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Message from the Incoming President

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Message from the Incoming President
NECJ, August 2013

For the special commemorative publication celebrating the One Hundredth Anniversary of the First Annual Meeting in 2006 (caneweb.org/CANEhist.pdf), I recalled how Blaise Nagy and Bill Ziobro drove several undergrads, including me, to our first CANE Annual Meeting, a gift I have always looked back on fondly. I wrote, "The beauty of CANE is not only that the association provides opportunities for members to share ideas and learn from each other, but it also bears testimony to the zeal of established professionals to bring students and new teachers into the community." I believed that assertion then, and I continue to believe it now. We as classicists truly stand on the shoulders of giants, and I am especially grateful to Jacqui Carlon, John McVey, Ellen Perry, Jere Mead, Mark Pearsall, and Geoff Sumi, recent past presidents with whom I have been privileged to serve, and all who have stepped up to benefit this organization over the more than a hundred years CANE has existed.

I continue to be amazed by the multitude of offerings from CANE; membership absolutely has its privileges! From JStor access to scholarships and discretionary grants applications to info on the Annual Meeting and the Summer Institute, the website is a valuable resource. Geoff remarked about the outstanding work done by the CANEns crew: Lydia, Emily, TJ and Ben keep us informed on the latest trends and professional development opportunities available to classicists. Years ago former CANEns editor Ed DeHoratius envisioned an evolution of that publication from print to an online, dynamic version, and the CANEns crew have gone beyond expectations.

This past July I attended a superb CANE Summer Institute at Brown. The instructors and lecturers were simply amazing, a spirited assemblage eager to share their thoughts and research with participants. Reading selections from Polybius, Tacitus, Livy, Plutarch, Sallust, Cicero, Machiavelli, and letters from Jefferson and Adams, within the span of one week, left me exhausted yet also intrigued, reflecting on the courses and presentations, eager to explore the week's discussions further. Much deserved kudos to Jeri, who has agreed to continue as Director for 2014. She organized the Institute so well and communicated frequently with participants, presenters and the executive committee during the year leading up to our time together. Being able to commute, especially with a young family, was a necessity for me, as the last time I was able to attend the Institute was 2007, and I had missed the conversations and the excitement that transpire at this great gathering.

I of course look forward to our 108th Annual Meeting, to be held 7-8 March, 2014, at St. Anselm's in Manchester, NH. Please see in this issue, and on the CANE website, the Call for Papers, with a deadline of December 1 to submit an abstract for a paper or workshop.

Echoing Geoff's Message, I also welcome and thank NECJ editor-in-chief Deb Davies, book review editor Jennifer Kosak, and at-large member Tim Joseph of the College of the Holy Cross. They join an active and enthusiastic board who continue to seek new ways to serve the membership. Geoff and I know firsthand the number of hours and the amount of sweat that goes into the responsibilities of the NECJ editors, so I am particularly pleased to have Deb and Jennifer at the helm. And Tim was one of those Summer Institute instructors I mentioned earlier, who worked diligently to prepare for the Tacitus course and was ever eager to continue conversations long after the class period concluded.

While I was writing this Message, a colleague forwarded me an article from the June 29 *The Economist*, noting the "comeback" of Latin through the papal Twitter account, Latin Wikipedia, a Latin version of Facebook, and Google Translate for Latin, in addition to radio programs and online newspapers that promote the study of Latin. I thought about the popular *Conventiculum Bostoniense* offered each summer by UMass Boston, where participants speak fully in Latin for one week, and the *Prandium Latinum*, a popular event at recent Annual Meetings. The increase in Latin is interesting, at a time when middle schools, high schools and even universities are looking to cut their Latin programs. In recent years CANE members have advocated for the continued study of Latin at such institutions, sometimes successfully. As an organization we must promote the relevance of classical studies, while also encouraging our future teachers, the next wave of scholars who will be responsible for continuing the mission of the Classical Association of New England, as it was adopted at the First Annual Meeting on April 7, 1906: "The objects of the Association shall be to promote the interests of Classical studies and especially (a) to improve Classical teaching in school and in college by free discussion of its scope and methods and (b) to provide opportunities for better acquaintance and cooperation among classical teachers through meetings and discussions." The Annual Meeting in March and the Summer Institute in July are wonderful opportunities to engage in professional development and enjoy time together. However, we should seek additional avenues for discourse and collegiality, whether virtually or in person. During the coming year please let me know of any ideas you may have on how we can best serve the needs of both current and future members, while also keeping in our hearts and minds the toils of our past members, who have given of themselves for more than a century.

Michael Deschenes
President, 2013–2014