

In Memoriam

HELEN HAZARD BACON
1919–2007

Helen Hazard Bacon passed away at her home in Williamsburg, Massachusetts, on November 9, 2007. She was 88. She was survived by her sister Alice Bacon Westlake and her sister's family, and by Martha Bacon, poet and professor of English at Rhode Island College, who also died recently, on 25 December 2007.

Helen was born to a distinguished Massachusetts family (her father, Leonard Bacon, won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1941). She attended Bryn Mawr College, receiving her B.A. in 1940, and, after becoming a lieutenant in the Naval Reserve during World War II, her Ph.D. in 1955, both in Greek and Latin. Helen taught at Smith College (1953–1960) and then at Barnard College (1961–1991). She was also research scholar at the American Academy in Rome and was closely allied with the American School (Regular Member 1952–53, Associate Member for many years, and a long-time member of the Managing Committee).

Her literary studies are numerous. Her book *Barbarians in Greek Tragedy* (1961) is still widely read. She co-authored a translation of Aeschylus's play *Seven Against Thebes* (1970) that was nominated for a National Book Award. Her article "The Aeneid as a Drama of Election" (*TAPA* 116 [1986] 305–34) is considered one of the great standard interpretations of the epic. She was president of the American Philological Association from 1980 to 1985.

It is not so widely known, however, that she was also an expert on Robert Frost, contributing a lecture at the Library of Congress (*The American Scholar* 43 [1974] 640–49) and co-editing the volume of the collected Frost lectures given at the Library (1975).

Her inspiration to younger scholars was legendary. Seth Benardette, professor of classics at the New School of Social Research and New York University from 1964 to 2001, Eva Brann, literary critic who teaches at St. John's College, Annapolis, and Bella Vivante, professor of classical literature at the University of Arizona, all have written accounts detailing her inspiration. I also recall how she helped train me in field archaeology when Jack



Photo: ASCSA Archives

Helen Bacon in 1951.

Caskey, director of the Kea excavations, was away in Athens, teaching me how to read stratigraphy and speak "dig" Greek so I could communicate with the workers. When the director returned, a bit annoyed at how successful the excavation had been without him, Helen defended me, saying "it's all recorded, Jack, it was all dug quite properly."

Helen's strength of character can best be gauged, however, by the fact that the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts awarded her the David Burres Award in a ceremony at the Smith College Archives on April 29, 2001. It was 1960, a time when colleges and universities were requiring oaths of loyalty from their professors, that they were not communists or homosexuals. In a famous case, Newton Arvin, professor of English at Smith, was arrested on charges of possessing homosexual pornography, and under police duress he named names. Two younger professors were thus implicated and fired, and Arvin was forced to retire early. Helen was incensed and organized the students to pressure the board to reverse its decision (it did not). This was all the more remarkable because Bacon herself was just about to be tenured at Smith, and when she was and had been elected chair of classics, she abruptly resigned and left for Barnard.

Donations in honor of Helen Bacon can be made to the Meekins Library (Williamsburg, MA), of whose Board of Directors she was a member and whose renovation she oversaw.

—John G. Younger

C.W.J. ELIOT
1928–2008

Charles William John ("Willie") Eliot died on May 20, 2008, after suffering a stroke at his home in Dorchester, N.B., Canada. Born in 1928 a son of a Canadian colonel in the Royal Artillery in Rawalpindi, now Pakistan, then in the British Raj, he was 79. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and four children.

Willie was a gifted classicist, historian, topographer, archaeologist, teacher, and academic administrator, among many other accomplishments, and participated more fully in the broad range of activities of the American School than anyone I have known in my half century with it. He came to the School as a student in 1952, where, like so many of us, he became a follower of Eugene Vanderpool. He served as Secretary of the School from 1954 to 1957. His topographical work led to his dissertation for Toronto (under Mary White and J. Walter Graham), *The Coastal Demes of Attika* (1962), collaboration with Jones and Sackett on "The Demia Wall" (1957), and other notes. At the same time, he became involved in the Agora Excavations, where he conducted weekly tours of the site, museum, and workrooms, and, with Mabel Lang, wrote its first Guide (1954). Early travelers to Greece, especially Britons like Byron and his contemporaries, held a special place in his heart, and he followed them through the collections of the Gennadeion, most recently *Campaign of the Falerii and Piraeus in the Year 1827* (Gennadius Library Monographs V). While Mary worked with Jack Caskey in Bronze Age Lerna and Kea, Willie worked at the opposite end of Greek history with James Russell at Ane-murium in southern Turkey.

He taught at the University of British Columbia from his return to Canada in 1957 and served as Managing Committee representative for that institution from 1960 to 1971. When Eugene Vanderpool retired in 1971 from the Professorship of Archaeology at the School, Willie was his choice and mine (as then-Director) to carry on, and he did so with distinction for a five-year term. As my deputy, he could not have been better. He knew what I would do in virtually any situation, and if, by chance, he didn't, he would call. Our collaboration was, for me, the happiest of times.

Willie returned to Canada in 1976 to Mt. Allison University, where he chaired the Classics Department, then was called to the

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