



NEWSLETTER

No. 33, Spring 2007

www.cambridgelatin.com

Memorize the NACCP website address, listed above. It will make your life as a *CLC* aficionado even more enjoyable. You can check details on upcoming workshops and download application forms. You can browse through our catalog of teacher resources. If you sign up as a paid member (see the note at right) you can even order at a discount. You can also find an application for the Phinney Gleason Scholarship (see below). And back editions of this newsletter appear in glorious color.

The photo, to the right, of the Arch of Titus and the Colosseum in Rome comes from a small gallery of useful illustrations on the website. And there are links to the Cambridge University Press, and to our listserv yahoo chat site. There isn't much in this newsletter that doesn't pertain to the news and support available on your computer. So join the 21st century and enjoy!



Membership Update

The numbers are up! The NACCP membership now stands at 76 total members with 21 renewals! We hope that you are enjoying the benefits of your membership and will share what you have learned with us and with your friends who might not yet be members. Take a moment to write or e-mail, telling us what else would make your life in the classroom easier. We are here to help in any way we can.

Just to refresh your memory and to inform teachers who are not members, the benefits of NACCP membership include a 10% discount on all items in the Teacher Resource Catalog and access to the "members only" section of the website. Not only will you have secure on-line ordering capabilities from the Resource Center, but you will also receive advance notification of discounted or special items that are offered for sale.

Your membership allows the NACCP to sponsor more projects to enhance the vital work you do with your students to spread the joy of knowing Latin. If you have not yet joined or renewed your membership, why don't you take a moment to download and fill out the form on our website and mail it back with a check for \$25.00 made out to the NACCP at 1083 Independence Blvd. #110, Virginia Beach, VA 23455. Become today a part of the group that is helping to spark a resurgence in Latin studies around North America.

Announcing
the

Phinney-Gleason Memorial Scholarship

For participation in an NACCP Workshop

Application form at
<http://www.cambridgelatin.com>

or contact

Ephy Howard
929 University Avenue
Troy, AL 36081
ephec@troycable.net

Application Deadline:
March 15, 2007

Director's Message

Martha Altieri



Martha (far left) enjoys a workshop session with Ginny Blasi.

I hope that the second half of the school year is going well for all of you and that spring has arrived or is due to arrive soon for those further north. We appreciate your continued interest in Cambridge Latin and the North American Cambridge Classics Project. Please “spread the word” to your colleagues who could benefit from NACCP’s materials and workshops.

Although our membership ranks have doubled since last year, we must continue to gain members to provide more ancillary materials, to conduct additional teacher training and to fund more workshop scholarships. I encourage those who are not yet members to join us and help NACCP achieve its mission in support of the Cambridge Latin community.

NACCP provides resource materials – Teaching Tools, Assessments, Resource Kits, Games and Educational Software – to support you in the classroom. We will not publish the full catalog until the fall. In the interim, you can download from our website a copy of the catalog and an order form. If you have comments regarding the current catalog items, suggestions for new items, or materials you would like to share with us, please contact Richard Popeck, Resource Manager, at <mistermagister@comcast.net>.

We have recently tested e-mail to provide information regarding the spring workshop and also a special discounted item from the resource center. We will continue to use e-mail to those for whom we have addresses, to provide information quickly during the school year. The fall and spring newsletters will continue to be mailed to each of you to ensure that we reach the widest possible population.

The spring weekend workshop will be held in Chicago on Saturday, March 24. It is a great opportunity to meet new colleagues, to gain new teaching ideas and to “recharge your battery” for the remaining months of the school year. There is still time to register!

We plan our newsletters to address topics of interest for you and your colleagues and to provide useful information to support teachers in the classroom. We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

I look forward to seeing you again at ACL in Nashville.

Let the *CLC* be the *CLC*

(Our listserv often features debates on “the Cambridge methodology.” For those who still feel uncomfortable without charts and paradigms, etc., read this “rant” from Fred Dobke, in Racine, Wisconsin, a response to one such debate. Thank you, Fred, for permission to reprint it.)

Back in the early '80s, I was introduced to the *CLC* by the late **Fannie LeMoine** of UW-Madison, who sent me to observe **Belle Goebel** at Edgewater H.S. in Madison, Wisconsin. I was sold.

However, when I actually started to use the text, I began to feel that it needed some ‘corrective’ measures. I had learned Latin in the traditional manner, i.e. memorize the first declension and all the cases and the first conjugation in the present and compose Latin sentences. The *CLC* approach made me feel VERY insecure. I constantly was asking myself, “How can they ignore ‘important’ things like the Ablative?” I found myself creating little ‘charts’ for students to memorize as a ‘supplement’ to the text. Like the ‘torture’ I went through back in the late '50s and early '60s.

Later, I happened to visit again with Belle Goebel and discussed this with her. Actually, I probably sounded rather authoritarian. Her response was direct and to the point:

“Fred, your degrees are in English Literature, right? Your minor was Classics? You have been teaching English for 15+ years and now you have moved to Latin for the last three years. You have been teaching from the *CLC* for only one and a half years. Now you come to me as some sort of expert? Do you seriously think you know more than the authors of this text? Have you even been through the whole course? You haven’t yet reached the middle of Unit 3 and now you tell me you know how this approach should work better than the authors, who have probably spent more time merely thinking about this approach than you have spent teaching it. (My response: “mumble, mumble....”)

“Fred, my advice to you at this point is: Shut up. Follow the book!!! Save all your ‘corrections’ until you are familiar with the ENTIRE picture. Once you see the whole picture, you will not be so presumptuous as to feel the need to rewrite the textbook.”

Humbled (perfect passive participle), I followed her advice as best I could. Wonder of wonders, miracle of miracles!!! The text practically taught itself.

After a few years, I came to truly appreciate the genius behind these stories. Problems from the past vanished. For example, I had had problems with the future tense. With *CLC*, no real problems in recognition. I would get a question like: “Mr. D. this word doesn’t look quite right. What is it? Oh yeah, there is an ‘e’ where it ‘doesn’t belong.’ It must be a future, right?”

The transition from the made-up Latin of the text to real
(continued on page 4)

Where shall we meet?

Latin teachers have a reputation for making the most of workshops, conferences, and any other form of get-together that's available. This may be a reflection of the relative isolation some may suffer as the only defenders of their curriculum area in their schools or perhaps even their districts. It could also simply be that they are superior social beings! Whatever the reason, here are three opportunities to show your stuff!



A typical workshop session

First up is the NACCP weekend workshop in Chicago on Saturday, March 24. Housed in the SpringHill Suites near O'Hare Airport, the day-long conference will instruct participants in the *CLC* reading approach, and will explore how that approach applies to acquisition of grammar and vocabulary and how it helps integrate cultural study into the language curriculum.

The workshop fee of \$275.00 covers not only the various sessions, handouts and other materials but also breakfast, lunch and mid-morning and mid-afternoon refreshments. The hotel is offering special conference rates for those who require overnight accommodation.

The team of leaders for this workshop includes **GINNY BLASI**, **DONNA GERARD**, **JIM PEZZULO**, and **MARLENE WEINER**. They are all experienced and dynamic *CLC* teachers who will send you back to your classrooms with new-found expertise and enthusiasm. And, of course, don't discount the positive influence of your fellow participants!

Details of the workshop and links to the hotel can be found on the NACCP website <www.cambridgelatin.com>. There is also a registration form which you can submit. The deadline for registration is Friday, March 2. We know, with publishing and mailing delays, that may be tight. If in doubt, contact Ginny at <vmblasi@bytheshore.com> to see if there's room for more.

If one day is not enough, how about four? The annual summer workshop this year will be held in Baltimore from July 16 to July 19. The venue will be the Best Western Hotel and Conference Center, close to the Inner Harbor area and housed in the same building as Toby's Dinner Theater.

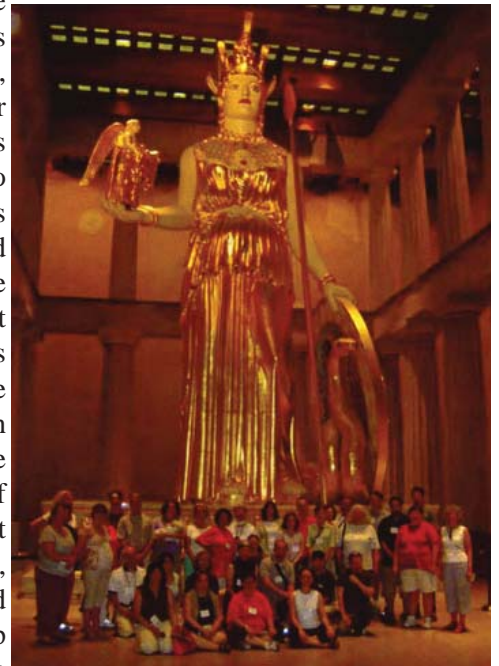
The summer workshop is able to offer a greater variety

of sessions, still concentrating on understanding and adopting the "Cambridge" philosophy, especially for those who have previously taught or been taught by the more traditional grammar-translation approach. There is also greater opportunity for some social outings, to lighten the pedagogical emphasis.

Ginny is still finalizing workshop leaders and the day-to-day schedule. You can check the website for details as they become available, as well as a registration form, once anticipated costs have been assessed. And if your own budget is a factor, consider applying for a Phinney-Gleason Scholarship, to help defray expenses. See the notice on page 1.

Finally, there is the 60th annual American Classical League Institute to be held from Thursday, June 28 to Saturday, June 30 at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. The focus at ACL is, of course, much wider, but there is always a good representation of papers either on *CLC*-related topics or by *CLC* teachers. And the Cambridge University Press always hosts the closing post-banquet reception, with a bilingual sing-along accompanied by your editor, **Stan Farrow**, at the piano.

Nashville will be a reunion of sorts for NACCP types, since the summer workshop was held there just two years ago. ACL has already promised that the Institute will include a visit to Nashville's recreation of the Parthenon, with a photo-op by the huge statue of Athena. To whet your appetite, we've included the NACCP group shot there from



2005. To check on the latest information from the ACL, you can go to their website <www.aclclassics.org>.

So take your pick, broaden your expertise and meet a whole batch of supportive colleagues. And you just might enjoy yourself in the process!

Let the *CLC* be the *CLC*

(continued from page 2)

Latin usually went far more smoothly than ever before. Of course, the text had been preparing us for that by inserting real Latin and gradually moving from the usual made-up to very sophisticated sentences, always in context. (See later chapters of Unit 3 and early Unit 4.)

So my point to those who are new to *CLC*: Just follow the book!!! Let it do its thing! Use the Teacher's Manual as if it were your Bible. Let the *CLC* be the *CLC* for a few years. ONLY THEN, once you see (and finally understand) how it works, add your ideas and supplements. THEN they will be valuable additions for your classes. You will add your teaching expertise and your knowledge of how the text works in a way that is truly helpful for your students.

I apologize in advance for this lengthy rant, as I try to explain how this wonderful text kept me in the Latin classroom and kept my classes interesting AND kept ME interested. If all I could foresee was 25-plus years teaching from the likes of the Jenny-type texts, I would have had to quit or slit my wrists. Because of *CLC*, I can now say with Patrick Henry (and an old ACL poster), "Give me Latin or give me death!"

P.S. A word about the Teacher's Manuals: In 42 years of teaching English literature, writing curriculum and sitting on textbook committees, district curriculum boards, etc., these manuals are head and shoulders above any I have previously had to work with. Many, many thanks to the authors. You know who you are: Stephanie, Stan, Pat, Richard, Anne, and also the many others who influenced you. (Ed?)

Scholarship Fund

In the summer of 1997 the NACCP started a scholarship fund to provide teachers some money to attend an NACCP-sponsored activity. The NACCP is in the process of enlarging the endowment of the Phinney-Gleason Scholarship Fund in order to provide more funding for scholarship recipients to attend the weekend or summer workshops. Since 1984, there has been some annual summer activity sponsored on behalf of the teachers of the *Cambridge Latin Course*. The venues are expanding with a number of weekend events strategically placed around the United States in order to allow the greatest number of teachers to attend who want to learn more about the *Cambridge Latin Course* and the reading approach. Many teachers have written expressing their thanks for these activities.

Since the Fall Newsletter, we have received contributions from **Carlene Craib, Nan Druskin, Raymond Dufort, Kate Gilbert, Melody Hannegan, Cynthia King, Terry Klein, Richard Popeck, Dorothy Rossi, and Melissa Trenton**. The NACCP Board would like to extend its heartiest thanks to these generous donors and would like to offer an invitation to anyone who would care to help in this important work of educating teachers in the reading approach. If you would like to make a difference, please send your tax-deductible contributions, made out to the NACCP, to: NACCP, 1083 Independence Blvd. #110, Virginia Beach, VA 23455.

All of us at the NACCP thank you in advance for your consideration in keeping the educational dreams of **Ed Phinney** and **Bill Gleason** alive.

Help!

In our last newsletter, we passed along a plea from **Pat Bell**, who is editing a series of Activity Masters for each Unit of the *CLC*, to be published by Cambridge University Press. Pat was (and still is) particularly interested in receiving Unit 4 materials. One item she is hoping to use comes from her own rich file of teaching aids: a trio of translations of Martial IV.69. Comparative translations can be the basis of very productive literary appreciation, but there is one translation whose authorship she has not been able to track down. For your own enlightenment, and, we hope, in an effort to locate someone who recognizes the source, here is Martial's original, followed by the English paraphrase:

tu Setina quidem semper vel Massica ponis,
Papyle, sed rumor tam bona vina negat:
diceris hac factus caelebs quater esse lagona.
nec puto nec credo, Papyle, nec sitio.

*You've buried four rich wives, and they say
The excellent wine you serve every day
Had something to do with the slaughter.
What silly talk! It makes me laugh!
You've pure vintage wine in the carafe -
No, thank you. I believe I'll have water.*

If you can assist Pat in attributing this translation, please contact her at <patriciabell@sympatico.ca>.

As we go to press, we are awaiting word from Cambridge University Press on publication dates for Pat's series, as well as for *fabulae ancillantes*, the collections of supplementary Latin stories by **Stan Farrow**. The stories for Units 1 and 2 (one booklet) should be available by summer and the Activity Masters for the same two Units by the fall. The rest should be on hand by next year.