

Classics @ Cambridge



The Faculty sends its warmest greetings to all alumnae and alumni and to all other friends of Cambridge Classics around the world.

First, may we say an enormous 'thank you' to all of you who have so generously contributed to our current Appeal. These days an Appeal such as ours is no longer an optional extra but a fundamental necessity, even in so successful and seemingly well-endowed a university as Cambridge and in such a long-established Faculty as ours. The Faculty is convinced that the timeless value and appeal of Antiquity can be enhanced if we seize opportunities to offer the excellence of Cambridge Classics to increasingly larger audiences, widening access in a number of exciting ways.

As you'll recall, the Appeal campaign originally had two main objectives: to endow a new language teaching post, and to develop IT software for online text-reading. Despite the troubling economic conditions of the past few years, the Faculty is encouraged that valuable support for these initiatives has been found from a variety of sources, as the figures below illustrate. In particular, the funds provided by the Stavros S. Niarchos Foundations, the A.G. Leventis Foundation, the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, the

Newton Trust of Trinity College, and St. John's College have made possible major strides towards the achievement of our vision. But no less important has been the knowledge that so many former students of the Faculty have rallied to the cause as their means have permitted: we understand that the response rate—above 15% of all Classics alumni contacted—is quite exceptional in the University's experience. The Faculty's own contribution of £500,000 finds itself in very good company.

The result is that we have been able to appoint a third Language Teaching Officer (Dr Franco Basso) to join the existing team of Mr Anthony Bowen and Dr Rosanna Omitowaju, and a Research Assistant (Dr Tim Hill) to work on Latin texts in the Computer-Assisted Text-Reading (CATR) project, with the prospect of a further appointment to the project from next October. The possibilities these appointments have opened up for the Faculty are described in more detail later in this Newsletter, and I hope you will find them as encouraging as we do. None of this would have been possible without the contributions from the many sources I have already mentioned, and without support from colleagues in the University's Development

Office and its sister-organization in New York, Cambridge in America. We have also benefited from the advice and support of a number of prominent volunteers, especially in the cities of London and Westminster and across the Atlantic at the University of Chicago (Professor Richard Saller). I have also personally been very lucky to be able to work with a devoted Faculty staff, especially our Administrative Officer, Tamsin James, and our Chief Secretary, Lina Undicino.

As the person who has led this undertaking, I have the utmost confidence that we can and will accomplish all our objectives. Raising money in this way may sound like a chore. I have not found it so. It has given me some of the most inspiring and challenging experiences of my more than thirty years as an academic. At this juncture, the Faculty feels it is appropriate to set our collective sights—our own and our supporters'—on a terminus point for our present campaign. We are aiming for closure to coincide with the May 11th Classics Concert in Cambridge.

Floreat Classics at Cambridge! But it can and will do so only with your continued support. I invite you to join us as we seek to cross the finish line triumphantly. A further £50,000, for example, would enable us to equip a room fully for interactive learning. We trust that you will be as generous as possible—all gifts are valued. In the pages that follow, we profile more fully a number of key facets of the Faculty's work and the worldwide contribution we are endeavouring to make. We warmly welcome your comments and suggestions—and your presence in the Faculty in Cambridge.

Professor Paul Cartledge
Chairman of the Cambridge Classics Appeal
(pac1001@cus.cam.ac.uk)

SUMMARY OF APPEAL

Over £900,000 has been pledged in total in support of language teaching in the Faculty. This has already enabled us to establish a third Language Teaching Officer post in perpetuity and provide funds to appoint at the higher level of Senior Language Teaching Officer for a limited period. A further £500,000 would enable this post to be endowed at the higher level in perpetuity.

A total of nearly £300,000 has been raised to support the CATR programme, leaving only £100,000 required to complete this project.

	TARGET	RAISED	NEEDED
Senior Language Teaching Officer	1.4M	900,000	500,000
Computer Assisted Text Reading project	400,000	300,000	100,000

To make a donation or for further information about the Appeal, contact Lindsey Kelly, CUDO, 10 Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1QA; Tel: 01223 766193; lh218@cam.ac.uk

For the Faculty, contact Tamsin James, Faculty of Classics, Sidgwick Site, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge CB3 9DA; Tel: 01223 335193; tj210@cam.ac.uk



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



Sixth-formers handle Greek pots – with care.

Reaching out: improving access

As ever, the Classics Faculty in Cambridge has been trying to reach more and more people with the message that Classics is one of the best degrees to take!

Our usual programme has run this year, with its three big main events: the (national) Oxbridge Sixth Form Conference, the (more local) Study Day and the (national) Teachers' Colloquium. These were all very successful: the Oxbridge Sixth Form Conference saw about 700 pupils and teachers coming to hear what we have to offer. We added to the programme this year: as well as the six 'taster' lectures and the many information 'stalls' in the afternoon, we also ran Cast Gallery Tours and Pot Handling sessions which proved very popular. The Study Day was a lot of fun too: headline speakers Professors Cartledge and Hopkins certainly gave the pupils plenty to think about and dispelled any myths about Classics being stuffy! This is in theory a 'local' event, but with a regular party who come down for it each year from Scotland, it clearly has wide appeal. Likewise the Teachers' Colloquium this year was particularly successful in bringing in staff from a wider range of schools.

Alongside these main events, there have been many others that have brought people into the Faculty. Our new Museum Education Officer, Jacqui Strawbridge, has been a fantastic addition to our strength. Literally hundreds of pupils of all ages have been into the Classics Faculty to be amazed and excited by the Cast Gallery. There have also been: countless individual visits from pupils considering Classics as a degree subject; a couple of smaller, mini study days; events organised jointly with the Cambridge Online Latin Project; lots of visits by myself and other senior members to give talks in schools around the country; and, as they say, much, much more...

The biggest news, though, on the Outreach front is the beginning of the new Four-Year Degree. This is designed to enable students who have not had the chance to study Latin or Greek to A level (or at all) to come to Cambridge and do a full Classics degree. Rather than having to do more work in the same time, or having to study the Classical world in less depth, these students have an extra year. Their first year is focused on Latin language and Roman Culture, then they pick up Greek and Greek Culture at the beginning of their second year and from then on follow the same course as everyone else – with all the breadth of scope and variety of skills we can offer.

The course itself starts in October 2003, so 2002 saw our first Admissions round. We were very pleased with our applications – largely from the state sector – which were generally very strong. Nine students will be starting the course in October.

With the new course on the books, our need for dedicated language teaching gets stronger and stronger all the time. Thanks to the success of the Appeal, this year saw the arrival of Dr Franco Basso as a third Language Teaching Officer. He has been a brilliant addition to the language-teaching group and to the Faculty as a whole. With three of us now in place and the new course about to start, there is a very strong sense of a team negotiating and planning for very changing times. We are all very excited about it.

However, our 'helmsman', Anthony Bowen (also famed as the University Orator), is to retire at the end of this academic year. He will be very much missed (though we think there is a good chance of twisting his arm to keep doing some bits of teaching). I will take over at the head of the team, in the newly created role of Language Teaching Co-ordinator, and we are currently in the process of filling the vacant third LTO position, a necessity as we take on the new Four-Year Degree.

These are exciting times to be part of the Classics Faculty in Cambridge! Appeal money will continue to be absolutely vital to our operations.

Dr Rosanna Omitowaju
Language Teaching Co-ordinator
(rosanna.omitowaju@kings.cam.ac.uk)

(Additional note: Rosanna was recently awarded one of the University's prestigious Pilkington Prizes for excellence in teaching.)

The New Greek Lexicon

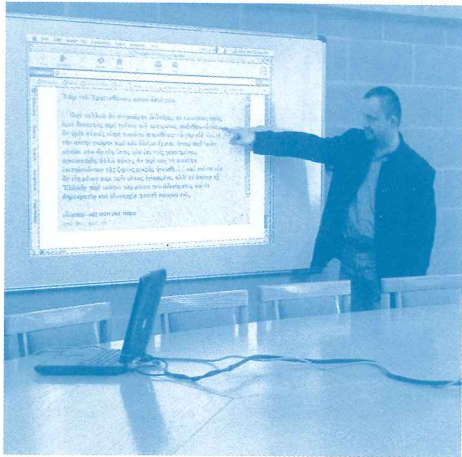
'A New Greek Lexicon' is the working title of a project which began life as the inspiration of the late John Chadwick, the Cambridge scholar noted for his collaboration with Michael Ventris on the decipherment of the Linear B script and for his fundamental work on Mycenaean Greek. For a start, all we aimed at was a revision of the old Intermediate Greek Lexicon, still in print in unrevised form well over 100 years after its first publication. But what began as a fairly modest plan has developed into a much more radical and ambitious undertaking: effectively the production of a new lexicon for contemporary readers of ancient Greek. It will be published in book form by Cambridge University Press (CUP), and it will also be available for consultation on-line by users of the Perseus Digital Library. The aim is to have the Lexicon ready for delivery to the Press in 2007.

To carry out their work, the Editors need to return to the ancient texts. This process calls for a comprehensive archive of the textual sources. Until recently, this would have been a very long and labour-intensive process but now lexicographic 'slips' can be created electronically. The project's collaboration with the Perseus Digital Library (in particular with US-based Professor Jeff Rydberg-Cox) has been vital in developing this resource, which will have long-term value for lexicographers and anyone researching Greek texts.

There are two members of staff, the senior Editor Dr Anne Thompson, who has been involved from the start, and Dr Bruce Fraser, who joined the project in 2000 and is currently partly funded by a grant from the European Commission Information Society Technologies Program and the United States National Science Foundation Digital Libraries Initiative. This grant, the outcome of a joint bid by the Lexicon and Perseus, gives us an opportunity to be involved in electronic archive-building at the most fundamental level. Since we launched a new phase of the appeal six months ago we have been given or promised around £200,000. The support of so many enthusiasts for the study of ancient Greek (including a number of Greek foundations) has been a great inspiration to everyone concerned with the project. The Editors are glad to welcome visitors and demonstrate work on the Lexicon in progress.

Professor Pat Easterling
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e-Learning



Dr Rupert Thompson demonstrates the CATR software.

The computer has rapidly changed virtually every aspect of our lives, from romance to shopping. As usual, Classicists have taken to innovation like ducks to water. As I write this contribution to our Newsletter, I have just clicked onto the front page of the *Thesaurus Linguae Graecae*, a digitised collection of 'most literary texts written in Greek from Homer to the fall of Byzantium in AD 1453', and available on the Faculty intranet. The goal of this California-based project 'is to create a comprehensive digital library of Greek literature from antiquity to the present era. ... The most-recent edition (TLG E) was released in February 2000 with 76 million words of text (6,625 works and work collections from 1,823 authors)'. And the page tells me that it has itself been viewed 185,727 times.

We in Cambridge are making our own contributions to the development of the ICT (information and computer technology) resources that students increasingly expect to have available. One major venture is the innovative Web-based Computer-Assisted Text-Reading (CATR) project, which is creating unique learning software designed to give students the capacity to read and translate Classical texts using an electronic parser and dictionary. The parsers, developed by our consultant, Mr Tony Smith, allow the reader to click on any word within a selected text and view a description and morphological analysis of the word in separate windows. Instant access to dictionary entries and grammatical analysis greatly increases the speed with which readers can understand classical texts. This is particularly true of inexperienced students of Greek and Latin, some of whom may spend up to 70% of their reading time thumbing through a

dictionary or reference grammar while working on a text.

Thanks to the very positive response to our recent Appeal, we are now developing the material further. Dr Tim Hill started work as researcher with the CATR project last October, and he has now written a draft electronic commentary on Cicero, *In Catilinam* I-II, supplying further detailed linguistic (and also historical and stylistic) assistance. This will next be trialled with students in Cambridge and elsewhere, we hope, in the UK and USA. More recent gifts give us the opportunity to employ a further researcher from next October, to work on Greek materials.

Another major development is the on-line Latin project: with funding from Granada (the TV group) and the Department for Education and Skills (DfES), the Cambridge Schools Classics Project under the leadership of Mr Bob Lister is developing an electronic version of the well-established Cambridge Latin Course. After intensive trialling with a cluster of state schools in Barking and Dagenham, it is hoped that the e-resources for Book I will be ready in June and for Book II by Christmas, with the major launch scheduled for July. We understand that the DfES intends to provide free copies of the CD-Rom version, produced by Cambridge University Press, to all state schools in England.

We are immensely heartened both by the support we are being given in all areas and by the interest these projects are evoking wherever people hear about them.

Professor Malcolm Schofield
(M.Schofield@joh.cam.ac.uk)



Students pore over computers in the Reserved Volumes Room.

The *Gladiator* Effect

The London Times in a recent third leader (10 February 2003) commented, somewhat humorously, on what it called 'the *Gladiator* effect' — meaning the huge wave of popularity enjoyed by the ancient Greek and Roman worlds that was unleashed by the film of that title (or at any rate by its protagonist Russell Crowe — surely, it can't have been for the subtlety of its plot or accuracy of its historical reconstruction that it garnered Oscars and other baubles, as well as being a huge box office triumph). But it is on the back of *Gladiator*'s commercial success that there are now in active development or production in Hollywood two Alexander the Great films and two Spartans films focusing on the battle of Thermopylae ('Spartans, spears!').

This popularity of *Gladiator* is echoed in a minor key, and partly as a direct consequence, by the success of TV and radio programmes featuring the Greeks and Romans; and members of the Cambridge Classics Faculty have not been backward in coming forward to air their views or give their advice to the programme-makers, and often enough write the accompanying tie-in books. 'The Greeks: Crucible of Civilization' (PBS in the States and BBC2 over here) and 'The Spartans' (Channel 4 and PBS) were both advised by Paul Cartledge. Mary Beard has been heard on BBC radio talking about the Parthenon (in the morning) and the Colosseum (late at night), and Christopher Kelly has been spied on the Discovery cable channel discoursing eloquently on 'Ancient Warrior Games', a rather alarming attempt (not by Dr Kelly in person, I hasten to add) to simulate the deadly manoeuvres of ancient slave or convict gladiators using well-muscled ex-marines and other such no doubt well-meaning amateur human material.

Behind these antics of ours there is a deadly serious pedagogic purpose. This is to increase the general awareness of our subject in the population at large in the hope that at least some members of the very big audiences attracted to the television and radio programmes will be tempted to access a relevant website, to immerse themselves in some of the ancient primary sources, and perhaps even decide to embark on serious study of Classical antiquity at a university such as Cambridge.

Professor Paul Cartledge

A word from the Chairman

I hope that this first newsletter has given you a taste of the modern Faculty and its doings. The Faculty has achieved considerable recognition in the educational world (a maximum possible score in both the recent national Teaching Quality Assessment and the Research Assessment Exercise) and its members have taken a leading role in promoting the extraordinary interest in the ancient world and its influence which we see all around us. To

enable students to have appropriate access to Classics we have had to change ourselves, as the great success of more than two decades of *ab initio* Greek-teaching demonstrates. The introduction of a four-year Tripos to meet the needs of those who have not had the chance to study either Latin or Greek to A level standard is a statement of faith in the future of the subject.

Classics has been at the forefront in breaking down disciplinary boundaries in the humanities, in utilising modern technology in language teaching and research, and in helping to open up

the many ways in which the study of the past enables us to understand the present. Cambridge Classics aims to keep it that way.

It is a very great pleasure to thank those who have contributed so generously to the Faculty Appeal. The best way (beyond this Newsletter!) to find out about Classics at Cambridge is to talk to our remarkable students—please do take the opportunity if you are passing.

Professor Richard Hunter
Chairman of the Faculty of Classics and
Regius Professor of Greek
(rlh10@cam.ac.uk)

Classics FM

Music and mathematics, they say, go hand in hand. But what about music and Classics? A significant number of classicists are musicians, and many go on to have distinguished careers in the music world. What better way, then, to mark the success of the Classics Appeal than to hold a concert given by some Cambridge Classical alumni? On May 11th, Sara Trickey, Joseph Spooner, Oliver Wilson and Dominic Scott will help celebrate the Appeal at a concert at West Road, Cambridge.

After achieving a double starred first in Classics, Sara Trickey (Trinity Hall, 1994-7) studied the violin at the Royal College of Music and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music where she won several awards. She now lives in London, playing regularly with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields and leading the Bronte String Quartet, which holds a fellowship at the Royal College of Music. She has also performed as a soloist on the South Bank, and with the Orchestra of St John's Smith Square.

Oliver Wilson (viola) studied Classics at Clare College, Cambridge where he was an Instrumental Award holder. He continued his musical studies at the Royal College of Music and then in Stockholm. He has been a member of the European Union Youth Orchestra, and performed on BBC Radio 3, as well as on stage at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, with the music theatre group 'Gogmagogs'.

Dominic Scott, another Clare Classicist (1981-4), is now a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Philosophy and currently holds a British Academy research readership. But while studying his PhD with Myles Burnyeat in Cambridge, he was also (probably unbeknown to his supervisor) studying the piano with Vlado Perlemuter in Paris, himself a student of Ravel and Cortot, and has continued to perform regularly both solo and chamber works.

Joseph Spooner (cello) is in great demand as a soloist, chamber musician and recording artist and has performed in the UK, on the continent and in Russia. He has performed at major venues, including the Purcell Room and Queen Elizabeth Hall, and for BBC Radio 3 and Radio 4. After studying Classics

at Queens' (1981-4) he won a scholarship to study at the Royal Academy of Music. Despite having a distinguished musical career, he continued his Classical studies with an MA and PhD in Greek papyrology at University College London, and was funded by the Istituto Culturale Italiano to study in Florence for a year as part of his doctorate. His work on Homeric papyri (*Nine Homeric Papyri from Oxyrhynchos*) was published in Florence in 2002.

The Concert will include a piano trio by Beethoven (a life-long devotee of Plutarch) and the glorious G minor piano quartet by Brahms (who kept a volume or two of Classical literature open on the stand instead of the music when, as a teenager, he earned money by playing the piano in bars). To reflect a truly Classical theme, we have also included a work by Igor Stravinsky. As a number of his works testify (e.g. the ballets *Apollo Musagetes*, *Agon*, and *Orpheus*) the Classical world was an essential source of inspiration for him. One of his most famous works is the oratorio, *Oedipus*, for which he used a Latin text. (When challenged to explain why he was using a 'dead' language, he replied that Latin 'is a medium not dead, but turned to stone and so monumental as to have become immune to all risk of vulgarization.') Our concert will feature another classically inspired work, the *Duo Concertante* for violin and piano, which includes among its movements two Eclogues and a 'Dithyrambe'.

After the concert, the proceedings will take on a more straightforwardly Dionysiac character, with a wine reception at 6.00 p.m.

Dr Dominic Scott
(djs1001@cam.ac.uk)

Classical Classics

A concert
by Cambridge classicists to celebrate the
success of the Classics Faculty Appeal

Beethoven, Piano Trio in D major,
op. 20 no.1
Brahms, Piano Quartet in G minor,
op. 25
Stravinsky, Duo Concertante

Joseph Spooner – cello
Sara Trickey – violin
Oliver Wilson – viola
Dominic Scott – piano

Sunday 11th May 2003
4.00 pm

West Road Concert Hall,
West Road, Cambridge

Tickets £10 (£8 concessions) from the
Any Theatre Box Office
Tel: 01223 553331 or in person

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Designed and printed by University Printing Services,
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