

moon in its vertical orientation. Latin has three words starting with the letter D that speak of the phases of the moon when you cannot see half of it: *defectus lunae* and *decrescens lunae*, which refer to the waning moon, and *dichotomos*, of Greek origin, which means, when speaking of the moon, “which we only see half.” We can therefore say that the words *defectus*, *decrescens*, and *dichotomos* admit their initial as a pictogram. Under these conditions, why was D was preferred to Δ? Probably because the moon is much better known than the delta of the Nile! Thus we see in this example that there is once again a possible match between the Latin language and the alphabet as it was adopted into Latin. But beyond the pictogram representing the moon, we must see the star of fertility, and thus an ideogram. It is not surprising that D is the first letter of the word god/ goddess (*Deus / Dea*).

Note that two of the words meaning half moon start with the prefix DE, a prefix that expresses the idea of “fail,” “discard” (*defectus*), “reduce,” “decrease” (*decrescens*), and by analogy of the

decreasing full moon, declining and becoming a half moon. This is linked with the prefix DIA used in Greek. Finally, *dimidius* is also an adjective that means half of something.



A half moon, likely inspiring the shape of the letter D.

For more on this topic, you may refer to the two books published at The Book Edition:

L'alphabet grec

<http://www.thebookedition.com/l-alphabet-grec-thierry-h-de-mortain-p-43912.html>

L'alphabet latin

<http://www.thebookedition.com/l-alphabet-latin-thierry-h-de-mortain-p-44033.html>



ΜΝΗΜΗΣ ΧΑΡΙΣ

Paul B. Harvey, Jr.

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by

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Paul Harvey was an internationally known scholar of Latin epigraphy, Roman history, and the classical tradition. At the time of his death, he had just finished serving as the Chair of Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies (CAMS) at the Pennsylvania State University.

He died at Rome, having travelled to Italy to attend a memorial service for his mentor Emilio Gabba. He had joined the faculty of History at the Pennsylvania State University in 1972, the same year he completed his doctorate at the University of Pennsylvania. He went on to join the Penn State Classics faculty in 1979 and the CAMS Department after its formation, eventually joining the faculties of Judaic Studies and Religious Studies as well.

Paul published widely on Latin linguistics and inscriptions, with articles appearing in the *Journal of Roman Archaeology*, *Athenaeum*, and (most recently) the *Journal of Eastern Mediterranean Archaeology*. He was the co-editor, along with Celia Schultz, of the frequently cited *Religion in Republican Italy* (2006). He published numerous articles dealing with the reception of the classical tradition among the church fathers (especially Jerome and Augustine), and he authored several translations, including a now-standard version of Jerome's *Life of Paul*. He co-edited a multi-volume edition of the *Laws of the Medieval Kingdom of Hungary*, which gives some indication of the breadth of his scholarship.

Many former students will remember Paul as the Professor-in-Charge at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies at Rome (Centro), from 1985-1986. Greatly admired by his Centro students, while teaching there Paul gained a reputation for physically demanding tours of archaeological sites. The pace of those tours is reflected in one story recounted to me by a former student. Reportedly, as Paul was leading Centro students through Pompeii late into the afternoon, some began to fall behind. However, there was just too much to see before the end of the day, and he could only be induced to slow down for the stragglers when his wife Karen informed him, "Paul, there are people crying back there!" When informed of the despairing state of some young adults trying to follow their middle-aged professor, he (ever sympathetic) paused for them to catch up. Paul's reputation for physically demanding archaeological tours would continue for over two more decades, as he led Penn State students around Rome and Italy. Those who could keep up were rewarded with not only knowledge of antiquities and inscriptions, but instruction in the best of Italian food and drink.

Paul was a favorite professor of generations of students at Penn State. He received the Class of 1933 Award for Outstanding Teacher in the Humanities in 1977 and he received the University Alumni Teaching Award in 1997. He felt strongly that good teaching came from knowing the subject matter well and responding to student interest, rather than subscribing to a particular philosophy or method of teaching. After receiving a teaching award at Penn State, he was asked to comment upon his teaching philosophy, whereupon he reportedly stated that it was very important to show up on time and remember one's lecture notes. As many will know, such humorously humble statements were typical of the man. In fact, however, he put quite a bit of thought into his teaching, only he preferred to let the products of his teaching speak for themselves. His numerous students will serve as an enduring legacy as they carry on his commitment to scholarship and teaching.