



# The Australasian Society for Classical Studies

## Newsletter no. 54, May 2024

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kia ora koutou,

It was wonderful to see and reconnect with those who were able to attend ASCS at Australian Catholic University in February. This was a hybrid conference, with about 10% of the audience participating online. It was also the first conference where the conference dinner occurred early in the conference, as a way of helping us get to know each other better. I wish to thank our colleagues at ACU for a successful conference.

As president I continue to write letters of support for colleagues whose departments find themselves in the cross-hairs. Most recently I wrote in support of the place of Classics in the future super-university produced by amalgamating the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia. By chance we discovered that the Executive Dean of Arts, Law, Business and Economics has a form letter that she sends out to all who express concern and ask difficult questions.

On the east side of the Tasman, the new National-Act-NZ First coalition government has, in the wake of multi-million dollar deficits at several NZ universities, promised to review the funding of the entire tertiary sector through a mechanism called the University Advisory Group. In the short term this means that the Performance Based Research Fund round for 2026 has been cancelled suddenly. While that is a relief for some, what it means in the long term, and whether New Zealand universities will be any better funded in future, is far from clear.

The ASCS Committee has monthly meetings planned for at least the first half of the year. We met in March, concerning the renewal of the contract to publish *Antichthon* with Cambridge University Press. Members of the Committee asked several questions.

The April meeting will be looking at the financial state of ASCS and will discuss how to achieve a balanced budget for the foreseeable future, now that *Antichthon* cannot be a money-earner in the way it once was.

By the time you read this we will have sent meeting summaries of the first two meetings, including the answers to the questions we posed to CUP, and suggestions for addressing future budget deficits out to all ASCS members for feedback and comment.

Noho ora mai,

Alison Griffith,  
President  
April 2024

## UNIVERSITY REPORTS

### Australian Catholic University

#### Staff promotions

Michael Champion (ACU) was promoted to full Professor.

#### Significant activity by staff

Dawn LaValle Norman:

- Lewis-Gibson Visiting Fellow, Cambridge Centre for Greek Studies, along with Visiting Fellowship at Clare Hall, Cambridge. April-Sept. 2023
- Elected Member of the Royal Historical Society (2023)
- “Follow the Flute Girl! Outsiders and Insiders in the Dialogues of Plutarch and Methodius of Olympus”, Baylor Classics Department, Nov. 9, 2023
- “Matronymics at Work and Female Succession in Lucian’s *Dialogues of the Courtesans*” for *Corpus Christi College Seminar ‘Mothers in Time’*, University of Oxford, Oct. 18, 2023
- “Hippolytus’ Meadows: Weaving together Aesthetics and Ascetics in Christian Reuses of Euripides’ ‘Chastity Hymn’ (Eur. *Hippolytus* 61-87)”, *Creativity Under Constraint for Flourishing in Early Christianity*, ACU Rome Sept. 2023
- “Metaphors of Life, Death, and New Life in Methodius of Olympus’ *De Resurrectione*: What is Truly Essential for Flourishing?” *Resurrection, Transformation and the ‘Ends’ of Life in the Face of Death in Early Christianity for Flourishing in Early Christianity*, ACU Rome Sept. 2023
- “Rewriting Women in Two *Symposia*: Plato and Xenophon as Predecessors for Plutarch and Methodius of Olympus”, panel on *Religious Knowledge and Authoritative Texts in Judaic, Christian, Gnostic, Neoplatonist and Other Polytheistic Traditions (1st century BCE-2nd century CE)*, Celtic Classics Conference, Coimbra July 2023.
- “Manscaping and its Discontents: Clement of Alexandria’s *Paedagogus*, body waxing and ‘hymning the glory of the beard’ (τοῦ πάγωνος τὸ εὐπρεπὲς ὑμνήσας, *Paed.* 3.11.60)”, panel on *Cultivating and Contesting the Meaning of Male Hair in Religious Traditions* (panel organizer), European Academy of Religion, St. Andrews University, June 2023
- “Persecution and the Family in Three Theclas: The *Acts of Paul and Thecla*, Methodius of Olympus’ *Symposium* and Eudocia’s *Life of Cyprian*”, Cambridge Late Antiquity Network Seminar, June 2023
- “Persecution and the Family in Three Theclas: The *Acts of Paul and Thecla*, Methodius of Olympus’ *Symposium* and Eudocia’s *Life of Cyprian*”, Institute for Classical Studies, London, June 2023
- “Servile Teachers of Feminine Virtue in Augustine’s *Confessions*”, *Makarios: Character and Virtue in the Christian Tradition*, ACU Rome Campus, May 2023
- “Blushing philosophers: gender segregation and ventriloquism in the Dialogues of Plutarch and Methodius of Olympus’ *Symposium*” *Religions of Late Antiquity Seminar*, University of Cambridge, May 2023
- “Blushing Philosophers or Flushed Philosophers? Women at Four *Symposia*” *Greek Dialogues*, Cambridge Centre for Greek Studies, University of Cambridge, May 2023
- “Markan Mothers and the Matronymics: “Jesus, Son of Mary” (Mark 6:3) and Mixed Crowds” *New Testament Seminar*, University of Cambridge, May 2023

- “Manscaping and its Discontents: Clement of Alexandria’s *Paedagogus*, Body Waxing and “hymning the glory of the beard” (τοῦ πώγωνος τὸ εὐπρεπὲς ὑμνήσας, *Paed.* 3.11.60),” *Colloquium Clementinum III: Clement of Alexandria’s Paedagogus*, Nyíregyháza, Hungary, April 2023
- “Matronymics at Work: Female Succession Techniques in Lucian’s *Dialogi Meretricii* and some Early Thecla Literature”, *Classical Association Conference*, Cambridge April 2023
- “Writing *Early Christian Women* for the Cambridge Elements in the History of Women in Philosophy” *Classical Association Conference*, Cambridge April 2023
- “Medical and Poetical Breastmilk in Clement of Alexandria’s *Paedagogus*”, From the Breast Seminar Series, University of Birmingham, January 2023

## Conferences

In September Dawn LaValle Norman, Stephen Carlson, and Michael Hanaghan organized a conference at ACU Rome’s campus, funded by ACU’s Flourishing in Early Christianity project on “Creativity Under Constraint.”

Dawn LaValle Norman and Michael Hanaghan, together with Prof. Michael Champion, Dr Sarah Gador-Whyte and Dr Katherine Krauss convened ASCS 45, at ACU Melbourne in February 2024. The conference was a great success with over 120 papers, delivered both in person and via zoom, covering a wide range of topics.

## Other items of interest

Associate Professor Gil Davis (ACU) was awarded the [Ray Jewell Silver Medal](#) by the Numismatic Association of Australia, the peak body for numismatics in the country. This is the highest award and only the eighth such ever awarded, the last being in 2015. He has been the Managing Editor of the Association’s annual journal for the past twelve years and just produced [volume 32](#), 2023.

Dawn LaValle Norman, ABC Radio Sydney, Self-Improvement Wednesday, “The Meaning of Male Hair Choices, Now and Then”, The Drive with Jennifer Byrne, Nov. 23, 2023

Dawn LaValle Norman, The Augustine Blog “[The Necessity and Powerlessness of Teachers \(and Mothers!\) in Augustine’s Confessions.](#)” Oct. 2023.

Dawn LaValle Norman, ‘[The Cutting Edge: Hierarchies of Hair in the Greco-Roman World](#)’, Cambridge Alumni Festival 2023 (morning) and Museum of Classical Archaeology, Cast Gallery (afternoon). Supported by the University of Cambridge Museums Collections in Action Funding and the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH). Sept. 2023.

Dawn LaValle Norman, ABC Radio National, *Philosopher Zone* with David Rutledge, ‘[Women Among Ancient Philosophers](#)’, Sunday March 12, 2023

Jonathan Zecher

## Australian National University

### Staff news

In July 2024, we are very pleased to welcome Dr Simona Martorana on a four-year, fixed-term appointment as Lecturer in Classics. Dr Martorana is a graduate of the University of Trento and the University of Durham, and is currently an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at Kiel University and the University of Hamburg. She is an expert in Roman poetry, with particular interests in gender, the body, and the environment, with her first monograph, *Seeking the Mothers in Ovid's Heroides*, recently published by Cornell University Press.

In January 2024 Dr Tatiana Bur gave an invited paper at UC Davis on 'Vessels and Vassals: A Case Study in Mechanics and the Enslaved in Hellenistic Symptotic Culture' as part of the international conference *Slavery and Technology in Greek and Roman Worlds*.

Emeritus Professor Elizabeth Minchin delivered two international papers. The first was as part of the Bristol University Special Seminar Series *Oral Theory: Where are we Now?* in November 2023 with a talk entitled 'From Parry and Lord to the Present: Observing the Development of Oral Theory'. The second was earlier in May at the conference *Digital Approaches to Epic Speech* where she spoke on 'Evaluating workplace relationships in the Homeric *Iliad*: bringing together digital approaches and social and cognitive theory' for Mount Allison University in New Brunswick, Canada.

Dr Estelle Strazdins delivered invited papers at two international conferences: The A.G. Leventis Conference held in November 2023 *The Fabric of Hellenism. Hellenic culture and civic identity in the Imperial Greek world* at the University of Edinburgh; and the *Material Culture(s) and the Second Sophistic* conference at the University of Graz in January.

### Student news

We are delighted that our undergraduate students have been recognised in the annual competitions run by the Australasian Society for Classical Studies. James Hughes won the Ancient Greek Language Prize (teacher: Dr Tatiana Bur) and Cecilia Arsenovic was awarded the Latin Language Prize (teachers: Dr Tom Geue & A/Prof. Caillan Davenport). In addition, James Hughes was named runner-up in the Douglas Kelly Essay Competition for a paper on the life of the early Christian woman Matrona, which he wrote for Dr Meaghan McEvoy's course *ANCH2026: Rome: After Empire*. Congratulations to Cecilia and James on these wonderful achievements!

### Visitors and conferences

In February 2024, we welcomed Dr Lucy Jackson, Assistant Professor of Classics at Durham University, as the inaugural Humanities Research Centre / Centre for Classical Studies Visiting Fellow. Dr Jackson is a world-renowned expert on ancient Greek theatre and its reception in the modern world. During her visit, she engaged generously with staff and students at both the HRC and the CCS, giving a work-in-progress seminar on 'The psychological work of ancient Greek tragedy beyond Oedipus and the individual' and a public lecture on 'Unsettling Oedipus. Psychoanalysis and the ancient Greek chorus' to a full house of ANU staff, students, and community members. [Dr Jackson's lecture is now available on YouTube.](#)



Staff of the ANU Centre for Classical Studies with Dr Lucy Jackson on the event of the inaugural HRC/CCS Distinguished Lecture. Left to right: Dr Estelle Strazdins, Associate Professor Caillan Davenport, Dr Tatiana Bur, Dr Lucy Jackson, Dr Tom Geue.

Associate Professor Alan Ross (Ohio State University) was a Research School of Humanities and Arts Visiting Fellow in the Centre for Classical Studies in March and April 2024. A/Prof. Ross is an international authority on Roman historiography and panegyric, especially of Late Antiquity. He gave the keynote lecture at the ‘Dynasty and Dynasticism in the Roman Empire’ colloquium organised by Dr Meaghan McEvoy and Associate Professor Caillan Davenport on the topic of ‘The Rhetoric of Dynasticism in the Fourth Century’. We also welcomed Prof. Paul Roche (Sydney), Dr Eleanor Cowan (Sydney), Dr Nicola Holm (Exeter) and A/Prof. Tom Stevenson (UQ) as speakers at this event. During his visit to ANU, A/Prof. Ross kindly shared his expertise in Latin literature and international PhDs and postdocs with our students.

We are very excited to host a second Humanities Research Centre / Centre for Classical Studies Visiting Fellow later in 2024. Associate Professor Nandini Pandey of Johns Hopkins University will visit us in May and June, delivering a public lecture on May 15. A/Prof. Pandey is an award-winning scholar of Roman literature and culture and she is currently preparing a book on Roman diversity for Princeton University Press.

In October and November 2024, we will have the pleasure of hosting Dr Daniel Hanigan from the University of Cambridge as a Research School of Humanities and Arts Visiting Fellow. Dr Hanigan and Dr Strazdins are collaborators on a project entitled *Terraqueous Topographies* and plan to hold a symposium at the ANU on ‘Liquid Antiquities, Liquid Mobilities’. Stay tuned!

### **Museum news**

The ANU Classics Museum is closed in Semester 1, 2024, due to works taking place on the roof of the AD Hope Building. We are currently running a limited series of bespoke workshops for schools and teachers from the Banks Building. The Friends of the Classics Museum are

continuing their series of events despite the disruption. In February, we welcomed Dr Craig Barker of the University of Sydney who spoke on the imperial cult in Roman Cyprus.

### **Major research grant successes**

Dr Estelle Strazdins received funding for the years 2024-2027 from an ARC Discovery Project 'Images of Power in the Roman Empire: Mass Media and the Cult of Emperors', along with Prof Bronwen Neil (Macquarie), Dr Ryan Strickler (Newcastle), and Dr Amelia Brown (UQ). Congratulations to all involved!

### **New books**

[Davenport, C. and Malik, S. \(eds\) 2024. \*Representing Rome's Emperors: Historical and Cultural Perspectives through Time\*. Oxford: Oxford University Press](#) has been published with contributions from Dr Estelle Strazdins and Dr Meaghan MacEvoy from the ANU, as well as colleagues Dr Eleanor Cowan and Frances Muecke FAHA from the University of Sydney.

### **Media Engagement**

In March, Dr Tatiana Bur was a guest panelist for the [SCIENCE. ART. FILM.](#) series presented by the National Film and Sound Archive, Australian National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science and ANU Humanities Research Centre. She joined colleagues from the ANU to discuss the 1959 film 'Black Orpheus'.

Dr Tatiana Bur participated in an episode of the '[Mysteries of Science](#)' podcast hosted by The Week Junior Science+Nature magazine where she discussed the Antikythera Mechanism and the newest Indiana Jones film. She also gave a [video interview](#) for the Australian Pacific Network (APAC) on the mechanism.

Associate Professor Caillan Davenport gave a series of ABC radio interviews in Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide, on the origins of Valentine's Day in February.

Associate Professor Caillan Davenport and Dr Meaghan McEvoy wrote an article for *The Conversation* on Perpetua: '[Hidden Women of History: Saint Perpetua, a young mother put to death in a Roman amphitheatre](#)'.

Tatiana Bur

## **La Trobe University**

### **Staff changes**

Dr Leanne McNamara AFHEA has been appointed to a continuing position as a Lecturer in Classics and Ancient History (Teaching Focussed). Leanne has particular interests in the intersections between science, medicine, magic, religion and philosophy in the ancient Graeco-Roman world.

### **Significant activity by staff**

Rhiannon Evans was in conversation with Professor Mary Beard at the State Library of Victoria for "Power and the Ancient World with Professor Mary Beard" on March 6<sup>th</sup> 2024. A video recording can be found here: [Power and the Ancient World with Professor Mary Beard | State Library Victoria \(slv.vic.gov.au\)](#)

Gillian Shepherd has presented related invited papers at the “Contextualising South Italian Red-Figure Pottery: The Case of Apulia” conference (Accademia di Danimarca, Rome, January 16-17 2023) and also online at the annual AIA Conference (Chicago, 4-7 January 2024) (respectively “La Rondine d’Inverno: A.D. Trendall and the Trendall Archive” and “Trendall in Apulia: Dale Trendall and the Trendall Archive”).

### **Visitors**

In 2023 the Trendall Research Centre welcomed the following international visitors for extended research trips:

Dr Daria Russo (2023 Trendall Fellow)

Prof. Alan Shapiro (Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore). Prof. Shapiro also delivered the 2023 Trendall Lecture on “Theseus in Magna Graecia: An Athenian Hero Travels West” on 29<sup>th</sup> August at the National Gallery of Victoria.

Dr Barbara Carè (2024 Trendall Fellow) will visit the Trendall Centre for research work from 10 May – 10 June 2024.

### **Other items of interest to ASCS members**

Dr Leah O’Hearn (PhD 2020 – supervised by Rhiannon Evans) has been a Lecturer in Ancient Classics at Maynooth University, Republic of Ireland.

Bridge McClean (MA 2022 – supervised by Gillian Shepherd) has been awarded a full scholarship for her DPhil in Ancient History (Numismatics) at Oxford University (Merton College).

Gillian Shepherd

## **Macquarie University**

### **Staff changes**

Michael Zellmann-Rohrer was appointed a Research Fellow in January 2024 in the Department of History and Archaeology at Macquarie University, where he joins an ongoing project on early Christian papyri.

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

Bronwen Neil currently holds a Fellowship in the Centre for Apocalyptic and Post-Apocalyptic Studies at University of Heidelberg (February-July 2024). Her project is ‘Back to the Garden? Apocalyptic Imaginaries in Europe and the Pacific’.

Bronwen will be presenting/participating in five events at other European institutions this year:

- a) Seminar, Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek, University of Muenster, April 2024.
- b) Seminar, Department of Biblical Studies, University of Muenster, May 2024.
- c) Keynote, 3-day Panel on Divination, Celtic Classics Conference, Cardiff, July 2024.
- d) Panellist, Apocalyptic Responses to Crisis in Late Antiquity. International Medieval Congress, Leeds, July 2024.
- e) Panellist, Slavery and the Body in Late Antiquity. Oxford International Patristics Conference, August 2024.

Ian Worthington recently presented his paper ‘The Athenian War Effort Against Philip II’ at the *4th Century Athens at War: After Mossé* conference in Nantes (July 2023), a component of the Pritchard-Worthington ARC DP on Athenian warfare in the 4th century BCE. He has also presented ‘19 Years Later and Still Going: From *FGrH* to *BNJ* to *BNJ 2* to?’ at the ‘*Fragments of the Greek Historians: Jacoby and Beyond*’ conference for the centennial of *FGrH*, Department of Classics, Leiden University/EJ Brill (September 2023).

Michael Zellmann-Rohrer will give papers relevant to his research on ancient religion and the astral sciences at conferences at the University of Chicago (May 2024) [in person], Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris (May 2024) [online], University College, London (June 2024) [online], Università degli Studi di Udine (September 2024) [online], and Freie Universität Berlin (September 2024) [in person]

Ian Plant has completed a three year term as President of the Classical Association of NSW. He continues on the Council as a Vice-President along with Paul McKechnie who was re-elected to the Council. Dr Tamara Neal (USYD) has taken up the role of President.

Trevor Evans was invited to become a member of the World Philology Union. (This is an international association founded in 2021 and hosted by the Norwegian Institute of Philology, whose purpose is to promote philology worldwide in research, education, society and culture.)

### **Visitors**

In February 2024 Prof. Hartmut Leppin (University of Frankfurt) delivered the Masterclass ‘Religious responses to crisis in the sixth century’.

### **Major research grant successes**

Congratulations to Bronwen Neil and her team on ARC Discovery Project success with their project DP240100112 ‘Images of Power in the Roman Empire: Mass Media and the Imperial Cult’. The Cis are: B. Neil, A. Brown, E. Strazdins, R. Strickler.

### **Postgraduate completions**

A report on the Department of History and Archaeology’s 2023–24 postgraduate completions will be included in the second 2024 Newsletter.

### **Conferences**

In February 2024 Ray Laurence convened the conference ‘Running the Roman Empire in Late Antiquity: Space and Law’.

MAARC 2024 is taking place at Macquarie on 16–19 July 2024. The convenors are Julia Hamilton, Susan Lupack, Karin Sowada, and Peter Edwell. (MAARC = Mediterranean Archaeology Australasian Research Community.)

By way of early warning Trevor Evans reports that the SHG25 conference, the second in a series offered by the ‘Septuagint within the History of Greek’ (SHG) Network, will be held in Sydney in September 2025.

### **New books**

Danijel Džino has completed his monograph *Early Medieval Hum and Bosnia, ca. 450-1200: Beyond Myths* (London and New York: Routledge, 2023).



Laurence, R., and F. Trifilò have completed their monograph *Mediterranean Timescapes: Chronological Age and Cultural Practice in the Roman Empire* (London and New York: Routledge, 2023).

Ian Worthington has completed his monograph *The Last Kings of Macedonia and the Triumph of Rome* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2023).

Eva Anagnostou-Laoutides and K. Parry have co-edited *Later Platonists and their Heirs among Christians, Jews, and Muslims* (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2023).

Michael Zellmann-Rohrer has co-edited (with J.-M. Carbon, A. Chaniotis, T. Corsten, N. Papazarkadas, and E. Stavrianopoulou) *Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum*, Vol. 68 (Brill, 2023).

### **Other items of interest to ASCS members**

Ian Worthington reports that his *The Last Kings of Macedonia and Rome* audiobook appeared in May 2023.

The podcasts from the Nantes conference mentioned under (2) above will be available on youtube in 2024 at:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWc6x58fVf55rsphy7BpgAKRg2l3dAFK0P>

Trevor Evans

## **Massey University**

### **Staffing**

We will be saying goodbye to our colleague Jonathan Tracy this May. He is sadly one of the many casualties of Massey's extensive cuts and cost-saving measures. Jonathan was based on the Palmerston North campus for 9 years and is a dedicated and inspirational teacher, who added exciting courses about ancient Egypt and multiculturalism in the ancient world. He will be very much missed.

### **Courses**

Our offering is set to be reduced to the barest minimum necessary for maintaining our major in Classical Studies.

### **50th anniversary of Classical Studies at Massey**

The final two articles in our series on the Greek and Roman origins of commonly used English words have been published in the local Palmerston North newspaper, *The Manawatu Standard*:

- Astro: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/news/301014897/the-odyssey-of-english-gazing-at-the-wandering-stars>
- Echo: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/news/301023831/the-odyssey-of-english-echo-through-the-ages>

### **Significant activities of staff members**

On 15 November 2023, Anastasia Bakogianni led an interactive workshop on the Albany campus for Year 10 students from schools on Auckland's North Shore. The aim was to reflect

on heroism as we understand it today in contrast to what was considered heroic behaviour in the ancient world. Using two short videos from [The Panoply Vase Animation Project](#) the students engaged with two modern versions of the stories of Herakles and the Amazons, inspired by ancient material culture. They then got to create their own adventures featuring their version of heroes and heroines based on what was discussed. Their creative efforts testify not only to our changing view of heroism, but also on some of the continuities.

Anastasia also co-organised a hybrid workshop (on 1-2 February 2024) with colleagues in Spain on *Classical Reception 2.0: Digital Antiquities and the Future of the Past*. The workshop was concerned with the impact of technology on teaching and research practices.

On 14 Dec 2023, Gina Salapata presented an invited webinar at the series *Sparta Live!* sponsored by The Centre for Spartan & Peloponnesian Studies at the University of Nottingham and the Municipality of Sparta. The webinar was entitled 'Lakonian Heroic Plaques Revisited: Has Anything Changed?'.  
  
James Richardson

## Monash University

The work of Ancient Cultures staff continues, with strong numbers across the undergraduate and Honours levels, and some exciting research underway.

### Significant activity by staff

In January, Andrew Connor was invited to speak on the topic of “Between the emperor and the village priest: Roman law, Egyptian religion, and a petition from the village of Tebtunis” at Tokyo Metropolitan University. He also spoke in February on “A World woven from papyrus? Exploring the materiality of papyrus in the ancient world” in a workshop on Religion, Economy, and Imperial Power in Premodern Egypt at Keio University (Tokyo) and on “The burning door and the dung in the sanctuary: Anti-temple sentiment in the daily life of Roman Egypt” in a workshop at the University of Cincinnati. This coincides with a semester of research leave.

### New units and modifications to existing units

One of our third-year capstone units has been substantially revised, and will now be on the topic of “Environmental archaeology: understanding cultural landscapes.” This unit is offered in the first semester and is currently running with great student interest.

### Postgraduate completions

Saskia Moorrees completed an MA, with the title “Manipulative actions and meaning in Greco-Roman ritual analogy” (Principal supervisor: Andrew Connor).

### New books

Gillian E. Bowen, *The Excavations at Ismant al-Kharab. Volume II - The Christian Monuments of Kellis: The Churches and Cemeteries* (Oxford, UK: Oxbow Books, 2024).

Andrew Connor, Jitse Dijkstra, and Cisca Hoogendijk, eds. *Unending Variety: Papyrological Texts and Studies in Honour of Peter van Minnen*. Leiden: Brill, 2024).

Bruno David, Jean-Jacques Delannoy, and Jessie Birkett-Rees. *Mobile Landscapes and their Enduring Places*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2024).

#### **Other items of interest:**

In March, Reinert Skumsnes (University of Oslo) spoke via Zoom to the Egyptology Society of Victoria on the topic of “Women’s work? Production and circulation in the New Kingdom textile industry.”

Andrew Connor

## **University of Adelaide**

### **Staff changes**

In late February our colleague Dr Jacqueline Clarke retired after 34 years of teaching Latin, Latin Literature and several themed courses on emotions and poetry. Jacque will remain a Visiting Research Fellow for some year to come. We wish Jacque all the best.

Currently retirements do not lead to a replacement, as there is a university-wide cap on hiring in view of the merger preparations with UniSA.

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

On January 5, Shona Edwards (MPhil candidate) presented a paper as a part of the International Ovidian Society panel at the Society for Classical Studies (USA), entitled “Reading Dido diffractively: Moving beyond reflection as metaphor”.

The ASCS conference at ACU was a great event that ran very smoothly in a splendid new building and a fantastic organising committee. Adelaide Classics had 7 of our postgraduates attending the conference, and 5 of them presented papers. Chelsea Schwartz who presented on her thesis topic “Greek physicians in Rome Immigration and Integration”, became runner-up for the best postgraduate presentation award (OPTIMA). Professor Han Baltussen also presented a paper on the pseudo-Aristotelian *Mirabilia* and its relation to the Peripatetic writings (esp. Theophrastus). The full paper was published as a book chapter with Routledge the same week.

On March 14 Dr David Rafferty (ARC-DECRA fellow) presented a paper entitled “*Legati pro praetore* and the rise of an alternative *cursus honorum*” at an international conference in Zaragoza Spain). The conference took place on 14-15 March, organised by Francisco Pina Polo of the University of Zaragoza, under the theme “*Cursus Honorum*: hierarchy, prestige and *auctoritas* in the Roman Republic”.

On March 20 Han Baltussen gave a free public lecture for the annual Festival Hellenika entitled “To Boldly Go Where Few Have Gone Before: Women Philosophers in Antiquity”. The lecture was very well attended and well received.

*Book launch*: On April 24 the department held a book launch to celebrate the publication of four books all published in 2023: on Stoicism in Virgil (G. Zanker), on subjective elements in pain narratives (J.R. Clarke, D. King, H. Baltussen), on the lives of Eunapius (Loeb, H.

Baltussen) and on Ovid's *Amores* 3 (P.J. Davis). See Publications List 2023 for details. We also took the event as an opportunity to celebrate the Department's 2023 entry into the Top-100 of the QS ranking (by Subject) and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hughes Chair in 2024.



Han Baltussen has been invited to give a talk at a conference in Rutgers (New Jersey) in September and a key note lecture at a conference in Leuven in October during his sabbatical leave.

### **New courses or major modifications to existing courses**

The Merger of the University of Adelaide and University of South Australia (to become 'Adelaide University') is in full preparation mode. It will involve a restructure of the curriculum for 2026 ("Day 1"), new faculty clusters, and rebranding the university. Humanities subjects may not come out in a form that we would like, and the new Classics/Archaeology major of only 8 courses is clearly an impoverishment compared to what we have currently. Clearly the trend is towards professional education with far less attention to historical awareness, creative freedom, contemplation, and flexibility of skills. There is still much uncertainty about how things will be put together, so I hope to report more detail in the next newsletter.

### **Visitors and guest speakers**

Early April Dr. Alexa Piqueux of the Université de Paris-Nanterre arrived in Adelaide to work with Professor Richard Green (Visiting Research Fellow) for just under three weeks on the publication of the new version of Phlyax Vases and on the new version of *Monuments Illustrating Old and Middle Comedy* (the last [3<sup>rd</sup>] edition was in 1978). She gave a public lecture on April 9, entitled "Action on Stage: exploring body movements in ancient Greek Comedy".

The annual C. Moraïtis Hellenic Lecture (sponsored by the Galatis Fund, including prizes for high academic achievements of students), will this year be held on May 28, and we are thrilled that Professor Julia Kindt of Sydney University has accepted the invitation. She will be speaking on a topic related to her new book *The Trojan Horse and Other Stories. Ten Ancient Creatures that Makes Us Human* (Cambridge University Press, 2024).

### **Museum news**

Our Museum of Archaeology received a kind donation from a private donor. The gift of various pottery shards and other items was gratefully received. The Museum director, Dr Margaret O’Hea has already begun cataloguing some interesting items.

### **Postgraduate completions**

Gemma Neall completed her MPhil with a thesis entitled “Taking Liberties. (Mis)Translating Sexual Violence in Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*”. Gemma was supervised by Jacqueline Clarke and Han Baltussen. Well done, Gemma!

### **Other items of interest**

Shona Edwards (MPhil candidate) and Gemma Neall (BA(Hons), MPhil) are in the early stages of planning/organising an Australasian Ovidian Society and invite interested colleagues and postgraduates to contact them to discuss participation or contributing. They also aim to set up a steering committee. In addition, three of our postgraduates —Gemma Neall, Emily Chambers and Shona Edwards—will launch the AWAWS Adelaide Chapter on April 18, 2024 as co-chairs.

Prof. Han Baltussen has accepted an offer to become Nominated Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities, Edinburgh (Scotland), hosted by Prof. Douglas Cairns for the period of August and September during his study leave (July-Dec. 2024). He will be working on his research project “Self-Consolation in the Greco-Roman World from Antiphon to Marcus Aurelius”.

Han Baltussen

### **University of Auckland**

The Department welcomed Dr. Christina Robertson and Saskia Herren as Professional Teaching Fellows in the first semester, covering various staff leaves and buyouts. Jeremy Armstrong returned from Research and Study Leave, taken in the second half of 2023, and Lisa Bailey went on Research and Study Leave in the first half of 2024. We were pleased to welcome Prof. David Rosenbloom (UMBC) back to New Zealand as the inaugural holder of the Matthew Trundle Memorial Lectureship. Prof. Rosenbloom was in New Zealand for two weeks in March and gave lectures in both Auckland and Wellington. We also had Dr Sven Meeder (Radboud University Nijmegen) with us in March, delivering several talks. Looking ahead, Dr. Jeffrey Rop (Minnesota) is scheduled to visit the Department in September 2024.

### **New books**

Armstrong, J., A. Pomeroy, and D. Rosenbloom (eds) (2024) *Money, Warfare and Power in the Ancient World: Studies in Honour of Matthew Freeman Trundle*. Bloomsbury: London.

Jeremy Armstrong

## University of Canterbury

The Classics department is holding steady for the moment, for which we are grateful. Alison Griffith continues as HoD. Course enrolment numbers continue to climb in line with growing University of Canterbury numbers. The University of Canterbury has 9% more students than it predicted it would have, but in the context of underfunding and inflation, this surplus only allows us to run in place, as it were.

We are pleased to have a record number of BA(Hons) students. Several of these students are already hard at work on projects related to objects in the Canterbury Museum, whose antiquities collection is on long-term loan to the Teece Museum during a period of refurbishment.

### Public talks and other professional engagement

Members of the department continue to engage in public outreach on behalf of the University and the Teece Museum: the NZ Association of Classical Teachers, University of the Third Age, Classics Convivium, Classics and Coffee, and similar opportunities.

Patrick O'Sullivan enjoyed a sabbatical overseas (i) Erskine Programme Canterbury Fellowship at the University of Oxford for September–December 2023 and (ii) a Visiting Fellowship at University College, Oxford also for September–December 2023. This included a conference presentation “Nomos, Physis and the Poet in Pindar’s Epinikians” at the 7th Open International Conference of the Network for the Study of Archaic and Classical Greek Song in Barcleona in July. He also gave a talk on “Homer, the Sophists and Human Agency in Pindar’s Epinikian Odes” at the University College and Classics Faculty Research seminar at Oxford University in October.

### Teece Museum

The Teece Museum remained a hive of activity, starting with welcoming well over 19,000 visitors, five community workshops, 14 community groups, 15 school visits, and students in numerous UC classes. We are grateful to our 23 student volunteers and gallery hosts for assisting with these visits.

Teece team co-ordinated the production of *Whiria te tangata: weaving the people together – 150 years of College and Community*, held in the Pumanawa Gallery as part of the celebrations for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University of Canterbury. 3,119 visitors viewed the *Whiria te tangata* exhibition.

The Museum received a grant of \$2500 to produce Careers in Heritage, in collaboration with the CCC Heritage Team and Christchurch City Libraries. Late in the year, the Teece also received a grant of \$3802 to conduct an accessibility audit and workshops in 2024.

The Teece Museum was also pleased to host two PACE internships:

- Alexandra Lewis (BA History and Classics): PACE intern Alex Lewis’s project to research and install an exhibition as part of the Open Christchurch Architecture festival, displaying the history of the Chemistry building which today houses the Teece Museum as well as the UC Department of Classics and School of Music.
- Ellie Rice (BA Classics): As a PACE intern Ellie Rice researched the origins of the Fern Collection, which consists of 24 ancient Egyptian ceramic pots ranging between ca. 4500 to 1000 BCE, which was donated to the Teece Museum in 2022.

Alison Griffith

## University of Melbourne

### Staff changes, appointments, promotions, retirements, obituaries

We were very pleased by the promotion in November 2023 of Hyun Jin Kim to the rank of full Professor. Hyun Jin has an enviable portfolio of publications with major international houses, making key contributions to the study of the interaction of the Ancient Worlds of West and East. Likewise, we were very happy to hear of the appointment of Tom Davies to the position of Lecturer Class B in Ancient Near-Eastern History and Archaeology. Tom had already contributed substantially to our programme as the Seymour Reader in Ancient History and Philosophy based at Ormond College, and will continue to teach in our Greek language programme, as well as renewing a programme in Akkadian.

Sarah Corrigan, who was appointed as the inaugural Allan J. Myers Lecturer in Latin Language and Literature last year, commenced teaching with us in July 2023, taking on the Latin 6 and Underworld and Afterlife undergraduate cohorts. Our staff numbers also increased at the start of 2024 with the appointment of Becky Clifton, Larissa Tittl, and Jacob Heywood as Lecturers Class A, as part of our broader Ancient World Studies programme.

Louise Hitchcock departed the University in December 2023. She had established a formidable reputation in the field of Aegean archaeology, with a particular focus on the Philistine site of Tel-es-Safi/Gath in Israel, where she excavated for many years.

Finally, from the broader field of Classics and Archaeology, we were saddened by the recent deaths of two prominent female scholars. Our colleague, Associate Professor Andrew Jamieson, has kindly provided the following brief obituaries.

#### **Elizabeth Pemberton McPhee (7 April 1940 – 7 March 2024)**

Dr Elizabeth Pemberton FAHA, passed away on Thursday 7 March 2024. Elizabeth taught for 15 years at the University of Maryland, in Art History and Archaeology. In 1981 she married Ian McPhee and emigrated to Australia. From 1983 to 2002 she taught at the University of Melbourne, first in Fine Arts, then in the Classics department. She was an Honorary Research Fellow at the A. D. Trendall Centre for Ancient Mediterranean Studies, at La Trobe, and a member of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

Most of her working life, in fact since 1965, revolved around Ancient Corinth. She was particularly involved with the study and publication of material from the Sanctuary of Demeter and Kore. Her chief research interest was pottery and more recently figurines. She authored or co-authored three books, all in the Corinth Excavations Series, as well as publishing many articles. Between 1990 and 1997, both Elizabeth and Ian took part in archaeological survey and excavations in eastern Türkiye at the sites of Büyüktepe Höyük and Sos Höyük with Tony and Claudia Sagona.

Elizabeth was a popular lecturer and supervisor. Her subjects, *Greek Art and Archaeology* and the *Athenian Agora*, attracted great interest. Her classes were generous, deeply engaging, and always a privilege in which to participate. The depth of her knowledge was imbued in the passionate engagement she brought to the subject.

### **Alison Glen (Sally) Salter (17 December 1933 – 29 December 2023)**

Sally is fondly remembered as the author of *The University of Melbourne's Cypriot Antiquities* catalogue, published by Macmillan Art Publishing (Melbourne) in 2008 (full title: *A catalogue of Cypriot antiquities at the University of Melbourne and in the Ian Potter Museum of Art*).

In the words of Sally: "I loved researching and writing up the ancient artefacts from Cyprus for the University's catalogue 'Cypriot antiquities at the University of Melbourne'. Prior to starting the book I had been involved for several years in unpacking and shelving and marking the University's accession numbers on the bases of the Cypriot vessels as they were delivered from our warehouse. Some also required mending. Each had to be measured and photographed and recorded by hand on standardised forms in large blue binders... Finally the book could be commenced, and, working on a parttime basis, and with three trips to Cyprus, it took about nine years. For me it had all started with the luck of being in the right place at the right time, for the University had bought the major part of its Cypriot collection from the Australian Institute of Archaeology in 1987, just a few years before I did the final year of my Bachelor of Letters (Hons) in archaeology." (Extract from: Sally Salter, *Cypriot antiquities at the University of Melbourne*, *University of Melbourne Collections*, Issue 4, June 2009, pp. 24 – 25.)

In her book review Jenny Webb noted: "Salter has done a very commendable job in negotiating the complex minefield of Cypriot ceramic classification and chronology. Her object descriptions are comprehensive ... followed by ... relevant comparanda... . The volume makes an important contribution to Cypriot archaeology and will be appreciated by scholars and students around the world." (J. M. Webb Book Review, *The Artefact*, *Journal of the Archaeological and Anthropological Society of Victoria*, 2009, Vol. 32, pp. 41 – 42)

### **Visitors**

In November, the Classics and Archaeology discipline at Melbourne hosted Professor Glenn Most (Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa / University of Chicago). Professor Most took part in a number of events, giving a very well-received research seminar on "Suspense and Surprise in Greek Tragedy" and presenting the opening for a "Future of Classics and Archaeology (and the wider Humanities)" roundtable event.

### **Exhibition**

*Ancient Lives: Insights from the Classics and Archaeology Collection*, a new exhibition developed by the Ian Potter Museum of Art at the University of Melbourne's Old Quad, opened in July 2023. The exhibition combines two presentations curated by honorary fellows in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies: *Amor et Mors: Vessels for the Beautiful Body in Life and Death*, curated by Dr Caroline Tully and *White, tawny, blood-red, black: Wine in the Greek and Roman Worlds*, curated by Dr Tamara Lewit. It displays about 100 objects from the University of Melbourne Classics and Archaeology Collection and runs till November 2024.

The curators were interviewed by David Astle for ABC Radio and for *Neos Kosmos* in August 2023: <https://neoskosmos.com/en/2023/08/02/news/australia/ian-pottermuseumexhibition-offers-glimpse-into-ancient-greece-and-rome-daily-life/> and published an article, 'Beauty, Wine and Death in the Ancient World' Pursuit, University of Melbourne (August) <https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/beauty-wine-and-death-in-the-ancient-world>



## Higher degree completions and student prizes

Elena Heran “Sidelining the Feminine in Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*,” PhD supervised by Tim Parkin (principal), Parshia Lee-Stecum (La Trobe), and K.O. Chong-Gossard.

Ash Finn, “Vindictively violent: a sociology of Roman punishment c. 50 BCE – 200”, PhD supervised by Tim Parkin (principal) and Frederik Vervaet.

Stuart Ibrahim completed his PhD: “The North Sinai Transformed: Third Intermediate Period / Iron Age I-II Raphia and Egypt’s response to the changed political spectrum in the Levant”

Madaline Harris-Schober completed her PhD: “Ritual Architecture, Material Culture and Practice of the Philistines” (a joint degree with UniMelb and Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich)

Robyn Cooper completed her M.A., “Romans, Religion, and Residences. Investigating the relationship of domestic cult spaces and Roman homes throughout Pompeii, Herculaneum, and the Iberian Peninsula”. supervised by Gijs Tol (principal) and Tamara Lewit.

Melbourne PhD student Abby Robinson was awarded the 2023 Archaeological and Anthropological Society of Victoria prize (\$500) for best student presentation, on the subject *A darker version of home: Surviving the turbulent Middle Ages in the highlands of southwestern Georgia*. Gijs Tol and Claudia Sagona are Abby’s PhD supervisors.

## Conferences

In July 2023 Melbourne hosted the conference: ‘How republics die: Creeping authoritarianism from the ancient to the modern world’, convened by Professor Frederik Vervaet, Dr Christopher Dart, and Dr David Rafferty (Adelaide). Over three days leading experts in the Roman republic and other fields of historiography with parallel problems presented papers, and there were three keynote papers: by Amy Russell (Brown University) on “The Acceptable and the Alternative in the Late Roman Republic”; James Tan (University of Sydney) on “The Rise of the Roman Economy and the Fall of the Roman Republic”; and Lisa Hill (University of Adelaide) on “How Republics Die: the Corrosive Effects of Election Conspiracism”. Prominent international guests included Francisco Pina Polo (Universidad Zaragoza), Thibaud Lanfranchi (University of Toulouse-Jean Jaurès), and Tim Elliott (University of Birmingham); the conference was covered in national media (cf. *The Australian*, 19.8.2023), and selected proceedings are now being edited.

Andrew Turner

## University of Otago

### Staff changes

Dr Gwyneth McIntyre, Head of Classics, was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor (effective 1 February 2024).

We welcomed Dr Chloe Borowska to our team in February, as a permanent staff appointment following the retirement of (now Emeritus) Professor Jon Hall in 2022.

Assoc. Prof. Pat Wheatley retired in February of 2023, and we have been authorized to run a search for a permanent staff appointment.

Due to low staff numbers in 2023, we were permitted to bring on a part-time Teaching Fellow, Dr Joel Gordon, who has contributed significantly to maintaining a degree of coherence across our language and civilization offerings.

Two current postgraduate students, Jaymie Orchard and Matthew Watts, also taught into the ancient languages in 2023.

Emeritus Professor William J. Dominik has been offered the position of Visiting Professor at the Federal University of Juiz de Fora (Brazil).

### **Significant activity by staff**

Dr Arlene Allan undertook a portion of her Research and Study leave in Canada, the first time a member of Otago staff has been able to conduct some of their research overseas since COVID closed the borders.

### **Visitors**

Prof. Greg Woolf (UCLA) delivered a public lecture for the Otago Classical Association on his tour around the region.

### **New books**

Assoc. Prof. McConnell published a new edited volume with N. Gilbert and M. Graver: *Power and persuasion in Cicero's philosophy*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 268p. doi: 10.1017/9781009170352.

Dan Osland

## **University of Queensland**

Dr Amelia Brown has won a prestigious ARC Discovery Project grant for the project 'Image of Power: Roman Mass Media and Imperial Cult'. Her fellow Chief Investigators are Professor Brownen Neil (Macquarie University), Dr Estelle Strazdins (Australian National University) and Dr Ryan Strickler (University of Newcastle). This July, Dr Brown will be the Gertude Smith Professor at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens where she will teach an important summer course.

Dr Annabel Florence and Dr Kit Morrell are currently teaching a new course called 'Crime and the Courts in Ancient Greece and Rome' (ANCH3560). Each week of this third-year course examines a different area of Greek or Roman law and a linked forensic speech. The course also incorporates comparative and interdisciplinary perspectives, and we have been honoured to welcome Crown Prosecutor Michael Lehané, Professor Alastair Blanshard, Justice Anthe Philippides, and Queensland Chief Magistrate, Janelle Brassington, as special guest presenters. Dr Morrell is also teaching an all-new version of 'The Roman Republic' (ANCH2320) – a longstanding second-year course at the University of Queensland (UQ).

In May UQ welcomed Professor Mirko Canevaro from the University of Edinburgh as the R. D. Milns Visiting Scholar for 2024. Professor Canevaro – a leading international Hellenist – offered two public lectures and a masterclass for our higher-degree-research (HDR) students.

We applaud two of our HDR students, who have recently submitted their MPhil theses. The title of the thesis of Ms Paige Maunder is 'Families of the Frontier: The Role of Women and Children in Roman Military Communities on Hadrian's Wall'. Her principal supervisor was Dr Janette McWilliam. Mr Gordon Chadwick, who was supervised by Associate Professor David M. Pritchard, wrote a thesis which is entitled 'Peace and War in the Public Discourse of Democratic Athens'.

David Pritchard

## University of Sydney

### Staff promotions

Paul Roche was promoted to Level E.

Ben Brown and Tamara Neal were both promoted to Level C.

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

Paul Roche and Michael Hanaghan (ACU) co-organised a panel on Vandal Literature at the *Fourteenth Celtic Classics Conference*, University of Coimbra, Portugal 11-14 July 2023

Anne Rogerson presented a paper titled "Angelica Kauffman and Sylvia's Stag" at a conference on *The Afterlives of the Aeneid's Women* at Durham University (14-16 December 2023).

Kathryn Welch presented at the CA in Warwick, on a panel *Avoiding the Women Week*, and gave a paper on *Theodor Mommsen and the Erasure of Women from the Roman Narrative*.

Peter Wilson gave a paper at the Faculty of Classics in Cambridge in December 2023 at a conference – "Greek Literature and its Critics" – to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of Richard Hunter.

Alex Pinkham, PhD candidate in CAH, was awarded a FASS Post-graduate Teaching Fellowship

Ex-Sydney Classics and Ancient History student Dr. Daniel Hanigan was awarded a Junior Research Fellowship at Trinity College, Cambridge

Dr John Lee (Honorary Associate, retired from the Department of Classics) was awarded a Doctor of Divinity degree at the University of Cambridge on 27 April 2024.

### New courses or major modifications to existing courses

Elly Cowan and Paul Roche coordinate 'ANHS2614 The emperor in the Roman World (14-117CE)', which will become 'ANHS2614 The Julio-Claudian emperors': a change that allows a deeper dive into the sources, politics, society, and culture of the period.

### Visitors (recent, current, and prospective)

The following two early career scholars from Cambridge will visit Sydney as William Ritchie Visiting Fellows in 2024:

- Connor Wood, working on *Canonicity, transmission, and the social role of the Hesiodic Catalogue of Women*, under the auspices of Dr Ben Brown.

- Daphne Martin, working on Cyrene in the connected Mediterranean, under the auspices of Professor Hodos.

We also awarded a William Ritchie Visiting Scholarship, to undertake work in Cambridge on his PhD, to Jack Pash (*Urban and religious change in 2nd-7th century North Africa*).

Steven Hunt (Cambridge) will present at the forthcoming Teaching Classical Languages Symposium 2024

Mirko Canevaro (R. D. Milns Visiting Professor, University of Queensland/University of Edinburgh) presented a paper on *Recognition and Imbalances of Power: Honour Relations and Slaves' Claims vis-à-vis Their Masters*, 16<sup>th</sup> May

Marco Formisano (Ghent University) presented a paper on *The nomadic alternative: Classics in motion* as part of the Critical Antiquities Workshop (organised by Tristan Bradshaw and Ben Brown), 11<sup>th</sup> April

Tom Geue (Australian National University) presented a paper on *The Enslaved Muse: Apostrophe and Authorship in Latin Literature*, 4<sup>th</sup> March

Lucy Jackson (University of Durham) presented a paper on *Containing Multitudes. Psychoanalysis and the Ancient Greek Chorus*, at the CAH departmental seminar 4<sup>th</sup> March

Alison Keith (Todd Memorial Lecturer 2024/University of Toronto) presented on *Epicurean Themes in Statius*

Maxine Lewis (University of Auckland) will give the keynote at the *Teaching Classical Languages Symposium* on 17<sup>th</sup> August

Professor Andy Merrills (University of Leicester) and Dr Catherine Ware (University College Cork) came in July to give keynotes at the conference *The Vandal Renaissance: Latin Literature in Post-Roman Africa (435-534CE)*

Sabine Neumann (University of Marburg) presented a paper on, *Imaginary Gods: The Cults of the Greco-Egyptian Deities in Athens* at the CAH departmental seminar 28<sup>th</sup> March

Estelle Strazdins (ANU) presented a paper on *Greeks in the Roman Empire Thinking about the Future* at the CAH departmental seminar 18<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Museum news**

The Chau Chak Wing Museum has published the first culturally specific guidelines to the care of ancient Egyptian mummified human remains. These guidelines are the product of an ongoing project that seeks to better understand different public attitudes and responses to the display of international ancient human remains at the Museum, and follows recent community consultation and surveyed visitor feedback. <https://www.sydney.edu.au/museum/our-research/human-remains.html>

In December, the Museum was awarded Create NSW project funding to support the development of a new exhibition *Kerameikos: the potter's quarter*, which will showcase seven contemporary ceramic artists responding to museum's the historic collections, opening in August 2024.

In March-April, the Museum hosted SSSAHRC Research fellow Dr Arianna Trivaglia, Director of the Centre for Cultural Heritage Technology, to commence a new international collaborative

research project “Roaming Art: Exploring the Journeys of Antiquities across Continent” which focusses on the provenance of Italian antiquities.

On the 8 March, the Museum welcomed Dame Mary Beard who took part in a conversation with Professor Julia Kindt to almost 700 school students. This was followed by a special event for school teachers in conjunction with the History Teachers Association of NSW. On 14 March, the Museum also hosted Professor Lynn Meskell for an important lecture on cultural heritage exploitation (CHX). Future events will include ‘The Sacred Tree: The Olive’ held in conjunction with the Greek Trade Commission and Greek Festival of Sydney with talk by Dr Tamara Lewit (16 May), a public conversation with Natalie Haynes about her new book *Divine Might: Goddesses in Greek Myth* (24 May), and a panel discussion on Women in Archaeology for National Archaeology Week (24 May).

### **Conferences (recent and forthcoming)**

28-29 July 2023 *The Vandal Renaissance: Latin Literature in Post-Roman Africa (435-534CE)*, University of Sydney (organised by Michael Hanaghan (ACU), Richard Miles, Paul Roche, Anne Rogerson).

17<sup>th</sup> August 2024, the *Teaching Classical Languages Symposium* will take place at the University of Sydney (organised by Sarah Lawrence (UNE) and Tamara Neal).

### **Other items of interest to ASCS members**

We are excited to announce the beginning of the Vere Gordon Childe Centre (VGCC). Recently approved by the University, this new initiative aims to connect scholars within the University of Sydney – and beyond – to promote and empower research in our understanding of the human past, its importance in the present, and its lessons for the future. The Centre takes its name from the University of Sydney graduate Vere Gordon Childe, an exceptionally influential archaeologist and important figure in political thought in Australia in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Building on the success and foundation of CCANESA, the VGCC will continue to work with its core stakeholders, including the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens (AAIA), the Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation (NEAF), and the many users of the Centre library and space. It will run under the Directorship of Professor Kirsten McKenzie (History) and the Deputy Director Dr Joseph (Seppi) Lehner (Archaeology), who will hold those roles for an initial term of three years. The Centre launched formally on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

Tamara Neal

## **University of Western Australia**

### **Staff changes, appointments, promotions, retirements, obituaries**

2023 was a year of change at UWA. At the end of the year, Professor Yasmin Haskell left the institution after almost twenty years of service. Yasmin came to UWA as the Cassamarca Chair in Latin Humanism, following post-doctoral appointments at the University of Cambridge. Yasmin has now joined Monash University as the UNESCO Chair in Intercultural and Interreligious Relations. We wish her all the best in her new role.

Following Yasmin's departure, the ACIS Cassamarca Chair in Latin Humanism has passed to A/Prof. Chris Mallan. Chris will be looking to continue Yasmin's legacy at UWA in the promotion of Classical Reception studies and will be an advocate for the study of Classics at UWA and in the wider community.

Finally, it is my sad duty to report the passing of a former member of the (then) Department of Classics and Ancient History, Norman Ashton. Dr Norman George Ashton achieved First Class Honours in Classics and Ancient History at The University of Western Australia and was subsequently appointed to a lectureship in that department, where he was later promoted to Senior Lecturer, was Head of Department briefly, and then, because he was a very good administrator became Chair of the Professorial Board. He published two books on Greek subjects, on the towers of Siphnos and on the island of Megisti. He died in January 2024 in Adelaide, where he had moved to undertake other non-academic work. (I thank Em/Prof. John Melville Jones for this last item).

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

Two UWA postgraduate students, Jewel Oreskovich and Jessica Wall presented papers at this year's Classical Association conference at the University of Warwick. A/Prof. Chris Mallan is on sabbatical for Semester 1 2024 and will be spending some time at Oxford where he will be working on his book on Byzantine epitomes of Classical texts. Em/Prof. John Melville Jones will be attending a workshop on Roman Coins to be held at Macquarie in July.

### **Visitors**

As the host of this year's AMPHORAE conference, UWA Classics and Ancient History is in the process of arranging for an overseas visitor to present the keynote address at the conference and to run a masterclass for the delegates and UWA Classics Honours students.

### **Conferences**

The postgraduate conference AMPHORAE will be hosted at UWA in September.

### **New books**

In March this year, Dr Kirk Essary published a new monograph on Erasmus:  
K. Essary, *Erasmus and the Renaissance of Feeling* (Bloomsbury 2024).

Chris Mallan

### **Victoria University of Wellington**

VUW has had a significant and very sad staff change in that James Kierstead was made redundant.

On a much more positive note, Jeff Tatum has been named Ngā Ahurei a Te Apārangi Fellow for being at the international forefront of Roman history, the poetics of Latin literature, Greek literature in imperial Rome, and Greco-Roman reception studies. He is currently George R. Langford Eminent Scholar at Florida State University and Christine Sorum Guest Professor at Union College (New York). He delivered the 2024 Collins Lecture at Transylvania University (Kentucky) and the 2024 Sorum Lecture at Union College. At FSU, he organised an

international conference, Displaced Persons in the Greco-Roman World. Diana Burton gave a talk in this conference: 'An exile loved by the citizens: Medea displaced'.

We had one recent visitor: Dr Michael Nerdahl (Bowdoin College, ME) who was here from February to March, mostly to discuss game pedagogy with Hamish. Michael also delivered a research seminar on 'Better Living Through Ancient Biography? The Moral Project of Plutarch's *Lives* and the Cognitive Sciences'.

Glenn Dare (supervisor: J. Tatum) successfully defended his PhD: *Red in Tooth and Claw: Roman War-Making, An Evolutionary Perspective*.

Last but not least, Jeff Tatum was a talking-head in the BBC three-part series, *Julius Caesar: The Making of a Dictator*, which first aired in November and December 2023 (and is still available on BBC's iPlayer).

Babette Puetz

## INDEPENDENT SCHOLARS

### Louise Hitchcock

Professor Louise Hitchcock retired from the University of Melbourne in December 2023.

She gave a paper entitled "In a State of Suspenseful Animation: Let the Mediterranean Party Like It's 1199," at the American Society of Overseas Research Annual Meeting, Chicago, 15-18 November 2023. It was part of a session on Entanglement organized by her former student, Laura Pisanu.

### Books and conferences in 2024:

Jamieson, A. C. Tully, and L.A. Hitchcock (eds) *Plague in Antiquity* (Ancient Near Eastern Studies Supplement 65) Leuven, Peeters (In press, final proofs returned 2024) ISBN: 13 9789042950689; ISBN: 10 9042950684

"The Connecting Sea: The Aegean as Central to a Mediterranean Agorocracy," Paper to be presented at HYDOR. Water Resources and Management in the Aegean Bronze Age, the XXth International Aegean Conference, Amsterdam, 11-16 June 2024. Co-author: Caroline J. Tully

"Pirate Ships as Heterotopic Spaces: Transforming Dystopian -scapes in the 12th century BCE," Paper to be presented at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the European Archaeological Association, Rome, 28-31 August 2024.

### Op Ed pieces

- Hitchcock, L.A., 'A Land Without Leaders for Peoples Without a Land', *Neos Kosmos*, 23 December 2023. <https://neoskopos.com/en/2023/12/23/dialogue/a-land-without-leaders-for-peoples-without-a-land/>
- Hitchcock, L.A., 'During revolution: Ukraine's past is Classics Hellenic prologue', *Neos Kosmos*, 23 August 2023. <https://neoskopos.com/en/2023/08/23/dialogue/opinion/during-revolution-ukraines-past-is-classics-hellenic-prologue/>
- Hitchcock, L.A., 'Legacy as Destiny: Review of Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (a tale of relevance, rediscovery, and resistance)', *Neos Kosmos*, 16 July 2023.

- <https://neoskosmos.com/en/2023/07/16/life/indiana-jones-and-the-dial-of-destiny-reviewed/?fbclid=IwAR3kzUbpmgMOmtDVNg5GX4JVusAwNB0ywZTJgdX-owr6hTTd17e5HCereO8>
- Hitchcock, L.A., 'Go Woke or Go Broke: A Critical Look at Netflix's Cleopatra through the Eyes of a "Wog"', *Neos Kosmos*, 2 May 2023.
- <https://neoskosmos.com/en/2023/05/02/dialogue/opinion/go-woke-or-go-broke-a-wogs-view-of-netflixs-cleopatra/>

## Bruce Marshall

### General news

Bruce Marshall, formerly Associate Professor at UNE till retirement at the end of the last century and now an independent scholar, presented a paper on 'Exotic creatures pulling chariots on Roman republican *denarii*' at the bi-annual conference of the Numismatic Association of Australia in Adelaide 19-20 August 2023.

### Conferences

Along with Assoc. Prof. Ken Sheedy, Director of ACANS at Macquarie University, Bruce Marshall is convening a two-day conference 'Making Money in the Ancient World', at Macquarie University on 2-3 August this year. The conference will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the publication of Michael Crawford's *Roman Republican Coinage (RRC)*, now the international reference work, and Erich Gruen's *The Last Generation of the Roman Republic (LGRR)*, a ground-breaking re-assessment of the final years of the republic.

The Conference has received several generous grants, mainly to help with funding airfares for visitors, from the Royal Numismatic Society, the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies, and the Sydney Latin Summer School.

The keynote speaker at the conference, and Gale Senior Visiting Fellow this year, will be Assoc. Prof. Clare Rowan, a brilliant undergraduate and postgraduate student at Macquarie University and now an internationally recognised Roman numismatist at the University of Warwick. Other visitors will be Emer. Prof. John Melville Jones from UWA, and Assoc. Prof. Gwynnaeth McIntyre from the University of Otago.

Further details of the conference and a call for papers have been circulated by the ASCS Messages Secretary.



ASCS Newsletter no. 54, compiled by Kit Morrell ([k.morrell@uq.edu.au](mailto:k.morrell@uq.edu.au))

The Australasian Society for Classical Studies

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