

T A B U L A E

DEPT. OF CLASSICS • UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA • FALL, 1991

Pausing to Give Thanks

It is University Day again: UNC's 198th birthday, and the official kick-off of the Bicentennial Campaign. Half-way through the semester, we paused to celebrate, to give thanks, to reflect on the University's work, on its hopes, on its growing pains as it approaches its third millennium. After the colorful ceremonies in Memorial Hall, we picnicked in Polk Place under clear blue skies, enjoying a fresh October breeze. It almost seemed, that things were looking up.

Time was, when University Day included a commemoration of benefactors: a minute of silence, broken by the Carolina Choir's singing of *Integer Vitae*. How wonderful they seemed, those two Sapphic stanzas sung as a hymn -- even though Latinists might break up at *Fusce, pharetra*! Today there is no Horace, no commemoration of benefactors. We must create our own inner silence, remembering departed friends, colleagues, and teachers. There was, however, some Latin. The Chancellor explained that, when he spoke of alumni, the British pronunciation of *alumni* coincided with the Latin pronunciation of *alumnae*. And when Vermont Royster, that great journalist, received his Distinguished Alum award, the line, *forsan et haec olim meminisse iuvabit*, was cited from his autobiography. Royster had majored in Classics. For that matter, his father was a Classics professor. Maybe there was hope for UNC's *lux et libertas* after all.

Forsan et haec, indeed. It has been a year of struggles and surprises in the great outside world. We pause only to recall that, in October, 1990, King Hussein of Jordan began a radio broadcast by saying that he had received a letter [back in July] from "a Mr. Edwin Brown of Chapel Hill, North Carolina" that had revived his faith in human decency. Over the years, Ed has fired many wise, reflective letters into what seemed the void. It is good to think that one of these letters made -- perhaps is still making -- a difference.

In our little world, too, we have struggled. In good times, like the Kennedy years (GAK, that is), we expand the frontiers; in bad times, we fall back to defensible positions - though not without hopes and visions for the future. In our 1990 Departmental self-study, we basically said (1) that we were doing great things, and (2) that we could do still greater things, given adequate financing -- could bring in books, and lecturers, and could support our gifted graduate students in the style they deserved. We certainly have problems. There are (for a start) the Murphey doors, and the Murphey bathrooms, and that untempered lecture room, Murphey III.... And yet, we have retained the University's confidence and (partial) support: because we do our job; because we keep things in balance; because we have helped (our Chairs especially) with UNC's burdens; and because, whether through sense or luck or some mysterious grace, we have thus far escaped the tensions and squabbles that plague academic life. In a time of austerity, nothing of this should be taken for granted -- and nothing is.

CURCULIO

What do you do after an appalling winter? Put on a Latin play, of course. On March 22-24, the Murphey Hall Players performed Plautus' *Curculio*, in the old Playmakers Theater, for a well-mixed audience ranging from professors and townspeople to high school students. A highly professional production, *Curculio* was co-directed by Kenneth Reckford and John Starks, a graduate student who also played the lover Phaedromus. Elizabeth Clark-Moe, another grad student, played the parasite Curculio with enormous comic energy and resilience. Others played strong supporting parts: of ingenue, slave, soldier, pimp, cook, banker, and drunken old woman. Cecil Wooten, acting as Choragus, introduced sections of the play in English and, adapting Plautus' Roman digression to Carolinian needs, spoke about the importance of maintaining Latin in the schools. The production

staff, led by Chris McDonough, supplied a colorful (and changing!) set. Generous donors underwrote our expenses; indeed, with a small surplus, we bought a new refrigerator for the Common Room -- an appropriate monument to Curculio. In Chapel Hill, as in Epidaurus, theater and therapy consort well together.

ANCIENT HISTORIANS MEET

The Department maintains special strength in Roman history, with Bob Broughton as senior *consularis* and guide; with Gerhard Koepfel (Roman historical reliefs), Jerzy Linderski (Roman law, politics, and religion), and George Houston (Roman technology); and now, in the History Dept., the gifted scholar and teacher Richard Talbert, who (among other achievements) watches over the emergent Atlas of the Greek and Roman World -- a vast, difficult, badly needed project. Over the last year, we continued to attract (though almost without funds) distinguished lecturers. In May, the Association of Ancient Historians met here -- more than a hundred scholars from all over the U.S. and Canada, plus the U.K. and Germany. In July, the History and Classics Departments sponsored a five-week summer institute, funded by NEH, on the topic, "Changing Perspectives on the Early Roman Empire." Its goal was to improve the teaching of ancient history in American colleges and universities. The twenty-five participants, from all over the country, included former UNC students Albert Bell, Frances Hickson, Janet Jones, and Mark Possanza.

JAY BOLTER

I end, regretfully, on a note of loss. Jay Bolter has left UNC for the better-endowed workrooms of Georgia Tech. Jay arrived from Toronto in 1973, took his Classics Ph.D. in 1977, his M.S. in Computer Science in 1978, and taught here in 1978 and from 1979 to 1991. He has received many awards and fellowships; has worked at Göttingen, Yale, and Cornell; has published a now-famous book, Turing's Man: Western Culture in the Computer Age (1984); and more recently, Writing Space (1991), on the uses of the computer as a new medium for reading and writing. Here at UNC, we think gratefully of his many contributions to the Department, including his work with our computer programs and with *L'Année Philologique*; his teaching of Greek, or literature in translation; his famous Honors seminar / Capstone course on "Pen, Press and Computer"; his unsung daily labors, from JCL meetings to -- the forming and production of the first three issues of TABULAE. Where are you, Jay, when we need you?* Happy and

successful, we hope, in Atlanta -- and in the electronic *intermundia* that you continue, in pioneer fashion, to explore. - KJR

VARIAE VIAE REPORTANT

News of graduate alumni/ae seems sparse. Please send us more (former undergraduates too -- for the next issue). TERRY PAPILLON has moved to Marquette; ELIZABETH FORBIS, to Notre Dame; EDWIN CARAWAN, back to Southwestern Missouri State. TIMOTHY MOORE, after a year's Mellon Fellowship at Harvard, will go to U.Texas (Austin). Good luck to all! Among other honors and awards, CRAIG KALLENDORF is editor of *Allegoria*; ANDREW BECKER won a certificate of teaching excellence at Virginia Tech; and DONALD YATES won a Silver Quill Award from the International Assn. of Business Communicators, District 7.

And, speaking of communicators: THOMAS FLEMING (Ph.D.'73) is editor of *Chronicles*. This right-wing magazine has become, by a friend's gift, our occasional breakfast reading; and although we often disagree with its political and social views, we continue to admire Tom's intellectual range, his incisive and lucid writing, his wit, passion, and integrity of judgment. He writes as an unusually thoughtful conservative. (Would an unusually thoughtful liberal like to come forward?) The November issue of *Chronicles* features a vivid, very entertaining (and thought-provoking) account of his trip to Italy this summer -- where, among other things, he joined up with CHRIS KOPFF to lecture in Rome. For his powerful thought and writing, we give him our first MARCUS PORCIUS CATO award.

We wish also to honor JOHN KIRBY (Ph.D.'85). Not, this time, for his scholarly achievements, which we pass over -- they include a book, The Rhetoric of Cicero's Pro Cluentio (1990) and much continuing research on rhetoric and poetics -- but because he wrote in that "This summer my daughter Susannah, now eleven, asked for one of my spare copies of Chase & Phillips, and demanded to be taught to read Greek. To my surprise and delight, she has kept up her interest in it, and shows every sign of establishing a family tradition of *Alttertumswissenschaft*." In giving John our first TULLIA AWARD, we honor all those graduates of Murphey Hall whose young daughters and sons, rightly nourished on the Classics, give promise (we hope) of a decent or, at least, half-decent future.

*I'm putting this issue to bed. - DW

GEORGE KENNEDY, THE PERSUASIVE

George Kennedy remembers listening to the speeches of Winston Churchill, F.D.R., and even Adolf Hitler on the radio. "My father had fought in World War I, and my family was deeply interested in public affairs," he recalls. "I couldn't understand Hitler's speeches, of course, but I could hear the crowds and judge the impact of what he was saying." George's early interest in oratory developed as he attended meetings of the Connecticut legislature (which he did often; the oratory was not always first rate, he remembers) and critiqued the sermons in church.

As a graduate student at Harvard, George studied ancient rhetoric and oratory with Werner Jaeger, Herbert Bloch, Arthur Darby Nock, and Peter Elder, who directed George's dissertation. "At that time--the early fifties--classicists in general were not much interested in rhetoric, but my teachers at Harvard were sympathetic to it and encouraged my interest in it. The last time I talked with him, Werner Jaeger put his hand on my shoulder and said, 'I have written *Paideia*. Now you must write *Peitho*.' I haven't done quite that, but my work has corresponded to a change in interest in our profession generally, and I like to think I have contributed to that," George says.

His stay at Harvard, as graduate student and instructor, was followed by seven years at Haverford College, where he wrote *The Art of Persuasion in Greece* (1963). At Haverford, I was one of his students. It was George who introduced me to Greek and shepherded us through Sophocles' *Electra*, and with whom I first read the *Aeneid*; and it was George's enthusiasm and love for his subject, more than anything else, that helped me understand that a life in classics would be a fine one. Following a year at the University of Pittsburgh, George arrived in Chapel Hill in 1966 as Chairman of the Department. The rest, as they say, is history.

Prehistory

It is true there had been some scholarly interest in ancient rhetoric here in the decades before George arrived. As early as 1926 and 1927, G.A. Harrer directed two Master's theses (by J.W. Huff and Mrs. Murray Honeycutt, a name of good omen if ever there was one) on a panegyric on Maximian by a certain Mamertinus. Two more theses directed by Harrer followed, but the earliest Ph.D. dissertation on a rhetorical topic I have been able to find is F.B. Nims' study of Cicero's Law-Court Cases (1944), directed by Wallace E. Caldwell. In the 50's, there were Brady Gilleland's dissertation on Cicero's *Rhetorica*, and Charles Henderson's lexicon of the stylistic terms used in Roman literary criticism, much of which is

concerned with rhetoric. Both were directed by B.L. Ullman. Finally, just before George's arrival, James Settle completed his work on the publication of Cicero's speeches (1962, directed by Walter Allen), and John Ziolkowski wrote on Thucydides and the tradition of funeral speeches at Athens (1963, directed by Henry Immerwahr). It was, however, George's arrival in Chapel Hill that led to an explosion of interest in rhetoric, in the theory and arts of persuasion.



History

Since he arrived here, George has himself produced eight books, including seven on classical subjects: *Quintilian* (1969), *The Art of Rhetoric in the Roman World* (1972), *Classical Rhetoric and its Christian and Secular Tradition* (1980), *Greek Rhetoric under the Christian Emperors* (1983), *New Testament Interpretation through Rhetorical Criticism* (1984), *The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism, Vol. I: Classical Criticism*, and most recently, *Aristotle, "On Rhetoric"* (1991). Along the way, he has found time to be chairman of our department for ten years, chairman of linguistics, chairman of the faculty, and now chairman of comparative literature. He has been president of both the American Philological Association (1979) and the International Society for the History of Rhetoric (1984-85), and his book on rhetoric in Rome won the book awards of both those associations. George served on the National Council for the Humanities, was chairman of the Board of Governors of the UNC Press, and is now editor of the

American Journal of Philology: "It has been satisfying to help the *Journal* weather a difficult time," he says, "and I have had a lot of fun reviving the "Brief Mention" section."

This past September 28, 1991, at the biennial meeting of the International Society for the History of Rhetoric, George was presented with a volume of studies in New Testament Rhetoric written in his honor. The volume (*Persuasive Artistry: Studies in New Testament Rhetoric in Honor of George A. Kennedy*) was edited by Duane Watson, one of many Duke students who have studied with George, and many of the papers in the book were also written by George's former Duke students. "The book on New Testament criticism was probably my most successful, in terms of the size of its audience and its impact," George says. It was that book, in particular, that has led to the interest of New Testament students and scholars in George's work and critical approach.

Back to UNC and the Future

George has had many students at UNC, too, of course. His arrival here was followed by a stream of dissertations on Cicero and other aspects of Roman and Greek rhetoric and oratory. In the 60's and 70's, there was a series of dissertations on Cicero: Mechtilde O'Mara on the *De Oratore* (1970), Richard McClintock on Cicero's narratives (1975), and James May (1977) and Christopher Craig (1979) on various aspects of the judicial speeches. Other areas of Roman oratory and rhetoric were not neglected, as students worked, among other things, on Seneca the Elder (Lewis Sussman, 1969), Quintilian (Herman Taylor, 1970), ancient amatory persuasion (Nicolas Gross, 1971), St. Augustine (G. Wright Doyle, 1975), and Symmachus (Ralph Hall, 1977). George has directed at least three dissertations on the Greek side: Thomas Curtis worked on Hyperides (1970), Terry Papillon on Demosthenes (1986), and John Hogan on speeches in Thucydides (1989). Recently, George has become more and more interested in literature and in critical theory in general. Witness his chairing of the Comparative Literature department, and dissertations such as those of Peter Aicher on Homer and Roman Republican Poetry (1986), and of Andrew Becker on Ecphrasis, especially in Homer (1988).

What lies ahead? At the moment, George is studying the origins of rhetoric. "In Classics, rhetoric has generally been taught as a civic phenomenon, but people outside of classics--anthropologists, for example--look at it from other angles," he explains. "I would like to combine the two approaches. How does rhetoric relate to life and to society? No one has tried to explore the earliest and natural sources of rhetoric as a phenomenon of life. Some evidence on these questions may come from the animal world,

especially from birds, and to a lesser extent from primates. What features do we notice in the songs of birds, for example, that we might call rhetoric?" At the moment, George is trying to put this evidence together as a long article, or perhaps the chapter of a book on the subject. There are other ways to approach the problem, too: "A second source of evidence would be primitive societies, as described by anthropologists. A third will be rhetorical characteristics of the earliest urban cultures." In this regard, George is working at present on Gilgamesh. His hope, he says, is to develop a general theory of rhetoric and its characteristics.

Are there also train trips in the offing? Last summer he rode a Bullet Train in Japan, but he has no immediate plans for more train adventures, though he has published on trains and will do a series of articles on North Carolina railroads for a handbook of North Carolina history that William Powell is editing. I asked George also about his green Harvard bookbags, and learned that he keeps a fresh supply by buying two or three each time he goes to Boston, although, he admits, they are getting less and less common, and are now sold only in a corner of the Harvard Coop. But while green bookbags may fade away, and passenger trains are holding their own at best, the world of rhetoric is definitely waxing strong. - GWH

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