



The Australasian Society for Classical Studies

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2004

It has been another successful and active year for the Society.

Membership numbers have continued their steady increase. There are now 350 members, up from the 300 at the same stage last year. When we have processed those who have paid the differential registration fee for this conference, I expect we will be nudging 400 members. Around one-third of the members now are postgraduate students. Unfortunately there are still too many members who have to be chased up for their overdue subscription; around 50 members (approximately 15%) have still not paid their 2004 subscription (and so are ineligible to vote at this General Meeting!). Chasing them up takes time and effort, and involves costs in paper and postage.

The conference and general meeting held at the Bendigo Campus of La Trobe University in February created a record for the number of papers given. That record will be eclipsed (by several lengths) at the present conference, both in the number of papers and by the number of persons attending; all credit must go to the Convenor, Professor Bill Dominik, and his team for this outstanding achievement. The practice of funding a keynote speaker has been continued: Professor Gareth Williams from Columbia University attended ASCS 25 in Bendigo, and Professor Alan Cameron, also from Columbia University, is present here in Dunedin. Both gave a public lecture as well as a conference paper. Provision of funds to subsidise postgraduate travel to attend these conferences has been continued, with \$3000 being divided between 22 students to enable them to attend the present conference.

Following the amalgamation with New Zealand classicists, and because there was already an essay prize competition held in New Zealand, it was decided to hold two separate competitions for the time being. A Greek and Latin translation prize competition is being contemplated for 2005.

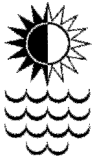
The provision of subsidies to one-off conferences and seminars was continued: \$1500 to Macquarie University for a conference on "Images of Egypt" in May, \$1500 for the Pacific Rim Roman literature seminar jointly organised by the University of Sydney and the University of New England in July, and \$500 to the University of Newcastle for a symposium on Catullus in December. A set of clearer guidelines for such subsidies was drawn up.

A new initiative was implemented in 2004 – the provision of grants to small departments to assist in the local promotion of the subject. Three grants were made: \$1000 to the University of Western Australia for postage to advertise six public lectures, two "Saturday Afternoon Seminars" and a Classical Drama competition for schools; \$840 to Massey University for some of the expenses of a Year 13 Classics Day for schools; and \$880 to the Australian National University for the printing of glossy brochures to advertise courses available. Two grants have already been approved for 2005.

The Newsletter was sent out twice during the year, in April and in September, and is welcomed as a means of keeping members in touch with what is happening with the subject in the various universities. Contacting members by email continues to be a convenient way of disseminating information: some 80% of members now receive communications in this format.

The executive committee had four "meetings" in the course of the year. Three of them, in June, October and November, were conducted by email consultation, and this has proved to be a convenient way to conduct the business of the Society with committee members on both sides of the Tasman. The fourth meeting, held at the University of Tasmania in November, covered a very full agenda.

Bruce Marshall
Honorary Secretary, ASCS
4 February 2005



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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Membership is up to 350, an increase of 50 since the last report, with a further increase expected from the present conference.
- ASCS 25 at the Bendigo Campus of La Trobe University created a record for the number of papers given. ASCS 26 has totally eclipsed this record both in papers presented (140) and persons attending (170, from 38 institutions and 12 countries).
- AU\$3000 available for subsidising postgraduate conference travel divided between 22 applicants.
- Two separate essay prize competitions held in 2004, with prizemoney totaling AU\$600.
- AU\$3500 provided as subsidies to one-off conferences and seminars:
 - ◆ AU\$1500 to MacqU for a conference on “Images of Egypt” in May
 - ◆ AU\$1500 to USyd and UNE for the Pacific Rim Roman literature seminar in July
 - ◆ AU\$500 to UNewc for a symposium on Catullus in December
- A scheme for the provision of grants to small departments to assist in the local promotion of the subject was initiated, and two grants were made:
 - ◆ AU\$1000 to UWA for postage to advertise six public lectures, two “Saturday Afternoon Seminars” and a Classical Drama competition for schools
 - ◆ NZ\$880 to MasseyU for a Year 13 Classics Day for schools
 - ◆ AU\$880 to ANU for the printing of glossy brochures to advertise courses available