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Contents

- v PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF HELLENIC STUDIES 2017–2018
- 1 ANTONIS KOTSONAS, Homer, the archaeology of Crete and the ‘Tomb of Meriones’ at Knossos
- 36 ANDREA RODIGHIERO, Aeschylus *Agamemnon* 104–05, Homer and the epic tradition: a new survey
- 50 MARTIN CROPP AND IAN STOREY, Patrocles of Athens and Patrocles of Thurii
- 55 GRAEME MILES, Mythic paradigms and the Platonic life: becoming a Bacchus in Damascius’
Philosophical History
- 67 BENJAMIN M. SULLIVAN, In the shadow of Phoenicia: North Syria and ‘Palestinian Syria’ in
Herodotus
- 80 HANNE EISENFELD, Geryon the hero, Herakles the god
- 100 MIRKO CANEVARO, The public charge for *hubris* against slaves: the honour of the victim and
the honour of the *hubristēs*
- 127 DANIEL JOLOWICZ, Sicily and Roman Republican history in Chariton’s *Chaereas and Callirhoe*
- 150 DEBORAH BECK, Emotional and thematic meanings in a repeating Homeric motif: a case study
- 173 CHARLES H. COSGROVE, An ancient Greek lament form
- 182 HENRY SPELMAN, Pindar and the epic cycle
- 202 GRAZIANO RANOCCHIA, Philodemus’ *On Rhetoric* was in 20 books
- 209 FEDERICO M. PETRUCCI, Wave-like commentaries: the structure and philosophical orientation
of Middle Platonist commentaries
- 227 STEFAN HAGEL, Adjusting words to music: prolongating syllables and the example of
‘dactylo-epitrite’
- 249 KATARZYNA JAŹDŹEWSKA, Indications of speakers in ancient dialogue: a reappraisal
- 261 REVIEWS OF BOOKS
- 261 Literature
- 269 History
- 283 Art and archaeology
- 295 Philosophy
- 302 Byzantine and modern Greek studies
- 303 Reception and history of scholarship
- 308 Linguistics
- 310 Index of books reviewed

PROCEEDINGS OF
THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF HELLENIC STUDIES 2017–2018

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at 4pm on Saturday 16th June 2018 in the ‘Painted Ceiling’ Room (349), Senate House, Malet Street, London. The President, Professor Judith Mossman, was in the chair. She welcomed members and introduced the Officers. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Professor Mossman discussed the activities of the Council and committees during the past year, beginning by highlighting the programme of events and lectures. On 2nd October 2017 Professor Armand D’Angour had entertained a packed audience at the Hellenic Centre asking ‘Can ancient Greek texts be sung to their original music?’ In the Spring of 2018 a panel of lectures on Greek and Roman culture in the Near East was held in Senate House in association with the Roman Society. Professor Ewen Bowie spoke on ‘Poetry and rhetoric on display’, Professor Bert Smith explored ‘A Greek city in Roman Asia: new finds, new research at Aphrodisias’ and Professor Karen Ní Mheallaigh discussed ‘Novel entertainments: from pantomime to the Moon’. On 22nd May Julie Peakman gave an illustrated lecture at the Hellenic Centre based on her book, ‘Hitler’s island war: the battles of the Dodecanese in WWII’. Finally, Professor Mossman warmly thanked Professor Cyprian Broodbank for giving the AGM lecture on ancient Kythera, entitled ‘Nothing to do with Aphrodite: new fieldwork on the city of ancient Kythera’. It was noted that all the lectures had been filmed by Braunarts and are available on the Society’s Youtube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/HellenicSociety1879>).

Professor Mossman also addressed the delay in the publication and dispatch of the 2017 journals (*JHS*, *AR*) which was due to copyright issues in relation to *Archaeological Reports*. She noted that the editorial timetable had been amended in order to avoid this recurring. With regard to Library staff, Professor Mossman reported that Dr Flor Herrero Valdes had resigned from her post in order to return to Spain to raise her family and the Winnington-Ingram Trainee, Ms Molly Richards, had moved on to work for the Oxford English Dictionary. Replacements had been found for both posts. It was also reported that the Society’s Executive Secretary, Richella Doyle, had welcomed a baby boy, Josep, in October 2017. During her maternity leave, Naomi Rebis and Helena Meskanen had shared the work of the office. Professor Mossman thanked them for their efforts. Ms Doyle had already returned to work part-time in May 2018, with Ms Meskanen continuing on until October 2018. Finally, Professor Mossman drew members’ attention to the upcoming conference of the Fédération internationale des associations d’études classiques (FIEC) to be held in London in 2019. This coincides with the Hellenic Society’s 140th anniversary, and to mark the occasion the Society is organizing a panel on the history of the Society.

Mr Peter Lennon (Honorary Treasurer) reported that the audit had proceeded well. The reported deficit (before net gains on investments) in the 2017 Statement of Financial Activities amounted to £183,046 compared to a reported surplus in 2016 of £47,744. Mr Lennon highlighted two factors behind this adverse movement which are not expected to recur in 2018: first, in 2017 the Society made donations of £150,000 to HARL (Hellenic and Roman Library) and, second, no publication income had been included for the Society’s 2017 account with Cambridge University Press (CUP) in respect of the 2017 editions of *JHS* and *AR*. This led to a decline in publication income to £68,730 (2016: £128,723). The final account with CUP shows a surplus of £77,318 due to the Society for the 2017 journals (this will be recognized in the 2018 Statement of Financial Activities). If this income had been included in 2017, the total publication income would have amounted to £146,048, an increase of 13%. Therefore, without the combined effect of HARL donations and the deferral of the CUP income, Mr Lennon noted that the Society would have reported a surplus of £44,272. The Society’s cash balance is £190,131 and the investment portfolio is valued at £1,379,880. Mr Lennon stated that the fall in the value of the portfolio was partially caused by the withdrawals made for the donations to HARL. There had been some volatility in world equity markets in 2018, but the investment portfolio was at this

point in time around the same value as at 31 December 2017. In terms of Library costs, Mr Lennon reported that the Society is broadly in line with the budget and is managing those costs. He proposed the adoption of the 2017 Accounts. Dr David Thomas seconded. The Accounts were unanimously approved. Mr Lennon reported that the Council of the Society had proposed that the membership rates for 2019 remain the same.

Professor Judith Mossman nominated Dr Stephen Harrison for election as Membership Officer. This was seconded by Dr Nicolas Wiater. Dr Harrison was unanimously elected. He took the opportunity to introduce himself and highlight his main goals as Membership Officer. First, he wants to analyse the membership data to see if he can identify any missing demographic in the membership. He recognizes the financial limitations as well as time constraints of staff and members in conducting this analysis. Dr Harrison aims to have targeted campaigns in order to reach any groups who are not engaging with the Society, or who are not members. For next year, he proposes an essay-writing competition for undergraduate and school students. The winning essay would then be published in the Society's journal *ARGO*. The top-three submissions would receive a free membership of the Society for one year. He proposes to try this for three years to see if it would be a success. If, for example, the non-academic membership levels are low, the competition could potentially be extended to include all members of the public.

Professor Judith Mossman nominated Mr Peter Lennon for re-election as Honorary Treasurer. This was seconded by Dr Stephen Harrison. Professor Judith Mossman then nominated for re-election the following Vice-Presidents: Professor Pat Easterling, Professor Robert Fowler, Mr Brian Gilmore, Mr George Lemos, Dr Pantelis Michelakis, Professor Robin Osborne, Professor Christopher Rowe, Professor Ken Saunders, Professor Malcolm Schofield, Professor Brian Sparkes and Dr David Thomas. This was seconded by Dr James Thorne. Both motions were carried. Professor Judith Mossman nominated for election as Members of Council (to serve 2018–2021) Dr Paola Ceccarelli (University College London), Mr Richard Eschwege (commercial law barrister), Professor Esther Eidinow (University of Bristol), Professor Lin Foxhall (University of Liverpool), Dr Sonya Nevin (University of Roehampton), Mr David Warder (retired solicitor) and Dr Jingyi Jenny Zhao (University of Cambridge). The nominations were seconded by Dr Nicolas Wiater, Dr Margaret Mountford, Dr Emma Aston, Mr Peter Lennon and Dr Stephen Harrison. In response to a question, Professor Mossman commented that the Council seeks to nominate people who have expressed their intent to be active on the Council, as well as bring together people from a wide range of academic and non-academic backgrounds, including those in junior and senior positions and from a wide geographical range. In addition, the Council seeks to maintain a gender balance. Lastly, the Council also seeks to include people from schools, although this is not the case for the 2018 nominations, as the current council members already include people from the schools sector. The new members of Council were duly elected. Dr Margaret Mountford added that due to previous problems with achieving a quorum for a Council meeting, they had sought nominees who had said they would be active members of Council.

For re-election as Auditors, Professor Judith Mossman nominated MHA MacIntyre Hudson. This was seconded by Mr Peter Lennon. The Auditors were re-elected.

Finally, responding to a question, Professor Judith Mossman gave an update on *ARGO*. A survey had been conducted in the Spring, which was sent to a select group of readers, students, members and non-members, classicists and those with no professional connection with classics. The responses were overwhelmingly positive. There were some comments which would be addressed and some money set aside for book reviews, so that this section is not reliant on free books sent to the editor. The essay competition may also help boost subscription numbers. All in all, it would appear that people like the magazine. Professor Mossman thanked members for their attendance and the meeting was drawn to a close.

SOCIETY EVENTS 2017–2018

Monday 2nd October 2017, The Hellenic Centre: ‘Can ancient Greek texts be sung to their original music?’, Professor Armand D’Angour (Oxford).

Tuesday 6th March 2018, Senate House: A panel of lectures on Greek and Roman culture in the Near East in association with the Roman Society. ‘Poetry and rhetoric on display’, Professor Ewen Bowie (Oxford), ‘A Greek city in Roman Asia: new finds, new research at Aphrodisias’, Professor Bert Smith (Oxford) and ‘Novel entertainments: from pantomime to the Moon’, Professor Karen Ní Mheallaigh (Exeter).

Tuesday 22nd May 2018, The Hellenic Centre: ‘Hitler’s island war: the battles of the Dodecanese in WWII’, Julie Peakman.

Saturday 16th June 2018, Senate House: ‘Nothing to do with Aphrodite: new fieldwork on the city of ancient Kythera’, Professor Cyprian Broodbank (Cambridge).

Thursday 11th October 2018, Senate House: ‘The politics of Greece’s theatrical revolution, ca. 500 to ca. 300 BC’, Professor Peter Wilson (Sydney).