



The Australasian Society for Classical Studies

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ASCS 42 Conference Report

ASCS 42: ASCS' First Online Conference

Like most events in 2020 and 2021, ASCS 42, was held online. Planning began in April and eventuated in a four-day event from 8 to 11 February 2021.

The conference organising committee was comprised of four members, Bob Cowan (Sydney), Elizabeth Minchin (ANU), David Rafferty (Adelaide) and Kathryn Welch (Sydney).

The conference organisers would like to acknowledge the excellent support we received from the professional staff of the School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry at the University of Sydney and from the CAH support staff based at CCANESA.

Brief report and statistics

- 27 panels of three and four papers were presented at the conference.
- The keynote address was delivered by Dr Rosa Andújar (King College London),
- The conference also hosted the Academy of the Humanities' 23rd Trendall Lecture Keynote Address, delivered by Dr Estelle Lazer (University of Sydney)
- In conjunction with AWAWS, it programmed a Professional Workshop for Postgraduate students.
- 250 people registered for the conference, some attending from South Africa, the United States, various European countries and the United Kingdom.

Selecting the papers

The old system

The system that has been in place for the last ten years entailed a close review of all abstracts submitted for ASCS to ensure that every paper made a case and argued for it effectively. It was clear in subsequent conference meetings that on the whole we had achieved this far more regularly than in the past

Under this system, the committee convener checked all abstracts to ensure they were of the correct length and format. S/he then removed all identifying details, entered each proposal into a spreadsheet and passed them on to the chair of the Conference Program Review Committee (CPRC) who then divided the abstracts amongst 8 or 10 colleagues who had been co-opted to serve on the committee. Abstracts were accepted as written, returned for improvement and, on rare occasions, rejected. The CPRC would subsequently check revised abstracts for

acceptability. At the end of this process, the convener passed on all the accepted/amended abstracts to the conference organizers for programming.

The process, as noted above, has resulted in conference papers of higher quality. But it was a behind-the-scenes operation. Because of its anonymity, a request for revision could easily be interpreted by an insecure postgraduate or colleague in a negative way. It also presented a huge burden of work not only to the committee itself but to the convener who was the only person who knew the identity of every presenter and the ultimate fate of each abstract. Even without the exigencies presented by the pandemic it was clear that the system had to change, especially since in recent years it has not been unusual to process almost 200 proposals.

The new system

By contrast, in 2020 a number of ‘matchmakers’ across the subject areas covered by an ASCS conference were invited to canvass colleagues, postgraduates, and others in their own subject area and to build panels of papers in addition to the regular abstract submission process. Matchmakers were entrusted with the task of reviewing (including proofreading) the abstracts (and asking for revisions). The matchmakers were then expected to submit the finalized abstracts to the central ASCS collection point. Matchmakers had the right to recommend that the convening committee refuse to accept a paper if it was not of the standard expected for an ASCS abstract.

There were a number of teething problems with this new process: where more than one matchmaker was responsible for a subject area there was the potential for confusion; there was some confusion too about who was responsible for submitting abstracts to the ASCS collection point; it became clear at a later stage that not all matchmakers had proofread ‘their’ abstracts.

But were the process modified and were instructions to matchmakers refined, there are many advantages to the ‘developmental’ mode:

- Responsibility for the conference program is shared amongst many colleagues rather than a few. The burden of refusing a paper is not left to one colleague, sometimes for several years in a row
- These colleagues can work with postgrads and colleagues in a creative way as they develop panels that will showcase new scholarship.
- The process is a positive experience, consultative and open.
- The conference therefore becomes not simply a random assemblage of papers but a conscious creation which ASCS members own.

One clear disadvantage remains. For many reasons, but most importantly in order to be able to claim funding for a peer-reviewed conference, anonymity at some stage of the process is necessary. If this aspect of the vetting process could somehow be incorporated, the ASCS 42 organising committee would highly recommend a modified and improved form of the matchmaker system.

How to do this?

- Abstracts MUST be delivered to one central point (abstracts@ascs.org.au) for processing.
- If every ASCS member knew their membership number (needed in any case for the electronic delivery of *Antichthon*), they could add this to the abstract rather than their personal details (as one does for the SCS for example). This would save the CPRC

convener a vast amount of work and would offer the anonymity needed for the first phase of the review process.

- A new category of ASCS membership could be set up asking those who do not reside in Australia or New Zealand to pay a small processing fee (\$10 AUD for example, flat rate) if they wish to present at the conference. Personal details could be collected at that point and a membership number assigned.
- Matchmakers would read the papers anonymously in the first instance and determine if any should be rejected. After this point, names could be released to them and the process follow a similar (but refined) system of improvement and processing to that implemented for 2021.
- The conference convener should have the final say in the composition of each panel. This is crucial for last minute planning, the inevitable change in circumstances of some paper-givers and other organisational issues.

Lessons learned from ASCS 42 Online

On the whole, the conference was a huge success, especially given the complete inexperience of the committee in organising an event of this nature. Presenters were still predominantly members of ASCS based in Australia and New Zealand, but the online format allowed for a far greater presence of internationally based speakers and audience than in the past. Moreover, the matchmaking system encouraged a greater visibility for important areas such as post-classical Greek language. The language pedagogy workshop was a great addition to the program.

Our post-conference survey (also a first for ASCS) however threw up some excellent suggestions for improvements and modifications, some the result of experiencing a new format delivered with an “on-campus” mentality. The full report will be presented to the ASCS Executive. The list below presents highlights.

- The four-paper panels worked really well for intellectual engagement, but it was a long time to sit in one place and there was frequently not enough time for questions even when presenters kept strictly to time. Our recommendation is to return to panels of three papers but allowing a little more time for questions (not for presenting, for which around 18 minutes should be the aim). The SLACK site did enable conversations to continue but, if a hybrid/online format is in play, more time for questions is needed to make up for lack of opportunity for those post-session chats over refreshments.
- If four-paper panels are retained. The comfort break in the middle should be at least ten minutes, not five. And Chairs MUST observe it strictly.
- Online participation lessens the need to have keynote/plenary sessions in the evenings. In fact, it makes it harder because if one is logging on from home the chances are that papers are being fitted in with other responsibilities such as preparing meals and childcare.
- Similarly, any online social events could be later in the evening once meals have been eaten and children organised. (NB the organisers were very pleased with the level of participation in these events and especially the brilliant contribution of Louise Pryke and Emma Barlow in organising and running the Pub Quiz).
- To add to the social aspect. A meeting-in-person cannot be bettered for the best social experience. But for those for whom that is not possible, the online option is a good one. So too is a locally-organised ASCS event such as dinner or drinks. ANU held a dinner for those living close to the campus (including affiliates of other campuses) which was deemed to be a great success.

- The conference charged a modest fee, but most online conferences have not done so. It will be up to the new committee (and whether some of us can meet in person) to decide on fees for 2022.

If you have thoughts on these issues, please send them to the Honorary Secretary Dan Osland (secretary@ascs.org.au) who will pass them on to the new committee. Or you might ask your campus representative to bring your concerns and ideas to the Executive for discussion.

Kathryn Welch
Elizabeth Minchin
David Rafferty
Bob Cowan

OBITUARIES

Colin Max Mayrhofer

Perth 15 December 1940 – Melbourne 18 August 2020

Graduating with First-Class Honours in Latin from UWA (1962), Colin completed a further BA at Kings College Cambridge (1964). Returning to Australia he held a post briefly at the University of Newcastle (1965) before taking up a position in the Classics Department at the ANU, where he remained for 32 years (1966-1997), teaching Ancient Greek and Latin language and literature, with a particular focus on ancient drama.

A patient and thoughtful undergraduate teacher, it was he who proposed the Traditional Grammar course for *ab initio* students that has been taught since 1990 with considerable success at the ANU. As I can testify, he was also a wise and perceptive postgraduate supervisor and an efficient and unflustered Head of Department.

Colin's teaching focussed on Greece and Rome, but his research activities were conducted in quite another sphere. During his early years at the ANU he acquainted himself with the languages of North India, including Sanskrit. His PhD, completed in 1976 in South Asian and Buddhist Studies, was a reconstruction of an ancient Indian epic the *Br̥hatkathā*—an exercise that combined his high-level philological competence with his abiding interest in the art of storytelling. His major publication, in 1998, was the text and translation into English of a poem notorious for the difficulty of both language and style—the *Samdeśarāsaka*—composed in Apabhraṃśa by a thirteenth-century Muslim poet, Abdul Rahman.

Colin was also a swimmer, recognized by a Half-Blue from Cambridge and, in retirement, triumphs in Masters' Games. An accident in the surf off a Perth beach in 2008 left him a partial quadriplegic, with very little mobility. Colin, who had been so elegant and athletic a figure, accommodated with stoic calm the challenges that he increasingly encountered.

After a diagnosis of cancer, Colin died in Melbourne on 18 August 2020.

Elizabeth Minchin

Major General Iain Spence

After moving from Edinburgh to Armidale with his family at the age of 16, MAJGEN Iain Spence CSC RFD began a long lasting association with the University of New England, and that is why I am speaking in his memory today, despite the fact that there are many of you here who will have had long and close relationships with a man whose collegiality and kindness were as remarkable as his achievements. Associate Professor Iain

Spence did not just have an extraordinary career, he had several. He was a school-teacher, an academic, and a member of the Australian army reserve. His formal credentials in the last two speak for themselves, Iain was Associate Professor and the (elected, and highly respected by both academic and professional staff) Head of the School of Classics, History and Religion at the University of New England, before he resigned to move to Canberra in 2010. The high quality of Iain's research on ancient Greek warfare was strikingly recognised with his election as a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in England as early as 1998—Greg Horsley (whose prosopographical skills I trust) suggests that he was possibly the only Australian Classicist resident in the Southern hemisphere ever to be so recognised. As a member of the Australian Armed Forces Reserves, Iain ended his career as Major General, as the highest-ranking reservist in Australia, and in that capacity, represented Australia at meetings of both NATO and ANZUS. Iain's achievements as a teacher are, as always, harder to quantify, but at the heart of who he was as a man. Prior to his permanent appointment at UNE, Iain taught in a number of schools and tutored extensively; his experience and passion as an educator were always clear. Iain gave my first lecture at UNE and, despite the blur of excitement and lack of sleep that constituted first semester, I still vividly remember the warm and incisive way in which he set up his expectations of us as students. Iain's particular mixture of humour, insight and kindness—together with his evident expertise – meant that students wanted to live up to these expectations. Iain leaves a legacy in Australian academia of scholarly excellence, administrative skill, teaching of the highest quality, and a warm humanity that elevated all three of these things. He will be greatly missed.

Sarah Lawrence

UNIVERSITY REPORTS

Australian Catholic University

Michael Champion was promoted to Associate Professor.

Jonathan Zecher was promoted to Senior Research Fellow.

In July the IRCI will host the conference “New Trajectories in Australian Research on Late Antiquity and Early Christian Studies.”

The Biblical and Early Christian Studies seminar series continues to enjoy tremendous success online.

Michael Hanaghan

Australian National University

Last year was a turbulent one at the ANU marked by catastrophic bushfires, a damaging hailstorm, and the far-reaching impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Centre for Classical Studies has persevered despite these challenges and we look forward to a safer and healthier 2021 and beyond.

With a view to reinvigorating leadership of the Centre, ANU is currently seeking an Associate Professor/Professor of Classics (Academic Level D or E) on a full-time continuing basis. Applications close on 30 May 2021. Interested parties should contact the Head of School, Dr Katie Sutton at hos.slll@anu.edu.au.

The Friends of the ANU Classics Museum are currently engaged in a philanthropy appeal to raise funds to support a 50% curator of the Classics Museum for two years (it is hoped from 2022). It is proposed that the appointment would administer the collection and engage in some related teaching as well as administering the Centre for Classical Studies' outreach activities.

Despite the many difficulties of 2020, staff and alumni of the Centre continued to research and publish (see the attached publications listings). In addition, several of us made good use of opportunities to participate in online conferences and seminar series:

- Elizabeth Minchin gave a paper (by zoom) in the seminar series at Cardiff University UK, 'Shaping Memory in Ancient Greece' on Monday 8 March.
- Sonia Pertsinidis presented a paper (by Zoom) at the University of Graz conference on Ancient Fable on 2 October 2020. Her paper was entitled 'Babrius as a Second Sophistic Poet: Rhetoric in Babrius' Fables'.
- Sonia Pertsinidis recently presented a paper (by Zoom) at the University of Exeter Change & Resilience in Antiquity Seminar Series on 16 April. Her paper was entitled 'The resilient hero: a new reading of Euripides' *Heracles*'.

Dr Sonia Pertsinidis recently received a very positive review of her book entitled *Theophrastus' Characters: a new introduction*. Routledge focus on classical studies. Abingdon; New York: Routledge, 2018. A copy of the review can be found at <https://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2021/2021.03.26/> – Congratulations Sonia!

Karen Possingham (supervised by Elizabeth Minchin) has been awarded her PhD titled, '*Tales for All Time: The Role of Emotions in Modern Receptions of Homeric Epic*'. You can access the thesis using this link: <http://hdl.handle.net/1885/220380> – Congratulations Karen!

To celebrate the 200th year of Greek Independence Elizabeth Minchin convened an afternoon of four very engaging talks for a large and receptive audience at the Hellenic Club of Canberra on Sunday 21 March. The speakers, all members of CASS, were Dr Alex Cook, Professor Will Christie, Dr Peter Londey and Dr Alexandra Dellios. The Ambassador for Greece addressed the gathering. The High Commissioner for Cyprus also attended.

The ANU Classics Museum continues to enjoy visits from schools and members of the public. On the alumni weekend (13-14 March) 27 alumni we were welcomed into the Classics Museum by Elizabeth Minchin for an introduction to the collection.

Dr Ryan Strickler is currently convening a public Seminar Series for the Centre of Classical Studies via Zoom. Seminars take place on Wednesdays at 1pm (Canberra/Sydney time). Everyone is welcome to attend. To date, we have enjoyed excellent presentations by Dr Michael Furman (Florida State University), Professor Louise Hitchcock (University of Melbourne), Dr James McNamara (Potsdam University), Dr Ash Green (University of Melbourne) and Dr Tony McArthur (Independent scholar). If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact ryan.strickler@anu.edu.au.

The Classics reading groups (a Latin group currently reading Cicero, *In Verrem*, and a Greek group currently reading Herodotus) have continued online into 2021. Anyone interested should contact Elizabeth Minchin (Elizabeth.Minchin@anu.edu.au). The groups meet on alternate Fridays at 12.15 for one hour.

Sonia Pertsinidis

Macquarie University

Significant activity by staff, postgraduates, honoraries, and retired staff

Lea Beness, as President of AWAWS, was invited to open the Online Conference ‘Modern’ Women of the Past? Unearthing Gender and Antiquity’, convened by the AAIA, CCANESA, AWAWS and the University of Sydney’s Departments of Archaeology and Classics and Ancient History, 5 March 2021.

Caillan Davenport delivered the Classical Association (South West) Lecture at the University of Roehampton (via Zoom) on February 10 on the topic of ‘Death, Dynasty, and Rumour in Imperial Rome’.

Emlyn Dodd, Honorary Postdoctoral Fellow at Macquarie University and Research Affiliate at the Centre for Ancient Cultural Heritage and Environment (CACHE), has been appointed Assistant Director for Archaeology at the British School at Rome.

Deborah Hope presented the paper ‘Pearl Profusion: The Economic Consequences of Large-Scale Pearl Production and Trade’ at the 12th International Congress of the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (ICAANE), University of Bologna, April 6–10, 2021.

Susan Lupack has given a total of eight talks on the inaugural 2020 season of the Perachora Peninsula Archaeological Project, three of which were for foreign institutions: 10 November 2020 for the University of Münster, hosted by Prof Hans Beck; 9 February 2021 for the University of Heidelberg hosted by Prof Joseph Maran; and a third on 10 January for the Archaeological Institute of America.

Kim McCorquodale presented the paper ‘Are Hoopoes Symbolic in Egyptian Pharaonic Art or Just Attractive Birds?’ at The fifth British Egyptology Congress (1st Sept-16th Oct 2020). It was to be held at Durham University but as it turned out was conducted via zoom.

New courses or major modifications to existing courses

The Department of Ancient History at Macquarie University has joined with Modern History to create a new Department of History and Archaeology. Within this new Department, we will be offering named degrees as follows: Bachelor of Ancient History and Bachelor of Archaeology; alongside a Major in Ancient History and a Major in Modern History.

The study of ancient languages is maintained with a Minor in Latin; a Minor in Ancient Greek and a Minor in Hieroglyphic Egyptian. In addition, the teaching of Coptic and ancient Hebrew will be maintained.

The combination of these degrees, majors and minors allows students to undertake a broad structured programme of study in Ancient History with 1000-level units focussed on the introduction to archaeology, an introduction to the study of ancient Egypt and the Near East, an examination of how the past is studied from the Bronze Age to Byzantium, and ancient mythology. In contrast at 2000-level students will focus on specific periods, such as the Hellenistic Age or Rome under the Caesars and so on. At 3000-level students will study thematic units, including Women and Gender, State Formation and Collapse, and the Dialogue of Cultures. All students undertake an internship focussed in the area of Public History and Cultural Heritage, as well as completing a capstone that includes a major research project. This new structure allows for a distinction across levels with a clear pathway of progression.

It should be noted that 160 credits (out of a total of 240) are compulsory within the new Bachelor of Ancient History, allowing for 80 credits in the elective space. Thus, we might anticipate some students taking a Minor in Ancient Greek and a Minor in Latin or alternatively

developing a more in-depth knowledge of archaeology in the elective space. The recruitment to this new structure has shown a 30% increase in student numbers in the Major in Ancient History, as well as an increase in recruitment to the Bachelor of Ancient History and to the Bachelor of Archaeology.

The new Department continues to offer a fully on-line part-time taught Masters in Ancient History, both via Macquarie and via OUA, as well as a Graduate Certificate in Ancient History. These programmes of study have proven popular with teachers and also with those without access to such a programme in their location. Students come from a variety of states and a colleague was delighted to meet a student he taught when visiting Perth and speaking at a UWA event. Finally, we continue to offer the two-year Masters by Research with c. 25 students completing the programme each year. It is worth noting here, that we have maintained our PhD numbers with c. 50–60 students registered currently.

Major research grant successes

Dr Danijel Džino is Partner Investigator in a new 4-year research project: ‘Among Gods and Men: The Cults and the Population of Roman Dalmatia According to the Votive Inscriptions’, led by the Croatian Academy for Sciences and Arts and financed by the Croatian Science Foundation. By using modern methodologies and operational tools this project aims to deliver an integrated study of religion in Roman Dalmatia to the wider academic community. It will further improve our knowledge of various disciplines within Roman studies (religion, prosopography, history) through a synthesis of the existing data with the anticipated outcomes of the planned research.

Postgraduate completions

Doctor of Philosophy

Georgia Barker, ‘Eternal Support: A Comparison of Funerary Models and Wall Scenes during the Old and Middle Kingdoms’

Principal Supervisor: Naguib Kanawati

Therese Clarke, ‘It’s a Long Way to the Top. Elite male leadership career trajectories and social status within Egypt’s provinces during the Old Kingdom’

Principal Supervisor: Linda Evans

Master of Philosophy

Christopher Armitage, ‘From Qumran to Jude: A History of Social Crisis at Qumran and in Early Jewish Christianity’

Principal Supervisor: Paul McKechnie

Master of Research

Ewan Coopie, ‘Fratres Romani in Dalmatia: The Social Dynamics of Legio VII and the Construction of Community and Identity through Roman Funerary Monuments’

Principal Supervisor: Danijel Džino

Christian Cuello, ‘Minting Victory: Symbols of authority, legitimacy and power in the barbarian coinage of Late Antiquity’

Principal Supervisor: Paul McKechnie

Joel Dowling-Soka, 'Performative Hagiography: The Life of Theodoros of Sykeon and its Seventh-Century Galatian Context'

Principal Supervisor: Eva Anagnostou

Madeline Jenkins, 'Sadness' in the Ancient Egyptian Lexicon: A Lexical-Semantic Analysis of the Lexeme *ind*'

Principal Supervisor: Boyo Ockinga

Sarah Massingham, 'Uncovering the Tooth: Interventive Dental Therapy in Ancient Egypt'

Principal Supervisor: Ronika Power

Austin Megier, 'One sings for you with the hand': gestures in Old Kingdom musical ensemble scenes

Principal Supervisor: Naguib Kanawati

Paul Statheos, 'Voices from Above and Below: divine communication in the Epic of Gilgamesh'

Principal Supervisor: Kyle Keimer

Keng-Hwee Yeo, 'Ptolemaic Queens: Power Wielders or Power Hungry? A Study of Cleopatras I, II, and III'

Principal Supervisor: Paul McKechnie

New books

Armitage, C., *Atonement and Ethics in 1 John: A Peacemaking Hermeneutic* will be published by T&T Clark on 17 June 2021 (ISBN 9780567700759).

Boršić, L., Džino, D., and Radić Rossi, I., *Liburnica and Illyrian Lemb: Iron Age Ships of the Eastern Adriatic* (Oxford: Archaeopress, 2021).

Edwell, P., *Rome and Persia at War: Imperial Competition and Contact, 193–363 CE* (London and New York: Routledge, 2021).

Judge, E.A., *The Failure of Augustus: Essays on the Interpretation of a Paradox* (Newcastle-Upon-Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2019).

Keegan, P., *Livy's Women: Crisis, Resolution, and the Female in Rome's Foundation History* (London and New York: Routledge, 2021).

Worthington, I. *Athens after Empire: A History from Alexander the Great to the Emperor Hadrian* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2021).

The late Nicholas Horsfall's *Fifty Years at the Sibyl's Heels: Selected Papers on Virgil and Rome* was published by Oxford University Press on 27 December 2020 (ISBN 9780198863861).

Nicholas Horsfall spent a lengthy period of time at Macquarie in the early 1980s, and four of the papers in the new volume first appeared in *Ancient History Resources for Teachers*.

Covid-19 impact and initiatives not specified elsewhere

The 2021 Summer Week of the Macquarie Ancient Languages School (MALS), 11–15 January, was successfully delivered via Zoom. An unplanned outcome was the greater reach of the event, with participants involved from as far away as Osaka and New York. The Winter Week, 5–9 July, will again be a Zoom event (for details and registration see our website: mals.org.au).

Trevor Evans

Monash University

After spending the entirety (minus one morning) of 2020 teaching online, it has been a real pleasure to welcome students back to campus.

Significant activity

In March, Andrew Connor spoke on Roman religious and political activity in Egypt prior to the Roman conquest for the Berkeley Tebtunis seminar series, with a talk entitled “Roman Attitudes towards Egyptian Religion: Re-thinking the Visit of Lucius Memmius in *P.Tebt.* 1.33.”

Postgraduate completions

Jimmy Blackwell completed his MA, “An Empire of Obedience? The Interests of Rome’s Italian Allies and Their Motivations for Compliance in the Third and Second Centuries BCE” (Andrew Connor, primary supervisor).

Alanna Morgan completed her MA, “The Coffin of Nytaamenkhamun: A Case Study of Australia’s Encounter with Ancient Egypt” (Jessie Birkett-Rees, primary supervisor).

Other items

Staff continued a range of outreach activities, including media appearances and working with educators and the general public.

New books

While it has not yet been possible to formally present it to him, a *festschrift* in honor of Colin Hope’s glittering career was published last year, including a host of contributions from colleagues around the world and his former students. The volume, *Dust, Demons and Pots: Studies in Honour of Colin A. Hope* (Warfe, Gill, Hamilton, Pettman, and Stewart, eds.) offers a fine testament to Colin’s impact on the study of ancient Egypt and (especially) the legacy of his work in the Dakhleh Oasis. We hope to have a proper celebration as soon as possible.

We are also pleased to report that a new guide to Amarna, *Amarna: A guide to the Ancient City of Akhetaten*, edited by Anna Stevens, has just been published by AUC Press. This is the first guide ever published for Amarna, and represents a major milestone for this exciting site. The book has been published in English, with an Arabic edition coming later in the year. We look forward to celebrating the launch of this book in conjunction with the Egyptology Society of Victoria over the coming year.

COVID-19 impact

The Egyptology Society of Victoria continues its annual lecture series online, with a very popular talk from Colin Hope on the history of Dakhleh Oasis to start the year. We will soon have our next talk, by Dr Paul Kucera on the Roman army in Egypt, via Zoom.

Andrew Connor

University of Adelaide

Significant activity by staff, postgraduates, honoraries, and retired staff

Prof. Han Baltussen has been allowed to postpone his D. Tarrant Fellowship at ICS London until 2022. He also gave several talks on Zoom (ANU seminar series, IRCI/ACU seminar series) and had two abstracts accepted for online conferences on “textuality / textualization” at Jerusalem (Israel, June 2021) and Durham (UK, July 2021). A third (invited) paper will be presented at an online conference on Dialectic in the Neoplatonic Commentators organised by the University of Patras. His Loeb translation of Eunapius’ Lives of Philosophers and Sophists (part of his study leave research in late 2020) is near completion, and he submitted a short article (‘A textual note on Eunapius’) and a book chapter (‘Endoxography in Aristotle, Theophrastus and Simplicius’) for publication. He will be on Long Service Leave from mid-April to mid-June 2021.

Prof. Em. Richard Green (Research Affiliate) made a substantial contribution to the ANU online Museum catalogue.

Dr. David Rafferty (Research Affiliate) submitted a DECRA application to the ARC to be based in Adelaide under the mentorship of Prof. Han Baltussen (Classics) and Prof. Lisa Hill (Politics).

Museum news

Our first-year cohort (ca. 80 students) was pleasantly surprised when introduced to the collection of our Classics Museum by the Director, Dr Margaret O’Hea. With funding from the Faculty of Arts they were offered an afternoon tea before being led into the Museum to explore the collection in small groups and identify 12 artefacts (hidden in a word puzzle).

Postgraduate completions

On March 1 Patrick Moritz (MPhil English, supervisor Assoc. Prof. Lucy Potter; co-supervisor Prof. Han Baltussen) received the examiners’ reports to his MPhil thesis ‘*A lightness that is both new and a return: Nekyia and katabasis in twenty-first century receptions of the Iliad*’. It was judged excellent and highly original by both examiners, who both awarded it a High Distinction and proposed the Dean’s Commendation without corrections.

On April 9 Tiana Blazevic-Bastow (supervisor Prof. Han Baltussen) received the examiners’ reports to her MPhil thesis *The Ascent to the Hidden One: The Reception of the Egyptian One God in Neoplatonism and the Greek Magical Papyri*, judged excellent and highly original by both examiners, who both awarded it a High Distinction and proposed the Dean’s Commendation with minor corrections. Tiana will next start work on a PhD thesis with the Department of History at Macquarie University.

On April 30 Tamas Preston submitted his MPhil thesis *Veiled Criticism in Seneca’s Epistulae Morales ad Lucilium* (supervisor Prof. Han Baltussen). Well done, Tamas! we are keeping our fingers crossed for the examiners’ reports.

Other items of interest to ASCS members

It is our sad duty to let you know that Jan Lee has passed away after a period of illness. Jan was a mature age postgraduate student whose thesis — a commentary on the first part of Punica Book 8 (supervised by Jacqueline Clarke and Peter Davis) — was highly commended. Recently she also collaborated with another postgrad, Ben Nagy, on a ground-breaking article analysing

the Aldine Additamentum in Silius Italicus' *Punica* with computer-aided techniques, which has been accepted (subject to revisions) by the *Classical Quarterly*. Jan was also very generous with her time and helped many of our advanced undergraduate students with their Latin. Jan was a cheerful presence at seminars and had a cheeky and irreverent sense of humour. Members of ASCS may have met her at the 2015 conference in Adelaide which she helped organise. Our thoughts are with her daughter and close friends. She will be greatly missed.

Han Baltussen

University of Auckland

Staff changes, appointments, promotions, retirements, obituaries

Dr. Dougal Blyth began the process of retirement, which will culminate at the end of 2021. Dr. Alecia Bland continued on in her Latin teaching role for the first semester of 2021, teaching LATIN 100. Ryan Brown-Haysom joined the department on a temporary contract teaching GREEK 100.

Significant activity by staff, postgraduates, honoraries, and retired staff

Assoc. Prof. Lisa Bailey was on research leave in semester 1.

New courses or major modifications to existing courses

Due to staffing shortages, the department has been forced to temporarily close its major in Greek language to new entrants as of the start of 2021. It is hoped, when we are once again permitted to hire, that we can reopen the major. The full language curriculum will still be offered for continuing students for the next few years. Subsequently, it is planned that Greek language will only be taught through the acquisition sequence (GREEK 100, 101, and 200).

Postgraduate completions

MA Completion

Helen Wyeth – *Reflections of History: Christian-Roman Identity and Late Antique History in Proba's Cento and Prudentius' Psychomachia*. Supervised by Lisa Bailey.

Jeremy Armstrong

University of Canterbury

It's been a quiet few months for the Classics Department, mostly because of Covid-19 conditions. Nonetheless members of the Department have taken advantage of this time to work on teaching and continue research projects.

Staffing

Gary Morrison has just begun a term as Head of Department.

Conference papers and public talks

Earlier in April we took the opportunity to connect with teachers of Classical Studies in the Teece Museum and provide them with teaching resources and support. Terri Elder, curator of the Teece Museum) provided a list of items that link items in the Teece Museum to topics on the NCEA curriculum in high schools. Patrick O'Sullivan talked about highlights from the Greek vase collection that are particularly useful for teaching.

The monthly Tuesday morning series “Coffee and Classics” remains popular with retirees and UC employees. In March, Gary Morrison talked about the Canterbury Sallust, a 15th-century vellum edition of Sallust’s *Bellum Jugurthinum*, and in April Alison Griffith spoke about coins on loan from the Canterbury Museum (see below).

Teaching developments

Natalie Haynes spoke to students in CLAS 220: Troy & Ancient Epic - via zoom from the UK - when she joined Patrick O'Sullivan for a discussion of women in Greek Epic.

The initiative to redevelop 100-level teaching as two courses in translation, one focussing on Greek and Roman history and the other on a holistic view of 5th-century Athens and Augustan Rome, is working well, with enrolments now double what they were last year.

Following on from this, the Department has made the difficult decision to downsize its language offerings at 100 level, but is pleased to be adapting Professor Elizabeth Minchin’s book manuscript that introduces the basics of Greek, Latin and English in the first semester of ancient language study. We are extremely grateful to Elizabeth for her generosity and collegiality. A course proposal for “Ancient Greek and Latin for Absolute Beginners” is currently working its way through the approval process. Students who complete the course will continue into a traditional introductory course in Greek or Latin in the second semester. The 200-level course on Roman Art is also being given a rest while we trial a new course “Classical Archaeology of the Ancient Mediterranean”, which is also in the proposal phase.

Conferences

We are pleased to announce that planning well underway for ASCS 2023, to be held in Christchurch.

Teece Museum

The new exhibit “Myths and Mortals” has proven very popular with visitors and school groups. This year the number of visitors to the Teece Museum since its opening in May 2017 will reach 50,000.

Several projects are continuing, including work to make more of the collection accessible to the visually prepared through audio descriptions: <http://teecemuseum.nz/collection/audio-descriptions/>.

Over the summer UC student, Kieran Knowles, completed a joint internship with the Teece Museum and the Canterbury Museum. He worked with Alison Griffith, Terri Elder and Canterbury Museum staff to catalogue coins that resurfaced in the Canterbury Museum as part of a large database updating project. The 250 coins “rediscovered” over the summer are now on loan to the Teece Museum, where Alison and Terri are leading a team of undergraduate Greek and Latin students in identifying the coins and entering data into the Canterbury Museum database. A further loan of 750 coins is anticipated in July.

Finn Adams is currently a Teece Museum intern and is working on a project to locate all the ancient arms and armour in New Zealand museum collections.

The Hidden Treasures project to enter all the heritage items at the University of Canterbury into E-hive continues. The 160 items include furniture, regalia, dishware, blazers, scientific instruments, a bicycle, and a visitor book that records Helen Keller’s visit to the UC student

association in 1948. About 90% of this material has been entered into E-hive, with completion expected later this year.

Finally, student interest in GLAM sector (Galleries/Libraries/Archives/Museums) and heritage sector careers continues to grow. Terri Elder will be collaborating with several public organizations (Christchurch City Council Heritage division, Ngai Tahu, Matapopere, CCC libraries, Archives NZ, Heritage NZ and the Northern Corridor Transport Infrastructure Project) to offer a “Careers in Heritage” day on May 11.

Alison Griffith

University of Melbourne

Staff changes, appointments, promotions, retirements, obituaries

K.O. Chong-Gossard has been promoted to the status of Associate Professor, to universal acclaim. He has also been elected as a vice-president of ASCS.

In January 2021 Drs Edward Jeremiah, Andrew Turner, and Monique Webber were appointed to full-time positions as Teaching Specialists within Classics and Archaeology for an initial term of two years.

Significant activity by staff, postgraduates, honoraries, and retired staff

Hyun Jin Kim and Tim Parkin are on study leave in the first semester of 2021. As part of that leave Tim will be visiting the University of Queensland for two weeks in May to give various lectures and seminars as the R.D. Milns Visiting Professor – his first visit back to UQ in 15 years, since his two-year stint as Bob Milns’ successor as Professor of Classics there (2004-6).

Hyun Jin Kim has become a member of the academic editorial board of a new series in comparative histories, published through Cambridge University Press, entitled *Greece and Rome in Global Context*.

Emily Hulme Kozey in January organized and chaired an SCS panel online, “New Perspectives on Plato’s Internal Critique of the Athenian *Politeia*”, as well as presenting at ASCS online in February, on “Craftswomen of Justice: Plato, *Republic* 5.454d1–3”. A goodly number of other colleagues and students also gave papers at the ASCS online conference in February: Rebecca Clifton, Ash Finn, Stuart Ibrahim, Tamara Lewit, Tim Parkin, Bill Richardson, Donna Storey, Frederik Vervae, and Stephanie Zindilis.

Other external presentations in this period included, in February, Frederik Vervae delivering a paper in Angelos Chaniotis’ (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton) Ancient Studies Seminar on the topic of ‘Constitutional Innovation during the Second Punic War (218-201 BCE): Some Unintended Consequences’; on 10 June, he is set to deliver this paper again as a Classics and Ancient History Seminar at the University of Sydney; also in February Tim Parkin delivered the Adrian Heyworth-Smith Memorial at the University of Queensland, on the theme of Roman (and more recent) legislation on marriage and childbearing; in March Louise Hitchcock gave a paper entitled “From the Here and Now, to the There and Then: The Most Powerful Woman in Minoan Crete?” at the ‘Modern’ Women of the Past? Unearthing Gender and Antiquity conference at the University of Sydney; and in April, Andrew Jamieson presented ‘Reflections on Sagona’s life in archaeology: his teaching, supervisions, publishing, and community engagement’ at The Caucasus Through Time Network conference “Antonio Sagona and his contribution to the formation of archaeology in the Caucasus”, London.

New courses or major modifications to existing courses

Lieve Donnellan (who joined the staff in 2020 but in 2021 continues to have to work from overseas) introduced a new honours subject: *Frontiers of the Greek World*. It is our fervent hope that Lieve will join us in person very early in 2022.

Museum news

In May Roslynne Bell, Andrew Jamieson, and Tim Parkin are giving an illustrated presentation at the Australian Club on items from the University of Melbourne's Classics collection, as part of bringing back live, in-person talks to the Classics in the City series, now in its 16th year.

Major research grant successes and/or completions

Murray, T. and A. Jamieson, 'Developing a process to automate the analysis of ceramic patterns derived from archaeological sites, Master of Data Science Industry Project, Melbourne Centre for Data Science, University of Melbourne. The proposed project seeks to apply machine learning and pattern recognition algorithms to the identification of 19th-century ceramics in the lab.

One of our PhD students, Tom Keep, has – under the recently initiated Australian government national PhD internship program – obtained funding (AU\$14,000) to create 3-D interactive models of the archaeological collection of the Hellenic Museum here in Melbourne. Gijs Tol will act as Tom's mentor.

Conferences (recent and forthcoming) convened at your institution

On 28-30 January of this year the inaugural meeting of the 'Mediterranean Archaeology Australasian Research Community' (MAARC) was hosted (online) by the University of Melbourne. The local organizing committee was made up of Gijs Tol, Madaline Harris-Schober, Emily Simons and Larissa Tittl. MAARC was set up in 2020 to encourage interaction, communication and collaboration between staff and students in universities in Australia and New Zealand that work on the history and archaeology of the ancient Mediterranean (in the broadest possible sense), with a yearly conference that rotates around the various institutions in the region. The conference was a great success, featuring over 80 papers across nine themed and one general session, and more than 260 registered attendants. Melbourne people who gave papers at this conference included Madaline Harris-Schober, Jacob Heywood, Louise Hitchcock, Heather Jackson, Andrew Jamieson, Gemma Lee, Tamara Lewit, Tim Parkin, Paula Phillips, Laura Pisanu, Claudia Sagona, Emily Simons, Larissa Tittl, Gijs Tol, Caroline Tully, Tanja van Loon, and Sharyn Volk.

New book

Kim, H.J. Lieu, S., and McLaughlin, R. (2021) *Rome and China: Points of Contact*, Routledge.

Other items of interest to ASCS members

Tamara Lewit has been involved in a major book project, to appear in June 2021: *The Boy Who Stepped Through Time*, about young Perry's time-travels back to ancient Rome; more details about this exciting book for children are available at <https://annaciddor.com/books-by-anna-ciddor/the-boy-who-stepped-through-time/>

In lockdown Louise Hitchcock has continued her prolific online outputs, such as: "Escaping the Queen's Megaron: studying sex and gender in the ancient world," *Neos Kosmos*, 14 April

2021. <https://neoskopos.com/en/>; “Coronavirus vaccine roll out and the summer of our discontent,” *Neos Kosmos*, 7 April 2021: <https://neoskopos.com/en/194119/coronavirus-vaccine-roll-out-and-the-summer-of-our-discontent/>; “Protecting Our Greek Inheritance: The Fragility of Democracy,” *Neos Kosmos*, 24 February 2021: <https://neoskopos.com/en/186242/protecting-our-greek-inheritance-the-fragility-of-democracy/>; “History and Terrorism in Washington, D.C. (2021),” Study of Antiquity and the Middle Ages, YouTube Channel, Hosted and Moderated by Nick Barksdale, 17 January 2021 (4100 Views) One among a panel of experts: https://youtu.be/NooXqpSFk_I; “Piracy and the Bronze Age Collapse,” Study of Antiquity and the Middle Ages, YouTube Channel, Hosted and Moderated by Nick Barksdale, 24 January 2021 (17,000 Views). Co-presenter: Aren M. Maier: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJ4AagRoIM4>

Andrew Jamieson took part in an international event to celebrate the life and career of Tony Sagona: “Antonio Sagona and his contribution to the formation of archaeology in the Caucasus”, as part of the Caucasus Through Time Network.

Covid-19 impact and initiatives not specified elsewhere

During the first half of 2021 our weekly research seminar has continued online, as have many (but not all) of our classes.

Covid-19 has of course affected many and various of our activities. To give just one colleague as an example, Louise Hitchcock was unable to take up her Institute for Aegean Prehistory grant for publishing material from the Vapheio-Palaiopyrgi Survey in Lakonia. She is still waiting to be able to use her National Endowment for the Humanities Grant awarded in 2019 for research at the Albright Institute for Archaeological Research in Jerusalem, Israel, plus she has had to cancel a planned session on Decolonization of Classical Archaeology that had been accepted for the World Archaeology Congress in the Czech Republic July 2020.

Tim Parkin

University of New England

Staff changes, appointments, promotions, retirements, obituaries

Dr Graeme Bourke has retired from his position in the School of Education and has been appointed as an adjunct in the discipline of Classics and Ancient History

An obituary for Major General Iain Spence is included above.

New books

Beaumont, L., N. Harrington, & Dillon, M.P.J. (eds) *Children in Antiquity: Childhood in the Ancient Mediterranean* (Oxford & New York: Routledge, 2021).

Dillon, M.P.J. & C. Matthew, C. *Religion and Classical Warfare. Vol. 2. The Roman Republic* (Barnsley: Pen & Sword, 2020).

Taylor, T. (ed.), *A Cultural History of Genocide, vol. I: In the Ancient World* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2021).

Sarah Lawrence

University of Otago

New courses or major modifications to existing courses

Classics has teamed up with the Anatomy Department to offer ANAT131: Origins of Anatomical Language; a cross-faculty, team-taught course which combines Classics Lectures with Anatomy Labs. In the field of anatomy and the medical sciences, there are countless examples of words, phrases and terminologies that have interesting roots and origins derived from the classical languages. This course uses a blended learning approach to studying the meaning of words that we use to describe the structures and functions of the organs and systems of our body.

Lectures will give rich and detailed histories of how anatomical and medical terminology has evolved from the classical languages such as Greek and Latin, and these will in turn be supplemented with laboratory based “seeing anatomy in action” practical classes, to be held in the fascinating W.D. Trotter Anatomy Museum and Histology Classroom. We will focus on major systems of the body - such as the brain, musculoskeletal system, heart and gut - and cherry-pick interesting structures and tease out the origins of the terminology used to describe these areas. This paper merges the intricate wonder of the form and function of the human body with the beauty of art and language.

Arlene Allan

University of Queensland

Visitors

Professor Tim Parkin, Tatoulis Chair in Classics, University of Melbourne will be the 2021 Milns Visiting Professor, arriving in May.

Museum news

The R.D. Milns Antiquities Museum reopened on January 19th 4 days per week under COVID 19 visitor restrictions. As we are operating under a very restricted budget, our planned 2020 exhibition ‘The Greatest Games’ will no longer open in 2021, but will be postponed until 2024, and our ‘Wondrous Machines’ Exhibition until 2022 (hopefully). We are currently planning a smaller exhibition highlighting recent acquisitions in the collection.

Our new COVID-Safe Schools program was launched in February, which includes pre-recorded audio tours and workshops based on our replica collection.

Major research grant successes

Duncan Keenan-Jones is a named researcher and steering committee member on a Senior Research Project Grant awarded by the Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (FWO, Belgium) to Prof. Paul Erdkamp (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) and Prof. Frank Vermeulen (Ghent University). The FWO has awarded the project, entitled “Zooming in on climatic and societal change in central Italy, first to sixth century”, €401 700 over the period 2020-2022. Dr. Keenan-Jones will use part of these funds to reconstruct the climate in this area and time period using limestone deposits from caves and Roman aqueducts.

Janette McWilliam

University of Sydney

Staffing

We welcome Dr. James Tan as Lecturer in Ancient History. James has been on a fixed term contract in CAH for the past two years, and we are delighted – and proud – that his appointment has been made permanent.

We are sad to report that two of our most highly-esteemed and longest-serving staff members have taken VR.

Ass. Prof. Kathryn Welch and Professor Rick Benitez both retired in March after clocking up 60 years of service between them! Both outstanding scholars, Kathryn and Rick are also truly gifted teachers who have inspired thousands of students in their time here. We will greatly miss them. At this stage it is unclear whether Rick's position will be replaced, but we are happy to report that James Tan's appointment is a replacement for Kathryn's position. We anticipate advertising a fixed-term position for James' former role.

Teaching

CAH is offering Summer Intensives in Ancient Greek and Latin. Originally scheduled for Summer 2021, they will be offered for the first time in January 2022. These summer schools are designed for anyone with one semester (or equivalent) in either of these languages to progress rapidly to advanced study. They are open to internal and external enrolments and will be offered in Hyflex (that is, attendance is online and/or F2F). For further information, please contact Tamara Neal (t.neal@sydney.edu.au).

Research Degree Completions

Doctor of Philosophy

Tristan Burt, 'Towards the formal restoration of Plato's *Republic*: the text, the dialectic and Platonic education'. (Principal Supervisor: Rick Benitez)

Aidan Nathan, 'Plato's Use of Irony'. (Principal Supervisor: Rick Benitez)

Doctor of Musical Arts

Austin Har, 'The Ghost Opera: An Intersection of Greek Tragedy, Electroacoustic and Spectral Music'. (Principal Supervisor: Ivan Zavada, Associate Supervisor: Rick Benitez)

Master of Research

Nicholas Daniel, 'Horizons of Friendship and Justice: Insights from the work of Aristotle'. (Principal Supervisor: Rick Benitez)

New Books

Gardner, I., *The Founder of Manichaeism. Rethinking the Life of Mani* (Cambridge University Press 2020)

James, P., *Food Provisions for Ancient Rome: A Supply Chain Approach* (Routledge 2020)

Pryke, L., *Gilgamesh* (Routledge 2019)

Activity

International Research Presentations by Staff & Students

Alyce Cannon presented a paper to the Classical Association of the Mid-West and South (CAMWS) on April 8th titled “Boys, Dogs and the two waves of the Athenian Plague.”

Peter Wilson gave research presentations to the Columbia University Seminar in Classical Civilization in October 2020 and to the Graduate Speaker Series of New York University in May 2021.

Seminars & Workshops

The *CAH Department Seminar* continues very successfully in the online space. Andrew Stiles (Oxford), recently spoke to us on the “Historiography and Censorship in the Early Principate,” and we are delighted to be hosting both Brian Bigio (Stanford) and Sheila Murnaghan (UPenn).

Sheila Murnaghan is guest speaker at a special event (7th May) to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the late Professor Kevin Lee.

The *Critical Antiquities Network* also continues apace.

André Laks (Universidad Panamericana, Mexico City) to present a lecture entitled, ‘Actualizing Plato’s Laws.’

Professor Sara Brill (Fairfield University), ‘Aristotle, Biopolitics, and the *Iliad*.’

Matthew Sharpe (Deakin University), “Lucian (or Lycinus) on how (not) to choose (a) Philosophy”

Outreach & Engagement

The 27th (!) Latin Summer School was a huge success in the online space with over 200 students attending.

Due to Covid19, we have had to cancel this year’s *Todd lecture*. We are hoping to offer the Todd in 2022.

Other news

Ass. Prof. Lesley Beaumont was appointed Expert Examiner for the Australian Government’s Office for the Arts under the Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986.

Museum news

The Chau Chak Wing museum opened to great acclaim in late 2020. We have been very excited to see the new spaces and exhibitions, and to make use of the wonderful new teaching rooms. Language, history, and archaeology students and staff have all enjoyed the exhibitions and object-based learning experiences that the CCWM offers.

Tamara Neal

Victoria University of Wellington

Staff changes, appointments, promotions, retirements, obituaries

Dr. Mark Masterson was promoted to Associate Professor of Classics.

Significant activity by staff, postgraduates, honoraries, and retired staff

Cameron, Hamish, “‘Scuttle back to your wine you sacks of uselessness’: The Roman Army in Assassin’s Creed Origins” *Antiquity in Media Studies* 2020, Online (Hosted by Skidmore College), December 2020.

Cameron, Hamish, "The Painful Art of Abstraction: Representing the Ancient World in Modern Games." Re-Rolling the Past: Representations and Reinterpretations of Antiquity in Analog and Digital Games, ISAW, November 2020.

M. Masterson was speaker with Derek Krueger, Claudia Rapp, and Shaun Tougher: "Rethinking Byzantine Masculinities: Gender, Sexuality, Emotions, Devotion", sponsored by Dumbarton Oaks, October 30, 2020 [webinar which was taped and available on the Dumbarton Oaks website]

M. Masterson gave a paper (which was supposed to be given in Chicago), "Reading and contextualizing *aselgeia* in tenth-century Byzantine law," *Society for Classical Studies* Annual Meeting, Chicago, January 2021.

New courses

'Epidemics: The Long View' (New Honours course) (J. C. Keirstead)

Urbs and Spaces: Exploring the Ancient Roman City (New 300-level) (H. Cameron)

Museum news

The Classics Museum at Victoria University of Wellington has a new online database (available from our revised webpage:

<https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/slc/about/our-programmes/classics/classics-museum>)

The Curator, Diana Burton, is grateful to her intern, Rachael Mildenhall, for her outstanding work on it. We have also updated the catalogues, records, and even the museum labels to make everything more accessible to academics, students, and the public.

Postgraduate completions

2020 MA Thesis: Jakob McCaffrey, "To Endure: An Exploration of Male Rape in Declamatory Cases of Pseudo-Quintilian & Seneca the Elder [*Distinction*] (Mark Masterson, supervisor)

2020 MA Thesis: Claudia Jardine, "Aidōs did not prevent her: An intertextual approach to Komnene's depictions of women in positions of power." [*Distinction*] (Mark Masterson, supervisor)

Covid-19 impact and initiatives not specified elsewhere

Mark Masterson was to host an international conference at Victoria, "Writing Ancient and Medieval Same-Sex Desire: Goals, Methods, Challenges" in June of 2020. It was rescheduled to 2021 and has now been tentatively postponed to 2022.

Mark Masterson



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