

## Paul B. Harvey, Jr.

(16 April, 1945 – 13 July, 2014)

by Celia E. Schultz

Paul Benjamin Harvey, Jr., a well-respected scholar of impressive breadth and a popular and challenging teacher, died unexpectedly in Rome in July, 2014. Upon graduation from high school in California, where he was already reading Latin at an advanced level, Paul intended to study organic chemistry, but upon arriving at Oberlin College he switched to Classical Languages, a change of course perhaps prompted by his being accident-prone. Some years later, after he spilled yet another cup of coffee during lecture, a teaching assistant provided him with a cup of coffee that had written on its lid “This End Up”. He graduated from Oberlin *magna cum laude* in 1967 and entered the University of Pennsylvania’s Graduate Group in Ancient History. His studies were supplemented by a year at the Istituto di Storia at the Università di Pisa where he worked with Emilio Gabba. Their close friendship resulted in numerous return trips to Pisa and, later, to Pavia. Paul was twice Visiting Fellow in Ancient History at Pavia, and he was on his way home from speaking at a memorial gathering in honor of Gabba when he was taken ill. In 1972 Paul completed a dissertation, *Cicero’s Orations De Lege Agraria: studies and essays, with a commentary on the Third Oration*, under R. E. A. Palmer. He immediately took a position in the Department of History at the Pennsylvania State University, where he remained for the rest of his career, the only exceptions being a stint at Stanford as a Visiting Associate Professor (1982), another as the Professor-in-Charge of the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome (1985–86), and time spent as a Fulbright Scholar in Chile (1988). To his original appointment at Penn State in History, he added joint appointments with Classics (1979) and Religious Studies (1999). He was head of the Department of Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies from 2006 to 2013.

His research, always incisive and thorough, touched on an impressive range of topics: many articles on the oratory, epigraphy, prosopography and politics of the Roman Republic; Latin linguistics; Roman religion; the Church Fathers (especially Jerome); and ancient and medieval law. He prized erudition and style. He had little patience for scholars of insufficient meticulousness, writing to a friend:

I do not, as so many epigoni, worship Syme, but it strikes me as the height of foolishness to ignore his writings — as seems to be the fashion among some nowadays; or, worse, to denounce his methods without any clear understanding of what they might be. The truth of the matter is that I enjoy reading Syme.

In collaboration with R. Wind, he published a translation of the *Commentariolum Petitionis* attributed to Quintus Cicero and collaborated with J. M. Bak *et al.* on two volumes in the series *The laws of the Medieval Kingdom of Hungary*, covering the years 1301–1486. He co-edited with C. E. Schultz *Religion in Republican Italy* and, with C. Conybeare, *Maxima debetur magistro reverentia: essays on Rome and the Roman tradition in honor of Russell T. Scott*. At the time of his death, he was working on a catalogue of inscriptions and brickstamps from Cosa and a volume on Jerome–Gennadius–Isidore–Ildefons, *De viris illustribus* for the Translated Texts for Historians series. He was a frequent reviewer (about 100, most of them in CHOICE), best known for two daring reviews, published in *AJPh* 1980, of D. R. Shackleton Bailey’s *Two studies in Roman nomenclature* and the same scholar’s edition of Cicero’s *Epistulae ad Familiares*, and for a two-part review in *Athenaeum* (1990 and 1991) of that scholar’s edition of Cicero’s *Epistulae ad Quintum fratrem et ad M. Brutum*; these are part review, part supplement, adding bibliography, making corrections to text and notes, and engaging in frequent counterargument on issues large and small. Though polite and firm in published reviews, he could be sharply witty in private conversation. Assessing privately the work of a scholar from an academic family, he wrote “... his treatise is clear proof that rigor in argumentation and critical insight are not inheritable traits”.

A much-beloved teacher, he offered courses running the full gamut of classical antiquity, including Early Christianity. His efforts were twice recognized with teaching awards from his university. He was known for humorous lectures; exacting standards in translation, research, and writing; and a sense that the serious Romans were sometimes hilarious. Student papers were returned with the margins filled with comments and corrections, interpretations and bibliography, all penned in small precise script. Conducting students through the city of Rome, he was an indefatigable guide

who made sure his charges were introduced not just to the remains of the past, but also to the finer aspects of modern Italian cuisine. Always looking for ways to make Rome more real to his students in central Pennsylvania, he was known to bring homemade *garum* to class. Once, in a course on Juvenal, he brought in a robust specimen of nightshade, which set off allergic reactions in a few of the students. The most coveted spot was a seat in one of his advanced seminars because at the end of term students were always invited to his home with its veritable menagerie of pets that he shared with his wife Karen for a dinner made with vegetables fresh from the garden, followed by plenty of espresso and a long evening walk through town.

To honor Paul's dedication to his students, his colleagues at Penn State have partnered with Karen Harvey to establish a prize in his name. Contributions to the fund are welcome. Inquiries should be made to Mark Munn (markmunn@psu.edu), Head, Dept. of Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies, PSU, University Park, PA 16802.

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