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The Newsletter for the Faculty of Classics

January 2013



From the Chairman

Martin Millett

The Faculty has seen a number of important changes in staffing over the past couple of years. First, 2011 saw the retirement of four distinguished colleagues who between them have devoted more than 160 years to teaching and research in the Faculty. They were Professor James Diggle, Professor John Henderson, Mr Henry Hurst and Professor Malcolm Schofield. Each has made a distinctive contribution to the research of the Faculty as well as having led generations of students to a deeper appreciation of their subject. All remain active, with James Diggle continuing to work on the Greek Lexicon project in the Faculty. In addition, Dr Laura Preston resigned her lectureship in Aegean Prehistory for family reasons.

The replacement of these posts has involved us in considerable discussion with the University about future planning. (You can read more overleaf about the future of Classics: 'Will there be one?', asked Professor Mary Beard in a key-note public lecture last year.) I am pleased to report that we have been allowed to replace all five posts. Professor Diggle has been succeeded by Dr David Butterfield (from within the Faculty) who started in September 2011, Professor Henderson is replaced by Dr Ingo Gildenhard (from Durham University), Professor

Schofield by Dr Myrto Hatzimichali (of Exeter University) and Dr Laura Preston by Dr Yannis Galanakis (from the Ashmolean Museum). The new colleagues who started this year are profiled on the back page of this Newsletter.

Two of these posts have been filled in collaboration with Colleges. Thanks to support from Trinity, Dr Hatzimichali's Lectureship will be held alongside a Fellowship at Homerton, and through the generosity of a donor, Dr Galanakis will hold a Fellowship at Sidney Sussex. At the same time it has been announced that Professor Wallace-Hadrill, who is standing down as Master of Sidney Sussex, will be taking up a post as a Director of Research in the Faculty to further develop the Herculaneum Conservation Project in collaboration with the Packard Humanities Foundation. Meanwhile Professor Simon Goldhill has taken over as Director of the University's Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH), with Dr Oliver Thomas being appointed as a temporary Lecturer to cover his teaching. Finally, Dr Chris Whitton has been awarded a prestigious Alexander-von-Humboldt Fellowship at the Freie Universität, Berlin for two years with Dr Francesca Martelli appointed to a temporary post for this period.

We welcome our new colleagues and hope that alumni will soon get the opportunity to meet some of them, and to renew old acquaintances.



Cambridgeshire athletes are shown above panels from a monument to Leto in the Museum of Classical Archaeology.

The Ancient Olympic Games in Context

As part of *Cambridgeshire Competes*, a project linking museums and sports centres across Cambridgeshire to explore the county's connections to the Olympic and Paralympic games, the Museum of Classical Archaeology hosted a temporary exhibition using casts and objects from its collection to show how Greek life was shaped by a competitive culture, of which the ancient Olympics are the most famous example.

Photographs of the Cambridgeshire's rising sports stars were shown alongside the ancient objects.

Town and Countryside: *Interamna Lirenas* through Antiquity

Alessandro Launaro and
Martin Millett

This Faculty archaeological project—reported in the national press and international publications—is exploring the complex settlement history which followed the establishment of the Roman colony of *Interamna Lirenas* in 312 BC in the Lower Liri Valley in the context of Roman expansion in Italy. *Interamna* lies about 80 km SE of Rome, near Monte Cassino in southern Lazio. It is now a rural landscape dominated by arable fields. The area is partly known thanks to pioneering survey work carried out by Canadian archaeologists in the 1970-80s and later work by the *Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici del Lazio*. However, the town site was virtually unknown before our work as no excavation has ever taken place. From 2010 to 2012, our project has employed an integrated array of techniques to explore the town and its surrounding hinterland, and has involved geophysical prospection on the site of the Roman town, together with systematic field-walking of the surrounding countryside with the surface scatters of archaeological finds used to identify past rural settlement sites.

The geophysical survey has been undertaken in collaboration with Sophie Hay of the British School at Rome. Magnetometry survey has now covered the full extent of the ancient town, an area of ca. 25 ha. This is a swift and efficient technique which works by measuring minor changes in the earth's magnetic field, allowing the detection of a variety of different types of features including walls, roads, kilns, hearths, ovens, and ditches. However, it is limited in the information it provides about the depth of buried features. Nevertheless, the complete coverage of the town has provided exciting new evidence for the street grid and principal public buildings as well as the extent of the occupied area. This work has been complemented by a detailed contour survey of the whole site which enables us to understand the topographic context of



Cambridge undergraduate student, Andrew Bowdery, using a magnetometer during the survey at *Interamna Lirenas* in July 2012.

the town. In 2012, we also did some preliminary work using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR). This technique enables buried structures to be detected at varying depths, allowing a more three-dimensional image to be produced. The preliminary results from this work have revealed a hitherto unknown Roman theatre, suggesting that further GPR survey will provide a valuable complement to the magnetometry. This work is allowing us to derive a plan of the Roman town which we will use to inform further exploration.

In the surrounding countryside more than 200 ha of ploughed fields will have been systematically field-walked by the end of 2012. This has involved the use of GPS technology and satellite imagery in combination with conventional line-walking by a team of students who spread out at intervals of 5m and walk the land collecting surface finds. Some of these scatters can be interpreted as evidence of ancient farms and thus provide key insights about rural settlement patterns through the Roman period. Although part of an area previously surveyed by the Canadian team in the 1970-80s, our survey has successfully located many smaller sites not previously recorded, thus prompting serious reconsideration of earlier interpretations.

All finds from surface collections have been processed and classified (under the supervision of Ninetta Leone). They not only provide the dating framework, but also map local economic, social and cultural relationships as revealed by the distribution and supply of specific artefacts (especially coarse pottery) between town and countryside. Whilst earlier studies placed emphasis on patterns of discontinuity across the Roman period, our results suggest internal stability.

Overall, the last three years have produced such a compelling array of evidence which has not only already answered some of the questions we originally asked, but has also posed new ones. The Faculty is therefore embarking on a new five-year project that will further pursue these new questions by extending the range of activities so as to include more extensive geophysical work and the very first campaign of archaeological excavation at *Interamna Lirenas*.

This project is undertaken in collaboration with the British School at Rome, the Archaeological Prospection Services of the University of Southampton, the Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici del Lazio (Dr Giovanna Rita Bellini) and the Comune of Pignataro Interamna (The Mayor, Dr Benedetto M. Evangelista). Funding is generously provided by the British Academy, the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research and the Faculty of Classics with accommodation provided by courtesy of the Comune of Pignataro Interamna. All the activities have greatly benefited from the active and enthusiastic participation of students from the University of Cambridge.

Moses Finley Centenary

Robin Osborne

Cambridge could hardly pass over the centenary of the birth of Moses Finley without marking it in some way. After all, he was not just Professor of Ancient History from 1970 to 1979 and an influential Master of Darwin, he was also the best known of all Greek historians in the twentieth century, and the man who did more than any other to make historians of other periods, and even social scientists, take an interest in ancient history. But how to celebrate such a man? The answer in the current academic climate seemed obvious: by looking at his impact. Here, after all, was a man whose work still features on student reading lists, is still addressed by scholars in research papers, and whose leadership shaped the way ancient history was (and is) taught in schools at A level. Finley's national and international profile was, and remains, extremely high. Trying to understand that impact seemed both apt and useful.

So it was that for three days in May, with funding from the Laurence Fund as a Laurence Seminar, scholars from around the world, some pupils of Finley, others who had

never met him and hardly been alive when he was in post, met to debate and discuss his impact. Dan Tompkins from Temple University in Pennsylvania, who is writing a biography of Finley's early academic life, kicked the conference off, taking Finley's story from his prodigious early development – reading for a law degree at a very tender age – up to the point when, already in his mid-30s, he wrote his Ph.D thesis, obtained his employment at Rutgers and was promptly sacked and departed from the U.S. after refusing to give evidence about his supposed communist past. Although Finley had published on Greek economic history in the 1930s, it was with the book of his thesis that he began the series of publications that made his name familiar both to professional scholars and to a much wider public.

The conference considered in turn works such as *The World of Odysseus*, *Ancient Sicily*, *The Ancient Economy*, and the various contributions to understanding ancient slavery and Athenian democracy. And since Finley's impact was not merely through writing for other scholars, we considered what he had been like as a teacher and how he has influenced teaching, what he had published in weeklies like *The Listener* and broad-

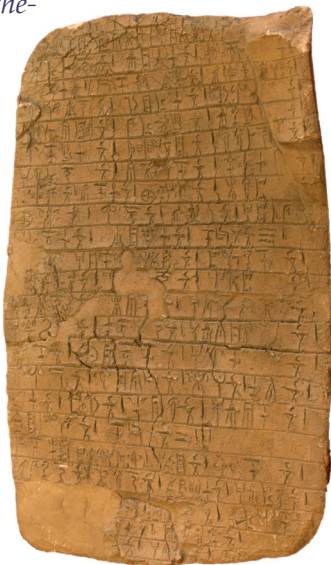
cast on the radio in the 1960s, and the discussions he had entered into with other scholars by private letter. No one at the conference was left in any doubt of Finley's energy or his commitment to ancient history. But what did become apparent was that much of his influence was a consequence of his charismatic personality rather than the conviction which the scholarly ideas carried. Many of his fundamental claims were immediately doubted and have not looked any better with the passage of time. But what he brought was a method – above all a scepticism about what ancient texts tell us and an insistence that the evidence must be shaped into a broader model – and a capacity to impress his views on an audience by the skill of his oral and written presentation.

For a Government convinced that impact and high quality research go together the conference offered only lukewarm support. It did show how important teaching and writing for wider audiences was for Finley's profile, and how the opportunities he had to influence other scholars were built on the back of a popular reputation with students and the reading public, as much as the other way round.

Sixty Years of Mycenaean Studies

During the last few weeks, I have come to the conclusion that the Knossos and Pylos tablets must, after all, be written in Greek – a difficult and archaic Greek, seeing that it is 500 years older than Homer and written in a rather abbreviated form, but Greek nevertheless.

It was with these words that Michael Ventris, an architect and amateur decipherer, speaking on the BBC's Third Programme on 1 July 1952, tentatively announced that he had cracked Linear B, the script used to write on clay tablets from Crete and mainland Greece between 1,400 and 1,200 BC. One of



those listening was John Chadwick, then a newly appointed Lecturer in Classical Philology at Cambridge. The features which Ventris found "difficult and archaic" were exactly what Chadwick expected to find in Greek from this period. So began a collaboration culminating in their monumental *Documents in Mycenaean Greek* (1956).

In October, Cambridge celebrated sixty years of Mycenaean studies with a conference and an exhibition in the Museum of Classical Archaeology of material from the Mycenaean Epigraphy Room archive.

Do the Classics have a Future?

This was a question posed by Mary Beard in an influential Lecture at the New York Public Library in November last year, subsequently published in *The New York Review of Books*. You can read it here: www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2012/jan/12/do-classics-have-future/

The Future of Classics and the Future of the Faculty of Classics are so entwined as to be synonymous, and you can read about the latter here: www.classics.cam.ac.uk/faculty/alumni

Certainly Classics has a thriving presence at Cambridge today, as we hope the reports in this Newsletter attest. As public funding for the Arts and Humanities retreats, we are grateful to you, our alumni and friends, for your ongoing support, so crucial to the future of Classics.

Can you get a big BBC audience hooked on Roman tombstones, in Latin?

Mary Beard

The project we sold to BBC 2 (and by 'we' I mean me and Lion TV production company, which has a strong track record in history – including the kids' favourite, *Horrible Histories*) was to do just that. It really was possible, we said, to get behind the stories of emperors and senators, and to find some really 'real' ordinary Romans, with complicated life stories. You just needed to look at their wonderfully loquacious, moving and difficult tombstones, in Latin.

The truth was that the series *Meet the Romans*, which I presented on television in the Spring, was high risk. I think that everyone – including the BBC – was a bit suspicious to start with (would all that in-your-face Latin quite connect with the mainstream British audience?). But as soon as we came clean with some of the best material, jaws dropped. No-one had imagined that you could get to the life stories of a Roman woman who lived in a weird *ménage à trois*, or of a poor kid who died in a fire when she was not much more than a toddler, or a young bride thrown into the Tiber by her husband... and so on.

What is more, we could put that together with some extraordinary remains of real life in the city of Rome, and Pompeii and Ostia, to create a vivid picture of ordinary Roman life. One of the best surviving ancient apartment blocks in the city is easily visible in Rome next to the way up to the Capitoline Hill itself – but most tourists walk straight past it. If you stop to look, it shows you exactly what living accommodation was like for the Roman poor. So does the site of Ostia (which is still hardly visited by the average tourist) where we went to see more traces of Roman 'apartment living' – not to mention all the wonderful monuments to Roman trade and to the city's status as imperial hub.

Was the show a success? In terms of viewer numbers, certainly. With or without the help of AA Gill (and his slightly dotty comments about whether I was fit to be seen on a TV screen), we got around 2 million viewers for each episode. But more important for me was the impact among kids.

One memorable occasion was a visit to Belfast, to take part in a BBC history festival. Among the plenary speakers was Martin Davidson, who

is the main commissioner for history at the BBC. When he said to the audience that he would rather have an expert talk on telly about what they knew about, than a car enthusiast reading a prepared script, he got a standing ovation.

That was great (because that was me, I thought), but even greater personally was the school I had arranged to meet after the session: St Patrick's Academy in Lisburn, where they have just introduced Latin. I had half an hour to talk to some of the kids who were doing this new subject, and the deal was that they should come with questions. *Meet the Romans* hadn't actually been aired at that point. What was great was that almost all the questions the kids had – where did ordinary people live, what was life like for a slave, what did people eat in Rome and where – were answered (in so far as they can be) in the series.

My hope is that we see some of those clever Lisburn kids going on with Classics – and maybe coming our way in Cambridge.



Dr Myrto Hatzimichali joined the Faculty as Lecturer in Classics (Philosophy) from 1 September 2012. She studied in Thessaloniki (BA) and Oxford (MSt, DPhil). Having spent time as a post-doctoral researcher in Cambridge on the Faculty project, *Greco-Roman Philosophy in the 1C BC*, she became a Lecturer in the Department of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Exeter. Her current research centres on the ways in which Greek culture influenced other cultures in the ancient world. She recently published a book focusing on Potamo of Alexandria, the only philosopher from Antiquity to style himself explicitly as 'Eclectic'.



Dr Ingo Goldenhard will be taking up the position of Lecturer in Classics (Latin Literature) on 1 January 2013. He has degrees from Pomona College and Princeton University, and is currently Professor of Classics and the Classical Tradition in the Department of Classics and Ancient History at Durham University. His research interests range from Latin literature (with a special emphasis on Cicero, Virgil, and Ovid) to Roman culture (especially the political culture of the Roman republic and early principate) to the classical tradition and literary and social theory.



Dr Yanniss Galanakis will join the Faculty as Lecturer in Classics (Greek Prehistory) and Sidney Sussex College as a Fellow from 1 January 2013. He studied in Athens (BA) and Oxford (MPhil, DPhil) and specialises in Aegean archaeology. In Oxford he also held the Sackler Junior Research Fellowship at Worcester College (2007-2010) and was the Curator for the Aegean Collections and the Sir Arthur Evans Archive at the Ashmolean Museum (2007-2012). His forthcoming book, *The Aegean World*, is the first-ever companion guide to the Ashmolean's Cycladic, Minoan and Mycenaean Collections (to be published by the Ashmolean and Kapon Editions at the end of 2012).