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TO: Friends and colleagues interested in *Classicizing Philadelphia*

RE: ***Classicizing Philadelphia***   Jan. 3, 2014
          Project Activities 2013

This memorandum reports progress during 2013 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.

Classicizing Philadelphia has these goals:

- **To be a focal point** for research on classical receptions in Philadelphia
- **To be a gateway** to documents of classical reception in Philadelphia collections
- **To inform the citizens of Philadelphia** about and engage them in our city's long conversation with Greece and Rome
- To model ways that low-cost, open-source software can be used to create local reception projects like *Classicizing Philadelphia*

During the second half of 2013 *Classicizing Philadelphia* took a number of significant steps toward these goals. Most of these have been reported on the project blog, classicizingphiladelphia.blogs.brynmawr.edu.

- A Program Grant from the Classical Association of the Atlantic States (CAAS) allowed the project to hire Sara Sieteski, a senior IT specialist at the University of Pennsylvania and Ph.D. candidate at Bryn Mawr College, as part-time Project Associate for Design and Implementation.

- With the help of Ms. Sieteski and the library staff at Bryn Mawr College, including Camilla Mackay and Nancy Halli, we identified ARTstor Shared Shelf as the platform for storing and managing data and Omeka as the web publishing software that we will use to develop a public interface with those data. Ms. Sieteski and I have begun to populate a demonstration "sandbox" in ARTstor with data and to experiment with ways to configure and use that platform.

- On October 12 *Classicizing Philadelphia* was part of a panel on "Our Classical Cities: 19th Century American Classical Receptions and Digital Humanities Projects" at the annual meeting of CAAS in Philadelphia. Presentations at the panel included

    o Introductory Remarks: S. Sara Monoson, Northwestern University
    o Classicizing New York: Neo-Classical Public Art and Architecture in the Gilded Age: Elizabeth Macaulay-Lewis and Jared Simard, Graduate Center, CUNY
    o Classicizing Philadelphia: Neo-Classical Spectacle and Farce in Nineteenth Century Philadelphia: Lee T. Pearcy
    o Pompeii in the United States Capitol: Gregory Staley, University of Maryland, College Park

- In November *Classicizing Philadelphia* learned that the project had been awarded a $10,000 Leadership Initiative Grant from CAAS. This grant will support continued development of *Classicizing Philadelphia's* data base and web exhibits, preliminary development of a GIS-enabled tour of classical Philadelphia, a student internship, and purchase of essential equipment during the 2014-2015 academic year.

By the third quarter of 2014 *Classicizing Philadelphia* expects to have a web site linked to a substantial set of data, including many newly created items, in a publicly accessible ARTstor collection.

All this represents significant progress toward making *Classicizing Philadelphia* a reality. None of this progress could have happened without the support of the Classical Association of the Atlantic States, and especially of its president and officers, or without the help and good will of the librarians and other staff of Bryn Mawr College, including especially Camilla Mackay, Head of Carpenter Library and Visual Resources; Nancy Halli, Image Cataloger, Carpenter Visual Resources; and Oliva Cardona, Program Assistant for the Department of Greek, Latin, and Classical Studies. I am grateful to them, and also to Jen Rajchel and the TriCo Digital Humanities team and to Bryn Mawr's Chief Information Officer, Gina Siesing, for their support and encouragement of *Classicizing Philadelphia.*

Finally, 2013 brought news of the death, far too soon, of Kathryn Bosher (1974-2013). Kate was one of the founders of the *Classicizing Chicago* project that inspired *Classicizing Philadelphia,* and until just a few weeks before she died she was full of ideas and encouragement for our Philadelphia project. She will be missed.