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TO: Friends and colleagues interested in *Classicizing Philadelphia*

RE: ***Classicizing Philadelphia***  
**Project Activities 2012**

Dec. 31, 2012

This memorandum reports progress during 2012 toward realizing *Classicizing Philadelphia*, a research project to document and investigate American reception of Greece and Rome in the city and region of Philadelphia. *Classicizing Philadelphia* begins with the assumptions that America's conversation with Greece and Rome has been and continues to be important, that this conversation has been as diverse and varied as our country itself, and that Philadelphia has played a significant part in it.

During spring of 2012 planning continued, supported by a Mellon Tri-Co Faculty Forum seed grant. A group of faculty members, librarians, and others from Bryn Mawr, Haverford, Swarthmore, and other institutions met twice to outline the shape of *Classicizing Philadelphia*. On February 10, 2012, Prof. Kathryn Boshier of Northwestern University, a director of the *Classicizing Chicago* project at Northwestern University, joined the group to discuss that project; later that day, Prof. Boshier presented a Classics colloquium at Bryn Mawr. At a final meeting on March 16 members of the group looked ahead to the next steps for *Classicizing Philadelphia*. A necessary first step will be to develop a large sample of content of various types, so that the most suitable digital content management and presentation tools can be identified. *Classicizing Philadelphia* can cooperate with the *Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia* by providing enhanced content to articles that touch on classical reception. Reaching out to other cultural organizations will also be important, and preliminary contact has been made with the Library Company. Progress was also made in defining the scale and scope of *Classicizing Philadelphia*. In contrast with the Chicago project which inspired it, *Classicizing Philadelphia* will be modest in scope. It will seek to become, as one member of the discussion group put it, "a center of gravity" for work related to Philadelphia in the growing area of classical reception studies.

In August 2012 an unexpected combination of faculty departures and reassignments at the Episcopal Academy recalled me to full-time teaching for 2012-2013; as a result, I have been unable to spend as much time on *Classicizing Philadelphia* in the second half of 2012 as I had in the previous two years. Even so, the last four months of 2012 saw two important developments. First, I applied to the Loeb Classical Library Foundation for funding to support the Phase II activities outlined in my 2011 report:

- Initial web presence for *Classicizing Philadelphia*
- Develop prototypes of digital methods for analysis and presentation of data
- Engage students in data analysis, article writing, and software development
- Develop formal partnerships with local institutions and digital humanities projects

- Hold conference on “Local Receptions of Greece and Rome” at Bryn Mawr
- Apply for Phase III funding

Initial reaction to the application has been favorable, and I hope to have a decision by the end of March.

Second, Prof. Ronnie Ancona at the CUNY graduate center put me in touch with Jared Simard, a graduate student working on classical reception in New York (see <http://mappingmythology.com/>). Through him I was introduced to Prof. Elizabeth Macauley-Lewis, also at CUNY, who is working on another New York-based project. As a result, Prof. Greg Staley (University of Maryland) and I are organizing a panel on “Local Receptions of Greece and Rome” (see item five in the list above) for the Classical Association of the Atlantic States’ meeting in Philadelphia on October 10-12, 2013. This panel will bring together representatives of *Classicizing Chicago*, *Classicizing Philadelphia*, and similar projects in New York and Washington. It may mark a first step toward the network of digital humanities projects in classical reception that Kate Bosher and I have envisioned.

I expect to be able to devote significantly more time to *Classicizing Philadelphia* after June 2013, and I look forward to significant progress during the 2013-2014 academic year. No project like this can be carried out by just one person, and I welcome suggestions and assistance from anyone who believes in the importance of America’s conversation with Greece and Rome.