

Massachusetts Senior Classical League meeting, held 4 February 2001, in
Burton-Conner Dorm at MIT

Present: Sterling D. (Harvard), Rachana S. (Harvard), Katherine L. (BU),
Sarah R. (Harvard), Janet F., Kevin F. (MIT), Shankar M. (MIT),
Christophoros V. (MIT), Tiffany C. (BU), Philip Z. (Harvard), Craig S. (BU
alum), Angela B. (X), Sabrina P. (Wentworth), Marissa G. (Santa Monica C.;
Yes, Craig, we are expanding West), April A. (Newbury), Jeff R. (MIT),
Jessica D. (Wentworth)

Pre-meeting stuff

*Adam & Denis: Give Janet your Certamen questions ASAP. Liz, where are you?

*Happy Lupercalia (in 10 days or so)!

*Craig thanks all who attended the screening of his film. Alas, it was not
accepted in the New England Film Festival. Their loss.

*Kevin, "Big Brother" / "self-appointed censor," explains how the MASCL (&
SCL) list moderation works. Phil eventually agrees to help.

Introductions, including comments on the merits of being editor and
cross-examination of new members

Old Business

*Cleveland, OH, reunion recap: Kevin claims it was quieter than in years
past due to the lack of nearby liquor stores

*Certamen recap: Janet is missing the last of the Grammar questions. It
is agreed that things generally went smoother this year. However, many of
the question writers seem rusty on grammar, spelling, etc. The format
should be a big help to Jim O'Neil, though a few rebellious souls refused
to use it. Please don't refer to Certamen as "sort of like Jeopardy,"
because it's not; think College Bowl.

*There is no Classics Day this year; Legion XIII was the big event
instead. However, Certamen pre-lims are at the end of March / beginning of
April.

*MaJCL exams: Please have these finished by 1 March. That means both sets
of questions put together and sent to Janet (rockberries@mindspring.com) by
that date. The format is not as important here, but each exam needs the
same format throughout. Each questions has four possible "answers,"
labeled A, B, C, & D (not 1, 2, 3, & V, like at Harvard). Each exam should
have 50 questions; each of the two people should write 25. There should be
20 easy (1st year / common knowledge), 20 medium (2nd year / less common),
and 10 hard (3rd year & up / more obscure) questions for each exam. There
is only one exam per subject; the exams are distributed to all and graded
by levels. Assignments are listed below. If you perceive a problem, let
Katherine (kalochb@bu.edu) know ASAP.

Grammar: Lisa B. & Phil Z.; Myth: Sarah R. & Jennifer M.; Daily Life: Sterling D. & Tiffany C.; Derivatives: Craig S. & Adam B.; Motto / Proverb / Abbreviation: Leighanne R. & Russell H. (Glad to hear you haven't been kidnapped by Czech sheep who say, "Bah"); Greek: Denis G. & Katherine L.; Pentathlon: Rachana S. & Shankar M.

New Business

*MA JCL state convention: Saturday, 12 May, 2001, at BC High. Last year's MASCL efforts pleased the organizers. Janet has sign-ups for morning creative arts (dramatic & graphic) judging as well as afternoon Certamen fun. If you did not sign up for something and are dying to help out in a particular field, let her know. We need to make sure MASCLers have a decent map to get there and arrangements for lunch.

This category inspires the most commentary:

"Have you ever done anything dramatic?" -Janet to Chris

"You make them cry, Sarah." -Craig commenting on Sarah's bad luck with lower boys' dramatic competition

"I've never seen anyone do it effectively." -Sterling on past experiences with sight poetry readings

"I'd be willing to score." -Phil

This year's costume categories are Classical, Empire, Pairs = Cupid & Psyche, Male = Saturn, Female = Sibyl. Sorry, no Stone Age, Villanovan, or Etruscan.

*Caligula's Pony Express: Consider submitting to our distinguished newsletter. Sarah's dying to write, "Go west, young MASCL!" with MASCL's adventures becoming the Oregon Trail computer game. Other suggestions are welcome.

*MASCL Webpage: Where's Sean? Has anyone seen Sean? Who is Sean? Is anyone else interested in working on the MASCL website, which has very little up at <http://www.nscsl.org/~mascl/>? It would be nice to have a site with a schedule of meetings & events, minutes, other information, pictures, the constitution.

*National Convention: 17-22 July, 2001, at Tulane. (Dorms might be at Loyola: "Apparently every year they [Tulane] might be renovating," says Sterling.) The heat and humidity at that time of year inspire the comment, "We're going to hell." Remember that if you've been a MASCL member for a year, we take 1/2 of our budget at the end of the year and divide it among those who went. The convention generally runs around \$275 + transportation expenses. If enough MA people are interested, we could work travel out. Rumor has it every year some SCLers will rent an RV. Sterling (inspired by Apollo?) foresees much fun for SCLers this year, with many opportunities to ridicule the JCL. You need to be a member of SCL, which costs \$6 for 4 years of membership. Sarah devises several parodies of Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon for That's Entertainment; perhaps she could include those in CPE, too.

Next Meeting: Saturday, 7 April, 2001, at 1 pm at Harvard.

Thank you to Kevin for reserving the room, to Jeff for raising the suggestion of food, to Kevin for ordering food, and to MASCL for paying for the food.