

## CAMWS—THE NINTH DECADE

The focus of the Association's life since the middle of the 1980s has been to maintain equilibrium in its activities. The prime emphases, namely to encourage students to continue their study of Latin and to recruit, to help train, and to retain Latin teachers, have been limited not by will but by the availability of resources. CAMWS is now, as I write in 1995, a much smaller organization than it was only a decade or so ago, and the influence of the *Classical Journal*, as reflected in circulation, is down even more proportionately. The membership figure hovers in the 1600s; subscriptions have fallen below 2600. No longer the largest classical organization in the country, CAMWS nonetheless remains much the largest of the regional organizations. Indeed, it has recently grown in the number of its constituent units, as Arizona in 1991 became the thirty-first state to affiliate.

The preceding paragraph essentially reproduces that which began chapter nine of the organization's history, *The Classical Association of the Middle West and South. A History of the First Eighty Years*, written by the present author, and published by the Association in 1989. Details, of course, have been changed to update it, but the fact that the same framework serves shows that the Association's course, determined by a continuing while varying body of officers and committee heads, remains largely unaltered.

The character of the Association, nonetheless, has undergone some change. Until 1992, one had to live within its territory in order to become a member. By constitutional revision in that year, members-at-large now constitute a substantial portion of the total constituency. Inquiries concerning affiliation continually arrive from disparate groups or geographic entities outside the Association's present boundaries. If CAMWS expands to include regional associations which are themselves smaller than many of the regions into which it is presently divided, its nature and function may be significantly altered.

The officers and Executive Committee have devoted more time and consideration to this challenge than to any other over the last decade. CAMWS may well become much more of a national organization. A committee concerned with long-range planning is presently contemplating these prospects, both philosophical and pragmatic.

Yet the challenges of society and educational philosophy continue unabated. In spite of the significant success that various school systems have had in introducing disadvantaged children to the study of Latin, the language is still, in the eyes of many, a prerogative of the elite. Elimination of programs, in both the secondary schools and colleges, is easy, because only a few are directly affected.

So, at least, it is thought. Successful responses there have been, nationwide, but elimination of programs, departments, and teaching positions continues inexorably. What may we anticipate the state of our subject will be in the year 2005, the Association's centenary, if more and more school systems introduce a middle school or junior high program between elementary school and high school, and offer only modern languages in them? Will any AP programs survive? Will many students have enough Latin in high school to reach the point in college where they may truly command and enjoy the language?

Finances continue to play a major limiting role in the Association's ability to enhance the cause for which it was founded. Receipt of the Manson A. Stewart legacy of \$102,000 enabled it to support the efforts of secondary school teachers to improve their knowledge and teaching credentials. Awards to capable secondary school students, on the basis of distinguished examination performance, encourage them to continue their study of the classics in college. Some of those who have served the Association well are annually honored. Yet, were the resources of the Association substantially larger, it could do much more. Consequently, the steady erosion of membership causes much concern; at what point will a critical mass be reached, when it will no longer be able to do what it has for so long undertaken to do?

The current financial state is, in spite of the lugubrious tone of the preceding paragraph, the strongest it has been in years. A very substantial operating reserve exists, and the long-term rise in the value of the stock portfolios has permitted an increase in scholarship funds and other awards.

The character of the Association has changed over these nine decades. At the foundation, primacy in its activities fell to the great mid-western universities, Chicago, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan. In the first thirty-five years, the University of Chicago furnished five presidents, the entire south only seven. Present membership in the Association among these great institutions, and many of their sisters, is very low, with some large departments recording only one or two. At the 1990 meeting in Columbia, MO, it was reported that the total membership had decreased 23% over fifteen years, 40% over twenty. At the Atlanta meeting in 1994, the loss over the last decade had reached two hundred.

Conversely, the south has grown in its relative participation and activity. Some of the largest departments of classics in the country are found here, such as Texas, Georgia, and North Carolina. Of the last three dozen presidents, more than half have been affiliated with southern institutions. Nor should the rise in significance and activity of the western areas of CAMWS be overlooked, which have hosted several Association meetings and produced a number of presidents and other officers. The geographical center of the Association, with its thirty-one states and three Canadian provinces, is, for all practical purposes, in the southeast, nearer the Mississippi River than the Atlantic Ocean.

Further, what had begun as an organization embracing both college and university faculty and school teachers has now essentially become a college organization. Fewer secondary (or primary) school teachers join, and few of these ever attend an Association meeting. Very few, again, have their students participate in contests or themselves apply for grants. In 1992, at the Austin meeting, there was emphasis on pedagogical sessions for the Saturday sessions, and this practice has continued in subsequent meetings, with promising consequences.

Everyone knows how overwhelmed many teachers are, particularly successful ones. After a day of five or six classes, with as many as one hundred fifty students, how much energy or time do such persons have for further participation in the classical cause? JCL is closer to home and can embrace many youngsters; ACL offers more directly for the teacher, both at its meetings and in its publications. Many an issue of *Classical Journal* will be put aside without much attention, because it contains little, if anything, of use in the classroom. Yet the Committee for the Promotion of Latin has been available for assistance in any number of ways to make teachers' efforts easier and more productive. It has been one of the Association's most effective organs in linking the center with the periphery.

However, the reader should not conclude from the above that gloom is pervasive. CAMWS remains healthy in comparison with many other organizations, with its own publication and a recently-introduced *Newsletter*, and a financial situation which continues on a generally even keel. In 1991, there was a deficit which required transfer of \$11,000 from the stock portfolio to cover operating costs. At the same time, with the transfer of the Association's office from Furman University to Brigham Young University, new computer equipment was purchased, both for the maintenance of records and for Desk Top publishing of the *Journal*. This required borrowing another \$9,000 from the portfolio.

These loans have long since been repaid, and the investment in Desk Top publishing has already paid for itself. The Association has, perforce, fully entered the computer age, with essentially all its activities and accounts so recorded; one consequence is that its various activities are ever more centralized. A secretary-treasurer now must have among his or her qualifications mastery of the computer.

Another example of centralization is the fact that the secretary-treasurer has taken over almost all the one-time duties of the local committee for the annual meeting. The committee has essentially only two functions: the preliminary screening of likely hotels and the manning of the registration desk. The day may not be far off when the Association will choose a convention site without consideration of a host institution (or institutions).

What then of the future, as this millennium nears its end? We can not control changes in general educational philosophy, but we can continue to support the languages and the subjects we love, to which we have devoted our lives. We can strive so that generations still to come may also thrill at the majesty of Vergil and Sophocles, marvel at the insight of Thucydides and Tacitus, gape admiringly at the remaining monuments of vastly important civilizations. These are noble—and necessary—tasks, which CAMWS can help accomplish given adequate resources. Is the goal of 2000 members in the year 2000 unrealistic? Surely not; let us all exert ourselves in our various ways.

I shall conclude with a slightly up-dated repetition of the final paragraph of the Association's *History*.

More than ninety years have passed since W. G. Manly at the University of Missouri and several of his colleagues had a vision of a regional association to benefit classical studies. It not only still survives, it flourishes in many respects, and is *iuvenis* rather than *senex* in enthusiasm and imagination, in its devotion to *bonae artes* and *bona opera*. *Vivant studia classica, vivat Societas Classica Medio-Occidentalis et Australis*. May there be another installment of its history as the next century approaches its end.

HERBERT W. BENARIO

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The following appendices update *fasti* which appear in the *History's* Appendices and present the latest constitution. Copies of the CAMWS History are still available from the office of the Secretary-Treasurer, Professor John F. Hall, 116-118 KMB, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602. The cost, including postage and handling, is \$6.50.

## CAMWS PRESIDENTS

- 1989–90 David F. Bright, University of Illinois and Iowa State University  
(resigned)  
1989–90 Michael Gagarin, University of Texas  
1990–91 Kenneth F. Kitchell, Jr., Louisiana State University  
1991–92 Joy K. King, University of Colorado  
1992–93 Karelisa V. Hartigan, University of Florida  
1993–94 Roy E. Lindahl, Furman University (resigned effective January 1, 1994)  
1994–95 Kathryn A. Thomas, Creighton University (from January 1, 1994)  
1995–96 William H. Race, Vanderbilt University

## RECIPIENTS OF OVATIONES

- 1989 Norma Goldman  
William J. Napiwocki  
1990 Sally Davis  
Roy E. Lindahl  
1991 Martha Abbott  
Edward E. Best  
1992 Bobby LaBouve  
Michelle and Robert Wilhelm  
1993 Kathy Elifrits  
Oliver C. Phillips  
1994 William W. de Grummond  
Kenneth F. Kitchell, Jr.  
Robert W. Ulery, Jr.  
1995 Naidyne Brown-Bridwell  
Michael Gagarin  
Ross S. Kilpatrick

## RECIPIENTS OF SEMPLE, GRANT, AND CAMWS SCHOLARSHIPS

- 1989 Princess Dillard, Richmond, VA  
Christopher Francese, Austin, TX  
Richard King, Bloomington, IN  
1990 Patricia Bell, Guelph, ONT  
Joseph Schott, Columbus, OH  
Amy Smalldon, Miami, FL  
1991 Christina Clark, Madison, WI  
Eric J. Lunger, Colorado Springs, CO  
Suzanne Olsen, Salt Lake City, UT  
1992 Dave C. Fletcher, Port Charlotte, FL  
Kathryn Schafer, Athens, GA  
Kris Schwickrath, Bloomington, IN  
1993 Polly Hoover, Madison, WI  
Nathalie R. Roy, Baton Rouge, LA

- Joan M. Trimbach, Nashville, TN  
 1994 Paul M. McBreen, Gainesville, FL  
 Cindy Pope, San Antonio, TX  
 Kathryn B. Roth, Athens, GA  
 1995 Estelle P. Bayer, Richmond, KY  
 Emil A. Kramer, Cincinnati, OH  
 Wilma H. Lovejoy, Fort Myers, FL

ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION REVISED APRIL 22, 1995

Article I. Name and Object.

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Classical Association of the Middle West and South. Its territory shall embrace its thirty-one constituent states and three Canadian provinces.

Section 2. Its object shall be the advancement of classical scholarship, teaching, and appreciation, and the promotion of the common interests of its members through meetings, publications and like activities.

Article II. Officers.

Section 1. The officers shall be a President; a President-Elect; a first Vice-President; local Vice-Presidents corresponding in number to the state or political divisions participating in the Association; a Secretary-Treasurer; and the Editor of the *Classical Journal*. In case of a vacancy in the office of President or if the President is unable to act, the President-Elect will succeed to that office. If succession occurs before October 1, a new President-Elect will be elected by the Executive Committee; if it occurs after October 1, the President-Elect shall serve his/her regular term in addition to the remainder of the preceding term.

Section 2. The President, the President-Elect, and the first Vice-President shall serve for a term of one year, and shall not be eligible to succeed themselves immediately, but the President-Elect of each year shall automatically become the President for the following year. The Secretary-Treasurer, whose office shall be executive in character, shall serve for a term of one year, and shall be able to succeed himself (or herself) directly. The local Vice-Presidents shall serve for a term of two years. The President will appoint local vice-presidents in consultation with the chairs of the Committee for the Promotion of Latin and the Membership Committee, the Secretary-Treasurer, and the state organization where one exists. They shall be eligible to succeed themselves immediately on recommendation of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall have the power to fill vacancies occurring among the officers or within its own membership between Annual Business Meetings. All such appointments shall be deemed to be interim in

character, the appointee to serve only until the time of the next Annual Business Meeting, but persons so appointed to any office shall be eligible to succeed themselves directly by election at the next Annual Business Meeting. A President-Elect so designated by interim action of the Executive Committee shall not succeed automatically the next year to the office of President, but his or her name shall automatically be placed in nomination for election to that office at the next Annual Business Meeting.

Section 4. There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the President, the President-Elect, the first Vice-President, the Secretary-Treasurer, the immediate past President, the editor of *The Classical Journal*, the Chairs of the Finance Committee, the Committee for the Promotion of Latin, the Membership Committee, and the Steering Committee of Awards and Scholarships, and four additional persons who shall serve terms of four years each, one term expiring each year.

Section 5. The President shall appoint, early in his or her year of office, a Nominating Committee, whose duty it shall be to propose a slate of officers to be elected at the next Annual Business Meeting, except that local Vice-Presidents shall be proposed for election by the Executive Committee.

Section 6. The duties of the officers of the Association shall be those which normally devolve upon such officials, except as provided in this instrument. Further definition of these duties shall be within the powers of the Executive Committee.

Section 7. The term of office for all officers shall begin on May 1 following the Annual Business Meeting. On July 1 the fiscal year of the Association shall begin.

Section 8. The Finance Committee of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, Inc. shall have the authority and responsibility to manage the Association's investments. It shall report its activities annually to the Executive Committee at its meeting before each annual convention of the Association.

The Finance Committee shall consist of three members including a chairperson, appointed by the President for six-year terms. Initial terms shall be for two, four, and six years. The Chairperson of the Committee shall serve as a member of the Executive Committee. The Secretary-Treasurer will be an ex-officio member of the Committee.

### Article III. Membership.

Section 1. Any person interested in the advancement of classical scholarship, teaching and appreciation may become a member on payment of the annual dues for the current fiscal year. Persons who reside in the constituent states and provinces shall be resident members; those who reside outside the territory shall be non-resident members. Only resident members shall be

eligible to vote and conduct the business of the Association, to be officers of the Association, or to serve on committees of the Association.

Section 2. The annual membership fee shall be as from time to time determined at the Annual Business Meeting, and shall include a subscription to *The Classical Journal*. The Executive Committee shall set rates for subscriptions to *The Classical Journal* for subscribers who are not members of the Association and may provide for reciprocal subscription agreements with other classical associations.

Section 3. Persons who have been members of the Association for as many as thirty years and who have retired from professional activity may, upon payment of a prescribed fee, assume emeritus status. This fee shall be payable only once, and shall entitle the individual to life membership in the Association and receipt of its publications. The amount of the fee shall be as may from time to time be determined at the Annual Business Meeting.

#### Article IV. Meetings.

There shall normally be a regular Annual Meeting, including the Annual Business Meeting, at such time and place as the Association shall have determined at a previous Annual Business Meeting.

If, however, under exceptional circumstances, conditions appear to the Executive Committee to be such as to render the holding of the Annual Meeting impracticable or undesirable, the Executive Committee shall have the power to cancel the meeting, and itself to transact all business that would come before the Annual Business Meeting except the adoption of amendments to this Constitution and the election of new officers. The terms of all officers shall automatically be extended until the time of holding the next Business Meeting and the Executive Committee shall have the power to fill such vacancies as may occur in the roster of officers (Article II, Section 1, above) and in its own membership (Article II, Section 4, above), persons so chosen retaining their eligibility to succeed themselves directly by election at the next Business Meeting. The name of a President-Elect so chosen shall automatically be placed in nomination for election to the office of President at the next Business Meeting.

#### Article V. Program.

The program of papers, addresses, and like events to be presented at the Annual Meeting shall be arranged by the President. Those presenting papers must be resident or non-resident members of the Association.

#### Article VI. Publications.

Major publications of the Association, including *The Classical Journal*, shall be governed by a Board of Editors, among whom there shall be an Editor-



in-Chief. The Editor-in-Chief shall be appointed (after an open search) by the Executive Committee, subject to the approval of the next Annual Business Meeting, and shall be reviewed annually by the Executive Committee.

When a vacancy for Editor-in-Chief occurs, the President, with the approval of the Executive Committee, shall establish a search committee which will announce the availability of the position, receive nominations and applications, and conduct interviews with the finalists for the position. The search committee shall present its report and recommendations to the President and the Executive Committee. Other members of the Board of Editors shall be named by the Editor-in-Chief, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

#### Article VII. Amendment.

This Constitution may be revised or amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any Annual Business Meeting, provided that the membership has been apprised of the substance of all revisions or amendments to be offered at least thirty days before the time of the meeting at which action is to be taken.