



## *The Australasian Society for Classical Studies*

### SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2009

It has been an extremely busy year for the Society. Membership continues to grow steadily, up from 440 last year to 470 this year, though not all those are financial, as usual. Particularly pleasing this year is, one, the much lower number of recidivists – I will only need to chase up with one of my usual sweetly-worded reminders, about 50 unfinancial members, and two, the brilliant response to my request to members to pay their 2010 subscription in advance (in view of the appearance of the Guinness Book of Records Vol 44 for 2010 *prior suo anno*). 330 have paid up already, leaving just 130 to be sent subscription renewal forms next week. I'm not sure that the Treasurer is quite so pleased, since he has had to process two lots of subscription renewals in the last four or five months. He has, however, done a sterling job in keeping up with this increase in his workload, and he might be pleased to be counting out the money in his counting house.

While the membership stands now at 470, I put together the other day some interesting statistics. When I began the second period of my secretaryship in 2003, there were 200 names on the membership list, but only about 100 of them were financial. We have now more than quadrupled our financial membership in five years. But wait, there's more! In that same five-year period there has been a loss of 142 members: ten through death or illness, the rest through resignation or removal. That means that 610 classicists and ancient historians have been on our membership list between 2003 and 2009. That is a great figure when you think about it.

ASCS 30 in Sydney was a great success, thanks to the hard work of Pat and Lindsay Watson and their team of helpers. Over 170 in attendance, and 120+ papers. The conference resulted in a surplus which is now being used to supplement the budgeted amount for student conference travel subsidies, particularly for this year and next year when long distances to attend are involved.

Mention was made in my last Report of the ARC's ERA journals ranking exercise and the considerable amount of effort it took on the part of a number of ASCS members to finalise a submission in a short time-frame. The work continues: a trial list for HCA (= Humanities and Creative Arts) appeared in May 2009. A rapid check, again by some hard-working members, revealed (unbelievably) that two high-ranking journals had gone missing, and many others had had their ranks changed without warning. So another submission was required – and this time the politicians were informed of our dissatisfaction, with useful results [*ASCS got its name in Hansard several times, and the Secretary possibly got an ASIO file.*]. Yet another ERA list was produced right at the end of last year; I had to sign a confidentiality agreement to be allowed to see it. A check, by me alone this time, revealed that the two missing journals had been restored, but the bureaucrats got back at me by leaving another **five** off this latest list! And a number of our recommendations about changed rankings continued to be ignored. Yet another submission went in, on the deadline of just a week ago. A rapid response was sent to me; at the risk of being in breach of my confidentiality agreement, I can now report that I have worn the bastards down and they've given in to all my demands – with just one exception.

A major achievement of the year was the appearance of not one but two issues of *Antichthon*. So not only *suo anno* but one actually a year ahead. Congratulations to the Editors. A major development connected with the journal was its electrification; a considerable amount of electronic discussion and analysis by a small and dedicated sub-committee made the decisions

on this matter, and the process is all but complete. There will be further comment on this matter later in the meeting.

Funding for activities, awards and competitions continues to grow. Funding of the annual conference usually amounts to an administrative "start-up" of \$1000, \$3000+ towards the fares of the keynote speaker and \$3000+ for student travel subsidies, a total of \$7000 or more. Monies for one-off conferences were lower than usual in 2009 (just as well in view of our over-spending in 2008); there were only two requests for grants (The OSA Numismatic Conference, \$500, and Amphora 3, \$1000), but the total over the last four years has been \$16995, an average of \$4295 per year, and we have already committed \$4000 for four such activities in 2010. The annual budgeted figure for promotional grants to small departments has been as high as \$3000, but in no one year since the scheme was started (2004) has this amount been spent; last year there were no applications (but there is one so far for the coming year). The annual Early Career Award is valued at \$2000; the prizes for the two essay competitions now total nearly \$900, and for the two translation competitions the prizes total \$500; and the newly established OPA! Postgraduate Conference Presentation Award could cost up to \$600. The average cost of typesetting, printing and distribution of the journal all up is \$11000-\$12000; then there are donations (FIEC and recently the APA Capital Campaign), membership of CHASS (\$1100 last year), bank charges, day-to-day stationery and postage expenses (\$3000-\$4000), the Secretary's secret holiday travel slush fund, that sort of thing, which all add up.

I've done all this listing to show that in a typical year ASCS expends \$28000-\$30000 or sometimes more. The three main sources of income are: membership subscriptions (around \$10000), institutional subscribers (around \$10000) and interest on investments (around \$7000 in 2008). These are ball-park figures, but they show that we are running fairly equally between income and expenditure, but by funding a diverse and expanding range of activities we are fulfilling the basic objective set out in our constitution of advancing the study of ancient Greece and Rome and related fields.

The usual range of prize and award competitions was conducted; results will be announced later in the meeting. The Newsletter was, as usual, sent out twice during the year, in April and October. Last year I had the assistance of John Penwill and Marguerite Johnson in the collection and formatting of information for the Newsletter. Thank you to them. Regular messages are also sent out by email to more than 90% of members who have opted to receive communications in this format. During the year the executive committee had three email consultations; while this method of conducting business has its drawbacks, it a convenient way to involve a larger number of committee members on both sides of the Ditch.

Bruce Marshall  
Honorary Secretary, ASCS  
30th January 2009



## SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2009

### MAIN POINTS

- Membership is up from 440 to 470. Between 2004 and 2009 a further 142 have been on the membership list.
- ASCS 30 in Sydney: 170+ attended and 120+ papers. Surplus used to supplement budget for student travel subsidies for ASCS 31 and 32.
- Success at last with submissions to ERA journals ranking list.
- Vol. 43 of *Antichthon* published *suo anno*, and Vol 44 *prior suo anno*. Electrification of the journal on ProQuest databases completed.
- Expenditure on activities in a typical year (in AUD amounts):

annual conference – \$7000+	<i>Antichthon</i> – \$11-12,000
one-off conferences – \$4295	early career award – \$2000
promotional grants – \$1000 (?)	essay competitions – \$900
CHASS membership – \$1100	OPA! – \$600
donations – \$500-\$1500	translation competitions – \$500
day-today expenses – \$3-4000	
- Winner of 2009 “Early Career” Award of AU\$2000 is Dr Robyn Veal.
- Essay Prize Competitions held Australia and New Zealand in 2009. The NZ Competition is to be renamed “The ASCS New Zealand Essay Competition in Honour of J.A. Barsby”.
- The Unprepared Translation Competitions attracted 20 entrants from 6 universities in the Latin competition, and 15 entrants from 5 universities in the Greek. The prize is AU\$250 in each section.
- Newsletter appeared twice (as usual) in April and September.