

International Brunnenburg Desk

Deborah Kelly

Brunnenburg Castle, located in the Tyrolean Alps of Northern Italy, is the location of an unique St. Andrews overseas program. This program includes the study of Ezra Pound's literary and poetic works under the direction of his daughter, Princess Mary de Rachewitz and Agro-Archeology under de Rachewitz's son Sigfried de Rachewitz, Pound's grandson.

The 1987 group of St. Andrews students include Leah Cook, Phyllis Dunaway, Anke Gassen, John Helms, Deborah Kelly, Eric Lien, Christina Marley, Gregory Minns, Tanya Olson, George Phelps, Deborah Robinson, Al Schilling, and Daniel Schuman. These students are under the direction of Professor Ann Woodson and her husband, Faulkner Scholar Joel Williamson. Professor Woodson is instructing the class on the subjects of Art History, which includes class trips to Florence, Rome, and Venice for a first-hand look at the masterpieces covered in class, and Drawing, making words come alive with meaning through visual creations and word-pieces.

Greetings from all of us here at Brunnenburg! Time has flown so quickly for us. We have approximately nineteen school days left in our term which ends Nov. 17th. The rest of the semester is divided between trips to Rome, Fall Break, and Venice. Most of us will be flying out of Switzerland to the States on Dec. 4th

after extensive traveling throughout Europe.

Florence: My first impression of the city was that it was dirty and crowded. It was extremely hot at the time and we were all so tired from the train ride and the rushing around to museums and churches. In spite of these factors, most of us fell in love with the city towards the end of our stay.

The nightlife of Florence is both lively and unique. Musicians, mimes, and fire-eaters lined the streets playing for the crowd. Then they would pass a hat or a tambourine around for spare change. The Ponte Vecchio, a popular site, is a bridge filled with shops located over the Arno River. After dark, "flower children" and craftspeople sell woven bracelets, leather belts, and colorful paintings and sketches. Some of this was done illegally because when the carabinieri (police) are sighted some of the artisans pack up and take off in less than a minute. To quote Christina Marley: "(It was) like someone had yelled 'lunch break'".

We also had a day trip to Siena (approximately one hour from Florence) to see more quattrocento paintings and frescoes we had studied in class.

Nine of us rushed back to Florence to catch the next train to Bologna, and then another to Verona. We had tickets to see Peter Gabriel's So Tour at the Verona Coliseum.

The train ride to Bologna was the ultimate horror. We stood in the aisles like

a tin of sardines for two hours. Then we had to run like purse snatchers through the Bologna train station because our train arrived late and we had two minutes to make our connection. The Verona train was just as terrible. Anke, Christina, Deborah, and I parked ourselves in front of the W.C. until we reached our destination.

We found the Coliseum with no major problems, however, a strange thing happened at the door that I still haven't figured out. The security men took the lid off my water bottle and kept it! They let people in with cameras and recorders, but they confiscated my water lid!

Tanya, Anke, Leah and I were the brave ones who squeezed ourselves around to the front of the stage. It became very hot and we were a bit squashed, but it was worth the trouble for the excellent view.

Imagine 10,000 Italians chanting "Peetah" between songs. Most of those around us couldn't speak a word of English but they sang every song that Gabriel performed. The concert was excellent and being in a foreign country made it special.

We caught the 2:40 a.m. train back to Florence. It too was packed with concert-goers and travelers. We were all so tired that we ended up curling up on the dirty floor to catch some sleep.

Walking back to our pensione at 6:00 a.m. turned out to be more eventful than we planned. Some inebriated Italians in a Porsche almost ran us over and then tried to pick us women up. Needless to say, we weren't too receptive. This made them angry and they followed us to our

pensione. They wanted to start a fight but somehow they decided to leave us alone. It was so unexpected and strange. That was the only time we've had any trouble since our arrival.

Currently, we are finishing our study trip to Rome. I was very apprehensive about coming to Rome but, like the others in the group, I don't want to leave so soon. There are so many places to go and things to do!

The owner of the pensione that we are staying at gave us a card to get into a private club/bar called "Miscellanea". It is a place that only takes members who are students. It is very international and St. Andrews is being added to the list of schools that they have framed on the wall. Hopefully, we have started a new Brunnenburg tradition for others to join in during future stays in Rome.

Fall Break starts for us Oct. 16th and ends on the 25th. Our travel plans have us splitting up and touring not only Italy but other countries as well. Tanya Olson, George Phelps, John Helms and I are taking a train to Ancona and then a ship to Yugoslavia for a tour of the coastal cities and beaches. Anke Gassen and Leah Cook are traveling up to Anke's grandmother's house in Germany for a skiing vacation. Gregory Minns is staying with friends in central Italy. Eric Lien and Al Schilling will be traveling north to Frankfurt and Munich. Christina Marley and Deborah Robinson will take a tour of southern Italy including the cities of Naples and Pompeii. Dan Schuman will be meeting with his parents in the village near the castle. Phyllis Dunaway will be returning to the castle. Anna and Joel haven't divulged their plans yet, but we all know that it will be a special vacation for they are celebrating their one-year anniversary! We all wish them the best and hope they have many more wonderful years together.

Windows On The World... Musings from Bob Martin

Jonathan Freeman is back at his studies at the University of Stirling. He had all his "hospitality" energies mustered toward befriending St. Andrews. But—guess what? Beware Jim Terrell, you will be over-run with "goodies" come Spring Term! Jonathan does expect to visit us late into April or early May.

Sharon Slivka reports all is going well and anticipates insisting that SAGA include Japanese cuisine. She has had a good visit with Rika Fukoe who is busy job-hunting. She had a good visit with her mom recently who loves and works in the southern part of Japan.

The B'burgers are off for their Rome trip from the 17th to the 25th. I had a good phone visit with Ann Woodson and Mary deRachewitz last week. Mary is very pleased with the quality of work the students are doing in her Pound course. Ann is delighted with the work folk are

doing in both her courses. Chilly weather has arrived at the Castle, so Sunday veranda tea has been moved indoors where poetry records play gently in the background.

Speaking of Brunnenburg, all interested in applying for Brunnenburg '88 need to remember to sign up for Professor Bayes' "Introduction to Pound Studies" course during Spring Term! That's no automatic ticket, but it is a very important indication of serious interest. Subtle?

Participants in the course on South Africa will be soliciting signatures for a petition regarding detainees. They help us keep our windows open toward a country in the world where pain is real and institutionalized injustice is rampant.

Glad everyone is back from Fall Break safe and sound! James Inman thoroughly enjoyed visiting the Florida hurricane! Keep those windows open to the worlds close in and around the globe.

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