

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Derek B. Collins, associate professor of Greek and Latin, with tenure, Department of Classical Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of Greek and Latin, with tenure, Department of Classical Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1997	Harvard University
M.A.	1991	University of California, Los Angeles
B.A.	1987	University of California, Los Angeles

Professional Record:

2004 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Classical Studies, University of Michigan
1999 – 2004	Assistant Professor, Department of Classical Studies, University of Michigan
1997 – 1999	Assistant Professor, Department of Classics, University of Texas, Austin

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Collins is a superb teacher. He recently developed a new course on witchcraft that extends far beyond antiquity. It is at once very popular with students and intellectually very rich. Student evaluations for his courses are impressive, and increasing numbers of students seek him out. He was awarded the Class of 1923 Memorial Teaching Award in 2004 and an Excellence in Education Award in 2007.

Research – Professor Collins' research focuses on two fields: early Greek literature, and magical practices in the ancient world. He has developed from a specialist in Homer to become an innovative scholar of ancient Greek and Roman magic. His third book, *Magic in the Ancient Greek World*, has introduced new approaches to the study of magic, making fresh connections among disparate items. He also has produced a considerable body of published articles, many of them placed in the best journals in his field. His work is always lively and insightful and marked by methodological rigor and lucidity.

Recent and Significant Publications:

"Mapping the entrails: The practice of Greek hepatoscopy," *American Journal of Philology*, 129(3), forthcoming 2008.

"The magic of Homeric verses," *Classical Philology*, 103(3), forthcoming 2008.

*Magic in the Ancient Greek World*, Blackwell Publishing, 2008.

"Corinna and mythological innovation," *Classical Quarterly*, 56(1), 2006, pp. 19-32.

Service – Professor Collins served as interim chair in the Department. At the College level he has served on the Curriculum Committee, the search committee for a new director of the Newnan Academic Advising Center, chair of the Graduate Admissions and Fellowship Committee, Undergraduate Affairs Committee, and the chair's Advisory Committee. At the University level, he has served on the President's Initiative on Ethics in Public Life, Michigan Difference Campaign, Faculty Budget Advisory Committee, and the Provostial Search Committee for the University Librarian at the University level.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

"In my opinion, both his book on the competitive performance in Greek poetry and on magic will be important and inspiring publications in the coming years. ... The second has introduced new approaches which...will leave their mark on the field of the study of magic."

Reviewer (B)

"His soon-to-be-published book on ancient magic is the best general account known to me. It is a substantial advance, because C[ollins], far more than previous scholars, frames his work within recent anthropological research, closely examines remarkably diverse texts employed in magic [sic] with keen philological and rhetorical analyses, and place these texts within a plausible set of social interactions."

Reviewer (C)

"...magic, in particular, can offer insight into religion (especially to official rituals and cults), personal interactions, especially among women and slaves, and into the flip side of cultural *mentalites*. All unquestionably valuable. ... Collins knows his stuff..."

Reviewer (D)

"...Collins is a strong critic and interpreter of texts: he has a broad knowledge of ancient [sic] literature; he writes clearly and handles sources with competence and care; he shows imagination in explicating his texts as well as a welcome, to me, sense of the importance of contexts."

Reviewer (E)

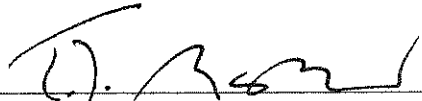
"I would say that C[ollins] is a generalist Hellenist and that generalists are crucially important to a well-balanced Classics Department. I would add that four years later C[ollins], has established himself as a serious scholar of Greek and Roman religion, which only increases his value to your department."

Reviewer (F)

"...I think that the body of important work written by Derek Collins marks him as an outstanding scholar who has fulfilled the promises he made as a beginner and who promises more important work to come. He would be a successful candidate for promotion to Full Professor in any Academic institution I am acquainted with, my own included..."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Collins is an excellent scholar who has ranged widely in the study of Greek culture and now specializes in ancient magic and religion. His teaching record is excellent and he has an impressive service record. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Derek B. Collins be promoted to the rank of professor of Greek and Latin, with tenure, Department of Classical Studies, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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Terrence J. McDonald  
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,  
Professor of History, and Dean  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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