



The Australasian Society for Classical Studies

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ASCS CONFERENCE

ASCS 42 – Registration now open

ASCS 42 will be held online, from 8–11 February 2021. Further information, including the draft programme and a link to online registration, is available on the conference webpage, here: <http://ascs.org.au/news/asc42/index.html>

All members planning on attending the conference are kindly reminded to register via the link above.

UNIVERSITY REPORTS

Campion College

Campion College carried on teaching the Classical Languages. We went online in the first semester of 2020 but were back giving face-to-face classes in second semester. Congratulations to Johanna Ryan awarded the Ted O'Halloran Latin Prize and the Campion College Medal for best performance in the BA in Liberal Arts.

Thomas Flynn

Macquarie University

Staff changes, appointments, promotions, retirements, obituaries

Appointments:

Camilla Di Biase-Dyson was appointed to a Lectureship in Egyptology.

Anna-Latifa Mourad and Yasmina Wicks were appointed Macquarie University Research Fellows.

Malcolm Choat was in August appointed inaugural Head of Department of the new Department of History and Archaeology (see below under 'Other items of interest to ASCS members').

Ray Laurence continues his managerial role as Head of the Discipline of Ancient History.

Promotions:

Peter Keegan, Ronika Power, and Shawn Ross were promoted to the rank of Professor (Level E).

Caillan Davenport and Linda Evans were promoted to the rank of Associate Professor (Level D).

Susan Lupack and Meaghan McEvoy were promoted to the rank of Senior Lecturer (Level C).

Retirements:

Lea Beness, Gunner Mickelson, Boyo Ockinga, and Ken Parry retired at the end of this year. A fuller acknowledgement of their contributions over many years of service will follow in the first report of 2021. All will continue as affiliates of the Department.

Other Departures:

Gil Davis's contract ended with the close of the year and Kyle Keimer chose to return for family reasons to the USA. Again, a fuller acknowledgement of their contributions will follow in the next Newsletter and both will continue as affiliates.

Significant activity by staff, postgraduates, honoraries, and retired staff

Caillan Davenport's book *A History of the Roman Equestrian Order* won the Royal Historical Society's William Gladstone Prize for 2020.

Paul McKechnie has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in recognition of his contribution to historical scholarship.

Caillan Davenport delivered the Cardiff University Centre for Late Antique Religion and Culture Annual Lecture on December 7, on the topic of 'The Emperor Writes Back: Changing Strategies of Political Communication from Augustus to Late Antiquity'.

Gil Davis will make an academic visit to the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon as a professeur invité from January to June 2021.

Other staff activities in this sphere will be reported in the next Newsletter.

New courses or major modifications to existing courses

Commencing 2020, Macquarie University is offering a masters degree in Open Universities Australia for the first time: the Master of Ancient History (OUA). This part-time fully online qualification offers a range of units across a broad range of ancient topics.

See also under 'Other items of interest' below.

*Postgraduate completions***Doctor of Philosophy**

Ian Betts, 'Why Was it that the Romans, during the Last Fifty Years of the Second Century BC, Departed from Previous Practice and Began to Establish a System of Permanent Courts (*quaestiones perpetuae*), rather than Continuing with *ad hoc* Proceedings?' (awarded 2019). (Principal Supervisor: Peter Keegan)

David Evans, 'Christians in Athens in the First Two Centuries: From Paul to Bishop Quadratus'. (Principal Supervisor: Paul McKechnie)

Master of Research

Ewan Coopey, *'Fratres Romani in Dalmatia: The Social Dynamics of Legio VII and the Construction of Community and Identity through Roman Funerary Monuments'*. (Principal Supervisor: Danijel Džino)

New books

Danijel Džino, *From Justinian to Branimir: Making of the Middle Ages in Dalmatia* (Studies in Medieval History and Culture [Routledge]).

Other items of interest to ASCS members

During 2020, Ancient History merged with Modern History to become the Department of History and Archaeology, a positive step which not only raised the profile of Archaeology, but allowed for a more trans-historical approach in the future. The development of the new operating plan, announced before COVID at the end of 2019, mandated a more sustainable coursework suite: this dovetailed with a move in the Department towards a cross-cultural thematic suite of units, resulting in the introduction of a streamlined coursework suite for 2021 consisting of a single Major in Ancient History complemented by Bachelor degrees in Ancient History and Archaeology, alongside the Major in Modern History. The new curriculum moves away from content-based streams focussing on individual ancient cultures towards a more thematic skills-based set of units, with all the currently taught Ancient Languages retained in dedicated minors. As with many institutions, Macquarie's budget, and consequently its staffing profile, was impacted by COVID-19. Several long-serving members of the Department took voluntary redundancy in 2020 (see under 'Staff changes' above), and involuntary redundancies have been forecast for 2021: it remains to be seen how the Department will be affected by this process.

Alex Woods and Brian Balsun-Stanton supported the development of Fabricius, the first purpose-built tool that digitally captures and uses Machine Learning to analyse ancient Egyptian hieroglyphic data. The tool—available for free on the Google Arts & Culture app—will provide people around the world with an interactive experience to learn about hieroglyphs, while facilitating the work of Egyptologists and raising awareness about the history, heritage of the ancient Egyptian civilization. The project was in collaboration with Google Arts and Culture, Ubisoft, Psycle Interactive and Macquarie University. Alex was the project's key Egyptologist and Brian was the project's Digital Humanities specialist:

(<https://artsexperiments.withgoogle.com/fabricius/en>)

Covid-19 impact and initiatives

The impacts of COVID-19 continued to affect our Department's activities in all the obvious ways. As mentioned in the previous Newsletter our long experience in distance education rendered many of the necessary adaptations relatively painless. On the other hand, we have felt the physical and mental toll the year has taken on our students and our staff have not been immune to the pandemic on a personal level.

The next Summer Week of the Macquarie Ancient Languages School (MALS), 11–15 January 2021, will be delivered via Zoom (for details and registration see our website:

<http://mals.org.au>).

Among all its other more serious impacts COVID-19 has even shortened this Macquarie report. Accidental omissions are almost inevitable and will be included in the first Newsletter of 2021.

Trevor Evans

Massey University

Staff promotions

We are pleased to congratulate Dr Anastasia Bakogianni on her well-deserved promotion to Senior Lecturer.

Significant activity by staff

Anastasia Bakogianni attended the conference *From Antiquity to Modernity: Performing Greek and Roman Drama in Modern Europe*, organised by the Centre for Classical Studies, Institute of the Philosophy, Czech Academy of Sciences and the Network of Research and Documentation of Performances of Ancient Greek Drama (22-26 May 2019). She presented a paper titled 'Antipodean Antigones: Performing Sophocles' Tragedy Down Under'.

Dr Bakogianni participated in the Work-In-Progress research day at the University of Roehampton (11 June 2019), where she presented on her work on Antigone.

Dr Bakogianni gave a lecture at the University of Potsdam (25 June 2019) titled 'Fidelity vs. Creativity: The Screen Reception of Ancient Tragedy in Modern Greece' at the Classics Seminar. She was invited by Professor Filippo Carla-Uhink, a member of *The Imagines Project* research group to which she belongs.

New courses or major modifications to existing courses

Jonathan Tracy redesigned the second-year course on "The Pursuit of Happiness in the Classical World" to incorporate comparative material from Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Jewish, and Christian sources.

New books

The first volume in Edizioni Quasar's new series, *RomeScapes*, of which James Richardson is a founder and editor, has appeared in print (M. Letizia Caldelli and C. Ricci, eds., *City of Encounters: Public Spaces and Social Interaction in Ancient Rome*). Further volumes are in preparation, and the series welcomes proposals for contributions. See

<https://edizioniquasar.it/collections/romescapes>.

Covid-19 impact and initiatives

In August 2020, Gina Salapata was invited by the National Centre for Teaching and Learning at Massey University to contribute a webinar on her teaching practice and how she adapted her teaching for online delivery this year due to Covid-19.

Jonathan Tracy

Monash University

With the second lockdown in Victoria, most of us haven't seen our offices since March, but it's still been a busy semester for the Centre for Ancient Cultures! Alongside online teaching, research, and outreach and engagement activities, here are some notes of particular interest to the ASCS community:

Staffing and Modifications to existing courses

Two changes merit note. As part of COVID-related changes at the university, the theatre and performance major offered through the Centre for Theatre and Performance, which included a unit on Greek tragedy, will be reduced to a minor from 2021. As part of these changes, Prof. Jane Montgomery Griffiths has departed the university. In addition, Katie Julian, subject librarian for Ancient Cultures, has also departed Monash at this time. Both Jane and Katie worked tirelessly to support the study of ancient cultures at Monash. Their departures are a loss, and we wish them both well.

In a separate change, the Monash Indigenous Studies Centre, including our colleagues who work on the archaeology of Australia and the Pacific, will join Ancient Cultures in the School of Philosophical, Historical and International Studies. We look forward to even closer collaborations going forward!

Grant success

We're very pleased to report that Dr Hilary Gopnik won a Discovery Project in the DP21 round for her project, "The other democracy: Medes in the Iron Age." Along with Partner Investigators A/Prof Leah Minc (Oregon State University) and Prof Pam Crabtree (New York University), Hilary will study the nature of Median communities in the Zagros Mountains.

Post-graduate completions

Ben Bassett completed his PhD: "Growth in the Dakhleh Oasis of Egypt during the Roman Period: A consideration of the archaeological evidence" (Andrew Connor, primary supervisor).

Museum news

Dr Jessie Birkett-Rees and Dr Andrew Connor presented on COVID-related responses by museums, including the Monash Ancient Cultures museum ("Museums at home: access to digital archaeology during the COVID-19 crisis") at the *Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology* online conference in September. This additionally drew on their work from a pre-existing project exploring digital archaeology in museum settings.

COVID impacts

The Egyptology Society of Victoria moved its 2020-2021 lecture series online, kicking off with a successful lecture in September by Dr Anna Stevens on "Wax head cones from Amarna: the wear, what, and why!" A talk by Dr Anna Garnett (Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology) will follow in December.

A piece by Jessie Birkett-Rees and Hilary Gopnik, "The toppling of statues is a moment in history, not its erasure," ran in *The Age* in June, responding to the re-examination of statues around the world following the death of George Floyd.

Andrew Connor

University of Adelaide

Significant activity by staff, postgraduates, honoraries, and retired staff

Assoc. Prof. Peter Davis (Research Fellow, Adelaide) has collaborated with Rhiannon Evans (LaTrobe) on a podcast about Ovid's *Fasti*. The podcast has 297 backers and is now fully funded. It will be made public in early 2021.

While on research leave, Prof. Han Baltussen has been hard at work to finalise the Greek text and new English translation of Eunapius' *Lives of Philosophers and Sophists* (Loeb vol. 134), together with his co-translator for the same volume, Dr Graeme Miles (UTas) who is preparing a new translation of Philostratus *Lives of Sophists*. They are on track to submit the final draft early 2021. He presented three short papers (online) from Adelaide: (1) on ancient Greek embryology to the ANU Seminar series ; (2) a prepared response to a paper at the online seminar on "Emotions and Clinical Communication" organised by IRCI/ACU, Oct. 28-30 (Melbourne); (3) on sensory terminology regarding blood at the Centre for Emotions workshop on Blood (Nov. 2); for this this occasion he was joined by postgraduates Mary Harpas (blood and delirium in Hippocratic Corpus) and Tiana Blazevic (Porphyry on blood sacrifice). He submitted a full draft of a paper on the fifteenth c. Byzantine philosopher Plethon' *On How Aristotle Differs from Plato (De Differentiis)*. Together with his co-editors Dr. Daniel King (Exeter) and Dr. Jacqueline Clarke he negotiated provisional acceptance of their edited volume "Pain Narratives in Antiquity from Hippocrates to Augustine" with Brill for the series *Studies in Ancient Medicine*. The manuscript is due to be submitted in February 2021. Prof. Baltussen has also been invited to contribute a chapter on late antique philosophical education for the forthcoming Cultural History of Higher Education in late Antiquity (Bloomsbury, ed. by Prof. J. Stenger, Würzburg).

New courses or major modifications to existing courses

Dr Margaret O'Hea has converted her course "Classical Greek and Hellenistic Archaeology" into a fully online course for semester 2.

Prof. Han Baltussen will coordinate a revised version of the course "Athenian Democracy" from the program *Reacting to the Past*; it is an interactive course which uses a combination of research essays and role play to let students prepare for and re-enact the activities of ancient politicians in Athens around 403 BCE.

Assoc. Prof. Peter Davis ran a reading group which this year has looked at Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and *Fasti* and is now reading Lucan's *Pharsalia*, all in translation.

Together with Dr. Jacqueline Clarke he is also running a Latin reading group which read Tibullus earlier this year and is currently working on Ovid's *Heroides*.

Museum news

The Museum of Classical Archaeology has gratefully received a donation of Roman pot sherds.

Conferences

On September 23-25, graduate students from the University of Adelaide hosted AMPHORAE XIV, exploring the theme of 'Change and Continuity'. It was fantastic to see so many students from across Australasia share their research. The online format was a huge success, given the circumstances, and we are happy to report that many students still felt the great sense of

community that AMPHORAE normally brings. Special thanks to the organising committee (Tamara Bremert, Emily Chambers, and Gemma Neall) for their outstanding efforts in planning an entirely online conference in such uncertain times

The program ran smoothly and included a novel social program via both Zoom and Slack. We congratulate them on a great achievement!

Covid-19 impact and initiatives not specified elsewhere

- Prof. Han Baltussen's postponed travel for his 'Dorothy Tarrant Fellowship' at the Institute of Classical Studies in London still hangs in the balance. The new dates (April-June 2021) may still be too early for international travel.
- The postponed conference for the Pacific Network of Late Antiquity does not yet have new dates; an online version is one of the options considered.
- Several postgraduate students took up the offer to apply for a 'Covid-19 extension' to their thesis tenure. In most cases a four-week extension was granted.

Han Baltussen

University of Auckland

Staff changes

Jeremy Armstrong was promoted to Associate Professor.

Significant activity by staff, postgraduates, honoraries, and retired staff

Dr. Maxine Lewis won a National Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award for sustained excellence (prize \$20,000). Dr. Lewis, along with the Ako team behind CLASSICS 110/G, also received a Faculty of Arts award for Rangatiratanga.

New courses or major modifications to existing courses

The discipline completed the final stages of combining its previous two majors of 'Classical Studies' and 'Ancient History' into the single major 'Classical Studies and Ancient History' with the new ANCIENT code replacing the previous CLASSICS and ANCHIST codes. Latin and Greek continue to be taught as discrete majors/subjects, at least for the moment.

Visitors

Prof. Anthony Spalinger's Hood Fellowship for the incoming visit of Prof. Hans van Wees, who was supposed to visit Auckland in July 2020, has had to be postponed due to the pandemic.

Museum news

Work has continued on digitizing the small teaching collection of coins housed within the W.K. Lacey Classics Library.

Postgraduate completions

MA Completion: Florence Rogers, 'Women, Freedpeople, Slaves: the Significance of the Capitoline Triad Outside of the Elite-Male Sphere.' Supervised by Maxine Lewis.

Conferences

A 'Workshop on Culture in Mid-Republican Rome' was hosted by Dr. Dougal Blyth at the University of Auckland on 3 December 2020, with attendees from across NZ.

Covid-19 impact and initiatives

The conference "The Spatial Turn: Roman Studies" planned for June 2020 in Durham, co-hosted by Amy Russell and Maxine Lewis, moved to an online format. It ran across two days in December 2020, with a good range of papers and lively discussions. The presentations were recorded; interested parties can contact Maxine at maxine.lewis@auckland.ac.nz to register their interest and receive recordings.

Other news

Assoc. Prof. Lisa Bailey's article "Handmaids of God: Images of Service in the Lives of Merovingian Female Saints" was awarded the annual Mansfield Prize for the best article in the *Journal of Religious History*.

Jeremy Armstrong

University of Canterbury

Staffing

Enrica Sciarrino is ending a two-year stint as Head of Department and Gary Morrison will take over in January 2021. Gary Morrison is currently on sabbatical (Semester 2, 2020).

Postgrad News

In Dec. 2019 Natalie Looyer achieved 1st Class Honours for her MA thesis, 'The Ambivalent Heroism of Ajax in the Odes of Pindar'; principal supervisor was Patrick O'Sullivan. Natalie's graduation was postponed due to Covid 19 and she finally got to graduate in December.

Papers, Lectures and Public Talks

Numerous planned public talks were cancelled or delayed due to Covid 19, nevertheless we still managed some events. Enrica Sciarrino presented a paper 'Southern Italian gastronomy in antiquity', on 8 November in collaboration with Dante Alighieri Society of Christchurch. While on October 18 Alison Griffith gave the paper 'Coins in Christchurch: The Canterbury Museum and the James Logie Memorial Collection' to the annual conference of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand. On November 5 Patrick O'Sullivan gave an invited lecture via Zoom to students and staff in the Classics Dept. of Virginia State University, USA, entitled 'Homer, Vergil and the Shield of Aeneas'. On Tuesday Aug. 4th renowned author and broadcaster Natalie Haynes joined Patrick O'Sullivan and students (via Zoom) in CLAS 122: Myth, Power and Identity in the Graeco-Roman World to discuss women in Greek myth – the subject of her latest book, *Pandora's Jar*. A recording of the session can be found here: https://canterbury.zoom.us/rec/share/puhacKqh9UBOWs-Vy2vHaP54BqLFaaa81ShIqKUNmEYdy_ryyuY-GPqIbMtc8jw1

(NB: the transcript contains numerous errors and should generally be discarded...). Gary Morrison gave a talk to PhiloLogie members on 25th August titled "Coins and the Ancient Historian".

Conferences

On the 3rd of December 2020 Alison Griffith and Enrica Sciarrino attended a Conference in Auckland on *Culture in Mid-Republican Rome*. Alison presented a paper on ‘Visual Storytelling: Roman “art” in Mid-Republican Rome’; while Enrica’s paper was titled ‘I, the orator: strategies of self-presentation in Mid-Republican oratory’.

Looking ahead, Patrick O’Sullivan has been invited to give the following paper, ‘Arete, Sophia and Pindar’s Athletic Ideal’, at the Interdisciplinary Symposium on Arete, Exedra Mediterranean Center, Syracuse, Sicily in June 2021.

Teece Museum

As at the end of December 2020, over 40,500 visitors have engaged with the University of Canterbury through the education outreach activities offered by the UC Teece Museum of Classical Antiquities since it was opened in 2017. In addition to supporting traditional university courses and programmes, the Museum offers a range of engagement opportunities to the community, including hosting primary and secondary school visits, public talks and events, access to the collection for research, and the development of online exhibitions and resources. At the close of what has been a challenging year, it is important to note that all these activities continue to support the University of Canterbury by contributing to excellence in education at all levels, engaging directly with the community, and publicly demonstrating the commitment of the University to the regeneration of Christchurch.

Special projects this year included launching our online blog, which we’ve called Potted Histories (<http://teecemuseum.nz/blog/>). The advantage of a blog is that we can share slightly more detailed stories and showcase student research for a general audience. Another online resource launched this year was online learning activities for the Children’s University. Several of the online activities were created by UC students who were undertaking PACE internships, such as ‘A Day in the Life of Scipio and Archie’ (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLMF1H1BE68>).

UC student volunteers have been the prime movers behind our ‘Audio Descriptions’ which is part of a move to increase accessibility in the Teece and ensure we reach out to a diverse audience. The audio descriptions are designed to assist visitors with vision impairments. You can listen to the first three descriptions online at the Museum’s YouTube channel, or via our webpages (<http://teecemuseum.nz/collection/audio-descriptions/>).

Our exhibition ‘Fantastic Feasts’ closed at the end of September, and the new exhibition ‘Myths and Mortals’ opened at the beginning of November. Gary Morrison and Patrick O’Sullivan contributed as co-curators providing research and labels for this new exhibition. When it was possible, school and community groups continued to visit, and the Teece continued to host or co-host numerous events. In addition, the Museum collaborated in a range of other events such as the UC Classic Greek Pot Painting Night, the new Coffee and Classics sessions for PhiloLogie, the CCC Heritage Festival, and a range of public talks.

This year the Teece also received a grant from Lottery Environment and Heritage to undertake a survey of historic artefacts held at UC which relate to its early history as Canterbury College. The survey project has employed two student technicians, and is uncovering many hidden gems. This project is part of our lead up to the University’s 150th anniversary in 2023.

Gary Morrison

University of Melbourne

Staff changes, appointments, promotions, retirements, obituaries

In the last ASCS Bulletin we reported that we were much looking forward to the arrival (hopefully on 1 July 2020) of our new academic colleague, Lieve Donnellan, who has been appointed to a permanent new lectureship in classical Greek Archaeology. Because of travel restrictions Lieve is still unable to come to Australia, but has been participating as a full member of the department, including teaching our subject on Alexander the Great. We much look forward to seeing her in person in 2021!

We are delighted to announce that Brent Davis has been promoted to Senior Lecturer. And our honorary research fellow Dr Claudia Sagona has been elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities; this award recognizes Claudia's research in the archaeology of the Maltese Archipelago, household and funerary archaeology, and concepts of ethnicity.

Significant activity by staff, postgraduates, honoraries, and retired staff

As is well known, the state of Victoria spent most of 2020 in a lockdown, meaning all our teaching was done on-line, our campuses having been closed down (including libraries). This has significantly reduced our abilities to do the normal range of research and community activities we would normally undertake, but it has still been a busy and productive period. For example:

Gijs Tol and Tamara Lewit gave papers (on-line) in November at the Divergent Economies in the Roman World: Holistic views on habitual and aberrant practices (300 BC-AD 300) conference held at Ghent University.

Ash Finn gave a paper online in November at the Universities in Wales Institute of Classics and Ancient History Postgraduate Conference 2020: Themes of Isolation in, and in the study of, the Ancient World, and another paper online at the Legal and Social History Workshop at the Faculty of History, University of Cambridge, in December.

A significant number of staff and postgraduate students attended the American Schools of Oriental Research Virtual Annual Meeting in Boston in November, Brent Davis, Gemma Lee, Sophie Russell, and Josephine Verduci gave papers, while Louise Hitchcock, Leanne Campbell, Stuart Ibrahim and Laura Pisanu (an incoming PhD student in 2021) presented posters.

Louise Hitchcock and K.O. Chong Gossard were on study leave July-December 2020.

Major research grant successes

Frederik Vervaeke secured three years of funding (AUD\$150,000) from the Australian Research Council (topped up with another \$30,000 from the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Arts) for a Discovery Project to write a monograph on how Augustus managed to convert the Roman triumph into an imperial monopoly and what the specifics of his method to accomplish this objective can tell us about the nature of his regime and his interference with the relevant historiography under his regime. With the assistance of his postdoctoral research associate Christopher Dart, he will also seek to organize a conference on how Augustus' establishment of an autocratic New Order can inform modern democracies combating populist movements with authoritarian tendencies.

Postgraduate completions

Ashleigh Green, PhD, *Birds in Roman Life and Myth* (supervisors: Frederik Vervaeet, Tim Parkin, K.O. Chong Gossard, Tamara Lewit).

Conferences

Emporium had its inaugural meeting in December. Emporium is a research network by and for postgraduates in the field of Roman studies, led by Ash Finn and Giovanni Piccolo. The primary aim is to create a safe and friendly space to bring together postgraduates around Australasia who want to share their research with one another in a way they might not have been able to do before. The inaugural workshop was held on 8 December, with some fascinating talks from postgraduates from across Australia and China on topics as varied as adultery, identity, poisoning, and mirrors in Han China and Ancient Rome. Plans are currently in the making for more events in 2021. To follow the latest news find Emporium on Twitter: @NetworkEmporium or email Ash and Giovanni via emporium-network@unimelb.au.

The inaugural meeting of the Mediterranean Archaeology Australasian Research Community (MAARC) will be hosted (online) by the University of Melbourne on January 28-30, 2021. MAARC aims to encourage interaction, communication and collaboration between staff and students in universities in Australia and New Zealand that work on the history and archaeology of the ancient Mediterranean (in the broadest possible sense), with a yearly conference that rotates around the various institutions in the region. Conference website: <https://mediterraneanarcha.wixsite.com/maarc/meeting-2021>

New books

In July 2020 Jaap Mansfeld (Utrecht) and David Runia (Melbourne) published their monumental reconstruction, edition and commentary on the *Placita* attributed to the doxographer Aëtius. The edition in four volumes is the culmination of a more than 30-year-long project, which was supported in the years 2005 to 2015 by generous grants from the ARC. It is published by Brill Leiden and is volume 153 in the series *Philosophia Antiqua*. Unfortunately launches planned for Utrecht in late June and Melbourne in August have had to be postponed on account of the pandemic. A launch will be held in Melbourne as early as possible in 2021.

Also in 2020 appeared *The Lyon Terence; Its Tradition and Legacy* edited by Giulia Torello-Hill and Andrew Turner (Leiden: Brill). The Lyon Terence, published in the city of Lyon in 1493 by the Flemish scholar Jodocus Badius Ascensius, is a remarkable book. It was the first printed edition of Terence's plays to incorporate the well-known series of illustrations to the plays which dates from Late Antiquity, preserving much of the construction of images while updating these to incorporate contemporary costuming and gestural language. It became a model for the way in which Terence's plays, and indeed all classical drama, are presented on the printed page by means of running headers giving Act and Scene divisions; likewise, it incorporated some of Badius' critical insights into the nature of ancient theatre which derived from his study in Italy and direct contact with leading Renaissance scholars. The study uses a multi-disciplinary approach to examine the text and illustration of the book as well as its considerable impact on the reception of Terence throughout the sixteenth century.

Other items of interest to ASCS members (including re: Covid-19)

Roslynn Bell, an Honorary Research Fellow in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, and Tim Parkin hosted the 3rd annual Classics Quiz in November, this time online. Some 80 people attended from Australia and abroad. A splendid evening was had by all and everyone's classical knowledge was thereby boosted considerably!

Another highlight of the year, despite lockdown, was the December conversation conducted by Roslynn Bell and Larissa Tittl with the UK-based celebrity classicist, author and media personality Natalie Haynes, who will become an honorary member of the University of Melbourne's Classics and Archaeology programme from 2021. The 100 tickets for the online conversation were quickly "sold out" (they were free) as soon as they became available. The conversation focussed on Natalie's latest book, *Pandora's Jar: Women in the Greek Myths*.

Another conversation took place in July, in response to the Australian Government's decision to increase fees for humanities subjects at undergraduate level. Tim Parkin conducted an online conversation with alumna Megan Rowland of Heritage Victoria about why the Humanities matter: <https://arts.unimelb.edu.au/e/community-conversations/community-conversations-megan-rowland-and-tim-parkin>

Tim Parkin also advised the media regarding the mining company formerly known as Adani deciding to change its name to Bravus. He was quoted on the Australian TV programme *Gruen*, which he had never heard of but which his students assure him is the closest he will ever come to becoming a national celebrity.

Louise Hitchcock spent her lockdown leave engaging with the outside world online in a massive way. Among her many online appearances it is particularly worth noting her lecture "Naue II Swords, Germs, and Iron: What Covid 19 Can Tell Us About the Bronze Age Collapse (12th century BCE) in Greece," given to archaeology students at Cheng Kung University, Taiwan, and to the Classics program at the Australian National University. She also featured several times on *Neos Kosmos* on "The Deep State Bureaucracies Ruling the Minoan "Palaces" in Crete," "Cleopatra's Golden Rule – Or, She Who has the Gold, Makes the Rules," "Not all things begin with the Greeks," and "Black Athena and the Incredible Whiteness of Being." She also made guest appearances on the YouTube channel Study of Antiquity and the Middle Ages on "The Kingdom of Alashiya (Cyprus) and the Bronze Age Collapse," "Plague and the Bronze Age Collapse," "The Naue II Sword: Atom Bomb of the Late Bronze Age," and "Trade and the Bronze Age Collapse."

Several staff and postgraduates also gave online talks at various clubs and organisations in Melbourne.

Tim Parkin

University of Otago*Staff changes, appointments, promotions, retirements, obituaries*

Dan Osland was on Research and Study Leave for the second semester of 2020.

New courses or major modifications to existing courses

In 2019, a new 5-week, pre-Christmas session was opened for which we offered a new paper co-taught by Gwynnaeth McInyre with Politics, entitled, 'Elections in Roman and Modern Times'.

This paper ran for a second time this year. Additionally, Gwynnaeth McInyre will be providing several lectures for a new summer school paper, offered by Anatomy: Origins of Anatomical Language.

Postgraduate completions

MAAs:

- John Matthews, 'Doctor Ovid: Teaching what to whom in *Tristia* 2?'
(Supervisor: Jon Hall)
- Jacqui Moate, 'Alleviating Death Anxiety in Epicureanism'
(Supervisor: Sean McConnell)

Covid-19 impact and initiatives

We were very fortunate at Otago to return to face-to-face teaching for semester two with social distancing in place; this meant that smaller classes could meet on campus, but large classes had to continue via Zoom. We found it most encouraging to hear that, having been forced to adopt the distance format, the majority of students now express a strong preference for face-to-face teaching. In second semester, we were also able to resume our Classical Association of Otago meetings, at which both Pat Wheatley and Arlene Allan delivered talks to audiences of more than 30. Less positively, the arrival of Covid-19 early in first semester meant that Dan Osland had to cancel his plans to travel overseas to work on his dig-site at the beginning of his Research and Study Leave.

Arlene Allan

University of Queensland

Staff changes, appointments, promotions, retirements, obituaries

Associate Professor David M. Pritchard returned from a fellowship at Le Collegium de Lyon de l'université de Lyon in mid-June 2020. He is now the Discipline-Convenor of Classics and Ancient History.

We are still unsure when Dr Jody Cundy (Toronto) will be arriving. There is a comparable delay with the arrival of Mischa Piekosz (Utrecht), who has been awarded the PhD position on the ARC DP20 Project, 'From Where the Fine Warships Come: Democratic Athens at War', which Associate Professor Pritchard is co-directing with Professor Ian Worthington (Macquarie).

Significant activity by staff, postgraduates, honoraries, and retired staff

Ms Tyla Cascaes was awarded a 2020 HASS Faculty Teaching Award for Outstanding Sustained Excellence in Tutoring.

Postgraduate Completions

Tyla Cascaes MPhil 'Demagogue, Conqueror, Dictator: Receptions of Caesar in the Cold War Years 1945-1965'

(Principal Advisor: Ass. Prof. Tom Stevenson)

Scot McPhee PhD 'Landscape and Geographic Space in T. Livius *ab urbe condita libri*'

(Principal Advisor: Dr Janette McWilliam)

New courses or major modifications to existing courses

As well as dealing with the impact of COVID-19 in 2021, UQ has implemented new program architecture (PA2), resulting in the decrease in the number of courses able to be offered in our old 2 year rotational program in Ancient History. We will still be offering an Extended Major and Major in Ancient History, and a now a new Extended Minor. Each has a set number of courses, so students doing the major or extended minor will have access to courses listed in the extended major only if they take them as electives. As well as supposed cost cutting, the new look is supposed to make it easier for students to navigate through the BA. The Classical Languages Extended Major has been discontinued. However, Latin and Greek should now be more visible, as they have been retained as stand-alone majors, and each language also has an extended minor.

Museum news

The R.D. Milns Antiquities Museum reopened under COVID-19 guidelines in Semester 2, and continued to support teaching activities in a range of courses in Archaeology (ARCA1000 Discovering Archaeology & ARCS1000 Doing Archaeology) and Classics and Ancient History (ANCH2280 Roman Society and Civilisation; ANCH2270 The Art and Archaeology of Ancient Rome; ANCH1250 The Rise of Rome; ANCH2130 Alexander and the Hellenistic World; LATN2120 Intermediate Latin).

Unfortunately, all our secondary schools programs were put on hold, but plans are in place to restart again in 2021: COVID-safe workshops and audio tours are currently being developed under the direction of Ms Brianna Sands, Museum Outreach officer.

Mr James Donaldson, Museum Manager, was seconded to the position of Acting School Manager, and Ms Samantha Levick, Ms Tyla Cascaes and Ms Jessica Zelli were appointed as administrative assistants to continue work on collection research and condition reporting, past exhibitions to digital formats.

We have now opened our new coinage exhibition Fake!, which explores fake, forged and replica coins. Our major exhibition on Ancient Olympic Athletes has been cancelled, and a smaller exhibition will be redeveloped to coincide with the opening of the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 (fingers crossed). We are still seeking funding in order to mount our 2021 major exhibition Wondrous Machines. Dr McWilliam's position as Director has unfortunately been cut back substantially as a result of funding cuts to the museum.

Covid-19 impact and initiatives

The Cancelled Conference was held via Zoom on Monday 13 July, featuring presentations by postgraduate students from around Australia. The conference, organised by Tyla Cascaes and Brianna Sands, was designed to give Research Higher Degree candidates who had seen various conferences cancelled the opportunity to present their research and receive feedback.

The Classics and Ancient History Semester 2 Seminar series was held via Zoom, with presentations by UQ postgraduate students as well as international and interstate guests:

- Dr Matteo Barbato (The University of Birmingham): “For Themistocles of Phrearrhioi on Account of Honour”: Ostracism, Honour and the Nature of Athenian Politics’
- Dr Byron Waldron (The University of Sydney): ‘Diocletian and the Sword of Damocles: The Tetrarchic Experiment as a Dynasty of Soldiers’

- Associate Professor Lea Beness (Macquarie University) and Associate Professor Tom Hillard (Macquarie University): “*Attica capta Atticum cepit*”: Titus Pomponius Atticus in Athens’.

Janette McWilliam

University of Sydney

Significant activity by staff, postgraduates, honoraries, and retired staff

Peter Wilson gave a University seminar in Classical Civilisation at Columbia University on October 15th 2020.

Ph.D. candidate Marguerite Heery and Dr. James Collins gave a talk titled, ‘Hippocratic Innovations and the Art of Living’ at the University of Southern California’s Institute of Integrative Health and Wellness virtual conference in November.

New courses or major modifications to existing courses

The department is excited to be offering two new Latin units in 2021:

LATN3611 Latin Drama: a new unit focussing on Roman Drama from Plautus to Seneca

LATN3612 Later Latin Literature: a new unit surveying Latin literature from late antiquity to the early modern period.

Visitors

Several interstate colleagues delivered lectures to our departmental seminar series: Dr. Charles Barbour (Western Sydney University); Professor Yasmin Haskell (UWA); Professor Vanessa Lemm (Flinders University); and Dr. Chris Mallan (UWA).

We were also delighted to hear Professor Glenn Most (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, & The University of Chicago) speak to “Global Histories of Philological Practice and the ‘future of philology.’” Professor Most presented at the newly created *Critical Antiquities Network* (on which see more below).

CCANESA is pleased to be hosting – in person, no less! – Dr. Nicola Aravecchia, from Washington University St Louis. He has been making extensive use of the resources at the centre since May.

Museum News

In February 2020 the Nicholson Museum closed to the public after a series of talks and a major event with our supporters and Friends celebrating the history of the university’s antiquities collection. Preparation for the new Chau Chak Wing Museum continued throughout Covid lockdowns, with the collection being carefully moved to its new location. The new building was opened to the public on the 18 November. In the opening iteration of the Chau Chak Wing Museum (CCWM) 18 exhibitions drawn from the University of Sydney’s historic Nicholson, Macleay and art collections which hold more than 450,000 objects. Of particular interest to members will be exhibitions focusing on the antiquities collections from the ancient Middle East, Cyprus and Egypt. The Egyptian collection is represented by a new display of the Nicholson mummies and associated scans and virtual models and an exhibition examining Australia’s complex relationship with ancient Egypt. The Classical World is represented in a number of exhibitions in the CCWM; *Wine Dark Sea* explores ancient Mediterranean

cultures; *Impressions of Greece* the photographs taken by former Professor of Greek William Woodhouse between the 1890s and 1920s; Roman Spectres is a display of Roman sculpture, amphorae and Latin inscriptions, while *Animal Gods* explores the impact that the Homeric epics had on 18th and 19th century naturalists when identifying and naming insect species. The model of ancient Pompeii constructed from Lego is a highlight, as is the installation *Pediment/Impediment* by Indigenous contemporary artist Daniel Boyd who has used plaster casts of Classical monument to explore and challenge notions of colonialism. The collections will be used extensively for object-based learning sessions for tertiary students of the University of Sydney as well as our school and public outreach programs.

The museum is free entry and open to the public seven days of the week.

Research Degree Completions

PhD

- Nathan, Aidan. PhD, *Plato's Use of Irony*. Supervisors: Rick Benitez & Ben Brown.

DMA (Doctor of Musical Arts)

- Har, Austin. *The Ghost: Opera – An Intersection of Greek Tragedy, Electroacoustic and Spectral Music*. Principal Supervisor: Ivan Zavada, Associate Supervisor: Rick Benitez

MA/MPhil.

- Daniel, Nicholas. *Horizons of Friendship and Justice: Insights from the Work of Aristotle*. Principal Supervisor: Rick Benitez
- Parkin, Kirsten. *Three is a Crowd: Adultery laws and legal principles in Latin Controversiae*. Supervisors: Eleanor Cowan & Anne Rogerson.
- Winestock, James. *The Effects of Plunder on Non-Elite Italians, 200-167 BCE*. Supervisors: Kathryn Welch & James Tan.

Conferences

CAH, CCANESA & CLTA hosted the 2nd *Teaching Classical Languages Symposium* on August 14th 2020. This online event, with speakers from across Australia, attracted over one hundred registrations, both domestic and international. Video recordings of this event are available here (free) if you missed it, or you would like to revisit the occasion:

<https://vimeo.com/458421007> (Adapting delivery)

<https://vimeo.com/459246704> (Assessment)

<https://vimeo.com/459320098> (Spoken Latin strategies & *Legonium*)

An international online conference: *'Modern' Women of the Past? Unearthing Gender and Antiquity*. Jointly coordinated by the AAIA, CCANESA, AWAWS, CCWM, and the University of Sydney Departments of Archaeology and Classics and Ancient History, to be held 5-6 March 2021, ahead of International Women's Day, 8 March 2021.

Awards

Huge congratulations to Paul Roche who was elected Fellow to the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

Congratulations also to Ben Brown who received a well-deserved Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award, with Distinction.

Other items of interest to ASCS members

Ben Brown, together with Tristan Burt, this year established *The Critical Antiquities Network*, housed within CAH, History, and CCANESA. This network was created to link scholars whose research takes place at the intersection of ancient traditions and contemporary critical theories. The program this semester included: Dr. Charles Barbour (Western Sydney University) presenting, “The Last of the Schoolmen: The Young Marx, Latin Culture, and the Doctoral Dissertation”; Professor Vanessa Lemm on, “The Return of Ancient Cynicism in Contemporary Philosophy”; a double book launch, with Michael della Rocca (Yale University), *The Parmenidean Ascent* AND Dimitris Vardoulakis (Western Sydney University), *Spinoza, the Epicurean*, with guests André Laks (Universidad Panamericana) and Russ Leo (Princeton). Finally, as noted above, Glenn Most (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, and The University of Chicago) presented a talk on “Global Histories of Philological Practice and the ‘future of philology.’”

Eleanor Cowan, founder and convenor of The Australasian Roman Law Network, hosted a meeting on 17th November via Zoom. For more information about the Roman Law Network, please contact Elly (eleanor.cowan@sydney.edu.au).

In October, Bob Cowan was interviewed on two episodes of “Evenings with Paul McIntyre” on ABC Radio Hobart about the lives and deaths of the emperors Claudius and Nero.

James Collins directed a virtual three-week version of the *Performing Wisdom* program at the Center for Hellenic Studies with seventeen high school students and eleven instructors across six countries and four continents. Participants worked with lecturers and theatre professionals to transform the philosophical debates at the heart of Sophocle’s *Antigone* into the vivid dramatic conflict of two original pieces of live drama.

Students, faculty, and friends of the Department of Classics & Ancient History, including actor William Zappa, participated in *Odyssey Round the World*, a 24-hour global performance of every rhapsody of the *Odyssey* hosted by the Center for Hellenic Studies and Out of Chaos Theatre. Their reading of Book 7 and all the other rhapsodies can be found on the CHS YouTube channel.

“Decolonising the Curriculum” was the topic for a forum held on the 26th November in the School for Philosophical and Historical Inquiry here at USyd. Anne Rogerson and James Tan from CAH, along with others from the school, offered thoughtful and provocative contributions to this ongoing debate.

On the archaeology front, in October and November 2019, the University of Sydney’s Paphos Theatre Archaeological Project conducted its 19th field season of excavations at the World Heritage listed site of the Hellenistic-Roman theatre of Nea Paphos in Cyprus. Excavation this season was primarily focused on a Roman paved road and attempting to understand the Antonine and Severan urban infrastructure of the ancient city.

Covid-19 impact and initiatives not specified elsewhere

Our search for a level B Ancient Historian was paused because to the impact of the pandemic. We expect to resume this search in 2021 or 2022.

Tamara Neal

University of Tasmania

Staff changes

We are delighted to have welcomed Dr Charlotte Dunn to Tasmania, where she began a three-year post as Lecturer in Classics in March 2020.

New books

Wheatley, P., and C. Dunn, *Demetrius the Besieger* (Oxford, 2020)

Miles, Graeme, *Infernal Topographies* (University of Western Australia Press, 2020).

Jonathan Wallis

University of Western Australia

We had a relatively 'good' pandemic over West and were fortunate to be able to run our second semester research seminar face-to-face. It was mostly in-house, with new honours students presenting on their dissertations, but we also enjoyed Zoom papers from Tom Stevenson (UQ) and Shushma Malik (Roehampton). Yasmin Haskell gave a paper on 'Idols, Demons or Passions: The Gods in Jesuit Latin Epic' at the Stanford Humanities Center (19 November 2020). Our international workshop planned for June, 'Chorus of Orpheus: Animals as Poets and Teachers from Aboriginal Australia to Classical Antiquity', has been postponed because of Covid-19. Sabbatical entitlement has been indefinitely suspended at UWA as we brace for another restructure.

In happier news, a team from our discipline, led by Hugh Thomas, has for the past two years been undertaking archaeological fieldwork in the hinterland of the desert oasis town of AlUla, Saudi Arabia. Most of the 20,000 km² hinterland is relatively inaccessible but the isolated and dramatic landscapes surrounding the town are densely packed with spectacular archaeological remains. This project is one of several being conducted on behalf of the Royal Commission for AlUla, a broad ranging directive designed to develop the region around AlUla and to document and preserve its rich heritage. Through a combination of remote sensing, helicopter aerial survey, and ground survey, the team has documented over 13,000 archaeological sites ranging in date from the Palaeolithic period through to the present. More recently, targeted excavations have been undertaken, revealing a tantalising view of life and death in the region throughout antiquity. In spite of Covid, 23 sent a small contingent of the AAKSAU project to Saudi for the final 2020 season.

New books

Chris Mallan, *Cassius Dio. Roman History, Books 57 and 58 (The Reign of Tiberius)*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Melissa Kennedy (ed.), *A Land in Between: The Orontes Valley in the Early Urban Age* (Sydney University Press, 2020)

Yasmin Haskell

Victoria University of Wellington

Staff changes, appointments, promotions, retirements, obituaries

Mark Masterson has been promoted to Associate Professor (effective January 2021).

Significant activity by staff, postgraduates, honoraries, and retired staff

James Kierstead spent three months of his research and study leave (January to March) as a visiting researcher at the Kommission für Alte Geschichte und Epigraphik in Munich.

Mark Masterson was speaker with Derek Krueger, Claudia Rapp, and Shaun Tougher: “Rethinking Byzantine Masculinities: Gender, Sexuality, Emotions, Devotion”, an event that was put on Dumbarton Oaks Research Collection in Washington DC on October 30, 2020 [webinar].

Mark Masterson delivered a paper, ‘Sex and Desire between Men in Byzantium: Civil Law, Dissidence, and (the Lack of) Enforcement’, at the *Society for Classical Studies* Annual Meeting, Washington DC, January 2020.

Hamish Cameron delivered a invited presentation, ‘The Painful Art of Abstraction: Representing the Ancient World in Modern Games’ and was a panellist in the final panel discussion at *Rerolling the Past: Representations and Reinterpretations of Antiquity in Analog and Digital Games*, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, NYU (November 2020).

New courses or major modifications to existing courses

Simon Perris taught a new Honours course: Greek Tragedy and the Polis

Hamish Cameron taught a new Honours course: Borders and Movement in the Roman World

Hamish Cameron taught a new 300-level course: Zenobia, Warrior Queen

Museum news

Diana Burton and her intern Rachael Mildenhall built an online catalogue for the Victoria University of Wellington Classics Museum:

<https://vuw.aws.thirdlight.com/link/VUWClassicsCollections/@/>

The Museum’s webpage can be found here:

<https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/slc/about/our-programmes/classics/classics-museum>

Postgraduate completions

Masters Thesis Completion, Claudia Jardine, ‘Aidōs did not prevent her: an intertextual approach to Komnene’s depictions of women in positions of power’, Supervisor, Mark Masterson (Distinction).

James Kierstead



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