

PRANDIUM PERPETUUM

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• **CHAIR SIDNIE WHITE CRAWFORD** came back from her leave-of-absence at Harvard Divinity School, where she was a Research Associate and Visiting Lecturer in the Women's Studies in Religion Program, raring to go. She published three articles on the Dead Sea Scrolls and presented papers at St. Andrews University in Scotland and Creighton University in Omaha. In April she gave the Larry Doerr Memorial Lecture at UNL, titled "One Land, Competing Claims: The Faiths of Israel and Palestine." In 2001 she was honored with a College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Teaching Award. Sidnie continues to serve as President of the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem; she visited there in March.

• **STEPHEN BURNETT** spent academic year 2001–2002 in Berlin, serving as a Fulbright professor at the Universitaet Potsdam. During the summer of 2001 he taught a seminar on early modern Jewish history at the Universitaet Hannover. He spent most of the year gathering source material for his book on Christian Hebrew scholarship in the Reformation era (1500–1650). He presented papers at the Sixth Johannes Reuchlin Congress in Pforzheim and at the Workshop on Early Modern Jewish Studies at Muelheim/Ruhr, and gave seven public lectures in German.

• **JOHN TURNER** has won an ORCA, an award for Outstanding Research and Creative Activity.

Alumni/Alumnae News

Obbink Wins MacArthur Fellowship for Papyrological Work

What's the next best thing to winning a MacArthur "Genius" Prize? How about if one of your students wins one? As you may already have heard, **DIRK OBBINK**, M.A., Classics, 1980, won a MacArthur.

The MacArthur Fellowships honor contributors to the expansion of knowledge, and include a stipend of \$500,000, no strings attached. The MacArthur Foundation's announcement says Dirk's papyrological work gives us "access to a body of ancient documents opening new windows on poetry, society, and philosophy in the ancient world."

Dirk got his Ph.D. at Stanford, dissertating on Philodemus (who survives only in charred MSS uncovered in Herculaneum — which your editor had told him about in his Vergil seminar) then taught at Columbia, and is currently at Oxford, where he is curator of the Oxyrhynchus Papyri Collection (cf. <http://www.csad.ox.ac.uk/POxy/frame1.htm>) at the Ashmolean Museum. The dissertation got him access to the actual charred remains, and he invented a way of stripping away layers of the carbonized scrolls so each layer can be read.

Dirk has twice come back to Lincoln to visit, present a paper, and meet some of our advanced classes. He was here in '89, and again this past spring of '02.

Kim Hachiya, from University PR, asked Dirk to name some influential professors. All were from Andrews Hall. Listing Leinieks, Winter, Rinkevich, and Vandersall, he said "They were so proud of doing truly marvelous work in an arcane field, and they had an important commitment to their subjects. And for people to teach Latin to Nebraska undergraduates, they had the patience of a mountain." Finally he credited John Turner, who "gave me a sense of what it takes to be an academic researcher."



Dirk Obbink

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The citation reads:

John Turner is Cotner College professor of religion and professor of classics. He is a scholar of international stature in the fields of Gnosticism, Early Christianity and Neo-Platonism. John is one of very few scholars in the world entrusted with the translation, publication, and interpretation of the Nag Hammadi codices, which consist of more than 50 texts from the second century A.D. The discovery and translation of the Nag Hammadi library has provided information leading to a major re-evaluation of early Christian history and the nature of Gnosticism. To work with these important texts, the researcher must be a papyrologist, a Coptic, Greek, and Latin linguist, and an

*expert in the New Testament, Early Christianity, and ancient philosophy. John is one of few people in the world who meet these criteria. Throughout his career John has been active in promoting scholarship on these texts, having served on the steering committee of the Society of Biblical Literature's Nag Hammadi and Gnosticism section for 15 years, six as chair. John recently published the magnum opus of his scholarly career; the 844-page monograph, *Sethian Gnosticism and the Platonic Tradition*. In it he reaches important conclusions regarding the relationship between Middle Platonism, Plotinian neo-Platonism, and Gnosticism.*

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IN MEMORY
CLARENCE ALLEN FORBES
1902–2001

CLARENCE ALLEN FORBES died a year ago on June 8, 2001, three months short of his 100th birthday on September 1. His connections with the University of Nebraska were numerous and of long duration. After a two-year stint as an instructor at the University of Cincinnati, he spent the first half of his professional career (1927–1948) at UNL. The second half of his career (1948–1971) was spent at the Ohio State University. When Clarence moved to Columbus he was replaced in Lincoln by Stanley Vandersall from Ohio State. Stan hired Val Leinieks, who shared an office with Clarence at Ohio State, in 1966. Val, in turn, hired Thomas Rinkevich, who was a student of Clarence at Ohio State, in 1967. In 1971, the year that Clarence retired, the University of Nebraska awarded him an honorary Doctor of Letters degree. His extensive collection of materials dealing with Greek physical education is deposited in Love Library. Clarence had numerous friends in Lincoln in addition to his faculty colleagues and he remembered Nebraska with much affection. His one complaint as he grew older was that his old friends and even students kept disappearing so fast.

As a teacher and scholar Clarence had wide-ranging interests, well represented by his six books and numerous articles and reviews. His most original research was in the areas of ancient education, athletics, and youth organizations. These are represented in his books: *Greek Physical Education* (1928), *Neoi* (1933), and *Teachers Pay in Ancient*

Greece (1942). Clarence was also much involved in contemporary education. He worked actively with the Latin teachers in Nebraska and published a book on *Teaching Classical Subjects in English* (1958). It goes without saying that he was an excellent teacher himself. This was recognized by a college of Arts of Sciences Teaching Award at Ohio State in 1963 and his being elected to Professor of the Year by the students of that mammoth university. Clarence was also active in professional organizations and was President of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South in 1950.

In addition to his seemingly unlimited knowledge of all things classical, those who knew Clarence will remember him for his invariably cheerful disposition and ageless physical constitution. He was a highly entertaining public speaker and above all an inveterate punster. The colorful socks that he favored were also quite remarkable. Among his nonacademic achievements there are two which are truly biblical in magnitude. One, of course, is his almost reaching the century mark. The other is that in his 100th year Clarence's direct descendants numbered exactly 100. These are achievements which none of us are likely to equal. In his Christmas letter of 2000 Clarence remarked that he was growing "older and colder" and wondered if he would "survive until 2001." We can end most fittingly with the last line of that last letter, "Kisses to the girls and ladies! Bows to the men."



Clarence Allen Forbes

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- **SHARON (O'NEIL) KAZMIERSKI**, 1992 Classics M.A., has been named Associate Editor of the American Classical League's *Classical Outlook*. Her husband being career Air Force took her away from Latin teaching, but Sharon more than made up for this by taking over the Latin-L e-mail group, and starting another, the Latinteach List. She's the listowner everyone in Latin knows!
- **DONALD ARP** is interning with the Nebraska State Patrol.
- **JEN FARRELL**, 2002 Classics grad, has a full fellowship to start the fall at the University of Cincinnati.
- **THOMAS** is just off the phone with **PAT BRAY** and reports that Pat is still teaching Latin in San Antonio, TX with 170 students in his program and growing. He says they are looking for Latin teachers, full and part-time, in San Antonio. There are 30 schools in SA teaching Latin! The Texas State Latin Association is the world's biggest, with 2,000+ at their state JCL convention,

while the national had 1,500. He had a chance to visit with **MARK HAYNES** and **JOHN HALL** there at the nationals.

He also says that the cost of living is lower there than in Omaha! Pat is the V.P. of the San Antonio Classical League.

- **JOHN HEJKAL**, 2002 Classics grad, went away with the 2002 Barber Prize for the sight translation of Latin. He is off to intern in a bank in Richmond, VA — his other major was economics. He'll decide after a year which area to proceed in for his graduate degrees.



John Hejkal

- **BRYAN LEE** received offers to study at Hull, Sheffield, and UCLA. After visiting the schools Bryan and his wife decided that the University of Sheffield offered the best program. He will be studying the Second Temple Jewish background as it relates to

the Apostle Paul. Bryan writes, "If you ever find yourself in the middle of England be sure to look us up."

- **SCOTT JOHNSON**, UNL Classics grad 1998, writes, "I received the latest issue of *Prandium Perpetuum* in the mail this week and thought I'd get in touch for old times' sake." He's at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, working toward a Master of Divinity degree, presently in a 12-month internship which included the 2001–2002 school year. "I've discovered a real love for systematic theology, though, and I'm considering pursuing a doctorate in that area in about 10 years or so, depending on how I feel about parish ministry." He adds: "Please pass along my congrats to Dr. Mrs. Gorman on tenure, and my greetings to all the faithful who even remember me! ;-) Blessings to you!"

- **PATTIE LOOMIS** is teaching in an alternative Junior High in East Harlem! < MAAdams3922@aol.com >

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FACULTY *continued from page 1*

John describes his research career:

“Since the late sixties, my research has centered on late antique Gnosticism and the Nag Hammadi Library, a collection of 13 Coptic papyrus codices discovered in December 1945. During the seventies and eighties I was associated with James M. Robinson’s Coptic Gnostic project at the Claremont, California *Institute for Antiquity and Christianity*, for which I undertook the English language critical editions of Nag Hammadi Codices XI (The Interpretation of Knowledge, A Valentinian Exposition, Allogenes, Hypsiphron) and XIII (Trimorphic Protennoia), as well as the Book of Thomas the Contender (whose editio princeps was my 1970 dissertation) from Codex II, which were published as volumes #21 (1989) and #28 (1990) in E. J. Brill’s ‘Nag Hammadi (and Manichean) Studies’ series.

“Beginning in 1991, I joined (and now serve on the editorial board of) the French language critical edition project for the Nag Hammadi Codices ‘La Bibliothèque copte de Nag Hammadi’ published by Peeters in Louvain & Paris and Université Laval in Québec, for which I wrote the critical introductions for Codex X (Marsanes) and (along with an extensive commentary) for Zostrianos (Codex VIII; the longest treatise of the Library), and this Fall I completed the introduction to a new edition of Allogenes (Codex XI).

“Throughout, I have tried to promote scholarship on these sources, by serving on the steering committee of the Society of Biblical Literature’s Nag Hammadi and Gnosticism Section for the last fifteen years (six as chair), and organizing the SBL’s 1995 plenary commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Nag Hammadi discovery (see *The Nag Hammadi Library After Fifty Years: Proceedings of the 1995 Society of Biblical Literature Commemoration*, ed. J. D. Turner and A. McGuire; Nag Hammadi and Manichaean Studies 44; Brill, 1997).

“During the last 10 years, I have focused on the nature and history of a hitherto unrecognized religious competitor of early Christianity, a gnostic movement scholars call ‘Sethianism,’ and especially upon its relationship to Johannine Christianity and its subsequent crucial role in the origins of Neoplatonic metaphysics. I have pursued the former topic in the Johannine seminar of the Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas and the latter topic in the SBL, where I inaugurated the 6-year-long (1992–1998) “Gnosticism and Later Platonism Seminar” composed of experts on Greek philosophy and Gnosticism (see *Gnosticism and Later Platonism: Themes, Figures, and Texts*, ed. J. D. Turner and R. Majercik; SBL Symposium Series 12; Society of Biblical Literature, 2001). This book will be the subject of a review symposium at the 2002 annual meeting of SBL next November in Toronto. The combined results of my research in these areas has just appeared as an 844-page monograph (*Sethian Gnosticism and the Platonic Tradition; Bibliothèque copte de Nag Hammadi*, section ...tudes 6; Québec: Presses de l’Université Laval; Louvain-Paris: ...ditions Peeters, 2001). This book has just been chosen as the focus of one of six scientific colloquia to be held in Paris at the Séminaire des missions étrangères next September 2002 as part of the sesquicentennial commemoration of the royal charter granted by Queen Victoria to Université Laval in Québec.

“One of the outcomes of this work is the demonstration that the theological interpretation of Plato’s Parmenides so evident in the Sethian Platonizing treatises Zostrianos and Allogenes studied in Plotinus’ third century Roman seminar originated, not with Plotinus, but with his Middle Platonic precursors. Since this work has been of especial interest to continental scholars, I have been asked by the Société d’...dition ‘Les Belles Lettres’, publisher of the Budè series of Greek and Latin texts, to do a volume *La gnose sèthienne et les origines du néoplatonisme* (probably jointly with Yale University Press as *Gnosticism and the Origins of Neoplatonism*) for a wider, non-specialist audience. Furthermore, since this issue has never been examined in interdisciplinary depth it deserves, the Society of Biblical Literature has just approved my proposal for a 6-year seminar starting in Toronto next November entitled ‘Rethinking Plato’s Parmenides and its Platonic, Gnostic and Patristic Reception;’ it will assemble 25 international authorities in religion, theology, classics, philosophy, patristics, and history to reexamine the entire question of the place of Plato’s Parmenides in the world of classical and late antique philosophy from Speusippus in the 4th century BCE through Proclus in the fifth century CE, including the patristic theologians of the first four centuries CE.”

FACULTY *continued on back*



Scholarship Winners for the next academic year

AWARDEE SCHOLARSHIP (MAJOR)

Conrado Tognetti	Emma C. Steckelberg (Latin)
Kristina Ahlers	Grace I. Bridge (Classics)
Elizabeth Beer	Grace I. Bridge (Classics)
Kimberly Clements	Grace I. Bridge (Greek)
Matthew Maddox	Grace I. Bridge (Classics)
Vincent Prescher	Grace I. Bridge (Classics)
Abigail Sedlacek	Grace I. Bridge (Classics)
Conrado Tognetti	Grace I. Bridge (Classics)
Jarrold Brand	Ed Hirsch (Classics)
Angela Furry	Ed Hirsch (Classics)
Daniel Helfman	Ed Hirsch (Classics)
Jarrold Brand	Oliver & Eva Reddy (Classics)
Angela Furry	Oliver & Eva Reddy (Classics)
Daniel Helfman	Oliver & Eva Reddy (Classics)

Alumni Gifts To The Department

Dr. Warren C. Embree
Mrs. Clara A. Embree
Scott A. Frankforter, MD
Joni Kerr, PLLC
John J. Jacobsen, MD.
Miss Kay E. Monson
Pamela Newcomb
Santa Barbara County United Way (Pamela?)
Kathleen O’Shea
Mrs. Myrtle V. Pabst
Frederic M. Pearson
Mrs. Anita F. Pickering
Mrs. Nancy J. (Peters) Hastings
Alan L. Reese
Gordon L. Watley
Thomas E. Winner
Mrs. Ann Winner
Rev. Dr. David J. Peter

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• **MATT HOKOM** has accepted a tenure track position at Fairmont State College in Fairmont, WV as a Professor of 19th Century American Literature. In spite of the official job description, he’ll be a generalist and teach everything from introductory literature and composition courses to more specialized classes. “I’m looking forward to being an honest-to-goodness professor and seeing a new part of the country. The department chair sounds receptive to new course offerings and I hope to take advantage of my Classics training at UNL and design a course or two around classical literature in translation.

SEE OUR DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE:

[HTTP://WWW.UNL.EDU/CLASSICS](http://www.unl.edu/classics)

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- **THOMAS RINKEVICH** is a grandfather!
- **TOM WINTER** is the only Classics prof ever to publish in *Math Horizons* (“The Canoe Curve,” February, 2002). Tom is currently serving as president of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Lincoln Chapter, and board secretary of the Great Plains Trails Network (GPTN). Tom is still competing in speedskating (made it to regionals, but not to nationals) against people young enough to be his kids. Flying a Cessna 150, and praying — for grandchildren!
- **BRIAN BENNETT**, who has completed a 3-year contract with us in Religious Studies, is now Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Niagara University, New York.
- **NEIL ADKIN** has recently had his 160th article accepted for publication (in *Museum Helveticum* — on a crux in Catullus). During the past year his mother, who never has and never will set foot in the New World, has made six separate gifts of 1,000 British pounds each to our library. He writes, “why not jump on the bandwagon (absolutely any commemorative occasion will provide the perfect excuse!)”
It is with a sense of loss that we record here the passing of **CLARENCE A. FORBES. VALDIS LEINIEKS** has written a memorial for this issue. (See page 2.)
- **CAROL (AUTEN) PROBASCO** has passed away. She often attended Classics presentations until as recently as the early 90s, and in 1996 established the Forbes Scholarship to both honor her professor and to help our Classics students get some summer training in Greece or Italy.

She achieved both ends, and aptly, this memorial is principally from the pen of Professor Forbes. In our files, a 1996 letter from Clarence Forbes: “Recently I have been receiving phone calls from Lincoln with welcome and even exciting news.... Perhaps you are in touch with Mrs. Carol Auten Probasco of Lincoln, one of my best graduate students about 60 years ago.”

Again from Clarence in '97: “One of my best graduate students, perhaps about 1935 or later, was Carol Auten of North Bend, NE. She did some high school teaching after she got her A.B., and had time to become the girlfriend of a suitably young Lincoln businessman, Herbert Probasco. She invited my wife and me to attend her wedding in North Bend and we went. And as time rolled along there were two children, a boy and a girl. We were sometimes guests in their home, and after we migrated to Ohio State in 1948, we rather often revisited Lincoln and continued the friendship with the Probascos. We’ve stayed in touch.

“Decades passed, and Herbert died, while the son worked in Omaha for the *World Herald*, and the daughter married and lived (still lives) in Wyoming. Carol lives in a retirement home, I believe in pretty good health....

“She wishes to establish, with a gift of \$25,000, an endowment fund for the U.N. Classics Department with the annual revenue to be used for some project as a summer in Greece (or Rome) for a promising grad student. I’m very vague about the fund, except that she wishes it to be called (exactly or approximately) ‘The Clarence A. Forbes Classical Endowment Fund.’ I’m immensely pleased.

“Salutations to all,
“Clarence olim Nebraskensis”