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Paul Rehak 1954-2004

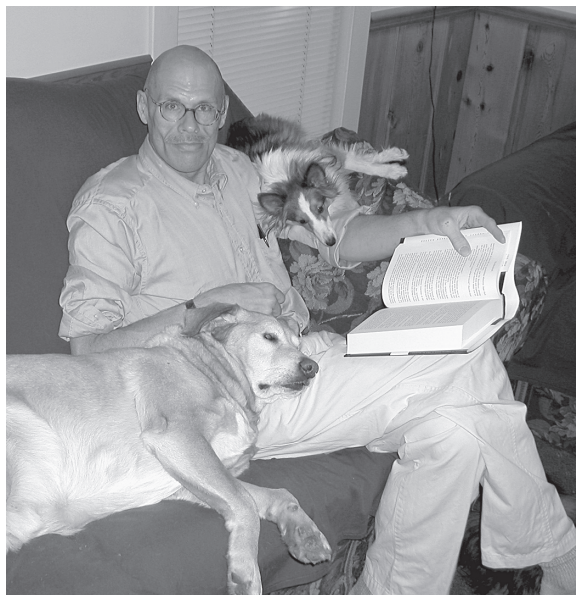
Item Type	Article
Authors	Younger, John G.
Citation	"Necrology: Paul Rehak 1954-2004," American Journal of Archaeology 108.3 (2004) 447-48.
Publisher	American Journal of Archaeology
Download date	2024-08-04 05:47:54
Link to Item	https://hdl.handle.net/1808/7601

Paul Rehak, 1954–2004

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Paul Rehak, Associate Professor of Classics, University of Kansas, died on 5 June 2004, of complications from a heart attack aggravated by a long struggle living with AIDS. He was born 8 March 1954 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he also attended the University of Michigan and received his B.A. *cum laude* in Classical Studies and Classical Archaeology in 1976, and, a year later, a teaching certificate in Latin from the School of Education. From Bryn Mawr College he obtained his M.A. in 1980, writing on Mycenaean shrines under Machteld Mellink, and Ph.D. in 1985, this time writing on Roman sculpture under Brunilde Ridgway. During this period, too, Paul was a John Williams White Fellow at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens (1980–1981), the architect on site at the Apollo Hylates sanctuary at Kourion in Cyprus (1981, 1982), and a fellow at the Villa Messenzia in Rome (1983–1984). He was thus fluent in Modern Greek and Italian.

It is appropriate that Paul's first and last teaching posts were at the University of Kansas, where he first filled in for Elizabeth Banks on sabbatical (1986–1987) and then, when she retired in 2001, he was appointed to her position. In between, he taught one-year stints at the College of Wooster (1987–1988) and the American University of Paris (1988–1989), where he learned fluent French. He then taught at Loyola University of Chicago (1989–1995), where he was denied tenure but promoted to associate professor. From 1995 to 2000, Paul was a visiting assistant professor at Duke University for both the departments of classics and art history. He was immensely popular at Duke as an out activist for gay and lesbian rights, a teacher (he led students around Rome in the summers and initiated a sold-out "Myth and Film" seminar for freshmen), and advisor and mentor—many of his students have



gone on in classics and archaeology. In March, just before his death, the University of Kansas tenured him and promoted him to associate professor.

Paul's research interests were broad, extending from prehistoric and classical Greece to imperial Rome; in the last 15 years he added ancient gender and sexuality to his bibliography (e.g., his articles on women in the Thera frescoes and their use of saffron). Because of his constantly fresh takes on old subjects, he could

startle scholars who had become complacent; when he observed that the Aegean "Priest" on a sealstone from the Vapheio tholos (*CMS* 1.223) was himself wearing a sealstone, the present author at first denied it fiercely until he was forced to see it with his own eyes. Many of Paul's numerous publications are thus important: to name just two, his edited volume, *The Role of the Ruler in the Prehistoric Aegean* (Liège 1995), questioned the masculinist assumption that only men governed Minoan Crete, and his recent article, "Aeneas or Numa? Rethinking the Meaning of the *Ara Pacis Augustae*" (*The Art Bulletin* 83.2 [June 2001] 190–208), broke new ground in Augustan studies. He leaves behind him several major works in progress, including two book manuscripts, *Imperium and Cosmos* on Augustus's building program, and *Aegean Women in the Bronze Age*—both will be published shortly.

In 1992, Paul met his partner, the present author John Younger, at the "Eikon" conference in Tasmania (for whose publication he restored an ingenious "Kangaroo Gate" at Mycenae); over the years the two of us traveled and worked together. The next year, 1993, was especially rewarding. Asked to write the "Review of Aegean Prehistory 7" on Neopalatial, Final Palatial, and Postpalatial Crete for the *AJA* (102 [1998] 91–173; reprinted in *Aegean Prehistory*, edited by T. Cullen [Boston 2001] 383–473),

we set about conducting research in Crete in the early summer. When we visited Pyrgos one early morning in June, Paul found, lying at his feet, a Minoan Linear A roundel on the top of the excavated site; this led to our reinvestigation of the site in 1994 (under the direction of the original excavator, Gerald Cadogan)—no more documents were found, much to our disappointment. In July, the two of us were permitted to examine the architectural sculptures of the Temple of Zeus at Olympia in the Olympia museum; we had to remove our shoes so we could walk more sensitively within the cramped installation, though that did not prevent Paul, at 6' 2", from occasionally getting stuck among the modern tenons. Nonetheless, we were able to make numerous observations concerning the original installation and post-installation repairs to the sculptures—these, too, need a final publication.

Paul was very active in the Archaeological Institute of America, serving on many committees (where he was known for his passion and candor), traveling to the local societies that appreciated his humorous lectures, and acting as president and vice-president of three local societies (Chicago, North Carolina, and Kansas City). At the time of his death he was co-editor for book reviews for the *AJA* and secretary of the Alumni/ae Association of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. There will be several memorials in his memory, at the American School and for its students and at the University of Kansas.

Paul was famously generous to his friends. In the past he stood loyally by them when they went through rough times. This past summer in 2003, when he was studying at the American School, it was characteristic of him to meet his students at the airport when they flew in for excavations on the islands

and to turn his apartment over to them when they passed through Athens. In his early days, Paul was an ardent swimmer, easily swimming out to the islet at Amnisos and then around it several times (he referred to himself as a special type of fish, a “pav-lópsaro”). He read voraciously (he was rereading the Narnia series by C.S. Lewis and *Atlas Shrugged* when he died); he was a gifted linguist, would read novels in Greek, and could recite (at the drop of a hat) poems in French and Greek (ancient and modern; Sikelianos and Elytes were favorites). Also a talented artist, he leaves behind a large number of pen and ink sketches and watercolors of romantic ruins, Byzantine churches, and flowers. Clearly in the majority, however, are his many, and often humorous, sketches of his dogs. Over the years he acquired quite a few: shelties, labradors, and shepherd mutts; at the archaeological sites he would always befriend the guard dogs, who would trot along after him and whom he would invariably want to take home.

Paul is survived by his partner, his parents, and four siblings, but he is especially survived by the myriad students whom he taught and from whom he learned: he always considered his research and his teaching intertwined, carefully noting his students' observations in class and on site that would spur him on to fresh thoughts and new endeavors. For his insights into ancient art, and for his generosity, passion, and the dotting care he lavished on his friends and students, Paul Rehak will be long remembered.

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