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Clairève Grandjouan (1929-1982)

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NECROLOGY

CLAIRÈVE GRANDJOUAN (1929–1982)

The death on June 1, 1982, of Dr. Clairève Grandjouan, Professor in the Department of Classical and Oriental Studies at Hunter College, has deprived her institution, the New York community and the archaeological world at large of one of the most imaginative and versatile teachers, lecturers and thinkers.

Born to a French diplomatic family of great distinction, Clairève never relinquished her French citizenship; yet her long residence in the United States, her intense affection for Greece, her many travels and her knowledge of foreign languages truly made her a citizen of the world. Clairève's childhood was unusual and adventurous. World War II caught her family on the island of Martinique. When Clairève's father, a supporter of General De Gaulle, was needed by the French Resistance, he was conveyed by a secret submarine to join his leader, leaving behind a wife and two daughters in a hostile country. Clairève's mother hid with her children in the jungle and lived there for two years in isolation, deprivation and danger. This drastic experience, far from leaving Clairève traumatized, must have contributed to sharpening the traits she had inherited from her gifted parents: a strong and even puckish sense of humor, a great sensitivity to nature, and a genuine concern for other people tempered by an innate reserve which, however, did not prevent her from gaining the admiration and affection of all who came into contact with her.

Despite her unconventional preparation (mostly due to her mother's teaching and her own striking facility with languages), Clairève could enter Bryn Mawr College in 1947 and complete an A.B. degree with a major in archaeology in only three years. In 1951, she rejoined her alma mater to obtain a Ph.D. degree, which she received in 1955, having spent most of her time at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens or travelling around the world in research on her topic. An impatient excavator (like her great teacher Rhys Carpenter), an artist and a poet at heart, Clairève had no illusions about the aesthetic value of the modest terracotta figurines of the Roman period on which she wrote her dissertation. Yet she was able to perceive her material as an important expression of the common citizens of Athens under Roman rule, and, through her travels, she not only covered the background for her volume, *Excavations in the Athenian Agora 6: Terracottas and Plastic Lamps of the Roman Period* (ASCSA, Princeton 1961), but also gathered, in full systematic cataloguing with photographs and drawings, the repertory for a study of Roman terracotta figurines over much of the ancient world—a great body of hitherto neglected evidence. In this pursuit she was for-

unate to have the guidance and friendship of another great teacher, Dorothy Burr Thompson. Clairève's trips, often to remote places, were also the means for taking the spectacular slides on which she relied for her public lectures, and for exciting her interest in the archaeology of other cultures, for instance of the Celts and of Malta, on which she gave inspiring classes and talks.

From 1962 to 1968, Clairève was the General Secretary of the Archaeological Institute of America, and her contribution to that institution cannot be overestimated. In this capacity she directed innumerable activities, strengthening the lecture program, starting slide collections, and inspiring such devotion in her collaborators that a small group of people was capable of carrying efficiently and enthusiastically a very onerous load.

In 1967, Clairève began her association with Hunter College in New York, at first as an Adjunct Lecturer, then, in 1968, as an Associate—and finally a Full—Professor. During her chairmanship of the Department of Classical and Oriental Studies, she recruited good teachers, encouraged them to develop new courses, became involved in interdisciplinary studies and, in brief, revitalized and revolutionized the teaching of classics and archaeology in her institution. Despite her heavy teaching load and her personal involvement with the students, to whom she opened her own library, Clairève managed to continue throughout her Hunter years an activity she had already begun while at the AIA office: her public lectures. She was the most imaginative of speakers, who could reach any audience on any subject—many American archaeologists still vividly remember her spoof, "The Glassware Folks," delivered at the AIA Annual Meeting in 1970. A poetic popularizer without condescension or dilution, she gave good archaeological worth in all her talks, and attracted enormous and responsive audiences, who followed her faithfully, often as far as her classrooms, where they enrolled for further education in archaeology. Her superior ability was officially recognized when in 1972 she was invited to give the prestigious Annual Smithsonian-AIA Joint Lecture in Washington, D.C. It is also some comfort to her friends that shortly before her death Clairève completed a series of lectures in one of her many traditional fora, the American Museum of Natural History—so successful that consecutive sessions had to be introduced in order to accommodate the overflowing numbers of participants.

In 1979, Clairève completed the main text of another volume in the *Athenian Agora* series, on *Hellenistic Relief Moulds*, which has been accepted for publication; but death prevented her from carrying out a project close to her heart and already approved by the Publication Committee of the AIA: a series of "paperback archaeologies"

in the form of concise textbooks, patterned after her own courses. Besides her articles in encyclopedias and magazines, her book reviews and her French translation of *The Athenian Agora: a short guide*, Clairève wrote fiction, under a pseudonym which has not yet been broken—one more sign of that reserve which made her

such a private person despite the decisive influence she could and did exert on the lives of her associates and friends. She will be greatly missed.

BRUNILDE SISMONDO RIDGWAY

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