

March 8th, 2015

Dear Prof. Daniel Holmes and Other Members of the Search Committee,

Please accept my application for the open position of Visiting Assistant Professor in Classical Archaeology and Classical Languages. I hold a Ph.D. in Classics from the University at Buffalo with a specialization in Mediterranean archaeology. I possess extensive teaching experience and an ambitious, interdisciplinary research agenda which focuses on the material culture from an understudied region of the western Mediterranean. I direct two archaeological field projects, one of which focuses on the remains of a large Roman villa in central Portugal. This site has already yielded significant new materials for study, including both extant architecture and high-quality polychrome mosaics. The study of these mosaics and the workshops which created them now forms the basis for my next research project. I can contribute to the existing curriculum in Sewanee's Department of Classical Languages by teaching introductory and intermediate language courses, surveys of Classical art and archaeology, and upper-level seminars in material culture studies, ancient architecture, and colonialism.

My instructional experience is quite diverse. At the University of Arizona I served as teaching assistant for numerous large lecture classes on art history, archaeology, and ancient civilizations. As primary instructor, I have taught introductory Latin, Mediterranean archaeology, and world civilizations at the University at Buffalo. I have also lead advanced seminars in Latin epigraphy at the Portuguese National Museum of Archaeology, and I currently teach full-time at a school in Arizona. My current classes include introductory Latin classes, a survey of Roman authors of the late republic, a survey of ancient civilizations, and an elective in archaeology. While my fieldwork is focused on the western Roman provinces, I have teaching experience in a broad geographic, chronological, and topical range. I am immediately able to teach beginning and intermediate survey courses in Bronze Age, Greek, Roman, and early Christian archaeology. I have taught both introductory and intermediate Latin before, and I have developed a course which explores both grammar and social history through the translation of Latin epigraphy. I have also developed a number of syllabi for upper-level classes – including a seminar on material culture studies and one on Roman colonialism and frontiers – and I am eager to bring these to your department. I am particularly keen to teach Sewanee's existing courses on Caesar, Cicero, and Sallust, and my archaeological expertise would foster discussions of the Punic Wars in Livy, the military in Tacitus, and the physical and topographic changes wrought on Rome during the late republic.

In previous and current language classes I have adopted a student-centered approach which seeks to engage students with the narrative, grammar, and culture presented by each text. I emphasize active learning in my classes. My students move through two to three different activities per class period. For vocabulary practice we toss a ball around the room. Whoever defines the word correctly may ask the next question and throw the ball to another person. If a student does not know the answer, they simply pass the ball on to a peer. This minimizes the consequences of wrong answers while rewarding correct ones, and removes much of the stress of being singled out by the instructor. My students also move around the room while translating, and I encourage them to pantomime scenes or act out dialogues when appropriate. Outside of class, my more advanced students cooperate using free online tools to create their own annotated, hyperlinked, and supplemented version of any given Latin author. Doing so not only familiarizes them with the grammar they are annotating but also gives them ample practice with the collaborative digital tools that are becoming common outside of academia. I give regular in-class assessments that provide immediate feedback on student progress but also act as learning tools. I try to design quizzes and exams which engage students with the language as much as they test their abilities at

translation. I have found that students appreciate a learning environment where their opinions and efforts are valued, and one in which their skills are honed through reinforcement, feedback, and encouragement.

My research draws on the disparate methodological and theoretical perspectives of material culture analysis, art history, landscape archaeology, postcolonial theory, and the application of computer reconstructions. I am most interested in Roman imperialism and the dynamic sociocultural processes involved in both the initial colonial encounter and in the prolonged negotiation of power embodied in changing material cultures. My dissertation focuses on the architecture and material culture resulting from colonial encounters between Romans and natives in central Portugal. I examine Roman use of surveillance in the conquest of territory as well as indigenous responses to this system. In doing so, I propose a refiguring of Foucault's concept of the panopticon in the interpretation of ancient colonialism. Specifically, I examine the vernacular architecture and hybrid materiality experienced in central Portugal during the 1st century B.C.E. In such borderless zones of cultural contact, the agency to resist imperialism is manifested in the presence of small structures that are consciously situated in hidden, hard-to-see locations. The inhabitants of the early Roman landscape in Iberia manipulated the physical and ideological expressions of Roman surveillance in response to the new sociopolitical dynamics of the colonial encounter.

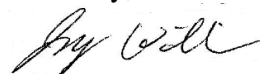
I have directed archaeological projects in the central Alentejo region of Portugal over the last five years. My first project, the excavation of a 1st century B.C.E. watchtower known as Caladinho, has been integral to my dissertation research and is now in its final phases. My newest field project involves field survey in addition to targeted excavation at Santa Susana, a 1st – 6th c. C.E. villa site. The excavation at Santa Susana, which I co-direct with colleagues from both Portugal and Princeton University, has recently completed its second season. This project investigates the remains of a first through sixth century C.E. Roman villa and its surrounding landscape. Of particular interest are the mosaic floors in what appears to be a 2nd – 4th c. C.E. bath complex uncovered adjacent to the villa. These mosaics and others in the area suggest the presence of traveling artisans who relied on lost “pattern books” to decorate floors. My next research project examines the regional distribution of different mosaic patterns in an attempt to better understand and identify the spread of craft knowledge.

My two most recent articles – one on Roman fineware pottery in the central Alentejo region and the other on the earliest productions of Lusitanian amphorae – have been accepted for publication. A monograph based on my dissertation was recently accepted for review by California Classical Studies. This project expands on the analysis of Roman surveillance systems offered in my dissertation and proposes a multi-scalar typology of such systems used throughout the ancient world. Previously, I have published articles on the environmental legacy of Etruscan industry and the reorganization of central Iberia after the Roman conquest, as well as a number of field reports.

My next article is a field report on the first two seasons of work at the villa of Santa Susana in which we present the newly-uncovered mosaic floor of the bath complex. We hope to submit this to a peer-reviewed Portuguese journal by the summer of this year. Currently, I am authoring two papers. The first is a collaborative report on the ceramics from an old excavation at Ostia to be published in the *Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome*. The second is a chapter on the role of imitation *garum* containers in Romano-Lusitanian colonial encounters for an upcoming Oxford University Press volume on the history of sauces.

My ample teaching experience, ambitious program of research, and ecumenical training as a classicist make me well positioned to take on this job. I am hard-working, committed to collegiality, and open to collaboration both inside departments and across disciplines. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to join your faculty. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Joey Williams