



HELLENIC LINK-MIDWEST

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A SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL LINK WITH GREECE
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Thucydides' History of the Peloponnesian War. New Suggestions to Important Problems

On Sunday, April 30, 2023, at 3:00 pm Central Time, Hellenic Link–Midwest will present Professor Robert Wallace in a talk titled: “Thucydides’ History of the Peloponnesian War. New Suggestions to Important Problems.” The event will be held at the lecture hall of the Holy Taxiarchai and Saint Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, 7373 N Caldwell Ave, Niles, Illinois.

Thucydides was the author of a famous history of the “*Peloponnesian war*” between Athens and Sparta (431- 404 BC), a history which he rightly called a *κτῆμα ἐς αἰεὶ*, “a possession for all time”. He lived and worked in Athens in the second half of the fifth century, one of the most creative and productive periods in human history. Perhaps the most striking quality of this era is that many people were active in many different areas, rather than specialized by profession. Thus, while we know most about Thucydides the historian, he was also an elected military general and admiral, expert in current medical knowledge (the age of Hippocrates), a brilliant political theorist (in fact, many regard him as a political theorist more than a historian), a psychologist, and a superb writer (though he too modestly claims he didn’t care about writing, it was the power of his ideas that mattered). In his history of the war, his many levels of expertise cross-fertilize in remarkable ways, creating a work of extraordinary complexities that still fascinate his readers today. After hard work on Thucydides for fifty years, professor Wallace is just now finishing a book on him in which he is prepared to claim that his solutions to the complexities he dealt with are entirely new. He will present some of these puzzles and the solutions he is proposing during the course of his lecture.

Robert Wallace is Professor of Classics at Northwestern University. He received a B.A. in Greek from Columbia (NYC), a B.A./M.A. in Literae Humaniores from Wadham College, Oxford, and a Ph.D. in Classical Philology from Harvard. He is the author of 98 articles on Greek history, intellectual history, literature, law, numismatics, and music theory. His books include *The Areopagos Council, to 307 BC*, and *Reconstructing Damon: Music, Wisdom Teaching, and Politics in Perikles’ Athens*. He has co-authored *Origins of Democracy in Ancient Greece* and *Aristotle’s Constitution of the Athenians*. He has co-edited four volumes in Greek music theory, drama, history, and law. His current book projects include Thucydides, Sophokles, and Plato as a writer. He has been a visiting professor at the universities of Pisa, Siena, Trento, Urbino, and Syracuse, and has lectured widely in the US and Europe.

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