

The Classicists of Ohio Wesleyan University: 1844-2014

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When Ohio Wesleyan could hire only four professors to teach in Elliott Hall (and there was yet no other building), one of the four professors taught Latin and another taught Ancient Greek. This I was told in 1979, when I arrived at Sturges Hall to teach the Classics. True or not,¹ the story reflects the place of Greek and Latin in the curriculum of the mid-1800s. Our first graduate, William Godman, followed the brutally demanding “classical course.” The percentage

Sturges Hall, Our First Library



Sturges Library kept its books behind a “fence” in alcoves. Books were not catalogued according to subject, but were often arranged as “memorials” to the donor. Balconies were reached by a picturesque circular staircase.

of faculty teaching Greek and Latin steadily declined in the Nineteenth and most of the Twentieth century. New subjects and new demands attracted Wesleyan students. Currently we decry another Renaissance of antiquity at Ohio Wesleyan in Classical Studies. Sturges Hall itself was opened in 1855, its original function, as you see in the photo on the left, to serve the campus as library with alcoves divided by subject.

Thomas Jefferson and John Quincy Adams studied and revered Greek and Roman writers, their demanding languages, and their culture. Ben Franklin was not interested. For many decades, mere admission to Harvard College required a solid knowledge of Greek and Latin. One of Ohio’s sons who became President of the United States, James A. Garfield, was both a student and a teacher of Greek and Latin. Legend holds that he could write Greek with one hand, Latin with the other--at the same time. I doubt it, but Thucydides tells us humans usually doubt that others can achieve what they know they cannot. Garfield served only six months as President before he was assassinated in office in 1881—not for his ambidexterity.

Here we have assembled sketches of twenty-five individuals known to have taught Latin and/or Greek since the Ohio Wesleyan College opened.² Beards were once common, and briefly came back in the more recent ’seventies. For some instructors, we could learn little more than their glowing portraits, sometimes *in classroom situ*, reveal.

¹ It is; cf. H. C. Hubbart, *Ohio Wesleyan's First Hundred Years* (Delaware, OH, 1943) 22: Johnson and Williams were the Classicists, Frederick Merrick taught Science and Philosophy; Solomon Howard taught Mathematics. See Hubbart, p. 21, for the early, grueling Greek and Latin Classics curriculum.

² Knowledgeable Beeghly librarians Hilda Wick and Carol Holliger helped me locate photographs and documents on the shelves, in old issues of *Le Bijou* and the *College Register* (the former OWU Catalogue), and in dusty boxes of photographs.



Herman Merrills Johnson (1816-1868) was the first Professor of Ancient Languages at the newly founded Ohio Wesleyan University. He received his AB in 1839 from Wesleyan University in Connecticut and taught at St. Charles College (Missouri) and Augusta College (Kentucky) before coming to Ohio Wesleyan. One of the four original faculty members, he was appointed on 25 September 1844 at a yearly salary of \$600. In the first year, he also served as acting President. While teaching Greek and Latin from 1844 to 1850 he began his Greek, annotated edition of Book I of Herodotus *Histories*,³ omitting “only” those portions that dealt with Greek, as opposed to Near-Eastern matters. The two editions of this work included text, notes, commentary, and illustrations. In 1850, Dickinson College in Pennsylvania invited him to become Professor of Philosophy and English Literature. In 1860, he was awarded the chair of Moral Science and was installed as President of that college. He held both positions until his death in 1868. In 1852, missing him, Ohio Wesleyan awarded him a Doctor of Divinity degree.

One may find his edition of Herodotus in Beeghly Library: *Orientalia Antiquiora, comprising mainly such portions of Herodotus as give a connected history of the East to the fall of Babylon and the death of Cyrus the Great* (New York 1854, 1860 [revised]). He appears in Appleton's *Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, ed. Wilson and Fiske (New York 1887) III, 442.



After Johnson, came two whom few could ever match for longevity: William G. Williams and William F. Whitlock. Here are the basic facts on Williams: *Born*: 25 Feb. 1822, Chillicothe, OH. He married Mary Ann Davis, 1847; Delia Lathrop,

1877. *Education*: A.B. Woodward Coll. (Cincinnati, OH), 1844; A.M. (hon.) Miami U. (Oxford, OH), 1847; LL.D. Baldwin U. (Berea, OH), 1873. He was Principal & tutor in the preparation dept. Ohio Wesleyan U., 1844-7; adj. Professor ancient langs., 1847-50; Professor, 1850-64; John R. Wright Professor Gk., 1864-1901. *Died*: 30 Jan. 1902, Delaware, OH. **William George Williams** taught Greek and Latin in the same room in Elliott Hall at Ohio Wesleyan for 57 years (see photo). He started service for Ohio Wesleyan as one of the first four instructors (29 students in 1844) for \$400 per annum. He served three months near Washington, DC, in the summer of 1864 during

³ Lateiner edited, introduced, annotated, and modified Macaulay's notably accurate translation into English (Barnes and Noble 2003). He has a parallel edition of Crawley's thrilling translation of Thucydides.

the Civil War, as chaplain for the 145th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was granted the first John R. Wright chair as professor of Greek. His thousands of students stood so in awe of his linguistic knowledge students spread the rumor that he had invented Greek. His affectionate nickname in "the language clinic" was "Old Syntax." His favorite ferocious expression was "Parse." He never sat down in class and our classroom photograph does not belie that claim. On the right, we see him in his younger years.

He taught Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and German in four successive hours of the day. The Ohio State University, on its founding in 1873, tried but failed to lure Williams away from Ohio Wesleyan to become its first professor of Greek. He first accepted the post as Chair, but when the Ohio Wesleyan community raised \$25,000 additional endowment to keep Williams here in Delaware, he relented [photo:



150 Years p. 19; his classroom key: p. 44]. He served as the university treasurer for 35 years. Below you see a picture of the "Doric Front" of Ohio Wesleyan in Williams' day: Elliott, Slocum, and Sturges. He taught over 50

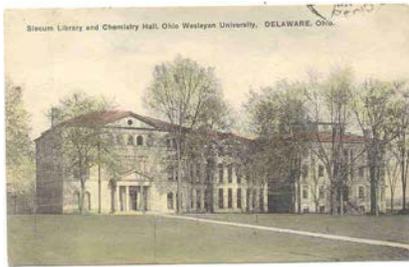


years without a sabbatical. His interests and publications included the history of his university from its founding, Thucydides' syntax, English grammar, and New Testament scholarship. Williams taught Latin and Greek among other things for so many years that he gained the longevity prize in OWU teaching. The runner-up, the esteemed Ruth Davies, taught nearly as long. She

both founded the Humanities Department in 1951 and joined the reborn Classics program to that department in 1973. His publications were more concerned with religion than classical philology: *A Course of Lectures on the Evidences of Natural and Revealed Religion* (Cleveland, 1872); *Outlines of English Grammar* (Delaware, OH, 1887); *Fifty Years of History of the Ohio Wesleyan University* (Cleveland, 1895); *Baptism: A Discussion ...* (Cincinnati, 1901); *An Exposition of the Epistle of Paul to the Romans* (Cincinnati, 1902). More on Williams in Isaac Crook, *The Great Five* (Cincinnati, 1908); John H. Grove, "Memoir of W.G.W.," Minutes of the Central Ohio Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 47th Session (Cincinnati, 1902) 592-8; H. C.

Hubbart, *Ohio Wesleyan's First Hundred Years* (Delaware, OH, 1943) 81-3; W. S. Whitlock, "Memoir," *O.W.U. College Transcript* (8 Feb. 1902) 1 & 3, with a tribute by J. W. White. To find out more about this necrologist, see below on White.

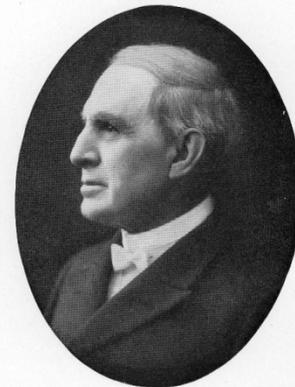
In 1845, two months after the University's opening the previous November, in Elliott Hall students formed the **Zetaganthean Society** to "Search Out the Good." In 1855, Sturges Hall opened as the first University Library, much later (ca, 1973) to become the home of the Classics division of the Humanities-Classics Department. Several campus literary and political societies had headquarters on the first floor of Sturges Hall, once the authorities raised the money to build it and did so. Among them were Chrestomathian and Athenian, *inter alia*. At least "Zeta" met on Fridays at 6 PM (Hubbart, p. 256). On 11 October 2005, the Humanities-Classics and English Departments, whose faculties share this Federal style building modeled on Elliott Hall, celebrated its sesquicentennial. To the right you see Christopher Earl leaning on a



Doric column of Sturges as a *dea ex machina* Aphrodite inserted into Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* by the student-abridger Michael McOsker. The building appears on the National Register of Historic Landmarks as well as on this 1908 hand-painted postcard in the author's collection. Left of it stands the second library, now Slocum Hall.

William F. Whitlock (1833-1909) taught Greek and especially Latin at Ohio Wesleyan for a full half-century. He received his AB in 1859 from Ohio Wesleyan and immediately

began a career as tutor. He received his AM in 1862. Next he served as adjunct professor of Latin during the Civil War (1864-66), and then as Brown Professor of



PROFESSOR WILLIAM FRANCIS WHITLOCK, D.D., LL.D.
Vice President Ohio Wesleyan University



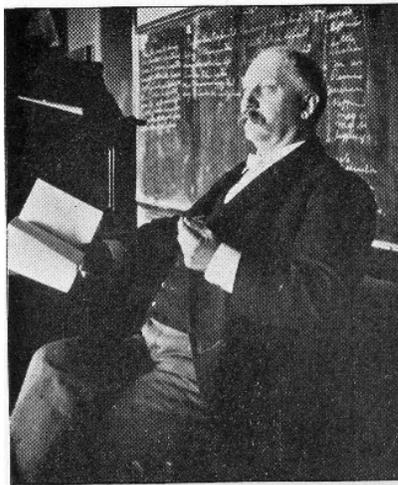
Latin from 1866 to 1909. He also taught the future distinguished alumnus and Harvard Professor of Greek, John W. White. His chief scholarly interest was Vergil, especially his religious attitudes. He served as Librarian, Vice President and acting President of the University. Alumni subscribed an endowed chair for the study of Latin in his name. A portrait in oils rests in the Wesleyan Archive. His published work concerns Methodism in Ohio: *The Story of the Book Concerns* (Cincinnati 1903).: R.T. Miller wrote an essay, *Memorial Tribute to W .F. Whitlock* (Cincinnati 1910).

Williams and Whitlock instructed **John Williams White**, longtime Professor of Greek at Harvard University. OWU's most distinguished Classical graduate (1864-1868, AM 1871), White never served on the OWU faculty, unfortunately, since at Harvard he was regarded as a very popular and effective teacher. A native of Newark, Ohio, he married Mary Hillyer, a Delaware woman, and remained dedicated to his *alma mater* (a Latin phrase) throughout his long career. He served as Professor of Greek at Harvard. He obtained his Ph.D. there in 1877 with a dissertation entitled: *On the Homeric Uses of the Subjunctive and Optative Moods*. He was a founder of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens (1881) and presided over its first managing committee. He was also a founder and editor of the "College Series of Greek Authors" in 1879.



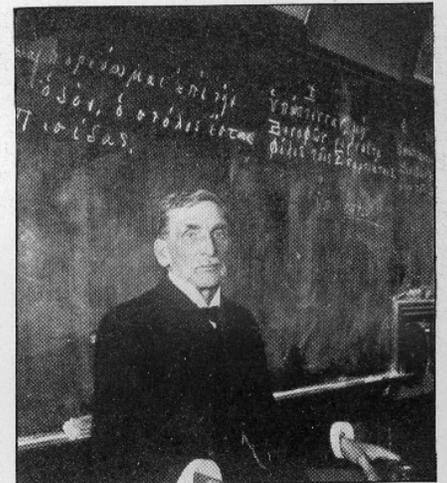
JOHN WILLIAMS WHITE

Publishers still reprint some of the useful titles such as Seymour's edition of *Plato's Apology of Socrates*. He was a founder of the Archaeological Institute of America (1879), and he served as its President (1897-1903). He founded *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology* (1890), a leading journal. He regularly bought books for the Classics collection of OWU including the entire library of the remarkable German Hellenist and student of ancient gesture, Carl Sittl. OWU in June 1905 made



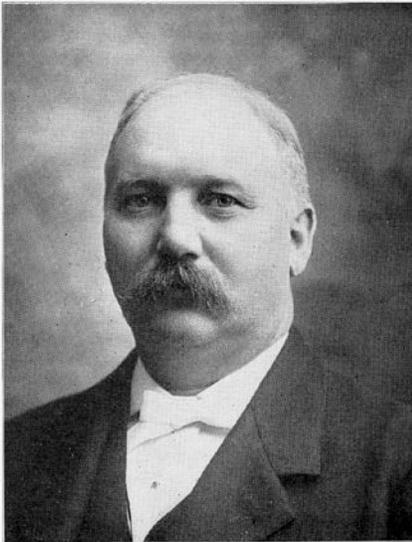
REV. RICHARD PARSONS, Professor of Greek:—A. B., 1868, A. M., 1871, Ohio Wesleyan University.

JOHN H. GROVE, A. T. D., Professor of Latin and Principal of Academic Department:—A. B., 1868, A. M., 1871, Ohio Wesleyan University.



him an Honorary Doctor of Laws (thanks again to Carol Holliger for this obscure fact). He died in May 1917. His scholarly career was largely devoted to the poetry of Aristophanes, e.g., *The Verse of Greek Comedy* (London 1912). The compiler has an autographed copy. White *Herodotus* (1880). [See W.G. Hale, *Classical Journal* 12 (1916/17 585-7; this photo opp. p. 560; S.D. Olson, *Biographical Dictionary of North American Classicists*.]

John Grove (1848-1908) taught at Ohio Wesleyan for twenty-eight years and published a textbook on elementary Latin. Grove received his AB in 1870 from Ohio Wesleyan, and a Masters in 1873. In 1880, he was appointed adjunct Professor of Latin and in 1883 a Professor of Latin, a position that he held until his death. A portrait in oil survives in the Wesleyan Archive. We print a photo of him on the left (above, *Le Bijou* 1909) and another on the right (from a 1900 photo album). See his *Textbook of Latin Elements: Intended as a drill book for beginners and as an introduction to Nepos, Caesar, or Virgil* (Delaware 1879; revised 1885; enlarged, Columbus 1903). Grove, a portly gentleman, chose to sit down while working with students through



PROFESSOR JOHN HENRY GROVE

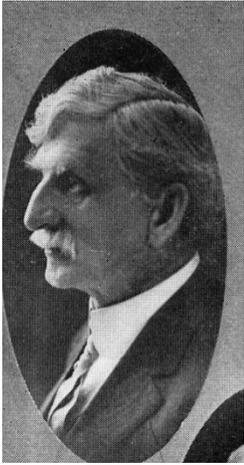
his Latin texts, as this photo (right) shows.

Richard Parsons combined a 40-year teaching career at his *alma mater*, Ohio Wesleyan, with an active interest in scholarship. Parsons (unlike Williams) sits before some Greek on the board (previous page, above center). Can you identify it? It's easy Attic--if you know Greek. Parsons appears again on the right below. He was born 25 June 1847, in Moate, Ireland, to Richard & Margaret Payne P. He married Eusebia Larason in 1871. His education included an A.B. from Ohio Wesleyan, 1868; A.M., 1871; Litt.D., 1921. He was promoted from Tutor to



Professor of Greek at Ohio Wesleyan, 1875-1920. He was principal of the Normal Department at OWU (women's teaching preparatory). He was an early student at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, 1893-4.

He was witty in class and a productive scholar, publishing an important school edition of the so-called *Tablet of Cebes*. He produced a translation of Euripides' *Iphigenia in Tauris* and studied the works of the philosopher Epictetus. The unique Tablet is a Cynic/Stoic philosophical curiosity admired by Milton but rarely read by modern students of Greek or their teachers. No further English edition after Parsons's was produced until 1983. His work went through two editions and eight printings by 1904. See *Cebes' Tablet* (Boston, 1887; repr. & rev. 1889, 1892, 1895, 1897 [bis], 1901, 1904). He died 11 Feb. 1926, in Delaware, OH. Information was collected from the Delaware Gazette (11 Feb. 1926) 1; Hubbart, pp. 196-7; B. L. McElroy, *Ohio Wesleyan Magazine* 3.6 (Mar. 1926) 131 (with portrait); Parsons, *History of Delaware County and Ohio* (Chicago, 1880), 640.



Grace Stanley first served as a Latin tutor from 1889. She became an associate professor in 1915 and taught until 1923. She was yet alive as Professor Emerita in 1941. I wish I could tell you more about her. (Photo: *Le Bijou* 1914)

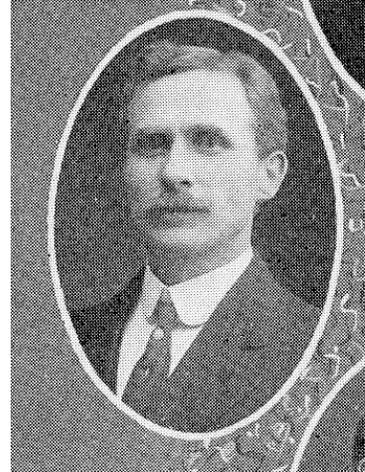


Wallace N. Stearns also taught Greek (OWU Archive, Photo Album of 1900). He looks rather lost in this classroom, bare of books and perhaps a very cold room.



Sarah Cantwell is another Greek tutor in Classics about whom I can only say she was working at Ohio Wesleyan between 1909 and 1912, perhaps even later. (Photo: *Le Bijou* 1909)

William Harvey Partridge received his B.A. from Oberlin in 1894. He earned an M.A. in 1904 and served as an Instructor in Greek and Latin in 1912 at least. (Photo: *Le Bijou* 1912)



Joseph Messick (A.B. OWU 1902; M.A. Yale 1909)



taught from 1900 to 1916 at Ohio Wesleyan. He was professor of Latin from 1910 to 1916. Mr. Messick (left) appeared in *Le Bijou*, 1915. He died before the second semester, spring 1916. Corinne Rosebrook, a Delawarean and former holder of the Silver Teapot, was his student from 1910 until 1912 and then again from 1914 to 1916. There were about eight majors at that time in Greek and Latin. She became a Latin teacher and taught in Washington D.C. schools. She told the author about her favorite teacher in an interview (4 November 1986) when she was, as she had been for many years, the oldest living OWU female graduate (died at 107 in 2001). Ms. Rosebrook herself was a classmate of a daughter of Professor Grove, who had taught Rosebrook's mother Latin. About Messick, she said that he was a quiet man, not fussy, but one who stuck to his class plan, except on one spring day in April 1914. Messick was an early ham radio enthusiast, and he knew, from a long night's listening, before anyone else in Delaware of a major catastrophe. The Titanic had struck an iceberg and sunk. The next day in Latin class, he never reached his Latin lesson, but he told the stunned class about the radio traffic that he had picked up about the doomed ocean liner and its passengers. She remembered that day well, over 70 years later. [[another photo: *Le Bijou* 1914]]

Clyde Pharr, born 17 February 1885 in Saltillo, TX, and in 1945 he married Mary Elizabeth Brown. He was educated at East Texas Normal College with a B.S. (Commerce, TX), 1903 and received his A.B. in 1905. He acquired another B.A. at Yale, 1906; and his Ph.D. in 1910 (Abernethy fellow). He studied in Berlin, 1910 and in Paris, 1920-21. He



taught Greek and Latin in Urbana (OH) at the U. School, 1906-7 and 1912-3. He became a fellow of the AIA at American School of Classical Studies at Athens, 1910-12. Then he returned to the post of an assistant professor of Greek and Latin at **Ohio Wesleyan** where he remained from 1912 to 1917. After serving at Southwestern Presbyterian U., 1918-24, he became associate professor, and Professor of Greek and Latin, & head of Classics at Vanderbilt University, 1924-50. He was visiting Professor at U. Texas, 1950-3 and resident Professor of Roman law, 1953-66. He was a legal adviser to the U.S. Draft Board, during World War I, 1917-8. He served the Managing committee of the ASCSA, 1941-72. He was President of the Classical Association of the Mid-West and South in 1943-4. He died on 31 Dec. 1972 in Austin, TX. (Photo: *Le Bijou* 1915)

Clyde Pharr grew up on a farming ranch in Texas, where, in his words, "we had much hard manual labor the whole year long. At an early age my younger brother Frank and I developed the habit of running away from home." Though he attended school for only three months a year, he entered East Texas Normal College, where he became friends with Sam Rayburn, future speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. Pharr credited two of his early teachers for taking him away from the fields. Generations of students at Vanderbilt and UT Austin remembered his devotion to teaching. He would say, only half-seriously, "Oh, the infinite resistance of the human mind to the penetration of knowledge."

The scholar devoted himself to Roman law when Greek law was more an academic vogue. He and his wife devoted themselves to the *Corpus of Roman Law* series, the first English translation of Theodosius, a work vital for the later Roman Empire. Theodosius' stilted arguments and unusual diction trouble the translator. There are no Latin phrases in the translated text, only in the notes and glossary. In addition, he supervised translations of the 16 Sirmondian Constitutions and the 26 constitutions of Theodosius II as well as the 58 Post-Theodosian Novels (revisions of law) to produce a volume of 700 pages. Pharr produced a unique school edition of Virgil, with running vocabulary and notes on the same page as the text. Fold out vocabulary pages appear in the back. This text, partly prepared while he was at Ohio Wesleyan, remains in print and widely used 75 years after its publication. See W.W. Briggs Jr., *Biographical Dictionary of North American Classicists* (1994) 498-99.

Pharr's dissertation examined "Hellanicus and the Ionian Logography" (Yale, 1910); printed (Weimar, 1915). His publications include: "A Year-or-More of Greek," *CJ* 13 (1917-8) 364-71; *Homeric Greek: A Book for*

Beginners (Boston, 1921; 5th ed., 1925; repr. Norman, OK, 1959); "Homer and the Study of Greek," *CW* 14 (1920-1) 114-8; "The Testimony of Josephus to Christianity," *AJP* 48 (1927) 137-47; *Vergil's Aeneid Books I-VI* (Boston, 1930; 2d ed. Boston, 1964); "The Interdiction of Magic in Roman Law," *TAPA* 63 (1932) 269-95; "Roman Legal Education," *CJ* 34 (1938-9) 25?-70; "A Project for the Translation of Roman Law," *CJ* 42 (1946-7) 141-6; *The Theodosian Code and Novels and the Sirmondian Constitutions*, with T. S. Davidson & M. B. Pharr (Princeton, 1952); gen. ed., *Corpus Iuris Romani II. Ancient Roman Statutes* (Austin, 1961); *Homeric Vocabularies: Greek and English Word Lists for the Study of Homer* (repr. Norman, OK, 1969). *Who's Who* 7:452.



In the days of Professor Pharr, the handsome Mr. Charles L. Sherman (1922-23, at least) also taught Classics at Ohio Wesleyan. (Photo: *Le Bijou* 1922)



The next picture features three Classicists at Ohio Wesleyan, in front of now unknown wooden shutter doors of University Hall, if we can judge by the Hebrew on the left. D.N. Robinson appears in the Homburg, under the natty cap is Floyd Spencer, and **Mabel Drennan** wears glasses in *Le Bijou* of 1925. Drennan taught from 1925 to at least 1929 at OWU.

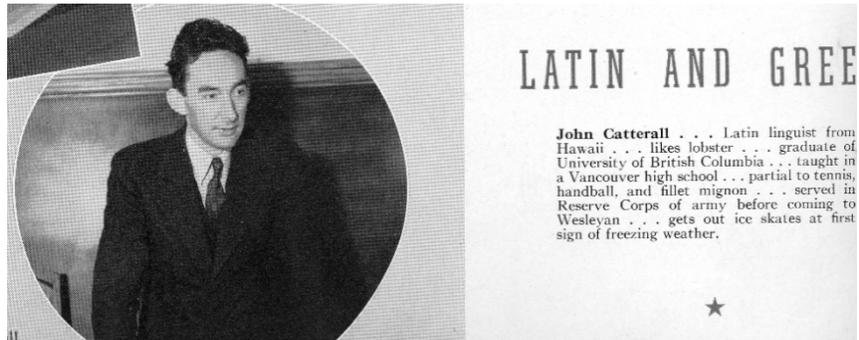
Floyd Albert Spencer taught Classics at Ohio Wesleyan in the mid-'twenties, ca. 1922-28. A somewhat flamboyant personality, Spencer wanted to title his lively biography of St. Paul *For Christ's Sake*, but his publisher (Harper 1934) was more comfortable with *Beyond Damascus*. He taught at NYU from 1930 to 1936/7 [information *per litt* from Professor Lionel Casson who was his student in elementary Greek and Horace. He praised his "large sonorous voice."] One can sense his jaunty nature from the driving cap in the *Bijou* photo. He served in naval intelligence for the US Navy in World War II. He wrote *The Influence of Isocrates in Antiquity* (diss., Univ. Chicago 1923) and he "prepared" *War and Postwar Greece. An Analysis based on Greek Writings* (Washington DC 1952). Under the pseudonym Spencer Bayne, he published three thrillers: *Murder recalls Van Kill* (1939); *The turning sword: a Van Kill Novel of Detection* (1941); *Agent Extraordinary* (1942).

Dwight Nelson Robinson, born 17 Sept. 1886 in Winchester, Massachusetts, was educated at Harvard, B.A. 1908; A.M., 1909; Ph.D., 1911. He wrote his dissertation in Latin, as was then the style. He taught at Yale as Instructor, Lat. & Gk., 1911-6; and then moved to Ohio Wesleyan where he served as associate and then full professor of Greek & Latin, 1916-41. He served as an associate editor of the *Classical Journal*, 1935-41. He died 30 Oct. 1941 in Delaware, OH. "Robbo" to his students, taught Latin and Greek at Ohio Wesleyan for 25 years. He delivered the graduation address in Latin for his Harvard undergraduate class. One legend claimed that the Harvard grammarian H. W. Smyth asked him at his oral examination to translate Lincoln's Gettysburg Address into sixth-century Doric Greek, and that he rattled it off without pausing. Your compiler seriously doubts this feat. His dissertation, which utilized epigraphical as well as literary sources, concerned the rise and fall of oriental cults in the eastern Roman Empire. He wrote the preface to the *Classical Journal* volume dedicated to the bimillennium of Virgil's birth, in which he described the "creed of a classicist": a deep love for beauty, exactness, and a finer civilization.

He was an excellent and popular teacher. He enjoyed writing and translating Christmas carols into Latin. Students sang these while walking through the streets of Delaware and they were published locally (copies can be consulted in the Wesleyan Archives). On the secular side, he gave Roman banquets and translated the popular song "Yes, We Have No Bananas." He also composed short Latin dramas, the titles of which include *Seneca*, *Proserpina*, *Orpheus*, *Nero*, and *Atalanta*. His sudden death, 36 hours after his last lecture and less than two months before America's into World War II, nearly ended the teaching of Greek and Latin and the Classics at Ohio Wesleyan. His portrait in oils hangs in the Wesleyan Archive. The D.N. Robinson fellowship honors students going on to graduate study in Humanities-Classics, especially Classics.

His dissertation, entitled *Quibus temporibus religiones ab oriente ortae et Romae et in provinciis Romanis floruerint desierintque quaeritur* (Harvard, 1911), concerned *Epochs when Religions from the East flourished and perished at Rome and in the Provinces*. His publications include: *Plays and Songs for Latin Clubs* (Delaware, OH, 1921); *Cleopatra and Other Latin Plays and Songs* (Delaware, OH, 1924); *Narcissus and Other Latin Plays* (Delaware, OH, 1928); "The Creed of a Classicist," *CJ* 25 (1929-30) 601-10; *Vergilius and Other Latin Plays* (Delaware, OH, 1937); "Latin Studies in the United States," *Per lo studio e l'uso del latino* (Rome, 1940). I found information about him in Ernest Amy, *Ohio Wesleyan Magazine* 19.2 (1941) 29, 36; Anon., "The Classics at Ohio Wesleyan," *Ohio Wesleyan Magazine* 18.1 (1940) 4, 9, 24; *CJ* 37 (1941-2) 251-2; *Who's Who* 2: 453.

John Catterall of Hawaii was an instructor for more than a year in Greek and Latin (M.A. Stanford 1932, Ph.D. Stanford 1936), after the sudden death of Professor Robinson in fall 1941—the last professor of Latin known to Hubbart (1943, p. 180). There is little one can learn about instruction in Latin and Greek in the dark World War II days of 1942-45. (Photo: *Le Bijou* 1942)



Franz H. Mautner, a refugee from Austria, succeeded Robinson, beloved and long-lived teacher (25 years) and in whose name a fellowship for Classics graduate study was established. Here both of them appear in a **Bijou** 1941 photograph. Mautner (b. 8 June 1902—d. 1995) served as an assistant professor at OWU from at least 1941 to 1948 teaching Classics as well as his native and beloved German. He assisted Professor Van Sickle in History. He held a Ph.D. from the University of Vienna (1926). When the Nazis came to power in Austria, they dismissed him from a Gymnasium (collegiate) position.

He came to America in 1938 when many refugees, most of them Jewish, arrived from Hitler's Nazified Germany (cf. Lewis Coser, *Refugee Scholars*. [Yale UP 1984]). He was not happy teaching at OWU, the author has been told, and left for positions in Germanic languages at Kenyon, Sarah Lawrence, and Queens college in New York. He finally found Swarthmore College congenial, where he taught (1955-72) and eventually retired. He published scholarly books on modern German and Austrian literary figures such as Georg Lichtenberg, Johann Nestroy, and Karl Kraus, a Viennese satirist. The Austrian government and the city of Vienna belatedly, after World War II, honored Mautner for his important services to Austrian culture. (Photo: *Le Bijou* 1941. Other information retrieved from Ruth

Davies, Mildred Newcomb, Robert Shanklin, Ben Spencer; see also Alisa Giardinelli's portrait, *Swarthmore Bulletin* 12/2002 on the Swarthmore webpage.)



In the second half of the twentieth century, the Classics faculty returned. **Roland Boecklin** (1900-1972), another European gentleman, a Classical philologist and

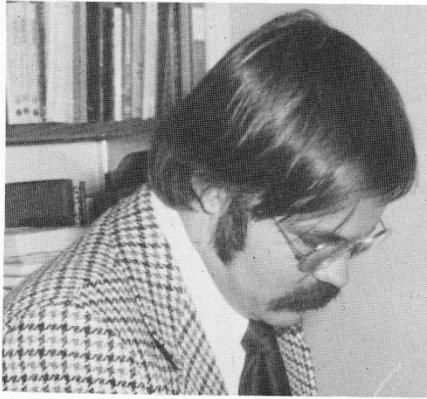
European humanist, both natively spoke and inspiringly taught German, French, and Italian as well as teaching Greek and Latin. Born in Fiesole, Italy, near Florence, the grandson of the noted Swiss painter Arnold Boecklin (1827-1901), Boecklin was graduated from the humanistic gymnasium of St. Gallen (Switzerland), earned a diploma in Colonial Administration {!} in Florence (1922), emigrated to the United States in 1923, and was naturalized in 1929. He was a Kellogg fellow at Yale from 1933 to 1935, whence he served with the Yale Dura-Europus excavation in 1933-34. After studying ancient history with the polyglot Russian ancient historian Michael Rostovtzeff, Boecklin received his Ph.D. from Yale in 1935 with a dissertation about the sources, organization, and urbanization of the Syrian Decapolis and the Barbarian territories adjacent, with a dissertation entitled *The Syrian Decapolis and the Hauran under Roman Administration to Diocletian*.



After teaching in New England preparatory schools from 1936 to 1946, he joined the faculty of the University of Massachusetts at Fort Devons from 1946 to 1948. He was then appointed Associate Professor and Chair of Classics at Ohio Wesleyan, Full Professor in 1954. He was a member of the German department, but he held the Whitlock and Wright chairs of Latin and Greek until his retirement in 1971. Roman history was his original field of research, but he taught the full range of Classical authors as well as German and world literature courses. He was the Greek and Latin teacher of William McCulloh, Ohio Wesleyan's most recent Rhodes Scholar (1953-56, at Merton College, Oxford). His tall and imposing presence earned him the nickname "Zeus." The picture at right appeared in the 1961 *Bijou*. Boecklin's ashes were interred in Florence along with those of his father and grandfather. His wife Peg Boecklin, founder and director of the OWU CAP Center died in February 2007.

William McCulloh (BA OWU 1953) brilliantly taught Greek and Latin at Kenyon College for thirty-three years until 1999. A native of Worthington, long-time Prof. Harry Bahrck in Psychology offered him automobile rides to campus in the 1950s. He wrote a delicate and concise book on the Greek novelist Longus' *Daphnis and Chloe* (Twayne Publ. New York 1970) before the novels regained the popularity that they now enjoy. He retired from teaching with several rewards, some national (such as the Carnegie), for his superlative teaching. He is preparing a study of Dionysius the Areopagite. (Photo courtesy Kenyon College website)





Gregory Elftmann—Humanities

Greg Elftmann received a B.A. from Carleton College and his M.A. and Ph.D. (1971) from the University of Pennsylvania. He published an admirable article on ‘Aeneas in His Prime: Distinctions in Age and the Loneliness of Adulthood in Vergil’s *Aeneid*’, *Arethusa* 12 (1979) 175-202. He later went into diplomacy for the United States Department of State and USIS. He served in Greece, the former Soviet Union, and Latin America among his postings. He was the first Classics faculty member to hold a tenure-track position in Classics thirty years after the death of “Robbo” Robinson. (Photo: *Le Bijou* 1975)

Donald Lateiner received an A.B. (History, University of Chicago), an M.A. (History, Cornell University), and the Ph.D. (Stanford University, thesis on *Lysias and Athenian Politics*, 1972). Arriving at OWU in 1979, he became the John Wright Professor of Greek. He published *The Historical Method of Herodotus* (1988), *Sardonic Smile: Nonverbal Behaviors in Homeric Epic* (1995), Barnes and Noble annotated editions in translation of Herodotus and Thucydides (2004 & 2006), and has edited three collections of essays. Aside from more than 60 articles on Greek and Latin prose and poetry and Greek history, he has published over 100 book reviews. On September 11, 2001, his Greek literature class discussed one student’s observation of the “Greek obsession” with retrieving dead bodies. He widened the Humanities-Classics (HMCL) “Myth, Legend and Folklore” course from its traditional Classical materials to include Mesopotamian, African, African-American, and Native American narratives, art, and music. He introduced courses on Mediterranean Archaeology, Athenian History, Women in Antiquity, and the Ancient Novel. He promoted the renaming of the Pre-Modern studies program to its current “Ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies,” and served as its chair. He chaired the HM-CL department for many years. He retired from Humanities-Classics in 2013. (Photo: M. Gabel 2005, Persepolis frieze, Cincinnati Art Museum)



Laurie Churchill came to OWU with a degree in Comparative Literature from University of California, Santa Cruz. She studies women writing Latin in the



ancient and medieval worlds. She taught at OWU from 1989 to 2000. She served as Chairperson of the Women's Studies program. She was appointed Rebecca Brown Professor of Latin and co-edited the three volumes of *Women Writing Latin* (Routledge: New York 2002). (Photo, with Lateiner, *Le Bijou* 1995)

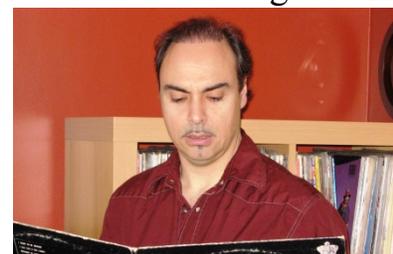
Stephanie Winder (B.A. Leeds, Ph.D. Ohio State) taught Classics at OWU as a Visiting Assistant Professor from 1995 to 2000. Her 1997 doctoral dissertation is entitled *The Ancient Quarrel between Poetry and Philosophy in Callimachus' Hymn to Zeus*. A very popular instructor, her studies include the tragedies of Sophocles. She moved on to a position teaching Greek and Latin at the University of Edinburgh. (Photo: Sturges Hall celebration on Graduation Day)



Brad Cook (B.A., M.A., Ph.D. 1996, University of Washington, Seattle) taught Classics at OWU as a Visiting Assistant Professor from 2000 to 2005. His dissertation concerned *Demosthenes and his Biographers*. He now teaches Classics at the University of Mississippi. His current research concerns the biographer Plutarch and the biographical traditions of Demosthenes. (Photo: K. Hame at Getty Villa 2006)



Herman Pontes taught Classics at OWU as a Visiting Assistant Professor from 2000 to 2002. He holds the Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati (1995) where he



wrote his Ph.D. dissertation on *Callida iunctura: the divided heroic clausula in Virgil*. He participated in the University of Cincinnati excavations at Troy. He now lives in, Calgary, Alberta. (Photo: courtesy Pontes with ancient LP vinyl)

Lee M. Fratantuono received a B.A. from Holy Cross College, an M.A. from Boston College, and his Ph.D. from Fordham University with a commentary on *Aeneid xi* as his dissertation (2002) which he revised and published. He has taught at Ohio Wesleyan since 2005. He founded a new chapter of the national



Classics honorary society ΗΣΦ. He has contributed running commentaries on Vergil's *Aeneid*, Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, and Lucan's *Pharsalia*, all with madness in the title (e.g., *Madness Transformed*). He has also published many articles on Vergil and book reviews chiefly on books concerned with Latin Literature. His popular "Classics Club," showing Classics of the Cinema, has enjoyed a large attendance. His enrollments for Latin Literature in translation courses have surpassed available records. He enjoys the title of William Whitlock Professor of Latin. (Photo: Lateiner 2006, in his former Sturges Hall office).

The "Great Books" Humanities and Classics had provided a unifying campus presence for the liberal arts and the humanistic tradition for seven of



OWU's seventeen decades. The amalgam fruitfully combined the foundations of Western literature and other Classics of World Literature. In 1972, Classics—so large a part of that heritage--had been joined to Humanities for their mutual edification and support. After the retirement of Lateiner, Fratantuono labored to break up the Humanities-Classics Department. In 2014, the parties mutually agreed to separate. The faculty created the Comparative Literature Department and the Classics Program

migrated to Slocum Hall.

The Classics faculty members have enjoyed offices in various campus buildings including Elliott Hall, University Hall, Slocum Hall, and Sturges Hall (Photo above: the federal style Sturges Hall, 2005). The D. N. Robinson Fund supports graduate study for students who have majored in Classics and choose to continue that path. Library endowments have supported its work in the past, including the Ruth Davies Fund and the fortuitously named Millennial Fund. One

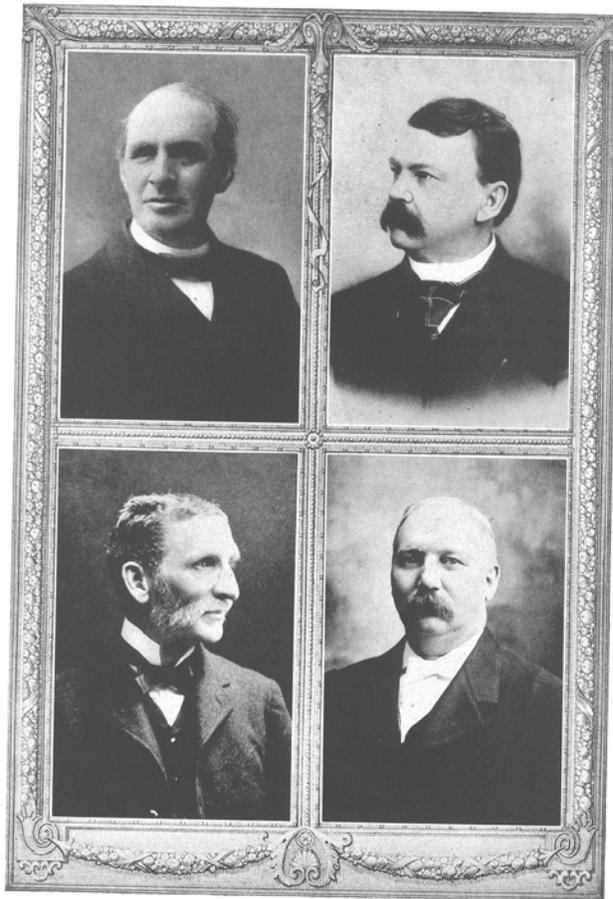
can peruse an account of the history of the former HMCL department at: <http://go.owu.edu/~dglatein/links.html>; see [History of the OWU Humanities-Classics Department \(pdf document\)](#).

The Classics program teaches both Greek from the letter Alpha and Latin as well. Students progress to higher levels and readings in authors and topics, but already by the second year, students are reading Homer and Ovid. The Classicists teach survey courses on Literature in Translation, and strictly Classical types of Folklore. In 1984, 1988, and 2000, Lateiner led OWU students on trips to Greece, Turkey, and Italy. Fratantuono took students to France and Italy.

Consider, finally, a portrait from 1894 of three great OWU Classicists. It appeared in the curious volume entitled *Ninety-Four*, of which only 94 copies were printed (Chicago 1919) for the fiftieth anniversary class after the opening of Ohio Wesleyan University. The Classicists Whitlock, Grove, and Parsons had taught generations of OWU students Greek and Latin.

Whether Classics major, or minor, someone intending a career not strictly related to the ancient world, or advancing to graduate study in philology, history, or archaeology, our students have enjoyed a unique introduction to the ancient Mediterranean World. Our recent graduates who have matriculated for advanced degrees include Jennifer Lewton [Yates] at Brown University, Michael McOsker at University of Michigan, Aaron Palmore at Ohio State, David Assaf and Emma Hilliard at University of British Columbia, Cindy Susalla at University of Pennsylvania, and Sidney Kochman at Indiana University. We expect that they will leave a mark on the world of Greek and Latin philology, or archaeology or history, arising from their humane and liberal education.

**AVETE ATQUE VALETE!
FARE WELL AND BE WELL!**



PROF. WILLIAM F. WHITLOCK, 1859-1909
PROF. RICHARD PARSONS, 1875-1918

PROF. EDWARD T. NELSON, 1871-1897
PROF. JOHN H. GROVE, 1878-1908