

***L'ANNÉE PHILOLOGIQUE* AND ITS AMERICAN OFFICE**

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L'Année philologique (*APh*), founded in Paris in the 1920s by philologist Jean Marouzeau, remains in the new century the premier bibliography of classical studies and its ancillary fields. Compiled for decades by Juliette Ernst, who worked alone at first and was eventually joined by assistants, it has grown to include, besides the central Paris office, offices in the United States, Germany, Italy, and Spain.

Although *APh* is now accessible in electronic form, it still appears each year in a print volume that has remained substantially similar across the years. Each year editors search out new books in the field and systematically excerpt all relevant journals, writing an abstract for each article. All reviews of books are listed in the book's record. The result is an essential tool for all scholars and students in Classics as well as many other fields.

The electronic version of *APh* (which was introduced in 1995), naturally makes the bibliography much more searchable. Pity the graduate student before that time who had to look up manually the dozens of references to Augustus, or Hercules, in the index of each annual print volume. But it is the print volume, with its ever-expanding size, that testifies to the constant increase in publication over the years: the most recent volume includes more than 18,000 entries.

The article abstracts may be written in French, English, German, or Italian. The American Office was the first of the international offices to be founded, when the volume of English-language material became too large for Mlle Ernst and her assistants to treat easily. The long friendship between Mlle Ernst and T. R. S. Broughton, the renowned Canadian author of *Magistrates of the Roman Republic*, lay behind the decision to found the office at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where Professor Broughton was an emeritus professor. The new American Office became responsible for all the journals excerpted by *APh* that were published in the United States and all current or former member countries of the British Commonwealth. For years the operation was managed by one or another professor in the Classics Department at UNC, released from a portion of his teaching time to supervise the work of graduate students. Eventually it became necessary to professionalize

the AO completely, and it is now staffed by a full-time director and an assistant director at half-time, though there is still a graduate student assigned each year to work for the office.

A few years ago the AO moved to the University of Cincinnati, which is notable for its extraordinary Classics library. This library was the benevolent object of Louise Taft Semple, who was married to the Classics Department chair in the early 20th century, and was a member of the wealthy Ohio Taft family who gave us our 27th President and even a recent governor of Ohio. The endowment furnished by the Louise Taft Semple Fund has created the best Classics library in the United States; the library seeks to acquire every publication in the history, literature, and archaeology of the Greek and Roman world each year.

From its founding, the AO received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities in Washington, D.C. The grants grew much larger over time, especially as they came to include salaries. Gently but emphatically, the Endowment insisted that the AO become self-supporting, and the American Philological Association took responsibility for the office and is working to make it financially independent. The APA has received a Challenge Grant from the Endowment and is seeking, in its Campaign for Classics, to raise \$4,000,000 (to be matched by \$650,000 from the NEH) that will support the American Office along with other programs. The very generous donation from the Classical Association is a significant step toward securing the AO's future.