

Carleton College

ALUMNI ADVENTURES

Explore the world



Dear Carleton Alumni,

My first trip to Athens was unforgettable. Suddenly the site plans and photographs that I had pored over for so long in books sprang up in three dimensions, bathed in vivid light, filled with sounds and smells and life. I stood in the agora, perhaps on the exact spot where Socrates asked his persistent questions. I strolled among the tombstones of the Kerameikos, where Pericles gave his famous Funeral Oration to grieving families at the opening of the Peloponnesian War. I sat in the theater of Dionysus, drinking in the same backdrop of mountain and sea that formed the scenery for the first performances of Sophocles' and Euripides' tragedies.

One of the things that drew me to Classics when I was a student was the way the field bridged areas that elsewhere in the academy are walled off from each other: history, religion, literature, politics, philosophy, art, myth. The gods and heroes of their legends inhabited the same places the Athenians themselves knew, where they and their fathers sought oracles, fought battles, performed sacrifices, or vied in athletic competition.

I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to share these places and stories with Carleton alumni. Local guides will introduce us to the archaeology, art, and architecture of places central to myth and history alike, and I'll fill in the cultural background and happily discuss myth, tragedy, and religion in the theaters themselves or over a glass of wine at a taverna at the end of the day. What could be better than digging into the Bacchae in the theater of Dionysus, Oedipus where Apollo issued his oracle, or the Oresteia where Clytemnestra murdered Agamemnon?

Clara Hardy
Classics

