



Auckland Classical Association

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Newsletter 1: April 2011

1. SUBSCRIPTION

Subscriptions for **2011** are now due. Please forward \$20 subscription or inform the Secretary if you wish mail-outs to continue. Please make cheques in favour of the Auckland Classical Association.

Please remember to notify the Secretary of any change in residential or email address. On that topic, **the Secretary hereby notifies all members of her own change of address to 120b Rosier Road, Glen Eden.**

2. PROGRAMME

Important ACA dates for 2011:

All departmental seminars are at 4.00pm in Room 101 in Building 253 (Maori Studies, just across Wynyard Street from the Classics Department).

Thursday, 14 April 2011, 5.00pm, Old Government House.

CLASSOC 2011 Symposium. The University of Auckland Classical Association (CLASSOC) invites you to its 2011 symposium. Wine and nibbles will be provided. While the event is primarily aimed at undergraduates, members of the Auckland Classical Association are invited to indulge their curiosity about current research and the history of the department. Lecturers will introduce their research interests and Dr Douglas Kelly, formerly of ANU, will be speaking about the history of the department. If there is interest in the ACA for this, please RSVP to uofaclassoc@gmail.com with numbers for catering purposes.

Saturday, 16 April 2011, 4.30pm, Hellenic Community Hall, 106 Western Springs Road, Morningside.

Mr. Nikos Petousis, Consul for Greece, will talk about ancient Ionia. The presentation will be followed by refreshments provided by The Greek Friends. We ask for direct replies to this invitation, for catering purposes. **Please send your RSVP to the Secretary by 13 April.**

Tuesday, 3 May 2011, 4.00pm, Room 101, Building 253 (Maori Studies).

Departmental seminar. Prof. Tony Spalinger: Timekeeping and the goddess Nut.

Tuesday, 10 May 2011, 4.00pm, Room 101, Building 253 (Maori Studies).

Departmental seminar. Justin Pigott: Unity in Diversity: Conflict and community in the late antique church.

Tuesday, 17 May 2011, 4.00pm, Room 101, Building 253 (Maori Studies).

Departmental seminar. Prof. Miroslav Bartja: The Oldest Story of the Traveller: Sinuhe, Patriarchs and the Bible.

Prof. Bartja is a prominent Egyptologist from Prague. He will also be giving a public lecture, but we have no details yet.

Tuesday, 24 May 2011, 4.00pm, Room 101, Building 253 (Maori Studies).

Departmental seminar. Dr. Dougal Blyth: What Moves Itself for Aristotle?

Tuesday, 24 May 2011, 7.30pm, location to be advised.

Mr. Robert Loosley, director of Antiquarius, will make his current collection of antiquities available for viewing, and perhaps handling in certain circumstances. This event is particularly offered for teachers, especially those who may not have had ready access to antiquities, but all members are welcome. We ask for direct replies to this invitation. **Please send your RSVP to the Secretary by 21 May.**

Tuesday, 31 May 2011, 4.00pm, Room 101, Building 253 (Maori Studies).

Departmental seminar. Mark Davies: Seneca.

Tuesday, 14 June 2011, 7.30pm, location to be advised.

Junior Latin Reading Competition.

Tuesday, 21 June 2011, 7.30pm, location to be advised.

Senior Latin Reading Competition.

Tuesday, 19 July 2011, time and place to be advised.

Prof. Chris Howgego, an expert on Roman coins.

Wednesday, 17 August 2011, 7.30pm, location to be advised.

Classics Quiz for Schools

Sometime this year...

It is the 50th anniversary of the Auckland Classical Association, and an event to celebrate this will be held sometime this year. If you have suggestions or recommendations in this regard, please contact the Secretary by the end of May.

3. NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF CLASSICS

News articles will no longer be reproduced in this newsletter in order to not breach any copyright of the authors, however we will still provide suggestions for web searches if our readers are interested in following these.

Please send news articles of possible interest to the Association to the Secretary. Thank you again to the editing team for the time and effort expended on our behalf, especially Professor Gray.

Readers might like to read the full stories on the web about:

- I. A fairly long article summarising the achievements of Mesopotamia as the world's first civilisation, and the heritage it has given us:

<http://gulfnews.com/news/region/iraq/mesopotamia-birth-place-of-civilisation-1.733716>

...“At that time it was also not known that Mesopotamia had led the way in the invention of writing and literature; in mathematics, science, astronomy and geometry; in the invention of the wheel; and in the earliest law codes. Even today, when we count time and space in multiples of 12 and 60, we do so because of the Mesopotamians.”

- II. Two similar articles about the discovery of the earliest known winery, about 6,000 years old, uncovered in a cave in Armenia:

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/lifestyle/news/article.cfm?c_id=6&objectid=10699132 and

<http://www.mnn.com/food/beverages/stories/new-discovery-shows-early-man-drank-early-wine>

...“The excavators also found grape seeds, remains of pressed grapes and dozens of dried vines.

The seeds were from the same type of grapes - *Vitis vinifera vinifera* - still used to make wine.”

...“The conditions of the cave are remarkably well-preserved. Tools such as a fermenting mat, storage jars, a press, and a drinking cup were discovered. As the NY Times reports, “Grape seeds, dried pressed grapes, stems, shriveled grapevines and residue were also found, and chemical analyses indicate red wine was produced there.”

“Ultimately, it seems that the ancient Armenian vintners’ greatest accomplishment might have been in storage. The Times reports that Areshian and his colleagues will continue to study the grape seeds found in the cave and even hope to cultivate them.”

- III. An exhibition of more than 500 objects to be shown at Oxford’s Ashmolean museum, most of them never before seen outside Greece, which “is set to rewrite knowledge of the Macedonian civilisation.”

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/culture/2011/feb/02/macedonia-exhibition-alexander-the-great>

...“Some of the most revelatory objects in the exhibition are portrait heads. Unlike the idealised faces of classical Athens, they show furrowed brows, wrinkles and laughter lines and may transform understanding of the history of portraiture. “The Macedon of Philip II is the birthplace and birth-time of realistic portraiture,” said Dr Angeliki Kottaridi, the lead curator of the exhibition and the director of excavations at Aegae.

Among these sculpted heads will be a portrait of Philip II, with a remarkably lived-in face and crinkly eyes. And even more intriguingly, there will be a set of lifesize and lifelike terracotta heads that are, according to Kottaridi, “absolutely unique”. Twenty-six were found, by Kottaridi herself, in the grave of a Macedonian queen dating from about 500BC.”

- IV. The world’s “largest coin collection”, in Turkey, is being made available for public viewing.

http://www.sundayszaman.com/sunday/newsDetail_getNewsById.action?newsId=234629

...“In it, there are some 55,000 coins that are direct witnesses of history, taking you back in just glance to the time they were minted. Coming from different periods of the past, they all tell a different story. With one you travel back in time to the sixth century B.C., while you find in another the Lydians, who invented money, and in yet another, Ottoman Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent. There are more: coins minted in the image and time of Alexander the Great; those from the one-month reign of Sultan Cem, who is known for his tragic story; a unique golden coin from the reign of Tuğrul Bey, the founder of the Great Seljuk Empire; and the coins used during the time of the four great caliphs of Islam are favorites of this safe. Even the coins minted just for the immediate needs of the Ottoman army have a place in this safe, which is located in the Vedat Nedim Tör Museum.

The 55,000-piece Yapı Kredi coin collection is divided into three groups. The first group consists of 22,000 rare coins, including 7,500 Ottoman, 122 Arab, 525 Umayyad and 1,373 Abbasid coins. It also contains 714 coins of Classical Greece, 228 Greco-Roman coins, 432 Roman coins and 392 Byzantine coins. The second group has 10,570 Ottoman coins, 640 of which are gold. The third group is the collection created by Cüneyt Ölçer, a major numismatist in Turkey, containing some 15,000 items.”

- V. A Greek showcase in modern Italy: a fresh approach to ruins of Agrigento’s Valley of the Temples highlights life and art through time.

http://www.ekathimerini.com/4dcgi/w_articles_wsite4_1_10/01/2011_372445

...“Some 900 kilometers west of Athens, on the southern coast of Sicily, lies a fascinating place steeped in ancient Greek history and known today as the Valley of the Temples. Its dry, rocky landscape, now well watered and lushly green, is strewn with ruins whose Doric-style architecture is strikingly familiar to present-day visitors from Greece. The remains of the once-magnificent buildings that belong to the ancient city of Akragas line the top of a long ridge overlooking the sea, while, from higher hills on the opposite side, the archaeological site itself is silently observed by the modern city of Agrigento, Sicily.”

- VI. A brief summary of the rise and fall of Cyrene:

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/travel/news/article.cfm?c_id=7&objectid=10705538

...“Today it is a huge, sprawling archaeological site that spills down the slopes of the Green Mountains, with panoramic views of the Libyan coastline and the Mediterranean beyond at just about every vantage point.

Perhaps anywhere else in the world but Libya you’d be sharing these magnificent ruins with hordes of tourists but here you can often clamber around temples, baths and the remains of private houses entirely on your own.”

- VII. Professor Mary Beard, classics professor at Cambridge University, will appear on celebrity chef Jamie Oliver's new television show, Jamie's Dream School, teaching Latin.

<http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/Cambridge/Jamies-Latin-lover-in-classical-sense.htm>

..."Jamie's Dream School brings together some of Britain's most inspirational and expert individuals – of whom Prof Beard is one – to try to persuade 20 young people, with just a handful of qualifications between them, to give education a second chance.

Alastair Campbell, Simon Callow, Rolf Harris and David Starkey are among those who will join Prof Beard as teachers in the programme.

Prof Beard, who taught Latin in the programme, told the News: "I'm always shouting my mouth off about how jolly good an idea it is to learn Latin and how everyone should get the chance.

"When Jamie's lot asked me I thought it would have been hypocritical to say no, I'm not going to do that. I thought, I have to put my money where my mouth is. So I said yes."

- VIII. An interesting theory that Atlantis was located in southern Spain:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/us_tsunami_atlantis;_ylt=AnYAHhlz6lxajRcpILTbr1Fg.3QA;_ylu=X3oDMTNjNm5qcmNqBGFzc2V0A25tLzlwMTEwMzEyL3VzX3RzdW5hbWl5YXR5YW50aXMEY2NvZGUDdXNuZXdzdmlld3NoYXJlBGNwb3MDNARwb3MDNA

..."To solve the age-old mystery, the team used a satellite photo of a suspected submerged city to find the site just north of Cadiz, Spain. There, buried in the vast marshlands of the Dona Ana Park, they believe that they pinpointed the ancient, multi-ringed dominion known as Atlantis.

The team of archeologists and geologists in 2009 and 2010 used a combination of deep-ground radar, digital mapping, and underwater technology to survey the site.

Freund's discovery in central Spain of a strange series of "memorial cities," built in Atlantis' image by its refugees after the city's likely destruction by a tsunami, gave researchers added proof and confidence, he said."

- IX. Further details of the ancient collection of 70 tiny lead books found in a cave in Jordan five years ago:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1371290/70-metal-books-Jordan-cave-change-view-Biblical-history.html>

..."This ancient collection of 70 tiny books, their lead pages bound with wire, could unlock some of the secrets of the earliest days of Christianity.

Academics are divided as to their authenticity but say that if verified, they could prove as pivotal as the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947.

On pages not much bigger than a credit card, are images, symbols and words that appear to refer to the Messiah and, possibly even, to the Crucifixion and Resurrection. Adding to the intrigue, many of the books are sealed, prompting academics to speculate they are actually the lost collection of codices mentioned in the Bible's Book Of Revelation.

Initial metallurgical tests indicate that some of the books could date from the first century AD. This estimate is based on the form of corrosion which has taken place, which experts believe would be impossible to achieve artificially."

Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for Classical Studies

The Thirty-Second Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for Classical Studies (ASCS 32 for short) was hosted from 24-27 January 2011 by the Department of Classics, University of Auckland, New Zealand, organised by Dr Jeremy Armstrong and Associate Professor Anne Mackay. The Keynote Speaker was Professor Christopher Smith, the Director of the British School at Rome, who spoke on "A Century of Roman Studies," and also contributed to one of the fifty panels. It was generally agreed to have been a highly successful conference, and indeed was one of the largest

such gatherings of classicists and ancient historians in Australasia: some 180 people attended, including a group of over twenty graduate students from the Department who provided sterling practical support both to delegates and to the 145 speakers delivering specialised papers. Countries represented at the conference included Belgium, Canada, Japan, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, in addition to Australia and New Zealand. Many delegates commented favourably on the venue for the Conference, which was most of Level 0 in the exceptionally equipped new Owen G. Glenn Building. A *Selected Proceedings* will be published on-line later in 2011, edited by Associate Professor Anne Mackay: the papers will be posted and subsequently archived on the ASCS website: www.ascs.org.au

Exhibition in Melbourne: Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs, April to November <http://kingtutmelbourne.com.au/>

After five years in America and London, the exhibition “Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs” is now at Melbourne Museum until November before returning to Cairo. It has been called the most impressive collection of Tutankhamun artefacts ever assembled outside of Egypt.

Accademia Vivarium Novum

Recently the Secretary was contacted by Luigi Miraglia Ph.D., the Director of the Vivarium Novum Academy in Rome.

The Academy offers the possibility for young students to live and study an entire year in their campus, free of any charge. They have received students from many universities around the world who have received full boarding and high quality education on Latin and Greek language, literature, ancient history, philosophy, and the thought of Renaissance humanism. Along with a request for financial aid, the communication contained details of a summer school of Latin this year.

The summer school will consist of three modules: the first one for those who seek a first approach to Latin language. Module two will be for those who have completed the first one and for anyone who has previously studied the basics of Latin grammar and syntax but wishes to read fluently the works of Latin writers. The third course is specially designed for Latin teachers who want to use actively the tongue of the Romans in class, as a didactic instrument. For all the duration of the courses, Latin will be the only language used on campus.

8 Weeks of Intensive Courses - INTERNATIONAL SUMMER LATIN SCHOOL

Learn to fluently read, write, and speak the language of Western Civilization.

ROME, June 27th - August 20th, 2011

The classes provide for a total immersion in the Latin language. They are divided into two fundamental courses:

1. Latin I (from the first week to the fourth): dedicated to those who have no or hardly any previous knowledge of the Latin language.
2. Latin II (from the fifth week to the eighth): dedicated to those who have attended the first course, Latin I, or who already possess an active knowledge of the fundamental notions of Latin grammar and syntax.
3. Latin III This module is designed specifically for Latin teachers who wish to improve their didactic skills by applying a wide range of strategies in class. These strategies, developed by experts of the didactic of modern languages, facilitate the use of the inductive method in the teaching of Latin.

Further information can be found on their website: <http://www.vivariumnovum.net/eng/adextra.htm>.

4. FACEBOOK

Find us on Facebook. Membership of the Auckland Classical Association is not a prerequisite.
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Auckland-Classical-Association/161378537232734?ref=sgm>

5. SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2011

The subscription for 2011 is \$20. This may be paid at a meeting or by mailing a cheque with this form to the Secretary at **120b Rosier Road, Glen Eden, Waitakere 0602.**

Membership is free for students and for graduates of less than one year's standing, however the return of the form would be appreciated in order to maintain the database of members.

Please make cheques payable to 'Auckland Classical Association'.

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