

ITEMS REMOVED: ANDREW ALFÖLDI - OBITUARY

1) Der Basler Bildhauer Alexander Zschokke.

2) "Andreas Alfoldi zum Gedenken."

3) Andrew Alfoldi Memorial Booklet, Institute for Advanced Study.

12001

change to director's fund

black ink

Alföldi-memorial

Announcements should be mailed c. September 25

- Recipients: ~~Emeriti IAS~~ - 9
- ~~Faculty IAS~~, including long-term members
- Visitors ~~Visiting members~~, School of Historical Studies
- ~~Assistants~~, School of Historical Studies

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offices

Departments of Classics:

3a

~~Princeton University~~ also ~~Dept. of Art and Archaeology~~

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also ~~Dept. of Art and Archaeology~~

~~Haverford~~

~~Rutgers, New Brunswick~~

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u of

~~North Carolina, Chapel Hill~~

~~Duke~~

~~Center for Hellenic Studies, Washington~~

~~Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C.~~

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~~Ann Arbor~~

~~Dalhousie, Halifax~~

~~Berkeley~~

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~~Sta. Barbara - U of CAL.~~

~~UCLA~~

TX
UTS

~~Austin~~

~~Madison~~

Am. Numismatic Society

~~Numismatic Society - NYC~~

Other recipients

check
address

Geza Alföldy

Kurt Bittel

André Chastagnol

Karl Schefold

Harald von Petrikovits

Johannes Straub

Ronald Syme

Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Berlin

Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Rome

Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Römisch-Germanische Kommission,

Frankfurt

Meiss
Panofsky

The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

ANDREW ALFÖLDI

1895 - 1981

A gathering in remembrance will be
held on Friday, October 16, at 4:30 p.m.
in the Lecture Hall, West Building.

For further information
(609) 734-8216

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NECROLOGY

Andrew Alföldi

Andrew Alföldi, the ancient historian and archaeologist, died on February 12, 1981 in Princeton at the age of 85. He was born on August 27, 1895 in a village in Hungary close to Aquincum. Its Roman walls were still visible, and peasants regularly turned up coins and other small objects when they plowed. By his tenth year the boy collected them whenever possible and had already decided to devote himself to studying such objects and attempting to understand their meaning and context. Many years later he still felt that his love of history and art was inherited from his mother.

When Alföldi was fifteen his father, a doctor in a rural district, died leaving his widow destitute. Her son was now needed to support her. Despite these complications, with the help of V. Kuzsinszky, whom he was to succeed in Budapest, he became an Assistant in the Museum of Aquincum in 1913 while a student in the University.

Alföldi spent four years in the infantry during World War I, with ample opportunities to observe horsemen of the steppes and characteristics of armies. As it turned out, he was fortunate to have received a wound in his ankle which became infected, and a pistol to ward off

the surgeons who wished to amputate the leg. For the next eight months he was kept in bed in a hospital, where he could quietly continue his studies and read systematically dictionaries of the chief Western languages. In 1914 he had already reviewed a work on Roman epigraphy; in 1915 he wrote a note on statues of Roman emperors from Hungary. Both were published in *Archaeologiai Értesítő*, a journal he was to edit later. More important, at the end of 1918 he received his doctorate from the University of Budapest. His dissertation dealt with clay moulds and the emperors they portrayed. It was written in the hospital and was published in the 1918-1919 number of the same journal, pp. 1-36. In a later and improved German version he explains the circumstances and records the generosity of his deceased teacher, Kuzsinszky: "Tonmodel und Reliefmedaillons aus den Donauländern," Diss. Pann. II, 10 (1938), 312-341.

Alföldi's posts from 1918 to 1947 are significant in themselves. From the end of 1918 to 1923 he worked in the Hungarian National Museum in Budapest. He became Professor of Ancient History in Debrecen, 1923-1930, and then held a double chair in Budapest as Professor of Ancient History and Archaeology of the Hungarian territories, 1930-1947. These thirty years were not serene and easy ones for scholars or others. With its territory cut

away on all sides, it was a time of continuing difficulties for Hungary, threatened from without and shaken internally.

Despite the problems, this was a period of great and varied accomplishments for Alföldi. His complete bibliography contains over three hundred items, many of which are large, diverse, and complex. Only a few, in this period or later, can even be mentioned. Of the dozens of his publications centered in the Hungarian area I will choose Der Untergang der Römerherrschaft in Pannonien I-II (Berlin 1924-1926). The first volume is largely based on his careful collection and study of the late fourth century coins found in Pannonia. The second begins with his identification of a tribe as Avars through distinctive ornaments and artifacts in a number of cemeteries. In both matters he was already a competent specialist. The forty volumes of the Dissertationes Pannonicae that he left in 1947 are a monument to his work and that of his colleagues and students. But the series was open to others, among them E. Groag and A. Stein. Alföldi was not provincial in any sense. He quickly got in touch with many scholars especially in Western European countries, and his interests were not confined to Pannonia. He became an outstanding authority on the invasions and crises in the third century, along the Rhine, the Danube,

and beyond. In the Cambridge Ancient History, XII (1939) he had been chosen for two chapters on this subject. His two brilliant monographs on imperial ceremonials and on the insignia and dress of emperors (Röm. Mitt., 1934 and 1935) made a great impression, as is seen in the same CAH volume or in Percy Ernst Schramm's medieval continuations. In another major work Die Kontorniaten (1943) he collects and examines these objects which are explained by him as pagan propaganda against the triumph of Christianity around 400 A.D. (A second edition will soon be completed.)

In 1947 Alföldi managed to leave Hungary, with his family and part of his books. He had been a conspicuous figure when the Russians came, since he had the difficult task of attempting to protect the University and the Museum in a dangerous and chaotic situation. His losses were great, in his family and in his work. The slips long collected for a supplement to the CIL III disappeared. The essential reason for him to depart was his need for freedom to think and write. He could not accept an offer made from the University of Munich; painful memories made it too soon to go to Germany. Instead he became a professor first in Bern, 1948-1952, and then in Basel, 1952-1956. An unexpected invitation from the Institute for Advanced Study brought him to Princeton in 1955. Though he became an Emeritus in 1966, he continued his work until a day or two before his death.

In his Swiss period he turned deliberately from Pannonian and Danubian subjects, but two books translated from the Hungarian by H. Mattingly served as links with the past. These are The Conversion of Constantine and Pagan Rome (1948) and A Conflict of Ideas in the Late Roman Empire. The Clash between the Senate and Valentinian I (1952). In the same year appeared Der frühromische Reiteradel und seine Ehrenabzeichen, his first publication in this period of Rome. Studien über Caesars Monarchie (1953) was also now a new major interest, which he continued for nearly thirty more years. His American years were quite as prolific, though he had operations on his eyes and two more for cancer. Early Rome and the Latins (1965), a set of Jerome Lectures much expanded, was original and stimulating. Other books and many articles followed, but in recent years he spent most of his time and energy on Caesar in 44 v. Chr. The second volume contains the coins (1974), but the first which will soon appear will have only those chapters which were complete at his death.

A short list of some of Alföldi's academic honors should be more instructive than most familiar phrases. He received honorary doctorates from the universities in Utrecht, Ghent, Bonn, and Paris. His academies included the Institut de France, the Swedish, Hungarian, Lincei (Rome), Austrian, British, Munich, Mainz, Göttingen, Danish,

and Bulgarian. He was an honorary member of many learned societies, among them, the Pontif. Accad. Romana di Archeol., Soc. of Antiquaries (London), Soc. for Promotion of Roman Studies, Soc. of Antiquaries of Scotland, Finnish Archaeological Soc., Turkish Historical Soc., at least eight Numismatic Societies, Soc. of Sciences in Lund, and considerably more. Among his special honors were the German Orden pour le mérite für Wissenschaften und Künste, Les palmes académiques (France), the Gold Medal of the City of Rome "Cultori di Roma," and the Huntington Medal of the American Numismatic Society. For some years he was the only "Ehrenmitglied" of the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut.

J. F. Gilliam

THE NEW YORK TIMES, 15 February 1981

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PRINCETON PACKET, 18 February 1981

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Professor Alföldi devoted his long and productive life to studies of many aspects of Roman history, from the earliest periods to the Late Empire and the peoples beyond the frontiers. His fresh and original work quickly attracted the interest of scholars in his field, who acknowledged its importance. He became a member of many Academies, including the Institut de France, British, Royal Swedish, Lincei (Rome), Goettingen, Mainz, Bavarian, Danish, Hungarian, Austrian, Bulgarian and others. Among other honors he received the German Order "Pour le Merite," Les Palmes Academiques (France) and the Gold Medal of the City of Rome. He was made an honorary Doctor of the University of Paris and other universities.

He is survived by his wife, Elisabeth, and his children by his first wife, Emma and Andrew. The funeral was private. A memorial service will be arranged later.

272 Mercer Street, Princeton, N.J. 08540, U.S.A.

Dr. Andrew Alföldi

PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Died in Princeton on the 12th of February 1981, after a short illness, in his 86th year.

Elisabeth Alföldi-Rosenbaum, Princeton-Toronto

Emma Deér-Alföldi, Bern

Dr. Andreas Alföldi jun., Spiez

He was buried in Princeton Cemetery on the 14th of February

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THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

13 February 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Harry Woolf, Director
609-734-8200

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The Institute for Advanced Study

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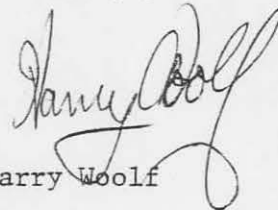
February 12, 1981

Memorandum to the Trustees, Faculty, and Professors Emeriti

Dear Colleagues:

It is my sad duty to bring you the news, which arrived only a few minutes ago, of Professor Andrew Alföldi's death today. I do not have any details but we shall consider, in due course, an appropriate way to note the loss of our distinguished colleague.

Sincerely yours,



Harry Woolf

Messrs. Bell, Brown, Byrom, Dilworth, Doob, Drell, Forrestal, Hansmann, Houghton, Kauffmann, Linder, Opel, Petersen, Segal, Stewart, Straus, Taplin, Wolfensohn

Mesdames Delmas, Whitehead

Professors Adler, Bahcall, Bombieri, Borel, Bowersock, Clagett, Dashen, Dyson, Elliott, Geertz, Gilliam, Habicht, Harish-Chandra, Hirschman, Langlands, Lavin, Milnor, Rosenbluth, Selberg, Setton, Walzer, White, Yau

Professors Beurling, Cherniss, Gilbert, Kennan, Meritt, Montgomery, Thompson, Weil, Whitney

cc. Drs. Bigelow, Goldstine, Lewis, Neugebauer

Mesdames Meiss, Morgan, Morse, Panofsky

Messrs. Hunt, Rowe

Mrs. Wisnovsky

Miss Horton

File

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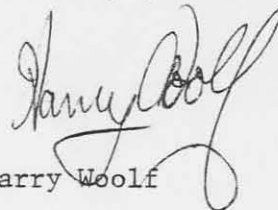
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The Princeton Packet

Youn Topics

Wednesday, February 18, 1981

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THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

MARY WISNOVSKY
Assistant to the Director

10 March 1981

Mrs. Elisabeth Alföldi
466 St. Clements Avenue
Toronto M5N 1M1
CANADA

Dear Elisabeth:

I returned from a short trip to Mexico and found the enclosed bills for the design and printing of the announcements. I hope you were pleased with the way they looked.

Although it was under such very sad circumstances, I must tell you that it meant a great deal to me to get to know you and I trust I have been of some service. If you have a chance when you next come to Princeton, please give me a call and let me know how you are doing.

With warm regards,

