A brief history of Classical Archaeology and Classical Languages at MU

_Prepared by Anatole Mori for the inaugural meeting and faculty orientation of the Department of Ancient Mediterranean Studies
August 18, 2017_

Sept. 1842 courses of instruction open, taught in Columbia College building

May 1843 five professorships, incl. **Chair of ancient and modern languages and literature**

Oct. 1859 plan to adopt UVa model with seven departments (Latin and Greek are two)

March 1960 original plan restored with five professors (Latin and Greek are one)

1891 Greek, Latin are divided

1891 – 1892 Walter Miller, John Pickard arrive: Classical Greek Archaeologists & historians of ancient culture

1892 Academic Hall fire; Chemistry Hall (Pickard) built

1893 Swallow built (named for G.C. Swallow, first professor of geology, chemistry, and agriculture)

1894 - 1895 **Classical Archaeology** becomes an independent department; moves to New Academic (Jesse) Hall

1900 *Archaeology is renamed Classical Archaeology and the History of Art*

1907 Latin and Greek no longer required for A.B. degree

1930 – 1938 Walter Miller becomes professor of **Classical Languages and Archaeology** (all three areas, Classics, Archaeology, and Art History united in one department)

1955 – 1964 Anna Shaw Benjamin serves as chair

1960 – 61 **Classical Languages and Archaeology** listed as one department in Dean’s office

1961 – 1962 **Classical Languages** and **Classical Archaeology** listed as separate departments

1968 **General Classroom Building** (GCB) is built (later renamed for Arvarh Strickland, first Black faculty member 1969)
1968 **Department of Classical Languages** moves from Jesse to GCB

1974 **Department of Art History and Archaeology** moves from Jesse to Pickard

2013 **Pickard Hall** closes for renovation

2015 **Swallow Hall** reopens after three-year renovation; home of Department of Art History and Archaeology

February 2017 Proposal for **Department of Ancient Mediterranean Studies** submitted to Interim Dean Pat Okker

July 1 2017 Department of Ancient Mediterranean Studies approved and put into effect by Interim Chancellor Garnett Stokes

July 13, 2017 Classicists move to Swallow Hall proposed to Dean Okker

July 17, 2017 Classicists discussed with Associate Dean Cooper Drury and Sue Becklenberg.

July 21, 2017 Associate Dean Cooper Drury confirms move of Classical Studies faculty and graduate students from Strickland Hall to Swallow Hall

August 11 – present 2017 Classicists housed in Swallow Hall; administrative staff shared with Department of Anthropology

**Sources**

MU Archives (317 Lowry Hall)


F. Stephens, *A History of the University of Missouri* (Columbia MO 1962)

J. Viles, *The University of Missouri: A Centennial History* (Columbia MO 1939)

[http://muarchives.missouri.edu/historic/buildings](http://muarchives.missouri.edu/historic/buildings)