

## MY VISION FOR CA NEWS' FUTURE

That renowned, albeit fictional, collector of Classical (and other) art, Charles Foster Kane, began his career at the equally fictional *New York Enquirer* by publishing a "Declaration of Principles". It would be an act of *hubris* for me to do the same; nevertheless, some statement of how I view *CA News*, and what I (with the assistance of the newly-constituted editorial board) plan on doing, seems to be called for.

For many members, *CA News* is the only public face of the Classical Association with which they have contact. These are the people who do not go to the Annual Conference, or local branch meetings, and do not subscribe to the academic journals. It is therefore vitally important that the Editor, and the Association as a whole, gets *CA News* right. *CAN* needs to fulfil its primary function as a newsletter, carrying important news for the membership. But it also has to interest and entertain that membership, and as such, has to have something in it to appeal to all the CA's different constituencies. As the UK Classics organisation with the broadest remit, our membership includes academics, schoolteachers, students at school or university, authors, publishers, people who used to belong to one of the above categories but have now moved on, or those with a general interest in the worlds of ancient Greece and Rome. *CA News'* role is to provide something which is light, but still stimulating, with something for everyone. No one will like all of it, and that is how it should be; but something in each issue should appeal to every member, and the one item that someone thinks should be removed and never seen again is the one item someone else thinks is the best thing in the whole magazine.

My personal opinion is that, under Jenny March's Editorship, *CAN* performed its task extremely well. So I have no intention of imposing radical changes upon the magazine. My hope is that I can consolidate and build upon the past twenty years, and take *CA News* into the future. Of course, there will inevitably be changes. I am not Jenny March, and will do some things differently from how she would. Eventually, a *CA News* with my personality written upon it will emerge. But it will (I hope) be an organic development, not a radical revolution.

So what can readers expect in future issues? For a start, not much directly from me. I view myself primarily as a facilitator of material for *CA News*, not a provider. *CA News* is yours, the membership's magazine, and I hope that the majority of copy will continue to come from the members.

*CAN* will, of course, retain its role as a news magazine. In the world of the Internet, however, a twice-yearly publication no longer carries the immediacy it once did. As I write this, the big media fuss is about the discovery of what may be Nero's rotating dining room in Rome. By the time anyone reads my words, something else will be the hot story. Nevertheless, *CA News* will continue to bring you important stories about the Association, and what it is doing, and about the Classical world in general (Philip Hooker's "Classics in the media" will certainly continue). We hope to develop the *reportage* of the Annual Conference, though sadly it looks as if our hundred-eyed observer has been finally lulled to sleep.

But *CA News* has always been much more than just a news magazine. It provides a platform for short academic articles, of about 1,000-2,500 words, that are, for one reason or another, not quite suitable for *Greece & Rome* or *Classical Quar-*

*terly*. Please keep sending me your ideas for these, as I'm always keen to publish good quality pieces.

It is also an outlet for the creativity of the membership. Translations into Greek or Latin, and English poetry, either translated from the ancient languages or original works inspired by the ancient world, have always formed a part of the *CA News* package, as have cartoons. Keep them coming, though such is the volume I currently receive that I cannot promise to publish them all. And I would like to widen the types of material submitted. In particular, I'm open to prose vignettes, of maybe a couple of hundred words. A lot can be done in such a restricted medium.

There will continue to be more frivolous material. The ability to embrace both the serious and the slightly silly is an essential part of the appeal of *CA News*, and I want to continue this. If there is a shortage of crosswords, quizzes or caption competitions in this issue, that is temporary, and they will be back in force.

We'll also continue to recommend books to our readers. *CA News* is not a critical journal, and doesn't do reviews as such. But if there's a book that has been brought to our attention, and which we like, then we will mention it.

Finally, there is the letters page. This will continue to be an important part of the magazine. Here people can ask for information for their own personal projects, or respond to other people's requests. Comments on the content of previous issues are welcomed. And the letters page of *CA News* is a place where the membership can raise their concerns about the Association, and hold the Officers and Council to account, should they feel the need to do so. (Hopefully, mostly they won't, but the venue is there.)

I conclude by repeating that *CA News* is your magazine, and stands or falls on the contributions you make. There's no exclusive club of writers and creators here. If anyone feels that *CA News* is not for them, I ask them please to think again, and make *CA News* for them by writing something. Because if you are a member of the Classical Association, then *CA News* is for you. If I have a guiding principle for my editorship, it's that.

**Tony Keen**