

AMPHORAE VIII 2014

Report

Wednesday 26th – Friday 28th November

University of Melbourne

Conference

The convenors would like to thank all who attended and presented at this year's conference from Wednesday 26th to Friday 28th November 2014. AMPHORAE VIII at the University of Melbourne attracted 72 registrations from 11 universities across Australia and New Zealand, with 56 papers presented. This is shown in the table below:

Institution	Number of Delegates
University of Melbourne	23
University of Auckland	11
University of Queensland	8
University of Sydney	6
Monash University	5
Macquarie University	4
University of Tasmania	3
Victoria University of Wellington	3
Australian National University	2
La Trobe University	2
University of Newcastle	1

The keynote lecture was delivered by Prof. Hans Beck of McGill University, Montreal, entitled 'The parochial *polis*. Localism and the Greek City-State', with the support of the Classical Association of Victoria (CAV). Furthermore, Prof. Beck presented a Masterclass for conference attendees on: 'Tempting Tyche: Political Lottery in Classical Athens'. The conference also coincided with a lecture given at the University of Melbourne by Dr Youssef Kanjou, Director of Antiquity and Museums of Aleppo, National Museum of Aleppo, Syria, on 'The National Museum of Aleppo in Times of Conflict'. Finally, the editorial collective of The Amphora Issue organised a panel discussion on the publication process, involving its members, Prof. Beck and Dr Jenny Webb of La Trobe University.

As always, the conference was host to a number of social events, supported by the generosity of a number of organisations. The Welcome Function was held in association with Australasian Women in

Ancient World Studies (AWAWS), while the Conference Dinner was supported by the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens (AAIA).

We would like to thank our numerous sponsors:

- The Australasian Society for Classical Studies (ASCS)
- The Classical Association of Victoria (CAV)
- The Faculty of Arts and School of Historical and Philosophical Studies (SHAPS) at the University of Melbourne
- The Classics and Archaeology Postgraduate Committee (CAPC)
- Australasian Women in Ancient World Studies (AWAWS)
- The Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens (AAIA)

Delegate's Meeting, Thursday 27th November, William MacMahon Ball Theatre

1. Selection of Hosts for Future AMPHORAES

Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) were officially selected as hosts of AMPHORAES IX 2015, in accordance with the decision taken in 2013. In line with previous policy, expressions of interest were sought for Australian hosts in 2016, with the University of Tasmania (UTAS) to raise the possibility within their department. Support was granted for the current de facto system of confirming the hosts of the next conference at the each meeting to continue.

Concerns were voiced regarding this system: with turnover in the postgraduate student body on a 1-3 year basis, it is difficult for institutions to commit strongly to expressing an interest two years out. It was also noted that hosting the conference requires at least 2-3 committed convenors, along with departmental support or funding. It is expected that interested parties would explore the options available to them. The issue remains open to be discussed generally at ASCS 2015 at the University of Adelaide.

2. Timing and Attendance Issues

This issue, as in 2013, was discussed at length. University of Auckland (AUCK) delegates raised the important point that due dates for funding applications vary at different institutions: in their case, papers must be accepted before March annually, to attract funding. It was suggested that next year's convenors from VUW, and future convenors, issue an extended Call for Papers (CFP), or have two rounds of CFPs (e.g. in March and June).

Timing was another heavily analysed issue. The heavily favoured Winter date excludes Near Eastern Archaeologists, and could penalise Honours Students who are mid-candidature. January/February is a

busy time, which could impinge on Egyptologist's fieldwork and the annual ASCS conference. Mid-semester dates are not common across Australia and New Zealand. Two ideas floated included a fixed pattern of moving dates (e.g. June Year 1 – September Year 2 – November Year 3 – June Year 4), or holding the conference over a weekend during semester. This issue will be raised again at ASCS 2015.

There was also a strong focus on boosting conference numbers, particularly from those campuses traditionally under-represented. It was proposed that the convenors and ASCS Postgraduate Representatives circulate conference material to student groups and engage with departmental staff from these institutions to encourage attendance. It was also suggested that AMPHORAE, and postgraduates around Australia and New Zealand should be proactive in engaging with Honours students and early candidature postgraduates, though typically institutions will not provide funding for these individuals. Finally, it was noted that part-time and regional students, particularly from institutions such as the University of New England (UNE) should be accommodated as much as possible.

3. ASCS Postgraduate Representatives

Discussion centred on the definition of this role, and details of a new electoral system. The ASCS Postgraduate Representatives for Australia and New Zealand are elected by postgraduates generally (i.e. not only ASCS members) from across Australia and New Zealand, respectively, for a one-year term. They serve as full members of the ASCS Committee to represent and exercise a vote on issues pertaining to postgraduates.

A new, more inclusive, system was outlined by ASCS Honorary Secretary Kathryn Welch at the Delegate's Meeting. Each Institution's Postgraduate community can nominate one candidate for the position, who must be an ASCS member, who will remain a postgraduate within Australia or New Zealand for the duration of their term. This nominee must contact Kathryn Welch with their name, degree, institution and a brief statement of their reasons for putting themselves forward, for circulation by 10th December 2014. Each institution's postgraduates (including non-members) vote as a group at ASCS, to avoid large campuses dominating the process. If an institution lacks representation at ASCS, they may vote as a group via proxy through Kathryn Welch. It should be reiterated that this must be a student-driven process at each campus.

Thank you once again to all attendees and supporters of AMPHORAE VIII. We hope to see you all at Victoria University of Wellington in 2015.

Brad, Jarrad & Kim – Convenors, AMPHORAE VIII