



A traveler to an antique land

By Jeff Dorr, nS.J.

The poem “Ozymandias” by Percy Bysshe Shelley begins, “I met a traveller from an antique land...”. When Julius Nadas ’62 and his Saint Ignatius classmates read that poem in 1960 Julius had already done his fair share of travelling, but little did he know that he would have the opportunity 50 years down the road to be a traveler to an antique land.

Born Nadas Gyula Zoltán to Magyar refugees escaping from Budapest ahead of the Russian army in 1945, Nadas began his life in a displaced person’s camp in Austria. He was forced to quickly learn German in order to get by. In 1950, when his family relocated to the United States, his new language became English.

After adapting to each of those situations Nadas arrived at Ignatius. The Jesuits, never shy about sufficiently challenging young men, placed him in the classical honors program where most of his time would be spent studying classical Latin and Greek as well as modern French.

Though the years since his time at Ignatius have included far less moving about, the thought of a somewhat unconventional getaway intrigued both Nadas and his wife Erika.

“We were looking for something different from the usual pleasure cruises,” he says.

They found what they were looking for in a late-December trip to Egypt.

Their two week tour, in cooperation with the National Geographic Society, was divided between Cairo and a Nile River cruise.

“Thanks to our well-rounded tour guides, it was as if we took two semesters of Egyptian courses compressed into a two

week time frame,” says Nadas. “Thankfully without the final exams.”

The guides taught everything from Ancient Egypt to the Coptic Christians all the way through the conflict with Israel and the social issues that exist today.

While nothing pointed directly to the sort of revolution that overturned Egyptian President Mubarak’s government, Nadas acknowledges there were signs that all was not well.

Through lectures and conversations it became clear poverty was widespread in a country where the department of antiquities had been failing to pay its employees. Furthermore, there was a sense of dissatisfaction concerning the economy and governmental decision making.

The trip as a whole gave a powerful perspective in the way the world changes over time. When Nadas was a student at Saint Ignatius the school celebrated its 75th anniversary. Regarding the 125th anniversary celebration this year, Nadas references “Ozymandias.”

“How about Shelley’s poem as a reminder that 125 years is nothing to be sneered at,” he says. “It is a mere grain of sand in the hourglass of God.”

Ozymandias

by Percy Bysshe Shelley

I met a traveller from an antique land
 Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
 Stand in the desert. Near them, on the sand,
 Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown
 And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command
 Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
 Which yet survive, stamped on these
 lifeless things,
 The hand that mocked them and the heart
 that fed.
 And on the pedestal these words appear:
 “My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
 Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!”
 Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
 Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
 The lone and level sands stretch far away.

CONTEST RULES: Send a photograph of you wearing or holding Saint Ignatius gear while traveling or working out of the country. Make sure the photo includes a landmark or point of interest. Tell us where and why the photo was taken. Include your full name, class year, address, phone number, e-mail address and occupation. If shooting digital images, set your camera to the largest format to achieve the highest resolution. If mailing a photo, please send us a duplicate print because photos will not be returned.

Send your photos to: Lisa Metro, Communications Department, Saint Ignatius High School, 1911 West 30th St., Cleveland, Ohio 44113-3495 or e-mail lmetro@ignatius.edu.