

CSPS/ACÉP Bulletin, vol. 23, no. 2 (November 1999)

MESSAGE DU PRESIDENT / FROM THE PRESIDENT

When I accepted my nomination to the presidency, I was aware that this one-year term (1999-2000) is somewhat exceptional, for it encompasses two events which do not occur annually: (1) The International Conference on Patristic Studies, which took place in Oxford this past August, as it does every four years. Here the main task, from the society's standpoint, was the organization of a reception for our members. But the conference also afforded a chance to meet with executive members of the North American Patristic Society. More on this below. (2) The second infrequent factor is that it is our society's turn to host a joint lecture and reception at the Learned Societies Congress next May in Edmonton. As you may be aware, the formula worked out between CSBS, CSSR, CTS, and CSPS stipulates that CSBS offers **the Craigie Lecture** every two years, and in intervening years each of the other societies hosts the lecture and reception offered to members on them all. In 2000 the responsibility is ours, and I am proud to say that one of our own, **Harold Remus**, has kindly accepted our invitation to present the lecture entitled "**Things': A Case Study in Late Antiquity.**"

La reunion automnale de l'executif

Le bureau executif a tenu sa conférence téléphonique d'automne le 20 octobre dernier. En deux heures, les membres de l'exécutif ont traité plusieurs sujets, dont surtout notre participation au prochain Congrès des Sociétés savantes. Grace à la suggestion de Michel Desjardins, Francis Landy (Dept. of Comparative Studies, Université d'Alberta) a bien accepté d'être notre coordonnateur local. Suivant la proposition de Patrick Gray, nous discuterons avec James B. Rives son livre sur *Religion and Authority in Roman Carthage*. (M. Rives a confirmé sa participation, mais au moment où j'écris ce message, les personnes qui lui répondront n'ont pas encore été nommés.) Aussi laissons-nous une place dans notre programme pour ceux et celles qui veulent participer à la discussion organisée par la CSBS sur le thème suivant: *Rhetoric and Early Christian Discourse / La rhétorique et le discours dans le christianisme ancien*.

CSPS/ACEP and NAPS

During the Oxford conference I hoped to arrange a meeting between Joe Lienhard, president of the North American Patristic Society (NAPS), Ken Steinhauser, NAPS program convenor, Peter Widdicombe, our president-in-waiting, and myself. Though I spoke there with all three, the hoped-for meeting was impossible to arrange. But we have remained in touch, with the aim of seeking closer, but still informal, ties between the two societies. With the executive's approval, I will propose to the general assembly at the 2000 Learned that CSPS/ACEP agree in principle to meet jointly with NAPS in Chicago every four years, and that in other years both societies attempt to avoid scheduling conflicts which prevent members who wish to from attending the meetings of both. (In 2000, for instance, our meetings and those of NAPS will occur on precisely the same dates, which forces those who belong to both societies to choose between them.) Joe Lienhard will make a similar proposal to NAPS members.

La Fédération des sciences humaines et sociales

Sans vouloir couper l'herbe sous le pied à Theo de Bruyn, notre représentant auprès de la FCSHS, je signale tout simplement que Theo et moi avons assisté aux réunions de l'assemblée générale de la Fede tenues les 20

et 21 novembre dernier. Theo presentera son propre rapport à cet effet.

J. Kevin Coyle, St. Paul University

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For an up-to-date Membership Directory/ Annuaire de membres please check our Society's homepage www2.ccsr.ca/csps. Please send the Editor any address corrections or new homepages.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

A new encyclopedia is out: Allan D. Fitzgerald (general editor), *Augustine Through the Ages: An Encyclopedia* (Grand Rapids, MI/Cambridge: William B. Eerdmans, 1999). It includes contributions by some of our members such as: **Pamela Bright, Kevin Coyle, Robert Crouse, Leo Ferrari, Wayne Hankey, Robert Kennedy, Joanne McWilliam, Paul Rigby, and Mark Vessey.**

J. KEVIN COYLE published "Early Monks, Prayer, and the Devil" in *Prayer and Spirituality in the Early Church*, vol. 1 (Everton Park, Queensland: Centre for Early Christian Studies, 1998), pp. 229-249, as well as "What Was 'Prayer' for Early Christians?" in *Prayer and Spirituality in the Early Church*, vol. 2 (Brisbane: Centre for Early Christian Studies, 1999), pp. 25-41. Both volumes were edited by Pauline Allen, Raymond Canning and Lawrence Cross.

MICHEL DESJARDINS published "Retrofitting Gnosticism: Philip K. Dick and Christian Origins," in *Violence, Utopia and the Kingdom of God*, ed. Tina Pippin and George Aichele (London: Routledge, 1998), 122-33. He also presented "The Demiurge's Families: Reconstructing Families from Early Christian Gnostic Texts," at the Society of Biblical Literature International Meeting, Helsinki, July 20, 1999.

RÉMI GOUNELLE's Ph.D. thesis is about to be published by the Institut d'Etudes Augustiniennes (Collection des Etudes Augustiniennes, Serie Antiquité), under the title *La descente du Christ aux enfers. Institutionnalisation d'une croyance.*

LUCIAN TURCESCU has accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Catholic Studies Program at St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

GÉRARD VALLÉE published *The Shaping of Christianity. The History and Literature of its Formative Centuries [100-800]* (Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press 1999).

From **PETER RICHARDSON**

Dear colleagues,

In July-August 2000 I propose to conduct a four-week tour of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Israel. It will have two main parts: about two weeks touring in the four countries and two weeks as volunteers on the archaeological excavations at Cana in the Galilee. [There is an additional part-for those who are members or invited guests of the SNTS, the tour is timed to coincide with the annual meeting in Tel Aviv; others on the tour will spend those four days in Jerusalem.] Eligible students may enroll in an independent studies course for a U of Toronto credit at either the graduate or undergraduate level. The group will be deliberately kept small, so that we will move about in small buses or even vans. Some days may be fairly rigorous, but the tour is designed so that persons wishing to have a somewhat more relaxed time can do so; whenever possible, we will stay more than one night in the same location.

The combination of sightseeing and archaeology makes this opportunity distinctive. Intensive visits to the region's sites from the period 200 BCE to 500 CE emphasize the varied cultures living in the region (Greeks, Romans, Phoenicians, Itureans, Syrians, Arabs, Palmyrenes, Nabateans, Idumeans, Jews, Samaritans). Included are such sites as Beirut, Tyre, Sidon, Baalbek, Damascus, Apamea, Palmyra, St Simeon, Qanawat, Bosra, Jerash, Araq al-Emir, Petra, Aqaba, Oboda, Nessana, and Jerusalem. Alongside the exposure to the geography, cultures and sites, there is a two-week introduction to the science of archaeological excavation at one of the most technically sophisticated digs anywhere in the region. Cana is a Biblical site (see John 2; in 1999 the pilgrimage cave was excavated where Byzantine monks displayed a portrayal of Jesus' miracle) on the Beth Netofa Valley just north of Sepphoris and Nazareth, and two kilometers from Yodefat. Much of its interest derives from those associations, though the site had a long occupation from the Neolithic to the early Arab period; the highpoints are the early Roman period (1st century BCE-1st century CE) and the early Byzantine period (4-5th centuries CE). The latter period is represented by a large monastic structure, 50 meters by 70 meters.

Preference will be given in the allocation of places to those participating for the whole four weeks; if there are still spaces available, it may be possible for some to join only the first two-week touring portion. (Persons who wish to join the dig only should contact Douglas Edwards.) The cost is presently being calculated, but you can assume that it will be in the same range as other similar tours. Accommodations will be mostly in the mid-range; we expect to fly with Lufthansa. A more detailed itinerary, is on my webpage. If you have students or friends who might be interested in this opportunity, please feel free to tell them and have them contact me at prchrdsn@chass.utoronto.ca There is some information on my website at <http://www.chass.utoronto.ca:8080/~prchrdsn>

There is information on the Khirbet Cana excavations at <http://www.nexfind.com/>

Cordially,

Peter Richardson

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The **SCOTTISH JOURNAL OF THEOLOGY** invites submissions from patristic scholars. Articles must be submitted on disk as well as in hardcopy. One copy of a proposed article should be submitted in hardcopy with an accompanying disk to:

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For more information, visit the journal's website at: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/~div054/sjt>

MEMBER DIRECTORY PLANNED FOR 2000

At the Annual General Meeting in 1999 it was decided that our society publish a new member directory in 2000. To update our records, we kindly ask our members to send us information on their institutional affiliation, current address (including telephone, fax numbers, e-mail address, personal homepages), and research interests by **March 1, 2000.**