



Classics newsletter

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Homer honoured at UCL

What do the following all have in common: Apollonius Rhodius and Latin epic, Alcaeus and Bacchylides, early cinema, modern novels and Flaxman, Philip Roth and Michael Longley, twentieth-century Black Odysseys and twenty-first century opera? Answer: they all featured at the one-day conference organized by the Department of Greek and Latin and the Institute of Classical Studies on the receptions of Homer from antiquity to the modern world. This one-day event, entitled 'Receptions of Homer' involved thirteen different speakers, including three of the department's current teaching and research staff, in four thematically grouped panels.

The first panel focused on the ancient reception of Homer. Chris Carey underlined the increasing importance of the modern reception of antiquity in classical studies and presented the main activities undertaken by UCL's Department of Greek and Latin for the promotion of reception studies in both teaching and research, one of which was the launch in September 2007 of the MA in Reception of the Classical World. Barbara Graziosi (Durham) explored some issues of method concerning the ancient reception of Homer, and Sarah Hitch (Reading) presented a paper on re-interpretations of heroic journeys in Apollonius Rhodius and elsewhere. The first session concluded with Phillip Hardie (Cambridge) who presented a paper on 'Unruly and ruly words in Homer and Latin epic'.

In the second panel, Homeric receptions from antiquity to the modern world, the reception of Homer in Greek lyric poetry was brought into focus by both Chris Carey (UCL) who considered the presence of Homer in Bacchylides and Giuseppe Lentini (Siena-Arezzo) who investigated the impact of Homer in Alcaeus' poetry. Justine McConnell (Royal Holloway) concluded the panel with a presentation on her current work on two mid twentieth-century Black Odysseys.

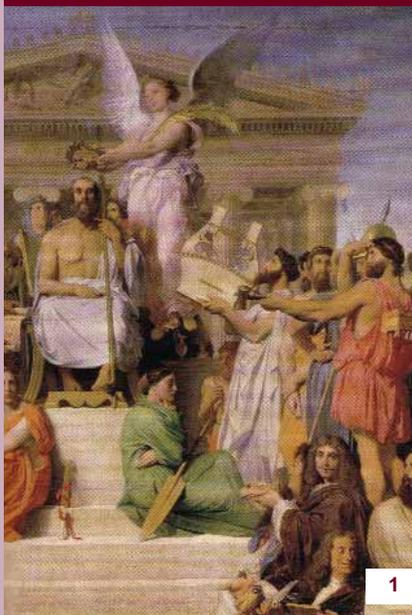
1 Pindar (bearded figure holding lyre) honours Homer in 'The Apotheosis of Homer' by Ingres

At the third panel, Homer in Visual and Popular Culture, the influence of Homer on early cinema was analyzed by Pantelis Michelakis (Bristol) while Nick Lowe (Royal Holloway) talked about the history of novels made from the *Iliad*. The panel concluded with a shared talk by Anastasia Bakogianni and Antony Makrinos on the canonisations of Homer by John Flaxman, the famous painter and sculptor whose gallery decorates the Wilkins Building in UCL.

For the fourth and final panel, Homer in English Literature and Opera, Kasia Body from UCL's Department of English Language and Literature gave a talk on Phillip Roth's novel *The Human Stain* and its relation to Homeric funeral games, and Charles McDougall (Royal Holloway) introduced the audience to the secrets of Homer's *Odyssey* as presented by twenty-first century opera. Opera recordings embodied in the talk gave an artistic tone to the ending of the conference.

The conference was organised by Dr Antony Makrinos and Professor Chris Carey and its success proves that the reception of Homer is an important research area in modern classical studies: its interdisciplinarity brings together a wide range of scholars, researchers and students from different backgrounds and encourages a productive and original dialogue between them.

Dr Anthony Makrinos, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in Greek



Another lively year for the department

Where to next?

And what happens to Classics and Ancient World Studies students after they've completed their degrees? 'Destination Data' supplies some of the answers. 58% of Classicists graduating in 2006 went on to further study, 25% of graduates in the Ancient World Studies BA did so. But the figures have to be handled with care. They say 50% of Latin with Greek graduates ended up unemployed, but there were only two of them, so only one was actually unemployed! And of the nine postgraduates who gained an MA in Classics, four went on to do PhDs.

Undergraduate destinations

Back to the undergraduates, what sort of jobs do they go into after their degrees? Law, journalism and the media are popular. Particularly interesting is the 'salary' column: one 2006 graduate is an Associate Consultant for Cap Gemini already earning £40,000, another is faring well as a Marketing Assistant for Urban Strawberry Lunch.

2 Student studying the Marmor Homericum in UCL's Wilkins Building



Nick Gonis, our new payrologist joined us at the beginning of the academic year from Oxford, where he has long been associated with the Oxyrhynchus Papyri project.

Rhiannon Ash has been appointed, as of October 2007, to a fellowship at Merton College, Oxford. She is replaced by Dr Gesine Manuwald from the University of Freiburg, who has worked most recently on Cicero but whose research interests also include Roman drama. Luke Houghton was appointed to a well-earned lectureship at Glasgow from September 2007.

Emmanuela Bakola joins us as a British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellow for the next three years, during which she will continue her research on Greek comedy. Miriam Leonard from Bristol University was appointed to a lectureship in Greek. Her specialism is in modern reception of the ancient world. She is spending 2007-2008 in a prestigious research fellowship at Stanford University and will be teaching at UCL from autumn 2008. We are also joined for the next academic year by Richard Rawles, who works on Greek lyric, and by Chiara Thumiger, who works on Greek tragedy. Sadly, in June of this year Bob Sharples suffered a stroke. The good news is that he is making an excellent recovery and is expected to rejoin us during the coming winter.

Nick Gonis was successful in his funding bid to the Wellcome Trust to support a research project on medical papyri from Egypt. He will be working with two new Research Fellows, David Leith and Marguerite Hirt. The other major academic development was the creation of the new Reception of the Classical World MA. Reception studies, a major research growth area internationally, explores the ways in which the classical past has been utilised, interpreted, re-shaped and reinterpreted in subsequent ages and different media and cultures. The response to the new programme has been enthusiastic and MA applications for autumn 2007 were over 50% up on previous years. Yet another development has been the involvement of the department in an exciting initiative by a former student of ours, Lorna Robinson, who has started up a programme of Latin lessons to be taught to primary school pupils in Hackney; teaching will be done by students from both UCL and King's College London.

As other articles in this newsletter make clear, 2006-2007 was a year of intense conference activity, with major conferences on the victory ode, Horace and a one-day colloquium on the reception of Homer.

On 22 November 2006 we held a memorial event for Malcolm Willcock. As well as being a distinguished researcher and a popular and effective teacher, Malcolm had also been very active both in UCL in general (he was at one stage Vice-Provost) and in classical organisations, in particular the Virgil Society. Speakers paid tribute to Malcolm's scholarship, teaching and administration. Attendance was very good, from former students and colleagues, who remembered Malcolm with affection and gratitude, and from scholars around the country, who remembered Malcolm with respect. The event ended with tea, which allowed those present to share their memories of Malcolm more informally.

The other major public event was the annual Housman Lecture, held in June. This lecture, now a UCL tradition, combines a stimulating lecture by a leading scholar with a wine reception which allows the audience to meet the speaker. This year's speaker was Christopher Pelling, Regius Professor of Greek at Oxford University and a distinguished expert on Greek historiography and more generally on Greek prose literature. Professor Pelling chose as his theme 'Greek Spectators of Roman Civil Wars', drawing especially on the work of Plutarch.

And in Oxford, Ancient World Studies teachers (past and present) Benet Salway, Riet van Bremen, Simon Corcoran, Mark Hassall, John Wilkes and Alan Johnston attended the 13th International Conference of Greek and Latin Epigraphy held there during the summer.

We again had an impressive clutch of successful PhD examinations: Ioanna Hadjikosti (Aeschylus), Jean-Michel Hulls (Stattius), Jerome Kemp (Horace), Athina Papachrysostomou (Middle Comedy), Diotima Papadi (Plutarch), Richard Rawles (Simonides), Mary Ruskin (Origen) and Solomou Stavros (Ctesias).

We expect 2007-2008 to prove as exciting as 2006-2007. Watch this space...

Chris Carey, Professor of Greek and Head of Department

Carpe diem!

On 5th and 6th July 2007 the department hosted the first major conference this millennium to be exclusively devoted to the Roman poet Horace and his later readers. 'Perceptions of Horace' featured a distinguished programme of speakers from the USA and Europe, and included contributions from both younger scholars and some of the most eminent living Horatians. Earlier sessions saw papers from Denis Feeney, Emily Gowers and Alessandro Schiesaro, focusing on Horace's own construction of a literary personality for himself and his attempts to mark out a place for his work within a literary tradition; the end of the opening day traced the story as far as Horace's reception in later antiquity. The evening ended with a recital by Maureen Almond, who entertained delegates with a reading from her contemporary adaptations of Horace's poetry.

The second day was dedicated to the reception of Horace in art and literature, from the medieval period to the present day. Highlights included Jane Stevenson's wide-ranging investigation of responses to Horace by female humanists of the Renaissance; Niall Rudd's stylish and erudite analysis of the uses made of Horace in the correspondence of Alexander Pope and his circle, and a polished contribution from Roland Mayer on the Horatian emblems of Otto van Veen. The closing session featured John Talbot's expert navigation through the afterlife of Horace's Alcaic metre from nineteenth-century experiments to some very recent revivals, and a first-hand account of Bernard Frischer's excavations between 1997-2003 at the site of 'Horace's Villa' near Licenza.

Supported by the British Academy, the Institute of Classical Studies, UCL's Graduate School and Department of Greek and Latin, and attended by around sixty participants, 'Perceptions of Horace' offered compelling evidence that the poet's work remains, as he called it, "*monumentum aere perennius*" ('a monument more lasting than bronze', *Odes* 3.30). A volume of conference papers, edited by Luke Houghton and Maria Wyke, is currently in preparation.

Luke Houghton

The Greeks and Barbarians were family!

This year's Classical Association conference in Birmingham contained a UCL panel entitled 'Culture Clash? Greeks and Barbarians in Herodotus' World'. Simon Hornblower chaired the session and four of his PhD students, Vasiliki Zali, Richard Ricot, Maria Fragoulaki and Carolyn Schofield, presented papers. As usual, Philip Howard of *The Times* was there, and he summed up Vasiliki Zali's paper on debates in Herodotus' narrative of the Battle of Salamis by writing "Herodotus is using paradox and irony to suggest that behind these nationalist stereotypes Greeks and barbarians were brothers and sisters under the skin".

Euripides: the cleverest man in antiquity?

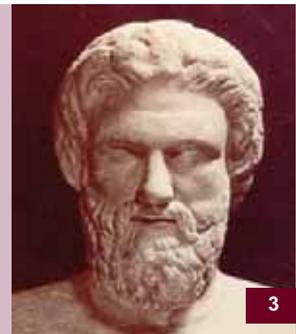
Peter Jones, co-founder of the Friends of Classics, came to talk at the London Summer School in Classics held this year at UCL.

His talk was so entertaining that one sometimes forgot it was about the mass destruction caused by the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD. There was also a debate to discover who was the cleverest person in antiquity: Euripides was the winner. More than 150 students attended the seven-day summer school, which takes place at UCL and King's College London in alternate years.

Aristophanes *Acharnians*

The Classics Play is an integral part of the Greek and Latin Department's calendar, and every production involves a great deal of hard work. Having been in the chorus for the previous two productions of *Knights* and *Medea*, I had some idea of what made a successful performance and yet I found the task both more challenging and more rewarding than I had expected. I think that the entire cast and crew will agree with me when I say that despite many setbacks and moments of self-doubt along the way all of the hard work was worth it.

It is a testament to the brilliance of Aristophanic comedy that it is still being performed so long after its debut. However, there are always many problems when adapting it for a modern audience, particularly one that is not familiar with the genre. Aristophanes liked topical jokes that were relevant to the audience of the time, but are either lost in translation or have become obscure. I was fortunate enough to be offered a completely new translation written by a UCL student, and together we worked and re-worked the script to allow accessibility to all, while retaining its original spark! *Acharnians* has many themes relevant to today's political climate but we chose not to highlight these similarities to a great extent. Instead we focused on the main theme of war and



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3 Aristophanes lives on

peace set against a neutral background. Our ambition of a 'pantomime with a purpose' allowed for outlandish characters and surreal situations with a serious point.

Throughout my three years in the Greek and Latin Department I have thoroughly enjoyed the annual play and would recommend everyone to get involved in some way. The play creates a sense of unity in the department and creates the opportunity for everyone to get involved. *Acharnians* presented a steep learning curve for everyone, but thanks to the huge efforts of a fabulous cast and crew it has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my time here.

Alice Lennard, Director

How to spend a 'Homeric' month in Chios

For ten years now the activities of Academia Homérica have been taking place in the island of Chios, in the heart of the Aegean Sea, in collaboration with the European Federation Euroclassica and under the aegis of the President of the Hellenic Republic. This year the Homeric Academy was stronger than ever and resumed its activities from 13 to 22 July 2007 in Athens, Chios and Oinousses.

Eminent members of European academies, and professors and students from universities and research centres from all around the world, participated either by studying or by delivering lectures on everything related to Homer's epics, language, world and culture. They all gathered to enjoy visits to the most important archaeological places, museums and monuments of the island. At the same time visitors learned Greek traditional dances and studied Modern Greek.

The sessions were divided into three categories. Firstly, a session for students, 'Homer and World Literature', with students taught *Odyssey* 23.1-250 and given lectures on the reception of Homer in the modern world. Secondly, a scholars session, 'Homer in the World', which included more than 20 different lectures on everything related to Homer. Finally, there were sessions for both students and scholars, 'Modern Greek Language, History, Civilization', where anyone could take Greek dance or language classes.



4 Ruins of the temple to Athena, Chios

Additional activities included honorary celebrations and nominations of the guests as honorary citizens of the different municipalities of Chios, lunch and dinner in the different villages of Chios (including the mastic and the medieval villages), teachings and lectures in the nearby island of Oinousses, in the Cultural Centre of Pyrgi village and in the Homereion Cultural Centre. Also included were visits to all archaeological sites including Daskalopetra ('The Teacher's Rock') and the temple of Athena in Emporeio (best known for its similarities with the Trojan temple of Athena in *Il.* 6.86ff.), the Korais Library, the Archaeological Museum of Chios, Nea Moni monastery, and Volissos with its famous castle, the village where Homer is supposed to have lived for a large part of his life.

The preparations for the next Homeric Academy have already begun. Anyone interested in participating may contact Dr Antony Makrinos (a.makrinos@ucl.ac.uk) for further details.

Epinician: an international conference on the victory ode

The Greek and Latin Department, together with the Institute of Classical Studies, played host last year to an important international conference which brought together experts on Greek lyric poetry, historians, and critics of modern literatures to discuss a single genre of Greek choral song: the victory ode, poems composed in honour of victorious athletes. Many of the lectures concerned Pindar and Bacchylides, but others adopted a wider approach.

The department itself made a strong showing. Chris Carey spoke on epinician echoes in fifth-century Attic tragedy; Simon Hornblower examined what became of Pindar's patrons and their descendants in the political storms of the late fifth and fourth centuries BC; Stephen Colvin talked about the language of epinician poetry; Stephen Instone presented a reading of Pindar's Eighth *Pythian* ode; and Alan Griffiths returned to give a paper on Pindar's Fourth *Pythian*. Lucia Prauscello, who spent two years with us as a Momigliano Research Fellow, presented an innovative reading of the place of epinician poetry, and especially Pindar, in the history of Greek music. Two doctoral candidates from the department also presented papers. Richard Rawles spoke on the poetry of Simonides, and Peter Agocs gave a paper about the performance of epinician songs.

One important aspect of the conference was the participation of graduates from UCL and other universities as organisers and as speakers. Separate sections were arranged where younger scholars from Britain, Europe and the United States could exchange ideas with each other, and with more experienced researchers. We would like to thank all of them for sharing their exciting work with us.

We would also like to thank our sponsors: the Institute of Classical Studies, the British Academy, the UCL Graduate School, the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the Hellenic Society, and the Gilbert Murray Trust for their support, without which the conference would not have been possible.

Peter Agocs

An awakening

Listeners to BBC Radio 4 in April were roused by Maria Wyke discussing Greek and Roman love poetry with Nick Lowe and Edith Hall of Royal Holloway College, London, on Melvyn Bragg's 'In Our Time' programme. Professor Wyke said that in Poem 63 about Attis, the devotee of Cybele who castrates himself, Catullus showed how "love destroys your identity as a Roman citizen". Her latest book is on Julius Caesar, *Caesar: a Life in Western Culture*.

Imagine peace

Next time you're in Iceland, visit the Imagine Peace Tower on Videy Island in Reykjavik. The peace tower is a work of art conceived by Yoko Ono in memory of John Lennon. It is dedicated to peace and bears the inscription 'Imagine peace' translated into 24 different languages including a version in ancient Greek elegiacs by Stephen Instone (UCL). The tower will light up every year between October 9th (Lennon's birthday) and December 8th (the day of his death).