

Sterling Dow

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Begun in 1958 as *Greek and Byzantine Studies* by the initiative and enthusiasm of John J. Bilitz, then a graduate student in Byzantine history at Harvard University, after two years and four issues the enterprise foundered on the rocks of time and finance. It was rescued by the prompt intervention of our mentor Sterling Dow, late Hudson Professor of Archaeology at Harvard. Although the journal was dedicated from the start to the study of the continuity of the Greek tradition, Dow saw that the tradition could not have reached the Byzantine era without its transmission through the Graeco-Roman east. He therefore renamed the journal *Greek, Roman and Byzantine Studies* and summoned a conference to Dumbarton Oaks on 27 June 1959, at which he reorganized its editorial staff and advisory board and proposed its mission

to demonstrate the vitality and continuity of the Greek tradition from the rise of Mycenae to the fall of Constantinople, and beyond as far as the tradition can be followed, through scholarly studies of literature and art, archaeology and history, religion and philosophy, articles significant in scope and intelligible in style to everyone interested in any of the special fields or periods of the long and broad current of Hellenism. Research is to be meticulously documented, interpretation reasonable and controlled, style clear and concise.

An example from his own hand is *Conventions in Editing*, published as *Greek, Roman and Byzantine Scholarly Aid 2* (1969), still a frequently sought supplement of this journal. His Festschrift, *Studies Presented to Sterling Dow on his Eightieth Birthday (Greek, Roman and Byzantine Monograph 10 [1984])*, contains his extensive bibliography, a biography and articles by forty-five of his students, colleagues, and friends.

Although he declined to be designated chairman (or to accord that distinction to anyone else), he remained an active, encouraging member of the Advisory Board to the time of his death. The editors undertake to maintain his legacy and now in homage dedicate this volume of the journal to his memory.