the outgoing Chairman at this time, does not seem sensible to me. If, on the one hand, you tax him with his faults, that would seem unkind; but if, on the other hand, you praise him for his virtues, you may be thought to place an unreasonable and wearisome burden on his successors, who may desire to shrug off virtue and responsibility like so many unnecessary clothes. I would therefore like to abandon the aforesaid custom, and instead,

since Philip Stadter has been working (occasionally) on Plutarch's *Life of Pericles*, I would like to offer a few strictly philological remarks on the subject of *praotes* and what has mistakenly been thought to be its meaning for Plutarch.

Praotes, you will remember, is defined by Aristotle in his *Nicomachean Ethics*, 4.5, as a mean in respect to anger (*orge*), an evenness of temper whose possessor only gets angry at appropriate times and in reasonable measure: an evenness of temper that inclines more toward the defect of not getting angry enough when the occasion warrants it: what today is called wimpishness. But Plutarch has made a characteristic muddle of all this in assigning the quality of *praotes* to Pericles, with whom it ceases to be that sweet and humane gentleness that all men love, and becomes instead a kind of inhuman and unsociable coldness of behavior and aloofness of personal style that all warm-hearted people — even scholars — must condemn.

The point may perhaps be seen more clearly if we turn to the *Life of Philophron* by the Pseudo-Plutarch, usually referred to as The Soup. For whereas Philophron, that lesser-known politician of the later Sixties, kept a marvelous calm, much as Pericles did, in the midst of intolerable pressures — whereas indeed, like Pericles, he was able (in those words of Plutarch that are very much emphasized in Stadter's commentary) "to put up with the foolishness of the mass of citizens and of ... colleagues in office;" ... still, what the life of Philophron shows is that this excellent calmness under pressure need not be combined with an aloofness of manner or with affectations of personal style that might be called Olympian.

For, unlike Pericles, Philophron never avoided social intercourse for fear of the contempt that familiarity has been said to engender. On the contrary, he appeared often at sociable meals with friends and colleagues, and he was noticeably given to laughter, sometimes

even immoderate laughter. He gave elaborate feasts to the multitude in his own backyard, especially in early autumn. But it was his dinner parties that were most talked about for their easy relaxation and wit, as well as for their almost notorious abundance of food and drink.... Too, he provided lavish entertainment not only to his hungry people, but also to visiting foreigners, who, coming as they did from distant and cold Northern islands, were inevitably impressed by the warmth and fullness of Athenian hospitality.

Unlike Pericles, then, Philophron preserved throughout his career this affability and easy-going humor, combining humanity with cheerfulness (*philanthropia te kai philoprosyne*), and this despite the proud accomplishments of his time in office, which were indeed many. Pre-eminent among these was his building program. Following the great Alexandros, who had so vastly expanded the borders of the Empire by expelling the Deisidaimones [Religion Department] and settling space-hungry citizens on their lands, Philophron decorated and embellished all the public buildings with marvelous pictures, carpets, tables, desks, and chairs. Hence the much-quoted verses of Cratinus, the comic poet:

Philophron's chairs show talent
Of the very highest class.
Their shape is always elegant,
And they never hurt your ass.

It is, indeed, from these popular articles of furniture that Philophron received the nickname *Klinetikos*, or "chairman." But he was remembered even more for the remarkable engineering devices, or *mechanai*, that he introduced into the commonwealth, at once ensuring pay for a multitude of workers (and repairmen) and increasing the power and efficiency of the polis. These machines, we are told, could carry out with great speed many of the mightiest and most tedious feats of the human intellect. They were notable for

their word searches and their bad sentence structure (*logozetemata te kai logopatthemata*).... It has been said that if Athens fell and so many beautiful things were lost, still their memory might be preserved for future generations somewhere deep within the coils and circuits of these machines — if only, by some stroke of luck or genius, it might be retrieved.

It would hardly have been surprising, given these great accomplishments, if Philophron had taken on a Periclean dignity and seriousness of manner, or *semnotes*. And certainly, one could see that the cares of office had aged him. His hair, once black, turned gray from filling out forms. He was no longer the carefree young man whom his enemies accused of taking part in amateur dramatics in the theater, and getting roaring drunk, and stammering, and stumbling around, supported by a whore, and falling down with her, unable to get up again. But we, who know how malicious people can be, need not give our assent to such ridiculous and obviously made-up lies.

My point, however, is this. In the case of Pericles, as Plutarch describes him, his so-called *praotes* takes on the form of a dreadful, almost Puritan (*Orphikos*) respectability.... Not so with our Philophron, who actually seems to have become less respectable as he grew older. We have it on the authority of no less an historian than Aienalethes [Immerwahr] that Philophron was the first magistrate to appear regularly in public wearing only a chiton, which proved so easy and comfortable a custom that others, even older magistrates, were corrupted by it. I say nothing of the drunken revelry, quite contrary to every law and tradition, that came to be held regularly in the telesterion after those sacred rites by which our young people are initiated, after awful sacrifices and other long — very long — preparations, into the Mysteries.

In conclusion, it seems reasonable and fitting to say that Plutarch's *Life of Pericles* — with or without all those endless commentaries — either should not be read at all by young and impressionable people, or else should be read only with the very strictest warnings that this book may be dangerous to the aspiring politician. For there is nothing so unpopular — and rightly so — as a false pretense of Olympian dignity and inhuman passionlessness masquerading as *praotes* and giving that virtue a bad name. But if someone succeeds in combining self-restraint and calmness under pressure with an affability and ease of manner in circumstances both public and private, then such a person, I would maintain, may truly lay claim to this much-disputed virtue of *praotes*, and what is more, may be called a true statesman or *politikos*, or (as the Germans put it), a *Stadter*.

KJR

Variae Viae Reportant

Homecoming. The football variety comes up soon (as I write); the Classics variety has been taking place all summer. **Nita Mitchell** (BA '75), Student Attorney General when she was here, came with her husband and son to check on Murphey in August; she is now a corporate lawyer in St. Louis. **Brad Nilsson** (MA '85) dropped by in October and tells us that he too is a lawyer, in San Francisco. He handles cases of construction litigation, and his work takes him all around the world: he once spent most of two years (a month or so at a time) in Palau. He and his wife, Kate (Binford), who was an art history student here, have three children. **Janet Jones** (PhD '88) came by for a chat, bringing her three-year-old, who was promptly offered candy by our attentive office staff. Janet is now in her seventh (!) year as chair of Classics at Bucknell. Earlier in the summer, **Jim Anderson** (PhD '80) came to town to give a paper at the Plutarch and Trajan Conference,

with daughter Helena in tow. In 1999 Jim won the University of Georgia's highest teaching award, a Josiah Meigs Professorship. Congratulations, Jim! Even earlier in the year, **Charles Henderson** (PhD '55) and **Virginia Brown** (MA '63) both came down from the north to attend the retirement party for **Francis Newton** (PhD '54) at Duke. So it has been a good year to catch up on news. Not only that, but some people are coming back permanently: after 23 years of teaching at The Altamont School in Alabama, **Sarah Whiteside** (MA '70) will return to Chapel Hill, where her husband Penny has taken a job with the UNC School of Public Health.

Settling in. Others are happy where they are, often (this year) in new places. **John Svarlien** reports that here at UNC he was an English major, but took many Classics courses. "They gave me a new direction: I went on to get a PhD in Classics at UT-Austin... Six years ago I came to Transylvania University in Lexington, KY, and we've now hired our second classicist here." **Andrew Davis** (BA 2000) writes from California that he is with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, supervising inner-city young people who work on conservation projects. He and his crew are clearing out the Alameda County flood control channels, and Andrew must dress appropriately. "I get to wear a tough-guy uniform that consists of a work-shirt à la gas station, workpants, steel-toed boots, utility knife on my belt, and two-way radio." **Debbie Felton** (PhD '95) has moved to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst (joining **Elizabeth Keitel**, PhD '77, now chair of Classics there), and reports much enjoying western Massachusetts and, wonder of wonders, that "department meetings are actually fun." Debbie's book, *Haunted Greece and Rome*, is now in its second printing.

Joann McDaniel (PhD '95), returning from an excavation in some sun-drenched spot like the Gulf of Aqaba, has taken a position at the University of Michigan, where she is Student Advisor, Academic Affairs, in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts. **Amy Jones** (MA '95) married "a fabulous engineer named DeWain" in 1999 and now, in her new identity as Amy S.J. Feller, lives in Rochester, NY, where she teaches four levels of Latin at the Aquinas Institute, a Catholic high school. On the other hand, **David Letts** (MA '85) has given up high school teaching, having "burned out. In the last two years I've gone to music school to study classical guitar and have become, through an apprenticeship, a Piano Technician." His four children, who used to tumble about Dave and their mother Genny at department picnics in happy mayhem, are all well, now working, entering college, and the like. **Jim Babb** entered the MAT program at the University of Michigan last year and, as of last spring, was enjoying it very much.

Honores et Praemia. We've had a string of CAMWS presidents: at the 2000 meeting in Knoxville, **Jim May** (PhD '77), the Past President, introduced **John Miller** (PhD '78), who gave his presidential address on "Ovid's Dream" and then passed the gavel to **Chris Craig** (PhD '79), who will preside over the 2001 meeting in Utah. **Patrick Thomas** (PhD '92) won the 1999 Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award of the Archaeological Institute of America for his untiring efforts in class, on field trips, and in all sorts of meetings with his students at the University of Evansville. **Jon Solomon** (PhD '80), meanwhile, was invited to give a talk at last December's AIA Annual Meeting, in the first ever public session, on "Egypt and the Movies."

Travels. **Stephen Scully** (MA '74) is a visiting scholar at the American Academy in Rome this year, where he is working on a book on Hesiod's *Theogony*, and his wife,

Rosanna Warren, is The New York Times Resident in Literature (that is, the poet in residence) during the fall semester. **Celeste Beck** (BA '98) wrote from Japan: she taught for a year in Nagoya, but was planning to enter the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where she will work toward an MA in Education (including Classics, she hopes) in the fall of 2000. **Bob Sutton** (PhD '81) has been at Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis for the past ten years. He has done various summer sessions in Greece, but in May 1998 was *professeur invité* at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes in Paris, where he read papers in French. "Somehow I was able to read my papers so that they could understand them, though my French conversation was disrupted by Greek words I scattered randomly here and there." **Peter Aicher** (PhD '86, now at the University of Southern Maine), busy with work on Rome—both a guide book emphasizing ancient texts and a study of the Foro Italico—reports that there is a long inscription in Latin buried under Mussolini's huge obelisk, one begging for a classicist to study it. We look forward to finding out about this hidden treasure, and about all of the hidden (or at least unreported) adventures all of you are having. Do let us hear from you.

GWH