



Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents

THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD | NEWSLETTER 22

AUTUMN 2018



CSAD 25 years on
What counts as evidence?



Alan Bowman

CSAD 25 years on

Alan Bowman

As is frequently the case in the University of Oxford the origins of the Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents were both modest and serendipitous. In 1994 as Chairman of the Sub-Faculty, I was told that we had to find storage space for the collection of Greek epigraphic squeezes (paper impressions of stone inscriptions) one of the three major collections in the world along with those in Berlin and Princeton, then housed in the basement of the sub-faculty of Philosophy building at 10, Merton Street. A formal letter of request to the University Surveyor evoked no response at all and action eventually resulted only from a casual conversation with the Chairman of the Estates Committee, the late Professor Pat Sanders, over lunch in Christ Church. The squeezes were soon moved to a room in 66 St Giles' and became the stimulus for the establishment of the CSAD in that building. The initial intention was to focus on concentrating and developing the impact of the Faculty's research resources in ancient documents, both historical and literary, from the classical world. The Faculty supported this initiative with an annual grant of £500, mainly to defray the

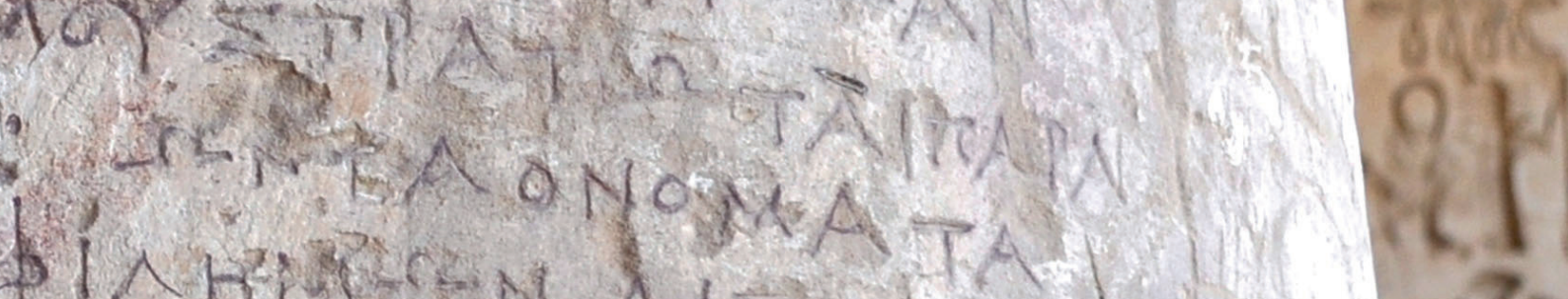
costs of the production of the newsletter and some modest administrative support. I was appointed Director in 1995 and was soon able to secure the appointment of Charles Crowther as Associate Director, initially with the specific remit of cataloguing and developing research on the epigraphic resources. The presence of the CSAD in those somewhat run-down premises on St Giles' was a significant stage in development and implementation of much more ambitious plans to build the Faculty's Ioannou Centre for Research in Classical and Byzantine Studies, which came to fruition a decade later. This provided more spacious premises in which the CSAD and the Lexicon of Greek Personal Names could combine forces and resources in a richly collaborative environment.

By the mid-1990s the huge potential for the application of digital technologies and on-line presentation to material of this kind was already obvious, and there were abundant opportunities to secure grants for scanning and cataloguing the squeezes and for experimenting with new techniques of image-processing, particularly for incised and inscribed documents, while our colleagues in Papyrology were doing exciting analogous work in the imaging of degraded ink texts. The development and application of new technologies to imaging and interpreting ancient texts has become one of the hallmarks of the CSAD brand and that owes a great deal to the core of research resources which has been enhanced over the years by gifts and deposits from scholars including Peter Fraser, Michael Ballance, David French and many others; and by collaboration with other departments in and university, notably in Oriental Studies,

Engineering Science, the Ashmolean Museum and the Oxford E-Research Centre and the University of Southampton.

Research on a wide variety of documentary projects on inscriptions from Greece and Rome, Asia Minor and Egypt, on writing-tablets from Vindolanda, London and Bath and on 'Latinization' has been generously provided by the UK Research Councils, the British Academy, the Leverhulme Trust, the European Research Council, the Mellon Foundation, the University's Fell Fund and several private benefactors. This research has given rise to a plethora of distinguished academic publications, many of which have appeared in the CSAD's monograph series, *Oxford Studies in Ancient Documents* (OUP). By the generosity of Philip Lewis and many other donors we have been able to establish an annual lecture series in memory of the late David Lewis, the nonpareil of Greek epigraphers of the 20th century and for many years my closest colleague at Christ Church; it is a source of great sadness for many of us that he did not live to see and enjoy the success of the CSAD.

If all this smacks of the ivory towers of academia, there is another more personal aspect for many of us which is equally if not more important. Working with and in the CSAD has been great fun, both in the close relationships with Oxford colleagues and the opportunities we have had to invite and host visiting scholars and students from all over the world for short and long terms. Many of them return regularly and are able to take the fruits of their research and the use of the Oxford resources back to their home bases. We have organised events which have evoked huge enthusiasm among colleagues and students, from



master-classes on stonemasonry by the late Richard Grasby, to regular summer-schools for postgraduates on inscriptions, writing tablets and papyri.

None of this would have been possible without the generous support of colleagues in the Faculty who have contributed directly to our activities and endorsed the initiatives we have taken. Our Administrators, Margaret Sasanow and Chloe Colchester have been unstinting in their provision of time, care and talent, without which... All this has made the role of the Director a joy rather than a burden. I am sure that Andrew Meadows will have the same experiences and, in close liaison with Charles Crowther, will bring to the CSAD an individual perspective that will guarantee a future with lots of new ideas and exciting initiatives.

ποταμοῖσι τοῖσιν αὐτοῖσιν
ἐμβαίνουνσιν, ἕτερα καὶ ἕτερα
ὔδατα ἐπιρρεῖ.

*(We may step into the same river,
but the water that flows over us is
always new)*

Heraclitus D65 (L–M)

Andrew Meadows

As students of the ancient world we are well aware of the constantly changing nature of our subject. Those changes derive on the one hand from the personal nature of our scholarship: the new questions, methods and experience that each generation brings to the study of the ancient world. On the other hand, now, as perhaps never before, the changes in our environment are also being created by the new opportunities offered by technology. Few of us in the 21st century are immured from the World Wide Web in our everyday lives, and many will admit to using Wikipedia to check simple facts, Perseus to read ancient texts, or JStor to check a reference instead of visiting a library. We benefit communally from the existence of such resources,

but what place should we take in the creation of them? When Alan Bowman took the opportunity to create the CSAD, he placed Oxford at the forefront of the presentation of ancient documents in a still young online world of classical resources. The question that faces us now, a quarter of a century later, is how we continue the mission to bring ancient documents to ever wider audiences, while embracing the opportunities offered by a constantly changing technological environment. For, while the substance of our evidence may remain the same, the technology with which we may publish it, interrogate it, and draw it together are constantly changing. In the field in which the CSAD has excelled, the digitisation of documents of many varieties, exciting opportunities are now available both with the RTI technology in which the Centre has deep experience, and in the form of the new image format of IIIF, which allows us to enhance visual presentation as well as embedding meaning into the image itself. The embedding of meaning into the presentation of texts online, of course, has long been available through the development of the TEI-based Epidoc standard. In this the CSAD has been and will continue to be a major player; with projects such as *MAMA XI* and the imminent *Corpus of Ptolemaic Inscriptions*.

Another new frontier will be the development of Linked Open Data standards for the presentation of documentary material. This technology creates the potential to build connections between research projects across disciplines, inside and outside Oxford. With its current stable of digital activities, the CSAD is uniquely placed to take a leading role in the development of the tools and projects that will allow us to break free of traditional disciplinary silos, and to contribute to the digital world that we all now use as part of our research activities. By standardizing the way we refer to ancient peoples, places and institutions, we may draw together the epigraphic, papyrological and numismatic evidence for the ancient world in bold new ways.



Andrew Meadows

At the same time, we are now presented with the chance to enhance our role in education. The CSAD has come to play a central place in the training of the next generations of scholars who will work with documentary materials. The traditional, physical collections of squeezes and archives held by the Centre, combined with new digital instances of these, create a rich teaching resource. But as the work on these materials becomes more digitally driven, so must our teaching. As Oxford ponders the place of Digital Humanities within its educational offering, the CSAD can provide an attractive home for the development of new courses and materials.

So, as we look back on 25 years of leadership and achievement, as well as the ongoing and recent collaborations with the Universities of Birmingham (*Proxeny networks of the Ancient World*), Nottingham (*LatinNow*) and Warwick (*AshLI — The Ashmolean Latin Inscriptions Project*), and the British Museum (*Vindolanda Tablets Online*), there is much to be proud of. For the future, new projects are currently in planning for Cyprus, the Ptolemaic Empire and the Inscriptions of Roman Britain. New collaborations inside and outside Oxford are on their way. The water is not just new, but fresh.

Inscriptions as evidence

Charles Crowther

Visitors to the Greek gallery in the Ashmolean Museum will find a carefully finished slab of Pentelic marble inscribed in a grid pattern with a text of 36 lines divided into two paragraphs, but otherwise unpunctuated. This has some architectural grandeur.

The end of the text is preserved, but the slab, or *stele* in Greek, is broken away above and the beginning is lost. The text records a decree of the Athenian democracy honouring King Straton of Sidon for his assistance in a diplomatic exchange with the Persian king. It is replete with details: of the tokens, *symbola*, used to identify envoys, and that the cost of making the inscription, from

marble quarry to installation on the Acropolis, was 30 drachmas, the equivalent perhaps of a month's earnings for an artisan; in the second paragraph, an amendment proposed by an individual named Menexenos, in the outdoor assembly meeting at which the decree was passed, on the original proposal of Kephisodotos, provides information about the taxes and financial obligations levied on resident aliens in Athens. For the route of the Athenian envoys to the King to have been mediated by Straton, it presumably passed through or by Sidon. All this is evidence, of course and the particularities are fascinating and informative and can be woven into other patterns of information.

But when did this happen? Athenian inscribed decrees from the later fifth century onwards carried a precise dating formula in their heading, with the name of the archon or magistrate after whom the year was identified, and the month, day, and part of the civic calendar on which the decree was passed; but the beginning of the Ashmolean inscription is lost. In the absence of a precise date, various extrapolations are possible, and these are well represented in the commentary in Robin Osborne and Peter Rhodes' recent edition (*Greek Historical Inscriptions 404-323 BC* (Oxford, 2007), no. 21).

We know who Straton was; but we have no other assured evidence about the Athenian embassy to the Persian king recorded in our text; Menexenos may be the proposer of the famous phratry decree of the Demotionidae in 396/5 and another decree relating to the obligations of Athenian allies in 362; and Kephisodotos is likely to be the well-attested and plausible Athenian political leader whose career is attested from the late 370s to the 350s.

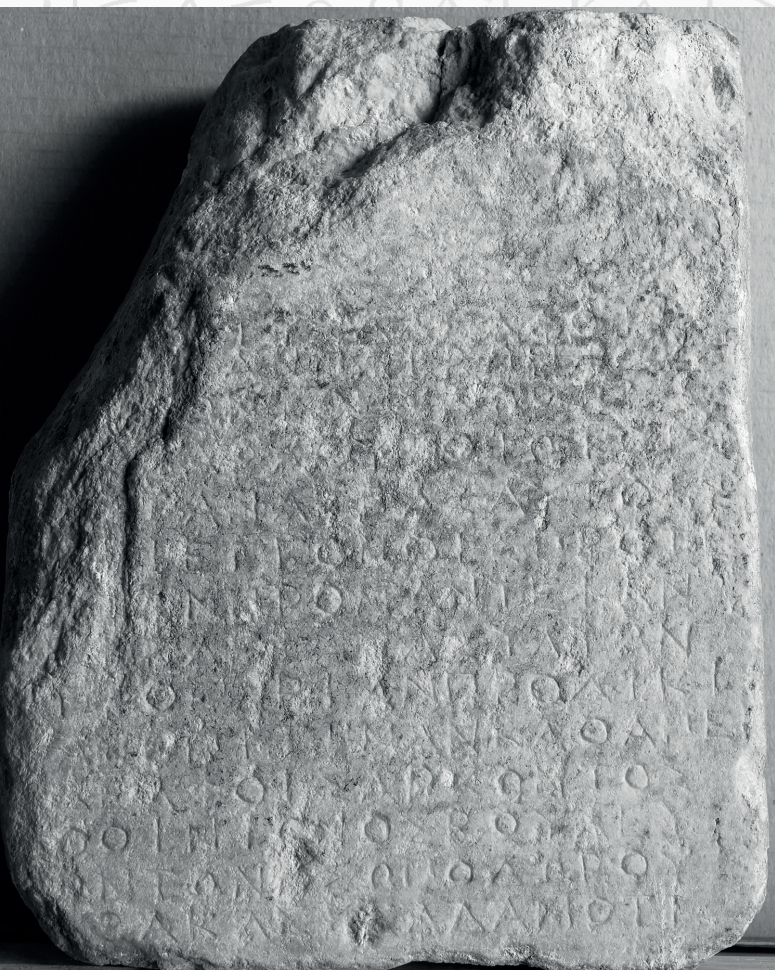
Institutional and formal details have also been brought into consideration - for example, the funds from which the inscription was paid; but indecisively, and the result has been *aporia*. Rhodes and Osborne in the end settled for a best guess of 378-6.

A different consideration and approach, from palaeography, may now offer new light. Over the last 45 years the American epigrapher

Ashmolean ANChandler.2.30.

SGDI 2674.

Delphian proxy decree honouring three brothers from Tanagra in Boeotia (late 4th century B.C.).



Stephen Tracy has systematically studied the lettering of inscribed Athenian public documents from the Classical and Hellenistic periods and has been able to identify the work of individual stone cutters through their distinctive styles, their 'hands' with a remarkable degree of success; his work has been based on a method of rigorous subjectivity, studying lettering until it is fixed in his mind, until he knows it, and is part self-verifying since it has allowed him to reunite numerous separate fragments. One of the conclusions, and at the same time continuing assumptions, of his work is that letter-cutters would necessarily, since this was how they made their living, develop a technique, an identifiable handwriting which they would maintain throughout their career, over as many as 30, in rare cases up to 40 years. In his most recent work covering the 5th century, he has identified a cutter responsible for more than 70 inscriptions whose documented career began ca. 414 and extended to ca. 386. Professor Tracy and a Greek colleague, Angelos Matthaiou, have now suggested that our inscription is one of this mason's products (A.P. Matthaiou, *ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΕΙΟΝ* 5, 2016, 113-119: www.grammateion.gr). If they are correct, this would pull our decree earlier, and open the intriguing possibility that this text may be connected with the best attested diplomatic exchange between Athens and Persia in this period, the negotiations that led to the King's Peace of 386.

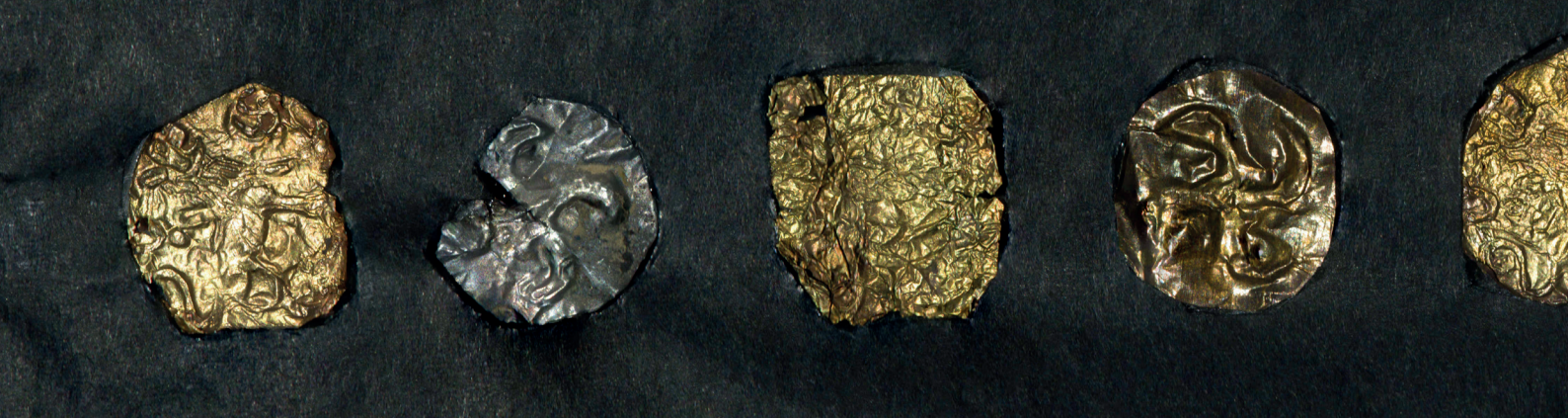
Marginal gains have been made much of in recent sports science, but they also have a role to play in ancient history. In Newsletter 14 ('Epigraphy and XRF at Diamond Light Source') we reported on an experiment at the Diamond Synchrotron to examine a small number of inscriptions in the Ashmolean Museum Collections using X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) in the hope of identifying traces of original painting and debris left by the stonecutter's chisels within the letter cuts. One of the more intriguing results of that work was the isolation of the outline of a *theta* with a clear central point from iron fluorescence traces where previous editors had read *sigma* in a decree from Delphi honouring a group of



individuals from Tanagra in Boeotia in the late fourth century. In July this year Michele Saccomanno, CSAD's Erasmus Exchange trainee from Bologna, re-examined the inscription from a squeeze in our collection (donated by Ellen Rice) and from the stone itself which the Ashmolean curatorial staff gave him permission to study in the Museum store (we are grateful to Helen Hovey for making this possible). Michele was able to verify the reading suggested by the XRF scan; starting from the new reading of *theta*, he reconstructed a new text of the inscription which shows that its honorands were three brothers rather than unconnected individuals; there is evidently another story to be told here, if the details for the moment escape us. But this fits a wider pattern of familial diplomacy between Greek cities – and so counts as a marginal gain.

Ashmolean ANChandler.2.24.
P.J. Rhodes, R. Osborne, *Greek Historical Inscriptions 404-323 BC* (Oxford, 2007), no. 21.

Athenian decree for Straton King of Sidon honouring him for his assistance to Athenian ambassadors sent to the Persian King (early 4th century B.C.).



Reflectance transformation imaging of gold offerings from the Piprahwa Collection

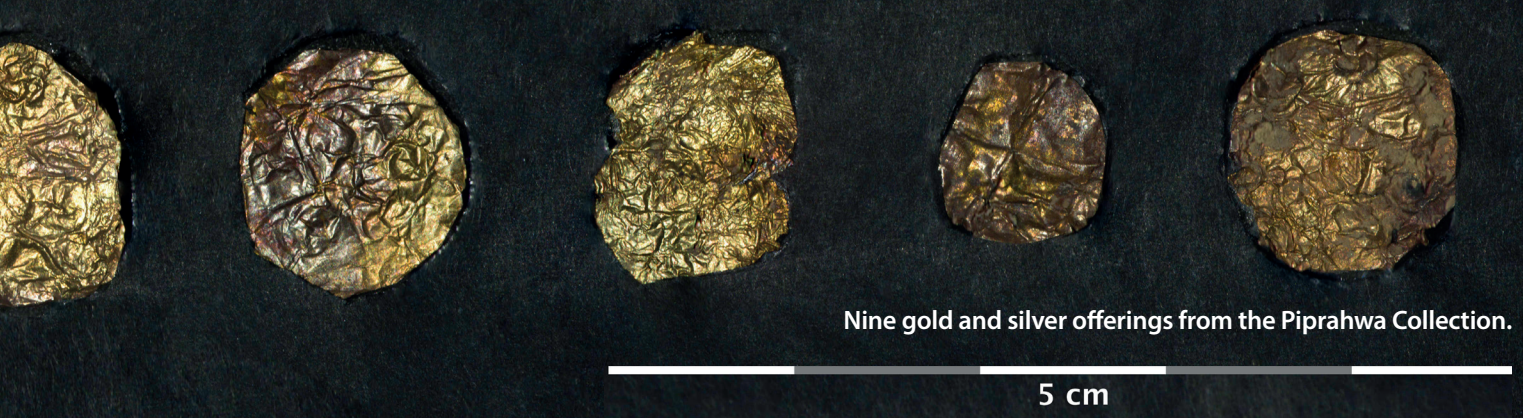
Dana E. Norris

I am an independent objects conservator working in Oxford. This spring I was approached to prepare an important collection of religious offerings for travel and loan. Most of these offerings have been housed in display cases made by the London auction house Spink & Co. in 1903. The task of cleaning and stabilising the interior of these cases prior to a forthcoming exhibition was an opportunity to research the collection. Having sought expert advice, I got in touch with Dr Charles Crowther and Taylor Bennett (a DPhil candidate at the Institute of Archaeology) at the CSAD, whose RTI dome is unusual in that it is equipped with a macro lens. We hope that high-resolution images of particular items — small discs made from thin sheets of gold and silver impressed with imagery — may enable devotees, scholars and numismatists to enhance their study of these offerings.

The collection, referred to as the Piprahwa Jewels, are a group of 377 small ornamental offerings that were found in funerary urns during the excavation of a stupa located on the Birdpore Estate, near the border of India and Nepal, in 1898. The ornamental offerings are small, typically measuring 1 cm or less in diameter. They include tubular beads and ornaments made from thin sheets of gold and silver; coral, shell and pearl beads; two copper coils; two lead seals; three glass beads; and a wide range of gemstones, many of which have fine lapidary work. Examination of the collection indicates that the gemstones include amethyst, aquamarine, carnelian, etched carnelian, sardonyx, citrine, garnet, green chalcedony, iolite and rock crystal. The collection includes a number of stone objects shaped like flower heads and ornately carved on two faces. Like the metal discs, the decoration of these objects suggests that they were made specifically as offerings rather than with the intention of stringing.



In 1898, the excavation began by clearing soil from the surface of the stupa, which measured roughly 40 meters in diameter. A three meter wide trench was dug running north to south through the middle, before sinking a square shaft six meters deep through the centre (left). At the base, there was a cavity in the brickwork, containing a large and immensely heavy rectangular coffer carved from a single stone block (right). The coffer contained five small, lidded stone vessels, four made of soapstone and the fifth of rock crystal. The vessels were opened in the presence of several members of the Peppé family, and the contents were described by Peppé as 'fragments of bone and ash in tiny wood boxes with a large quantity of gold ornaments and gemstones'. The finds



Since its discovery in the late 19th century, the collection has been associated with one of the eight sites at which the cremated remains of Siddhārtha Gautama, the Buddha, are thought to have been deposited to be venerated after his death, around 480 BCE. Of these sites, Piprahwa is believed to be where the portion of remains given to his relations, the Sakyas of Kapilavastu, were deposited. Yet the exact timing of the deposit has always been a matter of some conjecture. The offerings may have been placed in the stupa shortly after the cremation, or later, possibly during a campaign to redistribute the relics in the reign of Ashoka, 268-232 BCE.

The jewels were excavated from the stupa in 1898 by a team of workmen from the Birdpore Estate led by the colonial estate owner William Claxton Peppé. In 1903, William Peppé had the small portion of duplicate offerings he had been allowed to retain mounted in three small double-sided, leather bound glass display cases made by the London auction house Spink & Co. The collection remained in these sealed cases until one was broken during an exhibition in the 1950's; the group in the broken case was not displayed again for nearly fifty years. The current generation of the Peppé family, now custodians of the collection, have a renewed interest in these important objects, and they have taken steps to research the collection and make them more accessible to the public. This has involved analytical work done at Cranfield University's Forensic Institute in 2014, and detailed examinations by ancient jewellery historian and gemmologist Dr Jack Ogden in 2016. The Peppés have also agreed to display the collection in an upcoming exhibition at the Rietberg Museum in Zurich: *Next stop Nirvana — Approaches to Buddhism* opening this December.

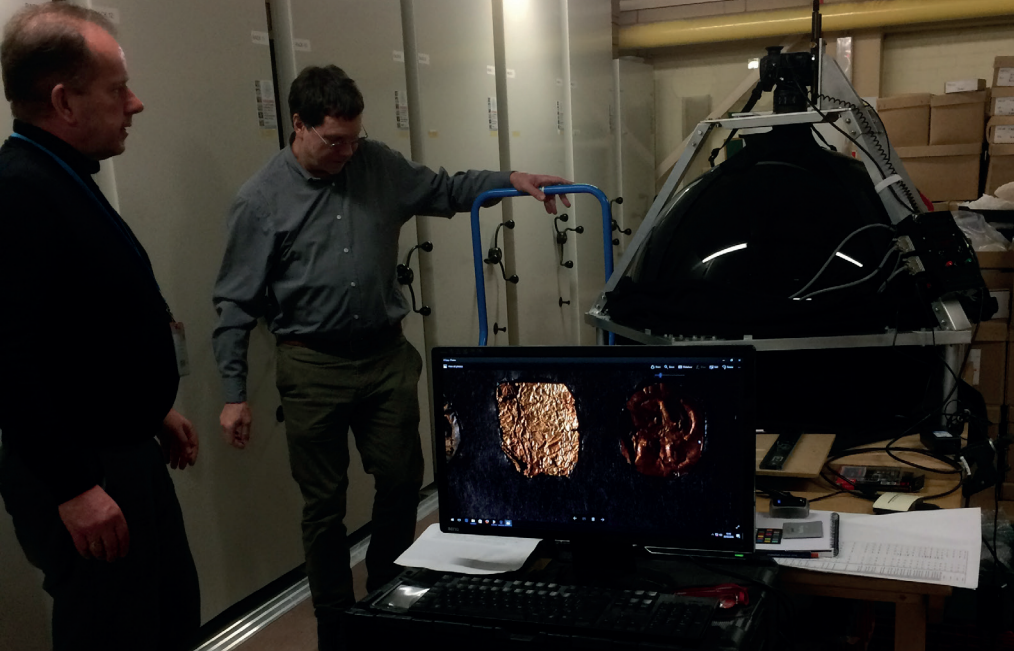


Part of the Piprahwa Collection in one of the original display cases made in 1903 for William Peppé.

In preparation for the Zurich exhibition, it was necessary to carry out conservation work to stabilize and clean the cases made in 1903. The family and curators of the exhibition reached the joint decision to remove the new mounting system that had been made to display the objects from the broken case. Professional conservation treatment provided an opportunity to open the undamaged display case containing the gold and silver objects so it could be cleaned without damaging the ageing leather bindings. This allowed me to take the enclosed items to the MOLA (Museum of London

were promptly reported to the Indian government; the coffer, vessels and the majority of the jewels eventually went to the Indian Museum in Kolkata. The Peppé family were allowed to keep a small proportion of the jewels, roughly one sixth of the total find which were considered to be duplicates. These objects have been handed down through several generations of the Peppé family and now form the Piprahwa Collection. Immediately after the discovery of the Piprahwa Jewels, Prince Prisdang came to Birdpore House in pilgrimage to petition for the bone relics to go to the King of Siam. Through careful negotiation some of the jewels and bone fragments were sent to Burma (Myanmar), Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and Siam (Thailand), where they currently reside in the Golden Mount pagoda in Bangkok.





Capturing RTI images of the gold and silver offerings at the MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology).

Taylor Bennett

The benefits of RTI include the ability to inspect the objects interactively, under different virtual lighting conditions, on a computer display without directly handling them. This enables surface details to be analysed thoroughly, so that dirt and material damage can be identified. Because of the discs' texture and reflective characteristics, conventional photography using fixed lights does not capture all of the features that RTI can render. Using RTI, it is easier to make out various aspects of the impressed designs while virtually changing the direction of illumination on a computer display, which is impractical while examining the objects directly using a microscope or hand lens. RTI also provides a range of enhanced rendering options, such as Specular Enhancement and Diffuse Gain, which can help researchers to distinguish surface features. In collaboration with the departments of Archaeological Science and Computer Science, researchers are developing a web-based viewer for RTIs which can make objects accessible to scholars and the public without risking potential damage from handling them.



Gold disc embossed with an image of a lion.

Archaeology), where RTI imaging work is being done on cursive writing tablets with the camera dome. Capturing RTI images of nine embossed gold and silver discs will improve basic documentation of the collection by supplying high resolution images. Since 1903, these objects had only been photographed through glass. Their surface details as revealed by RTI imaging should be of interest to devotees, art historians and numismatists, and may help with stylistic dating. Several of the nine gold and silver discs are damaged, making the original designs difficult to see, and it is hoped that study with RTI will reveal hidden details. Ideally, the RTI images will be made available online to be accessed by the wider public.



The dramatic discovery of the relics at Birdpur occurred during a phase in the history of the Raj when the hunt to find archaeological evidence of the Buddha was in full spate. The southern monastery, seen here with the stupa in the background, suggests that the veneration of relics at this site continued for an extended period of time.

Photograph by Anandajoti (all images by courtesy of the Peppé family).

Curses and cursive!

Dr Jane Masségia

The second half of June proved to be a busy one for the LatinNow Project with more than 200 visitors and students taking part in our new workshops and activities in less than a fortnight.

Since the LatinNow Project released its new Outreach Events programme, two of our most popular activities have been 'Old Roman Cursive' and 'Writing Curse Tablets'.

Our trusty cardboard shrine to Sulis made its debut at the Family Discovery Day at the University of Nottingham, followed by two in-school sessions at the Iris Classics Centre at the Cheney School in Oxford, and then an appearance at the History and Archaeology Festival at Nottingham's Lakeside Arts. As well as having the chance to handle replica writing instruments of various kinds, people were encouraged to decipher mock lead tablets describing the loss or theft of various items, before writing their own and dedicating it to Sulis. Our decision to use scratch paper (artist's paper with a black powder layer over a metallic base) as child-friendly imitation of lead tablets had initially presented us with a complication: the small squares we needed were only available with a rainbow-effect underlay, rather than silver. But sometimes the quest for absolute authenticity doesn't lead to the best visitor experience — we've found that our visitors (especially the younger ones) have been drawn to the bright colours and have loved experimenting with Old Roman Cursive when it gives such an eye-catching result. It's a compromise we're happy to make if it helps to spark an interest in what we're doing.

One of the unexpected highlights of the History and Archaeology Festival was the chance to meet re-enactors of various periods. We talked about writing techniques

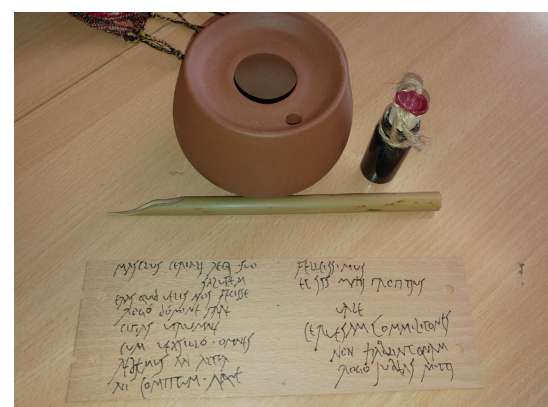
with a medieval Benedictine, and even faced an invasion of Iron Age Celts who came up to tell us they didn't like the Romans much, and they had no intention to learn Latin! Once reassured by Project PI, Alex Mullen, that we loved Celtic too, and even showed them some Celtic words hidden in a Latin contract we had on our stall, we managed to broker a peace. One can only hope that such historically important community diplomacy is REF-able.

Our other popular session has been our military 'codebreaking' for Primary school pupils, an activity that was successfully road-tested by the LatinNow team on 250 children and their parents for the IntoUniversity educational access programme last March. This session, focussing on the different languages spoken in the Empire and how the Roman army sent its messages, ends with a race to translate a secret message and save a Roman legion from an attack from marauding Britons. Last week, pupils from St Ebbe's Primary did a fantastic job and revealed yet again that children who speak more than one language are especially adept at codebreaking cursive. Since LatinNow deals specifically with issues of multilingualism, code-switching and education, it's a real pleasure for the team to see in practice how people of different ages and backgrounds respond to texts in an unfamiliar format.

Jane Masségia is a Senior Scientist on the Latinization of the north-western provinces (LatinNow) Project. The team's Outreach Events Menu includes lectures, talks, school sessions and public workshops. If you would like a copy, or would to enquire about an event, please contact her at jeam2@le.ac.uk.



"Lead tablets" at 'Writing Curse Tablets'.



Pen and ink at 'Old Roman Cursive'.

Notices



A dice oracle inscription from Adada (IK Central Pisidia 5).

New Voices in Epigraphy

Graduate Conference 12th–13th April 2018, Ioannou Centre, Faculty of Classics, University of Oxford

Elizabeth Foley, Martin Hallmannsecker and Leah Lazar

‘New Voices in Epigraphy’ was a one-and-a-half-day conference for graduate students working on and/or with inscriptions for their research. It was organised by Leah Lazar (New College, Oxford), Martin Hallmannsecker (New College, Oxford) and Elizabeth Foley (Trinity College Dublin). The aim of the conference was to give graduate students a forum to discuss issues with inscriptions from textual reconstruction to historical interpretation, as well as to facilitate a conversation about the future of epigraphic studies.

Some of the papers at the conference were more ‘traditionally’ epigraphic. Jesse Obert from Berkeley offered a new reconstruction of the famous Spartan War Fund, Elizabeth Foley’s historical analysis of a second-century BC decree honouring a doctor

from Tenos was based on close autopsy of the stone and Hüseyin Uzunoğlu from Akdeniz University shared some exciting new inscriptions from the Tire Museum.

However, contributions also ranged from the interpretation of epigraphic documents, to the material culture of inscriptions, the use of digital tools, and linguistic analysis. Giorgos Mitropoulos from Athens spoke on the epigraphic phenomenon of the imitation of the emperor in Roman Asia Minor, Francesca D’Andrea from the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa played epigraphic detective, tracing the history of a collection of inscriptions from the Appian Way through archive work, Talia Prussin from Berkeley used network analysis to reconstruct the socioeconomics of public land leasing in Hellenistic Thespiae, and Tore Røvs Kristoffersen from Copenhagen gave a very clear exploration of Laconian dialect features.

Topics as diverse as religious practices in Boeotia (Anne-Charlotte Panissié, Paris-Nanterre), Cycladic funerary monuments (Violeta Gomis García, Madrid), Iron Age Cyprus (Beatrice Pestarino, UCL), Macedonian epigraphy (Filip Mitričević, Belgrade), Roman imperial prosopography (Paul Jarvis, Edinburgh) and the Roman census (Tuuli Ahlholm, Oxford) were discussed. The conference was also not limited to texts on stone or bronze: Lindsay Holman from Chapel Hill shared her investigation into the mysterious inscribed objects known as Tesserae ‘Nummulariae’.

The past and future of epigraphic studies was a key theme of Professor Charlotte Roueché’s keynote entitled ‘What’s New in Epigraphy?’ Professor Roueché discussed her experience as an epigraphist to highlight ways that epigraphic studies can move forward with digital tools. Dr. Charles Crowther illuminated the current projects and resources of the Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents. He even gave a teaser of the Centre’s squeeze collection. Evelien Roels from Heidelberg was able to examine squeezes made from inscriptions

mentioned in her paper on the ‘textual monuments’ of Hellenistic Iasos.

A key element of the conference was to highlight the role of women in this sub-discipline of Classics. As epigraphic studies, particularly Greek epigraphy, has been somewhat dominated by male scholars in the past, the organisers aimed for a fair gender representation in speakers and attendees. Dr. Riet van Bremen in her concluding remarks ‘From Adada to Mylasa’ highlighted the role of women epigraphists over the last decades, including the contribution of Joyce Reynolds, who taught both Dr. van Bremen and Professor Roueché, and will be celebrating her 100th birthday in December. The second part of Dr. van Bremen’s talk discussed her current work on inscriptions from Mylasa and it ended with a chance for all attendees to inspect squeezes she made of a dice oracle inscription from Adada at an early stage in her career – using the only material she had to hand, pink blotting paper!

The organisers hoped to attract a great variety of students also from non-Anglophone backgrounds and different epigraphic traditions. The conference included over 40 speakers and attendees from institutions in Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Ireland, Japan, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, the UK and the US.

Looking forward, this was hopefully the first of an annual or biannual meeting, which will continue to provide a forum for graduate students working with inscriptions to exchange ideas and receive feedback from their peers. Both the interest expressed before the conference and the positive reactions from attendees showed how epigraphic studies are thriving among junior scholars, and highlighted the many opportunities for international and interdisciplinary collaborative research on inscriptions. The future of epigraphy, as a broad and diverse field, is bright!

The conference was supported by a generous grant from the David Lewis Memorial Fund.

Work experience

Chloë Colchester

Over the past twenty-five years, the CSAD has developed a sound track-record of welcoming school pupils on work experience and, after working through the necessary paperwork, we re-booted this initiative by hosting Io Bitel, a year 10 pupil from Cheyne School, in July. Welcoming work experience pupils is entirely in keeping with the CSAD's more general commitment to stimulate interest in epigraphic scholarship as broadly as possible. Fine sentiments, of course, but the problem was how to put them into practice, given the tasks at hand.

Sensing that cataloguing David French's library bequest over the course of a whole week might prove to be a little taxing for a fifteen-year-old, we appealed to Dr Peter Stewart, Director of the Classical Art Research Centre, for help. He produced an impressive wad of Central European banknotes, mostly dating from the 1930s, that had been found amongst the papers of Sir John Beazley, the celebrated expert of Athenian figured pottery, whose boxes of analytical drawings are held by the Beazley Archive. Io was charged with compiling a chronological inventory, whilst keeping an eye out for anything of value.

Our incoming Director, Professor Andrew Meadows, recommended George S. Cuhaj's *The Standard Catalog of World Paper Money* as a point of reference. Dr Thomas Mannack gave us a brief introductory tour of the archive so that Io could get some sense of the great scholar's research. Io produced an impressive inventory, which may help to track Sir John Beazley's movements in the future, but the hope of detecting a 'rare find' proved elusive. We are immensely grateful for the picture research she did for the article on the discovery at Birdpur in this newsletter, and for the work she did to catalogue David French's bequest. Two new pupils from Cherwell will be hosted by the CSAD this October and on this occasion we will be extending our collaboration with the CARC to include the Archive of Performances of Greek and Roman Drama. ■

Obituary

Professor Christian Habicht (1926–2018), preeminent Greek epigrapher and Hellenistic historian, has died at the age of 92. Habicht studied ancient history at the University of Hamburg, where he received a Ph.D. in 1952 and later taught. He was appointed Professor at the Philipps-Universität Marburg in 1961 and at Heidelberg in 1965, before joining the faculty of the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton in 1973, where he served until his retirement in 1998. There he took charge of one of the world's largest collections of squeezes of Greek inscriptions, numbering over 25,000 from across the Greek world, which he helped to catalogue and expand. Habicht's research centred on Hellenistic Athens and its elite families, and on the cult of Hellenistic rulers, but comprised diverse regions and topics from the Maccabees to Cicero. In the form of books, translated into French, Japanese, Modern Greek, and Russian, and over 200 articles, his publications spanned from the Classical period through the fourth century CE. His research on the Hellenistic city demonstrated the continued vitality of the *polis* as an institution after Alexander. Habicht also published editions of hundreds of Greek inscriptions from sites across the Greek world, with a particular focus on Asia Minor and Thessaly, including a corpus of inscriptions from the Asklepieion at Pergamon. His edition and annotated translation of the historian Pausanias has become a standard reference. Habicht's honours included the City of Pforzheim's Reuchlin Prize in the Humanities (1991), the American Philosophical Society's Henry Allen Moe Prize (1996), the London Hellenic Society's Criticos Prize (1997), and appointments as the Sather Professor (1982) at the University of California, Berkeley, and Honorary Counsellor of the Archaeological Society of Athens (1998). ■



Michele Saccomano

Visiting Scholar from May to July 2018

I'm a Master's student at the University of Bologna and thanks to the Erasmus+ project I received funding for three months of research at the CSAD. My research interests are Greek historiography and epigraphy and my Master's dissertation will study the fragments of the historian Duris from the Island of Samos.

My stay at the CSAD has been highly productive. I had a first-hand experience of a stimulating and very pleasant social environment as well as insight into the work of the Centre. I made good use of the squeeze collection and arranged to see some inscriptions held at the Ashmolean Museum. Thanks to the collection-based research at the CSAD, I have improved my understanding of epigraphic methods and techniques, and have studied inscriptions in greater depth. This has proved useful for completing my work on the *Axon* project at the University of Venice to update the editions of published Greek inscriptions. I have been able to contribute to a scoping exercise of Ptolemaic inscriptions from the Aegean, particularly focusing on Cyprus, by drawing upon Peter Fraser's personal notes. Last but not least, I have been able to attend the epigraphy seminar as well as several other lectures in Oxford. The experience at the CSAD was an inspiration. ■



Oxford Epigraphy Workshop Trinity Term 2018

Monday 23 April:

Peter Thonemann, "Teos and Abdera after the Third Macedonian War: a new inscription"

Monday 30 April:

no meeting

Monday 7 May:

Peter Liddel, "A new decree from Liverpool and Captain McNab's 'Shady Lady'" (Polly Low and Peter Liddel with the assistance of Peter Thonemann)

Monday 14 May:

Irene Salvo, "Studying Education and Religion from the Epigraphical Evidence: the Case of Cult Associations in Classical Athens"

Monday 21 May:

Geoff Smith and Brent Landau, "The First Apocalypse of James at Oxyrhynchus"

Monday 28 May:

no meeting

Monday 4 June:

Thomas Corsten, "Some puzzling grave epigrams from Kibyra"

Monday 11 June:

Marcus Chin, "Posthumous honours in a new inscription from Pergamon"

Charles Crowther, Jonathan Prag, Peter Thonemann

Visitors to CSAD

The Centre is able to provide a base for a limited number of visiting scholars working in fields related to its activities. Enquiries concerning admission as Visiting Research Fellow (established scholars) or as Visiting Research Associate should be addressed to the Centre's Director, Prof. Andrew Meadows. Association with the Centre carries with it membership of the University's Stelios Ioannou School for Research in Classical and Byzantine Studies. Further information concerning application procedures and other formalities can be obtained from the Centre's Administrator and Research Support Officer, Dr. Chloe Colchester (chloe.colchester@classics.ox.ac.uk).

Circulation and Contributions

This is the twenty-second issue of the Centre's Newsletter. The Newsletter is also available online in HTML and pdf formats (www.csad.ox.ac.uk/CSAD/Newsletters).

We invite contributions to the Newsletter 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.

Contributions, together with other enquiries and requests to be placed on the Centre's mailing list, should be addressed to the Centre's Administrator, Dr. Chloe Colchester, at the address below.

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Cover image: Ptolemaic and Roman *proskynemata* (pilgrims' graffiti) at the Temple of Seti I (1290- 1279 BC) in Abydos (Abdju), one of the most important temple complexes from the pharaonic period. They indicate the ongoing importance of the site during the Greco-Roman period. Photo: Kyriakos Savvopoulos.