

CSAD at Twenty



A cake replica of Richard Grasby’s *Caerleon Inscription*, which was installed at the entrance to the CSAD in 2013.

With the beginning of this academic year the *Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents* celebrated its 20th birthday. Founded in 1995 by Prof. Alan Bowman, who had earlier enlisted Dr. Charles Crowther, who had been teaching in China, the Centre houses Oxford University’s epigraphical archive, which includes one of the largest collections of squeezes of Greek inscriptions in the world, together with the Haverfield archive of Roman inscriptions from Britain, and a substantial photographic collection. The CSAD began its life at 67 St. Giles’ in a first-floor room with a bay-window looking across to St John’s College, before moving, with the newly-established Classics Centre, to the Old Boys’ School on George Street. The Centre

now shares with *The Lexicon of Greek Personal Names* a purpose-designed working area on the second floor of the beautifully extended new incarnation of 66-67 St. Giles’, which houses the Ioannou Centre for Research in Classical and Byzantine Studies.

Everyone who has been part of the CSAD since its beginnings was invited to a celebration held on 6th October 2015, including past Lewis lecturers, past and present project researchers, and a wide variety of collaborators. Alan Bowman gave a short speech, thanking all those who have helped establish the CSAD as the research centre of national and international importance that it has become.

Hannah Cornwell baked, and Janie Masségliá decorated, a spectacular cake “inscription” to mark the occasion. The cake showed a copy of the marble replica of an inscription from Caerleon, made by Richard Grasby, which since its installation in 2013 at the entrance to the CSAD has become the Centre’s emblem.

The party was held in the Common Room of the Ioannou Centre, with champagne and canapés on offer appropriate to the momentous occasion. There was a display of photographs of the people and activities of the CSAD over the twenty year period, and some full size photographs of Greek inscriptions from Ptolemaic Egypt destined for long term display in the Classics Outreach Room in January and February 2016, as part of the current Corpus of Ptolemaic Inscriptions project. Special thanks for the displays and the organisation of the party go to the CSAD’s very own Maggy Sasanow. Suffice it to say that a good time was had by all.

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Alan Bowman, Director of the CSAD, cuts the cake, with Charles Crowther, Assistant Director.

LGPN Update

In August we were informed that Professor Robert Parker's application to the AHRC for the funding of work on LGPN VI had been successful. This volume will cover, very broadly, the Near East (Commagene, Syria, Palestine, Judaea, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Persia, Bactria). The funding is for three years and will support the full-time employment of three researchers, Richard Catling, Jean-Sebastien Balzat, and a new member of staff with expertise in the languages of the Near East. Work on the new volume will begin in the spring of 2016.

This good news came on top of earlier success in Professor Parker's application to the Fell Fund to support Édouard Chiricat for one year in a pilot project to develop a linguistic extension to the LGPN website, providing analysis of each Greek name and bibliographic references relevant to it. This project is a collaboration with Professor S. Minon (Paris) and, if all goes well, may lead to further collaboration. At present it is not anticipated that LGPN will have any direct involvement after the first year pilot.

The Lexicon is also engaged in a major overhaul of its basic working procedures, data management and online resources, with the aim of supporting, among other features, the linguistic extension; the new database will also make available large amounts of additional information about individuals that cannot be presented in the printed volumes. Work began in September with the initial objectives of developing an input form for the linguistic extension and the migration of seven existing databases into a single XML database. The contract was awarded to Exist Solutions, a German company with expertise in the development of XML databases. Work on LGPN VC (Inland Asia Minor) in the meantime progresses well, with almost complete coverage achieved of the regions involved, and only residual work remaining to be completed for Lycaonia and Cappadocia. Preparation of the volume for publication was slowed somewhat between October and January when available staffing was limited, until Dr. Balzat returned to Oxford in February after a period of research leave. Dr. Balzat has recently been elected to a Research Fellowship at Wolfson College, which he will take up alongside his continuing LGPN responsibilities, in October 2016.

Preliminary proposals have been made for the partial updating of the material included in *LGPN I* (Aegean Islands, Cyprus and Cyrenaica). Professor Klaus Hallof (Berlin) has indicated that he and others would be interested in revising coverage of the islands of Samos, Chios, Kos and Cyprus, while Richard Hitchman (Oxford) has offered to do the same for Crete. The updates would be made available online. At present there are no concrete plans for a printed second edition. We have also revived with S. Byrne (Melbourne) the scheme for regular (perhaps, annual) updates to LGPN

II (Athens), which will, again, only be available online. In August Professor Parker lectured on 'The Lexicon of Greek Personal Names: the Past and Future of a Long Term Project' at the conference celebrating the 200th anniversary of *Inscriptiones Graecae* in Berlin.

Dr. Burak Takmer (University of Antalya) spent a month in Oxford as a guest visitor of LGPN (June 8-July 8), preparing the edition of recently discovered inscriptions from surveys in Pisidia on which he collaborated with Dr. Balzat.

Dr. Christian Wallner (University of Graz) was a guest of LGPN in Michaelmas Term 2015. He spent a month collaborating with us on material from Galatia (especially the area of Tavium where he has conducted fieldwork), and continued thereafter at his own expense until mid-December, working on the publication of new inscriptions from there (see 'Visiting Scholars', p. 7 for more information on Dr. Wallner's research).

Richard Catling

AshLI spreads the word

Autumn 2015 was the AshLI team's busiest season so far, with a series of events designed to coincide with the project's installation of more than 40 Latin inscriptions in three Ashmolean Galleries, and to celebrate the work of PI, Prof. Alison Cooley, as the corpus of more than 400 objects is prepared for conversion into a free online database.



Participants at the 6th International EAGLE conference, Bari.

In September, Dr. Hannah Cornwell and Dr. Jane Masségliia travelled to Bari to speak at the 6th International Conference of the Europeana network of Ancient Greek and Latin Epigraphy (EAGLE). Under the overall title 'Off the Beaten Track. Epigraphy at the Borders', the conference brought together papers on the challenges of dealing with unusual or unfamiliar inscriptions, and came at an opportune moment for AshLI, when the project corpus was in the early stages of being encoded into EpiDoc. The visit was a fruitful one, as different epigraphic projects revealed similar challenges (such as how to describe inverse letters, erasures and directions of text) and exchanged possible solutions. An audio recording of the paper, 'Signs, Symbols and Spaces in the Ashmolean Latin Collection', accompanied with slides, can be found online at bit.ly/1O7BBn9.

October saw the Ashmolean's first Classics Sixth Form Study Day, organised by its new Secondary and Young People's Officer, Clare Cory. With two opening lectures, and a choice of afternoon workshops, the day was attended by 83 students and their teachers. AshLI was well-represented, with Jane Masségli showcasing a number of inscriptions in her lecture 'The *unfamilia familia*: a visitor's guide to the Roman household', and Hannah Cornwell leading a series of workshops on 'Diversity of culture in the Roman World' in the Rome Gallery, where six new inscriptions had been recently installed.



Delivering the inscribed urn of Tiberius Claudius Abascantianus to its final resting place.

At the end of October, the Ashmolean celebrated 'DEAD Friday', a Halloween-themed alternative to its popular 'LiveFriday' open evenings, with invited University research groups taking part. AshLI's re-enactment of a Roman funeral proved to be one of the highlights of the night, reported by the local press and the BBC. A cast of 20 Classicists from Oxford and Warwick, in full costume, laid to rest the body of Tiberius Claudius Abascantianus, a Roman commemorated by a fine ash-urn recently put on display in the Reading and Writing Gallery, in a hand-painted columbarium. The team, including lictors, musicians, mourners, an Archimimus, a funeral director and members of the Roman household, performed the funeral twice, beginning with the laying out of the body, a procession, eulogy, cremation, and installation into the family columbarium, and ending with a talk by Alison Cooley. The event was the result of months of preparation, making costumes, building a funerary couch (complete



Alison Cooley addresses Ashmolean visitors (including CSAD visiting scholar Christian Wallner!)

with corpse), creating an ash urn (with the help of Amy Chaplin, on loan to CSAD from Cherwell School for work experience in October), learning to play Roman musical instruments, and casting wax *imagines* from the team's own faces. It was a triumph of collaboration and a testament to the goodwill of Faculty and students of both departments that they agreed to perform in a museum filled with more than 3,500 visitors. Footage of the funeral, filmed by the Oxford Classics Media Team, and a video detailing the mask-making process can be found online at bit.ly/1LvPRzd

Sunday 22nd November saw the official opening of AshLI's new installations with an all-day, free family event in the museum. 'Remembering the Romans' offered visitors a series of activities, including tours, workshops on how to read a Roman tombstone, lectures from Keeper of Antiquities Paul Roberts, and Roman object-handling. Colleagues from the Ashmolean Education department ran a craft session involving inscription-writing attended by more than 200 children. Helen Ackers guided groups around the Roman portraits in the Cast Gallery, and professional Roman re-enactor Tanya Bentham offered story-telling and costume demonstrations. At the end of a busy day, with each activity repeated several times, the museum estimated that around 1,500 people had been directly involved in the day's events. The number of visitors to DEADFriday, 'Remembering the Romans' and the Classics Study Day, added to the 3,000 readers who visited AshLI's blog, 'Reading, Writing, Romans' in September-December, to make this the most effective period of public engagement since the project began. The project now enters its final phase as the corpus database goes into production, and public engagement events turn towards site visits to schools, before AshLI concludes in December 2016. The new year will also see some new faces, as current AshLI researchers go on to new positions: Jane Masségli to Leicester as a lecturer, and Hannah Cornwell to London's School of Advanced Study as a Leverhulme Fellow.

Jane Masségli



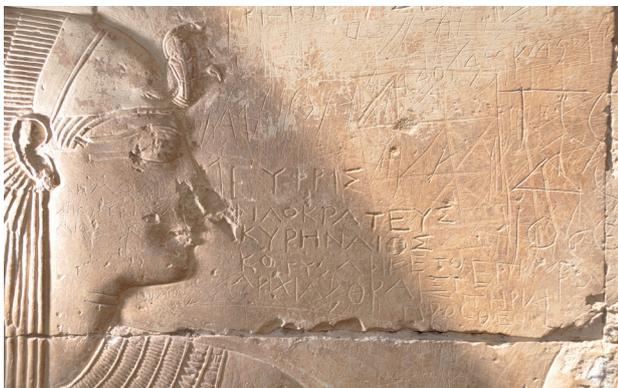
Young visitors at AshLI's 'Remembering the Romans' event, making their own Latin inscriptions.

Ptolemaic Inscriptions: A field trip to Egypt
 This field trip was undertaken as part of the Corpus of Ptolemaic Inscriptions project (CPI), which aims to provide a complete and up-to-date corpus of Ptolemaic inscriptions in Egypt. The project is based on material collected and annotated by the late Peter Fraser FBA (1918–2007). Updated images of the material evidence comprise a key aspect of this project not only in terms of the ‘freshness’ of the corpus, but also in terms of establishing the current state of Ptolemaic inscribed monuments, particularly those still *in situ*, as major alterations have taken place at several sites. While the process continues of obtaining images from all the museums around the globe that hold Ptolemaic inscriptions in their collections, the field trip targeted specifically those inscriptions that are still *in situ*, notably those at Thebes, Abydos, el-Kanais and in the Elephantine region.



Inscription from the island of Philae.

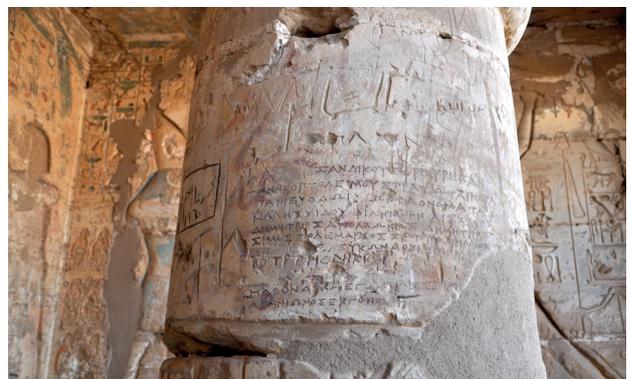
The mission was carried out by CPI researcher, Dr. Kyriakos Savvopoulos, accompanied by Athanasios Koutoupas, a research volunteer who has previously contributed to the CPI project. Credit must go to NASCO Tours, an organisation experienced in the specific needs of archaeological and historical missions in Egypt, for its excellent and continued help both before and during the trip. NASCO provided Mr. Hosam Raswan as guide, a knowledgeable historian, but also remarkably helpful in all practical issues that occurred at each site. Without his assistance this mission could not have been completed as successfully.



Ptolemaic proskynemata (pilgrims' graffiti) on the walls of the temple of Seti I in Abydos.

The trip started in the Theban region, using the city of Luxor as a hub for visits to the temple complexes

in the area and to Abydos. The visit to Abydos took place a day after the Russian plane crash in Sinai, and Egyptian police forces escorted our car on the three-hour journey there and back, offering us the safest option of travelling! The impressive temple of Seti I is situated at Abydos, where a series of Ptolemaic *proskynemata* (pilgrims' graffiti) are preserved on its walls. Most of these are still quite visible, allowing us to take good photos, while a few have been covered, possibly as a result of renovation and conservation work carried out at the site. Some other inscriptions have been obscured by the graffiti of 'modern pilgrims' who have felt obliged to leave their own mark on the walls at the site. The next two days were dedicated to the Valley of the Kings, where graffiti of the Ptolemaic period were recorded in corpora of the 20th century. Sadly, many of these are today in a very poor state. We visited the temple complexes of Karnak and Luxor, the colossi of Memnon, and finally the temple of Hatshepsut in Deir el Bahary, where we searched again for traces of *proskynemata*. Although the temple of Deir el Bahary is in good condition, with well-preserved high quality reliefs and colours, its Ptolemaic graffiti are almost all lost. This is not only because the uppermost level of the temple is largely in the open air, but also because of the very poor quality ink and writing of the graffiti, already barely visible in the first half of the 20th century.



Ptolemaic proskynemata (pilgrims' graffiti) on a column in the chapel at el Kanais.

Over the following two days, we moved 'upwards'—as one says when moving towards Upper Egypt—to Edfu, visiting Egypt's best preserved temple complex of Horus, and then on to the temple complex of Kom Ombo, dedicated to Sobek (the crocodile god), and to Haroeris (Horus the Elder). These two sites formerly contained several Ptolemaic inscriptions now housed in museums; thus it was vital to explore the monumental environment from which they came. Our next visit was to el Kanais (in Arabic, 'the chapel'), situated about 50 km from Edfu in the eastern desert, on the ancient route connecting Apollinopolis (modern Edfu) to the important Graeco-Roman emporium of Berenike (close to modern Marsa Alam), where a *speos* was cut high into the cliff-face by the Pharaoh

Seti I. This *speos* was originally dedicated to Amun-Re identified with Min, while in the Graeco-Roman period it became known as the Paneion, after Pan, the Greek counterpart of the Egyptian Min. Hundreds of *proskynemata* of this later period, left by travellers and pilgrims, are preserved on the walls of the chapel and on the surface of the cliff. We were able to find most of the Ptolemaic graffiti in the area, though a few seem to have been lost, probably due to the poor state of the rock surface and of the graffiti themselves. The final stop in our journey towards Upper Egypt was the Aswan region. We spent two days at the Philae Island temple complex, named after its original location on the island of Philae, which was partially



Inscriptions and graffiti at Philae

submerged after the construction of the Aswan Dam. In the 1960s the complex was completely dismantled and rebuilt on the nearby higher island of Agilika, which was reshaped and landscaped to resemble the original Philae. The main temple of the complex, built by the Ptolemies, was dedicated to Isis and became one of the most important religious centres of the country at that time. This is evident from the numerous dedications (royal, high-official and private), which are still preserved on the surface of its walls. We were able to find and record all the Ptolemaic inscriptions situated on the surface of the pylons and on the temple walls and gateways. However, a number of inscription blocks, once attached—in secondary use—to the walls of the courtyard, have been removed and replaced by modern concrete blocks. The present



Original location of the 'Philae Obelisk', today situated in the grounds of Kingston Lacy, Dorset.

location of these inscriptions is something to be explored in due course, along with the whereabouts of a series of inscriptions revealed during the dismantling of the temple, recorded by scholars such as Roccatti and Bernand. Also of particular interest to us on this visit was the identification of the original location of the 'Philae Obelisk', today situated in the grounds of Kingston Lacy in Dorset, and recently thoroughly revisited by the CPI research team.



Two inscribed monumental altars at Elephantine.

Our next and final visit was to Elephantine Island, which dominates the Aswan region. A series of impressive sites are preserved on the island, dating from the Pharaonic era to the Late Antique period. Two inscribed monumental altars, which stand in the most prominent spot of the south-east corner of the island, were the best possible conclusion to our field trip. Even though I had previously lived for five years in Alexandria, the great capital of the Ptolemies, I have to admit that these two weeks made me fully appreciate the wisdom of Ptolemy son of Lagos' choice of Egypt as his new homeland, and why Egypt is often called 'the Land of the Gods'.

Kyriakos Savvopoulos

The Philae Obelisk at Kingston Lacy

Researchers for CPI are in the process of producing a publication for the National Trust on the history of and current research on the Philae Obelisk, now situated in the grounds of the Kingston Lacy estate in Dorset, England. The booklet will be edited by Dr. Jane Masségia, and will cover the history of Ptolemaic Egypt and the temple complex at Philae, the monument itself, and CSAD's RTI and 3D imaging research, together with the latest discoveries and readings of the monument, and the relationship between the obelisk and the "Philae" robotic landing on comet 67P Churyumov-Gerasimenko on November 12th 2014.

Practical Epigraphy Workshop

At the end of June the CSAD sent a detachment northwards to the Stanegate and to the Roman fort of Corbridge for the 2015 edition of its Practical Epigraphy Workshop.



Participants in the 2015 Practical Epigraphy Workshop

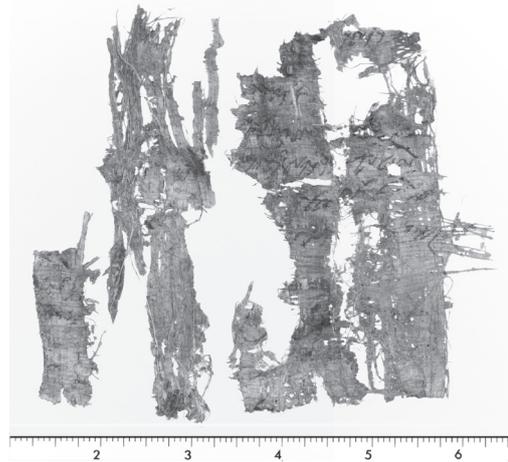
An international group of enthusiastic graduate and undergraduate students came together to learn and practice the essential skills of the study of inscriptions in the field using inscriptions from the museum's collection supplemented by items that had been rediscovered very recently. Participants practiced the arts of recording epigraphic texts by drawing, photographing, and making squeezes. A field trip to Hexham offered a demonstration of RTI in action in the Abbey's Saxon crypt. Most participants stayed on after the close of the course to visit other Roman sites in the area. These began with an excursion to the impressive collection of inscriptions at Chesters, and subsequently included a late-night stroll to the wall at Steel Rigg, a more bracing expedition to the Roman quarries and signalling tower above Vindolanda as well as the site itself, and a broad sweep of the western central section taking in the mile-castle at Poltross Burn and Roman Bridge at Willowford. The instructors were Charles Crowther and Roger Tomlin, the course directors Peter Haarer and Abigail Graham (Warwick), with vital support back at the CSAD from Maggy Sasanow. Plans are already well advanced for the next Workshop which will be held in the Ashmolean Museum on 21-23 June 2016.

Teaching Award for EpiDoc Training

Following a grant from the Oxford Institute of Learning in November 2014, a new teaching project, *Digital techniques in the study of ancient epigraphy: transforming MSt/ MPhil teaching*, led by Dr. Jonathan Prag, was able to hold a workshop in the use of TEI-XML (EpiDoc) and related technologies for graduate students in Ancient History. The three day workshop was held on 5th-7th May, and was led by Dr. Gabriel Bodard (ICS/KCL) and Dr. Charlotte Tupman (KCL).

A Latin Papyrus from Brittany

During exploratory excavations at the Roman villa site of Mané-Véchen on the southern Brittany coast between 1966-1974, archaeologists made the unexpected discovery of a piece of papyrus wrapped around 18 Flavian and Antonine old *denarii* placed on top of an urn holding a substantial coin hoard. When the papyrus was unrolled fragments of writing in Latin cursive appeared. This discovery of a Latin papyrus in northern Europe is unique, but the text still awaits a publication.



Multispectral image of the Mané-Véchen papyrus

In 2013 Paul-André Besombes, the curator responsible for the collection in which the papyrus is held, contacted CSAD to inquire whether an attempt could be made to decipher the text. In July last year he brought the papyrus to Oxford to allow it to be photographed using the multi-spectral camera in the Papyrology Rooms in the Sackler Library and the Weston Library's new hyperspectral imaging system. With the help of the new photographs Alan Bowman and Roger Tomlin are preparing an edition of the text, which appears to record part of a letter with a dated heading. Expect a report of what the letter contains in a future newsletter!



Mr and Mrs Besombes showing the papyrus to Daniela Colomo in the Sackler Papyrology Room

Visiting Scholars

Christian Wallner (Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz)
The reason for my stay at the CSAD from October until December 2015 was twofold: Firstly, I was asked by Professor Robert Parker to contribute to the Lexicon of Greek Personal Names (LGPN). The volume currently being worked on (V.C) covers the regions of central Anatolia, Phrygia, Pisidia, Galatia and Cappadocia. Because I have been part of the Tavium International Research Project (TIRP) for several years, I am familiar with the epigraphic monuments and the personal names of Galatia. In fact, the discussions with my colleagues, Richard Catling and Édouard Chiricat, have been very rewarding and have greatly expanded my knowledge of onomastics.



Christian Wallner, working in the museum of Yozgat.

Secondly, the remainder of my stay was dedicated to research on new inscriptions. Since last summer I have been part of the excavation team at the Roman colony of Antioch (Pisidia), with particular responsibility for the publication of recently found inscriptions. During my first stay there I was confronted by many fragments known from the notebooks of W. M. Ramsay. These notebooks are kept in the Sackler Library, conveniently just around the corner from the CSAD. It was therefore very easy for me to carry out my work on these monuments. During the course of this part of my stay, on November 9th 2015 I presented a new fragment of the Xenoï Tekmoreioi at the Epigraphy Workshop. The Tekmoreian Guest-friends were members of a cult association with its headquarters in Sagır, a small village in the territory of Antioch. A series of inscriptions provides valuable data about this religious organization, which had its heyday in the mid 3rd century AD. Discussions with epigraphists both inside and outside the workshop have been very helpful in the preparation of the publication of this fragment. All in all my months at the CSAD have been very beneficial, as well as productive. I am convinced that this will not be my last stay at this exceptional research centre.

Francesca Cotugno (Università di Pisa)
PhD student, Francesca Cotugno, is a visiting scholar at the CSAD for three months from January 2016. Her doctoral thesis focuses on the analysis of socio-linguistic phenomena in the *corpus Vindolandense*. In her MA dissertation, she adopted a multidisciplinary approach, combining sociolinguistics, onomastics and archaeology to represent the multiple identities of the Roman army living at Vindolanda.

Stephanie Frampton (MIT)

Prof. Frampton is a visiting fellow at Balliol College with an association with the CSAD from mid-January to mid-March. She has been working with Rebecca Benefiel and Jackie DiBiase using RTI to produce better renderings of the Herculaneum curia graffiti. It was at the CSAD that she first saw RTI in action, and she hopes to become involved with CSAD activities whilst here.

Valete



CSAD bids farewell to two of the AshLI team: Jane Masségia will be joining Leicester University as a lecturer, and Hannah Cornwell London's School of Advanced Study as a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow.

Epigraphy Workshops

Trinity and Michaelmas Terms 2015 saw another successful series of lunchtime Epigraphy Workshop seminars, with speakers drawn from among Oxford faculty and visiting scholars.

April 27: Edward Harris, *'The Dedication of Phialai by Metics and Citizens, Or Applying Ockham's Razor to the Interpretation of Some Attic Inscriptions'*.

May 4: Christian Marek, *'God or ruler cult? A new hymn at the Hekatomnid tomb of Mylasa'*.

May 11: Peter Thonemann, *'The Martyrdom of St Ariadne of Prymnessos'*.

May 18: Dragana Mladenovich and Georgy Kantor, *'Unpublished inscriptions from the Tiber waterfront'*.

May 25: Anna Heller, 'Greek honorific inscriptions from the Imperial period: a quantitative approach'.

June 8: Jean-Sebastien Balzat, 'Romans on Delos: an onomastic approach'.

June 15: Akiko Moroo, '“Barbaroi” in Attic inscriptions'.

October 19: Supratik Baralay, 'Aggressive Correspondence: The new letters of Lucius Aemilius Paullus to Gonnoi'.

October 26: Milena Melfi, 'Some thoughts on the cult of the Pantheon (‘All the Gods’?) in Roman Greece'.

November 2: Paul Kosmin, 'A New Text and New Readings from Diadoch Babylon'.

November 9: Christian Wallner, 'Tituli novi from Pisidian Antioch. New fragments of the Xenoi Tekmoreioi'.

November 23: Emanuel Zingg, 'Apollon Karneios, Apollon Triopios, and Aphrodite in Cnidus'.

November 30: Riet van Bremen, 'A new Olympichos inscription from Mylasa'.

If you are interested in presenting research at the Epigraphy Workshop series, please contact Charles Crowther, at the address below.

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, Professor A.K. Bowman. 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, Maggy Sasanow (margaret.sasanow@classics.ox.ac.uk).

Circulation and Contributions

This is the nineteenth issue of the Centre's Newsletter. The Newsletter is available online in HTML and pdf formats (<http://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, Maggy Sasanow, at the address below.

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