Letter from David Gallop

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From David Gallop, January 21, 2012:

Tony:

I recall a couple of events from the early days of the SAGP.

One was a memorable mini-conference in the summer of 1964 organized by Rosamond Sprague, at Amherst College, Mass., at which we read and commented line-by-line upon Plato’s *Lysis*, as well as listening to a number of papers read by eminent people, including David Furley (on Empedocles), Arthur Peck (then visiting the Princeton Advanced Institute from UK and working on the Loeb *Historia Animalium*), Ingmar During, Friedrich Solmsen, Leonard Woodbury, Tony Long, John Brentlinger; also John Rist and myself, then very young (we had driven down from Toronto together).

The conference lasted several days and was highly enjoyable. We stayed in dormitories of the Amherst College residence, and ate excellent meals at the Lord Jeffrey, a fine old local hostelry. The social side was enlivened by English country dancing to some old 78 rpm recordings that Rosamond had with her, in which she, Arthur, John Rist, and I all took part. I think that Arthur Peck also performed a solo Morris dance jig on that occasion. Anyway, it was an unusual addition to a convivial programme!

I also recall a seminar on Aristotle’s *Physics* in which I sat next to Arthur Peck. He was obviously bored stiff by whatever Solmsen and-or During were droning on about, and kept asking me in a loud whisper WHAT TIME IS THE SHERRY! As he surveyed the lovely, prosperous countryside around Amherst, he characterized it as APOLAUSTIC, and lamented the fact that the American colonies had ever broken away from the Old Country. It was really, he thought, too bad that they had decided to run their own show. A marvelous antiquarian he was, and I suppose a laudator temporis acti.

In December 1965 I read a paper to (I believe) the classicists side of the organization, which would have been on Platonic allusions to dreaming. [“The Platonic Dream,” posted on ORB] If I remember rightly, I was filling in for someone else who could not attend the meeting, which was held in Providence R.I.

I attended a number of other meetings held in conjunction with the APA Eastern Divisions meetings in NY, Washington, Boston etc., but alas the details of those occasions have now gone from memory. I did not again read a paper to the SAGP until January 1989, at a hotel in Baltimore, on the *Poetics*. [“Organic Models in Aristotle’s Poetics, posted on ORB]

I hope these fragments from fading memory may be of some help.

Kind regards,
David Gallop