

A HISTORY OF THE ASCS AUSTRALIAN ESSAY COMPETITION

Since 1990, the Australasian Society for Classical Studies has conducted an annual essay competition. Entries have come from undergraduates at all levels from a large number of universities throughout Australia, and entries have been on a very wide range of topics in the disciplines of Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology. In many cases, the winning essays have gone on to be published, and winners have gone on to establish successful academic careers.

The following account of the winners of the prize, initially put together by James Uden in 2005, is, at present, incomplete, and further information would be highly appreciated. Please direct comments to Frances Muecke (frances.muecke@arts.usyd.edu.au).

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1990 (joint winners)

Name: Jenny Hartley (The University of New England)

Title: Quintilian's Judgment on Lucan

Name: Mary Besemer (The Australian National University)

Title: [topic on the *Iliad*]

Publication Details: *Primitiae* 6 (1991)

Further Notes: Dr Mary Besemer became a post-doctoral fellow at the Curtin University of Technology in Western Australia.

1991

Name: Edward Thomas (La Trobe University)

Title: An Investigation into the style and language used by St Augustine of Hippo in his *Confessions*

1992

Name: [If anyone has the details, we would appreciate hearing them.]

Title: To what extent was Christianity typical of the 'Mystery Religions' of the Roman Empire?

1993

Name: Ian Ferguson (La Trobe University)

Title: Disentangle the history from the hagiography in the *Martyrdom of Polycarp*

1994

Name: Alex Stevens (The University of Sydney)

Title: Aristophanes' *Peace* and the Material Bodily Principle

Publication Details: *Stele* 1 (1995) 1-7

Further Notes: Dr Stevens completed his PhD in Classics at Cambridge and is currently a member of the Classics teaching staff at Sydney Grammar School.

1995

Name: Alan Dearn (Macquarie University)

Title: Medea: The Horror of the Independent Woman

Publication Details: *Stele 2* (1996) 1-8

Further Notes: Dr Dearn later completed a doctorate in Ancient History at Oxford as the inaugural Syme Scholar, and was subsequently a Research Fellow at Macquarie University.

1996

Name: Kay Leiper (The University of New England)

Title: Compare and contrast the connection between religion and warfare in Egypt, Mesopotamia and Israel

1997

Name: Ben Kelly (The University of Sydney)

Title: Who were the Bagaudae?

Further Notes: Dr Kelly completed his DPhil at Oxford and became an Associate Lecturer in History at the Australian National University, and is now a Lecturer at York University, Toronto.

1998

[If anyone has the details, we would appreciate hearing them.]

1999

Name: Peter Wilkins (The University of New England)

Title: To what extent are the Hippocratic writings more works of philosophy than medical treatises?

Publication Details: *Classicum 27* (2001) 13-16

2000

Name: James Uden (The University of Sydney)

Title: Does *Georgics* 4, and in particular the Bugonia / Aristaeus Epyllion, argue for an optimistic or a pessimistic reading of the *Georgics*?

Further Notes: Highly Commended: Donna Norman (The University of Newcastle) (Euripides' Medea: an Homeric hero), and Sarah Lawrence (The University of New England) (How strong was the Platonic and educational ideal in classical Greek homosexual relations?). James Uden commenced a PhD in Classics at Columbia University in 2006. Sarah Lawrence went on to complete a PhD in Ancient History at the University of Sydney.

2001

Name: Jonathan Lim (Macquarie University)

Title: What part does fire play in the cosmology of Heraclitus? What did Heraclitus mean by 'fire'?

Further Notes: Highly Commended: Przemek Kucharski (The University of Sydney) (The politics of the Curia and the Comitium: Sulla, Caesar and Augustus as builders), and Daniel Tramabaiolo (The University of Sydney) (History as 'story' in Herodotus).

2002

Name: James Uden (The University of Sydney)

Title: Drama and suspense in Agrippina's last days: on *Annales* XIV

Publication Details: *Classicum* 29 (2003) 2-7

Further Notes: James Uden commenced a PhD in Classics at Columbia University in 2006.

2003

Name: Robert True (The University of Queensland)

Title: An Analysis of the aims and motives behind the Eastern policy of the Roman emperor Vespasian

Publication Details: *Ancient History: Resources for Teachers* 33.1 (2003) 58-71

2004

Name: Leanne Campbell (The University of Melbourne)

Title: Anthropomorphic and zoomorphic figurines of the Eastern Mediterranean

Publication Details: *The Artefact*, Vol. 28 (December 2005)

Further Notes: Highly Commended awards this year went to Helen Slaney (The University of Melbourne) (The messenger in Greek tragedy), and Victor Shaw (The University of Sydney) (Sextus Pompeius and Quintus Labienus).

2005

Name: Mark Siford (The University of Western Australia)

Title: Thirty years after Finley's *Ancient Economy*

Further Notes: Highly commended: Kiera Trepka (The University of Newcastle) (Herbalism among the ancients), and Christopher Ranson (The Australian National University) (Honour and the hero: masculinity, status and rebukes in the *Iliad*).

2006

Name: Julian McDonald (The University of Sydney)

Title: How Thucydides' concern with political theory affects his composition

Further Notes: Highly commended: Dean Smith (The University of Melbourne) (The organization of trade in the Late Bronze Mediterranean), and Christopher Ransom (The Australian National University) (Size matters: Durus Achilles in drag – masculinity, the body and identity in Statius' *Achilleid*).

2007

First Place:

Name: Rebecca Zanan (The University of New South Wales)

Title: Cicero and Tullia: honour, duty and love. *Pietas* in the late Roman republic

Second Place:

Name: Christopher Hale (Macquarie University)

Title: Archaeological, artistic and political evidence for the significance of myth and cult for Theseus in sixth and fifth century Athens

Further Notes: Highly commended: Brook Dixon (Australian National University) (*Daphnis and Chloe*: erotic novel, bucolic idyll – or a synthesis of both?), and Mier Chan (Australian National University) (Erotic and Bucolic Elements in Longus' *Daphnis and Chloe*).

2008

First Place:

Name: Evan Jewel (Macquarie University)

Title: Satyrs and Centaurs: Compare and Contrast

Second Place:

Name: Brook Dixon (The Australian National University)

Title: The Poetics of Euripides' *Trojan Women*: Unity, Rhetoric and Pathos

2009

First Place:

Name: Brook Dixon (The Australian National University)

Title: Aischylos' *Persai*

Second Place (equal):

Name: Bethany Flanders (The Australian National University)

Title: Dido

Name: Kate Crosbie (The University of New South Wales)

Title: Augustan *Pietas*

2010

First Place:

Name: Harrison Jones (The University of Sydney)

Title: Oikist cults at Cyrene, Delos and Eretria

Second Place (equal):

Name: Geetanji Arora (The University of Western Australia)

Title: Lamentations, war and family life: a critical analysis of the lament in Books 6, 22 and 24 of the *Iliad*

Name: Kimberley Webb (The University of Western Australia)

Title: Thucydides' treatment of Nicias and Alcibiades