



The Australasian Society for Classical Studies

NEWSLETTER

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ASCS GENERAL NEWS

Message from the President

As a glance at the 'Conferences and Events' page on the ASCS website will show, this has been a big year for conferences. It is a mark of the vibrancy of Classical Studies in Australia and New Zealand, and a tribute to the energy and organisational skills of the various convenors, that this should be so; particularly impressive has been the way conferences in this part of the world are able to attract major international scholars either as keynote speakers or simply to participate. Your much-travelled President has tried to attend as many of these conferences as he can, and has been consistently struck by the overall quality of papers and post-presentation discussion, both formal and informal.

In addition to those within Australasia I have also recently attended and given papers at two northern hemisphere conferences, the 4th International Conference on the Ancient Novel (ICAN) held in Lisbon in July and the 22nd Pacific Rim Roman Literature Seminar held in Vancouver in the last week of August. The latter was especially notable for the number of Australasian participants – four New Zealanders and eight Australians, most of whom gave papers. I single this out particularly here because it will probably not be mentioned in any of the individual university reports, but still remains a significant event on the Australasian calendar following its inception at the University of Tasmania in 1987.

As I'm sure you all know, we in Australia have recently gone through the process of journal ranking as part of the new federal government's ARC ERA (Excellence in Research for Australia) initiative. This was a long, difficult and time-consuming process, not helped by the fact that the ARC's initial ranking had been done without any consultation whatsoever either with universities or with professional bodies like ASCS and had thus inevitably produced some bizarre results. The Society owes an enormous debt of gratitude to the Secretary, Bruce Marshall, and the UWA university representative, Neil O'Sullivan, for overseeing this process and co-ordinating an ASCS submission to the ARC which we hope will rectify some of the anomalies. Inevitably not everyone is happy with the final recommendations, but it was vital for the interests of Classical Studies in Australia that a submission be made and Bruce and Neil thoroughly deserve everyone's thanks for ensuring that this occurred.

One final point. Under the terms of the ASCS constitution, I am not permitted to serve more than three consecutive terms as President, so my tenure of this position expires at the next AGM. It is therefore time for you, the membership, to give careful consideration as to who my successor might be.

John Penwill
President

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Staff

Professor Pauline Allen, as part of the initiative of the government of the Republic of South Africa, has been invited to the University of Pretoria under the International Renowned Researcher Scheme. She will work with Professor Hennie Stunder and his team (Department of Greek and Latin) in October 2008.

Dr Bronwen Neil is currently in the middle of her Von Humboldt Fellowship in Bonn, Germany, where she will be until the start of first semester in 2009.

Dr Silke Sitzler, although no longer physically present on the Brisbane campus of ACU, remains, contrary to the impression given in the last newsletter, very much a part of the Centre for Early Christian Studies as an Honorary Research Fellow.

New course

The School of Arts and Sciences, on the Brisbane campus, intends to offer a course on Greek ancient history in 2009, which will be the first time it has been taught here.

Visitor

Professor Francesca Barone, Professor of Ancient Christian Literature (Greek) at the University of Palermo, and research fellow at IRHT, section grecque, Paris, will be visiting the Centre for much of semester two this year. Her specialization is Greek text editions, especially of the works of John Chrysostom.

Forthcoming conference

From 1-3 October, ACU is hosting the annual conference of the Australian Early Medieval Association, at the Sebel Conference Suites in Brisbane, on the theme of welcoming the stranger. Wendy Mayer, Silke Sitzler, Pauline Allen and Geoffrey D. Dunn, from the Centre for Early Christian Studies, will be presenting papers. Further information is available at <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~medieval/conference2008>.

Publication

Geoffrey D. Dunn, *Tertullian's Adversus Iudaeos: A Rhetorical Analysis*, North American Patristics Society, Patristic Monograph Series 19 (Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2008).

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Staff

As foreshadowed in the previous newsletter, in July this year the Classics Program welcomed Dr Jessica Dietrich, and immediately threw her into teaching Latin courses ranging from beginners' to advanced; while the History Program welcomed Dr Paul Burton to take up the mantle of Roman historian (and, indeed, to be the only member of the Program working on anything earlier than the early modern period).

At the same time Dr Elizabeth Minchin returned from study leave so that, together with Peter Londey, the classical world at the ANU now has what is currently its full complement of staff.

Former members of this and other departments continue to make a valuable contribution to the Program and help provide the sense that there is a serious body of people interested in the ancient world: especially to be mentioned are Professors Graeme Clarke and Beryl Rawson, Mr Robert

Barnes, and Dr Doug Kelly; while former staff Dr Claire Jamset Leach and Dr Sara Saba have continued to be involved in supervision.

New courses

Peter Londey is currently planning a new later-year Ancient History course for 2009, "Bad neighbours: law and life in ancient Athens", focusing on evidence from 4th century BC Athenian law-court speeches. Jessica Dietrich will be offering a considerably revised version of the Program's course on "Myths and legends of Greece and Rome".

Visitors and lectures

ANU has enjoyed a series of stimulating visitors. These have included the AAIA Visiting Professor for 2008, Professor François Lissarrague (Director of the Louis Gernet Centre, Paris), who gave a public lecture, a seminar, and a talk to school groups; Professor Harold Tarrant (University of Newcastle); Professor Philip Hardie (Oxford); and Assoc. Prof. Tom Hillard (Macquarie University). Tom Hillard spoke at an event organised by the Canberra Friends of the AAIA, and supported by the Greek Embassy, to honour Professor Alexander Cambitoglou for his work with the Institute.

Forthcoming conference

Elizabeth Minchin wishes to give advance notice of *Orality and Literacy in Ancient Greece IX*. The conference will be held at the ANU in July 2010. The theme of the conference is composition and performance. The keynote speaker will be Professor Richard Martin (Stanford).

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

Staff appointment

The Department welcomes Dr Alexandra Woods as Associate Lecturer in Egyptology.

Visitors

In late April, Professor Osmund Bopearachchi delivered the 2008 Gale lecture in ancient numismatics, entitled "Recent findings of coins in Central Asia and North-West India: From Alexander the Great to Kanishka I".

As noted in the April Newsletter, Macquarie was to hold a significant Egyptological conference in late August, hosting eight international speakers (Miroslav Barta, Beatrix Gessler-Löhr, Yvonne Harpur, David Jeffreys, Audran Labrousse, Jaromir Malek, Adela Oppenheim, and Alain Zivie). The Department can now report the event to have been a resounding success.

Professor Francois Lissarrague, the AAIA Visiting Professor, spoke in early August to a packed lecture theatre on the topic of "Satyrs and Centaurs".

In early September, Professor Timothy Gregory (Ohio State University) spoke on the topic "Greeks and Latins on the Isthmus: Recent Investigations into Society and Culture in the Crusader Period in Southern Greece".

Recent museum acquisitions and news

The Museum of Ancient Cultures recently acquired a kantharoid skyphos with vertical handles tied with Herculean knots (Gnathia ware from Apulia, South Italy, c. 310-300 BC). The Macquarie Ancient History Association funded the acquisition of the skyphos.

In other museum news, the exhibition of the remarkable Westmoreland collection of Hellenistic coins ("Alexander and the Hellenistic Kingdoms") continues until the end of 2008. For information, log on to <http://www.mac.mq.edu.au/visit.htm>.

The Australian Centre for Ancient Numismatic Studies (ACANS) has also just released a major website exhibition dedicated to the coinage of Julius Caesar. The texts and the coin selection are the work of Ms Lauren Horne and Ms Clare Rowan, postgraduate students at MacqU. The exhibition can be viewed at www.humanities.mq.edu.au/acans/caesar/home.htm.

MASSEY UNIVERSITY

New courses

A new 100-level course “Magic and Witchcraft” has attracted many students (120) and a lot of unsolicited media attention (see <http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/about-us/news/article.cfm?mnarticle=witchcraft-paper-casts-a-spell-over-students-13-08-2008> with links to videos at the top). Offered for the first time in the second semester in extramural mode, the course is a collaboration between Classical Studies, Religious Studies and History.

Visitors

On 22 May Assoc. Prof. Bonnie MacLauchlan from the University of Western Ontario gave a seminar entitled: “The Grave’s a Fine and Funny Place: Underworld Rituals and the Comic Theatre in the Greek West”. Her trip was funded by an ASCS grant to small departments for which we are very grateful.

On 8 August the Classical Studies Programme hosted Professor Kathleen Coleman from Harvard University and former postgraduate student of our late colleague Assoc. Prof. Norman Austin. Professor Coleman delivered a fascinating lecture entitled: “The Virtues of Violence: Gladiators, Beasts, and Public Executions in Ancient Rome”.

MONASH UNIVERSITY

Centre for Archaeology and Ancient History

This Centre for Archaeology and Ancient History continues to expand. In July we were able to offer a 0.5 two-year contact position in Egyptology; Dr Christian Knoblauch was appointed. Christian’s PhD focussed upon Egypto-Nubian relations in the Middle Kingdom. He is active in the field and currently works at the important site of Abydos.

We have now extended our teaching programme to take in the Caulfield campus. This year we are offering our first-level units, Ancient Civilisations 1 and 2. Next year we will increase our teaching at Caulfield by offering two second-third level units. We have added two new units to our curriculum: The Archaeology of the Roman Mediterranean, and Archaeological Fieldwork in Tuscany. The latter is an intense practical unit, which will give students the opportunity to participate in the excavation of an Etruscan settlement. The unit will be offered in June 2009 and will be organised by the Centre in conjunction with Monash Prato. Students from other universities are welcome to enrol in this unit, which is part of a credit course. For information on context and costs, students should contact Assoc. Prof. Colin Hope. (colin.hope@arts.monash.edu.au).

The centre would like to congratulate Joylene Kremler on the successful completion of her MA by research.

Gillian Bowen

Classical Studies Program

Visitors

Monash University’s Classical Studies Program hosted the first visit to Australia of Professor Simon Goldhill (University of Cambridge). Professor Goldhill delivered the 2008 AAH Trendall Lecture as

the keynote address for the conference “Refashioning the Classics: Modern Fabrications of the Ancient World”. He also gave seminars for the Monash Centre for Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies on Gluck and Classics, and for the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation on the significance of Jerusalem.

Modern Greek at Monash

We are pleased to announce that the Greek Government, Ministry of Education, has agreed to fund a position in Modern Greek at Monash University. We envisage that the re-introduction of Modern Greek will attract students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and will greatly contribute to the expansion of the Classical Studies Program. We all thank Dr Eva Anagnostou-Laoutides for devoting so much of her time to this cause and congratulate her for such an outstanding outcome.

Giulia Torello

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

Staffing

New rulings regarding the number of courses in the Faculty of Humanities have brought a dissonant note to the curriculum plans that were in progress. With student numbers driving the staff numbers, Ron Newbold’s retirement later this year will probably mean that Adelaide will not have a Roman historian for the immediate future.

Specials events, guest lectures and visitors

Professor Jean-Paul Descoeudres gave a public lecture on Pompeii’s last years and a seminar on Pompeii’s harbour (not yet located) on 15 August.

Professor Francois Lissarague gave a public lecture on “Ritual and Image in Ancient Greece” as the AAIA Visiting Professor on 1 September.

The third Centennial Lecture of the Classical Association in South Australia took place on 11 August. Dr Vicky Jennings spoke on “Jokes, joke books and jokers from the ancient world”. Dr Jennings presented a highly entertaining tour through the funny and not so funny material of ancient jokes and anecdotes, while also placing them in a helpful framework that illuminated the role of humour in the ancient world. A delighted audience of about 50 attended the event.

Presentation by staff

In May Dr Jacqueline Clarke gave a seminar on Catullus entitled “Love and Loss in Catullus” to The Friendly Street Poetry Society. A prize associated with the seminar was awarded for the best interpretation / adaptation of a Catullus poem into English.

Publication

In August Dr Han Baltussen’s second monograph was published: *Philosophy and Exegesis in Simplicius. The Methodology of a Commentator* (Duckworth London 2008, 292 pp.).

Forthcoming conference

The two day conference in honour of Dr Ronald F. Newbold, Senior Lecturer in Classics, will have its program available online soon. Speakers will discuss topics on the theme “Emotions, Status and Power in Late Antiquity (300-700 CE)”. For information on attending please contact the convenor, Dr Danjiel Dzino, at danjiel.dzino@adelaide.edu.au.

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

Conferences

Dr Marcus Wilson attended the Pacific Rim Roman Literature Seminar in Vancouver at the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies (UBC) on 26-29 August, where he delivered a paper: "Nomen and Memoria: The End of the Cristas". Dr Dougal Blyth attended the same conference and gave a paper on "Cicero and Philosophy as Text".

Professor Vivienne Gray will be attending the Socratica conference in Naples in December, where she will be giving a paper on Xenophon.

Professor Tony Spalinger and Jeremy Armstrong will be attending the conference on "Rituals of Triumph in the Ancient and Late Antique Mediterranean World" in November in Swansea, at which they will each present a paper.

Artefacts

The Department received the gift of a cast of an Assyrian lion hunt frieze which now graces the wall of the Reading Room. This came about when the Philosophy Department, previously in possession of the frieze, moved to a new location and found it had no space for it.

Leave

Dr Dougal Blyth is on Research Leave in Semester 2, 2008.

Publication

Recently published is Anne Mackay (ed.), *Orality, Literacy, Memory in the Ancient Greek and Roman World* (Brill 2008).

Visitors

The Department hosted visits by Jessie Maritz and Professor Kathy Coleman. They each delivered a departmental seminar and a lecture to the Classical Association. Professor Coleman also spoke to staff and postgraduate students about the value and use of the *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*, and made herself available for consultation by graduate students. "From Roman Africa to Roman America" (Maritz, seminar); "Olympia over Three Millennia" (Maritz, lecture); "Valuing Others in the Gladiatorial Barracks" (Coleman, seminar); "The Virtues of Violence: Gladiators, Beasts, and Public Executions in Ancient Rome" (Coleman, Lecture)

UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY

Conferences, presentations and seminars

Three members of the Department gave Conference papers during this period. In July Dr Enrica Sciarrino gave an invited contribution "What 'lies' behind Phaedrus' Fables?" to the Conference "Public and Private Lies: The Discourse of Despotism and Deceit in the Ancient World" at the University of Melbourne.

Also in July, Dr Patrick O'Sullivan presented "Dio Chrysostom and the Poetics of Pheidias' Zeus" at "The Statue of Zeus at Olympia" Conference at the University of Queensland.

In May Dr Victor Parker presented "Die militärische Führungsschicht im späten 2. und frühen 1. Jahrhundert v. Chr.", at a conference on career development in the late Roman republic [Full title: "Von der militia equestris zur militia urbana. Der Wandel der Karrierefelder in der römischen Republik"] held in Köln, Germany.

The Classical Association has hosted two guests in recent times. In the first week of August Dr Jessie Maritz (formerly of the University of Zimbabwe) gave a presentation on “Olympia over Three Millennia”. The following week Professor Kathleen Coleman (Harvard University) gave a presentation on “Orchestrated Violence: Music in the Roman Amphitheatre” to the Association. During her visit Dr Maritz also gave a seminar “From Roman Africa to Roman America”. Professor Coleman kindly presented two seminars during her visit: the first on the *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*, and a research seminar on “Valuing Others in the Gladiatorial Barracks”.

In April the Classical Association hosted a reading of Assoc. Prof. Robin Bond’s translation of Aeschylus’ *Persians*. Two months later we enjoyed another reading, this time of Assoc. Prof. Bond’s translation of Aristophanes’ *Acharnians*.

Outreach activities

Dr Patrick O’Sullivan presented two papers to the *University of the Third Age* in Christchurch. The first was in April, “The Ancient Olympic Games”, the second in August, “Prestige, Power and Panhellenism in the Ancient Olympic Games”. In May Dr O’Sullivan also presented two papers to the *Quantum Changes in Health UC Opportunity* at the University of Canterbury: the first, “Greek Medicine from Homer to the Beginnings of Hippocratic Medicine”; the second, “Greek Medicine from Hippocrates to the Advent of Galen”.

Assoc. Prof. Robin Bond presented two lectures for the Platform Arts Festival in May, entitled “Pots, Poetry and Painting”, being a discussion of the iconography and poetic representations of the myths surrounding Medea, Deianira and Orestes.

In June Dr Enrica Sciarrino organised the Department’s annual *Classics Day* for secondary school students. This year was very successful with over 400 students attending.

In August the annual Secondary School Quiz night was held, organised by Dr Alison Griffith; 14 teams from secondary schools around New Zealand participated.

Curatorship of the Logie Collection

Through the representations of Professor Graham Zanker, the University of Canterbury has undertaken to fund the Curatorship of the Logie Collection in perpetuity from 2009.

Research grant

Princeton University has awarded Professor Graham Zanker a travel and maintenance grant for collaborative research with Professor Tony Grafton in January and February of 2009 on Christian Gottlob Heyne’s 1763 treatise, *De Genio Saeculi Ptolemaeorum*, which pre-dates Droysen’s identification of the Hellenistic period by over half a century.

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Staff

Dr K.O. Chong-Gossard is on sabbatical in semester 2, 2008, as a visiting lecturer at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, at the invitation of Professor Jerry Wasserman, Chair of the Department of Theatre and Film. K.O. is also the recipient of a Universitas 21 Fellowship, with Assoc Prof. Topf Marshall of UBC’s Department of Classics, for a project on best practice in teaching ancient languages.

New courses

In keeping with the latest policies of our Faculty of Arts, we in Classics and Archaeology have agreed to reduce our first-year subjects to only two. These are “Pyramids and Princes” (covering the ancient Near East, Aegean, and Egypt), and “Myth, Art and Empire: Greece and Rome” (covering the

classical world). In practice, these subjects are team-taught with the lecturers and professors teaching tutorials as well. The Department of History will no longer offer a first-year ancient history subject.

In addition, some of our staff were invited to give guest lectures in the Arts Faculty's new "interdisciplinary foundation subjects". These new IDFs are eight broad-spectrum subjects intended to be offered each year, and incoming first year-students are required to take two of these eight. Dr Louise Hitchcock and Assoc. Prof. Chris Mackie gave guest lectures for the IDF "From Homer to Hollywood", and Dr K.O. Chong-Gossard gave guest lectures for the IDF "Democracy".

Visitors

In July the international conference "Private and Public Lies: The Discourse of Despotism and Deceit in the Ancient World" was held at Melbourne, co-convened by K.O. Chong-Gossard, Andrew Turner, and Frederik Vervaeke. The keynote speakers were Professor Jonathan Hall (University of Chicago) and Professor John Rich (University of Nottingham). Other speakers and visitors from the northern hemisphere included Frédéric Hurlet (Université de Nantes), Francisco Pina Polo (University of Zaragoza), Jonathan Prag (Oxford), Martijn Icks (University of Nijmegen), Amelia Brown (University of California at Berkeley), and Cristina Calhoun (University of Oregon).

On 20 August the AAIA Visiting Professor, Francois Lissarrague, delivered a public lecture on "Agon/Eikon: Greek Athletics and Visual Experience", and a research seminar on "Figuring the Gods in Ancient Greece: The Relations of Anthropomorphism and 'Aniconism'".

Publication

Dr K.O. Chong-Gossard's new book, *Gender and Communication in Euripides' Plays: Between Song and Silence*, has been published by Brill. The book proposes that women in Euripides' plays communicate in ways constructed by the tragic genre itself as female. Yet these women's words are surprisingly not uniformly dangerous or excessively emotional, as has traditionally been thought. Rather, Euripides' women resort to female ways of talking in order to enable others to understand them and their unique point-of-view. Aspects of women's speech song, silence and secret-keeping as female verbal genres, and the challenges of speaking out of place contribute to Euripides' portrayal of women as different from men. Originating in a culture where putting women under scrutiny was part of daily life, Euripides' tragedies dramatise women's constant struggle to control language.

Successfully completed RHDs

Miriam Riverlea (M.A., May 2008): "The making of the wooden horse".

Helen Slaney (M.A., August 2008): "Imagining the Empire in Valerius' *Argonautica*".

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

Classics at Newcastle is going strong with good numbers in civilisation programs at both the Callaghan and Central Coast campuses.

Professor Harold Tarrant has recently attended conferences on Plato's Myths (Ottawa) and the Derveni Papyrus (Mykonos).

Professor Brian Bosworth and Dr Elizabeth Baynham will be presenting papers at an international conference entitled "Revising the Massacre in History" on 27 September at the University of Newcastle.

Professor Tarrant is also convening a conference, with Dr Marguerite Johnson, on Socrates, Alcibiades, and the Divine Lover/Educator (a conference with the Platonic *Alcibiades I* as its focal point) to be held in Newcastle on 4-6 December.

There will also be a joint workshop between Macquarie University and Newcastle in 2009 (date TBA) on the Year 57 BC: "Historical and Literary Aspects of the Late Republic". For further information contact Assoc. Prof. Tom Hillard or Professor Brian Bosworth.

On 10-12 August the University had a successful visit from Professor Francois Lissarrague, who drew good numbers to his lecture on "Satyrs and Centaurs" and his seminar on "Aniconism".

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

Staff

2007 saw the reorganization of the University of New England into new discipline and administrative areas. The School of Classics, History, and Religion no longer exists, and the disciplines of Classics and Ancient History have moved into the new *School of Humanities*. Staff teaching in the disciplines of Classics and Ancient History include: Professor Greg Horsley, Assoc. Prof. Iain Spence, Assoc. Prof. Matthew Dillon, Assoc. Prof. Lynda Garland, Dr Bronwyn Hopwood, and Dr Michael Schmidt.

Visitors

Alexander Weiss (Junior Professor in Ancient History, University of Leipzig; currently Feodor Lynen Research Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, based at Macquarie University) visited UNE at the end of July and gave a public lecture in the "Aspects of Antiquity" lecture series, on "Consuls, curators and city councillors among the early Christians, AD I-III". He also gave a seminar paper in the School of Humanities weekly research seminar series, on "Sergius Paullus, Dionysios the Areopagite and Erastus the city treasurer: three early Christian Roman elite".

François Lissarrague (formerly Director of the Centre Louis Gernet in Paris and the 2008 Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens Visiting Professor) visited UNE in early August and gave a public lecture in the "Aspects of Antiquity" lecture series, on "Images and Ritual in Ancient Greece". He also gave a seminar paper in the School of Humanities weekly research seminar series on "Figuring the Gods in Ancient Greece: The Relations of Anthropomorphism and 'Aniconism'".

Successfully completed postgraduate degrees

PhD completed in Greek: S.C. Charlesworth, "Early Christian Gospels. Their production and transmission" (examiners: R. Pintaudi, Firenze/Messina; M. Reiser, Mainz; P. van Minnen, Cincinnati; supervisors: Horsley/Stanton)

PhD completed in Ancient History: G.F. Bourke, "The Eleian 'asylia' and the politics of the archaic and classical Peloponnese" (examiners: A.B. Bosworth, UWA; J. Ober, Stanford; G. Shipley, Leicester; supervisors: Stanton/Spence)

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO

Staff

Dr Arlene Allan is currently on study leave until December 2008.

Visitors

Recent visitors who have delivered papers at the department's research seminar include Assoc. Prof. Matthew Dillon (University of New England) in July, and Dr Jessie Maritz (University of Zimbabwe) and Professor Kathleen Coleman (Harvard University) in August.

Successfully completed postgraduate degree

In August, Andrew Collins was awarded a PhD for his dissertation entitled “The Transformation of Alexander’s Court”.

Performance

In July, Dr Harry Love (Honorary Fellow) staged a production (in his own translation) of Sophocles’ *Antigone*.

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Staff

John Whitehorne has returned from long-service leave this semester and is currently teaching a heavy load of courses in compensation. David Pritchard joined us in July and has begun to settle in to the Cultural History Project. He will begin teaching Ancient History next year.

New course

Sonia Puttock will be teaching an advanced level course on “Classical Archaeology and Museums” in 2009. As well as forming part of the Ancient History programme, this course will be included in the Museum Studies programme at UQ.

Visitors

Three visitors are slated to speak this semester in a combination of research seminars and public lectures. Dr Kathryn Welch of Sydney University (8 August) will lead a seminar on “Velleius Paterculus’ Portrait of Livia”; Professor Francois Lissarrague, the 2008 AAIA Visiting Professor, will give a public lecture on 14 August on “The Greek Symposium” and a seminar on 15 August on “Reading Images, Looking at Pictures”; and Professor Michael Fulford of Reading will give a seminar on 10 October on “The Silchester Town Life Project: Getting under the Skin of a Roman Town in Britain”. At the time of writing, Dr Welch and Professor Lissarrague have delivered their talks and each occasion went very well. Both speakers attracted large audiences, with Professor Lissarrague’s public lecture drawing numerous members of the general community.

Recent museum acquisitions

2008 has seen several changes in the R.D. Milns Antiquities Museum: new acquisitions, new displays, new labels and a new trainee. In April we were delighted to welcome Paola Mior, a postgraduate and scholarship holder from the *Università degli Studi di Udine* to our museum as an Occupational Trainee until November. Already Paola has undertaken a variety of tasks, including a revamp of the coin catalogue, and research on the one hundred Coptic spindle whorls which we recently received as a gift – the latter being a job guaranteed to make any researcher develop a deep aversion to Coptic spindle whorls.

These artefacts form part of several donations to the museum this year for which we are extremely grateful. Other gifts include three 4th century BC black slipped bowls, a 13th century BC Palestinian earthenware bowl and a plain Macedonian bowl. Purchased acquisitions include a Hellenistic gold earring, a Roman silver ring with an agate inscribed with the letters LILOZI (any help with identification will be greatly welcomed), a figurine of the goddess Astarte dated between the 7th and 4th centuries BC and two bronze *phalerae*. These items were chosen with a view to their use in the teaching of Classics and Ancient History. Several bronze and silver coins are currently being studied by two Engineering Honours students from the Centre of Microscopy and Microanalysis. Last year two different Honours students from CMM worked on some bronze coins of Constantine the Great and the findings were presented at a conference in Perth.

Conferences

Our “Statue of Zeus of Olympia” Conference (2-4 July 2008) went very well with approximately 45 attendees and 16 papers. Overseas visitors included Ken Lapatin of the Getty Museum, Judy Barringer of Edinburgh (currently writing a book on Olympia), and trans-Tasman friends such as Arlene Allan of Otago, Patrick O’Sullivan of Christchurch, and Diana Burton of Victoria University, Wellington. The organizers would like to register their thanks once again to ASCS for its generous support of this event: ASCS funds were used to assist in air fares for a postgraduate student, Jessica Priestly, so that she could attend and deliver a paper.

The postgraduate AMPHORA Conference will take place once again this year at UQ, organized by Daniel Press and his enthusiastic team. Once again, ASCS have been most generous with financial support and advice. Daniel reports that there continues to be healthy interest in AMPHORA (Annual Meeting of Postgraduates in Hellenic or Roman Antiquities), with over 20 papers offered this year by postgraduates from a wider range of universities than last year.

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Staff

Dr Alastair Blanshard has been promoted to Senior Lecturer. Dr Sebastiana Nervegna, currently of Carleton University in Canada, was appointed as the Kevin Lee Postdoctoral Fellow in Classics. She is an expert in Menander (particularly in the ancient reception of Menander’s works). The department is currently in the process of filling two additional posts, the Charles Tesoriero Lectureship in Latin and an open lectureship in Classics and Ancient History.

New Centre for Classical and Near Eastern Studies of Australia

An exciting new development. Throughout the course of 2008 plans for the establishment on campus of the Centre for Classical and Near Eastern Studies of Australia progressed very well. As mentioned in last year’s report, this will be a new facility that brings together into a single place a number of units working in the area that are currently dispersed over campus: the Australian Archaeological Institute in Athens (AAIA), the Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation (NEAF), and the research activities of the Departments of Classics and Ancient History and of Archaeology (Classical).

The Centre will be in a fully refurbished site in the Madsen Building on Eastern Avenue, right near the City Road entrance to the University. At the heart of the Centre will be a research library. It will have a number of offices housing research projects and visiting scholars, and a seminar / board-room where most of the many Classical seminars and lectures held on campus will now be hosted. The final design of the new Centre was agreed in 2008 and work has recently begun on construction. It is anticipated that the Centre will be open as early as February 2009.

New course

The Language of the Greek Bible. This represents the return of Biblical Greek to the curriculum.

Visitors

Professor Julia H. Gaisser (Bryn Mawr) delivered the Todd Memorial Lecture, “Apuleius’ *Golden Ass*: From Antiquity to the Renaissance – a Survival Story”. Professor Oliver Taplin (Oxford) gave a seminar on south-Italian vase painting and theatre in the Nicholson Museum and delivered the Inaugural William Ritchie Memorial Lecture, “Tragic life-journeys and real-life journeys: the place where the three ways meet”.

Professor Philip Hardie (Cambridge) conducted a very successful master-class for postgraduates which was attended by students from throughout Australia and New Zealand. Professor François Lissarrague delivered two public lectures as AAIA Visiting Professor, “Saytr’s and Centaurs” and “Images and Ritual in Ancient Greece”. Professor Alan Shapiro (Johns Hopkins) gave a special seminar on “Re-fashioning Anacreon: Sexual Politics and the Symposium in Classical Athens”.

Lectures by visitors within our seminar series include Professor Richard Hunter (Cambridge), “The Ugly Peasant and the Naked Virgins: Dionysius of Halicarnassus, *On Imitation*”; Ms Sally Morris (Macquarie University), “Demonising Ares”; Assoc. Prof. Tom Hillard (Macquarie University), “Lesbia’s Cousin and Catullus 113”; Professor Denis Saddington (Witwatersrand), “*Mens Exercituum*: The Pathology of Roman Soldiers in Conflict”.

Speakers later in the term include Professor Simon Goldhill (Cambridge), Professor Barbara Weinlich (Texas Tech), Dr Dougal Blyth (Auckland) and Professor Getzel Cohen (Cincinnati).

Publications

books:

D. Hoyos, *Hannibal: Rome’s Greatest Enemy* (Exeter 2008).

P. Wilson and M. Revermann (eds.), *Performance, Reception, Iconography: Studies in Honour of Oliver Taplin* (Oxford 2008).

book chapters:

E. Csapo, “Star Choruses: Eleusis, Orphism and New Musical Imagery and Dance”, in *Performance, Reception, Iconography: Studies in Honour of Oliver Taplin* (Oxford 2008) 262-290.

F. Muecke, “Silius Italicus”, in *Repertorium Pomponianum* (URL: www.repertoriumpomponianum.it/themata/silius.htm).

W.J. Tatum, “Making History in *Rome*: Ancient versus Modern Perspectives”, in M.S. Cyrino (ed.), *ROME: History Makes Television* (Oxford 2008) 29-41.

P. Wilson, “Costing the Dionysia”, in P. Wilson and M. Revermann (eds.), *Performance, Reception, Iconography: Studies in Honour of Oliver Taplin* (Oxford 2008) 88-127.

P. Wilson, “Thamyris: the archetype of the wandering poet?”, in R. Hunter (ed.), *Poets and Place in Ancient Greece* (Cambridge 2008) 46-79.

Honour

Nicholas Hardwick, an Honorary Associate of the Department, was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London (FSA) in November last year.

Conferences

As mentioned above, Philip Hardie visited USyd to conduct a postgraduate masterclass on 25 July, with close analysis of passages from Ovid’s *Metamorphoses* and Lucan’s *Pharsalia*. There were 44 present, representing a broad cross-section of Australian and New Zealand classicists, mainly postgraduate students. ASCS funding provided bursaries for students from UQ, UCant and VUW to enable them to attend. The masterclass was originally the idea of Emma Gee and was organised by Emma and Frances Muecke from USyd.

In July 2010 (provisionally scheduled for 5-7 July) the Department will host a conference on *Appian and the Romans*. Speakers will include K. Brodersen, J. Marincola, L. Pitcher, A. Powell, and J. Rich. Anyone interested in participating in the conference, either by delivering a paper or acting as a discussant, is invited to contact Dr Kathryn Welch (kathryn.welch@usyd.edu.au).

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

Staff

There are major changes going on in Classics at the University of Tasmania. Assoc. Prof. Peter Davis will be leaving at the end of the year after thirty-three years of service. Peter will be much missed by students and staff alike. The continued strength of Classics at UTas is in large part due to his efforts, and his contribution will be remembered here.

There have been two new members of staff appointed during semester two of this year: Dr Geoff Adams (formerly at Monash) and Dr Graeme Miles (formerly at the University of Western Australia).

New courses

A much larger number of courses in Classics and Ancient Civilisations are now offered by distance education.

Visitors

The University of Tasmania had the pleasure of hosting Professor François Lissarrague on the Tasmanian leg of his Australian tour, organised by the Friends of the Australian Archaeological Institute in Athens.

Publications

Geoff W. Adams, *Rome and the Social Role of Elite Villas in its Suburbs*, British Archaeological Reports, International Series 1760 (Oxford 2008).

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Publication

“Humanism and Medicine in the Early Modern Era”, ed. Y. Haskell and E. Broomhall, special issue of *Intellectual History Review* [18.1] (Routledge 2008).

Museum event

On Sunday 19 October a function will take place at the WA Museum to mark the centenary of the installation of a series of casts of the Ionic frieze of the Parthenon in that building.

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

The Classics Museum at VUW has recently acquired a sizeable marble funerary stele dated to the first century BCE, with a pediment in relief below which shows a scene with a young woman and togate boy who farewell a seated woman, perhaps their mother. The inscription may read: “Tateis and Menakon (farewell or commemorate) Laomenea the wife of Theokritos”.

We have had several visitors during the last months: In May, Bonnie MacLachlan (University of Western Ontario) gave a seminar entitled “Virginity and the Unpossessed Body”. In May, Jessie Maritz (University of Zimbabwe) gave a seminar on “From Roman Africa to Roman America?” and a Classical Association presentation on Classics in Zimbabwe. In July, Assoc. Prof. Jeff Tatum (University of Sydney) gave a seminar entitled “Paradigm Shift: History after the Caesars”. In August, Professor Kathleen Coleman of Harvard University delivered the 2008 Syme Lecture on “Orchestrated Violence: The Role of Music in the Roman Amphitheatre”. While in Wellington she also presented a talk on using the resources of the *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae* and a seminar on “Valuing Others in the Gladiatorial Barracks”.

Two of our postgraduates have completed their MAs with Distinction: Jane Kruz wrote her thesis on “Baxter’s ‘Tragic Moment’: James K. Baxter’s adaptations of Sophocles’ *Philoctetes* and *Oedipus at Colonus*”. Bede Laracy wrote his MA thesis on “The Rule of Law in the Athenian *Dēmokratia*: Origins, History, and Oratory”.

ASCS 30

THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE

will be held at Sancta Sophia College, Sydney, Australia,
and hosted by the Department of Classics and Ancient History
at the University of Sydney

Dates: 3rd to 5th February 2009

Convenors: Assoc. Prof. Lindsay Watson and Dr Pat Watson

Enquiries to: Dr Pat Watson
(patricia.watson@arts.usyd.edu.au)

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The University of Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia

Further details, call for papers, registration procedure, accommodation etc.
are available on the conference website (www.classics.org.au/ascs30)
and on the ASCS website (www.ascs.org.au)