

The Hellenistic World of Roman Republican Antiquarianism London, 2-4 February 2023

The work of the Roman Republican antiquarians is overshadowed by the Augustan *renouatio* which their findings legitimated (Romano 2012), the imperial and late-antique writers to whom we owe the preservation of fragments of their texts (Holford-Strevens 2015, Hadas 2017), and the efforts of the early-modern erudites and *dilettanti* who gave the antiquarian tendency its name (Herklotz 2012). But making sense of the Republican antiquarian moment also requires thoroughly examining these authors' engagement with the intellectual trends Hellenophone writers and thinkers had been elaborating across the Mediterranean.

The object of this conference is to advance the scholarly understanding of the phenomenon of Roman Republican antiquarianism within a wide-ranging treatment of the relationship of Roman antiquarianism to the various developments in the Greek writing, theory, and scholarly praxis of the Hellenistic period. Previous studies on Varro and his Greek predecessors have demonstrated the fruitfulness of inquiry into his Hellenistic sources. However, these studies have tended not only to revolve around Varro alone, but also to gravitate overwhelmingly towards a few specific aspects of his voluminous oeuvre: namely, the Hellenistic sources of Varro's linguistic theory (Dahlmann 1932, Mette 1952, Fehling 1956–7, Cavazza 1981, Blank 2005), his philosophical connections to Antiochus of Ascalon and to Stoic doctrine (Tarver 1997, Van Nuffelen 2010, Blank 2012), and the debt to Dicaearchus in his treatment of the past (Ax 2000, Nelsestuen 2017, Piras 2017). While these contributions have laid valuable groundwork for our knowledge of aspects of Varro's work, a comprehensive treatment of the broader cultural phenomenon of Roman Republican antiquarianism and its relations with the diverse currents of the Hellenistic intellectual world has yet to be undertaken. This conference aims to fill the gap by presenting an extensive assessment of Roman antiquarian engagement with the research practices, organisational structures, patterns of thought, and investigative methods of the Hellenistic writers and intellectuals in whose orbit they pursued their own unique project.

How Roman Republican antiquarianism emerged in relation to its Hellenistic predecessor is one of the central questions this inquiry aims to answer. Suetonius describes the beginnings of philology at Rome during the mid-second century as a gradual process in which Italian *semigraeci*, itinerant Greek scholars, Roman residents of Greek origin, and intellectual *equites* play various mediating roles: these actors interpret Greek texts, adapt Greek models of knowledge production to the demands of their own language and world, and disseminate the results to a Roman audience (*gramm.* 1–3). Certainly, Roman scholars in the late Republic were in the right place at the right time, as the Mithridatic wars caused a wave of enslaved and free Greek intellectuals, together with important libraries, to be funnelled into Rome (Christes 1979, Rawson 1985). It remains to be explored how, in the face of the dynamic Hellenophone intellectual community that surrounded them, Republican Roman writers interpreted, reshaped, and even subverted inherited Greek traditions, developing new ways of thinking and writing about their past in answer to urgent contemporary concerns.

Another crucial question is whether the established norms of Greek antiquarianism survived the adaptation to Roman material intact, or whether the idiosyncratic nature of Roman antiquarian subjects, the preoccupations of Roman writers, and the singularity of Roman mechanisms for commemorating the past forced Republican antiquarians to reinvent Greek ways of knowledge in a scarcely recognisable form. We can observe the eagerness of Roman authors to analyse, process, and arrange the unsorted bulk of their own historical culture using the organisational structures of Greek scholarship, in spite and because of the Roman material's chaotic resistance to ordering (Rawson 1978, Volk 2019). At the same time, Roman subject matter required a novel approach. The study of the Latin language, for all the Greekness of its method, was about *Romanitas* as well as *Latinitas* (Garcea 2012, Spencer 2019). Likewise, the authoritative weight of the juristic tradition, the arcane features of the civic religion, and the procedural workings of the increasingly strained Republican institutions were subjects unlikely to have found neat analogues in Hellenistic sources.

This conference will therefore inquire whether, in what form, and to what extent the peculiar exigencies of Roman Republican socio-economic and political dynamics left their stamp on the development of Roman antiquarianism in a creative synergy with the Greek intellectual world.

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Programme

Thursday, 2 February 2023

UCL, South Wing, Institute of Advanced Studies, Room G17, Forum

1.45–2.00 p.m. Coffee and Introduction

1. RELIGIOUS ANTIQUARIANISM: THE WORLD OF THE GODS

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| 2.00–2.45 p.m. | Kenneth Yu
'Wonders, Marvels, and Epiphanies: Ordering Religious Knowledge in Hellenistic and Imperial Greece' |
| 2.45–3.30 p.m. | Massimo Giuseppetti
'Religious Festivals and Scholarly Discourse in the Greek World before the Roman Empire' |
| 3.30–3.45 p.m. | Coffee break |
| 3.45–4.30 p.m. | Dan-el Padilla Peralta
'Slavery and Theology in Varro's <i>ARD</i> ' |
| 4.30–5.00 p.m. | Tim Cornell, discussant |
| 5.00 p.m. | Drinks followed by dinner, South Cloister, UCL |

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Friday, 3 February 2023

UCL, South Wing, Institute of Advanced Studies, Room G17, Forum

9.00–9.15 a.m. Coffee

2. LIFE IN COMMON: CUSTOMS, INSTITUTIONS, AND LAWS

- 9.15–10.00 a.m.** Dario Mantovani
'Between Antiquarianism and Law: Roman Jurists and the Use of the Past'
- 10.00–10.45 a.m.** Domenico Giordani
'Varro's *Antiquitates rerum humanarum*: Defining Roman Republican Antiquarianism'
- 10.45–11.00 a.m.** Coffee break
- 11.00–11.45 a.m.** Paola Ceccarelli
'Collecting Facts, Inventing Traditions: Antiquarianism as a Discourse of Creative Empiricism'
- 11.45 a.m.–12.15 p.m.** Clifford Ando, discussant
- 12.15–12.45 p.m.** Open discussion
- 12.45–2.00 p.m.** Lunch at UCL
- 2.00–2.15 p.m.** Coffee

3. ORDERING TIME AND SPACE

- 2.15–3.00 p.m.** Stefan Schorn
'The Edition of the Greek Biographers and Antiquarians in *FGrHist* IV'
- 3.00–3.45 p.m.** Christopher Baron
'The Western Greek Perspective in the Roman Tradition'
- 3.45–4.30 p.m.** Nino Luraghi
'Diodoros the Periegete: Atthidography and antiquarianism in Early Hellenistic Athens'
- 4.30–4.45 p.m.** Coffee break
- 4.45–5.30 p.m.** Antonino Pittà
'"First Times" as Touchstones: Late Republican Antiquarianism and the Origins of Civilizations'
- 5.30–6.00 p.m.** Andrew Riggsby, discussant
- 6.00–6.30 p.m.** Open discussion
- 6.30 p.m.** Drinks, South Cloister, UCL,
followed by dinner at the Jeremy Bentham Room

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Saturday, 4 February 2023

UCL, South Wing, Institute of Advanced Studies, Room G17, Forum

9.00–9.15 a.m. Coffee

4. STRUCTURES OF KNOWLEDGE: GRAMMAR AND SCHOLARSHIP

- 9.15–10.00 a.m.** Franco Montanari
'The Evolution of Ancient Greek Scholarship: From Zenodotus' Revolution to the Erudite Collections'
- 10.00–10.45 a.m.** James E.G. Zetzel
'*Graeca Latina*: The Chronology of Influence'
- 10.45–11.00 a.m.** Coffee break
- 11.00–11.45 a.m.** Adam Gitner
'Antiphrastic Etymologies between Greece and Rome'
- 11.45 a.m.–12.15 p.m.** Glenn Most, discussant
- 12.15–12.45 p.m.** Open discussion
- 12.45–2.00 p.m.** Lunch

5. SCIENCE AND NATURE: NUMBERS AND THE COSMOS

- 2.00–2.45 p.m.** Richard Marshall
'Natural History by Numbers: Varro and the Doxographical Tradition'
- 2.45–3.30 p.m.** Liba Taub
'*De architectura* IX: Vitruvius and the History of Science and Horology'
- 3.30–4.00 p.m.** Katharina Volk, discussant
- 4.00–4.30 p.m.** Open discussion

Literature cited

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