

Walter E. Kaegi

Walter E. Kaegi returned to the U.S. on September 10, 2005, from a twelve-month leave of absence on a Fulbright-Hays fellowship that took him to Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco. During the Fellowship he investigated “The Dynamics of the Muslim Conquest and Byzantine Collapse in North Africa.” He now has written more than 410 pages of a book manuscript by that title, which he is now polishing for submission to a publisher. His Fellowship activities were reported in the spring 2006 issue of *Tableau*, the newsletter of the Division of the Humanities. He also worked with the American Council for Learned Societies in the preparation of three older publications of his (*Byzantium and the Decline of Rome* [1968], *Byzantine Military Unrest 471–843* [1981], *Some Thoughts on Byzantine Military Strategy* [1983]) for re-edition as electronic books, which will occur in 2007.

He corrected proofs for Chapter 9 of *Cambridge History of the Byzantine Empire*, edited by Jonathan Shepard: “Confronting Islam: Changing Intensities of Military and Political Relationships Between Byzantium and Islam, 641–1000 CE.” It is now in press.

He published “The Early Muslim Raids into Anatolia and Byzantine Reactions under Emperor Constans II,” in *The Encounter of Eastern Christianity with Early Islam*, edited by Emmanouela Grypeou, Mark N. Swanson, David Thomas, pp. 73–93. Leiden: Brill, 2006.

He completed an article for publication, which was accepted: “The Battle of Sbeitla and the Aures.” To be published on pp. 185–206 in volume 3 of the journal *AOURAS (Organ of the Société d'études et de recherches sur de l'Aurès antique)*. He also finished a book review of *Cambridge Companion to the Age of Justinian*, by Michael Maas, for the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*.

Kaegi delivered five public lectures: “Fighting, Combat,” Summer School, University of Bologna, Sede Ravenna, Italy (September 22, 2005); “The Dynamics of Muslim Expansion and Byzantine Collapse in North Africa,” Late Antique and Byzantine Workshop, University of Chicago (October 4, 2005); “Byzantine Numidia: Another Look,” Byzantine Studies Conference, University of Georgia, Athens (October 30, 2005); “Byzantine History” session on panel at Alternate History Conference, Rosemont, Illinois (November 13, 2005); and “Reflections on Some Military Conditions and Practices in Byzantine North Africa,” Late Antiquity in Illinois II: A Symposium at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (March 18, 2006).

On January 26, 2006, he gave an extended interview to William McKeen, Chair, School of Journalism, University of Florida, for a biography of the recently deceased author and journalist Hunter S. Thompson (a boyhood friend, who wrote contributions in their childhood newspaper *The Southern Star* between 1947 and 1950).

Kaegi had many responsibilities on his return from leave. In addition to serving on various committees and preparing and chairing several examinations and one dissertation defense, he was Co-Director with Michael Allen (Classics) of the Workshop on Late Antiquity and Byzantium, which had a very active schedule.