



University  
of Victoria

Greek & Roman  
Studies

# ὑπομνήματα



Volume 3 | Spring 2009

Notes from the Department of Greek and Roman Studies

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

Welcome to our third Greek and Roman Studies Newsletter! 2008 saw the arrival of a new Latinist in the department, Josiah Davis (featured on p. 4). UVic's Lansdowne endowment allowed us to invite Professors Claudia Moatti, John Foley and Janet DeLaine to give weeks of lectures on the changing form of the Roman state, on traditions of oral poetry, and on Roman architecture. We are extremely grateful to John and Linda Fitch for creating a new graduate scholarship (see p. 6), which will help to foster a new generation of academics. Our Department is renewing its already strong commitment to graduate teaching by currently laying the foundation for a PhD program.

I wrote this on or around Valentine's Day. In Ovid's calendar poem the *Fasti*, the entry for February 15th describes the Roman celebration of the Lupercalia, the festival of purification and fertility. Initiates of the wolf-cult ran naked through the streets, whipping young girls with goat-skin thongs. Why naked? Once upon a time Faunus, with whom these rites begin, was consumed with passion for Omphale, mistress of Hercules. Unbeknownst

to Faunus, Hercules and Omphale liked to wear each other's clothes. (In fact, if one discounts the lion-skin and a robe his wife gave him which he didn't wear often, Omphale's are the only clothes in which Hercules is commonly represented). Faunus's stealthy night assault took an unexpected turn, and an embarrassing case of mistaken identity was eventually revealed by torch-light. Faunus cursed the deceptions of clothing and insisted ever after on being attended by naked worshippers. A festival beyond redemption? In A.D. 494 Gelasius I, bishop of Rome, rebranded the pagan Lupercalia as the festival of the Purification of the Virgin.

You can find out about forthcoming events on our home-page (<http://web.uvic.ca/grs>) or visit in person on the fourth floor of Clearihue Building (B wing). I look forward to meeting you.

Cedric Littlewood, Chair  
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Email: [calwood@uvic.ca](mailto:calwood@uvic.ca)



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# TRAVEL TO GREECE AND EGYPT, 2008

By Peter Miller, Graduate Student in Greek and Roman Studies

Last spring, I traveled to Greece with the *UVic In Greece* program and then extended my traveling to Egypt. Our first trip in Greece, to Crete, began almost immediately after we assembled in Athens' Syntagma Square. We arrived at the palace of Knossos before the gates opened, almost totally alone; the thrill of wandering through the ancient ruins was amplified by the silence of the place while we explored – uninterrupted by the tour guides and bus-loads of tourists which often tramp through Greek archaeological sites. We then visited the major sites of the Peloponnese: Mycenae, Tiryns, Pylos, and Olympia. Dr. Burke also led us to some lesser-known, yet still fascinating places, such as sea-side Franchthi Cave which has signs of human habitation continuously for 20,000 years! Aside from the archaeological wonders, southern Greece presented us other, less academic, marvels: the world's best gelato in beautiful Nauplion, a stunning beach and warm waters near Sphacteria at Pylos. Our last journey was to northern Greece. We stopped at the site of the famous Battle of Thermopylae, as well as the bustling city of Thessaloniki. One of the highlights of the trip north was the museum at Verginia, dug directly into the burial mound of the kings of Macedon, the incredible tombs left *in situ*.

We swam in the Bay of Actium, envisioning the fleets of Antony and Octavian, saw the monasteries at Meteora, perched high on rocky outcroppings, and enjoyed the slow life of the Greek village of Metsovo, in the Pindus Mountains.

After the trip ended, I delayed my return to Canada and flew to Cairo to explore, for a couple of weeks, the ancient sites of Egypt. A friend and I arrived in Cairo and immediately discovered the biggest, busiest and most chaotic city we could imagine. Cars drove without a concern for the conventions of lanes, signaling or speed limits; enough to raise the blood pressure of two Canadians used to less aggressive and more law-abiding drivers.

The Pyramids, Cairo's main attraction, were incredible; I descended into the depths of the Pyramid of Khafre and, even packed in with a few hundred tourists, the antiquity of the site was palpable. The ruins at Saqqara, home of Egypt's oldest structures, were more secluded and less well-visited by tourist buses. Here, where I could literally have one foot in the fertile Nile valley, and one foot in the barren desert, the stark majesty of the structures of Egypt was all around.

A few nights riding camels and camping in the Western Desert were next, a welcome tonic after the chaos of Cairo. The night skies were filled with stars, our food was simple Bedouin fare cooked over campfire, and our entertainment was chatting with our guide Abdu about his life in the oasis town of Farafra.

After an overnight train, we found ourselves in Luxor, on the East Bank of the upper Nile. We spent a day relaxing on a *felucca*, a traditional Egyptian sailing boat and passed the oppressively hot afternoons enjoying cold drinks and the shade in Luxor's traditional *souq*, or marketplace. The major attraction, of course, was the West Bank and its sites: the Valley of the Kings, the Temple of Hapshepsut, the funerary temple of Ramses III. We fought the heat, and found solace in the lesser-visited tombs of the Valley: we were completely alone in the tomb of Thutmose III, cut high into the valley wall; we were entranced by the painted walls depicting the Egyptian afterlife, the colours as fresh as they were over 3500 years ago.

These six weeks, generously supported by the Department's Margareta von Rudloff fund as well as the Office for International Affairs, were life-changing and of inexpressible value to my education at UVic. While my academic work has helped me to understand the world of antiquity, its languages and history, the monuments and the land itself helped me slightly differently, to feel as though, in even a small way, I could understand and enter into the minds of people who lived so long ago.



## “Veni Vidi Bibi”: the GRS Course Union

The Greek and Roman Studies Course Union in the past few years has been a particularly active group. Their main goal is to create a social and academic environment for students with a passion for the ancient Greek and Roman worlds to meet each other, share ideas, and have some fun along the way. The Course Union also sponsors events which include faculty members, initiating more informal contact between instructors and students. Our Department has always been a particularly close-knit community, particularly as a result of the efforts of the Course Union, as many of our alumni can attest.

Following the example of the Greek *symposium*, much of the activity of the Course Union seems to revolve around food, drink, and celebration, in an entirely responsible and moderate fashion of course. Last year, the Course Union acknowledged Halloween by forming gingerbread into the shapes of the arch of Titus, the cult statue of Zeus at Olympia, and the Minoan Snake Goddess; this past year, the Course Union carved pumpkins in the image of artefacts from the ancient world, as the “mask of Agamemnon” on the pumpkin to the right illustrates.

Lansdowne lecturers have been the recipients of the Course Union’s hospitality for dinners; this is a unique opportunity for undergraduates to have close contact with many of the major scholars working in our field today. Our recent visitor Dr. Janet DeLaine treated the Course Union to a story of her climb outside the dome

of the Pantheon in Rome to look through the *oculus* into the interior of the Pantheon; Dr. Moatti, another Lansdowne guest, was able to make provocative connections between modes of travel in the ancient and modern worlds for our students.

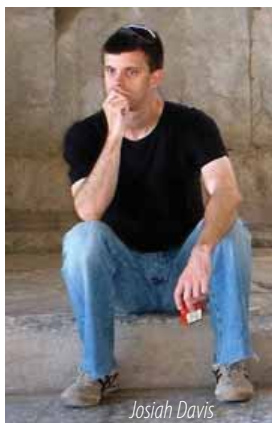
The Roman dinner in the fall of 2008 was definitely one of the high points of the year for the Course Union. Trevor Van Damme translated ancient recipes from the Latin text of Apicius, and the chefs cooked up a feast which featured tiny quail in a kind of omelet with asparagus, a lentil stew, bread, herbs mashed in a mortar and pestle mixed with olive oil in a lettuce and feta salad, honey cakes, and white honey wine. While not every recipe was entirely pleasing to a modern North America palate, the experience was still quite a lot of fun.

The Course Union has also had three pub crawls in the last months, for which they sell tickets and T-shirts commemorating the crawl. Any money raised will be used for further Course Union events and perhaps in the future for small awards to encourage students in the first year language classes.

Other plans for the future include a book sale and the establishment of a web site connected to the Department’s web site. Currently, the Course Union communicates through a Facebook group under GRS Course Union; here you can find announcements, invitations to events, networking, and “friends” with interests in the ancient world.



## LATIN LITERATURE RENEWED



Josiah Davis

The Department of Greek and Roman Studies has strengthened its profile in the field of Latin literature by the recent addition of Josiah Davis to our ranks. Josiah comes to the University of Victoria with a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania where he wrote a thesis entitled “Latin Texts and Latin Culture in Praeneste”; Praeneste is the modern town of Palestrina, just a short distance outside Rome. In the Republic, the town experienced its cultural heyday when the location became a kind of ancient tourist destination, featuring a resident oracle at the Temple of Fortuna; Cicero tells us that the oracle was based upon

the selection of lots (“sortition”) by a child. In the Augustan Principate, Praeneste was home to an important public calendar that recorded religious and historical in-

formation. The calendar provides us with a fascinating and rare window into Roman culture, history and politics from a perspective beyond the walls of the capital city.

After completing a book manuscript based on this dissertation, Josiah’s research will turn towards both Ovid’s *Tristia* and also the image of the book in Latin literature, particularly in the works of Ovid, Catullus, and Martial. Josiah notes that the variability of the poet’s authorial voice or persona within collections of poetry and even within individual poems is a particularly striking aspect of Latin literature.

Josiah has had an active first year in the Department: he attended the annual meeting of the American Philological Association (the professional organization for classicists) and he delivered a paper at the joint University of Victoria and University of British Columbia Classical Colloquium.

Since moving to Victoria, Josiah has been enjoying the many fine restaurants in the area, taking road trips to Nanaimo, Cowichan and French Beach, and even travelling to Seattle to indulge in his passion for the opera. He has also found the talkative and opinionated student population at UVic a pleasant surprise!

## Res Gestae:

Since our last newsletter, the Department has been host to a wide variety of scholarly lectures from international visitors and our own members. We heard a wonderful series of talks about Roman history and archaeology from Drs. Claudia Moatti and Janet DeLaine respectively, who were Lansdowne lecturers in 2008 and 2009. Dr. John Foley, a specialist in the oral tradition, also visited as a Lansdowne lecturer in 2008 and inspired us with his knowledge of oral cultures around the world. This year already Dr. Mark Golden has regaled us with a lecture on games gladiatorial and Olympic in the ancient world, and Dr. Alain Touwaide again provided fascinating information about medicinal plants from the ancient Mediterranean.

From our own members, Dr. Ingrid E. Holmberg presented a CAVI lecture entitled “How to Survive a Homeric Epic”, Dr. Josiah Davis discussed Ovid’s *Tristia* at our joint conference with UBC, and Dr. John Oleson delighted us with news about his productive “summer vacation”. Dr. Oleson has had the honour of being nominated by the University for the SSHRC Cheveaux Gold Medal for the Humanities; results soon! Internationally, Dr. Geoffrey Kron attended a conference on the ancient economy on the island of Capri, where he presented “Nutrition, hygiene, and mortality: setting parameters for Roman health and life expectancy”. Former graduate student Brian Moss returned to UVic with a talk about his work on

science and myth in Nicander; Brian is now attending Oxford for his doctoral work.

This year also saw the publication of *The Lansdowne Era, Victoria College, 1946-1963*, edited by Edward B. Harvey, a book dedicated to the memory of our former beloved colleague Peter L. Smith, and the students of the Lansdowne years. Proceeds from this book are directed towards the Peter L. Smith Scholarship in Greek and Roman Studies and the Peter L. Smith Bursary in Theatre History.

## Undergraduate events:

The Department was able to award a number of valuable scholarships last year to our finest and most deserving students. All of the prizes listed below have been made possible through very generous donations from friends of the Department and of the Classics.

- The Catriona Cameron Bingham Prize for an outstanding student in a beginning course in Classical Greek: Ryan McGinley.
- The George P. Black Memorial Scholarship, in memory of an exceptional teacher of Latin and Greek at Victoria College for 22 years, for an outstanding undergraduate student in GRS: Carly Malloch.
- The Butterfield Law Book Prize for a student with an enthusiastic interest in Classical Studies not receiving other prizes: Christina Davis.
- The Classical Association of Vancouver Island Book Prizes for excellence in GRS: Eva Bullard, Sanjay Chander, Madeleine Gubbels, Malcolm Maynard, Emerald Robertson, and Sabrina Sethi.
- The Greek and Roman Studies Scholarship for one or more third or fourth year undergraduates or graduates: prize divided equally between Jessica Hallas-Kilcoyne and Caitlin Keenan.
- The Irene Lee Book Prize in Latin established by Gary Hayman in honour of an inspiring Latin teacher at Mt. Douglas High School to a leading student in second year Latin: Lauren Tee.
- The Edward B. Paul Memorial Scholarship for an outstanding undergraduate student in Greek and Roman Studies: prize divided equally between Sarah Gray and Trevor Van Damme.

- The Peter L. Smith Scholarship in Greek and Roman Studies, in honour of Peter L. Smith, for one or more undergraduates who have completed first or second year with an outstanding record in GRS courses, and who have registered for further courses in GRS: prize divided equally between Sara Van Dongen and MacKenzie Downing.

The Department is also able fortunately to provide travel grants through the Margareta von Rudloff Travel Fund; in 2008 not only the author of the article on p. 2, Peter Miller, was able to take advantage of this opportunity, but also Christopher “Kicker” Conlin, Malcolm Maynard, Jonathon Prior and Trevor van Damme were able to attend our summer field study led by Dr. Burke.

## Graduate events:

The Graduate Program in the Department is flourishing; we currently have ten students either in their first year of course work or finishing their theses. Among these students we have several noteworthy award winners: Rebecca Littlechilds has received the first Sheila and John Hackett Research Travel Award, a SSHRC Joseph Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship Master’s and a President’s Research Scholarship; Lara Bishop and Jonathon Prior have been awarded John O. Dell Graduate Scholarships; and Peter Miller and Angelica Pass are recipients of David and Geoffrey Fox Graduate Fellowships. American Philological Association (APA) Outstanding Student Award Winners from UVic have included Milorad Nikolic, Richard Kavadas, and Peter Miller.

Last year, Richard Kavadas completed his interdisciplinary thesis, “No Mere Mouthpiece: An Examination of the Hesiodic Farmer” under the primary supervision of Dr. Gordon Shrimpton; former MA student Elizabeth-Anne Scarth published *Mnemechnics and Virgil, The Art of Memory and Remembering*.



## Focus on Funds

### Gordon and Hilda Fitch Endowment in Greek and Roman Studies for Graduate Students



We continue to direct our fund-raising efforts towards providing support for our graduate student population. The Department of Greek and Roman Studies at UVic brings together a group of scholars as faculty who are uniquely equipped both individually and as a cohesive group to offer a superb graduate education. We are currently attracting more graduate students than ever to our graduate program, and we are working towards the creation of a small but vibrant doctoral program.

John Fitch, professor emeritus and renowned Latin scholar, has established a scholarship to assist students wishing to pursue research in Classics. Dr. Fitch is helping our Department to address a need in our funding profile and to increase our ability to attract the best graduate students from Canada and elsewhere. Our Department is extremely grateful to Dr. Fitch and his family for their investment in our future.

## Summer Studies

### GREEK AND ROMAN STUDIES SUMMER SESSION 2009

**GRS 495** Archaeology Field Work  
Seminar in Greece, May 1-29

**GRS 250** The Contribution of Greek  
and Latin to the English Language,  
June 4-June 26

**GRS 200** Greek & Roman Mythology,  
July 6-July 28



For many years, the Department of Greek and Roman Studies has offered a select number of courses in the Summer Studies program. Taking a course in the summer often allows a student to fill a gap in her curriculum, to complete a pre-requisite for a course in the fall, or simply to expand her knowledge of the ancient world. In 2008, three of our instructors taught in the summer session. Dr. Shumka taught the always popular "Greek and Roman Mythology" and Dr. Kelly Joss taught "Greek and Roman Civilization". Both of these courses are prerequisites for a number of other courses on our curriculum. Dr. Bowman's "Myth and Theory" class builds upon "Greek and Roman Mythology" by challenging students to approach the ancient myths from more critical and analytical perspectives.

## Upcoming Lectures: You Are Invited!

### DR. NOEGEL'S LECTURE:

#### Diviners, Exorcists, and Freud: Dream Interpretation in the Ancient World

Thursday, March 12, 7:30 p.m.  
Clearihue Room A207



### Professor Scott Noegel

*Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilization,  
University of Washington*

In this presentation Professor Noegel considers the widespread use of punning as a method for interpreting dreams in the ancient world. This method appears both in dream omen texts and literary texts from ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, Israel, and Greece that cover a time span from roughly 2000 BCE to 500 CE. Professor Noegel will survey these texts and examine them from the perspective of ancient divinatory conceptions of language and power. His finds will have implications for the diffusion of divinatory knowledge, our understanding of ancient literature, and the more modern psychoanalytic methods of Sigmund Freud.

### DR. MORRIS'S LECTURES:

#### The Greek Economic Miracle

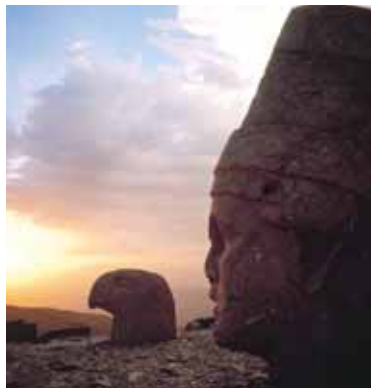
Monday, March 16, 3:30 p.m.  
David Lam Auditorium  
(MAC Room A 144)

#### The Twilight of the Gods on Ancient Sicily

Tuesday, March 17, 3:30 p.m.  
David Lam Auditorium  
(MAC Room A 144)

#### What is Ancient History?

Thursday, March 19, 7:30 p.m.  
University Centre Room A180



### Professor Ian Morris

*Jean and Rebecca Willard Professor of Classics and  
Professor of History  
Stanford University*

Professor Morris is a celebrated archaeologist, and one of the most innovative and influential social and economic historians of Greece working in North America today. His work is renowned for crossing disciplinary boundaries and introducing Classical archaeologists and ancient historians to bold new models and methods drawn from other disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences. In his lecture Professor Morris will ask, "was Greco-Roman civilization a turning point in world history?" Putting the Greek and Roman societies of roughly 1000 BCE through 500 CE into global context, he will ask what was unique about the ancient Mediterranean and what belonged to larger, world-wide trends. What would the world be like if there had been no Greco-Roman civilization?

*The issue was compiled by Sonja Bermingham and Ingrid Holmberg. Comments and contributions are welcome, and can be sent to [jupiter@uvic.ca](mailto:jupiter@uvic.ca)*



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# Leave a Legacy Planned Giving to Greek and Roman Studies

By Karen Whyte, MA



This past fall, the Department of Greek and Roman Studies received news of a gift left to the Department as part of an estate. We are very grateful to Oenone Judith Dundas for her bequest of \$50,000 (US) to establish the Richard Serle Dundas Scholarship which will recognize outstanding students who have completed their third year in Greek and/or Latin studies.

Planned gifts are a simple and tax-effective way to support the university. Donors who name the University of Victoria as a beneficiary in their wills are often able to contribute at a higher level than they thought possible. For example, you can leave a specific amount of money, a percentage of

the estate, the “residue” of your estate or specific assets to the Department of Greek and Roman Studies. By naming the University as the beneficiary of an RRSP or RRIF, you can eliminate income taxes owing on these assets on the final tax return.

Ms. Dundas chose to honor her late father by creating an endowed fund that will support our students in perpetuity. If you want more information about how you too can ‘leave a legacy,’ please contact Karen Whyte, Development Officer for the Faculty of Humanities at 250-853-3893 or [kwhyte@uvic.ca](mailto:kwhyte@uvic.ca).

## YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THE WORLD OF DIFFERENCE!

1) I wish to support the following funds:

Geoge Marsden & Gordon Shrimpton Graduate Student Special Needs Fund in GRS

Gordon and Hilda Fitch Endowment in Greek and Roman Studies for Graduate Students

GRS Scholarship Fund

2) Amount of gift: \_\_\_\_\_

one time  monthly gift per month \$\_\_\_\_\_ start date: \_\_\_\_\_ end date: \_\_\_\_\_

3) Method of Payment:

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Signature (required for credit card): \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to remain anonymous  I have enclosed my personal cheque (s) payable to the University of Victoria

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**Thank you for your support for the students and programs at this university.**



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