

# Proclamation!

This December in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and twelve, we have these announcements to present.

Firstly, plans for the AMRS War games will be announced next semester.

Secondly, may the odds be ever in your favor during finals week.

Thirdly, have a wonderful Holiday Season, and if the world ends on the 21st, enjoy our last week before the apocalypse!!!

Most Sincerely,

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ANCIENT, MEDIEVAL, AND RENAISSANCE STUDIES

## The Trident

Vol. X, Issue 2

December 2012

### AN ALGERIAN ADVENTURE

BY: DR. EASTMAN



In June of this year, I was invited to join an international team of scholars for a trip to Algeria. This group of archaeologists, historians, and religion scholars spent 10 days visiting Roman and early Christian sites. For political reasons it is difficult to gain entry into Algeria, and our itinerary had to be vetted by the government.

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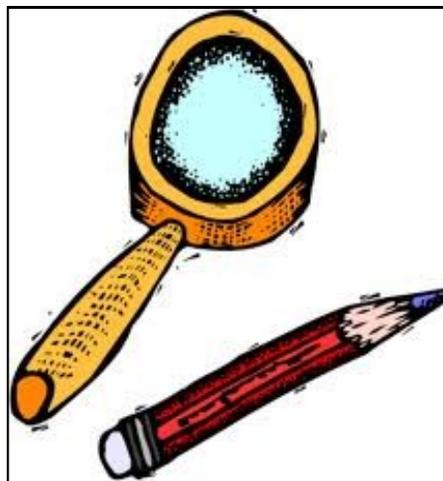
ANNOUNCEMENTS, PG 3 & 8

As foreigners we were also required to travel with an armed escort at all times, primarily because Al Qaeda has a strong presence in certain parts of the country. These obstacles were minor, however, in comparison with the opportunity. The northern coast of Africa was an integral part of the Roman Empire. Its farms provided critical grain supply for Rome itself, but it also made significant cultural contributions to the Mediterranean world. The importance of the region was obvious in the impressive size and scope of many of the sites, such as Timgad, Tebessa, and Madauros. North Africa was also central in the early Christian period, being home to important figures such as Tertullian, Cyprian, Augustine, and the martyrs Perpetua and Felicity. The numerous large basilicas and ornate baptisteries attest to the importance of Christianity here prior to the Muslim Conquest. The climate has allowed much of the decoration at these sites to survive, including beautiful mosaics in many places. Over the course of our journey, we all kept waiting for the “letdown,” for the sites to



stop wowing us. But this never happened. Each site has its own allure, its own mysteries, its own questions for us to debate on site and for hours afterward in the bus. If I had to pick a single highlight, it would probably be sitting in the bishop’s seat in the basilica of Augustine. We know from the sources that Augustine sat when he preached, so I knew that I was sitting in the very place where one of Christianity’s greatest bishops and theologians had once sat.

As someone whose research is by nature interdisciplinary, I found this trip exhilarating. There truly was never a dull moment, and insights from this trip will inform the course I will teach next semester on Early Christianity in Africa. It is gratifying to see the ways in which my research and teaching will intersect through this trip, and I am grateful to OWU for its support.



## CROSSWORD CLUES

Answers to be revealed next issue...

### ACROSS

5. Festival in commemoration of the children slain by Herod at Bethlehem
9. A Roman Pagan Festival that occurred on the winter solstice

### DOWN

1. Another word for Dreidel
2. A companion of St. Nicholas that has recently come under scrutiny
3. The man who created the first nativity scene in 1223
4. This man associated with the celebration of Hanukkah was also called “The Hammer”
5. This man was crowned first Holy Roman Emperor in Rome by Pope Leo III on Christmas
6. This company influenced the US representation of Santa Claus
7. This English King had a Christmas coronation in 1066
8. A treat given to children on St. Nicholas Day



## THE OFFICIAL FALL 2012 OWU

### AMRS TRIDENT PUZZLER

#### A PRIZE COMPETITION

**Directions:** The accumulated initial letters of the answers to the following 15 descriptions provide the names of two holidays and the desired time for their celebration. The answers are known or can be found by research-savvy AMRS students. By filling in the blanks, you produce their names. The answers to the 15 questions derive from Ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance materials. Send your email to the following address:

[dglatein@owu.edu](mailto:dglatein@owu.edu)

Fac felicitæ.

- \_\_\_\_\_: October 1066 was a disastrous month for this English king.
- \_\_\_\_\_, Egyptian anchorite in Julian's day, credited with a Christian creed.
- \_\_\_\_\_, Belisarius' Byzantine successor, defeated Goths and took Rome.
- \_\_\_\_\_, Pisan despot died 1289 from penal starvation; cf. *Inferno* xxxiii.
- \_\_\_\_\_ German astronomer, in 1619 published *Harmonia Mundi*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The English dramatist, author of *The Spanish tragedy*, d. 1594.
- \_\_\_\_\_ cathedral town; here Great Karl was crowned in 800 (later buried).
- \_\_\_\_\_, Eighth indeed, as Catharines, Annes, and a Jane could tell you.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Athenian pal of Sokrates, wrote an account of his march to the Sea.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. 1431, Vicenza, painted in Mantova, "Triumph of Caesar"
- \_\_\_\_\_ received 396 extant letters from Cicero; Nepos wrote his biography.
- \_\_\_\_\_ names a well-known type of short Russian folktale.
- \_\_\_\_\_, 5<sup>th</sup> C. Hebrew prophet, cup-bearer to Artaxerxes; cf. Jerus. Walls
- \_\_\_\_\_, theater location where Aeschylus' tragic choruses chanted, danced.
- \_\_\_\_\_, 18<sup>th</sup> century Germ. art historian and *Archaeolog*; murdered in Trieste.

**NOW WRITE IN THE FIRST LETTERS FROM THE WORD ANSWERS ABOVE FOR THE THREE WORD ANSWER:**

\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ :: \_\_\_\_\_  
 1            5            8                            12                            15

The first OWU student yet to be awarded a B.A. degree who solves the AMRS Puzzler by returning the fifteen correct terms **and** the consequent filled-in answer BY EMAIL will win a prize and fame. S/he will be commemorated or interviewed in the next

**AMRS TRIDENT.**