

April 28, 2023

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Greetings to Professor John Traill

Epigraphers who are interested in the study of Attic inscriptions and those dealing with Attic topography often consult the works of our honored, respected Professor Traill, both in *The Athenian Councillors* which he co-authored with his mentor, Benjamin Dean Meritt, the Attic leader of epigraphic studies in America, as well as the two works he did on his own, his magnum opus, *Persons of Ancient Athens*, and the indispensable guide and assistant of topographical archaeologists, among them especially the Greeks, I speak of his study of *The Political Organization of Attica*. All three are works of reference indispensable for students of Attic antiquity.

Traill was fortunate in his first scientific steps to have great guides on the long and uphill road of Attic inscriptions and Greek topography. At Harvard, where he did his postgraduate studies, his professor was Sterling Dow. In Athens, as a student of the American School, his teacher was Eugene Vanderpool. From there, like many other young American and Canadian students, obsessed with letters, he got to know Greece and learned to love and respect the country and the Greek way of life.

To Vanderpool he owes his acquaintance and guidance in Attic topography. From him he learned to love the folk taverns and the *drink*, especially *retsina*. In the Epeiros and the other beer-restaurants and taverns of the area near the Agora, Vanderpool's students, Geagan, Threatte, Langdon, our present honoree John Traill, and other specializing and promising young researchers were permanent regulars. Maybe they have not happened to have read Mr. Alexandros Papadiamantis' cheerful words, but surely many times they would have felt them while drinking: "It was a beautiful *retsination* full of aroma and flight and foam."

His third teacher, mentor, and great friend, was Meritt. It is to him that he owes the systematic engagement with the bouleutai and prytaneis lists, as well as with Attic prosopography. The teacher trusted his worthy student and was generous. And he granted him new inscriptions to publish and entrusted him with the continuation of the Attic Prosopography. His plan to prepare a new and improved edition of Kirchner's *Prosopographia Attica*, had been implemented by Meritt for many years and, in addition to his personal work, he occasionally assigned the compilation of entries to his younger collaborators, Kendrick Pritchett, Tony Raubitschek, Daphne Hereward and a few others, but mainly to the excellent Greek epigrapher George Stamires, who was Meritt's assistant and close associate at the Institute for Advanced Study for 13 consecutive years, from 1948 to 1961. The trust that Meritt put into Traill was not misguided. In addition to publishing the bouleutic lists in the journal *Hesperia* and co-publishing with his teacher *The Athenian Councillors* in the Ancient Agora series of blue volumes, Traill devoted himself to the writing on a much broader basis, and using technology and computer capabilities, prosopography which would now include, in addition to Athenian citizens and women, foreigners, permanent and occasional residents of Athens and slaves. The compilation of this titanic work, Traill's life work, to which his family also contributed greatly, lasted more than thirty-five years. The first volume of *Persons of Ancient Athens* was published in 1994 and the 21st, the last, in 2012. But "the revered old teacher does not leave the beloved intellectual child." He published two more

volumes with *Addenda and Corrigenda*, the last one in 2021. I am sure he will also prepare a third one, and the papers of the Symposium will certainly provide him with new and sufficient material for his *Addenda and Corrigenda*.

The publication of lists of bouleutai and prytaneis and the writing of his magnum opus, *Persons of Ancient Athens*, required him to come to Greece often, to study both in the ancient Agora, in the storehouse of the Stoa of Attalos, and in the Epigraphical Museum, as well as to collect new names and check old readings. His previous teaching, the association with Eugene Vanderpool, the frequent trips, the stays, and the object of study were decisive for Traill's close and loving relationship with the country and its people.

The country and his fellow Greek craftsmen owe a lot to Traill, because he loved Greece, learned the modern Greek language, and always strives to speak it. He belongs to the old, now disappearing, generation of American and Canadian Hellenists who consider that Greek civilization, ancient, medieval and modern, constitute an inseparable continuity and unity and that the knowledge of modern Hellenism contributes decisively to the understanding of the ancient Greek world. He is one of the few – and now with the death of David Jordan, Leslie Threatte, and Ron Stroud, the circle has become even smaller – who, by choice, associates and has stable friendships with Greeks, travels in the countryside, walks, and enjoys good company and wine in the few remaining taverns.

The Hellenic Epigraphic Society has a long-standing relationship with the honoree, and some of its members, among them the speakers, are connected with him with a long friendship. And his friendship honors us. Traill was, and remains, a steadfast supporter and expounder of the Society's work and, whenever he was asked, he generously offered, and continues to offer, his knowledge and experience to its members. And the Epigraphic Museum, which houses today's event in his honor, was also for Traill, as well as for many other epigraphists, especially Attic ones, *home sweet home*, to repeat the warm phrase of Lillian Jeffery.

Honored Professor Traill, dearest friend Ioannis

The decision of the Epigraphic Museum and our company to organize and dedicate to you – on the occasion of your trip after four years – the Attic Epigraphical and Topographical Symposium, is a small sample of honor and a small reward for your brave contribution and your great contribution to the study of Attic inscriptions, prosopography, and Attic topography, but also an indication of the deep gratitude for your constant, sincere love, and long relationship with Greece and the Greeks.

(May you live) For Many Years
You are a joy to us, friend Atticus