

# **Oxford University**

## **Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents**

Newsletter no. 5

Autumn, 1997

## **CSAD's Third Year**

The Centre begins its third year amid encouraging omens. The Papyrology Summer School in Oxford in July and September's well-attended International Epigraphical Congress in Rome demonstrated, in their different ways, the continuing vitality of epigraphical and papyrological studies. At the Centre itself a new digitising project is under way that should over the course of the coming year make digitised images of a substantial proportion of published Oxyrhynchus papyri accessible through the Internet, and CSAD's joint image enhancement project with the Department of Engineering Science has shown promising initial results.

There have also been two new appointments. Dr. Maria Brosius will be reorganising the Centre's Persepolis archive over the coming year, and Dr. Alison Cooley has become CSAD's first Publications Officer. Their welcome influence in extending the range of the Centre's activities is already apparent in the workshops and conferences that they will be organising in 1998.

## 11th International Congress of Greek and Latin Epigraphy

An impressive gathering of epigraphists assembled in the Teatro Quirino in Rome on 18 September for the opening session of the 11th International Congress of Greek and Latin Epigraphy.

A substantial volume of *Preatti* had been circulated in advance of the conference containing shorter contributions from more than 120 scholars. 41 longer papers, presented at the conference itself, offered surveys of recent progress and discoveries and a general perspective on the state of epigraphical studies in 1997. Alan Bowman and Roger Tomlin gave papers on recent work on the Vindolanda writing tablets and Romano-British curse tablets. Dr. Bowman's paper included a first public demonstration of the innovative work on image enhancement of stilus tablets being carried out jointly by the Centre and the Department of Engineering Science at Oxford (a preliminary report appeared in Newsletter no. 4).

New features of this Congress were a display of 25 posters in the foyer of the Teatro illustrating a range of epigraphical projects, and the presentation of contributions from each of the foreign schools in Rome. The latter included a comprehensive catalogue (Checklist) of Greek and Latin inscriptions in the U.S.A. compiled by John Bodel and Stephen Tracy for the American Academy in Rome and an electronic contribution from the British School at Rome: *Roman Inscriptions of Tripolitania: a Photographic Repertory on CD-Rom.* The CD-Rom, which offers an electronic version with digitised images of J.M. Reynolds and J.B.Ward-Perkins' original 1952 publication, is the result of a collaboration between Miss Reynolds and

Prof. Michael Greenhalgh of the Australian National University. The database is also available on-line from



ANU's *Rubens* WWW server (http://rubens.anu.edu.au/IRT/).

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As part of the programme of the Congress, visits were organised to the splendid new Epigraphic Department of the Museo Nazionale, to the opening of a major exhibition on Roman Spain (*Hispania. From Conquered Territory to Province of the Empire*) at which some of the more notable recent finds of bronze inscriptions, including the *s.c. de Cn. Pisone patre*, were on display; and to a new exhibition of Christian inscriptions in the Vatican Museum's epigraphical galleries. On the Sunday of the Congress there was an additional excursion to Ostia Antiqua in which more than 500 congressisti participated.

The Association International de l'Épigraphie Grecque et Latine (AIEGL) held its General Assembly on the second evening of the Congress at which a new committee was elected under the presidency of Prof. Werner Eck. Mrs. C.M. Roueché, Secretary of the British Epigraphy Society, was elected as vice President and Prof. Heikki Solin (University of Helsinki) as Secretary General. The venue for the 12th International Congress, to be held in 2002, was fixed as Barcelona.

The subject of IT and epigraphy was not addressed directly in the main proceedings of the Congress, but the AIEGL devoted part of its assembly to the question of how technological developments could best be exploited to advance epigraphical research. The number and diversity of current computer-based projects, so well reflected in the programme of the EDV Workshop held at the Austrian Institute after the Congress, were welcomed, but concern was expressed at the range of differing systems, font encodings and file formats used by the various projects. It was felt that the AIEGL should sponsor an initiative to ensure the widest possible access and compatibility across the whole range of available electronic resources. As a result of the discussion, a special commisssion (members: Prof. W. Eck (ex officio), Prof. S. Panciera, Prof. G. Alföldy, Dr. A. Bresson, Prof. K.S. Clinton, Dr. C.V. Crowther, Prof. M. Hainzman) was established to examine ways in which this aim could be met. Promoting interchangeability of data and transparency of access to different resources, as well as the avoidance of duplication of effort, were recognised as important elements of the commission's mandate which it is hoped can be completed in time for the Barcelona Congress.

Thanks to the efforts of its organising committee under the leadership of Prof. Panciera, the Rome Congress was a considerable success. The number of participants and the range of new work on which reports were presented testify to the continuing importance of epigraphical studies in renewing and revitalising our knowledge of the ancient world.

## Epigraphy and Information Technology A Workshop organised by the Austrian Institute, 25-26 September

To coincide with the Epigraphical Congress, Prof. Manfred Hainzman of the Institut für Alte Geschichte und Altertumskunde, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz, organised a workshop at the Austrian Cultural Institute to gather reports on work-in-progress on a wide range of epigraphical projects based on or using computer technology.

The influence of the new possibilities of electronic publication opened up by the Internet was evident in many of the reports presented to the Workshop.

On the first morning, Prof. Géza Alföldy and Ms. Heike Niquet presented a detailed report on the current status of the Epigraphische Datenbank Heidelberg. The database has been constructed using ORACLE and a variety of auxiliary editing programmes for dealing with epigraphical texts, and contains editions (revised, so far as possible), with full bibliographies, lemmata and apparatus, of ca. 30,000 Latin inscriptions not included in the CIL corpora or published since 1888 and registered in L'Année épigraphique. The project also draws on the extensive Epigraphische Phototek Heidelberg, which includes photographs of 10,000 inscriptions from Rome and the Spanish provinces and a further ca. 11,000 inscriptions from the rest of the Empire. The digitisation of this material is under way. A further database contains an extensive Bibliography of Roman Epigraphy. The texts of the inscriptions in the database are already accessible in searchable form from a WWW site (www.uniheidelberg.de/institute/sonst/adw/edh), and it is envisaged that the remaining resources of the Datenbank will progressively be made available. This is a major project which aims eventually to provide historians and epigraphers with the resources to verify the readings of inscriptions and also to secure the restoration of other inscriptions by drawing on the KWIC (Key Word in Context) indexing of the texts in the database.

Dr. Wolfgang Spickermann of the University of Osnabrück described an exhibition illustrating work on the Supplement to *CIL* XIII (the Roman Inscriptions of Germany) which is now available on the WWW and provides a succinct and well-illustrated practical introduction to Latin epigraphy (http://www.geschichte.uni-osnabrueck.de/ausstell/ausstell.html/).

Alain Bresson presented an illuminating survey of the genesis and development of the PETRAE database system of which he provided a short account for Newsletter 4, emphasising the flexibility and portability of the way in which epigraphical data are stored and structured in PETRAE. Prof. Paolo Maggi of the University of Trieste described how PETRAE has been adapted to provide a system for recording inscriptions on *instrumentum domesticum* as well as lapidary texts. On the second day of the workshop Drs. Athanassios Rizakis and Sophia Zoumbaki of the National Hellenic Research Foundation-KERA described *Nomina Romana*, an analogous programme written by A. Bresson in 4th Dimension specifically to deal with the problems of recording onomastic information about Roman names in Greece.

Professor John Traill provided an entertaining account of the ATHENIANS prosopographical database which has transformed a conventional card index catalogue compiled by Prof. B.D. Meritt of the more than 100,000 individuals attested in our evidence for Athens into a modern relational database system equally capable of generating printed volumes or of being interrogated via the Internet (http:// www.chass.utoronto.ca:8080/attica).

Some of the most illuminating remarks in the Workshop came on the second morning in Elaine Matthews' report on the Lexicon of Greek Personal Names. The experience of managing a major project over an extended period (LGPN has been a British Academy Major Research Project since 1972) has provided a valuable perspective on the rapid changes in computer technology which have taken place during the project's lifetime. The Lexicon's data and programmes have undergone more than one successful migration. The pervasiveness of the Internet offers a new challenge. Electronic publication is as unavoidable as it is desirable, and the Lexicon is taking steps to move in this direction. Current information about the project is now available from a WWW site, together with a preliminary sample of the statistical information that can easily be derived from the Lexicon's database and which an electronic publication will allow users to generate for themselves (http://users.ox.ac.uk/~fraser/index.html).

The Workshop also heard a welcome announcement from Prof. Mireille Corbier (C.N.R.S.), that the indices for *L'Année épigraphique* are shortly to be made available on the Internet. This is only a sample of the projects discussed at the Workshop. Two reports devoted specifically to providing guides to the range of electronic resources available to the ancient historian offer further orientation. Alessandro Cristofori's recent article, "Storia Antica e Computer" (*Viaggi di Erodoto* 32, May-Sept. 1997) can now be consulted at http://www.economia.unibo.it/dipartim/stoant/ rassegna1/appr.html. Markus Sehlmeyer's "Möglichkeiten und Grenzen des WWW für die althistorische Forschung" (http://www.gwdg.de/~msehlme1/rom.html) provides a survey of similar scope in German.

Participants in the Workshop are indebted to Prof. Hainzman and the Austrian Institute for offering such a stimulating opportunity for epigraphists working with computer technology to share ideas and experiences in an hospitable setting.

### CSAD News and Events Publications Officer

Dr. Alison Cooley (Corpus Christi College) has been appointed Publications Officer by the Centre's Management Committee. Among Dr. Cooley's first responsibilities will be the task of finding publishers for two research conferences which she herself is organising at the Centre in 1998.

The first conference, to be held on 9 May, will be a workshop at which new research on the epigraphy of Roman Italy will be presented. The second conference, to be held on 3-4 July, will examine the reuse, rediscovery and reinvention of inscriptions in and after Antiquity. Further information about both conferences will be posted later in the year on the Centre's WWW site and in the spring issue of the Newsletter.

#### **Persepolis Fortification Tablets**

The Faculty of Literae Humaniores has made a substantial grant available for the current academic year to support Dr. Maria Brosius' continuing work on the Persepolis Fortification Tablets on the basis of the transcriptions deposited in the Centre's research archive. Dr. Brosius will establish a computer database of the texts, which are currently only in manuscript form, incorporating the late Professor D.M. Lewis's translations of the first 500 texts.

Dr. Brosius is also organising an international research symposium on Ancient Archives to be held, under the auspices of the Centre, in September, 1998. Further details of this will be announced in Newsletter 6 in the spring.

#### Digitising the Oxyrhynchus Papyri

With the appointment of Mr. Gideon Nisbet as Research Assistment, work began on 1 October, 1997 on a one-year pilot project funded by the University's Research and Equipment Committee to investigate the feasibility of digitising the Oxyrhynchus Papyri.

The first stage of the project will be the systematic cataloguing and digitisation of a single volume from the published series of *Oxyrhynchus Papyri* volumes, following the principles established by the APIS project. The results of this preliminary study will be made available from a new Oxyrhynchus Home Page on the Centre's WWW server and the feedback from users will then be used to guide further work on the project. Over the course of the year of Mr. Nisbet's appointment, it is hoped that up to a quarter of the published Oxyrhynchus papyri can be digitised.

Mr. Nisbet is also assisting Dr. Obbink in his continuing work on the carbonised Philodemus papyri from Herculaneum.

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### Papyrology Summer School, July 1997

The International Summer School in Papyrology advertised in previous issues of the Newsletter was held in Oxford in July, 1997. The Summer School was organised and co-ordinated by Dr. D. Obbink and Dr. R.A. Coles, with the assistance of Dr. A.K. Bowman. 30 students participated, of whom 26 came from other to Demotic and Coptic, from pagan astrology to Christian theology. Beyond getting a glimpse of papyrology through these diverse windows, we were also each assigned an unpublished Oxyrhynchus papyrus (according to our backgrounds and interests) so that we could put into practice what we were learning.

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL IN PAPYROLOGY



British universities and from overseas. Countries represented included USA, Australia, France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Denmark, Switzerland.

Students were resident in Christ Church and the lectures, demonstrations and workshop sessions were held at Christ Church and at the Centre. Visiting lecturers included: Dr. Willy Clarysse (Leuven), Dr. W.H. Cockle (UCL), Prof. E.W. Handley (Trinity College, Cambridge), Prof. M.W. Haslam (UCLA and Manchester), Prof. H.G.T. Maehler (UCL), Dr. Cornelia Römer (Cologne), Prof. J.D. Thomas (Durham), Dr. D.J. Thompson (Cambridge), Prof. D.M. Rathbone (KCL), Dr. J.L. Rowlandson (KCL). In addition to attending lectures and workshops, each student was assigned an unpublished papyrus from the Oxyrhynchus collection to work on during the period of the Summer School. It is hoped that the resulting editions of most of these texts can eventually be published in The Oxyrhynchus Papyri.

Jie Yuan of UCLA reports below on her experience of taking part in the Summer School:

"Together with 26 students from Europe, America, and Australia, I attended the International Summer School in Papyrology held at Oxford this past July. We were introduced to various aspects of this field of study, from the geological landscape of the Fayum to the social history of Ptolemaic Egypt, from methods of papyrus conservation to techniques of editing literary and documentary texts, from Greek and Latin papyri

Instruction at the Summer School was divided into two kinds. Each morning we heard two or three formal presentations, generally on a common subject, by various speakers from Oxford and elsewhere. In the afternoon, we learned about the more technical sides of papyrology (including the use of

computer databanks, the papyrology room in the Ashmolean Museum, and the making of papyrus sheets) in workshops where often both the instructors and the students together were engaged in the same struggle to decipher and give meaning to a particular piece of papyrus. Outside of these scheduled meetings, we also had various opportunities to discuss matters of common interest with the instructors and our fellow students. The CSAD, where in the evenings we studied the originals of our individually assigned papyri, making use of microscopes and computers, was staffed by various instructors always willing to answer the most trivial questions and to offer their advice and opinion.

On the last afternoon of the Summer School, each of us gave a brief presentation of the papyrus we were editing. It was most interesting to hear how everyone attempted to make sense of their assigned papyrus, be it a fragment of a known author in an easy to read script or a long letter of obscure content in a hand difficult for the beginner to decipher. Most of us had only made a preliminary study of our papyrus and when we return to our home institutes will persevere in our efforts until it is fit to be published eventually in one of the forthcoming *P.Oxy.* volumes.

The Summer School was a most engaging learning experience for all of us, and for some the place where studying papyri became more than just a solitary effort." Jie Yuan University of California, Los Angeles

## Oxyrhynchus: A City and its Texts A British Academy Symposium, 15-18 July, 1998

The year 1898 saw a newcomer on the papyrological scene: the first volume of *The Oxyrhynchus Papyri* began the publication of Grenfell and Hunt's remarkable finds at Bahnasa. To mark the centenary of the series the British Academy is sponsoring a symposium, to be held in Oxford and London on 15-18 July, 1998. Funding has been provided by the British Academy, the Craven Committee, the Board of Management of the Griffith Insitute and the Faculty Board of Literae Humaniores. The organisers of the symposium are Drs. Alan Bowman, Revel Coles, Dirk Obbink and Prof. Peter Parsons.

Papers will be given in Oxford and, on Friday, 17 July, in London. The presentations will deal with the city of Oxyrhynchus itself, the excavations and the different kinds of texts and subjects of study represented in the papyrus collection. These will be augmented by additional contributions to produce a comprehensive volume (to be published, we hope, by the Egypt Exploration Society) on Oxyrhynchus and its papyri.

There will be an exhibition of papyri in the Ashmolean Museum during the course of the symposium. There is also a possibility that there may be a staging of Tony Harrison's *Trackers of Oxyrhynchus*.

The provisional list of speakers and topics is as follows: Prof. R.S. Bagnall (Columbia), "Families and social structure"; Dr. A.K. Bowman, "Oxyrhynchus and Roman history"; Dr. Sarah Clackson (Cambridge), "Coptic Oxyrhynchus"; Dr. R.A. Coles, "The site and the excavation"; Dr. Raffaella Cribiore (New York), "Schools of Oxyrhynchus"; Prof. E.J. Epp (Case Western Reserve), "The biblical texts"; Prof. D. Hagedorn (Heidelberg), "The city and its government"; Prof. M.W. Haslam (Manchester), "Oxyrhynchus and the textual tradition"; Prof. A. Jones (Toronto), "Astrologers of Oxyrhynchus"; Prof. L. Koenen (Michigan), "Greeks and Egyptian Greeks"; Prof. L. Lehnus (Milan), "Grenfell and Hunt in correspondence"; Prof. H.G.T. Maehler (London), "Greek, Egyptian and Roman Law"; Dr. Alain Martin (Brussels), "The Papyruskartell"; Dr. D. Montserrat (Warwick), "Grenfell and Hunt's excavations"; Dr. D. Obbink, "Readers and intellectuals"; Prof. K. Parlasca (Erlangen), "Sculpture of Oxyrhynchus"; Prof. P.J. Parsons, "Scribes of Oxyrhynchus"; Dr. J.L. Rowlandson (London), "The town and its hinterland"; Mr. M.L. Sharp (Oxford), "The food supply"; Prof. W.J. Tait (London), "Petrie's excavations"; Prof. J.D. Thomas (Durham), "Roman citizens and Latin texts"; Dr. H.V. Whitehouse (Oxford), "Textiles and designs".

Further details are available from Dr. A.K. Bowman, Christ Church, Oxford OX1 1DP (email: alan.bowman@christ-church.ox.ac.uk; fax 01865 794199).

#### **Imaging Documents: A Symposium**

The papers presented to the symposium on Imaging Documents at the Centre on 1 June last year (reported in Newsletter no. 3) have now appeared as a "Special Issue on the Use of Computers in the Study of Ancient Documents" in volume 12.3 (1997) of *Literary and Linguistic Computing*, edited by Marilyn Deegan and Alan Bowman and published by Oxford University Press.

#### WWW Site

The Centre's dedicated WWW server has been running uninterrupted since November 1997 (http:// www.csad.ox.ac.uk). Forthcoming additions to the site will be a searchable catalogue of the Centre's squeeze collection and a new Oxyrhynchus home page.

#### A Report from Down Under:

The Centre, as noted in Newsletter 4, has close links with the Centre for Ancient Documentary Studies at Macquarie University. In this issue of the Newsletter Prof. Sam Lieu contributes the first of what we hope will be a regular series of Reports from Down Under with a notice about the *Corpus Fontium Manichaeorum* Project based at Macquarie.

#### The Corpus Fontium Manichaeorum Project

The Corpus Fontium Manichaeorum Project is a major international research project funded by the British Academy (1990-95) and the Royal Swedish Academy of History and Letters (1990-91) as well as the Leverhulme Trust (1990-93), Society of Antiquaries (1990-94) and the Seven Pillars of Wisdom Trust (1990). It aims to publish in 10 series a total of 60 volumes of Manichaean texts found in Central Asia and Egypt as well as research tools such as concordances and dictionaries. A contract for the entire Corpus to be published over a period of 25 years has been signed with the publishers Brepols of Turnhout. The religion of Mani (c. 216-c. 276 CE) was a missionary religion par excellence. Manichaean texts have been found in Egypt in Coptic, Greek and Syriac, and in N. Africa in Latin and in sites along the Ancient Silk Road in Middle Persian, Parthian, Sogdian, Bactrian, Tocharian B, Chinese and Uighur (Old Turkish) as well as in substantial citations in a wide range of Arabic writings. Australian archaeologists working under the direction of Dr. Colin Hope (Monash) have added substantially to the corpus of rediscovered Manichaean texts through the current excavations at the Dakhleh Oasis which have unearthed texts on papyri and on wooden boards in Greek, Syriac and Coptic in the private houses. The Manichaean text best known to classical scholars is perhaps the Cologne Mani-Codex, a tiny parchment codex containing the life of Mani in Greek (cf. ZPE, 5

(1970) 97ff and http://www.uni-koeln.de/phil-fak/ifa/ NRWakademie/papyrologie/hauptpapyri.html#mani). The project began originally as the Database of Manichaean Texts and Dictionary of Manichaean Terms and Concepts. It was a recipient of three consecutive Major Research Grants from the British Academy and an unprecedented fourth renewal under the aegis of the Corpus Fontium Manichaeorum. The project has to all intent and purposes now left Britain with the appointment of Prof. Sam Lieu to the Chair of Ancient History at Macquarie University. A shared office is still kept at the Institute of Classical Studies in the University of London for continuing work on the Series Graeca and on the Dictionary of Manichaean Texts. The project is now jointly administered from Leuven and Sydney. The administrative HQ for the project is at KU Leuven but the Research Archive of the project is kept and maintained at Macquarie. The reason for the division is because the project is being published by Brepols in Belgium and the Archive is necessary for servicing the research at the highest level at Macquarie as there is no comparable collection in the Commonwealth

Each volume of the text-series contains introduction, critical text, translation (in English, French or German), commentary and extensive word indices. The first volume of the *CFM: Series Coptica: Die Bema Psalmen* (Coptic Texts in the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin), edited and translated by Dr. G. Wurst (Münster), was published in May, 1996.

The Project Committee consists of Prof. Alos van Tongerloo (Leuven), Director; Prof. Samuel N.C. Lieu (Macquarie), Co-Director; Dr. Johannes van Oort (Utrecht), Co-Director; Dr. E. Hunter (Cambridge and Melbourne), Director of the Series Syriaca; Prof. A. van Tongerloo (KU Leuven), Director of the Series Arabica; Prof. M. Krause (Münster), Director of the Series Coptica; Prof. Werner Sundermann (Berlin Akad.), Director of the Series Iranica; Prof. S. N. C. Lieu (Macquarie) and Dr. Peter Bryder (Lund), Directors of the Series Sinica; Prof. A. van Tongerloo (KU Leuven), Dr. P. Zieme (Berlin Akad.) and Prof. L. Clark (Bloomington, Indiana, USA), Directors of the Series Turcica; Dr. J. Van Oort (Utrecht), Director of the Series Latina; Prof. S. N. C. Lieu (Macquarie), Dr. C. Römer (Cologne) & Prof. L. Cirillo (Naples), Directors of the Series Graeca; Dr. Iain Gardner (Edith Cowan, Perth), Director of the Series Dachlaica; Prof. S. N. C. Lieu and Prof. A. van Tongerloo, Directors of the Series Subsidia. For more details of the Corpus, contact Prof. Sam Lieu: slieu@laurel.ocs.mq.edu.au or read the latest news on our Web-page: http://www.chepd.mq.edu.au/ahist/ DocCtr/manics/Corpus.html

## "Ancient Documents Old and New"

The Centre's seminar series continued in Trinity Term 1997 with three papers on Latin epigraphical themes. Short summaries of the papers follow.

## On the Character of the Latin Epigraphic Style. A Study of Funerary Inscriptions (Iveta Mednikarova, 30 April, 1997)

This paper dealt with features of formulaic language in epigraphy. It was shown that formulae in funerary inscriptions varied from region to region, and even from graveyard to graveyard. Some speculations were offered about the ways in which fixed expressions might have spread. In the second part of the paper, the use and misuse of formulae were discussed. Various types of debasement in formulaic language, such as the conflation of formulae, misunderstanding of syntax and fossilisation leading to a failure to adapt fixed expressions to their context, were examined. Finally, some observations were made about the funerary style as influenced by the requirements of the written medium of inscriptions.

## A New Reading of the Mosaic Inscription in the Temple of Diana Tifatina (Mark Pobjoy, 14 May, 1997)

This paper offered a revised text of the mosaic inscription which is located in the floor of the temple of Diana Tifatina, now the basilica of Sant' Angelo in Formis (San Michele Arcangelo), in advance of its publication in the Papers of the British School at Rome this autumn. The temple, situated just to the north of ancient Capua, was one of the most important sanctuaries of Campania in Roman times, and was known throughout the Roman world. The badly damaged inscription, previously dated to 74 BC, records, i.a., the rebuilding of the temple by a group of magistri. The inscription was compared with other magistri texts found nearby and set in the context of the unique political history of the area. The new reading offered, besides making important corrections to the text in respect of the names of some of the individuals concerned and the work for which they were responsible, shows that it has been misdated, and that it in fact belongs to a quite different phase of Italian history.

## The Italian Collegial and Municipal Fasti (Greg Rowe, 11 June, 1997)

The first century B.C. saw the completion of the Romanisation of Italy—or the Italicisation of Rome—and the fasti were part of the process. The fasti should be seen as instruments in the social, political, and ideological revolutions that coincided with the advent of monarchy. Dotted with the phrase "ex s(enatus) c(onsulto)", "in

keeping with a senatorial decree", the fasti betoken the diffusion of the contents of senatorial decrees throughout the citizen world. The mechanism of diffusion is uncertain. It may be that Italians were expected to travel to Rome to pick up decrees – the procedure envisaged in the funeral decree for Germanicus (*Roman Statutes* no. 37).

The fasti transmitted a particular vision of past and present. Though consisting of lists – magistrates' names, calendars – the fasti were not neutral. Contra Hayden White, annals do not present objective history. Like Livy's and Velleius Paterculus' contemporaneous histories, like the scultptures of the Forum Augustum, the fasti turned Julio-Claudian family stories into a national epic; they reduced Roman history to biography. They presented monarchy as stretching back to Julius Caesar, without an identifiable date (such as 31, 30, 29, or 27 B.C.) to mark the start of the Principate. They presented politics as a struggle between heroes (the Julio-Claudians) and villains (M. Antonius, Libo Drusus, Seianus and his family; cf. the s.c. de Cn. Pisone patre).

Besides the imperial house, the winners in the world of the fasti were senators, knights, and prominent freedmen; the losers were ordinary citizens.

In vaunting the imperial house, the senate effectively exercised normative power, telling citizens when to mourn and when to celebrate. In this sense, the fasti may hold a solution to the longstanding puzzle of how and when senatorial decrees acquired legislative force.

The transmitters of the fasti were no mere functionaries. They were men like T. Statulenus Iuncus of Pisae and Verrius Flaccus of Praeneste—leading knights and freedmen who profited by connections with the imperial house, while having no ties to the Republic.

On the other side of the coin, the mass of Italians appears in the fasti less as citizens (electors, legislators) than as subjects (a loyal crowd, a population to be counted, a collective beneficiary of imperial largesse).

The paper grew out of a 1997 Oxford D.Phil. thesis on the senate's honours for Germanicus and proceedings against Piso and will be incorporated in a forthcoming book.

### Lewis Memorial Fund and Lecture

The Lewis Lecture for 1997 was given by Miss J.M. Reynolds FBA on Wednesday 28 May in the Garden Quad Auditorium at St. John's College, with the title "New Hadrianic Documents from Aphrodisias". Miss Reynolds presented a series of recently discovered letters from the emperor Hadrian to Aphrodisias to a large audience which included the late Professor Lewis's brother, Mr. Philip Lewis. The lecture was followed by a reception. Miss Reynolds' summary of the Lecture follows:

"I talked about a tablet found recently at Aphrodisias which had been inscribed with at least four letters from Hadrian to the Aphrodisians. Although letter no. 1 is partly defective and letter no. 4 very seriously so, this dossier throws a variety of interesting lights on the affairs of the city. The preponderating issues in it are related to civic finances and especially to the financing of an aqueduct for which Hadrian offered technical assistance only, it seems. He did, however, approve the city's plans for its funding, endorsing enthusiastically a scheme by which the local high priests of the imperial cult paid into the aqueduct fund the money that they would normally have spent on gladiatorial shows. He also seems to have endorsed the city's view that a number of persons who were claiming inability to meet the expenses of the liturgy of the high priesthood were in fact able to do so. Clearly the dossier is an important new document for the discussion of civic finances in general in the second century A.D.; and I presented a brief account of what I believe is the overall picture of city and private prosperity at Aphrodisias in that period; it is, I believe, much more complex than we are prone to think."

## BES Spring Colloquium: The Epigraphy of Asia Minor

The British Epigraphy Society's first Spring Colloquium, on the Epigraphy of Asia Minor, was held in the Garden Quad Auditorium of St. John's College in Oxford on April 26. The following papers were read at the Colloquium: "Alan Hall's Kibyratis Surveys: the problem of completeness" (Dr. N.P. Milner); "Burials in Roman Lycia: Text and Monument" (Mr. G. Williamson); "Rhodes and Lycian History in the Second Century BC" (M. Alain Bresson); "Iasos, Rhodes and Caria in the Second Century BC" (Dr. C.V. Crowther); "Lysimachus and the Hellenistic Refoundation of Ephesos" (Prof. G.M. Rogers); "Re-examining the Late Antique Inscriptions of Ephesos" (Mrs. C.M. Roueché and M. Denis Feissel); "Rome and the Asylia of Sanctuaries in Asia Minor" (Ms. Beate Dignas); "The Epigraphic Habits of Professional Associations in Roman Asia Minor" (Dr. Onno Van Nijf). M. Alain Bresson also provided a demonstration for participants in the Colloquiumof the PETRAE epigraphical database system, a short account of which appeared in Newsletter no. 4.

The British Epigraphy Society will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Saturday, November 15 at the Institute of Classical Studies, in its new location in the Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU.

## CSAD Events, Autumn-Winter 1997-98 Michaelmas Term 1997 Seminar Series

The Centre's regular seminar series on documentary subjects, continues in Michaelmas 1997 with four papers on literary themes:

16 October:	David Sider (New York), "The Epigrams of
	Philodemus"
30 October:	Dorothy J. Thompson (Cambridge), "Dreams
	and Prophecy from Ptolemaic Saqqara"
13 November:	Teresa Morgan (Cambridge), "Poetry on Stone:
	Subliterary Verse Inscriptions and Sub-elite
	Culture in Greco-Roman Egypt″
27 November	Alberto Bernabé (Madrid), "A New
	Orphicorum Fragmenta"

The meetings are on Thursdays at 5.00 pm in the Centre at 67 St. Giles. Further details are available from Dr. Dirk Obbink, Christ Church, Oxford OX1 1DP (dirk.obbink@christ-church.ox.ac.uk).

#### **Trinity Term 1998**

The seminar series will be resumed in Trinity (April-June) 1998. Details of the programme will be posted on the Centre's WWW site later in the year and will be announced in the next newsletter.

#### CSAD and Related Events 1997/98

15 November	AGM of the British Epigraphy Society (ICS,
	London)
25 April	Divine Epigraphy (BES Spring Colloquium,
	Liverpool)
9 May	New Developments in Italian Epigraphy
20 May	D.M. Lewis Lecture
3-4 July	Epigraphy and its Afterlife: conference on the
	re-use, recovery and re-invention of inscriptions
15-18 July	Oxyrhynchus: A City and its Texts. British
	Academy Symposium

## Visitors to CSAD

Among visitors to CSAD during the summer of 1997/8 have been Prof. J. McCoy (UNC Chapel Hill); Ms. Sofia Kravaritou (Paris); Dr. Frits Hondius (Strasbourg). Prof. J.F. Oates of Duke University spent a week at the Centre in June and provided much valuable advice, as well as current information on the DDBDP and APIS.

## Prof. W.G. Forrest

We are sad to report that Prof. W.G. Forrest died on 14 October, 1997. In addition to his brilliant work on Greek history and historiography, Prof. Forrest devoted much of his career to the epigraphy of Chios. The extensive photographic and squeeze collections that he assembled for the *IG* Corpus of Chios have been deposited in the Centre's archives, where it is intended that they will be used in the continuation of his work.

#### **Other News**

Dr. A.E. Cooley, the Centre's new Publications Officer, has been elected to a Junior Research Fellowship at Corpus Christi College.

The Centre's Administrator, Dr. C.V. Crowther, has been elected to a Research Fellowship at Wolfson College.

## **Circulation and Contributions**

This is the fifth newsletter of the Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents. The Newsletter is circulated in Autumn and early Summer. The Newsletter invites contributions of news, reports and discussion items from and of interest to scholars working in the fields of the Centre's activities – epigraphy and papyrology understood in the widest sense. The Newsletter is circulated to individual scholars on the Centre's mailing list and is also available from the Centre's WWW site (URL http://www.csad.ox.ac.uk) in HTML format or for downloading, either as a text file or as an Adobe Acrobat<sup>™</sup> PDF file. Contributions, together with other enquiries and requests to be placed on the Centre's mailing list, should be addressed to the Administrator at the Centre.

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#### Management Committee

Mr. P.G. McC. Brown (Trinity College); Dr. B.M. Levick (St. Hilda's College); Dr. D. Obbink (Christ Church); Prof. R.C.T. Parker (New College); Prof. E.M. Steinby (Institute of Archaeology); Dr. R.S.O. Tomlin (Wolfson College)