

MANCHESTER  
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The University of Manchester

**Newsletter of Classics and  
Ancient History**

at the University of Manchester, 2016/17

## Introduction

Welcome to the January 2017 newsletter of the Department of Classics and Ancient History! In this issue, you will find out about some of our research projects, our engagement with the wider community through Latin teaching in local schools, classics events at the University of Manchester, and some of the new courses we are teaching.

Please enjoy, and send questions or comments to Dr Peter Liddel, Admissions Tutor for Classics and Ancient History ([peter.liddel@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:peter.liddel@manchester.ac.uk))

### News: A-level Texts Day, 15th March 2017

As well as inviting applicants to our Visit Days from December, all applicants are welcome to attend our A-level study day: this event offers a series of talks and classes on aspects of the A-level specifications for Classical Civilisation, Latin and Greek. It is designed for students taking those qualifications and will support them with insights from academics who specialise in the relevant fields.

### Comments from our students:

“ I have enjoyed the variety of modules offered to me throughout my undergraduate degree, but there is one in particular that stands out: “*The Aeneid*” module is one that both linguists and non linguists are able to appreciate. I loved being able to recognise the intricacies within the Roman epic with regard to both literary and historical themes. It gives real insight into Roman thinking and is taught in such a way that students are able to apply ancient literary concepts to modern day. As one of the most famous pieces of Classical literature, this module is definitely worth taking!

(Laksmhi Mahajan, BA Classics Year 3)

“ Throughout my degree, I have loved studying languages and so it is unsurprising that Advanced Latin Language 3 is a course unit that I am particularly enjoying this year. We translate both prose (Seneca) and verse (Horace and Lucan) texts, while also doing regular prose compositions - it is at times challenging, but also really enjoyable and rewarding. For anyone else particularly interested in languages, I am in my second year of studying French through LEAP (Language Experience for All Programme) which I thoroughly recommend, and can be done as part of your degree.

(Emily Piper, BA Classics Year 3).

“ I've thoroughly enjoyed all of the modules I've taken throughout my time at university that cover Ancient Greece - most of my friends seem to find Rome more interesting, but I disagree! The modules cover a very wide range of topics, and as someone who loves social history, it's really encouraging to be able to study different aspects of society, especially in Ancient Greece.

(Araddhna Patel, BA Ancient History, Year 3)

Image: Alexander Mosaic. Detail (Naples, National Archaeological Museum) courtesy of Derek Trillo



## New courses for Classics and Ancient History Students

We regularly redesign the courses that we teach in order to ensure that they remain up-to-date with modern approaches to classics and ancient history.

### Cities and Citizens: Studying the Ancient Mediterranean

This year we introduced a course with the title 'Cities and Citizens'. This course introduces students to the sources, settings, cultures and identities that we encounter when studying the history of the ancient Greek and Roman world. Students engage with the main scholarly interpretations of key themes important to life in a city (such as ethnic identity, imperialism, religion, citizenship, status, commemoration, and disease). This course equips students with the analytical tools which you will be able to deploy in the further study of ancient Greek and Roman history.

### Roman Women in Twenty-two Objects: From Livia to St. Helen

In 2017/18 we will introduce a course exploring the material culture of Roman women. This includes any kind of object, artefact or archaeological evidence related to women, used by women or even produced by them. Twenty-two key objects, one for each lecture and dating from the early Principate to late antiquity, will be used as tools to introduce wider topics (e.g. the archaeology of birth and childcare; marriage and relationships in material culture), archaeological corpora (e.g. portraits, terracotta votive offerings, textiles), and specific archaeological contexts (e.g. female burials, female public and domestic spaces) in order to investigate women's lives and roles in Roman society. Through close analysis of evidence in lectures and seminars, students will learn different methodologies to critically engage with Roman material culture.

Image: Paestum,  
courtesy of Derek Trillo



## Classics for All: introducing and supporting Latin and Classics provision in Manchester schools

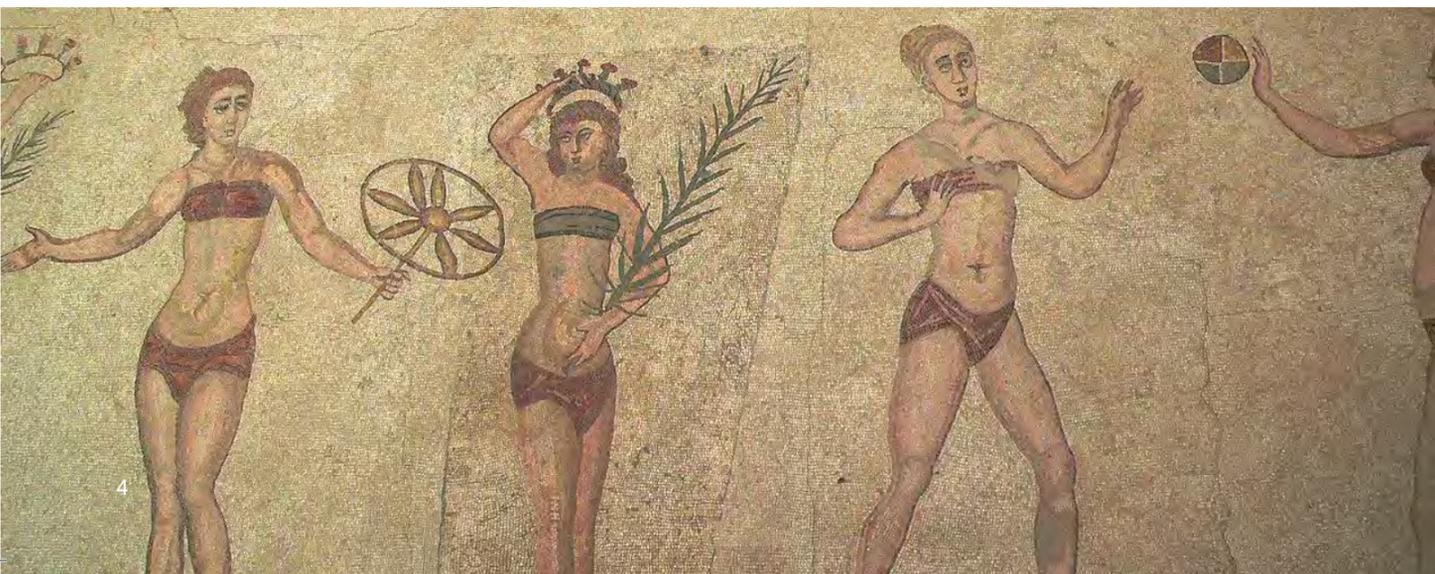
The *Manchester Classics for All* scheme (MCfA) is run by the Manchester & District branch of the Classical Association in partnership with the Department of Classics & Ancient History and the Outreach & Widening Participation Office in the University of Manchester.

The Manchester scheme has recently won a grant from the national charity Classics for All to introduce Latin in particular and/or Classics more generally to local state primary and secondary schools where there is currently no provision of the subject.

In 2016/17 we have Latin classes in primary and secondary schools in the Manchester area. These include the following provisions:

- Latin Clubs after school and at lunchbreak;
- Latin in 'Enrichment' or similar slots within the school day;
- Latin to GCSE and beyond.

Image. Mosaic showing Roman women in various recreational activities: Mosaic showing Roman women in various recreational activities.



Our shared philosophy is that everyone should have the opportunity of learning some Latin; we believe that it is a fun and inspiring activity, one which enhances school provision of language tuition and literacy, and one which above all through language and communication increases and enhances the opportunities available to young people in education and in life.

As well as increasing and supporting provision of Latin at school level in the local area, we are interested in training teachers who are enthusiastic about the ancient world. We offer support, mentoring and training for teachers of other subjects currently in post, university students, sixth-formers with some knowledge of Latin or Classics wishing to gain some teaching experience.

Involvement on the scheme is a great thing also for our own undergraduate students, who we train and support in the delivery of these sessions

We intend to extend our reach by recruiting more schools for the 2017/18 school year. Please get in touch directly with one of us:

[david.langslow@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:david.langslow@manchester.ac.uk);  
[peter.liddell@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:peter.liddell@manchester.ac.uk);  
[ruth.morello@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:ruth.morello@manchester.ac.uk)



Image: Lauren Cox teaching a Year 6 class in Latin at Gorton Mount Academy

## The Ancient Greek Inscriptions of Liverpool



Image: 'Cyzicus 'feet' inscription: Copyright World Museum, Liverpool.

In the January 2016 edition of our newsletter, Polly Low and Peter Liddell announced the publication of a new Greek inscription from Erythrai (a Greek city of Asia Minor), which was kept for more than 100 years in the storerooms of the Liverpool Museum.

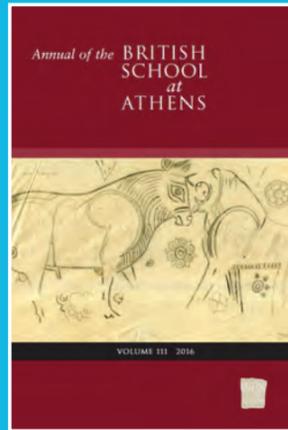
We can now announce the publication of four further inscriptions from ancient Cyzicus (another Greek city of Asia Minor), the discovery of which was announced in early 2016 to an excited audience in San Francisco!

This image represents one of the four new inscriptions: our mysterious 'feet' inscription: it consisted of a slab of marble stone etched with human feet (some of them in pairs) containing names. The inscription itself offers no straightforward interpretation of the feet nor of the identity of their owners. We have come up with a number of theories, one of which is that they represent a record of a 'graduation' ceremony undertaken by citizens who have fulfilled a form of military duty in their youth.

## John Taylor's publications

Excellent news from our colleague John Taylor, who now teaches Latin, Greek and Roman History in the department. His *Latin to GCSE* Parts 1 and 2 (with Henry Cullen) and a revised edition of *Greek to GCSE* Parts 1 and 2 appeared in 2016. Revised editions of *Greek Stories* (with Kristian Waite) and *Latin Beyond GCSE* are in the press. Revised editions of *Latin Stories* (with Henry Cullen and Michael Dormandy), *Essential GCSE Latin* and *Greek Beyond GCSE* are scheduled to appear in 2017 (all published by Bloomsbury).

## Editing Classics journals



Academics in Classics and Ancient History are widely involved in the editing of journals in the areas of classics, ancient history, and archaeology. Dr Peter Liddel is editor of the *Annual of the British School of Athens*, the 111th volume of which is published in December 2016.

Dr Andrew Morrison is editor of *Classical Quarterly*, one of the world's leading classical journals, publishing some 500,000 words of classical scholarship each year, on a range of topics including ancient history, Greek and Latin literature and ancient philosophy.



## The Ancient Letter Collections Project

The Ancient Letter Collections Project is a four-year project based in Classics and Ancient History at Manchester and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (£500k) which will examine all of the letter collections in Greek and Latin surviving from classical antiquity. The project will be co-directed by Roy Gibson and Andrew Morrison, its Research Associate is Antonia Sarri.

A central aim of the project to establish how ancient letter collections were ordered and read. A good number of surviving ancient letter collections are available only in standard modern editions which have abandoned the distinctive ordering that is found in the ancient manuscripts. By seeking to establish how each letter collection to survive from antiquity was originally arranged in its manuscript form, we aim to recover, and promote the importance of, distinctively ancient reading practices in relation to letter collections.

The project will involve several ways of reaching wider audiences beyond academia. These will include monthly blog posts about our progress (at [clahresearch.wordpress.com](http://clahresearch.wordpress.com), where you can read more about the project), schools talks on the letters of Pliny and Cicero, Wikipedia entries on ancient epistolographers, popular articles accessible to a school audience, and two public lectures on ancient letter collections.

## Professor Parkin 'Down Under'

Tim Parkin is spending his 5-months' research leave in Manchester and Melbourne, as well as travelling around to give a number of other talks here and abroad (including a lively public debate at Cambridge University on breastfeeding, to which he added a historical dimension, and a public lecture for the UK Classical Association on the latest discoveries at the site of one of the wonders of the ancient world, the temple of Artemis at Ephesus).

Most of the time, he is working on his next book, on how the Greeks and Romans thought about sexual health. In the 21st century safe sex is very much a concern for all; did the ancients worry about such things? Did they suffer from sexually transmitted diseases? They don't talk about them very much at all, not even in medical texts, but we are now finding 2,000 year old skeletons that show signs of venereal syphilis. So did Greeks and Romans have other, more pressing

things to worry about, or were their symptoms less severe than they are in the modern world? Did the threat of disease affect their sex lives? These are questions of modern as well as historical interest, and yet no one has explored this area before. Tim is seeking to fill this gap.

In Melbourne he has been working at building up links between the universities of Manchester and Melbourne, the ultimate aim being to enhance the experience for students in both places (for example, looking at ways for students to be 'Exchanged' between the two centres). As part of his visit he



Image: Professor Parkin at Housesteads, toilet in hospital block

has given a number of lectures and seminars and met with a range of people, including students. Melbourne is a long way from Manchester, but the two universities have a lot in common, not least in their passion for the ancient world. The visit has also given Tim the opportunity to meet with one of the world leaders in the philosophy of science - over lunch the two discussed many of the finer points of sexually transmitted diseases in history! It has also been great for him to spend two weeks in NZ travelling around talking to former colleagues and current students - it's Tim's home country and he hasn't been back there for 9 years (there hasn't been time, the University of Manchester keeps him too busy!).



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