

Duke University
Center for Late Ancient Studies
Report on the activities in the academic year 2001-2002

I. Lecture Series

As in the preceding years, the core activity of the Center consisted in the organization of the monthly lecture series. The speakers and topics of the lectures reflect the diversity of the Center's fields of interest. An important consideration always is the potential benefit for graduate students working in Late Ancient Studies. Surrounding each of the lectures, there is ample opportunity for the graduate students to meet and discuss with the speaker.

The list of this year's lectures was as follows:

- 1) September 25, 2001: Henry Maguire (Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore) – Byzantine Domestic Art as Evidence for the Early Cult of the Virgin
- 2) October 19, 2001: Peter van Minnen (Dumbarton Oaks Washington & Catholic University of Louvain, KUL, Belgium) – Late Ancient Religions on the Island of Philae: A Fresh Look at the Evidence
- 3) November 9, 2001: Clive Foss (University of Massachusetts, Boston) – The Archaeology of the Late Ancient City
- 4) December 7, 2001: Jason D. BeDuhn (Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff) – The Manichaean Soul
- 5) January 14, 2001: Michael E. Stone (Hebrew University, Jerusalem) – The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Pseudepigrapha
- 6) February 8, 2002: Blake Leyerle (University of Notre Dame) – Monks and Other Animals
- 7) March 1, 2002: Clare Woods (Duke University) – Ezekiel and the Articulation of Anxiety: Jerome, Gregory and Rome under Attack
- 8) March 26, 2002: Robert Dodaro (Istituto Patristico Augustinianum, Rome) – Augustine of Hippo: Between the Earthly City and the City of God.

For the organization of these lectures there was close cooperation with departments participating in the Center, viz. Art and Art History, Classical Studies, Religion. There was financial support from the Department of Art History for lecture no. 1; from Classical Studies for lecture no. 3; from Religion for lectures no. 6 and 8 (which were cosponsored with the Department of Religion). Lecture no. 5 was co-sponsored with the Center for Judaic Studies, which covered two thirds of the expenses.

In addition to the main program of monthly lectures, the Center organized, or participated in the organization of, three other activities.

- October 26, 2001: David G. Hunter (Iowa State University) – discussion with graduate students and faculty on an essay which will be part of his book in progress
- April 1, 2002 (symposium organized by the Department of Classical Studies and co-sponsored by the Center): “Power and Paideia in the Fourth Century”
- April 26, 2002 (lecture organized by the Department of Classical Studies and co-sponsored by the Center): Mario Geymonat (University of Venice, Ca’ Foscari) – A Christian Fake from the Late Fourth Century: The Date, Times, and Inspirations of the ‘Oratio Constantini ad Sanctorum Coetum’.

II. Reading Group

Under the auspices of the Center, the Reading Group “Late Ancient Studies” meets on a monthly basis in an evening session to discuss a recent publication (one or more articles or a section of a monograph) in one of the subfields of Late Ancient Studies. Here again the focus is on graduate students, who make suggestions for the selection of the readings and appoint one among them (alternatingly) to lead and structure the discussion. Participants in the Reading Group are graduate students and faculty members from Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill.

The Reading Group has met nine times in the course of the academic year 2001-2002. The convener of the group, who also took care of the distribution of the texts, was Catherine Chin (Graduate Program in Religion). The attendance is between 12 and 20 persons (among whom between 3 - 6 are faculty).

III. Related Activities

The Center has been instrumental in an initiative taken by faculty members of Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for a joint presentation of the graduate resources of the two universities in the field of Early Christian Studies. The aim of this joint presentation is to stimulate cross-contacts between the two programs. Students are encouraged to attend courses and seminars and to participate in reading groups at the two institutions as well as to have faculty from both universities serve on examination and Ph.D. committees. The directors of these joint programs are Elizabeth A. Clark (Duke) and Bart D. Ehrman (UNC).

A brochure “Programs in Early Christian Studies at Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill” recently appeared and will be distributed nationwide and beyond. An annual update of the brochure is planned.

IV. Financial Situation

For a detailed survey of the financial situation of the Center, please contact the convener.

V. Executive Committee

During the academic year 2001-2002 the Executive Committee of the Center was composed as follows:

- Elizabeth A. Clark (Director)
- Mary Boatwright
- Peter Burian
- Bart Ehrman (UNC-Chapel Hill, Department of Religious Studies)
- Michael Ferejohn
- Zlatko Plese (UNC-Chapel Hill, Department of Religious Studies)
- Kent Rigsby
- Annabel Wharton
- Clare Woods
- Lucas Van Rompay (convener).

VI. Approval of the Report

The above report was approved at the Executive Committee's meeting of May 9, 2002.

For the Executive Committee,

Lucas Van Rompay, convener for the academic year 2001-2002.