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Editor's Note (Parnassus, vol.7)

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Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

We're back! After a yearlong hiatus and a period of time spent considering a completely digitized Classical edition, the *Parnassus* staff is very pleased to be publishing our seventh print volume in our eighth year of existence.

Although our “gap year,” so to speak, did not ultimately result in a complete conversion to digital, *Parnassus* nonetheless returns with a slightly different feel than in years past. This year, first- and second-year students have taken up the traditional role of the Muses and breathed new life into both our submissions and our editorial board. That these students dominate both the scholarly and creative content of this year's edition is a testament to not only their budding academic abilities, but also their deep and immediate enthusiasm for everything Classics. The future of the Holy Cross Classics Department is bright!

In addition to an injection of youth, we have seen an increase in the variety of majors of students who submit to and are published in this Classics journal. We are especially delighted to see this change as it was one of our staff goals to make a concerted effort to widen the pool of students who submit to *Parnassus*. To meet this goal, our staff made visits to courses in Mythology, Roman History and even Montserrat in order to spread the word about the journal to students of *all* majors who do exceptional work in Classics courses. As you will see in the table of contents, we are thrilled that this year's volume includes, in addition to Classics, the work of students whose majors range from Physics to Psychology to English!

Increased accessibility and diversity of submissions have long been aims of this journal. Among those less familiar with the discipline, misperceptions abound about the work of classicists. Whether “classics” conjures thoughts of Moby Dick, AC/DC, dusty books or “dead” languages, we hope that even a quick look through *Parnassus* will demonstrate to the world outside of Fenwick 4 why we classicists feel so passionately about the languages and cultures we study.

In its capacity as a literary ambassador for Holy Cross Classics and the discipline as a whole, we believe that this year's publication presents a fresh, diverse array of perspectives and topics representative of the current landscape of work in Classics. Several works highlight the problematic representations of women in ancient texts, while many others compare and connect the ancient world to other time periods, including today. Of course, a few pieces are grounded in the dissection of ancient Greek or Latin texts, and even these contain themes that still resonate in the present. Our creative pieces, too, are proof that the ancient world can (and should!) continue to be re-imagined and brought to life. It is our sincere hope that this combination of topical, creative and scholarly content will be enjoyable to professors, friends and family alike.

Finally, I would be remiss not to mention the extenuating circumstances surrounding the publication of this edition. Holy Cross, along with peer institutions across the country, closed campus and transitioned to online learning in early March in response to the outbreak of COVID-19. With help from modern technology, work on *Parnassus* continued remotely. We are immensely pleased to have produced a finished product we would be proud of regardless of the circumstances. COVID-19 has affected the Holy Cross community and life across the world in previously unimagined ways. In these days of uncertainty, working on this journal has provided myself and the rest of the staff with a distraction, a sense of normalcy, and even a glimmer of hope. For that, we are grateful. We hope that you, the reader, can find this journal to be a source of comfort, too.

It has truly been a pleasure working to awaken *Parnassus* from its brief slumber. I cannot thank the rest of the editorial board, our advisors and our readers enough. You can also find a digital edition of this and past issues of *Parnassus* at <https://crossworks.holycross.edu/parnassus/>. We are glad to be back, and we thank you for staying with us on this journey. Happy reading!

Liam O'Toole, '20
Editor-in-Chief