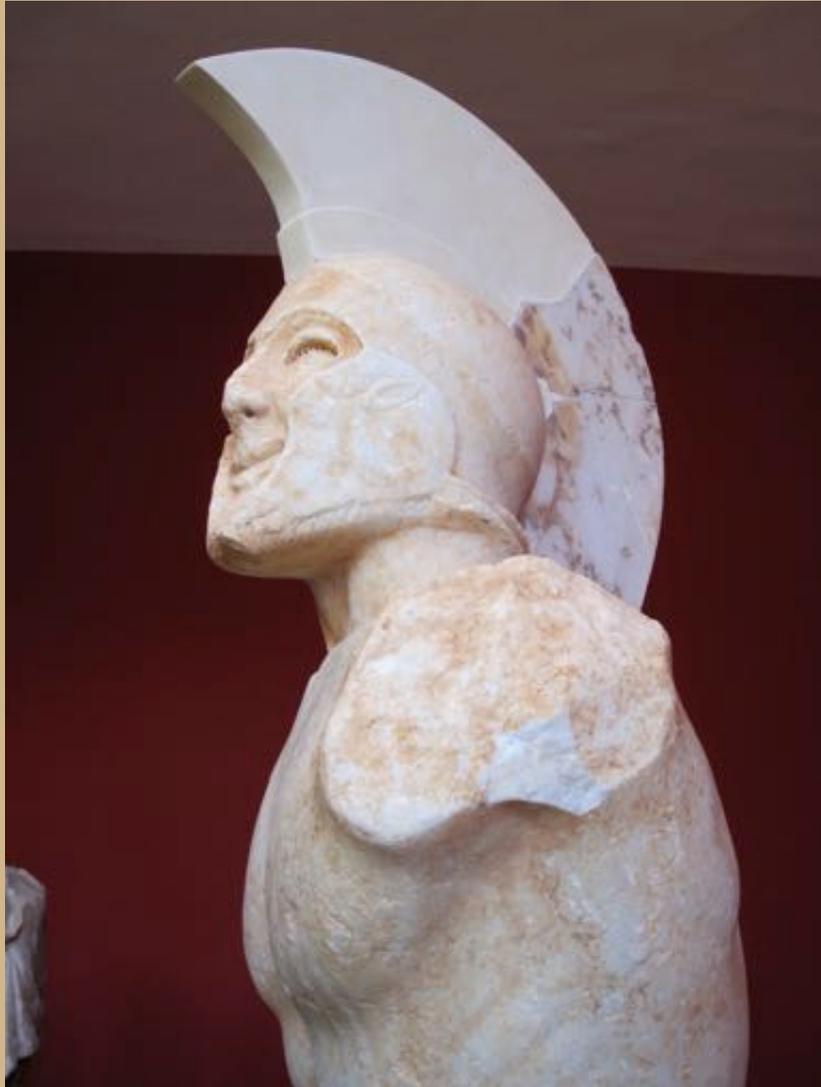


NOVA  
MAY 2014

# NOVA

THE JOURNAL OF THE FRIENDS OF ANTIQUITY



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MAY 2014

EDITORIAL

Ann Scott

This editorial is is being written on the train between London and Marlborough. Roger and I arrived in London two days ago via Vancouver and Ottawa, where we took part in a conference on public policy, wearing our non-Classics hats. The challenges of moving between countries and sporadic access to wi-fi and email means that this *Nova* is being composed under rather difficult circumstances. But it is one of the miracles of modern technology that it can be sent to the printers directly from the UK.

One of the major events this year (see President's Report and back page program) is the Trendall Lecture that will be given by Emeritus Professor Trevor Bryce in October.

The invitation to present the prestigious A D Trendall Lecture recognizes the contribution that Professor Bryce has made to Classics over the years. Trevor continues his extraordinary productivity with a major book on Syria being published by Oxford University Press this year (details in this *Nova*), and which will be launched at the May Sunday Series lecture that unfortunately Roger and I will not be able to attend as we still be away. I am sure Trevor will agree with my observation that those of us who enjoy 'honorary' status with the University of Queensland appreciate the support we receive from the School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics, and the access we are given to the UQ Library's resources. Trevor more than repays this by continuing to research and write about his specialisation, and to give his regular lectures in the Friends of Antiquity Sunday Series.

A D Trendall was Warden of University House in Canberra for many years. University House has provided a residential academic haven over the years which many visiting academics from Australia and overseas have enjoyed. Its symbol is an Apulian vase, because Trendall was the first Classical scholar to undertake detailed study of Apulian pottery.

Trendall's name means a great deal to me. I fell in love with Greek art on a trip to Greece many years ago, with Bob Milns as our guide. This led me to read Beazley's works on Greek pottery, and then, before a visit to Italy, to read Trendall's works on Apulian pottery.

**Finally, please note that as the rest of this year's program is so full, I have had to spread the remaining 2014 schedule over both pages 11 and 12 at the end of this *Nova*.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Roger Scott

We have had an excellent start to 2014. Alastair Blanshard has now taken up his position as inaugural Paul Eliadis Professor of Classics and Ancient History, so we have welcomed him to the band of enthusiasts who form the Friends of Antiquity Executive Committee.

This is the time of year when we seek new volunteers to join the committee. Our Annual General Meeting is taking place in May, and a notice of meeting and nomination form is enclosed with this issue of *Nova*. The Committee meets at Alumni House, on the St Lucia campus, at 5.30pm on the third Tuesday of each month. Do consider nominating for the Committee.

A superb achievement early this year was when the R D Milns Antiquities Museum staff were awarded the 2014 UQ Chancellor's Award for teamwork, which Dr McWilliam describes in more detail later in this issue.

In addition to our normal schedule of events, set out on the back page of *Nova*, there are various special lectures or seminars to note in your diaries.

First, Professor Bodel (Brown University) will be visiting the University from late May-to early June. He will present a Classics and Ancient History seminar (details on the back page of this issue), and also a public lecture. Details of the public lecture are still to be arranged, but we give websites to visit closer to the time which will give full details about the date and time.

The second major event is Professor Blanshard's Inaugural Lecture 'Why the Ancient Greeks Matter', which is to be held on Friday 29 August, the night before the 2014 Ancient History Day. It will be held in the Auditorium and Terrace Room of the Sir Llew Edwards Building with drinks provided before the lecture and a reception afterwards (see the back page of this issue).

The third is the A D Trendall Memorial Lecture, sponsored by the Australian Academy of the Humanities. This year Trevor Bryce has been invited to give the lecture, which, on this occasion is being arranged in association with Friends of Antiquity. The date of the lecture is 9th October, and it will also be held in the Sir Llew Edwards Building (see the back page of this issue).

The topic of the 2014 Ancient History Day is 'Children in the Ancient World'. There is much to look forward to over the coming months.

**R D MILNS CLASSICS & ANCIENT HISTORY PERPETUAL ENDOWMENT FUND**

**Dorothy Watts  
Campaign Chair,  
R D Milns Classics & Ancient History Perpetual Endowment Fund**

Since many of you have been generous donors to this Fund, I felt, as Chair of the Fund, that you might like to know about its progress.<sup>1</sup>

The Fund was set up by the University Senate with the following aims:

To enable, on at least a biennial basis, a distinguished Visiting Scholar in the field of Classics and Ancient History to come to the University to give lectures, seminars and in general interact with graduate students;

To give support to the R D Milns Antiquities Museum;

To fund an academic position in Classics and Ancient History.

I am pleased to report that our fund-raising efforts have been very successful to date, and that the capital now stands at \$370,727. It is also very pleasing to report on progress towards our goals:

With regard to the first, since the Fund was set up in 2007 we have had the pleasure of hosting, annually, eminent scholars who have worked with staff and senior students. The Milns Lecturer for 2014, the eminent epigraphist Professor John Bodel of Brown University, Rhode Island, will undoubtedly also make an outstanding contribution to Classics and Ancient History when he visits the University from 27 May to 9 June.

The R D Milns Antiquities Museum has continued to benefit from contributions towards major acquisitions, including objects which were purchased to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Museum in 2013. It is hoped that it will be given even more significant support when the third objective is achieved.

The original major aim of the Fund was to provide capital the income from which would provide for a Chair of Classics and Ancient History. The position had been vacant since the retirement of Professor Milns in 2003 and the departure of his replacement, Professor Parkin, after two years.

For this purpose two major fund-raising dinners were held in 2010 and 2011 in association with the

Greek organisation AHEPA. However, the University and all Classics supporters are delighted that, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of Dr Paul Eliadis, a Chair has been established in perpetuity, and the position has now once more been filled. As Professor Alastair Blanshard, the first Paul Eliadis Professor of Classics and Ancient History, took up the post in February this year, the focus can now shift to contributing towards funding a Lecturer who will also be involved in the future management and direction of the Antiquities Museum.

I would like to appeal to you to continue your generous support of the Fund when the University launches its Annual Appeal later in the year so that we shall be in a stronger position both to achieve this third of our aims and to continue our good work with the Visiting Scholar and Museum.

**THE R D MILNS ANTIQUITIES MUSEUM**

**Dr Janette McWilliam, Museum Director**

The museum is once again a hive of activity, filled with visitors, volunteers, university student classes and primary and secondary school tours. To date we have welcomed an impressive 4104 visitors through the doors since January. In this issue of Nova, I would like to highlight three things

**Chancellor's Award for Team Excellence for 2013**



Chancellor's Awards Ceremony: Ms Rebecca Hurst (HPRC School Manager); Ms Jessica Dowdell; Mr James Donaldson; Dr Janette McWilliam (Museum Director); Mr Daniel Press.

On February 27th the Museum Professional Staff Team, Mr James Donaldson, Senior Administrative Officer, Mr Daniel Press, Museum Officer, Ms Jessica Dowdell, Outreach Officer, and Ms Katee

<sup>1</sup> This Fund is completely separate from, and independent of, the Friends of Antiquity.

Dean, Administrative Officer, received the Chancellor's Award for Team Excellence.

The Chancellor's Award for Team Excellence recognises the significant achievements of high performing teams of professional staff at The University of Queensland. Our hardworking team are all part-time in the Museum, so this is a major achievement as they were up against full-time professional teams from throughout the University.

The team are integral to the Museum's success, helping to ensure that the collection is maintained to a very high standard, helping to process donations and loans, to train and manage volunteers and interns, and to run the school and public program workshop and event schedule.

The Museum Staff achieved many things in 2013 including welcoming over 7000 visitors, creating and entering our new data base, beginning our project of creating 3D copies of key artefacts. Impressive indeed are the 2013 visitor satisfaction ratings ratings: 95% for events (e.g the 'Carpe Noctem' series, the 'Wine, Cheese and Ancient Art' series, and our major exhibition *Then and Now: 50 Years of Antiquities 1963-2013*.

**2014 Forthcoming Exhibition *A Study in Stone***

The *Then and Now* exhibition is due to close at the end of May, so for those who haven't seen it yet, there is little time left to explore the fascinating story of the Antiquities Museum's and development.

The next exhibition will be *A Study in Stone*. It will open at the Museum on Friday 6 June. This will be followed by a public lecture on Saturday 7 June given by the 2014 R D Milns Visiting Professor John Bodel from Brown University in the United States. The exhibition will bring together Latin and Greek inscriptions, images, and texts from a number of Australian universities, and also feature some of the Museum's most recent acquisitions. These will be on public display for the first time.

One particular inscription in this exhibition was purchased through the generosity of the Friends of Antiquity. A slave named Secundio was honoured after her death with a marble memorial plaque inscribed in Latin and originally placed in a burial monument known as a columbarium. It was set up by Secundio's sister Philema. This inscription was part of a collection of 123 Latin memorial inscriptions once housed in Lowther Castle, the Cumbrian estate of the Earls of Lonsdale. The exhibition will trace the story of this inscription, beginning with its creation for Secundio in the early imperial period, through to its collection and display by the 2nd Earl of Lonsdale. Secundio's

memorial not only provides information about life and death in the Roman world, but also helps us to understand the interest in epigraphy and the allure of the antique in 18th and 19th century Britain.

Another recent acquisition, and the most significant addition to the collection in recent years, is the Dodwell Stele, another purchase made possible through the support of the Alumni Friends. Named after the Irish grand tourist Edward Dodwell, who travelled extensively in Italy and Greece at the turn of the 19th century, the stele was originally deposited in the Piraeus necropolis. An inscription praises the merits of a woman named Theophile and assures the reader that her virtue will never be forgotten. The Dodwell stele will certainly be one of the highlights of *A Study in Stone* when it opens to the public on the 6 June. We are still fundraising for the stele. If you would like to contribute to this historic purchase, or would like more information about the exhibition, please contact the Museum on 07 3365 3010 or via email [antiquitiesmuseum@uq.edu.au](mailto:antiquitiesmuseum@uq.edu.au)

**R D Milns Antiquities Museum International Internship Program/Alberese Material Culture Field School 2014**

In January and February 2014 a group of students from UQ participated in the R D Milns Museum International Internship Program, a part of the Alberese Material Culture Field School in Italy organized by Dr Janette McWilliam.

Students spent a wonderful two days in Rome before travelling north-west of Rome to the lovely Tuscan city of Grosseto where we spent four weeks working with the Alberese Archaeological Project team: Dr Alessandro Sebastiani, Marie Curie Fellow at the University of Sheffield, Dr Matteo Colombini and Dr Elena Chirico.



On site Lecture in the Amphitheatre at Roman Rusellae with Matteo Columbini

Students studied the finds excavated from Rooms I and II of a building in the manufacturing district at the Roman cabotage port of Rusellae (Spolverino) located at mouth of the river Ombrone.

They also learnt about the temple area of Diana Umbronensis at Scoglietto and the recently discovered villa which will shortly be excavated. Laboratory work at the University of Siena was combined with field trips to archaeological sites, museums and amazing medieval towns as we learnt about the history of the area from Etruscan times through to the Medieval era, and also about the environment and changing landscape over thousands of years.



Students hard at work in the archaeology Labs at the University of Siena, Grosseto.

Students on this trip had the amazing experience of learning 'hands-on' (yes we could touch everything) from many Italian archaeologists including Massimo de Benetti, Massimo Brando and Valentina Pica, Federico Marri (Medieval archaeologist and historian) and international Roman glass experts Sally Cottam and Caroline Jackson who travelled over from the UK.

Our hardworking group analysed 3,567 fragments of pottery, 163 pieces of marble, 4,000+ fragments of glass, and over 90 small finds (including coins, and artefacts in bone, iron and bronze). Not only did we help to date the site, but our findings will be used in future publications.

Well done to the UQ 2014 team! See the team in action on Facebook (Alberese Archaeological Project)

## CLASSICS AND ANCIENT HISTORY DISCIPLINE REPORT

### Dr Janette McWilliam, Discipline Convenor

We have had a great start to the academic year with lots of enthusiastic undergraduate students enrolling in our Latin, Greek and Ancient History Courses.

On offer this semester are our first, second and third year language courses and a variety of Ancient History Courses including Roman Art and Archaeology, Alexander and the Hellenistic World, and Myth, Magic and Religion. We also have a healthy Honours cohort and welcomed six new Research Higher Degree students.

We were also very pleased to welcome Professor Alastair Blanshard, the inaugural Paul Eliadis Chair of Classics and Ancient History to the discipline. He has already been put to work as Deputy Head of School and is teaching our first year Ancient Historians in ANCH1240: The Rise of Ancient Greece.

We also welcome Dr Luca Asmonti to a three year position. Many of you may already know Luca as he has been with us as a research fellow for almost three years. Luca will be covering the absence of Dr Amelia Brown while on research leave.

Dr Tom Stevenson will soon be back from his study leave at Cincinnati as a Tytus Fellow.

We will also soon have another addition to the discipline. Dr Amelia Brown is expecting her second baby later this year. Congratulations Amelia and Graham.

## RECENT BOOKS BY MEMBERS OF FOA

### Ann Scott

**TREVOR BRYCE: *ANCIENT SYRIA: A THREE THOUSAND YEAR HISTORY* (OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS 2014)**

Members of the Friends of Antiquity also continue to be busy and productive. A number are spending their retirement from full-time academic positions writing books of great variety.

Trevor Bryce is one of the most productive of our members. This year his book on Ancient Syria, has been published by Oxford University Press. The description reads:

Syria has long been one of the most trouble-prone and politically volatile regions of the Near and Middle Eastern world. This book looks back beyond the troubles of the present to tell a 3000-year history of what happened many centuries before. It reveals the peoples, cities, and kingdoms that arose, flourished, declined, and disappeared in the lands that now constitute Syria, from the time of its earliest written records in third millennium BC until the reign of the Roman emperor Diocletian at the turn of the 3rd-4th century AD.

Across the centuries, from the Bronze Age to the Roman era, we encounter a vast array of characters and civilizations, enlivening, enriching, and besmirching the annals of Syrian history; Hittite and Assyrian Great Kings; Egyptian pharaohs; Amorite robber-barons; the biblically notorious Nebuchadnezzar; Persia's Cyrus the Great and Macedon's Alexander the Great; the rulers of the Seleucid empire, and an assortment of Rome's most distinguished and most infamous emperors. All contributed, in one way or another, to Syria's special distinctive character, as they imposed themselves upon it, fought one another within it, or pillaged their way through it.

Syria also had great rulers of her own, native-born Syrian luminaries, sometimes appearing as local champions who sought to liberate their lands from foreign despots, sometimes as cunning, self-seeking manipulators of squabbles between their overlords. They culminate with Zenobia, Queen of Palmyra, whose life provides a fitting climax to the first three millennia of Syria's recorded history. The conclusion looks forward to the Muslim conquest of the 7th century AD; in many ways the opening chapter in the equally complex and often troubled history of modern Syria.

Members of the Friends of Antiquity always appreciate Trevor's excellent lectures, delivered without a note in sight! Apparently OUP has agreed to do a special discount price on the book for the next few months, which will bring the Australian cost of it down to \$38.

Bob Milns will be launching the book after the Sunday Series lecture in early May (see details on the back of this issue of *Nova*), and you will have the opportunity to order a copy of the book at this discount price.

**PAMELA RUSHBY: *THE RATCATCHER'S DAUGHTER* (HARPER COLLINS, 2014)**

Another of our prolific writers, a historian of a more recent era, but for a younger audience (Ages 10+) is Pamela Rushby.

Pamela Rushby is not only a well-known Brisbane children's author, and also a long-serving member of the Friends of Antiquity Executive Committee. Readers of *Nova* will have enjoyed her regular, always highly entertaining, contributions to *Nova*. The description of her latest book starts:

The year is 1900 and the new century starts with the oldest disease - the Black Death.

No, the date is not wrong. This is a book about Brisbane.

It's 1900. Thirteen-year-old Issy McKelvie leaves school and starts her first job - very reluctantly - as a maid in an undertaking establishment. She thinks this is about as low as you can go. But there's worse to come. Issy becomes an unwilling rat-catcher when the plague - the Black Death - arrives in Australia. Issy loathes both rats and her father's four yappy, snappy, hyperactive rat-killing terriers. But when her father becomes ill it's up to Issy to join the battle to rid the city of the plague-carrying rats.

**THE ADRIAN HEYWORTH SMITH ANNUAL MEMORIAL LECTURE**

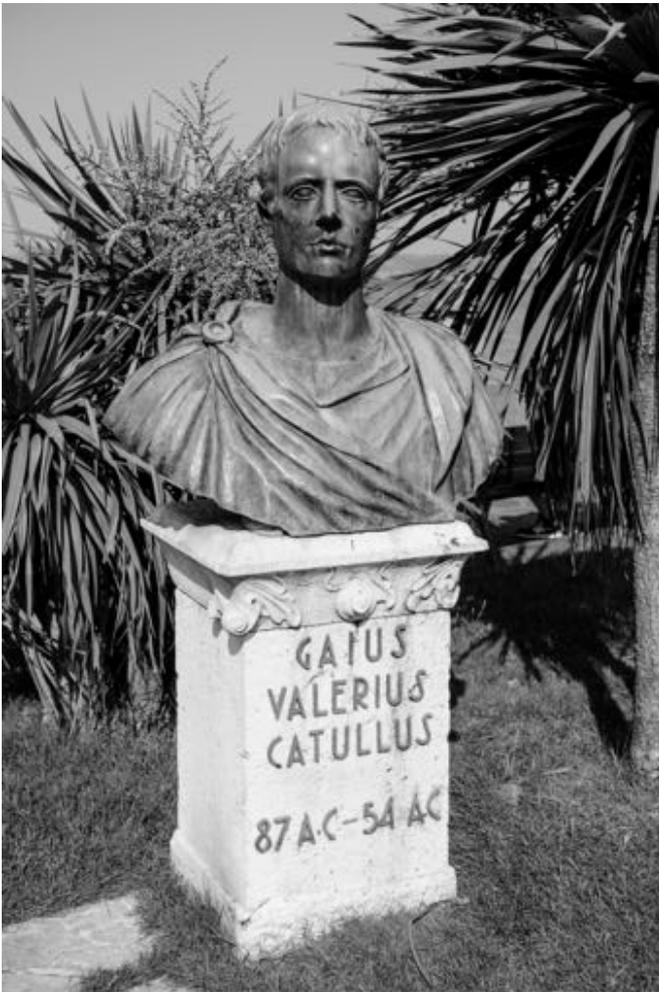
**Bob Milns**

This year your Program Committee decided to honour Adrian's memory in a novel way. Remembering that Adrian was a first-class Latin scholar with a love of Latin poetry – precisely the reasons for his being appointed Adjunct Professor in Classics & Ancient History – the Committee felt that it would be an appropriate tribute to Adrian to read out extracts from his favourite Latin poets. I remember many discussions about these poets on board Adrian's boat, *Achates*, itself named after a character in Virgil's *Aeneid* whom I chose as my subject for the first annual memorial lecture.

The poets chosen for this year's lecture were, in chronological order: Catullus (84-54BC), read by Jack Taylor; Virgil (70-19BC), from the *Aeneid*, read by Dorothy Watts; Horace (65-8BC) with a selection from various poetic genres, read by Denis Brosnan; and finally, Ovid (43BC-17AD), with extracts from his two monumental works, *Metamorphoses* (*Changes of Shape*) and *The Art*

Science of Being a Lover (Ars Amatoria), read by myself, Bob Milns.

In his selection from the passionate Catullus, Jack showed us two aspects of Catullus's passionate nature: his great and ultimately thwarted love for 'Lesbia' (possibly the upper-class Clodia); and his great ability to hate and satirise, often in a very obscene way, such people as Julius Caesar and Egnatius, who cleans his teeth with urine. He stressed that Catullus, unlike our other three poets, was a free agent, not dependent on imperial patronage and favour, and so probably less diplomatic in his treatment of contemporary public figures. Indeed, some of his poems have an 'earthy, crude and (some would say) obscene style'.



Bust of Gaius Valerius Catullus (Wikimedia Commons)

Denis, after describing Horace's background and eventual entry into the patronage-circle of Maecenas, Augustus's close friend, read pieces from the Satires showing Horace's attitude to life, and from probably his greatest literary achievement, the four books of Odes, in which he adapts Greek lyric metre to Roman themes.



Horace and Virgil at the house of Maecenas

He concluded by reading the twelfth Ode from Book 4, written when Horace was in his mid-50s, in which he invites the dead Virgil to join him for a quiet drinking session now that Spring is coming. Virgil is urged 'to mix a little brief silliness with your wisdom: it's sweet sometimes to play the fool'.

Passion was also the focus of Dorothy's selection from the Aeneid, Book 4, the love-story of the Carthaginian queen Dido and the Trojan hero Aeneas, who has fled from Troy and is journeying to Italy to found a new Troy at the behest of the gods. The two have fallen in love, and Aeneas spends his days helping Dido to plan and build her new city, forgetting where his destiny lies. However, Mercury is sent to remind him and, although Dido pleads with Aeneas to stay, unmoved he sails out at dead of night. Distraught and cursing him and his descendants, she kills herself with his sword. Dorothy's recital of Dido's last speech certainly captured the passion, anger and hatred contained in Dido's words.

I finished the selections with readings from possibly my favourite Latin poet (certainly one of, if not the most influential poet on European literature), viz. Ovid. From his epic-style poem Metamorphoses, Book I, I read Ovid's account of the decline of the human race after the creation of the earth in the four Ages, i.e. Golden, Silver, Bronze and the savage Iron. The Iron Age is followed by the Flood, as always brilliantly told by our poet. From the Ars Amatoria, which was perhaps the cause of Ovid's exile to Tomis/Constantza on the Black Sea Coast, I read two passages of advice, one to men, the other to women, on how best to present oneself to the opposite sex.

The large audience seemed to indicate that they had enjoyed the poetry; the reciters certainly enjoyed themselves and felt that Adrian would have been very happy.

## IMAGE OF A LION: REMEMBERING THERMOPYLAE IN ANTIQUITY

Amelia R. Brown

From almost the moment that the dust settled on the central Greek pass of Thermopylae in the summer of 480 BC, and up through three modern movies, the heroic last stand of lion-like King Leonidas of Sparta, his 300 picked men and their local allies has been remembered, retold and monumentalized many times. Inscribed epitaphs and statues would be erected at the battlefield itself, and a hero cult for Leonidas would be established back home in Sparta when his body at last returned. But it was the success of written accounts of the battle, notably the poetry of Simonides and the history of Herodotus, which enshrined the battle in the collective memory of the Greeks and then the Romans, passing through the middle ages up to the present day. In a recent presentation, and published article, I explored the memory of this battle in Antiquity, when it was only decades or centuries past.

Today, of course, we are very familiar with a wide range of ways of remembering wars, battles, and the soldiers who fight them, whether victories, defeats or something in between. As a parallel to Thermopylae, certainly a defeat, one might think of Gallipoli, 100 years ago next year. Journalists took photos, and filed stories with the media right away, then historians drew on these accounts, interviews, and the landscape itself among other things to write up histories from the large-scale to the individual. The battlefield itself is today lined with cemeteries, epitaphs and monuments, while back in Australia lists of the dead were published in print and then more permanent form, and the event itself enshrined with annual commemoration through collective rituals like the Brisbane CBD parade.

All of this - texts, monuments and rituals, on both the battlefield and at home - has precedents in ancient Greece, particularly the commemoration of the war between the 31 or so allied Greek city-states and the army of the Persian King Xerxes which took place between 480 and 479 BC, and culminated in the famous Greek victories at Salamis by sea and Plataea by land. Our knowledge of the events of the war rests largely upon Herodotus' famous Histories, but the concrete legacy of this ancient war, both its victories and initial defeat at Thermopylae - in monuments and rituals, both on the battlefields

and the homefronts - is much less well-known. In my presentation, and article excerpted below, I juxtaposed the well-known historical account of Herodotus with some of the lesser-known textual, material and ritual aspects of ancient Greek commemoration of Thermopylae. Here I present an excerpt on the memorials for the battle at Sparta, origin of King Leonidas and his 300, as well as a reflection on the famous marble statue of a Spartan warrior (see image *Nova* cover).<sup>2</sup>

### THERMOPYLAE MONUMENTS AT SPARTA

Among Greek cities in the Classical, Hellenistic and Roman eras, Sparta was notable for her close connections in local and panhellenic memory with the Persian Wars, along with religious piety and the perpetuation of archaic customs. King Leonidas was ceremonially reburied in Sparta some decades after his death, and either for the second or first time likely given all the entitlements of a royal Spartan funeral, including eleven days of mourning. A memorial to him was erected on the (Spartan) Acropolis near the civic temple of Athena Chalkioikos (Athena of the Bronze House), along with one for the regent Pausanias, victor of Plataea. An annual festival, the Leonidea, was instituted by the Hellenistic era in honor of both Leonidas and Pausanias, featuring declamations in honor of the dead and games restricted to Spartans. An inscription from a monument near the (Spartan) Theatre, just below (Athena's) temple, records the regulation and reorganization of the Leonidea, probably in the early second century. Generous prize money for the games was given by the local Roman citizen Gaius Iulius Agesilaus, and the endowment for the festival was increased to 120,000 sesterces.

The 'Persian Stoa' was built on the Agora at Sparta in honor of Spartan involvement in the Persian wars, funded by spoils of war, and displaying many as well. Vitruvius describes the building, which has not been located archaeologically, as 'a Trophy of Victory' for the descendants of those who fought. Statues of the Persian commander Mardonius, and Queen Artemisia of Halicarnassus were there, while the Spartan commanders who resisted their advance were honored nearby, including Leonidas. The roof of the Persian Stoa was supported by statues of bound Persian captives, perhaps also contributing to the development of 'Caryatids', though Vitruvius gives them an alternative origin.

<sup>2</sup> For the full article, reflecting on other texts, the battlefield memorials, and later battles at the site, see: Amelia R. Brown, 2013. 'Remembering Thermopylae and the Persian Wars in Antiquity', in M. Trundle & C. Matthews, eds. *Beyond the Hot Gates: New Perspectives on the Battle of Thermopylae*, Barnsley, UK: Pen & Sword Press, pp.100-116.

The helmeted marble statue of a Spartan warrior was uncovered by the British excavations of 1925 between the Theatre and temple of Athena, and almost immediately identified with Leonidas from the findspot and 'the courage and the grim shrewdness' of the face. Though both arms are missing, pieces of the greave-clad legs and a shield allow the restoration of a standing figure. Though the identification with Leonidas is unproven, the date is difficult to establish between Archaic and Classical in the absence of comparanda from Sparta (though the style of helmet on the statue would suggest a Classical rather than Archaic date). Modern Spartans have put this statue on the welcome sign to the city, and used it to mould a monumental bronze statue of Leonidas at the southern entry of the (Spartan) Acropolis by the modern athletics complex.

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**WHAT'S IN A WORD?**

**Bob Milns**

**BUZZ, BOOM, BANG!**

The other Friday our Greek reading group, which is presently reading Aristophanes' comedy *Wasps*, came across a line containing the words *melitta* and *bombylios*. The first word, more commonly known in the form *Melissa*, means a honey-bee (*meli* = honey); the second means a bumble-bee and is obviously one of those words whose sound echoes the meaning (*onomatopaea*).

*Bombylios* itself is a *bye-form* or diminutive of a word about which I wrote in the September 2011 *Nova* under the category of words denoting weapons, viz. 'bomb'. *Bombos* is the Greek word meaning any deep booming or buzzing sound and has a wide range of applications in Ancient Greek, whereas in English the meaning is limited to the device that produces a sudden and horrid booming bang. Among other uses in Greek of *bombos* is to describe the sound of a very deep, resonant human voice, as we see in Plato's dialogue *Protagoras*, where Socrates tells his friend that he was very eager on a recent occasion to hear the famous Sophist Prodicus, 'but his deep voice made such a booming noise in the room that the words themselves were indistinct'. The words underlined translate the Greek *bombos*. Another use of the word which we find in the 2nd century AD medical writer and doctor, Galen, is to describe a rumbling noise in the stomach! Right at the beginning of Greek (and European) literature the verb *boombo*, from which comes *bombos*, is found several times in Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, where it is used in such diverse ways as, for example, the sound of a helmet hitting the ground, the sound of a stone from a sling hurtling through the air and the sound of oars falling into the sea with a loud splash. We could go on with more shades of meaning, but, as the saying goes, 'enough is as good as a feast' and I think you can see the wide range of sounds covered by the Greek word.

Let's now return to our original word, *bombylios*, bumble-bee, which I described as a diminutive form, 'a little buzzer/boomer'. This leads me to make a suggestion, viz. that the English 'bumble' (as in the bee, not as in 'a bumbling

person') is the same word as the Greek bombylios and every time we hear 'The Flight of the Bumble Bee'<sup>3</sup> we're hearing a word that goes back at least to the Athenian stage in the 5th century BC.

If this discussion gives you a 'buzz' (i.e. feeling of excitement), you could give me a buzz (i.e. call) on the telephone – or better, e-mail, which happens to be an anagram of 'a meli', i.e. a honey.

**POEM**  
**Bob Milns**  
**SACROILIAC INJURY**

This is a short poem for those who suffer from back-pain, especially, as your author, in the sacroiliac joint. The word itself is a compound of two Latin words: sacrum, for os sacrum, i.e. 'holy bone', because it was used in sacrifices (animal, not human!) and ilium or ile, the uppermost section of the hip-bone. The pun, however, stems from the fact that Troy is frequently called in Homer hieron Ilion, i.e. 'holy Troy', which translates into Latin as sacrum Ilium.

*Oh joint whose very name  
Reminds us of the woes of holy Troy;  
To rise straight up and stand erect  
Means agony no drug can long deflect!  
Gone, gone is life's once painless joy!*

**MEMBERSHIP OF FOA AND ALUMNI FRIENDS**

1. **Alumni Friends** single membership is \$38.50 (joint membership is \$49.50).
2. **Friends of Antiquity** membership is \$16.50 for each member;
3. Full time student membership is \$5.50.

**FRIENDS OF ANTIQUITY**

Friends of Antiquity website:  
<http://www.friendsofantiquity.org.au/>  
**President:** Roger Scott:  
[scottroger2@me.com](mailto:scottroger2@me.com)  
**Vice-President and editor of Nova:**  
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*Change of address should be sent to:*  
Friends of Antiquity,  
Building 91c, Alumni House  
50 Walcott Street, St Lucia 4067 or email:  
[alumni@uq.edu.au](mailto:alumni@uq.edu.au)  
telephone: 3365-1562

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

There are several special events: the visit of Professor John Bodel; Professor Blanshard's Inaugural Lecture; and Emeritus Professor Trevor Bryce's Trendall Lecture. Details below:

**R D MILNS VISITING PROFESSOR  
2014  
PROFESSOR JOHN BODEL**

The three events linked to the visit of Professor John Bodel are the opening of the Museum's new exhibition; Professor Bodel's public lecture; and a seminar he is giving. For further details, including the location of the public lecture contact the Antiquities Museum:  
<http://www.uq.edu.au/antiquities>  
or the School site:  
<http://www.uq.edu.au/hprc>

**1. STUDY IN STONE EXHIBITION  
FRIDAY 6 JUNE  
6PM**

exhibition opening  
R.D. Milns Antiquities Museum  
Level 2 Michie Building

**2. PROFESSOR BODEL  
PUBLIC LECTURE**

**SATURDAY 7 JUNE  
11AM** (morning tea from 10am)

To celebrate the opening of *A Study In Stone* Professor Bodel's public lecture will focus on epigraphy.

**THE REDISCOVERY OF ROME AND THE  
FORMATION OF THE AMERICAN  
EPIGRAPHIC COLLECTION**

As the nineteenth century drew to a close, Italy and the United States were two nations at a crossroads, and the chief cities of each, Rome and New York, were both symbolic of their countries' ambitions and instrumental to their fulfilment.

Americans had wealth and craved respectability; Italians, nurturing their fledgling nation state, lacked cash but had antiquities, which in those years were being unearthed at a prodigious rate as

<sup>3</sup> The Flight of the Bumble Bee' is an orchestral interlude written by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov for his opera 'The Tale of Tsar Tsaltan', c. 1899.

Rome expanded into new residential neighbourhoods laid out to accommodate the growing population of the nation's new capital.

This paper tells the story of how the mutual needs of Rome's Superintendent of Antiquities and half a dozen young American scholars gave a distinctive shape during these years to the 'American epigraphic collection', a convenient if inaccurate designation to describe the nearly 3,500 Greek and Latin inscriptions that found their way from the classical Mediterranean into American universities and museums, more than half of which arrived during the quarter of a century between 1890 and 1915.

**3. PROFESSOR BODEL SEMINAR**

**FRIDAY 30 MAY  
3.30PM**

(Room E303, Forgan Smith Building (Building 1))

**HIGH CULTURE IN LOW PLACES: THE POPULAR PERCEPTION OF ELITE TASTE IN POMPEII AND HERCULANEUM**

Thanks to the work of Paul Zanker and others, we understand better now than before how the ideology and values of imperial, particularly Augustan, Rome were disseminated throughout Italy and the provinces through a variety of media, in private and public contexts.

Attention and interest have generally focused on higher forms of the reception of Roman taste and culture by local élites and aspiring bourgeoisies. This paper looks instead at how Augustan 'high' culture was received more playfully and irreverently by the townspeople of Pompeii, who redeployed Augustan symbols and words to convey parody or wit through incongruous juxtapositions of texts, images, and contexts.

Please RSVP for both the opening of the exhibition and the public lecture to:

[antiquitiesmuseum@uq.edu.au](mailto:antiquitiesmuseum@uq.edu.au)

**FRIDAY AUGUST 29**

**INAUGURAL LECTURE**

**PAUL ELIADIS PROFESSOR OF CLASSICS AND ANCIENT HISTORY**

**PROFESSOR ALASTAIR BLANSHARD**

**WHY THE GREEKS MATTER**

SIR LLEW EDWARDS BUILDING  
(BUILDING 14)

**REFRESHMENTS:** from 5.30PM

**LECTURE:** 6PM-7PM

**POST-LECTURE RECEPTION:** 7PM-8PM

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 9**

**THE AUSTRALIAN HUMANITIES ACADEMY ANNUAL**

**TRENDALL LECTURE**

**WILL BE GIVEN BY**

**EMERITUS PROFESSOR  
TREVOR BRYCE**

7 pm  
Sir Llew Edwards Building  
St Lucia Campus

The topic will be published in the next issue of *Nova*

# NOVA - MAY 2014

## 2014 FRIENDS OF ANTIQUITY EVENTS PROGRAM <sup>4</sup>

**SUNDAY SERIES LECTURE: MAY 4**  
2pm: Dr Richard Miles (University of Sydney)  
**CARTHAGE: THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN'S  
FORGOTTEN CIVILISATION**

Dr Miles' lecture will be followed by the launch of  
**'ANCIENT SYRIA'**  
by Emeritus Professor Professor Bryce  
will be launched by Emeritus Professor Bob Milns.

**SATURDAY MAY 24**  
11am

### FRIENDS OF ANTIQUITY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Freda Bage Common Room  
Women's College  
(corner Sir William MacGregor Drive and Thynne  
Road, UQ campus)

Lunch will be available after the AGM  
\$27pp (wine/beer extra).  
**RSVP 16 May**  
(see enclosed flier)

**SUNDAY SERIES LECTURE: JUNE 1**  
2pm: Miss Lisette Cockell  
**THE USE AND ABUSE OF THE ORNAMENTA  
AUGUSTARUM**

2.30pm: Dr Drina Oldroyd  
**DANTE ALIGHIERI: MEDIAEVAL IMITATOR OF THE  
CLASSICAL EPIC**

**SUNDAY SERIES LECTURE: JULY 6**  
2pm: Emeritus Professor. Bob Milns  
**RETRACING THE FOOTSTEPS OF ALEXANDER  
THE GREAT**

+  
**ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2014 BETTY FLETCHER  
SCHOLAR**  
+  
**REPORT BY THE 2013 BETTY FLETCHER SCHOLAR.**

**SUNDAY SERIES LECTURE AUGUST 10**  
2pm: Ms Elizabeth Boldy  
**TACITUS ON THE BOUDICCAN REVOLT**

2.30pm:  
Dr Rashna Taraporewalla  
**CURIOUS CURIAE: REPRESENTATIONS OF THE  
ROMAN SENATE HOUSE IN FILM**

## SATURDAY AUGUST 30 ANCIENT HISTORY DAY 'CHILDREN IN THE ANCIENT WORLD'

Speakers include:  
Dr Janette McWilliam  
Associate Professor Lesley Beaumont (University  
of Sydney)  
Emeritus Professor Bob Milns  
Dr Dorothy Watts  
Dr Don Barrett  
(a flier will be provided in the next issue of *Nova*)

**SUNDAY SERIES LECTURE: SEPTEMBER 14**  
2pm: Ms Sally O'Grady  
**THE COINS OF CARACALLA**

2.30pm: Dr Tom Stevenson  
**CLEOPATRA IN FILM: THE EVOLUTION OF AN ICON**

**SUNDAY SERIES LECTURE: OCTOBER 12**  
2pm: Mrs Annabel Florence  
**THE PUBLIC FINANCES OF FOURTH-CENTURY  
ATHENS**

2.30pm: Dr Caillan Davenport  
**ELITE IDENTITY IN POMPEII AND HERCULANEUM**

**SUNDAY SERIES LECTURE: NOVEMBER 2**  
2pm: Mr Don Barrett  
**THE MANY FACES OF CLEOPATRA**

<sup>4</sup> Sunday Series Lectures will be normally be held in Room E302, Forgan Smith Building. Any changes will be clearly indicated on the day. An entry donation of \$5 includes refreshments.