



The Australasian Society for Classical Studies

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2007

Membership continues to increase steadily, especially with the number of students joining: membership now stands at 435, though some 30 or more are unfinancial for 2007. There will as usual be new members joining as a result of attending this conference, by the sneaky device we instituted five years ago of having a higher non-member conference registration fee, the difference being one year's membership subscription.

The conference and general meeting hosted by the University of Newcastle at "Noah's on the Beach" Hotel in February was a successful and enjoyable occasion. The experiment of using a hotel venue was well received [*not least because their was a marvellous view to look at when one got bored with the speakers*], and will no doubt be replicated for future conferences. All credit must go to the Convenor, Dr Marguerite Johnson, and her team for the efficient organisation. The practice of funding a keynote speaker continued, with Professor David Braund, from the University of Exeter, attending the Newcastle conference, and with Professor Andrew Stewart, from the University of California at Berkeley, attending the present conference. Subsidies for student travel to the conference were again made available, with AU\$2720 being divided between 18 honours and postgraduate students to enable them to attend.

Vol. 41 of the journal for 2007 appeared *suo anno* – and with colour illustrations! There was one article of significance: Anna Silvas' report of her trip to Turkey, partly funded by the inaugural "Early Career" Award, to identify the location of Basil's ascetic retreat. The search appears to have been successful, and the reporting of it represents an international "scoop". The submission of an article to *Antichthon* is one of the conditions of the "Early Career" Award, and it is good to see this condition being fulfilled. The Editors will be reporting on the journal more fully elsewhere, but it would not be inappropriate here to thank them most warmly for their efforts and guidance which has seen the journal appear on a regular basis now.

An initiative begun in 2004 – the provision of grants to small departments to assist in the local promotion of the subject – was continued in 2007. One grant of AU\$1000 was made to the Victoria University of Wellington to assist with the expenses of a production of Sophokles' *Antigone* in conjunction with the Greek Drama IV Conference in July. Another grant of NZ\$924 was made to Massey University to fund a mail-out of prospectuses to extra-mural students about available courses.

Four subsidies were provided for one-off conferences: AU\$1500 for the Greek Drama IV Conference at the Victoria University of Wellington in July; AU\$1500 for "Amphora", a postgraduate conference at the University of Queensland in July; AU\$1445 for a strand on Ancient History at the AHA Conference at UNE in September; and AU\$1000 for the conference on "Roman Byways" at the University of Sydney in December. Two subsidies have already been approved for 2008.

Another initiative, begun in 2005, was the setting up of an "Early Career" Award to the value of AU\$2000. The recipient for 2006 was Dr Danijel Dzino who will be using the award towards the cost of travel to libraries and museums in the Balkans at the end of 2007. An announcement on the 2007 winner will be made shortly.

The Australian student essay competition, finalised at the start of 2007, attracted 34 entries from ten universities. First prize of \$350 was awarded to Julian McDonald (USyd), and there were two “highly commended” awards of \$50 each, to Dean Smith (UMelb) and Christopher Ranson (ANU). The 2006 New Zealand *Scholia* essay competition in honour of John Barsby attracted 24 entries; first prize of \$150 was awarded to Maree Cross (UAuck) and second place to Melanie Place (UAuck). The prize for this competition is partly provided by ASCS. The Committee has agreed to an increase in the prizes for 2007.

The Greek and Latin translation competition, with prizes of \$250 in each section, was inaugurated in 2007. It attracted 20 entrants in the Latin competition, and 21 in the Greek. First place in the Latin competition went to Nicholas Fenech (UMelb), with a “highly commended” to Guiliano Serrao (VUW); first place in the Greek competition went to Edward Smith (UMelb), with “highly commended” entries from Damjan Krsmanovic (UMelb) and Sabin Proban (UAuck).

The Newsletter was, as usual, sent out twice during the year, in April and October. Regular messages have also been sent out to members by email, and this has proved to be a useful means of disseminating information, with over 90% of members now receiving communications in this format.

The executive committee did not have a face-to-face meeting in 2007, but did have several email consultations.

I would like to pay tribute again to two members of the executive who really deserve our congratulations and thanks – the Treasurer, William Dolley, and the Business Manager, Ian Plant. Their work goes largely unnoticed, but I know full well how time-consuming it is, and without it, ASCS would not achieve what it does.

Bruce Marshall
Honorary Secretary, ASCS
30 January 2008



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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Membership is up to 435, with an increase expected from the present conference.
- ASCS 28 in Newcastle was a successful and enjoyable occasion. The use of a hotel venue was inspired.
- AU\$2720 provided for travel subsidies for 18 students to attend the conference.
- Vol 41 of *Antichthon* posted out *suo anno*.
- Two grants totalling c. AU\$1810 were made under the scheme for the provision of grants to small departments to assist in the local promotion of the subject.
- 2006 “Early Career” Award of AU\$2000 winner was Dr Danijel Dzino.
- Essay Prize Competitions held Australia and New Zealand in 2006, with prize money totaling AU\$600.
- Greek and Latin Translation Competition inaugurated: 20 entrants in the Latin competition, and 21 in the Greek.
- Thanks to Treasurer and Business Manager.