

MAJOR CONTRIBUTION FROM CA TO AMERICAN CLASSICS CAMPAIGN

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One of the most worthwhile and pleasurable aspects of Council's work is the awarding of grants to appropriate classical enterprises. In the normal course of events the sums of money requested and disbursed are relatively modest, helping, for example, to fund a Greek and Latin summer school, or support the attendance of two or three postgraduate bursars at an important conference. But occasionally the opportunity arises for the CA to make a major contribution to a project of exceptional importance.

One such opportunity arose in 2007, when the CA received a letter from Elaine Fantham, a former President of our North American counterpart, the American Philological Association. Writing on behalf of the APA, Professor Fantham asked the CA to consider making a contribution to the APA's campaign to raise an endowment for the American Office of the world's premier bibliographical resource for Classics, *L'Année philologique* (*Aph*). Since its inception in the 1960s, the American Office, which is responsible for compiling, on an ongoing basis, bibliographical information on practically all scholarly material in Classics published in English, has been largely funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities in Washington, D.C., but when it became clear that that line of funding would not continue indefinitely, the APA moved to secure the Office's future by making it self-sustaining.

Council considered the request at its meeting of November 2007. The CA had recently concluded the payment of a large grant to the Cambridge-based Greek Lexicon Project, and, with that obligation complete, Council decided to pledge a significant sum to the APA campaign. One argument we found persuasive was that, while a substantial proportion of the material listed in *Aph*, and thus publicised within the international scholarly community, represents work published in the UK, British classicists had never been asked to provide financial support for the American Office. On behalf of Classics and classicists in the UK, therefore, Council pledged the sum of \$200,000 to the campaign, to be paid over a period of three years. This represents 5% of the APA's overall target of \$4,000,000 (to be complemented by

'Challenge Grant' funding from the NEH), which it hopes to achieve by the end of 2010.

The vision of the APA's 'Gatekeeper to Gateway' campaign extends beyond scholarly bibliography to incorporate the establishment of a 'virtual' American Center for Classics Research and Teaching, whose aim is – to quote the publicity document – 'to make the largest amount of highest quality information about the classical world available to the largest possible audience in the format appropriate to each segment of that audience'. It was Council's wish, however, that the CA grant should be used specifically to support the vital (and unglamorous) work of the American Office of *APh*. Following discussions with the APA's Executive Director, Adam Blistein, Council agreed in March 2008 that the grant should be used to establish a fund for this purpose. This fund will be named 'The Classical Association Fund for Bibliography', thus recognizing the CA's contribution in perpetuity.

In January I was fortunate to be able to attend the Annual Meeting of the APA in Chicago, where I made a formal announcement of our grant. The audience was exceptionally appreciative, and the expressions of thanks I received on the CA's behalf of from APA President Kurt Raaflaub, Adam Blistein, and many other North American scholars is testimony to the warmth with which the news of our contribution was greeted. At the CA Conference in March, in the splendid setting of Liverpool Cathedral, a formal Resolution of Thanks from the APA was read out by a member of its Board of Directors, Ruby Blondell. The full text of this resolution, as well as that of the announcement in Chicago, appears elsewhere in these pages, together with an article about *APh* by the Director of the American Office, Lisa Carson. More information about the APA's campaign is available at <http://www.apaclassics.org/campaign/campaign.html>.

While in Chicago, I also had a valuable and constructive meeting with Bob Kaster, Chair of the APA Program Committee, to discuss another CA initiative, the establishment of a high-profile CA/APA Joint Panel, to be held at the annual conference of each association in alternate years. This proposal has been warmly welcomed by the APA, and it is hoped that the first panel, to be organized by the CA, will be held at the APA's Annual Meeting in January 2010. The growth of co-operation between the two associations, whose relations have always been excellent, can only be to the benefit of Classics as a whole, and I am grateful to those many colleagues on both sides of the Atlantic who have been supportive of developments in this direction.

