



Auckland Classical Association

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Newsletter 2: July 2011

1. SUBSCRIPTION

If you are unsure whether your subscription for 2011 is paid, please contact the Secretary. If it is owing, 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 reminds all members of her own change of address to 120b Rosier Road, Glen Eden.**

2. PROGRAMME

Important ACA dates for 2011:

The list of departmental seminars is not available at present, so further information will be sent out in a week or so, but details are known for the first seminar in semester two (see below).

There are two events on Tuesday 19 July presented by Prof. Chris Howgego, the Keeper of the Heberden Coin Room in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, Professor of Greek and Roman Numismatics in the University of Oxford, and a fellow of Wolfson College, Oxford. He is the author of *Ancient History From Coins*, which is currently available in 6 languages. He has written widely on Roman coinage and history. His last book was a volume edited with Volker Heuchert and Andrew Burnett on *Coinage and Identity in the Roman Provinces*. He also directs the Roman Provincial Coinage in the Antonine Period Project at Oxford, <http://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/>. He created the new Money Gallery for the Ashmolean and supervised numismatic displays for 25 other galleries.

Tuesday, 19 July 2011, 4.00pm, Commerce A building, G14.

Prof. Chris Howgego will be presenting the departmental seminar on *the coinage of Roman Egypt in the Antonine period*.

The coinage of Egypt sheds important light on the economic tipping point of the Roman Empire under Marcus Aurelius. It is also wonderfully evocative of the cultural mix of Egyptian, Greek, and Roman within the province. The iconography reflects the sophistication of Alexandria. It is an important source for religion, including plausible reflections of the mysteries through Greek mythology, and for the history of painting. The talk draws on work for the Roman Provincial Coinage in the Antonine Period Project at Oxford. <http://rpc.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/>

Tuesday, 19 July 2011, 7.30pm, Library basement, theatre B10.

Prof. Chris Howgego will present a lecture to members on *Vespasian and the blood of Richard the Lionheart*.

It is rare for a single Roman coin find to excite, but a gold coin recently brought into the Ashmolean Museum (Oxford) by a member of the public is of the greatest interest, for the coin itself, for the context in which it was found, and for the history of collecting. The coin throws new light on the history of both Judaea and Britannia, at pivotal moments in the history of both.

The coin is a gold 'aureus', dating to AD 70, and bears a strong portrait of the emperor Vespasian. The coin is unique, and shows the earliest depiction of a standing figure of Justitia (Justice) on any Roman coin. The inscription on the reverse has been altered on the die, in a way which is of considerable historical interest. The aureus was originally found near Finstock (Oxfordshire, UK), in the middle of the nineteenth century, and acquired by one Martha Spriggs, an avid collector from a prosperous Quaker family who lived over their draper's shop in Worcester, and about whom a great deal of interest is known. It was one of her descendants who brought the coin into the museum, with a label written by Martha Spriggs herself giving details of the find. The location is all the more remarkable in that the coin was struck not in Rome but in the East, in Judaea, quite possibly from gold from the Roman sack of the Temple in Jerusalem.

A lecture for those who like exciting new discoveries.

Tuesday, 2 August 2011, 7.30pm, Dilworth High School (Paul Artus's classroom).

Dr. Dougal Blyth of the University of Auckland will talk on *Aristophanes on saving the city*. This topic has been selected specifically for teachers, but all members are welcome. We ask for direct replies to this invitation, for catering purposes as refreshments may be provided. **Please send your RSVP to the Secretary by 27 July.**

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

Classics Quiz for Schools.

Saturday, 3 September 2011, 6.00pm, Hellenic Community Hall, 106 Western Springs Road, Morningside.

Dr. Bill Barnes of the University of Auckland will talk on *Homer*. This is a joint event for ACA members, modern Greeks, and teachers. We ask for direct replies to this invitation, for catering purposes. **Please send your RSVP to the Secretary by 29 August.**

Sometime in second semester

At a mutually agreeable time in the second semester, Dr Barnes will address the Latin teachers on topics of common interest, such as the academic aspects of grammar. It is expected that this topic will be of interest predominantly to Latin teachers, but all members are welcome.

Tuesday, 29 November 2011, 6.30 pm, 1 Wynyard Street, Dept of Classics and Ancient History, tea-room.

Annual General Meeting. There will be a dinner to follow at the Café, the Hyatt Hotel. Please notify the Secretary if you will be attending the dinner.

Sometime in February when it is nice and warm...

It is the 50th anniversary of the Auckland Classical Association, and an event to celebrate this will be held sometime early next year. We aim to have a dinner at a restaurant, possibly Santa Lucia, one evening in February. Arrangements will be made closer to the time, but please keep this in mind when planning

Events in Australia

If any of our members happen to visit Sydney or Melbourne they may like to visit the re-enactment of the Battle of Marathon, or the exhibition of Tutankhamun:

Marathon 2011

<http://www.members.optusnet.com.au/furballx/marathon/main.html>

Sydney Ancients Historical Re-enactment group invite you to Marathon 2011, a celebration of the 2500 year anniversary of the battle of Marathon. Friday 4-Sunday 6 November 2011. Castle Mountain (Webbs Creek Rd, Wisemans Ferry NSW 2775) Little River Campsite.

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.

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.

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

- I. The exhibition "Heracles to Alexander: Treasures from the Royal Capital of Macedon" at Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, to Aug 29; www.ashmolean.org
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/art/art-reviews/8465977/Heracles-to-Alexander-Ashmolean-Museum-review.html>
- II. A Californian museum, the Getty Villa, modelled on the Villa dei Papiri at Herculaneum:
http://www.postzambia.com/post-read_article.php?articleId=20031
And this link to information about its formal Roman-style gardens:
http://www.dailynews.com/ci_18302615?source=most_viewed
"The ancient Romans cherished their perfectly symmetrical gardens... To get a sense of the extent of their adoration, all any one has to do is stroll the Getty Villa's colonnades and series of linked gardens. They feature neatly manicured hedges, Mediterranean-climate plants, pools and classical bronze sculptures, some of which are cast from molds of the originals excavated at the Villa dei Papiri -- the first century A.D. country house after which the museum and its gardens were modeled. The southern Italian villa thought to belong to Julius Caesar's father-in-law was buried in the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79. ..."
- III. "Chasing Aphrodite' And Other Dirty Art World Deals", a look at how museums have, in the past, participated knowingly in the illegal trade of artefacts.
<http://www.npr.org/2011/05/16/136252401/chasing-aphrodite-and-other-dirty-art-world-deals>
- IV. A long, but interesting, article on a primary school in England teaching Greek and Latin to its pupils. This article was sent in by Robert Lawford. "Friends, Romans, Schoolchildren..."
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/906272e6-fe60-11df-845b-00144feab49a.html?ftcamp=rss#axzz1N8knopZv>
"This resurgence of classics teaching in state schools, where Latin and Greek have been brought close to extinction, is happening in the face of formidable obstacles. An increasingly utilitarian educational philosophy over the past two decades has marginalised language teaching at secondary level; the requirement to take a foreign language at GCSE was dropped in 2004, making Britain the only country in Europe where studying a foreign language in secondary school is not compulsory."
- V. An article about the study of ancient Mesopotamian glass from the city of Nuzi, destroyed in 1,350BC, using isotopic analysis.
<http://www.physorg.com/news/2011-06-history-glass.html>
"[Belgian researcher Mr] Degryse uses isotopic analysis to read the molecular signature of minerals in the glass' raw material to trace it back to its source. So far, it seems that glass at the time of Nuzi was mainly manufactured in two regions: Mesopotamia and Egypt. Though the glass appears to have been widely traded, Egyptian glass doesn't show up in Mesopotamia and Mesopotamian glass doesn't show up in Egypt. Both, however, are present in ancient Greece, Degryse said."
- VI. A senior lecturer at Massey University who has recently won an award for excellence in teaching, in the classics:
<http://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/features/5176180/Getting-the-general-idea/>

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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Is Latin taught at the School?
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Is Classical Studies taught at
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