

The Australian Society for Classical Studies

NEWSLETTER

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Contact addresses:

Honorary Secretary

Mr Roger Pitcher
Sydney Grammar School
College Street
Darlinghurst NSW 2010

rap@sydgram.nsw.edu.au <mailto:rap@sydgram.nsw.edu.au>
bmarshal@hmn.mq.edu.au

Honorary Treasurer

Mr William Dolley
1 Mount Pleasant Road
Belmont VIC 3216

Newsletter Editor

Dr Bruce Marshall
Department of Ancient History
Macquarie University NSW 2109

wildol@deakin.edu.au

Although it has been only a few months since an edition of the Newsletter was sent out, the Executive Committee at its recent meeting approved the idea of sending out another Newsletter, to take advantage of the mailing of the next volume of the journal *Antichthon*, and to keep the momentum of the revived Newsletter going. There were a couple of items left over from the last edition, and a quick “whip around” of the university representatives yielded some more items that may be of interest to members. The mailing will also provide the opportunity to advise members of some additional forthcoming conferences, and to remind them of some conferences that have already been mentioned. The original idea of the Newsletter when it was first established was that it would appear twice a year (say, April and September/October). It achieved that pattern only twice in its previous life, but it is the hope that it will settle down into that same pattern. For the provision of information I will as Editor be relying heavily on the various ASCS university representatives, but other members of the Society are very welcome to submit items of interest or suggestions about format, etc., at any time.

Bruce Marshall

Don't forget – You can look things up on the Society's Web Page, which is regularly maintained by courtesy of Dr Neil O'Sullivan, of the Department of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Western Australia.

<http://www.arts.uwa.edu.au/classics/ASCS/index.html>

ASCS GENERAL NEWS

Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee met at the University of Sydney on 18th May. There were the usual routine matters discussed, such as the current financial situation (which continues to be healthy, with interest on the Society's investments being available for spending on various activities) and the proposed budget for 2001. Among the items approved for expenditure this year (following recommendations at the General Meeting in Adelaide in February and more detailed discussion by the Executive Committee) were:

An allocation of \$1000 for travel subsidies and registration expenses for the conference on “Magic in the Ancient and Medieval Worlds” at the University of New England in

September

A subsidy of \$5000 for travel grants for the Fourth Postgraduate Conference to be held at the University of Melbourne in October

An allowance of \$2000 towards the cost of fares to invite a distinguished overseas speaker to attend the next ASCS General Meeting

Some items of interest which were raised at the meeting and which are the subject of ongoing investigation and discussion included:

A proposal to prepare an index to the volumes of *Antichthon* published so far

A proposal to establish a monograph series

A proposal to set up a Teaching and Learning Sub-Committee

There are plans for another meeting of the Executive Committee later this year, when some of these proposals will be further examined. In the meantime if any members have comments to make on any of these proposals, they are invited to convey them to the Secretary or to their University Representative.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Due to the current fixation among university administrators for corporatisation, restructuring, conglomeration, etc., there have been numerous and bewildering changes to departmental names (a constant challenge for those of us who have to keep address lists up-to-date and an opportunity for universities to appoint yet another Deputy Vice Chancellor to oversee the corporatisation – and therefore wipe out in extra salaries the cost savings supposedly made by the restructurings in the first place!). There have also been some changes to university post codes in recent years: these are marked with an asterisk.

You may care to note the following changes:

* Australian National University

Formerly the Department of Classics was changed to C.A.M.E.L., then changed again.

Its address is now: Classics Program, School of Language Studies,
Australian National University, ACT 0200

La Trobe University

Formerly Departments of Archaeology, Art History and Hellenic Studies

New School name: Archaeology / Art History / Hellenic Studies Program
The School of Historical and European Studies

* Macquarie University

Formerly Ancient History was in the School of History, Philosophy and Politics and the address was North Ryde, NSW 2113

New name and address: Department of Ancient History, Division of
Humanities, Macquarie University, NSW 2109

* University of Adelaide

Formerly the Department of Classics; the name of the department and the postcode for the University were changed some years ago.

New name and address: Centre for European Studies and General Linguistics,
Classics Discipline, University of Adelaide, SA 5005

[The abbreviation for the Centre is CESGL, which the spellchecker on computers insists on reading as "cesspool", I am told!]

*** University of Melbourne**

Formerly School of Fine Arts, Classical Studies and Archaeology
with an address in Parkville, VIC 3052

New name and address: Centre for Classics and Archaeology,
School of Fine Arts, Classical Studies and Archaeology,
University of Melbourne, VIC 3010

University of Newcastle

The address for the main campus some time ago was Shortland, NSW 2308

The address now is: Callaghan, NSW 2308 (still the same postcode)

University of New England

Formerly: Department of Classics and Ancient History

New name: School of Classics, History and Religion

*** University of Queensland**

The Department of Classics and Ancient History has been amalgamated into a new School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics, but for the time being mail should still be addressed to the former departmental name.

New postcode: University of Queensland, QLD 4072
(no longer St Lucia, QLD 4069)

University of Sydney

Hard to keep up with the changes here: the current name is School of Philosophy, Gender, History, and Ancient World Studies.

However mail sent to this School's name disappears into a black hole.

It is far better to use the old departmental names + a building code –

Classics A14, or Ancient History A17, or Classical Archaeology A14.

The postcode remains the same: University of Sydney, NSW 2006

*** University of Western Australia**

Former mailing address: Nedlands, WA 6009

New mailing address: Crawley, WA 6009 (still the same postcode)

AROUND THE DEPARTMENTS ETC.

Australian National University

The Classicists at ANU had an enjoyable visit from Ewen Bowie in early May. He met with the students, and gave a seminar on gender and violence in Longus' *Daphnis and Chloe*.

Elizabeth Minchin is planning a weekend seminar on Homer in mid-November at ANU. Further details are contained in a flyer included with this mailing of the Newsletter.

Edith Cowan University

Dr Bill Leadbetter reports from an internet cafe somewhere in Istanbul that he is continuing his work with the team excavating at Aperlac (as reported in the last Newsletter).

La Trobe University (Bundoora campus)

Dr Ian McPhee will be back in Corinth from mid-August, continuing the study of the pottery (mainly 4th cent. BCE) from a drain deposit excavated by the American School in 1971. This is a collaborative project with Dr Elizabeth Pemberton from the University of Melbourne. At the end of

September Dr McPhee will give a paper at an international conference, "Griechische Keramik im kulturellen Kontext", in Kiel.

The restructuring of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences has produced three Schools, each with a number of "Programs" (Departments have ceased to exist). The Archaeology, Art History, and Hellenic Studies Programs are now located in the School of Historical and European Studies. It is likely that new courses and many new subjects will be offered from 2002. Dr McPhee and Dr David Frankel are collaborating on a course entitled "Mediterranean Archaeology" which will look at the archaeology of Greece, Anatolia and Cyprus in the second millenium BCE.

Macquarie University

Dr Trevor Evans, who recently took up his position as a Macquarie University Research Fellow, is planning a Language Colloquium in Honour of Alan Treloar at Macquarie University in September. Further details are contained in a flyer included with this mailing of the Newsletter.

Two books written by staff members have recently appeared: T.V. Evans, "Verbal Syntax in the Greek Pentateuch: Natural Greek Usage and Hebrew Interference (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2001), and Rosalinde A. Kearsley, "Greeks and Romans in Imperial Asia" (Bonn, von Habelt, 2001). Both books had their Sydney launching at the recent Annual Conference of the Society for the Study of Early Christianity at Macquarie University in May.

Among the visitors expected in 2002 will be Dr Tessa Rajak, from the University of Reading, and Professor Judith Lieu, from Kings College, London. They will be located in the Ancient History Documentary Research Centre in April/May and will, among other activities, be speaking at the 2002 Annual Conference of the Society for the Study of Early Christianity.

University of Melbourne

An oversight in the last Newsletter (for which the editor sincerely apologises) was the failure to mention that Assoc. Prof. Roger Scott was another (along with Assoc. Prof. Brian Jones) who was admitted to a Fellowship of the Australian Academy of the Humanities at the end of last year.

In recent news of course developments: Dr Chris Mackie has received a grant of \$23,000 from the University to continue the development of Computer Assisted Learning courses.

University of Newcastle (Central Coast campus)

A correction to an entry in the last Newsletter. The mysterious "Jane" is not the one we would associate with Dr Tom Hillard's great hero (he owns a copy of every Tarzan movie ever made). It was meant to be a reference to Dr Jane Bellemore, who was appointed to the Callaghan campus of the University of Newcastle (and not the Central Coast campus). Again, the editor apologises sincerely for the error.

During Dr Marguerite Johnson's study leave next semester, her teaching will be undertaken by Miss Tamara Neal (currently a Ph.D. student from the University of Melbourne working on a Homeric topic under the supervision of Dr Chris Mackie). She will be co-ordinating and teaching a first year course called "The Meaning of Mythology", and a second/third year course on "The World of Greek Theatre". She has already been assisting with some first year tutoring in first semester.

University of New England

Staff movements: Dr Minor Markle retired at the beginning of 1999, and Assoc. Prof. Rob Baker at the start of 2000. Mr Roger Pitcher commenced two years' leave at the beginning of 2000 to take up the position of Master in charge of Classics at Sydney Grammar School. Dr Charles Tesoriero was appointed to take Roger Pitchers' place for the duration of his leave. Members of the School who are

on leave in 2001: Professor Greg Horsley (full year), Assoc. Prof. Greg Stanton (semester 1 and part of semester 2), Assoc. Prof. Lynda Garland (semester 1), and Dr Matthew Dillon (semester 2). Those not on leave in 2001 are Iain Spence and Charles Tesoriero.

There has been a fundamental change this year in Greek and Latin courses. All the previous Greek and Latin units are now administratively combined under a new subject called "Classical Languages" (CLLA). Students enrol in first-year CLLA and select either the Greek or the Latin stream, which they then continue in future units.

A new unit which has been introduced is Religious Studies 207/307, "The Pagan Religions of Greece and Rome". It is being co-ordinated by Dr Matthew Dillon

A postgraduate student in the School, Anna Silvas, was recently awarded her Ph.D. with particularly glowing comments from all of the examiners.

University of Queensland

News has been received that a former postgraduate student of the department, Dr Alastair Blanchard, whose Ph.D. at Cambridge was awarded the Hare Prize, is now a tenured Lecturer at the University of Reading. He will be visiting Brisbane in August to complete his book on "Reading Athenian Law-Court Speeches".

Dr Suzanne Dixon was another Australian (along with Emer. Prof. Beryl Rawson) who was invited to attend the international interdisciplinary conference on the family held at Fort Worth, Texas, in November/December last year. Their papers will both be included in the resultant book, "Christian, Jewish, Greek and Roman Families in Mediterranean Antiquity", edited by L. Osiek and D. Balch, and published by Eerdmann. Dr Dixon's other recent publications include (as editor) "Childhood, Class and Kin in the Roman World" (Routledge, 2001), which includes chapters by the editor herself, Paul Weaver, Beryl Rawson, Tim Parkin, Janette McWilliam and Fiona Crowe. Due soon from Duckworth is S. Dixon, "Reading Roman Women".

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES AND VISITORS

Please read carefully the flyers about forthcoming conferences and seminars enclosed with this mailing of the Newsletter.

The Fourth E. Togo Salmon / Roman Family Conference is to be held at McMaster University in Canada from 28-29 September.

At the invitation of the Classical Languages Teachers Association (see next entry), Dr Margaret Brucia will be visiting Sydney to speak to schoolteachers about Horace's poems, some of which are being read by students preparing for the N.S.W. Higher School Certificate Latin Extension Course (which replaces the former 3-Unit Course). Dr Brucia has a Ph.D. in Classics from Fordham University in New York. While her interests are now in secondary school teaching, she does have a number of academic publications and she does a large amount of consultancy work for classical studies. She is also a member of the Outreach Committee of the American Philological Association (which is responsible for developing strategies to make classical studies more accessible to the public), and an elected member of the Education Committee of the A.P.A. (which addresses national education issues in the teaching of Classics). If anyone is interested in receiving a visit from Dr Brucia, you are invited to contact Bruce Marshall in the first instance, who will endeavour to co-ordinate the requests with the CLTA. It is possible that a workshop for the CUTSD Project (see next entry) will be organised to co-incide with Dr Brucia's visit.

OTHER NEWS OF INTEREST

The Classical Languages Teachers Association Inc. (CLTA) has been in existence for many years. Its membership (numbering currently close to 150) is primarily based in Sydney and nearby regions, but it does have a small number of members in country NSW, and in other states, both in the capital cities and in regional areas. It produces a monthly Bulletin, called *CVLTA*, and co-operates with the Classical Association of NSW to produce the journal *Classicum*. It is an active association, and organises a number of activities throughout the year for secondary school students (study days, dinners, reading competitions, essay competitions, and camps) as well as seminars and in-service training sessions for teachers.

CLTA regularly collects and publishes statistics of numbers studying Classical Greek and Latin at various levels. It might be encouraging for ASCS members to be made aware of the current statistics [the figures relate basically to NSW.]:

There were 46 schools where Latin was taught and which provided information on numbers.
Six of that number were state schools. There are a few schools where Latin has recently been re-introduced.

2 schools were teaching Latin in their primary departments.

1 school in Brisbane was included in the count (with a total of 169 pupils taking Latin).

6 schools were teaching Classical Greek as well as Latin.

Totals taking Latin:–	Year 7: 4237	Year 10: 579
	Year 8: 1486	Year 11: 168
	Year 9: 607	Year 12: 146

That makes an overall total of **7223** (Who said Latin was dead?)

The CUTSD Project (which is looking at teaching and learning strategies for Greek and Latin in Australian universities) will be holding a working session for some members of the Project Collaborative Committee at Macquarie University on the last weekend in June. The Project Officer, Bruce Marshall, has been collecting from various university departments in Australian and New Zealand statements they give to their students about course objectives and outcomes; these will be collected into a dossier and used as a basis for the working session discussions. The working session is aimed at trying to come up with a set of suggested model statements of objectives and outcomes for various levels of language study, and with a model (or models) of standards-referenced assessment guidelines.

These “models” will then be disseminated, together with the dossier of departmental statements, to the wider CUTSD Project mailing list for further comment and criticism, and further refinement, so that we might in the long run be able to come up with a reasonable consensus about what we are trying to do with our subject, and how we might go about assessing this.

If you are not on the CUTSD Project mailing list (material can be sent either electronically or in hard copy), you are invited to get in touch with Bruce Marshall.

