

The 1993 UCT Summer School offered a course of interest to general members, *Comedy in Greece and Rome*, given by Dr. M.R. Mezzabotta. The Department of Adult Education and Extra-Mural Studies gave generous financial support towards mounting an exhibition on Greek and Roman Comedy.

Review of goals

A major concern of the committee has been to support and promote the teaching of Latin at school level, which is threatened by the financial restrictions and reduction in teaching posts facing schools. Unfortunately, CASA has no access to funds which would stem the closure of Latin Departments in affected schools. We are, however, encouraged by the UWCLOSE project which will bring Latin to pupils to whom it was previously inaccessible.

Conclusion

I should like to thank the hard-working Committee for its initiative and enthusiasm. It has been a pleasure working with such a motivated team.

M.R. Mezzabotta - Chairman 1992/1993

V A R I A E L E C T R O N I C A

E-CLASSICS

The age of electronic telecommunications has been with us for some time and an increasing number of Classicists from all over the world are now using, or thinking of using, electronic means of communication. The potential of this technology for the exchange of information is being realised more and more fully as greater numbers of researchers and teachers make use of what it offers. A few Luddites remain. But what does this new medium offer people engaged in research and teaching in the Classics? What financial commitment is involved? How easy is it to become a proficient user?

Information retrieval

Every South African academic who is involved in ordering books must be aware of the fact that publishing costs have increased enormously, while funds for buying books have decreased substantially because of budgetary cuts and the depreciation of the value of the rand. Research libraries in South Africa are rapidly becoming more and more impoverished. It is therefore essential that South African Classicists should avail themselves of all available sources of information in their discipline. Electronic publishing is one such source. While this medium is not by any means free, it can make information

available more efficiently and at reduced cost.¹ The major drawback to electronic publishing to date has been copyright, since publishers are not willing to make copyright material available for electronic distribution at a reasonable cost. However, the pressure on publishers to change their policy is growing.² A review by the editor of the *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* of recent publications on electronic publishing provides an interesting perspective on the predicament in which academic publishing in the United States currently finds itself (O'Donnell 1993:1). The situation is no different in the United Kingdom. The estimated cost of storing journals in London is now £75 per foot, whereas electronic storage of the same information is considerably less and rapidly decreasing as more efficient techniques of storing information are developed. Consequently, there is a strong movement among academics to bypass publishers altogether and to establish a database of electronic journals on the academic network from which articles can be printed on request (Griffiths 1993:1).³

There are already about 1200 file archives housed by institutions on the Internet, the worldwide network to which most academic institutions belong. If the institution agrees to make the archive available to the academic community, the archive is put into a reserved directory on their computer. Individuals and institutions from the international academic community can get access to this computer by logging on as an anonymous user. This gives the remote user restricted use of the files in the archive's reserved directories. Files in the directory can be browsed and retrieved using a limited set of commands which constitute a protocol. The entire process is known as "File Transfer Protocol" (*FTP*). *FTP* involves the interactive interrogation of the remote computer and may require some expertise on Unix machines or mainframes. Usage of this facility is constantly monitored for abuses.

A number of Classics journals have already made available their tables of contents (*TOCS*) and forthcoming articles in electronic form, which can be obtained by *FTP*. Contents listings for all twenty-five volumes of *Arethusa* are now available on-line from the John Hopkins University Press and journal prepublication materials in the Hopkins on-line database can be obtained by means of a "gopher" (an information retrieval system which actively seeks available information on topics requested by a user). The following statement by Sue Lewis of the John Hopkins University has been issued (May 1993)⁴:

"In the first experiment of its kind by a publisher, the Johns Hopkins University Press will offer Internet access to tables of contents and article abstracts of its scholarly journals in advance of publication of printed issues. Currently available files include contents and abstracts of the inaugural issue of the *Journal of Early Christian Studies*, as well as the second issue, forthcoming in June 1993. In the next few weeks, the Press will be uploading the tables of contents from all twenty-five volumes of *Arethusa*, a classics journal of original literary and cultural studies, as well as contents and

1 It is not easy to assess the hidden costs of maintaining the Internet (the international electronic network). At present universities pay a relatively small global fee. Some institutions do set a limit for the free use of e-mail.

2 The University of Manitoba held a conference on "Refereed Electronic Journals" in October 1993. Proceedings of a previous conference (1992) are available from the Jeltz Museum.

3 A real time electronic book ordering system on which articles can also be ordered, already exists. Selected articles can be received by fax within one hour of ordering (the system is available from Blackwell's and is called *Connect*).

4 Downloaded e-text quoted by permission.

abstracts of forthcoming issues. Materials from the *American Journal of Philology* will follow. As the printed issues appear, online materials will remain available, eventually enabling access to a substantial electronic compendium. The Press's aim is to add value to printed publications by offering prepublication materials over the network."

Similarly the *Transactions of the American Philological Association* has stated its intention to make its articles available on e-mail prior to publication. On publication the electronic versions of the articles are withdrawn. At all times copyright on the article is retained by the journal. This policy has the advantage of exposing the articles to wider critical review prior to publication. A quotation by O'Donnell about the policy of the American Philological Association (APA) on this matter follows:⁵

"The Publications Committee of the American Philological Association has approved an experiment whereby articles accepted and edited for the *Transactions of the American Philological Association (TAPA)* will be posted for free network access on the Internet as soon as they are available. These articles will be removed from e-circulation when the finished volume is published and distributed to subscribers. This experiment will be part of a collection of such efforts to explore the use of preprints in an electronic environment: such e-preprints are already in heavy use in certain parts of the scientific community, but are relatively novel among humanists.

The first such article is now available for distribution: Erich Gruen, 'Cultural Fictions and Cultural Identity,' which will appear as *TAPA* 123 (1993) 1-14, was posted on 7 April 1993. This paper was originally delivered as the Presidential Address at the annual meetings of the *APA* in New Orleans on 29 December 1992. Professor Gruen is widely known for his work in the Hellenistic culture of the Mediterranean world as a setting for the growth and development of Roman political and social influence. His paper addresses issues central to the concerns of classicists and other students of the ancient world and should prove accessible and interesting to a wide audience."⁶

In addition, the *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* makes available by e-mail reviews which it publishes in the conventional way. The e-mail versions are available at no charge as soon as these reviews are submitted. The aim of this journal is to make reviews of current work in Greek and Roman studies (excluding archaeology), available to the Classics community. Responses to reviews and multiple reviews of the same book are encouraged. Electronic publication of these reviews speeds up the cycle of publication, review and acquisition, which, in South Africa, can take a considerable length of time. Another e-journal is being developed by Peter Toohey (University of New England) and Ian Worthington (University of Tasmania), called *The Electronic Agora (EA)*. This will be a monthly electronic journal, which aims at publishing "kite-flying" articles, reactions to recent publications, and summaries of conference proceedings in addition to traditional articles and reviews. *EA* is also intended to act as a clearing house for information of interest to the classical community (conference notices, job advertisements, information on fellowships and

⁵ Downloaded e-text quoted by permission.

⁶ A number of other articles have become available in this way e.g. Callaway, Cathy, C. 1993. "Perjury and the Unsworn Oath", *TAPLA* 123 (forthcoming).

scholarships and the like).⁷ *Scholia* has placed selected prepublication articles in this electronic medium. The article will be deleted on appearance of the journal.

Other initiatives are being planned, such as the proposal before the National Endowment for the Humanities in the United States to make the *Greek-English Lexicon* of Liddell-Scott-Jones (*LSJ*⁹) available on-line via FTP. The middle Liddell is already available as part of the *Perseus* project and it is hoped that the electronic *LSJ*⁹ will be added to this multi-media resource. The *LSJ*⁹ project, which includes the creation of an electronic version of the forthcoming, updated *LSJ* supplement, may result in the production of a CD ROM disk of *LSJ*⁹ and its supplement, in collaboration with Oxford University Press. Such a CD would follow the highly successful CD of the second edition of the Oxford English Dictionary, which is now widely used. An electronic *LSJ* would, of course, make morphological and relational searches possible (a search for *φέρω* would find *ἤνεγκον* and vice versa, if morphological lemmas were added). Further, the use of an *LSJ*⁹ CD in conjunction with the *Thesaurus Linguae Graecae* (*TLG*) disk could also provide additional instances of any particular word or construction in *LSJ* and should contribute substantially to the improvement of this faulty but indispensable work of reference (the ninth edition was published in 1940). Vice versa, the integration of *LSJ* and the *TLG* would allow the use of the semantic categories of *LSJ* for words found in texts on the *TLG* disk. For example, occurrences of *φιλία* in a text could be mapped onto the semantic categories I.1. *friendship*, I.2. *friendliness*, I.3. *fondness*, I.4. *liking*, I.5. *the natural force which unites discordant elements and movements* and II *the Pythagorean name for three*. If the project is successfully associated with the *Perseus* database it may be possible (but probably extremely demanding on computer resources) to make use of the 30,000 images contained in the visual database of *Perseus* 2.0 in the dictionary.

A number of institutions around the world now make available collections of texts (the Oxford Text Archive), commentaries, library catalogues (including the Library of Congress), *TOCS*, Greek and other fonts and much other useful information and shareware. The *TOCS-IN* project undertaken by the University of Toronto makes available the *TOCS* of a large number of Classics journals. So far (April 1993) the collection contains 2003 articles from 250 issues of 83 journals for 1992 and 367 articles from 54 issues of 37 journals for 1993. Teaching materials relevant to F.M. Wheelock's Latin course are also available by *FTP*. A particularly useful facility, in its infancy as yet, allows a researcher to browse the library catalogues of overseas institutions (this includes the majority of academic libraries in the United Kingdom and the United States). Information can be captured to a file on a local computer. A forthcoming publication will discuss Classics databases fully (Solomon 1993: forthcoming). This publication will include a general discussion on Classics and the computer (by Theodore F. Brunner); the *TLG* canon (by Luci Berkowitz); the computer-index of the *Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae* (by Jocelyn Penny Small); the computer-assisted study of ancient wine jars, *AMPHORAS* (by Carolyn G. Kohler and Philippa M.W. Matheson); the database of Classical bibliography (by Dee Clayman); the *Perseus* project (by Elli Mylonas, Gregory Crane, Kenneth Morrell and D. Neel Smith); and hypertext and the Classical commentary (by Jay David Bolter).⁸

⁷ *EA* has now produced the fourth issue of its first volume (September, 1993).

⁸ *CIL* VI also exists in electronic form. A CD ROM version is in preparation.

Discussion groups

E-mail is also being used for international discussion groups (known as "lists") on the Classical languages, ancient history and related subjects. List owners lay down their own editorial policy on contributions sent to the list. These policies fall into several categories. First is the "electronic journal" policy. These lists invite extensive contributions of a serious academic nature. A less formal policy aims at stimulating informal debate and a free flow of ideas from the international academic world. Any message sent to the list is automatically broadcast to all the members of the list without intervention by the list owner. The so-called information exchanged in these lists is often extremely unreliable. More responsible lists such as that hosted by the University of Washington (but not the Department of Classics there) monitor messages sent to the list. The main purpose of such monitoring is to prevent the abuse of the list for commercial purposes, to eliminate personal invective (known as "flaming") and to get rid of junk mail as soon as they manifest themselves. Even so, traffic on this list amounts to about 20-30 messages per day. About 480 Classics researchers, teachers and students from around the world subscribe to this list. Contributions (of varying quality) come from Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, South Africa, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Venezuela! Messages sent to the list are usually stored in an archive and can be retrieved. This archive can be used as an informal database and can be searched for information on topics that have been aired in the list. A more formal database of research in Classics is under discussion.

A similar policy is followed by smaller discussion groups, such as *Elenchus*, a discussion group moderated by Saint Paul University, Ottawa. This list is devoted to the thought and literature of Christianity during the period 100 to 500 AD. The areas of discussion of the group includes discussions of patristics, gnosticism, asceticism, monasticism, archaeology, the *Nag Hammadi* and Manichaean corpora, the canon of Scripture, the history of exegesis, as well as historical and theological developments from the time of the Apologists to the fall of the Western Empire. There is a discussion group on ancient history (Ancien-l) and an interdisciplinary group which focuses on the oral tradition (Ortrad-l) which is run by John Foley of the University of Missouri.

Other lists, such as the *Humanist* list, intercept all messages and only broadcast those which, in the opinion of the list owner, contribute to academic debate. This introduces an element of editorial supervision which tends to improve the quality of submissions to the list. On the other hand, this kind of intervention introduces a degree of censorship and imposes criteria for publication which are inappropriate to the medium. Discussion lists fulfil a different purpose from academic journals: submissions are generally short discussions of the threads of discourse which appear in the list.

E-mail

The most obvious application of electronic communication is, of course, e-mail. One of the advantages of e-mail is its speed: messages can be sent around the world in a few seconds. It is also convenient to use, since the message can be sent from the computer on which it was keyed. Multiple copies of the message can also be broadcast to any number of recipients by means of distribution lists. Furthermore very few messages can go astray provided that the address is correct. Most e-mail systems allow the use of standard forms, which contain information that you want included in all your messages, such as the sender's address and signature. This obviates the need to rekey this information. Docu-

ments containing Greek characters and maps or diagrams can also be sent electronically, though this involves packaging and encoding the message electronically. E-mail systems are improving dramatically in terms of functionality and ease of use. The drawbacks of e-mail at present are trivial: it is simply not a medium that everyone uses and not all users check for incoming messages regularly.

Useful e-mail and list addresses

A list of e-mail addresses is given from time to time (e.g., October 1990) in the *APA* Newsletter and is regularly updated. The addresses of discussion groups mentioned above are:

Agora@une.edu.au (*Electronic Agora*)
Listserv@uwavm.bitnet (*Classics* list: classics-l)
Listserv@uottawa.bitnet (*Elenchus* list: elenchus-l)
Listserv@ulkyvm.bitnet (*Ancient History* list: ancien-l)
Listserv@Missou1.bitnet (*Oral tradition* list: ortrad-l)
Listserv@cc.brynmawr.edu (*BMCR*: bmcr-l)
Listserv@psuvm.bitnet (*Latin* list: Latin-l)

(To subscribe to a discussion group send the message: Subscribe listname yourname. In the case of HUMANIST, send a message to editors@brownvm.brown.edu).

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