

DONALD W. BRADEEN  
Historian, Scholar, Philhellene  
1918-1973

It is always difficult to accept the death of a friend. One finds himself trying to put into words exactly what that friend meant personally and to evaluate the work of a life so recently ended. Later, when time creates a distance, facts can speak for themselves and his contribution to humanity, if any, becomes more apparent; and thus, a fair judgement develops by itself, unbiased, not as a result of any emotions, but as an eventual rendering of justice and establishing of truth.

An obituary, which is usually written shortly after death, in this particular case only a few days later, is influenced by feelings of loss and can become an exaggerated statement that the deceased might well have hated. True, there are those who, although they would never openly admit it, would love such pomp. Don Bradeen deserves better and this remembrance will be kept within the factual limits that would not conflict with the memory of a λιτὸς βίος. One of the principles that Bradeen always professed is that one does not make a point in history unless he can justify it, one does not reach a conclusion unless he has acquired evidence which has permitted him to prove it.

I first met Bradeen in September 1959 when I became a graduate student in the Department of Classics at the University of Cincinnati. The Department had by that time established its high reputation as a center for classical studies. It promoted an enlightened tradition and its reputation increased as a group of classicists of quality, working as a group, kept improving their standard of academic performance. The Department seemed like a Greek beehive within a conservative city in the American Mid-west, a place where people explored the Greece of the past as it linked with contemporary Greece with such a fervor, that a modern Greek felt immediately that he had found a home, a place where he could belong. At the same time, he felt that to belong, to become a partner, he had first to prove himself by the hard and strenuous work of acquaintance with scholarship and mastering of methods. Among the people in this Department, among the devoted teachers, was Donald W. Bradeen, whose shy but beaming personality captured those who met him even before he had shown them the quality of his intellect. There, we began an acquaintance which matured, in over more than 13 years, into a friendship, which affected the rest of my studies. I am sure that I am not the only one whom he instilled a devotion to history and a respect for its methods.

Bradeen was born in October 10, 1918, in Bangor, Maine. He received his B. A. in Classics with «summa cum laude» from Bowdoin College and his M.A. and Ph. D, both in Classics, from the University of Cincinnati. He then taught at Washington and Jefferson College as assistant and later as associate professor from 1948 to 1954, at which time he joined the faculty of the Department of Classics of the University of Cincinnati. His was a brilliant presence there. He created a great interest in Ancient Greek and Roman History around him, by organizing his lectures and seminars in a methodic, challenging and yet inviting way. His seminar on problems of Ancient Greek History will remain a model of systematic research and of teaching of the methods of dealing with history to young classicists. As a teacher, Bradeen had a deep knowledge of Greek History, a clear understanding of the principles of the discipline and a unique way of transmitting this to others. More important, as a scholar he was an Attic epigraphist of high caliber and international recognition. He believed that inscriptions belonged to the historian, who had the delicate responsibility to interpret them and thus to clarify obscure points of history. In our age, he used to say, texts have been so exha-

stively studied that if there is going to be any increase in our knowledge of the history of the 5th century, it must be expected to come from the study of inscriptions. By convincing his graduate students of this, he was able to promote his theory.

From 1955 to 1972 he supervised 9 M.A. theses, among which were those of two Greek scholars, Epameinondas Vranopoulos and Nestor Bouras; likewise, from 1964 to 1971 he also supervised 8 doctoral dissertations, among which was «Biographical Discrepancies in the Solonian Tradition» by Sophocles Markianos.

Not content to confine his teaching and research to Cincinnati, he also served as visiting professor at The University of British Columbia in 1957, 1960, 1962 and 1969 and at the University of New Brunswick in 1959, 1961 and 1963. He was also twice invited to be a member of the Institute for Advanced Study in 1961 and in 1970.

Bradeen was a productive scholar. Among his many works are: «The Lelatine War and Pheidon of Argos», *TAPA* v. 78 (1947), pp. 223-41, «The Chalcidians in Thrace», *AJP* v. 73 (1952), pp. 356-80, «The Trittyes in Cleisthenes' Reforms», *TAPA* v. 86 (1955), pp. 22-30, «Roman Citizenship per Magistratum», *CJ* v. 54 (1959), pp. 221-28, «The Popularity of the Athenian Empire», *Historia* v. 9 (1960), pp. 257-69, «The Fifth-Century Archon List», *Hesperia* v. 32 (1963), pp. 187-208, «Athenian Casualty Lists», *Hesperia* v. 33 (1964), pp. 16-62, «Inscriptions from Nemea», *Hesperia* v. 35 (1966), pp. 320-30, «Notes on Fifth-Century Inventories», Bert H. Hill, ed. *Hesperia* v. 36 (1966), pp. 331-45, «The Athenian Casualty List of 464 B.C.», *Hesperia* v. 36 (1967), pp. 321-28, «New Fragments of Casualty Lists», *Hesperia* v. 37 (1968), pp. 237-40, «The Athenian Casualty Lists», *CQ N.S.* v. 19 (1969), pp. 145-59, «The Kallias Decrees Again», *Greek, Roman and Byzantine Studies* v. 12 (1971), pp. 469-83, as well as sections on «The Archon-List», «Public Funeral Monuments» and «Miscellaneous Name-Lists» for *Inscriptiones Graecae* v. 1. 3rd edition, Berlin, German Academy, 1973. To these, one might add 19 reviews, all distinguished for their fair judgement. We are also awaiting his forthcoming book, «The Funerary Inscriptions», to appear in v. 17 of *The Athenian Agora* Princeton: American School of Classical Studies.

Classical scholarship and especially Greek History and Epigraphy were severely hurt by this unexpected death on April 11, 1973. In Donald W. Bradeen, an exceptional researcher, an inspiring teacher and one of the best hopes of international scholarship, Greece, in particular, lost a faithful friend. Many Greeks, former students and colleagues, mourn his death and honor his memory not with a few words of exaggerated praise but with profound sense of loss.

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JOHN A. VARTSOS