February 9, 2007

Dear Carleton Alumni and Friends,

In late September a group of Carleton alumni and friends will set out on a voyage in the Mediterranean, visiting archaeological sites in Libya, Tunisia and Sicily aboard the Corinthian II. I have been fortunate enough to make this journey on several occasions during the past few years, and each time I am more impressed than the last with the beauty of the sites and the splendor of the archaeological remains.

The resemblance of the ancient Greek colony of Cyrene to that of Delphi is striking and helps to explain why the Greeks found themselves so at home here, on the well watered limestone plateau high above the Mediterranean. The Roman sites of Leptis Magna and Sabratha, on the other hand, have spectacular settings directly along the sandy shores.

In both Libya and Tunisia we will have the opportunity to see beautiful Roman mosaics displayed in museums that themselves are architecturally significant. I never tire of seeing these ancient masterpieces, which once adorned the floors of houses belonging to wealthy Roman citizens.

The pre-cruise extension in Malta not only is a way to get caught up from jet lag prior to the journey, but it also is a wonderful opportunity to visit the ancient megaliths of Hagar Qim and the National Museum of Archaeology in Valletta where you can see the fascinating “Mother Goddess” figures that were found among the ancient ruins of Malta.

I invite you to join me and your fellow Carleton travelers on what should prove to be an exciting journey.

Nancy C. Wilkie
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