

March 7, 2012

**An Open Letter to Members of the Classical Association of Massachusetts**

Salvete Omnes:

I am grateful if you have come as far as to read this letter.

It has long struck me that an important service CAM could perform for Massachusetts Latin teachers is to facilitate reading groups. Perhaps you will even be interested in serving as a regional coordinator for such a group.

If so, I invite you to post your name, town and email address on the CAM web site.

The next step would be to identify a place where interested teachers could meet; this can be your home, your school, a Starbucks if it's only a few people, a room in a public library, or some other opportune location. I've always thought it works well to project the text on a screen. The time of meeting would be whatever is mutually convenient.

Here is a modest but specific goal: at the May 5 CAM/MaFLA meeting we will have Prof. Pat Johnson of Boston University speaking on Ovid's story of Arachne. It would make for a more stimulating discussion on May 5 if those in attendance had already read and discussed the passage—and this is where reading groups could help.

I would love to make this a part of each CAM meeting: an hour, more if people like, devoted to a particular passage that has already been studied in reading groups. AP authors are obvious choices, but variety would be welcome too.

Beyond that a reading group could do as much or as little as it likes. There is a small one in Massachusetts that has read all of the Aeneid in the last few years. One in Rhode Island is reading all of AP Caesar and is preparing a CANE edition for it. These meetings can become forums for other exchanges of ideas.

One would of course accrue PDPs for this. In fact, in the long run, I am investigating how to award graduate credit for a sustained sequence of readings.

If you don't have time for this—and, believe me, I know how busy people are!—perhaps you might know of someone else nearby who would be interested.

With thanks,

Ken Rothwell  
Department of Classics  
UMass Boston  
[kenneth.rothwell@umb.edu](mailto:kenneth.rothwell@umb.edu)