

Walter E. Kaegi

Walter Kaegi held a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship (U.S. Department of Education) that started on September 10, 2004, and terminated September 10, 2005. The subject was the “Dynamics of Muslim Expansion and Byzantine Collapse in North Africa (Seventh Century).” This required him to be in Tunisia from September 10 to December 1, in Morocco from December 1 to January 31, in Algeria from January 31 to May 1, and then in Tunisia until September 10, 2005, with exception of a brief ten day return to Algeria from June 3 to 10 for a conference on the “L’Aures Antique” at the University of Khenchela.

Kaegi lectured at the University of Sfax, Tunisia (November 24, 2004) and the Center for Maghrib Study in Tunis (May 12, 2005) on “La Dynamique de la Conquête Musulam et l’Effondrement Byzantin dans l’Afrique du Nord.” He lectured on the same subject at University of Rabat Mohammed V-Agdal and University Hassan II at Casablanca, Morocco, respectively on January 25 and 27. Between late February and late April 2005 he gave five lectures at the University of Constantine-Mentouri and four at the Amir Abd al-Kader Islamic University in Constantine, Algeria, on aspects of Late Antique and Byzantine North Africa. On June 4 he gave a paper on “The Battle of Sbeitla and the Aures” in the international conference on the Ancient Aures sponsored by the University of Khenchela in Khenchela, Algeria. During his two stays in Algeria he was able to visit many Roman, Byzantine, and autochthonous archaeological sites and museums as well as make contact with many Algerian scholars. The Byzantine Studies Conference accepted his Abstract on “Byzantine Numidia” for inclusion in the program of its November 2005 program for its annual meeting, which will take place at the University of Georgia.

Regarding publications, Kaegi’s principal work this year on leave has been the writing of a book manuscript on *Dynamics of Muslim Expansion and Byzantine Collapse in North Africa*. He started investigating it in 1996 and now has a draft that totals 365 pages. He is still polishing and revising it for publication in book form. A modern Greek translation of his 2003 book *Heraclius Emperor of Byzantium* (New York, 2003) has been licensed by Cambridge University Press and is now in preparation in Athens, Greece. Two articles appeared in *Byzantinische Forschungen* 28 (2004): “The Present and Future State of Byzantine Studies in the United States,” and “The Interrelationship of Events in Anatolia and North Africa in the Seventh Century.” He completed a chapter entitled “Changing Intensities of Military and Political Relationships between Byzantium and Islam, 641–1000 C.E.,” in the *Cambridge History of the Byzantine Empire*, edited by Jonathan Shepard (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming). He completed the following book reviews: A. Beihammer’s “Nachrichten,” in *Jahrbuch der Oesterreichischen Byzantinistik* (2004), Paul Stephenson’s “Legend of Basil the Bulgar Slayer” in *International History Journal*, and Anthony Kaldellis’ “Procopius” in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* (forthcoming). On March 23, Kaegi was interviewed at the Amir Abd al-Kader Islamic University in Constantine, Algeria, by a journalist from the local newspaper *Nasr*. This interview was published in the newspaper *Nasr* (Constantine, Algeria) on Tuesday April 5, p. 17.

He served as consultant to the American Council of Learned Societies for their e-book project on Byzantine History and to the Austrian Academy of Sciences on a research project proposal. He also served as external referee on academic appointments and promotions in History and Near Eastern Studies at several American universities and he contributed to the production of a new manual for Fulbright Fellowship holders in Tunisia, for the Cultural Affairs section of the United States Embassy, Tunis, Tunisia.

RESEARCH

Kaegi also contributed a section of reminiscences to the Dumbarton Oaks (Harvard, Washington, D.C.) Colloquium on the late art historian and Director of the Center for Byzantine Studies Ernst Kitzinger (late winter 2005).

Before his departure on leave and before moving offices from Foster Hall to Social Sciences Kaegi donated some of his papers to the archives in the University of Chicago Special Collections Library and placed some other items on temporary loan there.
