

Texas

Classics in

Action

A Publication of the Texas Classical Association
Fall 2008

Editor Andrea Stehle

In This Issue

2008 TCA Conference at SMU
TCA membership and conference registration forms
Special TCA member rate for King Tut exhibit at Dallas Museum of Art
Public Relations and Latin in the Information Age

Texas Classics in Action

A Publication of the Texas Classical Association

Fall 2008

Texas Classical Association Annual Conference

Conference Information

Southern Methodist University in Dallas is pleased to welcome the members of the Texas Classical Association for the annual conference, October 24-25, 2008. The sessions will be held on the SMU campus beginning with a lecture and reception Friday evening, focusing on Roman Egypt and including a tour of SMU's Classics and Egyptology collections, including rare early editions of Classical texts and a letter by Champollion written as he was deciphering hieroglyphics. Molly Swetnam-Burland, currently a research fellow at the Getty, will deliver the key-note speech on Saturday on the subject of her new book on the Roman cooption and reinvention of Egyptian art. Molly is a dynamic speaker and her subject fits perfectly with our planned afternoon visit to the Tutankhamun exhibit at the Dallas Museum of Art. Karl Kilinski, Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor and Professor of Art History and Archaeology at SMU, will give us an introduction to the exhibit.

Conference Location

Friday's lecture will be held on the SMU campus in room 123 Fondren Science hall at 5pm and will be followed by a short tour of the exhibit, "The Search for Tutankhamun," which offers a selection of SMU's collection of artifacts, rare books and documents outlining the history of Egyptology.

Saturday's conference sessions will be held on the SMU campus, in McCord Auditorium, 306 Dallas Hall. A map of the campus with directions can be found at <http://www.smu.edu/maps/campus.asp>.

Hotel Information

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Radisson Hotel near the SMU campus. The rates are \$89/night for single and double occupancy, \$99/night for a triple. Parking is free and a free shuttle from the hotel to campus is provided. Please contact the hotel to make your reservations; use the TCA name to secure the conference rate.

Radisson Hotel Central Dallas

6060 N. Central Expressway

Dallas, TX 75206

Reservations: (888) 201-1718 USA

Telephone: (214) 750-6060 **Fax:** (214) 750-5959

http://www.radisson.com/dallastx_centralexpy

Tutankhamun information

If you wish to join the TCA tour of the Tutankhamun exhibit, which will begin after the conference at 6pm on Saturday, October 25th, please send \$19.50 for each ticket you would like to purchase along with your conference registration to Nicole Lehmann, TCA Treasurer. The TCA has reserved 60 tickets at the group rate of \$29.50 and will contribute \$10 toward ticket cost for the first 60 members who purchase tickets in advance for this exhibit – thus your special price of \$19.50. Anyone registering for the conference after the 60 reserved tickets are gone is still welcome to buy a ticket for the Tutankhamun exhibit from the Dallas Museum of Art and join the tour at 6pm. The regular ticket price for weekend visits is \$32.50, or \$22.50 for DMA members. Tickets for exhibit can be purchased through the Dallas Museum of Art's website, dallasmuseumofart.org, or by phone 1-877-TUT-TKTS.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Dallas!

Melissa Dowling

TCA President

TEXAS CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

October 24-25, 2008

Southern Methodist University

Dallas, Texas

Friday, October 24

2:00-4:30 TCA Executive Board Meeting, Hyer Room, 121 Dallas Hall

5:00-6:00 Shanna Kennedy Quigley, UCLA, "Illuminating the Memphite Sarapieion"
123 Fondren Science or Bridwell??

6:00-6:30 Tour of the foyer exhibit of SMU's collection on the history of Egyptology, a prelude to the Tutankhamen exhibit

7:00 No-host dinner at *****

Saturday, October 25

All talks will take place in McCord Auditorium, 306 Dallas Hall.

8:00 **Registration and coffee**

9:00 **Welcome and opening remarks**—Melissa Barden Dowling, TCA president

9:10-9:55 **Andrea Stehle**, John Paul Stevens, San Antonio, "Julius Caesar from the HBO series Rome"

9:55-10:30 **Christopher Fuhrmann**, University of North Texas, "Runaway slaves in Roman law and literature"

10:30-10:45 **Coffee break**

10:45-11:15 **Douglas Clapp**, Samford University, "Trustworthy rumors? Hearsay in Cicero's Letters to Atticus"

11:15-11:45 **Betty Duke-Ruhd**, John Paul II, Plano, “Bloom, Catullus, Coldplay and Satisfaction: Creative ways to use music in the Latin classroom”

12:00-1:30 **Lunch and TCA Annual Business Meeting**

1:45-2:30 **Keynote Address: Molly Swetnam-Burland**, William and Mary, “From Alexandria to Rome: Egyptian cult and culture in Roman Italy”

Molly Swetnam-Burland will be speaking to us on her current research on Roman responses to Egyptian religion and culture. She has published studies in the Roman cults of Bacchus (Liber) and Isis, has excavated in Tunisia and Italy, and has just completed a year’s fellowship at the Getty Institute in California. She earned her PhD in the interdisciplinary program in Classical art and archaeology at the University of Michigan in 2002, focusing on Egyptian artifacts from Pompeii. Molly is currently an Assistant Professor in the Classical Studies department at William and Mary.

2:30-3:00 **Marsha McCoy**, Sherman, TX, “Petronius: Gender, genre, geography, gluttony (not to mention graphic)”

3:00-3:30 **Andre Stipanovic**, Hockaday School, Dallas, “Imperial tensions: a critique of the Roman Principate in Tacitus’ Agricola”

3:30-4:00 **Grace Starry West**, University of Dallas, “Apuleius, Plato and the Egyptian gods”

4:00-4:45 **Karl Kilinski**, SMU, “King Tut’s Relatives: the prospects and pitfalls of genealogical mapping without the benefit of DNA”

4:45-5:00 **Closing remarks and introduction of the new TCA president**

6:00 Tour of the Tutankhamen exhibit at the Dallas Museum of Art. Tickets must be purchased in advance. The TCA has 60 tickets to offer at a reduced rate.

2008 TCA Fall Conference Registration

Please send registration forms and checks to Nicole Lehmann, 118 Wagon Trail Rd., San Antonio, TX 78231-1240. Make all checks payable to "Texas Classical Association." You may also email your registration information to Nicole at nlehmann@ahisd.net and bring your payment to the conference. Please make sure that any registrations via mail or email arrive by Monday, October 20, 2008 so that we can give accurate numbers to the caterers and for Nicole to have time to finalize registration materials. Thank you.

Name: _____

School/University: _____

City: _____

Certificate of attendance: _____Yes _____No

_____ Pre-conference rate (\$45) _____ On site registration (\$50)

_____ Saturday luncheon (\$15) _____ Vegetarian luncheon option

_____ TUT exhibit tickets (\$19.50 each) *only 60 reservations for this TCA subsidized special rate

\$ _____ Total

_____ Payment included _____ Will pay at conference

2008-2009 Texas Classical Association membership

_____ New membership _____ Renewal

Membership level:

_____ Regular (\$20) _____ Sustaining (\$25)

_____ Student (\$5) _____ Joint (\$30)

_____ Retired (gratis)

Subscription only: _____ Out-of-state (\$10) _____ International (\$15)

N.B. If you were a member of TCA in 2007-2008, you only need to provide your name, school, and city on this form. If necessary, please indicate any changes to last year's information.

Name: _____

School: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Work phone: (____) _____ Work fax: (____) _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Home phone: (____) _____ Email address: _____

Preferred Address: _____ School _____ Home

Please send your check, made payable to the "Texas Classical Association," to Nicole Lehmann, TCA Executive Secretary-Treasurer, 118 Wagon Trail Rd., San Antonio, TX 78231-1240. If you are attending the TCA conference, you may write one check for membership, conference registration, and the business luncheon.

Public Relations and Latin in the Information Age

by Andrea Stehle

How many of you have been making polite conversation with a stranger at a social gathering when the topic “What do you do for a living?” comes up. When you explain that you’re a Latin teacher, is their reaction “I didn’t know that Latin was still taught in public schools!”? If the people in our own community don’t know about the hard work and exciting opportunities in our Latin programs and Junior Classical Leagues, then classicists have serious public relations problem.

In the information age we live in there is an incredible opportunity to educate the general public about the classics through the news media, the internet and by being visible in our community. Don’t forget it is the community (taxpayers & parents) who make up the school district and who send their children to college. It is ultimately the community that supports or hurts our programs.

I know it is not always comfortable to “blow your own horn”; but if you don’t do it, who will? How many times have you had a reporter at your door to cover some accomplishment or honor won by you or your JCL? Never. Most reporters only come looking for you if it is bad news or some sort of scandal, but that doesn’t mean that they won’t cover good news if you bring it to them, especially if you have written a nice press release. Reporters have deadlines - they are more likely to help people who make their job easier.

Most school districts and universities have a public relations person who works to get positive publicity out to newspapers, radio stations and local television news. Find out who that is where you work and make a new friend. They can help you get the stories about contest victories, Roman banquets and NLHS inductions to the correct people in your community. Some districts even put out a regular newsletter to spotlight the “good news” in their district. They are always looking for good news to print - give them some.

I will never forget the first time I heard Doris Kays talk about the impending Latin teacher shortage in Texas. I immediately saw a connection between our dwindling numbers and the public’s perception of our profession. Many years ago when I told my own father I wanted to change my major from business to Latin, he asked me quite frankly “How do you expect to make a living with a degree in a dead language?” (nb: I made a special point of sending him a Xerox copy of my first paycheck stub from VISD with an “I told you so” note.)

The sad truth, however, is that my Dad’s attitude is not unusual. How many potential Latin teachers have we lost to the perception that Latin is no longer alive and well and being taught in our schools right along side biology, algebra and web design. No matter how hard we work and how good our programs are, if we don’t get the news beyond the four walls of our classroom, we are doing ourselves and all our current and future students a disservice.

Return Address:

Nicole Lehmann

TCA Executive Secretary-Treasurer

118 Wagon Trail Rd.

San Antonio, TX 78231-1240

Texas Classics in Action invites you to send articles, news about classical programs and activities at your school, review of classical books or websites you would recommend to other teachers or anything else you would like to see in the Spring issue.