

## CLASSICS AT NEWCASTLE: AN INSIDER'S PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE\*

— A.J. WOODMAN —

### ABSTRACT

*Life in the Department of Classics at Newcastle University in the 1960s and 1970s as experienced by an undergraduate who became a member of staff.*

### KEYWORDS

*Newcastle University, Department of Classics, 1960s/1970s, A.J. Woodman*

Latin and Greek have been taught at this institution for the past one hundred and fifty years. For fifteen of those years my life intersected with that teaching, since I was an undergraduate here from 1962 to 1965 and, after three years as a research student in Cambridge, a member of staff from 1968 to 1980, a double experience which, as far as I know, is unique. When I started as an undergraduate in the autumn term of 1962, I was seventeen years old and the Beatles had just released their first single. The Department of Classics which I entered was situated at the head of the Quadrangle on the second floor of the Percy Building, which had been opened only four years previously in 1958 (fig. 1).<sup>1</sup> At that time the Department was part of King's College, a constituent element of the University of Durham; but in terms of curriculum and teaching any association between the Departments of Classics at Newcastle and Durham was largely nominal: when Newcastle achieved university status in 1963, the only difference which current students noticed was that, if we

\* This paper originated in a talk delivered in February 2024 to mark the 150th anniversary of the teaching of Greek and Latin at what became Newcastle University; I have not sought to eliminate elements of the oral delivery. I am most grateful to the Department of Classics for the opportunity to reminisce, to P.V. Jones and J.J. Paterson for kindly reading an initial draft, to Sharon McTeer for help in tracking down documents, and to F. Santangelo for the suggestion that the paper might be published.

<sup>1</sup> The building was opened on 10 October by the Shakespearean scholar J. Dover Wilson. The substantial pamphlet marking the occasion (27 pp., excl. illustrations) includes brief histories of the Departments comprising the Faculties of Arts, Law and Economic Studies. The entrance to the building incorporates a rotunda, the outside of which was designed to form the backdrop to an open-air theatre, but I never saw it used for that purpose. Perhaps the North East weather was a consideration.

so preferred, we could now graduate with a Newcastle rather than a Durham degree.<sup>2</sup>



Fig. 1. Percy Building

Although I did not know it in 1962, Classics at Newcastle had been taught by some extremely distinguished scholars. I do not wish to repeat information which is available elsewhere, but I shall give two or three examples. J. Wight Duff (1866–1944), whose portrait can be seen in the foyer to the Percy Building, taught at Newcastle for forty years until his retirement in 1933; initially his title was Professor of Literature and Classics, but in 1898 a separate Chair of English Language and Literature was established and Duff became simply Professor of Classics. As it happens, I have in my files a Greek exam paper from that year, a two-page document written in ink in Duff's own careful hand (figs 2a and 2b).<sup>3</sup> The exam is dated Friday, December 16, 1898, and was due to be taken between the hours of 10 and 12 that morning. The paper is entitled 'Euripides: *Alcestis*' and comprises four passages for translation into

<sup>2</sup> In due course the transition to university status was marked by an illustrated booklet by the Registrar of the University, E.M. Bettenson: *The University of Newcastle upon Tyne: A Historical Introduction 1834–1971* (1971). Towards the end of the next decade he published a supplement: *The University of Newcastle upon Tyne: After 1970 — A Selective View* (1987).

<sup>3</sup> I was given the paper by Professor G.B.A. Fletcher.

English, followed by numerous questions on linguistic forms, grammar, and subject matter. The candidates were then asked to write a short essay embracing Euripides' life, tragedy at Athens, and Satyric drama; and, as if all this were not enough, the last question consisted of three English sentences, one of them taken from *Alice in Wonderland*, which had to be translated into Greek and were designed to test imperative forms, conditional clauses and indirect statement, amongst other delights.

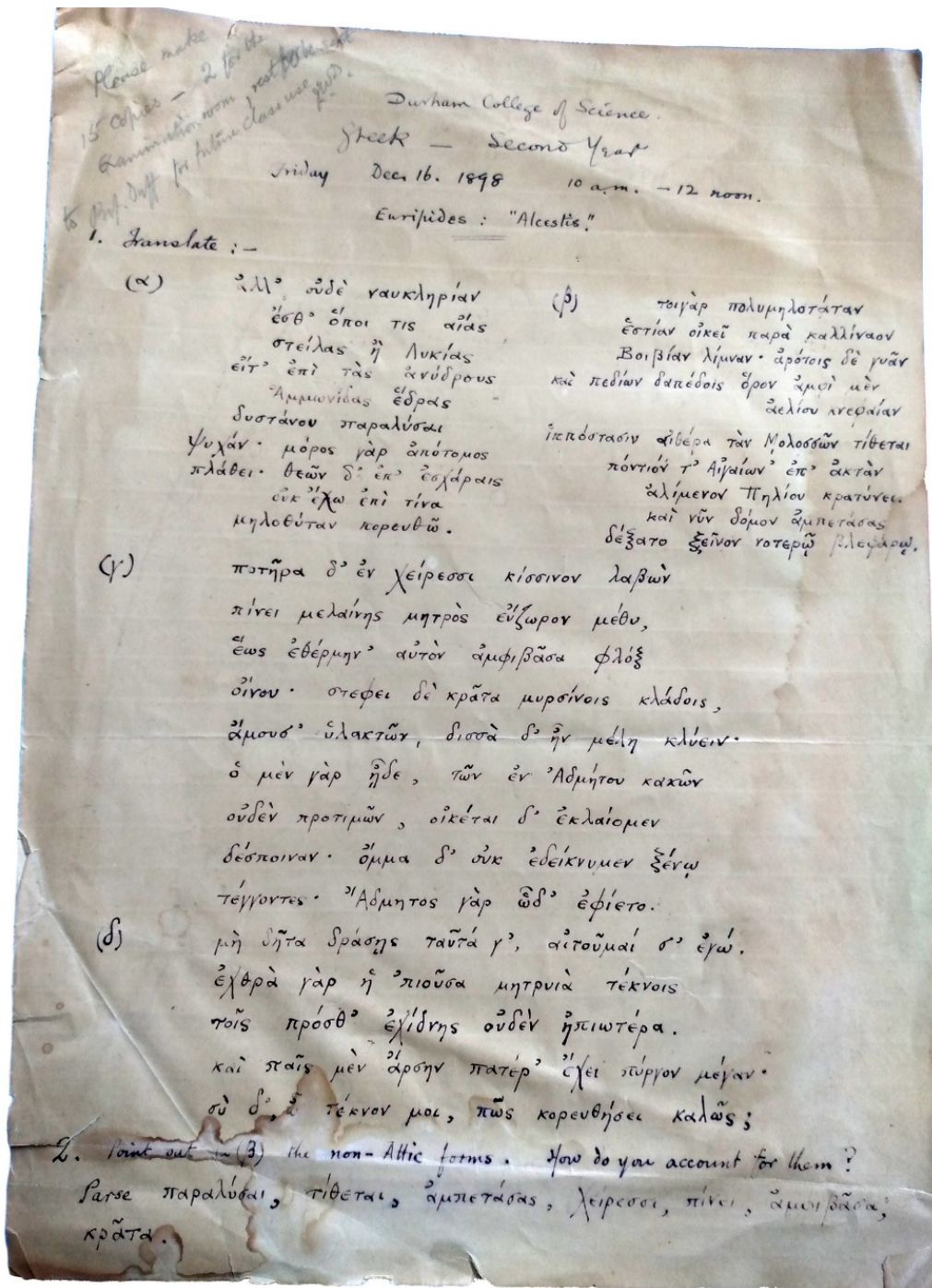


Fig. 2a



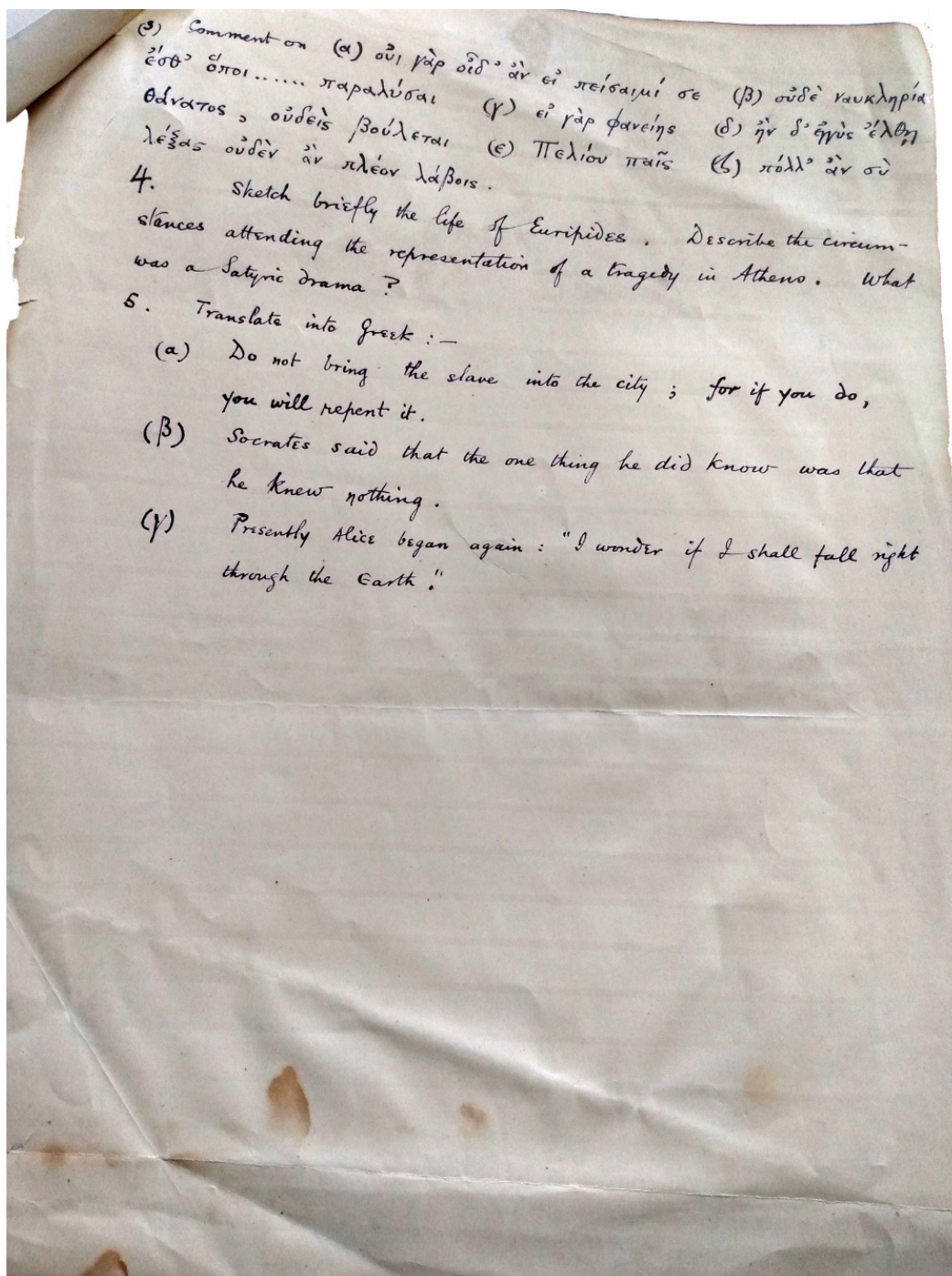


Fig. 2b

It seems to me it would have to be an extremely competent student who could accomplish all that within two hours. At the top of the document there is a pencilled note for a secretary: 'Please make 15 copies — 2 for the examination room, rest to be sent to Prof. Duff for future class use.'

When Wight Duff retired in 1933, he was invited to deliver the Sather Lectures in California for the academic year 1935–6. This distinction was no doubt recognition for the two-volume history of Latin literature which he published between 1909 and 1927 and is the work for which he is principally known.<sup>4</sup> Wight Duff's chief recreation was book-buying, and one of his many services to the Department of Classics was the bequest of an extensive collection of German dissertations and other pamphlets which he had assembled. In 1977 my wife, a former student of the Department, produced a catalogue of the collection and it stretched to over 170 pages.<sup>5</sup>



Prof. J. Wight Duff

In 1931 Wight Duff appointed to a lectureship Eric Birley (1906–95), who two years previously had bought the land on which Vindolanda lies

<sup>4</sup> *A Literary History of Rome from the Origins to the Close of the Golden Age* (1909); *A Literary History of Rome in the Silver Age* (1927).

<sup>5</sup> Dorothy Monk, *Pamphlets on Classical Subjects* (1977), accessible at [https://www.hcsjournal.org/ojs/index.php/hcs/article/view/106/Pamphlets\\_on\\_Classical\\_Subjects\\_1977](https://www.hcsjournal.org/ojs/index.php/hcs/article/view/106/Pamphlets_on_Classical_Subjects_1977)

and lived in a house on the site.<sup>6</sup> It was there that his two sons were brought up:<sup>7</sup> Robin, who made the archaeological development of the site his life's work, and Tony, who was so well known to some of us here and who treasured the Visiting Professorships which he was awarded both at Newcastle and at Durham. Their father, one of the very few whose help and advice was acknowledged by Sir Ronald Syme in the Preface to his *Tacitus*,<sup>8</sup> is touchingly commemorated in the Museum at Vindolanda, where his study has been recreated; eagle-eyed visitors to the Museum will notice there the Legion of Merit awarded him by the President of the United States in 1947 for his outstanding contribution to military intelligence during the Second World War.<sup>9</sup> Eric Birley moved to Durham in 1935 and was replaced at Newcastle by I.A. Richmond (1902–65), who remained at King's for twenty-one years until his elevation to the Chair of the Archaeology of the Roman Empire at Oxford, of which he was the first holder. Although Richmond produced many archaeological monographs, he is best known to classicists as the co-author (with R.M. Ogilvie) of a commentary on Tacitus' *Agricola*, which was published in 1967 and remained the standard work for almost half a century.<sup>10</sup> Ogilvie was obliged to bring out the commentary on his own, since Richmond had died in 1965, a year after he was knighted by the Queen. Like Birley and Wight Duff, Richmond was a significant scholarly figure.

When I entered the Department of Classics in 1962, I was one of a cohort of almost twenty undergraduates; despite the interval of more than six decades, I can remember the names and faces of many of them. My fellow undergraduates consisted of two groups: some, like me, had done both Greek and Latin at A-level and were studying for a degree in Classics; others had only Latin A-level and were studying for a degree in Latin; but Latin could not be studied without Greek as a subsidiary subject, and this latter group could, if they wished, take a separate BA in Greek in one year after they had graduated in Latin. This system lasted into the 70s, when my wife was one of those who ended up with separate degrees in both Greek and Latin.

Those of us who were Classics undergraduates were required each week to do prose composition and unseen translation in both languages;

<sup>6</sup> For an informative biographical profile see B. Dobson, 'Eric Barff Birley (1906–1995)', *PBA* 97 (1998) 215–32.

<sup>7</sup> Some details in A. Birley, *Garrison Life at Vindolanda: A Band of Brothers* (2002) 18–22.

<sup>8</sup> R. Syme, *Tacitus* (1958) vi.

<sup>9</sup> See e.g. R.M. Slusser, 'An American at Bletchley Park', in F.H. Hinsley and A. Stripp (edd.), *Code Breakers* (1993) 74–5.

<sup>10</sup> R.M. Ogilvie and I. Richmond, *Cornelii Taciti De Vita Agricolae* (1967).

in those days it was taken for granted that all members of staff, regardless of their specialism, were proficient in Latin and Greek, and one of my Greek unseen classes was taken by a Greek archaeologist and one of my Latin unseen classes by a Roman archaeologist. Entire mornings were set aside for the return of our Greek and Latin proses, almost always on an individual basis. I was fortunate enough to be taught Latin composition by some excellent teachers: W.G. Arnott (whose own versions were pure brilliance);<sup>11</sup> Charles Garton, who had worked in intelligence during the war and subsequently emigrated to the States, where he co-founded the fashionable periodical *Arethusa*, of which he was the first Editor-in-Chief;<sup>12</sup> and B.J. Sims, who had also worked in intelligence and whose principal interests were linguistic.<sup>13</sup> In my final year I learned Latin prose from G.C. Whittick, who had already been in post for over forty years and whose publications on Roman lead-mining<sup>14</sup> alternated with short notes on passages of Greek and Latin texts: some of them were on Tacitus:<sup>15</sup> Whittick taught Book 1 of the *Annals* to second-year students, although the only thing I remember him telling us was the fact that N.P. Miller's edition, which had recently been published, contained a map on which the scale was incorrect.

Verse composition in both languages was offered as an optional extra, and in my second year I approached the Head of Department, Professor G.B.A. Fletcher (1903–95), to ask whether I might start verse composition in Latin. He assured me that composing Greek verse was easier than Latin and that I should consider taking both options; but, before he could make the necessary arrangements, he was taken seriously ill and was absent from the Department for several months. My Latin verse composition nevertheless went ahead as intended, overseen by Bernard Sims, who was one of those enviable individuals to whom verse composition came naturally.

<sup>11</sup> Author of *Menander, Plautus, Terence* (1975); *Menander* (Loeb, 3 vols, 1979–2000); *Alexis: The Fragments* (1996); *Birds in the Ancient World from A to Z* (2007).

<sup>12</sup> Author of *Personal Aspects of the Roman Theatre* (1972) and *The Metrical Life of St Hugh of Lincoln* (1986); he wrote a substantial review of Dodds' *Bacchae* in *Durham University Journal* 23 (1962) 13–20.

<sup>13</sup> See his 'Final Clauses in Lucian', *CQ* 46 (1952) 63–73.

<sup>14</sup> E.g. 'Notes on some Romano-British pigs of lead', *JRS* 21 (1931) 256–64; 'The casting technique of Romano-British lead ingots', *JRS* 51 (1961) 105–11; 'The earliest Roman lead mining on Mendip and in North Wales. A reappraisal', *Britannia* 13 (1982) 113–23.

<sup>15</sup> E.g. 'Tacitus, *Annals* I, 35', *CR* 4 (1954) 11; 'Aufidienus Rufus, *castris praefectus* (Tacitus, *Annals* I, 20)', *ibid.* 209–10.





Prof. G.B.A. Fletcher

All Classics students had to take a course in Greek philosophy in the first year. For this we went to the Philosophy Department for lectures by Colin Strang (1922–2014).<sup>16</sup> He was the son of a baron, though you would never have thought it: he always wore plimsolls, as if he couldn't afford proper shoes, and an open-necked shirt (which was very unusual in those days); in class he would lounge against the front of his desk and chain-smoke cigarillos while chatting incomprehensibly about the Presocratics.

Greek and Roman history was studied for the first two years and then dropped. We were taught history by John F. Lazenby (1934–2024), who, like Geoffrey Arnott, was an excellent lecturer. Though his first book would be on the Homeric catalogue of ships, his next five established his reputation as one of the leading military historians of Greece and Rome.<sup>17</sup> Some time after I had graduated, I learned that he had married one of the girls in my year! Greek history was also taught by B.B. Shefton (1919–

<sup>16</sup> See e.g. 'Aristotle and the sea battle', *Mind* 69 (1960) 447–65; 'The physical theory of Anaxagoras', *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* 45 (1963) 101–18; 'Plato's analogy of the cave', *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy* 4 (1986) 19–34.

<sup>17</sup> *The Catalogue of the Ships in Homer's Iliad* (with R. Hope Simpson, 1970); *Hannibal's War: A Military History of the Second Punic War* (1978); *The Spartan Army* (1985); *The Defence of Greece 490–479 BC* (1993); *The First Punic War: A Military History* (1996); *The Peloponnesian War: A Military Study* (2004).



2012),<sup>18</sup> a refugee from Nazi Germany, who, in order to take up his appointment in 1955, had ridden up to Newcastle from Exeter — a distance of 369 miles — on a motor-bike, an incongruous mode of travel for so large and shambling a figure. Within a year of his arrival Shefton had persuaded the college's Rector to donate £25 towards the foundation of a Greek museum. In my day as a student the museum was housed in a small, unused departmental office in the Percy Building, but it rapidly outgrew its quarters;<sup>19</sup> on Shefton's retirement in 1984 the museum was named after him, and, when the collection was transferred to the Great North Museum in 2008, it held eight hundred items. Whether the provenance of every item has been established I do not know; I am sure that the stories of Shefton negotiating the borders of Albania (then a closed communist dictatorship) on a donkey, Greek artefacts secreted about his person and luggage, are all false. Like Arnott, he would be elected a Fellow of the British Academy, and in 1999 he was awarded its Kenyon Medal, of which previous recipients had included Fraenkel and Syme; a later recipient was Joyce Reynolds, who had taught in the Department between 1948 and 1951 before she moved to Cambridge.<sup>20</sup>

Apart from prose composition and unseen translation, our degree programme consisted mostly of lectures on Greek and Latin set books, with the emphasis usually on textual criticism: literary comment was virtually unknown. Staff and students alike wore gowns to lectures, and, if students were addressed by staff, they would be called 'Mr' or 'Miss'. Yet such address was very rare outside the physical confines of the Department. One would not expect to be greeted with 'Good morning' if one passed a member of staff in the street; Fletcher walked with his eyes firmly averted from passers-by. The general standard of lecturing was poor, though no worse, I suspect, than in most other places. Little attempt was made to communicate with the audience or to clarify for mystified students how the names of Peerlkamp or Bücheler should be spelled. Fletcher, for example, would walk into the lecture room, place his notes on the lectern, and read from them for an hour, never raising his eyes to the students assembled in front of him. He would then walk out again. On one occasion the Department was visited by Richmond Lattimore, the distinguished American translator, who offered to give a seminar. Some students were hastily assembled so that the great man would have an

<sup>18</sup> Author of *Die Rhodischen Bronzekannen* (1979), among numerous other contributions.

<sup>19</sup> See e.g. B.B. Shefton, 'The Greek Museum, The University of Newcastle upon Tyne', *Archaeological Reports* (1969–70) 52–62.

<sup>20</sup> Author of e.g. *Aphrodisias and Rome* (1982).

audience; but, since we were quite unused to discussion or participation, almost no one had anything to say. One exception, as I remember it, was Tony Barrett, who came from Wallsend and would graduate with Firsts in Latin and Greek in successive years before going off to North America for postgraduate work on the Appendix Vergiliana. Subsequently he became a professor at the University of British Columbia and published numerous books on the early Roman empire.<sup>21</sup> An exact contemporary of his was Akbar Khan, who likewise achieved two Firsts and then completed a Masters degree on Catullus at the University of Manchester, after which he was appointed to a lectureship at Nottingham, where he published many articles on classical poets, particularly Catullus and Virgil.<sup>22</sup> In the 1970s my friend David Bain, who moved from a temporary lectureship at Newcastle to a permanent position at Manchester, noticed a strange link between the university libraries at both Newcastle and Manchester: someone who had been at each university had used a razor blade to excise articles on Catullus from various periodicals, these being the days before the existence of photocopying machines.

On occasion the staff at Newcastle met their students informally. Geoffrey Arnott and Charles Garton would invite groups of students to their homes to meet their families, and Harri Hudson-Williams (1911–98), the Professor of Greek, made a point of entertaining final-year students in his delightful garden in Stocksfield in the summer term. One day, baffled by Greek metrics, some of us asked for an extra class on the subject from Laetitia Parker, who taught in the Department for several years before taking up a Fellowship at St Hugh's College in Oxford in 1967. Dr Parker, who was reputed to be Persian by origin and was always strikingly accoutred, agreed to our request, whereupon it immediately became clear to her astonished audience that she knew most of Greek verse literature by heart, writing on the board or reciting without ever once referring to a text. Among other things she taught us Aristophanes and Theocritus; thirty years after leaving Newcastle she published *The Songs of Aristophanes* (1997), followed ten years later by the first of her commentaries on Euripides.<sup>23</sup> In 2016 I published a short note on a poem

<sup>21</sup> Author of *Caligula: The Corruption of Power* (1989); *Agrippina: Sex, Power and Politics in the Early Empire* (1996); *Livia: First Lady of Imperial Rome* (2002); *Rome Is Burning* (2020); *The Emperor Caligula in the Ancient Sources* (with J.C. Yardley, 2023).

<sup>22</sup> His first article on Catullus ('Color Romanus in Catullus 51', *Latomus* 25 (1966) 448–60) was published on the same poem and in the same issue of the same periodical as my first article. I take this to be a tribute to the teaching of Charles Garton.

<sup>23</sup> *Euripides: Alcestis* (2007); *Euripides: Iphigenia in Tauris* (2015).

of Julius Caesar which I had first encountered in one of her Latin unseen classes;<sup>24</sup> it had taken me half a century to come to understand it.

In the 1960s Classics degrees were awarded on the basis of sixteen examination papers distributed over two years: six papers at the end of one's second year and ten at the end of one's third year. Set books were examined largely by means of gobbets, each of them accompanied by a minimal apparatus criticus — I say 'minimal' because the apparatus would fail to display many of the proposed emendations and transmitted manuscript variants, which we were simply expected to carry in our heads. One of the final-year exam papers would be devoted to a special subject of one's own choice, taken from a list of twenty-four options ranging from Minoan and Mycenaean civilisation via Latin textual criticism to Roman religion or Roman law. One of the options was 'A Latin essay or thesis on a theme approved by the Head of Department': no one in living memory had ever chosen this option until I expressed an interest in doing so, but I was advised against it by my tutor, Dr Arnott, on the grounds that prepared work, even if written in Latin, might be graded more severely than a regular three-hour examination. So, along with a friend whom I knew from school, I chose instead to study the reigns of Nerva, Trajan and Hadrian under R.M. Harrison, who joined the Department as a lecturer when I was in my second year.<sup>25</sup> And, since I was doing Latin verse composition as part of my finals in the summer of 1965, I had an extra exam paper to take, in which I had the choice of translating Thomas Carew into elegiacs or William Morris into hexameters in three hours. Dictionaries and other aids were of course not permitted.

During my three years as a research student at Cambridge, several changes took place in the Department of Classics at Newcastle. For one thing, it now boasted its own student football team: in my undergraduate days I had been obliged to play for the History Department, but now there was the 'Percy Building All Stars' playing at Close House each Wednesday afternoon; and there was also five-a-side in the gym up Claremont Road early on a Friday evening. There had been changes of staff too. Whittick on his retirement in 1965 was replaced by Trevor Saunders from Hull, that unlikely repository of classical talent;<sup>26</sup> Fletcher, who took a dim view

<sup>24</sup> 'A Caesarian Analogy', CQ 66 (2016) 400–2.

<sup>25</sup> Author of *A Temple for Byzantium: the Discovery and Excavation of Anicia Juliana's Palace-Church in Istanbul* (1989); *Mountain and Plain: from the Lycian Coast to the Phrygian Plateau in the Late Roman and Early Byzantine Period* (2001, posthumous).

<sup>26</sup> There is a brilliant and hilarious account in N. Rudd, *It Seems Like Yesterday* (2003).

of Greek philosophers, seems nevertheless to have reckoned that on this occasion the loss of a Latin teacher would be compensated by the advantages offered by a Platonist:<sup>27</sup> Classics students would no longer be farmed out to a different department and would be taught by someone who understood their needs. But this left Fletcher with a problem when Charles Garton emigrated to the States in the following year. Clearly he needed to appoint a Latinist, but no suitable candidate was available: he therefore hired James Longrigg from New Zealand, who, although also a Greek philosopher,<sup>28</sup> was the outstanding applicant for the job. The same problem recurred in 1967, when Laetitia Parker left to take up her Fellowship in Oxford. On this occasion Fletcher made only a temporary appointment, and I like to think that this was because he knew that my time in Cambridge was coming to an end and that I would be on the market the following year. Only two Classics jobs were advertised in Britain in 1968: an assistant lectureship in Bristol, to which Christopher Rowe was appointed, and a full lectureship in Newcastle, which I was fortunate to be offered, at a starting salary of £1,470 a year. After I had accepted the offer, I received from Fletcher a letter about my teaching commitments for the following year: he listed six set books and very kindly asked me to put them in order of preference, which I did. It was typical of Fletcher that he then allocated me the four which I most preferred. I was also assigned prose and unseen classes in Greek and Latin, and in due course I inherited Tacitus in English translation. This last item may seem unusual for the time, but the Department of Classics had always offered Greek and Roman Civilisation as a component of the old General Degree, which was now being upgraded into the so-called General Degree with Honours; later it became known as Combined Honours.

The first ritual which I was to experience on taking up my new appointment was the weekly departmental meeting, which Fletcher held in his office at 11.15 each Wednesday morning. With the exception of John Gillam,<sup>29</sup> to whom as a Roman archaeologist the proceedings were deemed by mutual consent to be irrelevant, all Fletcher's colleagues would sit on chairs against the walls of his office, while the secretary served them coffee from a trolley. When she had withdrawn, the week's

<sup>27</sup> T.J. Saunders was author of *Plato: The Laws* (1970); *Notes on The Laws of Plato* (1971); *Bibliography on Plato's Laws* (1976, rev. 1979, 2000); *Plato's Penal Code* (1991); *Aristotle: Politics Books I and II* (1995).

<sup>28</sup> Author of *Greek Rational Medicine* (1993); *Greek Medicine* (1998).

<sup>29</sup> Author of *The Temple of Mithras at Carrawburgh* (with I.A. Richmond, 1951); *Second Report on Roman Buildings at Old Durham* (with R.P. Wright, 1951); *Types of Roman Coarse Pottery Vessels in Northern Britain* (1968).



business would be discussed, and indeed discussions would be held even when there was no business: at one meeting we spent most of the time discussing the different ways of getting to Dublin.

Fletcher retired the year after appointing me: he had been in post for thirty-two years and had probably done more than any of his predecessors to promote the well-being of the Department. During the war, for example, he was compelled to find a replacement for H.D. Westlake (1906–92), the Greek historian and future Thucydidean expert,<sup>30</sup> who had arrived in Newcastle the same year as Fletcher but then departed on war work. It is noteworthy that Fletcher chose to replace him with Victor Ehrenberg (1891–1976), a Jewish refugee;<sup>31</sup> Ehrenberg, his wife Eva and their two sons had escaped from Nazi Germany early in 1939 and had been living more or less hand-to-mouth: the episode has been described in heart-rending detail by Frau Ehrenberg herself in a typed document written in English, a copy of which I have in my files.<sup>32</sup> One of their sons, G.R. Elton, uncle of the comedian Ben Elton, in due course became Regius Professor of Modern History at Cambridge.<sup>33</sup> Ehrenberg shared an office in Newcastle with R.H. Martin, the future Tacitean scholar,<sup>34</sup> and Fletcher himself. Fletcher's preternatural shyness meant that silence reigned: he regarded 'Good Morning' as an intrusion upon his personal privacy and would speak only to issue an order as Head of Department.

In addition to the first-rate scholars whom he had appointed during his career, Fletcher had ensured that the Classics holdings in the university library in Newcastle were second to none: the Virgil collection impressed even so critical a bibliographer as Nicholas Horsfall, when he

<sup>30</sup> Author of *Thessaly in the Fourth Century BC* (1935); *Individuals in Thucydides* (1968); *Essays on Greek Historians and Greek History* (1969); *Studies in Thucydides and Greek History* (1989).

<sup>31</sup> Author of *The People of Aristophanes* (1943); *Aspects of the Ancient World* (1946); *Documents Illustrating the Reigns of Augustus and Tiberius* (with A.H.M. Jones, 1949, rev. 1955); *From Solon to Socrates* (1968).

<sup>32</sup> I owe this copy to the late Professor H.B. Mattingly and his wife. On this phase of Ehrenberg's life see K. Brodersen, "'To write history and to live history are two very different things": Victor Ehrenberg in Newcastle upon Tyne 1941–45', in id. (ed.), *Die Antike außerhalb des Hörsaals*, Münster 2003, 165–8 (= id., *Classics outside Classics*, Heidelberg 2015, ch. 12).

<sup>33</sup> Elton's first degree had been in ancient history (see his 'The terminal date of Caesar's Gallic proconsulate', *JRS* 36 (1946) 18–42). The singer and actress Olivia Newton-John was a member of the same family.

<sup>34</sup> Author of *Terence: Phormio* (1959); *Terence: Adelphoe* (1976); *Tacitus* (1981, rev. 1994); *The Epitoma Margarite Castigate Eloquentie of Laurentius Gulielmus Traversagni de Saona* (1985); *Tacitus: Annals IV* (with A.J. Woodman, 1989); *Tacitus: Annals III* (with A.J. Woodman, 1996); *Tacitus: Annals V & VI* (2001).

visited the Department in the 1970s. That Fletcher had been Chairman of the Library Committee for many years was no doubt a coincidence; but, after I had pointed out to him that we did not possess the *Archiv für lateinische Lexikographie*, he immediately donated his own set, saying that the library would in any case inherit his own books on his death.<sup>35</sup>

As I was to discover after his retirement, Fletcher lived in a large house in Gosforth with his mother and his mother's housekeeper, whose name was Eva Shaw and who referred to Fletcher in public as 'master'; in private, as befitted someone who lived in the same house as him for more than fifty years, she called him 'Geoffrey', one of only two persons to do so: the other was Sir Frank Adcock, Professor of Ancient History at Cambridge, with whom Fletcher, a fellow Kingsman, would tour the Continent admiring baroque churches. Fletcher's house needed to be large because it had to accommodate not only its three very private occupants but also Fletcher's Greek and Latin library of 14,000 volumes and a music collection of 2,000 long-playing records. From the ample billiard room in the attic to his study on the ground floor, the house was more or less lined with books, his study double-lined. I remember him showing me one wall of the billiard room taken up with editions of Lucretius; a smaller attic room held, among other items, his set of Pauly-Wissowa. Fletcher spent his entire time reading Greek and Latin texts, for which he was blessed with a seemingly photographic memory, although he allowed himself an hour of playing the piano each evening.<sup>36</sup> In later years I got to know him well, and we became such good friends that he would even address me by my surname, which to someone of his generation was the height of intimacy.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>35</sup> Fletcher belonged to a generation which took it for granted that a university library would welcome books; the concept of the 'self-renewing library', to which we were introduced by a new librarian after Fletcher's retirement, was still a thing of the future (1976, in fact). According to the official website the Fletcher Collection comprises 1,240 volumes, a mere fraction of the total he possessed (<https://specialcollections.ncl.ac.uk/fletcher>).

<sup>36</sup> Fletcher was a regular attender of concerts at Newcastle's City Hall, where he would always be accompanied by a classical text to occupy him during the interval. With great kindness he bequeathed me his collection of Loeb volumes, together with the handsome bookcases in which they were housed. The volumes, some of which go back to his schooldays at Rugby, often contain marginalia demonstrating the minute attention with which he read the Greek/Latin texts and their English translations.

<sup>37</sup> I was astonished to discover that, in a letter to Vera Arnott, Fletcher referred to me as 'Tony Woodman'. I retain all Fletcher's letters to me over a period of almost thirty years, until his death in 1995. In addition to being beautifully written, they are full of wit, humour and generosity.

During his career, starting in 1927, Fletcher produced a stream of publications on a wide range of authors, texts and topics — usually Latin but sometimes (especially in earlier days) Greek as well.<sup>38</sup> The publications are almost all of the same type, earning from Fraenkel the soubriquet ‘Fletcherismus’: either he corrects the mistakes of earlier scholars or he lists parallels drawn from his phenomenal memory. It is worth noting that he would happily place at the disposal of other scholars his unrivalled knowledge of Latin and Greek literature and of classical scholarship, either agreeing to read and comment on one’s preliminary drafts, as in the case of John Ferguson’s commentary on Juvenal,<sup>39</sup> or sending private communications to authors of published works when he could volunteer helpful information or correct errors: the preface to the second edition of Pfeiffer’s *Callimachus* is only one of many such where Fletcher’s assistance is gratefully acknowledged.<sup>40</sup> Nor should it be forgotten that Fletcher also wrote on the poetry of A.E. Housman,<sup>41</sup> whose lectures he had attended in Cambridge in the 20s and whom he revered.

It was known that on Fletcher’s retirement he would be succeeded as Head of Department by Harri Hudson-Williams, but the Chair of Latin was advertised and, after the usual interviews, was offered to David West (1926–2013). It was perhaps a surprising appointment, since, apart from an early article on Catullan metrics,<sup>42</sup> he had started publishing seriously only in 1964–5 and his one book at the time was his slim volume on Horace;<sup>43</sup> but Hudson-Williams recognised in David a humanity kindred to his own and knew that the future would require a broader view of scholarship than in the past. The appointment was a stroke of genius. David, simply by being the person he was, transformed the Department

<sup>38</sup> His first article was ‘The Toledo MS. of Plutarch’s *Moralia*’, *CQ* 21 (1927) 166–76; his one book was *Annotations on Tacitus* (1964).

<sup>39</sup> J. Ferguson, *Juvenal: The Satires* (1979) viii. Ferguson was a lecturer in the Department from 1948 to 1953; subsequently he became Dean of the Faculty of Arts at The Open University (1969–79).

<sup>40</sup> R. Pfeiffer, *Callimachus* (1949, rev. 1953) Vol. II, vi.

<sup>41</sup> Most notably in G. Richards, *A.E. Housman 1897–1936* (1941), App. II, III and VIII, but also e.g. ‘Reminiscences in Housman’, *Review of English Studies* 21 (1945) 244–5, ‘Two Notes on A.E. Housman’, *Housman Society Journal* 2 (1975) 20.

<sup>42</sup> ‘The metre of Catullus’ elegiacs’, *CQ* 51 (1957) 98–102.

<sup>43</sup> *Reading Horace* (1967). Later there came *The Imagery and Poetry of Lucretius* (1969); *Virgil: The Aeneid* (1990); and *Horace: Odes* (3 vols., 1995, 1998, 2002), not to mention the well known ‘Woodman–West’ volumes: *Quality and Pleasure in Latin Poetry* (1974); *Creative Imitation and Latin Literature* (1979); *Poetry and Politics in the Age of Augustus* (1984).

of Classics into the vibrant, confident and convivial community of scholars that became familiar to generations of undergraduates and fellow classicists.



Prof. David West

Since Fletcher had taken his coffee cups and trolley with him when he retired, David's first acts on joining the Department were the purchase of equipment for making and drinking coffee, and the transformation of a spare office into a room in which coffee could be made and drunk: he anticipated correctly that it would soon become a focal point of departmental life and would foster an *esprit de corps*. Since another spare office in the Department was used to house one of the University's postdoctoral researchers, we would usually be joined at coffee-time by whoever currently held the title of Sir James Knott Fellow. Often the Fellow was an archaeologist: fifty years ago archaeology did not enjoy the popularity that it does today, and there were very few archaeology departments to offer employment to those whose research fell into the area of material culture. Thus it was that on the same corridor as us there was at one time Virginia Webb, the expert on faience,<sup>44</sup> and at another time Veronica Wilson, who became deputy keeper in the Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities at the British Museum.<sup>45</sup> But it was not only archaeologists who might hold a Knott Fellowship. Our corridor also hosted

<sup>44</sup> Author of *Archaic Greek Faience: Miniature Scent Bottles and Related Objects from East Greece, 650–500 B.C.* (1978).

<sup>45</sup> Author of e.g. *Ancient Cyprus* (1987, rev. 1997).



Susan Brigden, the Tudor historian and pupil of G.R. Elton; she later moved to Lincoln College, Oxford, and became a Fellow of the British Academy. Another was John Childs, a defence expert and historian of the seventeenth century who became Professor of Military History at Leeds; he cemented his relationship with the Department of Classics by marrying one of our students. The student in question was a local girl whose mother had been taught by Fletcher.

Another of David West's early acts was to start reorganising and modernising the Classics syllabus, moving the emphasis away from set books and textual criticism to the study of authors as representative of genres. Horace's *Odes* somehow failed to fit into this new system and as a result were abandoned altogether. David, having already written his book on Horace, cheerfully dismissed this omission as a minor inconvenience; but he later relented, and the *Odes* were brought back as a final-year special subject. The range of undergraduate ability seemed not to have changed much in the three years that I had been away: we still taught some very able students. One of them, Keith Mitchell, a local undergraduate from Wallsend, even published an article on Plautus in *Hermes* in 1974 while still a student.<sup>46</sup> Although Keith did not pursue a scholarly career (he became Director of Education for County Durham), he reverted to his texts on retirement, has started publishing again in both *Hermes* and the *Cambridge Classical Journal*, and is a regular attender of these meetings.<sup>47</sup> A little later, contemporary with my wife, was Freddie Jones, who cut a stylish figure with his white afghan and continental cigarettes. Freddie, who had aspirations as a poet, is now Senior Lecturer in Classics at Liverpool and the author of several scholarly monographs.<sup>48</sup>

Yet, if the ability of undergraduates seemed unchanged, the supply of them was undoubtedly diminishing. By the early 1970s Departments of Classics across the country were feeling the effects of two earlier developments: the Latin requirement for entry to Oxbridge had been discontinued in 1960, and the conversion of grammar schools into comprehensive schools had started in 1965. The reaction of Newcastle to these

<sup>46</sup> 'Plautus, *Miles Gloriosus* 217: a theory', *Hermes* 102 (1974) 260–7.

<sup>47</sup> See 'Catullus 25.5: a gaping target', *Hermes* 141 (2013) 105–7; 'Lucretius 5.1442 *propter odores*: the sweet smell of (very belated) success?', *CCJ* 61 (2015) 62–9; 'Ovid's hidden last letters on his exile: telestichs from Tomis: postcode or code?', *CCJ* 66 (2020) 144–64; 'Acrostichs and telestichs in Augustan poetry: Ovid's edgy and subversive sideswipes', *CCJ* 66 (2020) 165–81.

<sup>48</sup> See 'Nominum Ratio': *Aspects of the Use of Personal Names in Greek and Latin* (1996); *Juvenal and the Satiric Genre* (2007); *Virgil's Garden: The Nature of Bucolic Space* (2011); *The Boundaries of Art and Social Space in Rome: the Caged Bird and Other Art Forms* (2016).

developments was twofold. On the one hand the Department increased the number of degree programmes on offer. We were one of the first departments in the country to draw up a degree based on texts in translation; it was named Classical Studies and its details owed much to Trevor Saunders, although a classical language was a required component, from beginners' level if necessary. It was regarded as a great *coup* when, on the retirement of Bernard Sims, the Department appointed in his place Peter Jones, author of the well-known textbook *Reading Greek*:<sup>49</sup> no one was more likely to instil a love of the Greek language in our students. It transpired on his arrival that Peter had long been a supporter of Newcastle United, but this had to be forgiven him because he happily joined in our five-a-side football on Friday evenings.

The Department also expanded the provision of ancient history, for example by offering a joint degree in Ancient History and Archaeology. Such co-operation was facilitated by the fact that in 1972, now promoted to a personal professorship, Martin Harrison (1935–92) moved from Classics to head the Department of Archaeology, which he had founded. Subsequently Harrison would leave altogether to become Professor of the Archaeology of the Roman Empire at Oxford, thus following the same route as Sir Ian Richmond thirty years before. Harrison's departure from Classics was more than compensated for by the appointment — also in 1972 — of Jeremy Paterson, whose research had been on Roman wine.<sup>50</sup> His interests in the social and economic history of Rome complemented the more traditional specialisms of John Lazenby, and together they made ancient history attractive to new generations of students.

The reaction of David West to the decline of Latin in schools was to promote the subject more broadly (what today would be called 'out-reach'). He devised a week-long Latin reading course called 'Latin Alive', which took place during the school holidays each Easter. It was based at Fenham, where in those days there was a teacher-training college which could provide residential accommodation for the sixth-formers attending the course. Those teaching the course included David himself and me; and Peter Walsh, the Livy scholar, was always invited down from Edinburgh. The course traditionally ended with a grand football match in which the three of us participated. The purpose of the enterprise was to demonstrate that learning Latin could be enjoyable: the hope was that the

<sup>49</sup> *Reading Greek* (with K.C. Sidwell and F.C. Corrie, 1978); see also e.g. *The World of Athens* (ed. 1984); *Reading Latin* (with K.C. Sidwell, 1986); *The World of Rome* (ed. with K.C. Sidwell, 1997); *Homer: German Scholarship in Translation* (ed. with G.M. Wright, 1997); *Reading Ovid* (2007).

<sup>50</sup> Editor with J.G.F. Powell of *Cicero the Advocate* (2004).

students would be enthused by the subject and determined not to allow its elimination at the schools from which they came.

Another of David West's initiatives was aimed at an entirely different clientele. This was Seminar Boreas, which he set up as a forum for scholars in northern universities whose specialism or interest lay in Latin. Meetings were held in David's office and attracted scholars from as far afield as Birmingham in the south to Edinburgh and St Andrews in the north. On one occasion his office was so crowded with attenders that David was compelled to walk across the top of a table to get from one end of the room to the other. The intention was that, after a few meetings in Newcastle, the seminar would become peripatetic and move between the various universities from which the various participants came. Meetings were indeed held in Edinburgh and Leeds, but the baton was dropped by the next intended venue (which I think was St Andrews) and the seminar seemed at risk of folding. But Francis Cairns had now moved from Edinburgh to become Professor of Latin at Liverpool in succession to Niall Rudd, and he took advantage of the hiatus to set up the Liverpool International Latin Seminar, which under a succession of names has thrived continuously for half a century, in recent years at Florida State University in Tallahassee. It should be added that Seminar Boreas was not the only departmental seminar that was started: Jim Longrigg, who had developed a deep interest in the history of medicine, founded the Pybus Club, named after a distinguished Professor of Surgery and cancer specialist whose important collection of medical texts is housed in the University Library.

When I was a second-year undergraduate in 1964, I had responded to a notice on the departmental notice board inviting students to compete for the Senior Johnson Prize in Classics. During my three years as a student I was the only one to enter the competition, which was perhaps not surprising, given what one was required to do. There were two special unseen papers, one Greek and one Latin, each comprising four passages which had to be translated into English under exam conditions in three hours. I seem not to have kept the Latin paper, but the Greek consisted of substantial extracts from the Homeric Hymns, Pindar, Thucydides and Plato. Likewise there were also two papers for prose composition: a long passage of Churchill to be translated into Greek, and a similarly long passage of Disraeli for translation into Latin. In addition you had to write a 10,000-word dissertation on a subject of your own choosing. In mid-June I was informed by the Registrar's Office that I had been awarded the prize, the value of which was £20.0.0; the Registrar's letter came accompanied by a severe note: 'You are reminded that under the conditions of the award of the prize "the money awarded ... shall be spent in a manner

approved by the Head of the Department of Classics”.<sup>51</sup> By the early 1970s things had not changed: students were still failing to compete for the prize, so David West persuaded his colleagues to abandon these challenging requirements and to award the prize simply on the basis of one’s degree results. As a consequence my wife won the prize without having to satisfy any of the conditions which I had been obliged to fulfil a decade before.

When I arrived in the Department as a lecturer, Trevor Saunders was the secretary of the local branch of the Classical Association but was anxious to give it up; and I, being the new arrival, was the obvious victim to take over from him. When I became secretary in 1969, I inherited a large cardboard box which contained records of the Northumberland and Durham branch going back decades, together with a strange collection of small, metallised cards, each containing the name and address of a local member; if you put them through the appropriate machine, it would print out envelopes so that members could be sent notices of the upcoming meeting(s). This was of course long before the invention of computers, and in those days even photocopiers were almost unknown: we had no photocopier in the Department, where most copying processes were done by typing on a waxed stencil and feeding the stencil through a Gestetner copier.<sup>52</sup> Nor did Classics have a machine capable of dealing with the metallised cards, so I had to go to the School of Education each time I needed to contact members of the branch.

Meetings of the local CA were initially held on Saturday afternoons, and they alternated between Newcastle and Durham. The programme, which I think consisted of five meetings each year, was drawn up by the branch Committee. The programmes were relatively ambitious and sought to have a balance between literature, history, art, and philosophy. It was always desirable to have two speakers chosen from an annual list supplied by the Hellenic and Roman Societies in London, because such speakers would have their travel paid for by London, not us. When David West joined the Department in 1969, he was soon elected President of the local branch and he objected on principle to meeting on Saturday afternoons, which in his view (and mine) were reserved for going to football matches. The meetings were duly moved to (I think) late Fridays. My memory of the meetings themselves is rather depressing: I seem to

<sup>51</sup> For the record, the Head of Department approved of my buying Fraenkel’s *Horace*, Syme’s *Tacitus*, and Woodcock’s *New Latin Syntax*, all of them still in active service today.

<sup>52</sup> Typewriters, such as my Hermes 3000, might be equipped with a small lever which, when moved, ensured that the keys avoided the ribbon and struck the wax surface directly.



remember a sprinkle of university colleagues and two or three retired schoolteachers, one of them J.O. Burt (editor and translator of the *Minor Attic Orators* in the Loeb series).<sup>53</sup> There were never any students.

In addition to the local Secretary and President there was also a Treasurer, who in my day was Mr Shipley,<sup>54</sup> who taught at the Royal Grammar School and was the father of Graham Shipley, now Professor of Ancient History at Leicester. The President was elected for a two-year term and alternated between a local schoolteacher and a member of the Durham or Newcastle Departments. A sub-committee liaised with local schools, who were encouraged to invite talks from local academics: I remember once giving a talk on Catullus at Whitley Bay Grammar School, as it then was, and another on Horace at the Royal Grammar School. A boy in the latter audience is now a colleague in the Newcastle Department.<sup>55</sup> In due course the function of the schools sub-committee was taken over by PACT, the Palatine Association of Classical Teachers, the local branch of JACT, which was set up on the initiative of David West and chaired by Teresa Saunders, Trevor Saunders' wife, who taught at a local school.

The highlight of my time as Secretary was arranging for the AGM of the Classical Association of England and Wales, which was to be held in our area. In those days the national CA 'invited' itself to a different local branch each year, and we were informed that we would be the chosen venue in 1974. Since the last AGM in the North East had been held in Durham, in 1974 it would be the turn of Newcastle. We set up an organising committee, chaired by David West, and we held planning meetings in the Rajah, the brilliant Indian restaurant in the Bigg Market, which was not then the clubbing capital of Europe that it was to become. One of the speakers had to be local, and David decided that this would be Brian Shefton. Brian was of course an excellent choice, if one disregarded the fact that he had no conception of time and would happily talk on Greek vases for two hours at a stretch — difficult if one was trying to plan a programme.

As Secretary of the local branch, I was chiefly responsible for arranging the programme of the AGM and for solving the logistical difficulties posed by almost two hundred participants.<sup>56</sup> I was faced with two inter-related problems: the inevitable trip to the Roman Wall and the annual

<sup>53</sup> *Minor Attic Orators*, Vol. II (1954).

<sup>54</sup> Later the author of *A Commentary on Plutarch's Life of Agesilaos* (1997).

<sup>55</sup> R.B.E. Smith, author of *Julian's Gods: Religion and Philosophy in the Thought and Action of Julian the Apostate* (1995).

<sup>56</sup> The official attendance was 186.

dinner. The difficulty was that the trip was planned to be on the same day as the dinner, which, in recognition of our being a joint branch, was due to be held in Durham Castle. So the Major Question arose: how would the female members of the meeting, attired for Roman Wall weather during the daytime, transform themselves into evening wear for the dinner in Durham, since the schedule allowed no time to stop off in Newcastle to change clothes? I remember that the proposed solution to this Huge Problem was to arrange for a series of changing rooms in the castle, so that the ladies could effect the required transformation. In the event, however, the proposal was deemed impracticable, since the trip and the dinner took place on successive days. My most vivid memory of the evening in Durham Castle is the after-dinner speech given by Harri Hudson-Williams, which was one of the funniest I have ever heard. Harri, quite uncharacteristically (as it seemed to us who knew him), threaded through his speech a series of outrageous *doubles entendres* which brought the house down.

1974 was not only the year in which we hosted the AGM of the Classical Association; it was also the centenary of the teaching of Latin and Greek at Newcastle. We decided to mark this happy coincidence by putting on an exhibition in the Percy Building which attenders of the AGM could visit. Visitors to the exhibition were given a booklet in which the history of the Department was outlined, and several glass cases held memorabilia and newspaper cuttings.<sup>57</sup> The most dramatic of these cuttings related to 1936, where it was recorded not that Sunderland under the captaincy of the legendary Raich Carter had won the league but that S.K. Johnson (b. 1903) had died in a mountaineering accident in Austria. Johnson, a co-editor of the Oxford text of Livy,<sup>58</sup> had been Professor of Classics at Newcastle and it was his death which opened the way for the appointment of Fletcher as his successor in 1937.

In 1979 Harri Hudson-Williams retired from the Chair of Greek and was succeeded by Trevor Saunders, a grim irony, given Fletcher's firm belief that Greek philosophers should never become Professors of Greek. In the same year David West, having already served as Dean of the Faculty of Arts, was appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the university. His workload, never light, became even heavier, and there were many nights when he was unable to return home to Hexham and was obliged to sleep in the Department on a camp-bed in his office, much to the amusement of the departmental cleaner when she turned up for work in the early morning.

<sup>57</sup> Accessible at this link: [https://www.hcsjournal.org/ojs/index.php/hcs/article/view/106/Department\\_of\\_Classics\\_1874-1974](https://www.hcsjournal.org/ojs/index.php/hcs/article/view/106/Department_of_Classics_1874-1974)

<sup>58</sup> *Titi Liui Ab Vrbe Condita*, Vol. IV (with R.S. Conway, 1935).

As another consequence of his elevation he charged me to take over from him the administration of Latin as a subject in the Department, his kind thought being that this would look well on a c.v. if I should ever apply for a chair elsewhere.<sup>59</sup>

Newcastle had no formal system of research leave in those days: one simply applied for leave if one felt like it or had some project in view. For several years it did not occur to me that I was even entitled to apply for leave, but, when it did, my application for leave in the summer term of 1976 was granted, on the understanding that I would play my full part in examining, which in fact took up a significant portion of the term. To maximise the advantage of my leave, David West as Dean arranged for me to work in a university house on Jesmond Road which was temporarily empty. I set myself up with my books and a kettle in a room on the first floor and worked on my commentary on Velleius Paterculus. The summer of 1976 was the second hottest on record, and one advantage of working in an empty building was that I could remove items of clothing with impunity when the temperature became particularly unbearable. One day, however, the Deputy Registrar of the University, Jessica Kidd, decided to visit the house to show round some prospective tenants, and in considerable embarrassment I had to explain to her that I was unable to get up from my desk to greet her. This single term was the only leave I had in the first nineteen years of my career, a great contrast with what seems to be the norm today.

On the top floor of the Percy Building, just above Classics, was the School of English, with whom we enjoyed various relationships. When I joined the Department in 1968, the Professor of English Literature was Peter Ure (1919–69), whose name now adorns a collection of books in the University Library, and I remember that in his office he held a series of inter-disciplinary seminars on pastoral poetry at which Fletcher delivered a paper on the Eclogues. In the 70s we set up Joint Degrees with English, and I came to know some of the younger English scholars. T.G.S. Cain was investigating the influence of Horace upon Herrick, and Desmond Graham was working on the Second World War poet Keith Douglas, whose *Complete Poems* features on its cover Douglas's own drawing of Black Care sitting behind the horseman: the striking image which appears in the first ode of Horace's third book. I also came to know Alistair Elliot, whose day job was to oversee the Special Collections in the University Library; but he was also an accomplished poet and translator, whose

<sup>59</sup> In 1975 Fletcher had helpfully sent me a list of the names of two dozen professors of Classics in Britain together with the years of their birth, from which the likely dates of their retirement might be calculated.

translation of Euripides' *Medea*, with Diana Rigg in the title role, would be performed in London and New York. In the 1970s he was engaged in translating Horace, along with Verlaine and other more modern poets, and sometimes he would be invited to talk to one of our Latin classes; at one of them he vouchsafed us his brilliant rendering of Horace's Journey to Brundisium, which was reissued in 2003 in his collection *Roman Food Poems*. In 2016 in collaboration with Kelsey Thornton, a former colleague in the School of English who was exceptionally tall and gave great parties, Alistair published, by a remarkable coincidence, an emendation of the same line of Catullus as our former student Keith Mitchell.<sup>60</sup> Classics also had close relations with the History Department, whose first-year students took our course in Greek and Roman historiography. The professor of modern history was John Cannon (1926–2012), one of whose many virtues was the enthusiasm with which he joined in our five-a-side football matches on a Friday evening.<sup>61</sup>

Until I left Newcastle in 1980, it never occurred to me that the Department's combination of academic harmony and collegial conviviality was anything special, but experience elsewhere over the next twenty years brought it home to me that the Newcastle which I knew was almost unique. Shortly before he retired, David West, whose departmental influence in the latter years of the century had been at least as great as that of Fletcher in earlier decades, brought out his translation of the *Aeneid* and began it by paying tribute to his colleagues, who, he said, constituted 'the best of all imaginable university departments of Classics'.<sup>62</sup>

A.J. Woodman

*University of Virginia/Newcastle University*  
ajw6n@virginia.edu

<sup>60</sup> R.K.R. Thornton and A. Elliot, 'A new reading of Catullus 25.5', *Exemplaria Classica* 20 (2016) 91–101.

<sup>61</sup> Relations between the two Departments were symbolised by a series of public lectures, 'The Historical Mind', which John Cannon and I put on in 1979. Speakers included Asa Briggs, K.J. Dover (who spoke entirely without notes), G.R. Elton and T.P. Wiseman (whose paper, 'Practice and theory in Roman historiography', was published in *History* 66 (1981) 375–93 = *Roman Studies* (1987) 244–62).

<sup>62</sup> *Virgil: The Aeneid* (1990) vi.