

The Latin Teacher Shortage

Amphora, the Society for Classical Studies' outreach publication, recently published an article on the Latin teacher shortage, (12.1, Spring 2015):

<https://classicalstudies.org/amphora/there-shortage-certified-latin-teachers-please-spread-word-0>

The impetus for writing the article was the *Amphora* Editor's interest in spreading the word about a situation affecting the classics profession about which she thought not all were aware.

Since the Latin teacher shortage affects all of us in the classics profession, directly or indirectly, I thought a summary of the issues involved and some possible solutions would be useful for the wide and diverse classics audience that the CAMWS Annual Meeting attracts. It is my hope that such a summary will be beneficial both for those currently seeking jobs in classics and for those who teach students who may be in the position of seeking such jobs in the future.

More generally, the broader issue of paths to careers for those who have majored in classics will be discussed, with reference to Ken Kitchell's excellent guide, *Careers for Classicists in Today's World*, revised for SCS in 2012:

<https://classicalstudies.org/sites/default/files/documents/Careers2012.pdf>

Often our students wrongly think that continuing professionally with classics is the only successful outcome for a classics major. If a student chooses to aim for a career in teaching classics at any level, it is best when that choice arises from knowledge about and a commitment to that career path and not from a lack of having considered other options.

My own professional experience includes having taught secondary school Latin for five years shortly after receiving my BA, as well as over two decades of involvement in Latin teacher training at my current institution. While my ultimate choice was to teach at the college level, my interest in and support of secondary school Latin has been a constant.

In my fifteen minutes I hope to alert the audience to the current reality of the Latin teacher shortage at the secondary school level, to offer some additional perspective as a former Latin teacher at this level and as one who currently trains future teachers, and to provide the opportunity for questions and brief discussion on this matter of importance for the classics profession.