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Contents

- iv PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF HELLENIC STUDIES 2023–2024
- RESEARCH ARTICLES
- 1 CLAIRE TAYLOR, Women, gender and the ancient economy: towards a feminist economic history of the ancient Greek world
- 29 STAVROULA CONSTANTINOY AND ASPASIA SKOUROUMOUNI-STAVRINOY, The other mother: ancient and early Byzantine approaches to wet-nursing and mothering
- 48 HENRY SPELMAN, ‘If one knows what is to come’: ethics, audience and eschatology in Pindar’s *Olympian* 2
- 65 VANESSA B. GORMAN AND ROBERT J. GORMAN, A morphosyntactic authorship attribution study of the speeches of Demosthenes and Apollodorus
- 93 THEODORE HILL, Tragedy and *ēthos* in Andocides’ *On His Return* and at his later trial
- 112 INEKE SLUITER AND CLAARTJE C. LEVELT, Baby talk on stage: performing Aristophanes *Clouds* 1382
- 122 JOHN DILLERY, Twice-occurring terms in Herodotus: random distribution, habit of presentation and deliberate pairings
- 144 LEAH LAZAR, The Athenian Empire and epigraphic cultures
- 164 JESSE JAMES, Indicting the Athenians in the Melian dialogue
- 182 JULIAN DEGEN, Alexander and empire: a commentary on a new testimony to Onesicritus (*Sen. Ben.* 7.2.5)
- 198 FILIPPOMARIA PONTANI, Callimachus, Conon and Ptolemy: an Alexandrian epigram between geography and astronomy
- 209 FEDERICO M. PETRUCCI, A living reasonable account: on the status of Timaeus’ *eikōs logos* (again)
- 228 MIRJAM E. KOTWICK, (Re)writing commentaries: Alexander on *Metaphysics* V 2 and Simplicius on *Physics* II 3
- 247 ARIADNE KONSTANTINOY, The anthropomorphism of Hestia: reconsidering the early Greek sources
- 261 CHRISTELLE FISCHER-BOVET, The power of statues: constructing imperial narratives under the Ptolemies
- 280 Index of books reviewed
- 283 Reviews of books

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF HELLENIC STUDIES 2023–2024

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at 2pm on Saturday 8 June 2024 in Room G22/26, Senate House, Malet Street, London. The President, Professor Paul Cartledge, was in the chair and welcomed members. A silence was held to remember Professor Sir John Boardman, OBE FBA (20 August 1927–23 May 2024), a former editor of *JHS* (1958–1965). The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Professor Cartledge delivered his report on the activities of the year as follows.

The first event of the new academic year was with the Classical Collections Network at the end of September 2023 at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. A number of speakers presented on their collections in local museums, and the day ended with a guided tour of the Classical collections led by Daniel Potter and Margaret Maitland. In December, a large audience gathered at the Hellenic Centre to hear Professor Sir Michael Llewellyn Smith and Professor Roderick Beaton speak on *From the Paris Peace Conference to the Treaty of Lausanne (1919–1923)*. In February 2024, the Society held another event at the Hellenic Centre, at which Professor Polly Low (Durham) gave a lecture on *Imperial tyranny? Rethinking Athenian imperial power*. In March, we joined with the Roman Society at Senate House for a series of lectures and presentations on *Changing Attitudes to the Olympic Games*: Professor Paul Cartledge, Professor Tom Scanlon, and Dr Shushma Malik (Cambridge) gave formal talks, and Mike Armstrong, Alex Donnachie and Danny Miller jointly gave a dramatic presentation of *The Hellenic Games: An Immersive Family Show*. There was also a joint event with the Society of Antiquaries in Burlington House on 9 May, when Professor David Mattingly (Leicester) gave a talk on *Talking to the Ancestors: Iron Age Painted Tombs of the Wadi Draa, Morocco*.

Professor Cartledge thanked Ms Joanna Ashe and the team of Librarians as ever, for all their work for the Library during the last year, and he especially thanked Professor Mike Trapp who had served as the Hon Librarian from 2016. He noted that there had been a number of events in aid of the Library fundraising campaign, including with Michael Wood (*In the Footsteps of Alexander. Further Reflections on an Epic Journey*) and Emlyn Dodd (*Tastes, places, and processes of ancient winemaking*). Members of the Societies also had had the opportunity to visit the Library to see some of the rare books (*Palmyra and Rome in the Collection of the Hellenic and Roman Library*), and supporters of the Soane Museum and members of the Civil Service Classicists Group have also been invited to see the collection. He thanked all members who continue to make donations, and reminded everyone that it is still possible to contribute online via the HARL website: www.hellenicandromanlibrary.org.

The *Journal of Hellenic Studies* and *Archaeological Reports* had been published and despatched to members at the end of 2023. Two further editions of *ARGO* had been published during the year, and the Society is grateful for another generous grant from the Leventis Foundation which will allow us to distribute free copies of *ARGO* for up to 100 schools. Professor Cartledge thanked all the Editors: Professor Lin Foxhall (Liverpool),

Professor Laurence Totelin (Cardiff) and Dr Michaela Senkova (*JHS*); Dr Tulsi Parikh, Dr Georgios Mouratidis and Dr Michael Loy (*AR*); and Dr Daisy Dunn (*ARGO*).

Professor Cartledge also thanked the Council members who had served as Trustees over the last three years: Dr Anastasia Christophilopoulou, Dr Emma Greensmith, Dr Jon Hesk, Dr Emily Kneebone, Professor Fiona Macintosh, Ms Helen McVeigh and Professor Dan Orrells.

Professor Cartledge ended by looking forward to future plans. There will be a visit to The Hellenic Necropolis at West Norwood Cemetery on Saturday 15 June. The Green Lectures (generously supported by Professor J.R. Green), delivered by Dr Lindy Crewe, will take place Monday 30 September – Monday 7 October, in London, Nottingham, Belfast and Cambridge. There will be a joint event at the Society of Antiquaries on Thursday 3 October, delivered by Dr Elizabeth Key Fowden: *The Evliyan Marbles: Ottoman viewers of Athenian Antiquities*. The full events programme for 2024-2025 will be sent to members at the end of the summer.

Adoption of the 2023 Financial Statements

Mr Lennon noted that the Society had recorded a surplus of c.£84k, of which c.£80k was attributable to net gain on the investment portfolio. However, he pointed out that these were uncertain times as the income from the new publishing agreement with CUP would reduce in future years. This year the accounts had been subject to an Independent Examination by UHY Ross Brooke rather than a full audit, as the assets and income fell below the threshold for an audit, and he reported that this process had gone very smoothly.

Dr Thomas proposed the adoption of the 2023 Financial Statements; Dr Mountford seconded; and the motion passed *nem. con.*

Professor Cartledge noted that the Council of the Society proposed that membership rates for 2025 remained the same, and this proposal was accepted.

Dr Haywood nominated and Professor Mossman seconded Dr Margaret Mountford as the new President. Mr Lennon nominated for re-election the following Vice-Presidents: Professor Pat Easterling FBA, Professor Robert Fowler FBA, Mr Brian Gilmore, Mr George Lemos, Dr Pantelis Michelakis, Professor Judith Mossman, Professor Robin Osborne FBA, Professor Christopher Rowe OBE, Professor Malcolm Schofield FBA, Professor Brian Sparkes and Dr David Thomas. This was seconded by Professor Cartledge. Dr Mountford nominated and Mr Lennon seconded Professor Paul Cartledge as a new Vice-President. Dr Haywood proposed as Members of Council (to serve 2024-2027): Mrs Caroline K. MacKenzie, Dr Christos Nifadopoulos, Professor Corinna Riva and Dr Anja Slawisch. The motion was seconded by Dr Mountford. Mr Lennon proposed, and Dr Thomas seconded, UHY Ross Brooke for re-election as Independent Examiner for 2024. All the motions were passed *nem. con.*

Ms Fitton thanked Professor Cartledge for all his work as President over the last four years:

This is Paul's last Council meeting as President of the Hellenic Society, so the rather sad moment has arrived when we must thank him for all his hard work for the Society over the past four years. He took the helm during the dark days of Covid, and since then has deftly steered us back to the current normality. This time last year, we were delighted when he kindly agreed to extend his Presidency for an extra year, to make up for the period of suspended animation that we all endured at the beginning.

I find it hard not to think of Paul in terms of Spartan virtues and values – not surprisingly, as he is steeped in learning about ancient Sparta and is of course an honorary citizen of Sparta today. The most famous Spartan values are military, and initially one might think they could have little to do with the peaceful life of the President of the Hellenic Society. Actually, though, if you think about it, he has certainly brought loyalty, courage, true grit and determination to the role. But in truth I think it has been the Sparta of the early lyric poets that he has channelled the most. He has so generously contributed so many golden words to our lectures and our events. It has been a huge pleasure and a privilege to listen to him. He is always erudite and engaging – and I think he has brought one quality which is not so much associated with ancient Sparta, and that is a sense of humour.

I would say we will miss his wit and his warmth – but happily, that is not completely true. He will carry on as a Vice President, and I'm delighted to say he has already promised that he will continue to contribute to our events. He will also be giving his Presidential lecture, as is customary for retiring Presidents of the Society. That will be scheduled soon, and is certainly something to look forward to.

We have thanked Paul with a small gift: a bay tree and an olive tree. With characteristic modesty he received them with the response that Apollo would love the bay and Athena would be pleased with the olive. But I must tell him that the symbolism we intended was not that. We feel that he should be wreathed in laurel and crowned with wild olive, as that is the way we all see him.

At an Extraordinary General Meeting held on Monday 18 December, 2023, the following Resolutions to amend the Society's Rules were passed:

ADD at the end of Rule 39

Council shall be entitled, with the consent of the incumbent Honorary Treasurer, to extend the final term twice, each time for a period of one year, provided that it informs Members of its intention to effect such an extension with the notice convening the Annual General Meeting at which the term would otherwise expire. No term may be extended beyond a total period of eleven years and no person shall be eligible for re-election as Honorary Treasurer in the three year period following expiry of his or her term of office.

New Rule 22 (h)

To recommend persons for election at the Annual General Meeting as President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Membership Officer and as Auditors or Independent Examiner of the Society;

New Rule 25 (j)

To appoint Auditors or an Independent Examiner of the Society to hold office until the following Annual General Meeting if for any reason the Auditors or Independent Examiner appointed at the preceding Annual General Meeting cease to hold office during the year

New Rule 46

An Auditor or Independent Examiner, who shall not be a member of the Council (and need not be a Member of the Society) shall be elected for each year at an Annual General Meeting.

New Rule 47

The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held in May or June of each year to report on the business of the Society, to present the Annual Reports and Accounts and the report of the Auditor or Independent Examiner, to elect Ordinary Members to membership of the Council, to elect the Principal Officers at the intervals prescribed by the Rules, and the Auditors or Independent Examiner, and to discuss or determine other business notified in advance to the Council.

New Rule 53

The elections of the Ordinary Members of the Council, Principal Officers, Vice-Presidents and Auditor or Independent Examiner at the Annual General Meeting, shall be by a majority of the votes of those present. The Chairman of a General Meeting shall have a casting vote.

SOCIETY EVENTS 2023–2024

Friday 29 September 2023

National Museum of Scotland

Joint event with the Classical Collections Network and Roman Society

Classical Collections Network in Scotland: Collections and their Histories, with a guided tour of the Classical Collections on display at the NMS.

Tuesday 12 December 2023

Hellenic Centre, London

Professor Roderick Beaton and Sir Michael Llewellyn Smith: *From the Paris Peace Conference to the Treaty of Lausanne (1919-1923)*

Thursday 7 February 2024

Hellenic Centre, London

Professor Polly Low: *Imperial Tyranny? Rethinking Athenian Imperial Power*

Tuesday 26 March 2024

Senate House, London

Joint event with the Roman Society

Changing Attitudes to the Olympic Games

Professor Paul Cartledge: *Was there an ancient Hellenic 'Olympic' Ideal?*
Professor Tom Scanlon: *Cynisca, breaker of Olympic gender barriers or political pawn?*
Dr Shushma Malik: *Nero's Olympic failures and why they matter*
Mike Armstrong, Alex Donnachie, Danny Miller: *The Hellenic Games: An Immersive Family Show*

Thursday 9 April 2024

Burlington House, London & online

Joint event with the Society of Antiquaries and Roman Society

Professor David Mattingly: *Talking to the Ancestors: Iron Age Painted Tombs of the Wadi Draa, Morocco*

Saturday 8 June 2024

Senate House, London

SPHS AGM & Colloquium: *Machine Learning and the Future of Classics and Hellenic Studies*

Charlotte Tupman (Exeter): *Analysing inscriptions at scale through images: using machine learning for the study of lettercutting practices*

Valeria Vitale (Sheffield): *Finding Antiquities on the Map: how machine learning enables us to ask new questions*

Thea Sommerschild (Nottingham): *Responsible machine learning for ancient Greek: what can we learn and what can we teach*

Round table discussion and questions



Photo: Robert Wilkins, Institute of Archaeology, Oxford. With thanks to Ian Cartwright.

Professor Sir John Boardman (born August 20 1927, died May 23 2024) has been ferried peacefully across the Styx, full of years, loaded with richly merited renown. He graduated from Magdalene College Cambridge with a First in Classics in 1948, researched Euboean pottery in the National Archaeological Museum Athens between 1948 and 1950, and performed his national service in the Intelligence Corps between 1950 and 1952. From 1952 to 1955 he was Assistant Director of the British School at Athens. From 1955 he was a curator of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, becoming elected first a Fellow of Merton College, and between 1978 and 1995 the Lincoln Professor of Classical Art in the University of Oxford. Knighted in 1989, he was showered with other awards and distinctions at home and far afield alike. But he put back at least as much as he received.

He wrote or co-wrote and edited or co-edited well over 30 books in the course of some six decades: handbooks (Attic black- and red-figure vases, Archaic and Classical Greek sculpture), a lecture-collection (the 1993 Andrew W. Mellon Lectures in Fine Art, D.C., published as *The Diffusion of Classical Art in Antiquity*, awarded the Runciman Prize) and a longform essay (*Preclassical*), as well as heavy-duty academic monographs (most notably *Greek Gems and Finger Rings*, *Persia and the West*, and *The Archaeology of Nostalgia*, another Runciman winner), numerous catalogues (i.a. many gem collections, *Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum* Castle Ashby, and recently one for the Mougins Musée d'Art Classique), and excavation reports (three sites on Chios 1956, 1959, 1967, Tocra in Libya 1966-73). He published an *Autobiography*, subtitled *The Story So Far*, in his ninth decade (2020).

He also published numerous journal articles and reviews, including generous appreciations of colleagues. Above all, he rendered sterling service to this journal, acting as its editor between 1968 and 1975. Those years were bookended by articles of his in the *JHS*: respectively a supplement to his 1963 *Island Gems* monograph and a political reading of late Archaic Attic vase-iconography of Heracles. In between came a note on a Sam Wide Group cup and another on sickles and strigils. His very last book appeared in the month of his death: *John Boardman On The Parthenon*, a neat repackaging of the lively text he wrote to accompany David Finn's b/w photos (Thames & Hudson, 1985). Readers of this journal together with his many former pupils and admirers worldwide will mourn the passing of one of our very greatest Hellenists and most assiduous promoters of Hellenic studies and culture.

Paul Cartledge