

Preface

Much has been written, though in many places crudely – if at all – buttressed by primary source authority, about Hannibal's invasion of northern Italy in the Second Punic War, with all those elephants and advances up and down the Pyrenees. To launch here yet another scholarly barge upon the overcrowded waters of the myriad histories of the Punic Wars may seem to court disaster among certain self-appointed bastions of Hannibal correctness passing as scholarship, or by this scholarly venture perhaps to accomplish worse: boredom; but merrily undaunted goes this author, more devoted to lighting a little but important corner in the darkness of our Civilization's past with the dim but sure candles of truth, knowledge and the author's tenacity, oblivious to the catcalls of a jealous academy too preoccupied in petty squabbles, protection of turf and the pursuit of sexual favors from comely undergraduates to deserve anything approximating the sobriquet “critic.” They all know who they are, and I abjure them one and all. Hence in a word: I shall not be deterred.

The many hours of quiet labor in the, yes, *libraries* of note (alas and alack, not including the recently savaged one in Alexandria, Egypt due to viciously overzealous Mohammedans), and far away from the churning offal to be found in “online” musings of unknown origin and repute, I have produced the text of this humble treatise with a thesis of such profound insight and *import* that I shall not detract from its simple elegance with *elucidation*. It shall speak for itself. But no pure vessel on the seas of scholarship can avoid the barnacles of footnotes necessary to validate its insights, inevitable conclusions and, perhaps the most significant aspect, its highly educated hypotheses, lest one alarm the Sirens of Envy and set them to striking up their equally inevitable cacophonous choruses of, “Oh, indeed, oh! And who says so – *you*? What *proof* do you have of that? What are your *sources*?” Nothing to be done for it, then; so yes, in full panoply like arrayed ordered troops far vaster than Hannibal's are the two appended scholarly Apparati (no, “Apparatuses” will *definitely* not do) to the golden nuggets of the main body of this writer's text, an *oeuvre* here of the highest scholarly rigor as the Apparati bear the proof thereof, if you will.

The Apparati are at once an embarrassment and a great source of pride. To the latter first, putting best foot forward, as it were: nobody in the history of all serious scholarship has come upon the novel and yet definitely helpful innovation of the footnote to a footnote. If for no other reason this watershed treatise deserves broad acclaim. This is the result of a marvelous strategy to ensure the proper hierarchy of a thought's supremacy over its subsidiary thoughts! But the embarrassment, alas, arises in the organization of this otherwise brilliant strategy: the publisher of this work insisted his “technology” for transferring the manual and aesthetically pleasing penmanship of the original *folio* into something a printing press could absorb lacked the necessary number of indents required. Hence the rather cumbersome business of having to spring from the Arabic-numbered footnotes to leaf forward to the pages of the separate Apparatus where the footnotes' offspring footnotes, so to speak, are housed in Roman numerals to avoid confusion (*miscegenation* [!], if you will) and to maintain an orderly taxonomy. The process for the curious and informed reader will consume added time and effort in the ultimate aggregate and does much to eventually sully and erode the quality of the Bible-thin pages of this otherwise tastefully bound tome-let, though (upon reflection and in a kind of atavist-Stalinist self-criticism) one must admit one's own unfortunate insistence in the gossamer quality of the paper stock chosen, since a certain Biblical reverence to the treatise's content was thought suitable (“*angebracht*” for you Hegelians) for the occasion.

A final note: nowhere in this humble work will the reader be confronted with annoying detours that veer off into that infernal bulldozer of Western values, mores and right conduct: the so-called Internet and its endless *URLs* and Alice-in-Wonderland *hyperlinks* to who-knows-where; so neither the

dull Cyclopic Eye of a computer monitor need cast its baleful glow on these pages, nor in all events does an “electronic version” of this work exist (as if words could *exist* as only “ones” and “zeros”!!!).

September, 2013

Prof. E. Allen Abardsworth, Ph.D.

Chairman, Ancient Women's Studies Program

Bayton College, Manning, Vermont

Hollingsworth Press

111 Ashton Place
New Haven, Conn. 06511

September 21, 2013

Prof. E. Allen Abardsworth, Ph.D.
Chairman, Ancient Women's Studies Program
Bayton College
12 Oak Drive, Mail Stop-2
Manning, Vermont 10992

Dear Prof. Abardsworth,

We regret to inform you that due to a cyber attack of as still unknown origin, the main body of your treatise, "Defoliated Forests in Umbria – the Cause for Hannibal's Victory at Trebia? The Role of Climate Change in the Fall of the Roman Empire," scheduled for January, 2014 publication, was seriously corrupted on our server by the hacker, so that most of the text was unfortunately lost. All we were able to salvage was the Preface. Do you have perhaps on your computer a backup of your treatise, along with all the footnotes and, as you call them, sub-footnotes? If so, reviving your fine scholarly work should not constitute a major task for us and we will still be on schedule for the January publication deadline.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ray Hamilton
Editor-in-Chief

Hollingsworth Press

**111 Ashton Place
New Haven, Conn. 06511**

September 24, 2013

Prof. E. Allen Abardsworth, Ph.D.
Chairman, Ancient Women's Studies Program
Bayton College
12 Oak Drive, Mail Stop-2
Manning, Vermont 10992

Dear Prof. Abardsworth,

I am sorry to have learned from my assistant, Ms. Angel Butterworth, that you do not own or use computers and thus have no backup for your treatise, but that was no reason to berate her loudly on her speaker phone for the unfortunate loss of your manuscript, calling her, I believe, as she insists she vividly remembers, "one hapless, stupid, worthless fucking cunt." Those are not words allowed here at Hollingsworth Press, nor, I am sure, at Bayton College. An apology is owed.

We sadly live in an electronic age, Professor, and mishaps occur. Had your treatise been saved on something as cheap and simple as a USB pocket drive (I got one at Wal-Mart for \$4 that can store the entire Library of Congress), we would all be happily awaiting the arrival of your contribution to the scholarly world in January and would have avoided the lawsuit Ms. Butterworth has brought against this company for not protecting her from a hostile workplace. You of all people should know how serious such an allegation can be.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ray Hamilton
Editor-in-Chief

Hollingsworth Press

**111 Ashton Place
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September 29, 2013

Prof. E. Allen Abardsworth, Ph.D.
Chairman, Ancient Women's Studies Program
Bayton College
12 Oak Drive, Mail Stop-2
Manning, Vermont 10992

Dear Prof. Abardsworth,

I thoroughly resent your impersonating my wife to my secretary just so you could get on the line with me. I resent even more your telling me quite all too graphically where I can “shove” my USP drive. Which, for your information, is properly known as a USB drive.

I also think your idea about just publishing the Preface to your treatise without the treatise and footnote apparatuses themselves lacks merit. Yes, you could thereby lay claim through this published Preface to being the first ever to have invented a new delivery mechanism of information via sub-footnotes to footnotes, but would this not in the end be a fruitless tease? The unfortunate truth is that the Preface merely mentions footnotes and sub-footnotes that no longer exist.

Another unfortunate truth is that we must inform you that through recent events we no longer wish to have any further submissions from you, or for that matter any further contact. If necessary, we will ask law enforcement authorities to assist.

Sincerely,

/s/

Ray Hamilton
Editor-in-Chief

Hollingsworth Press

111 Ashton Place
New Haven, Conn. 06511

October 6, 2013

Prof. E. Allen Abardsworth, Ph.D.
Chairman, Ancient Women's Studies Program
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Dear Prof. Abardsworth,

Despite several warnings to you on this matter and our intent to inform the police, you continue to insist on mailing to us on what appear to be pieces of torn-up paper bags various incomprehensible messages written in crayon in a language a police expert believes to be ancient Aramaic. One of your colleagues at Bayton has been asked to assist in the translation.

We intend to take whatever legal steps are necessary when and if we are able to translate these unwanted communications.

In the meantime, we release you from any publication rights we might assert vis-à-vis your Preface. Feel free to have it published wherever you like.

Sincerely,

/s/

Angel Butterworth
Editor-in-Chief