

Centre for Hellenic Studies

Newsletter 28

December 2017

Director's Report



Nicholas and Matti Egon at the 2017 Runciman lecture (Copyright: Katerina Kalogeraki)

Our sponsor and dear friend Nicholas Egon died on 25 April, aged 95. Our condolences go to his widow Matti. An obituary appeared in *The Times* on 20 October. For our own obituary, please turn to the back page.

The most exciting news of the year concerns the successful conclusion of our appeal to re-endow the Koraes Chair. For this we are more than ever grateful to all the generous donors who have made it possible.

Hard on the heels of this success, we are proud to announce the appointment of **Professor Gonda Van Steen** to be the next Koraes Professor and Director of the Centre from September 2018. Professor van Steen currently holds a Chair in Greek Studies at the University of Florida and is Executive Director of the Modern Greek Studies Association (MGSA). She is the author of four scholarly books, including most recently *Stage of Emergency: Theater and Public Performance under the Greek Military Dictatorship of 1967-1974* (OUP, 2015). We look forward to welcoming Gonda to King's and to her leadership of CHS.

Gonda Van Steen writes:

'I look forward to taking up the position of Koraes Professor starting September 2018. I hope to offer courses in reception studies, language, and literature, and I will also delve deeper into twentieth-century Greek social history. I am excited to start working with postgraduate students and colleagues in the CHS, and I aim to build bridges across UK campuses, to Greece and the rest of Europe, and also to the USA. My current book project, entitled *Adoption, Memory, and Cold War Greece*, is taking me into the new, uncharted terrain of Greek adoption stories that become paradigmatic of Cold War politics and history.'

During 2017 the Centre has once again presented a broad range of events open to the public, as well as to students and staff.



Professor Gonda Van Steen

Alongside our regular seminars in Late Antique & Byzantine Studies, Modern Greek Studies, and the twice-yearly Greek-Turkish Encounters series, we have hosted events devoted to ancient Greek art and modern aesthetics, to ancient medicine, and the prehistory of Cyprus. Audited attendance figures for the twelve months to last June came to just short of 1200.

My warmest thanks go to my colleague Professor Michael Trapp who as Acting Director ably steered the Centre through the eight months while I was absent on sabbatical study leave. I will be standing down as Director (after six years) and as Koraes Professor (after 30!) next summer. I have benefited immeasurably from the friendship, collegiality and expertise of innumerable colleagues and former students during that time and look forward to maintaining close links with King's and CHS in retirement.

Roderick Beaton
December 2017

APPEAL FOR THE RE-ENDOWMENT OF THE KORAE'S CHAIR IN MODERN GREEK AND BYZANTINE HISTORY, LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

On 17 October the College posted the following announcement on its website:

'Thanks to the generosity of charitable and educational foundations and individuals in Greece, Cyprus and the UK, over £1.5 million has been raised, so as to ensure the future of this unique and prestigious Chair, which will be 100 years old next year.'

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Benefactions

STUDENTSHIPS & PRIZES

♦ The **Niki Marangou Undergraduate Prize** was awarded this year to second-year Classics student **Felicity Beech** in July. Our thanks go once again to Mr Constantis Candounas for sponsoring this award.

♦ The annual **Katie Lentakis Memorial Fund Award** was established by the Anglo-Hellenic League in memory of the late Mrs Katie Lentakis, and was first awarded in 2002. The Award is made to a final year undergraduate studying in the Faculty of Arts & Humanities at King's College London who submits an essay of 7,000-10,000 words on a topic related to any field of Hellenic Studies.

The winner of the 2017 award was **Eliza Vierny**, for an essay entitled 'The classicist as artist: Reinterpreting Oscar Wilde's New Hellenism', supervised by Professor Hugh Bowden.

Fifteen entries were received this year, from students of three departments, Classics, Comparative Literature, and History. Once again the standard was extremely high, with several entries judged outstanding. The award was presented by Mr Gerald Cadogan, Chairman of the Anglo-Hellenic League, during a reception on Tuesday 13 June.

♦ The **Schilizzi Foundation** continued its tradition of awarding scholarships to students of Greek nationality to pursue studies in any field at King's College London. On 2 October, in the Council Room, awards were presented by Mr Stephen Schilizzi FKC to **Filippos-Georgios Papadopoulos** (MBBS Medicine), **Spyridon Mavraganis** (LLB Law) and **Iliana Mousogianni** (BSc Biomedical Sciences). Mr Patrick O'Shea, a trustee of the Foundation, also attended.

♦ The latest fully funded visit to Greece for students of the Classics Department, made possible by the generosity of the

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'We are immensely grateful to the donors who have made this possible, not only through their financial support, but also with their time, influence and encouragement which helped lead to the success of this appeal. King's College London is proud to go forward and build upon its world-leading position in modern Greek and Byzantine studies, in partnership with our dedicated and passionate supporters in the international Greek community and in the UK. We wish to extend heartfelt thanks to the A. G. Leventis Foundation who bravely launched this campaign, to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation for the second major gift which propelled us forward, and to the growing family of extremely generous supporters: The Hellenic College Trust, The Hellenic Foundation, The Family of Tassos and Angele Nomikos, George Vergottis Memorial Fund, Stiftung, Bank of Greece, The Schilizzi Foundation, the late Nicholas Egon FKC and Mrs Matrona Egon, Stelios Philanthropic Foundation, and the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Cyprus.

'We are also pleased to announce that the appeal has additionally made possible the establishment of the first two-year Postdoctoral Fellowship, supporting the work of the Koraes Professor to generate new research, apply for significant external funding, and increase public engagement in the field of post-classical

Hellenic studies. We look forward to seeing these Fellowships grow in future.

'The Koraes Chair was established in 1918, with generous support from the Greek business community, particularly in London, and the Parliament of the Hellenes. Ever since, it has become a focal point in the UK and beyond for the study of Greek history and culture from the end of antiquity to the present day. It is unusual in covering three academic disciplines (history, language, literature), as well as a chronological span of some 1700 years.

'The Chair has been since 2015 part of the College's Department of Classics, the third largest in the UK, and the only one to offer teaching and to carry out research across the full range of Hellenic studies from prehistory to today, within a single academic unit.

'The impact of the Chair has been its legacy of fostering a vibrant group of scholars who have gone on to distinguished careers in academia and the worlds of business, public administration and the diplomatic services in the UK, Greece, Cyprus and beyond. As we celebrate the centenary of the Koraes Chair in 2018 and look forward to its next hundred years, we can be confident that King's will continue to play a pre-eminent role in teaching, research and promoting public knowledge and understanding of post-classical Greek history and culture in London, the UK, and around the world.'

Jamie Rumble Memorial Fund, took place in December 2016 (too late to be included in last year's *Newsletter*). *Dr Michael Squire, who led the visit, writes:*

'This year saw the largest trip in the Rumble Fund's history: 30 BA and MA students set off to Athens, Piraeus

and Delphi as part of their module on the 'Classical Art of the Body: Greek Sculpture and its Legacy'. As with all such fieldtrips, the excursion gave students first-hand access to the monuments and materials studied in London.

'This year we were blessed with glorious December sunshine in Greece. The trip covered over 15 museums and archaeological sites; a handling session likewise gave our students the chance to get to grips with ancient bronze figurines, pots and statuettes (some of them almost 5,000 years old). The trip was organized in close consultation with the British School at Athens.

'One of the things that makes KCL Rumble trips so special is their unique access to sites and museum-rooms that are usually closed to the public. A particular highlight was our tour inside the Parthenon – visiting the very



The three award-winners with Mr Stephen Schilizzi FKC (right)

Benefactions



Students from the Classics Department on the steps of the Parthenon, Athens

spot where Pheidias' gold and ivory Athena Parthenos once stood (currently substituted by a giant crane, which presides over the building's restoration). Students will likewise never forget the magical surroundings of Delphi. Ancient myth has it that Apollo heads to the Hyperborean north each winter, and this year students almost had the site and Archaeological Museum at Delphi to themselves.'

For further information about the Rumble Fund and the activities it supports in Classical art history, please contact Dr Michael Squire (michael.squire@kcl.ac.uk).

♦ **Michael Marks Charitable Trust**

We are once again most grateful to the Trust and to Marina, Lady Marks, for a grant which will be divided between supporting the performance of the rarely heard poems of Cavafy set to music by Dimitri Mitropoulos in January 2018 and

the next stage of the project to publish Greek inscriptions from the Black Sea area carried out by Dr Irene Polinskaya (on which see further p. 6).

International Advisory Board

The Board now holds its annual meeting on the day of the Runciman lecture (2 February this year). New members welcomed to the Board were Dr Tasso Leventis FKC (Director of the A.G. Leventis Foundation) and Professor Sir Michael Llewellyn-Smith (former HM Ambassador to Greece and a Visiting Professor in the Centre for Hellenic Studies). Continuing external members are Professor Dame Averil Cameron (Oxford), Dr Dionysios Kapsalis (Athens), Professor Paschalis Kitromilides (Athens) and Professor Richard Martin (Stanford).

The Principal once again warmly thanked the external members for their support and commended the continuing work of the Centre. The next meeting of the Board is due to take place on 1 February 2018 (the day of the next Runciman lecture).

Conferences

27 APRIL

At the end of the first day's proceedings of the conference **New Light on Tony Harrison** (organised at the British Academy by Edith Hall), the Centre and the Department of Classics co-hosted a dinner at King's for the speakers and their subject, which was also a celebration of Tony Harrison's eightieth birthday.

Professor Michael Trapp (Acting Director) writes:

'A starry guest-list looked in advance as if it was going to be headed by Vanessa Redgrave, but in the event she had mysteriously metamorphosed into Sir Tom Stoppard. The after-dinner speeches were led by Tony Harrison's old Leeds University classmate, the comedian Barry Cryer, who took advantage of their long acquaintance to hymn the bard in mock-Harrisonian verse of his own. Our warm thanks go to King's Venues and their catering staff for their excellent organization and good food and wine.'

23 SEPTEMBER

Workshop at the British School at Athens, on **Cyprus, Female Voice and Memory: Literature, Arts and History in the work of Niki Marangou**

Polina Tambakaki (Niki Marangou Postdoctoral Fellow) writes:

'The workshop was very well attended and the reactions of the audience (academics and the wider public) and the participants were very positive, all acknowledging the high level of presentations and the warm and collaborative spirit prevailing.

'The workshop consisted of two parts. The first, the 'academic' one, included 8 presentations by (in order of appearance): Maria Nikolopoulou, Flora Manakidou, Eleni Papargyriou, Nikos Falagkas, Polina Tambakaki, Nicoletta Hadjipavlou, Evripidis Garantoudis and Maria Mandamadiotou.

'The papers concentrated mainly (but not exclusively) on the literary work of Niki Marangou. Dealing with



Participants enjoying a buffet lunch in the garden of the Upper House, British School at Athens

Marangou's literary work in a global way, the workshop also aimed at providing a basis for future studies on Marangou's multifaceted work: for example, on her relationship to folk stories; her engagement with Byzantine art; the contribution of her bookshop 'Kochlias' to the cultural life of Cyprus; her visual poetics as expressed in her various activities as painter, photographer and writer.

Conferences

'In the second part of the workshop, entitled 'Remembering Niki', friends, artists and writers, who knew Niki Managou personally, spoke about her, describing her as a very talented author and a very generous, warm and caring person: Michalis Ganas, Dionysis Kapsalis, Edmée Leventis, Julia Tsiakiris, Miltiades Hatzopoulos and Anna Boghiguian.

'Overall, the workshop confirmed the significance of Niki Marangou's work and its potential to open up new research questions about modern Cypriot literature and culture at an international level.'

A volume of essays based on the papers given in the first part of the workshop is in preparation, edited by Dr Tambakaki, to be published in Greek.

10 NOVEMBER saw the launch of a major new project at King's: *Modern Classicisms: Classical Art and Contemporary Artists in Dialogue* (www.modernclassicism.com). The project, carried out in partnership with the Courtauld Institute of Art, Musée d'Art Classique de Mougins (MACM) and *Minerva* (*International Review of Ancient Art and Archaeology*), explores the continuing legacy of ancient Greek art, above all in the context of contemporary artistic practice. The first phase of the project will culminate in



an exhibition at King's (2 March – 29 April 2018): **The Classical Now** will be the inaugural exhibition in the Bush House Arcade.

The November 2017 launch was hosted by the Centre of Hellenic Studies and Arts and Humanities Research Institute at King's. We were able to welcome 250 delegates, and the day was packed with mini-lectures, activities and discussions; a special exhibit on the 'His' and 'Hers' of classical art, centred around the reception of the Belvedere Torso and Venus de Milo, has been installed in the

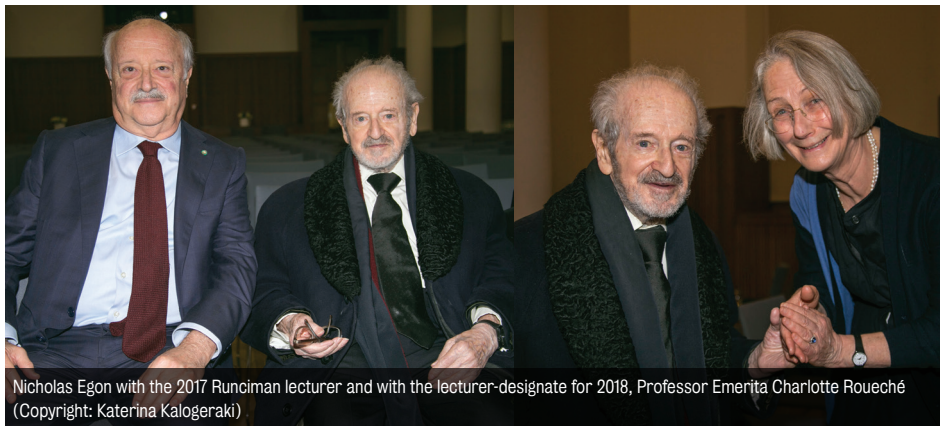
Entrance Hall of the King's Building, and can be seen until late April 2018. In total there were 35 speakers in eight themed panels and interventions. The panels brought together artists, critics, curators and academics, and included some of the leading names in contemporary art (among them, Sir Michael Craig-Martin, Marc Quinn and Mary Reid Kelley). Both the launch and the larger project come about thanks to the generous support of Christian Levett, with Michael Squire acting as academic lead in the Department of Classics.

Other highlights of 2017

2 FEBRUARY

The **26th Annual Runciman lecture**, sponsored by Nicholas and Matti Egon, was given by **Thanos Veremis**, Professor Emeritus of Political History at Athens University. Under the title, '**Greece in the Balkans: A Cohabitation of Past, Present and Future**', Professor Veremis gave a spirited account of the problems facing the region and the entire world in the face of the rise of

populism and the challenges to democratic institutions in many countries. As always, the lecture was preceded by Orthodox Vespers, celebrated in the College Chapel by Father Alexander Fostiropoulos and sung by the College Choir. The vote of thanks was given by Professor Sir Michael Llewellyn-Smith. The lecture was followed by a reception, generously funded by the sponsors.



15 MARCH

The 2017 **Rumble Fund Lecture in Classical Art** was delivered by **Elizabeth Prettejohn** (Professor of History of Art at the University of York) in the Great Hall. The lecture addressed the theme of '**Beauty & Classical Form**', using the paintings of Frederic Leighton to explore how modern artists can help us not merely to understand, but genuinely to see the beauty of classical form. The CHS welcomed

Other highlights of 2017

around 200 guests, and together with the Department of Classics sponsored the drinks reception after the lecture.

14 NOVEMBER

The **54th Greek Archaeological Committee UK lecture** was given by **Professor Maria Iacovou**, Professor of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Archaeology in the Department of History and Archaeology at the University of Cyprus.

The evening was introduced by the President and Principal of King's College London, Professor Edward Byrne, who paid tribute to the inspiring founder of the Committee, Mrs Matti Egon, on this first occasion at the College when she has not been accompanied by her husband Nicholas. The current Chair of the Committee, Dr Zetta Theodoropoulou-Polychroniadis then spoke about its work and, as is customary on these occasions, introduced to the audience the 13 scholars currently funded by GACUK to pursue doctoral studies in archaeology at 9 leading British universities, including King's.

The speaker was introduced by Mr Gerald Cadogan, Chairman of the Anglo-Hellenic League and himself a distinguished archaeologist who has conducted excavations in Cyprus and Greece. Speaking warmly of his former pupil, he explained that Professor Iacovou has revolutionised our understanding of the prehistory and early history of Cyprus by thinking 'from the inside out', rather than from the outside, looking in.

The lecture itself, entitled '**Political economy, state formation and urbanism in the land of Ancient Paphos**', gave ample illustration of this new way of thinking. Based on a research programme that she has been directing since 2006, on the urban landscape of the Paphos district of Cyprus, Professor Iacovou showed how previously neglected or misunderstood monuments of the region could be re-interpreted, using up-to-date methods and techniques to reconstruct a far richer and more continuous history of early Cyprus than had previously been imagined. Convincingly, the talk demonstrated

that the site known as the 'Sanctuary of Aphrodite' at 'Old Paphos' had functioned as the centre of a continuously developing and thriving city-state for a millennium, from the Late Bronze Age down to the early Hellenistic period. New discoveries were still being made, and we were left with a tantalising glimpse of more to be made in the near future, at the end of this elegantly constructed and beautifully illustrated talk.



Professor Iacovou delivering the 2017 GACUK lecture. (Copyright: Katerina Kalogeraki)

The vote of thanks was given by Professor Irene Lemos, of the University of Oxford, and the evening ended with a reception generously sponsored by Mrs Matti Egon. As usual on these occasions, the Great Hall was full to capacity, with an audience numbering some 200.

Cyprus Lecture, under the auspices of HE the High Commissioner of Cyprus. The lecture for the 2017-18 academic year will be given on 22 January and covered in the 2018 *Newsletter*.



GACUK-funded students with (front row: left to right) Dr Theodoropoulou-Polychroniadis (Chair), Dr Panos Arvanitakis (Treasurer) and Mrs Matti Egon (founder) (Copyright: Katerina Kalogeraki)

Publications

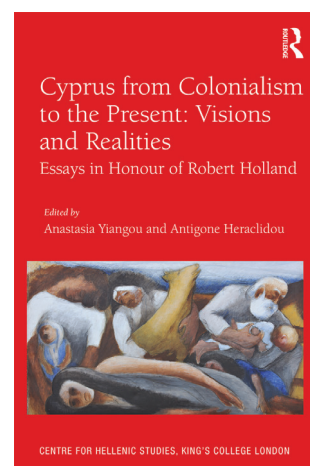
ROUTLEDGE (FORMERLY ASHGATE) SERIES: *Publications of the Centre for Hellenic Studies, King's College London*

♦ Volume 19 in the series, *Cyprus from Colonialism to the Present: Visions and Realities*, edited by Anastasia Yiangou and Antigone Heraclidou, was published just before the end of the year. This volume is published in honour of the acclaimed work of Robert Holland, historian of the British Empire and the Mediterranean, and it brings together essays based on the original research of his colleagues, former students and friends. The focal theme is modern Cyprus, on which much of Robert Holland's own history writing was

concentrated for many years. The essays analyse British rule in Cyprus between 1878 and 1960, and especially the transition to independence; the coverage, however, also incorporates the post-colonial era and the construction of present-day dilemmas. Taken as a collection, the essays serve as an appropriate tribute to Robert Holland as well as an innovative addition to the existing historiography of colonial and post-colonial Cyprus.

♦ Volume 20, *Greek Medical Literature and its Readers: From Hippocrates to Islam and Byzantium*, edited by Petros Bouras-Vallianatos and Sophia Xenophontos, will follow early in 2018.

Further information about this series is available at: <https://www.routledge.com/Publications-of-the-Centre-for-Hellenic-Studies-Kings-College-London/book-series/CHS>



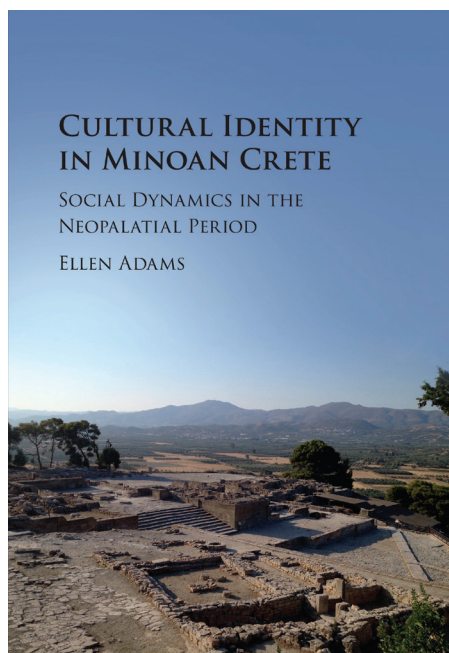
The general editor of the series is Professor Michael Trapp (Classics).

Publications

OTHER BOOKS BY MEMBERS OF THE CENTRE PUBLISHED IN 2017

Ellen Adams, *Cultural Identity in Minoan Crete: Social Dynamics in the Neopalatial Period* (Cambridge University Press)
Neopalatial Crete – the ‘Golden Age’ of the Minoan civilization – possessed palaces, exquisite artefacts, and iconography with pre-eminent females. While lacking in fortifications, ritual symbolism cloaked the island, an elaborate bureaucracy logged transactions, and massive storage areas enabled the redistribution of goods. This book explores and celebrates this rich, diverse and dynamic culture through analyses of important sites, as well as Minoan administration, writing, economy and ritual.

Michiel Meeusen, *Plutarch's Science of Natural Problems. A Study with Commentary on Quaestiones Naturales* (Leuven University Press)
In his *Quaestiones naturales*, Plutarch unmistakably demonstrates a huge interest in the world of natural phenomena. The



work of this famous intellectual and philosopher from Chaeronea consists of forty-one natural problems that address a wide variety of questions, sometimes rather peculiar ones, pertaining to ancient Greek

physics, including problems related to the fields of zoology, botany, meteorology and their respective subdisciplines. This book contributes to our better understanding of Plutarch's natural scientific programme and the condition and role of ancient natural science in the Roman Imperial Era in general.

Tassos Papacostas and Maria Parani (eds), *Discipuli dona ferentes: Glimpses of Byzantium in Honour of Marlia Mundell Mango (Brepols)*

From sailing down the Euphrates to hunting with cheetahs in Constantinople, the studies collected in this volume offer engaging and often challenging new perspectives on aspects of Byzantine art and archaeology. Taken together, these diverse studies offer ‘glimpses’ into the Byzantine economy and trade, lifestyle and religion, ideology and identity, artistic creativity and its impact beyond the Byzantine frontier, illustrating a variety of methodological approaches and pointing towards new directions for future research.

News of research projects

♦ **Dr Katerina Levidou**, a musicologist based in Athens and previously a visiting fellow in CHS, has been awarded a prestigious two-year Fellowship by the European Commission to work with CHS, the Department of Classics and the Department of Music.

Katerina Levidou writes:

‘I am excited to join the Centre for Hellenic Studies as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie International Fellow with a project entitled *GRIDAMUS: Greek Identity in Art Music since the Early Nineteenth Century: Towards an Interdisciplinary Methodology*. My project is conceived as a contribution to understanding the strategies by which national narratives are constructed and the part played in that process by culture, and music in particular, focusing on the case of Greece and Western art (or ‘classical’) music since the early 19th century. My research will be interdisciplinary, bringing historical and cultural contextualisation into dialogue with a) critical discourses advanced during the last two to three decades, to understand and contextualise the concept of ‘Greekness’ within Modern Greek Studies and b) ethnomusicological approaches to the study of music and identity. It thus proposes to offer a

revisionist study of Greek art music – a repertory that remains to be investigated in the depth it merits – while, at the same time developing an interdisciplinary methodological framework that has the potential to become paradigmatic for the study of other national repertories too.’

♦ The *Heritage Gazetteer of Cyprus* (<http://www.cyprusgazetteer.org/>) continues to develop, building on the support of the A.G. Leventis Foundation. Thanks to the ERASMUS programme, two graduate students from the University of Cyprus have visited the Classics Department during the year, in order to work on the Gazetteer, while others worked remotely from Nicosia.

♦ *The Prosopography of the Byzantine World* has issued its third edition – PBW 2017. The academic editing is the work of Professor Michael Jeffreys; the design of the new version is by Elliott Hall (King's Digital Laboratory) and Charlotte Roueché, who also added a substantial number of links to other relevant resources. The project is sponsored by the British Academy, and has just received further funding, to enable a series of

workshops on Linked Open Data in Byzantine Studies.

♦ *IOSPE: Ancient Inscriptions of the Northern Black Sea*. This project is hosted by King's College London and directed by Irene Polinskaya (Classics) in collaboration with Askold Ivantchik (CNRS, Bordeaux). Its first five years, up to November 2016, were generously funded by the A.G. Leventis Foundation. The publication of two new online collections, containing nearly 700 entries, was celebrated at a colloquium in May:

- *Inscriptions of Tyras and Vicinity* (edited by Askold Ivantchik) <http://iospe.cch.kcl.ac.uk/corpora/tyras/index.html>
- *Inscriptions of Chersonesos and Vicinity* (edited by Igor Makarov) <http://iospe.cch.kcl.ac.uk/corpora/chersonesos/index.html>

The event took place in the state-of-the-art Lecture Theatre at the newly renovated Bush House and was attended by Tassos and Edmée Leventis. The ambition of Phase II of the project, set to begin in 2018, is to add *Inscriptions of Bosphorus* and *Inscriptions of Olbia Pontica* to the IOSPE corpus, assisted by a new grant from the Michael Marks Trust in 2017.

News of our members

Roderick Beaton made good use of his sabbatical study leave from September 2016 to April 2017 to press ahead with his new book, a 'biography' of Greece as a modern nation, to be published by Allen Lane/Penguin in 2019. He gave invited lectures on aspects of the Greek Revolution of 1821 at the University of St Andrews, to the Cambridge Hellenic Learned Society, and at the House of Commons, and on Nikos Kazantzakis for the Anglo-Hellenic League. In October he took part in the *Greek-British Symposium* in Nafplio, organised by the British embassy in Athens.

Petros Bouras-Vallianatos (Post-Doctoral Fellow in the History Department) is working on the project 'Experiment and Exchange: Byzantine Pharmacology between East and West (ca.1150-ca.1450)', funded by the Wellcome Trust. On 25 May, as part of this project, he organised a public performance of some unique Byzantine medical hymns, which took place at the Reading Room of the Wellcome Collection in London. An excerpt from the concert and an interview with Petros featured in an episode of the Early Music Show on BBC Radio 3 on 'Why Music? The Key to Memory', broadcast on 15 October. Petros has also recently given invited talks on the introduction of Islamic medical knowledge to Byzantium at the University of Oxford, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, and the Open University of Cyprus.

James Corke-Webster writes: The following are (at least in part) Hellenic activities:

- ♦ I recently gave an invited paper on Eusebius at the Oxford Late Roman Seminar, on 12 October, with the title: 'How to Praise a Christian Emperor: The Panegyric Experiments of Eusebius of Caesarea'.
- ♦ I also currently hold a BA/Leverhulme Small Grants Award, together with Dr Christa Gray at Reading, for a project entitled *Constructed Sainthood: The Genesis of Hagiography* which encompasses Roman, Greek and Syriac hagiographies.

Alexandra Georgakopoulou (Deputy Director) is directing the project 'Life-Writing of the moment: The sharing and updating self on social media' as part of the *Ego-Media* Advanced Grant www.ego-media.org, funded by the European Commission, and

organized the 'Life-writing, Europe and new media' conference at King's in June.

Among other things, Professor Georgakopoulou is investigating how critical moments of the Greek financial crisis are circulated on social media and has an article in press jointly authored with Korinna Giaxoglou, 'Emplotment in the social mediatization of the economy: The poly-storying of economist Yanis Varoufakis', *Language @ Internet*.

Robert Holland (Visiting Professor) has been mostly taken up this year with completing a book on the Mediterranean in British culture since the age of the Grand Tour, to be published by Yale University Press. In October he participated in a conference at the Garrison Library and the new University of Gibraltar on *Referenda and Self-Determination*. He has continued to be a member of the CHS Publications Committee and the Committee for Society, Arts and Letters at the British School at Athens.

Sir Michael Llewellyn-Smith (Visiting Professor) is a curator of the exhibition *Ghika Craxton Leigh Fermor: Charmed Lives in Greece*, which was shown at the Leventis Gallery, Nicosia, from February to June and at the Benaki Museum, Athens, from June to September. He contributed to the book of the same title, writing in particular the chapters on Sir Patrick Leigh Fermor. The exhibition is to open at the British Museum on 8 March 2018.

Sir Michael is a member of the Centre's International Advisory Board, a Vice President and member of the Council of the British School at Athens, and a member of the Council of the Anglo-Hellenic League, and continues to be a member of the committee responsible for the A.G. Leventis Research Projects in the humanities and social sciences at the University of Cyprus.

Sir Michael continues his research and writing on Eleftherios Venizelos with a view to publication.

Michiel Meeusen (British Academy Postdoctoral Research Associate) gave talks on the topic of his recent book (see p. 6) at the annual meeting of the Society for Classical Studies in Toronto, at the Bryn Mawr College Classics Colloquium and at the ICS Philosophy Seminar.

Dan Orrells was co-organisier, with Katherine Harloe (Reading University),

Hans Christian Hönes (The Warburg Institute/Bilderfahrzeuge Research Group), and Sadie Pickup (Christie's), of the conference held jointly with the Warburg Institute on 15–16 June, on *Under the Greek Sky: Imitation and Geographies of Art after Winckelmann*.

Tassos Papacostas presented conference papers on onomastics and Renaissance heraldry (First Annual Conference of the Byzantinist Society of Cyprus, Nicosia; Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute conference in honour of Annemarie Weyl Carr), and seminar papers on the built environment of late medieval Cyprus and on the challenges of multi-period monuments of ecclesiastical architecture (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris; University of Oxford). He is taking part in a University of Cyprus project funded by the A.G. Leventis Foundation on the 'Bedesten', the Greek cathedral of Nicosia during Lusignan and Venetian times (2017-19).

David Ricks gave a paper on Tellos Agras at the University of the Peloponnese in Kalamata (May) and on Neoplatonists in Modern Greek poetry at the conference, *Faces of the Infinite* (British Academy/SOAS, November). He had the duty and pleasure to be one of the electors to the Koraes Chair, and looks forward to team teaching with the new incumbent (see p. 1).

Dionysios Stathakopoulos has received two research fellowships (January 2018 to May 2019) from the Leverhulme Trust and the Gerda Henkel Stiftung to work on his book project, *Wealth, Consumption and Inequality in the Late Byzantine World, 1200–1453*. The project will look at the generation of wealth and its uses in the last centuries of the Byzantine Empire. The book will examine what this wealth – which was often considerable, and increasingly derived from trade and money-lending – was and was not invested in: elite lifestyles and conspicuous consumption versus charity towards the needy. Equally, this research is concerned with the social impact of this wealth and its role in amplifying inequality and how this led to tensions on the ground as well as in discourse. The overall aim is to embed the Byzantine case study into the debate on the origins of merchant capitalism (mostly focused on Italy and the Low Countries) from which it is currently conspicuously absent.

People

NICHOLAS EGON – AN OBITUARY

Nicholas Egon was an artist of international distinction, a generous supporter of Hellenic studies in UK Higher Education, and the first patron of the Centre for Hellenic Studies at King's when it was founded in 1989.

Nicholas was born in 1921 at Brno, Czechoslovakia, of aristocratic parents. His family home was Castle Vranov, now in the Czech Republic. He had no formal education but grew up equally fluent in Czech, Slovakian, Hungarian (literally his mother tongue), German and French. Later, he added English, and enrolled at Birkbeck College, University of London, shortly after arriving in this country before the start of World War II. At the same time he became a self-taught artist, working largely at the British Museum.

In the 1940s Nicholas was commissioned

as an official war artist, first with the Czech army, then posted with the British army to Basra. His first experience of Greece came in 1949, when he was taken by the United Nations Special Committee on the Balkans (UNSCOB) to capture scenes from the final battles of the Greek Civil War. In one episode he recalled waving at retreating Communist troops from the top of a captured defence post; years later, he recounted the anecdote at a diplomatic dinner, to meet the reply, 'So you were the bastard waving from the top!'

After the war, Nicholas made his name as a portrait painter, particularly of Middle Eastern royalty. Later, from the 1970s, he specialised as a watercolourist depicting landscapes, first in Jordan and during the last thirty years in Greece.

In 1978, Nicholas married Matti (Matrona) Xylas, who comes from a long tradition of Greek ship-owners and

charitable donors. The couple made their home in Greece and both became enthusiastic and generous patrons of many individuals and organisations committed to the study and promotion of Hellenic culture of all historical periods.

In 1989 Nicholas gave inspirational support to this Centre in its earliest days, working with its first director, Professor Dame Averil Cameron. It was Nicholas who instituted the annual Runciman lecture, named in honour of his old friend the historian of Byzantium and the Crusades, Sir Steven Runciman, one of the most eloquent historians of the twentieth century with a gift for bringing the results of original scholarship to a broad public. In 2013 Nicholas became a Fellow of King's College.

Nicholas died on 25 April 2017, at the age of 95. He is survived by his wife, Matti and a nephew.

APPOINTMENTS

The Classics Department welcomes the following new colleagues who joined in September:

- ♦ **James Corke-Webster**, Lecturer in Roman History
- ♦ **Nikoletta Maniotti**, Teaching Fellow in Classics
- ♦ **Maggie Robb**, Teaching Fellow in Latin.
- ♦ From 1 January 2018 **Dr Vicky Manolopoulou** joins the Department as Lecturer in Byzantine History, replacing Dr Dionysios Stathakopoulos for the duration of his two research fellowships.
- ♦ **Dr Sotirios Paraschas** has been appointed Teaching Fellow in Modern Greek Studies for a second year.

We also extend our congratulations to:

- ♦ **Ismene Lada-Richards**, promoted to Professor of Classical Literature and Performance Culture
- ♦ **Dr Dan Orrells**, promoted to Reader in Ancient Literature and its Reception.

Dr Orrells also becomes Head of Department from January 2018 for four years

- ♦ **Dr Tassos Papacostas**, promoted to Senior Lecturer in Byzantine Material Culture.

DEPARTURES

(but not from King's!) – **Professor Hugh Bowden** stepped down as Head of the Department of Classics in the summer, after four years. During that time, Hugh oversaw the seamless integration of academic staff and their teaching responsibilities from CHS into the Department, and so helped greatly to establish the Centre in its present form. He was succeeded for one term by **Professor Dominic Rathbone**, who will hand over to **Dan Orrells** in January.

ACADEMIC VISITORS

The Centre has a distinguished record in attracting academic visitors, from post-doctoral researchers to professors emeriti, who benefit from its distinctive

character and resources and contribute, on a voluntary basis, to making our research environment at once unique and truly international. Visitors normally contribute by giving seminars or public lectures, by a reading, performance, or exhibition of creative work, by taking part in the organisation of a public event or conference, by advising doctoral students, and/or by contributions to planning or publicity.

VISITING STAFF IN 2017 WERE:

- ♦ **Dr Achilleas Hadjikyriacou** (High Commission of the Republic of Cyprus, London)
- ♦ **Professor Robert Holland** (Emeritus, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London)
- ♦ **Dr Katerina Levidou** (musicologist, Athens)
- ♦ **Professor Sir Michael Llewellyn-Smith** (former UK ambassador to Greece)
- ♦ **Dr Polina Tambakaki** (Niki Marangou Postdoctoral Fellow and CHS Administrator)

People and contact information for the Centre in 2018

- ♦ **Director (until August):** *Professor Roderick Beaton*, Department of Classics, King's College London, Strand, London WC2R 2LS, email: rod.beaton@kcl.ac.uk
- ♦ **Deputy Director:** *Professor Alexandra Georgakopoulou*, Department of Education and Professional Studies, Franklin-Wilkins Building, Waterloo Road, London SE1 9NH, email: alexandra.georgakopoulou@kcl.ac.uk
- ♦ **Centre Administrator:** *Dr Polina Tambakaki*, email: chs@kcl.ac.uk

- ♦ **Enquiries:** email us on chs@kcl.ac.uk
- ♦ **Administration:** AHRI / Arts & Humanities Professional Services, King's College London, Strand, London WC2R 2LS tel +44 (0)20 7848 2423
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- ♦ **Sign up for this newsletter by email:** <https://mailman.kcl.ac.uk/mailman/listinfo/chs-mail>