BRITISH EPIGRAPHY SOCIETY

NEWS DIGEST

http://www.britishepigraphysociety.org/

Registered Charity No. 1090249

The British Epigraphy Society exists to promote the study of inscriptions, texts and historical documents in Greek, Latin and other languages, and was established at a meeting in London on 16 November 1996 as an independent 'chapter' of the Association Internationale d'Epigraphie Grecque et Latine (**A.I.E.G.L.**). It is a registered charity (no. 1090249).

CONTENTS:

UP-COMING EPIGRAPHIC MEETINGS:

The **BES Spring Meeting 2012** will take place on **29-30 May in Warwick** on the theme of ***'Inventive Inscriptions: The Organisation of Epigraphic Knowledge in the 19th Century'***. The Colloquium is organised by Dr Alison Cooley and colleagues at the University of Warwick. The programme can be found on the society's website: **PLEASE REGISTER by 23 April 2012**!

The **CIEGL Congress 2012** will take place on **27-31 August in Berlin** on the theme of 'ÖFFENTLICHKEIT – MONUMENT – TEXT'. Full information on the Congress can be obtained from the CIEGL 2012 website: http://www.congressus2012.de/. To take advantage of the reduced registration fee, **PLEASE REGISTER by 30 April 2012**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

At the AGM on Saturday, 19 November 2011, the Society announced that **Joyce Reynolds**, a founding member of the Society, was to be honoured with **Honorary Membership**. Joyce's career has been dedicated to the study of inscriptions, especially - but not only - in Asia Minor, and her work on the epigraphy of Aphrodisias has changed our understanding of the city fundamentally.

REPORTS and SUMMARIES

British Epigraphy Society AGM and Autumn Colloquium 2011 '*Epigraphy in Action*'

19 November 2010, ICS, London

Bursars' reports

Davies, Philip (PhD student, University of Nottingham)

I would like to thank the British Epigraphic Society, as well as the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies, and the Classical Association, for the generous bursary with which I was provided. This funded my attendance of the BES Autumn Colloquium, 'Epigraphy in Action', going towards the cost of my travel by train from Nottingham to London, as well as my lunch and other subsistence costs on the day.

The colloquium was a very rewarding experience, with a number of stimulating papers. Somewhat to my surprise, as a Hellenist, one of the papers which I found most interesting was Silvia Orlandi's, which provided valuable insight into a number of the methodological and presentational issues which arise from the re-editing of an epigraphic work of such significance as the *Corpus Inscriptiones Latinae*. The excursion to the British Museum for small group talks on individual epigraphic artefacts was an original and welcome addition to the programme. In my case, Karen Radner enabled her audience to come away with a great deal of information concerning the Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III and its socio-historical context, particularly as most of the group (myself included) had little or no previous knowledge of the Assyrian Empire. Thomas Corsten's two presentations on Lycia were both informative and entertaining. However, I must end by saying how useful I found Robin Osborne's paper on the epigraphic history of Thespiae. I had mentioned this in my bursary application as one of the papers to which I was looking forward, and found his attempt to provide insight into the political and social history of Thespiae on the basis of the epigraphic evidence, and its place within the Boeotian confederacy, a very interesting proposition.

I initiated my academic interest in epigraphy, and my association with the BES, at the beginning of my doctoral studies, and in my third year of those studies would like to thank the BES committee once again for enabling me to maintain this through my attendance of their colloquia.

Evans, Luke (PhD student, University of Durham)

The BES's Autumn Colloquium and AGM were held on Saturday 19th November 2011, at ICS, Senate House, London. In attendance were ca. fifty-five people from a variety of institutions. The day was planned efficiently with a clear structure offered.

Morning session I was given by Prof. Osborne. The main question raised by Osborne was, can a pattern to what a city writes down be ascertained? Notable features in Thespiai are land leases and religious cults. With such inscriptions it is possible to note that Thespiai ran itself with a relatively light touch. Osborne argues that this failure to inscribe decrees signifies not unwillingness but a failure to enact decrees. From 447 BC the city was always part of a Boeotian confederation.

Morning session II was given by Prof. Orlandi. Orlandi spoke on the structure of a new edition of *CIL*; with a focus on building inscriptions, loca inscriptions, graffiti, painted inscriptions, and inscriptions found in the Colosseum but not necessarily related to the monument. A major issue to be raised when considering such inscriptions emerges

when considering the nature of the Colosseum. Many of the bricks were reused for separate sections of the structure and previous inscriptions were erased for new ones. The previous inscriptions are still eligible and thus should be acknowledged.

At 14:00 five epigraphic talks were given by Dr Radner, Dr Clackson, Prof. Crawford, Dr Williams and Dr Salway in the British Museum. I chose Dr Williams' presentation. Unfortunately the item discussed was not present in the museum but thanks to Dr Williams' enthusiasm for the subject, I found the talk stimulating.

Afternoon session I was given by Prof. Corsten and focused on inscriptions in the Lycian region. The inscriptions discussed referred to the political scene in the late Hellenistic period and early Roman period. The image portrayed by the inscriptions is one of constant war and fluctuation on the border. The growth of Roman influence is also noticeable. The coming of Rome brought peace. Despite losing their freedom to Rome the Lycians now felt free from the strife that afflicted the region. At 16:00 two virtual epigraphic presentations were given. Dr Radner spoke about SAA online. This was followed by Prof. Orlandi's demonstration of EAGLE/EDR and Dr Bodard's demonstration of the Libya project.

Afternoon session II was given by Prof. Crawford on the edict of Diocletian. The façade of the Aphrodisias Basilica offers invaluable evidence of the edict. Crawford focused on the pricing system offered by Diocletian in an attempt to fathom any significance to these numbers. Unfortunately it is not possible to know when the edict took effect. Crawford argued that the edict was put together over a long period of time. Such an argument would help justify the existence of two edicts. At 18:00 news from the field was given on Oinoanda and Kibyratis by Dr Milner and Prof. Corsten respectively. In the final session at 18:30 young epigraphers were offered the opportunity to present a poster whilst drinks were offered.

Gartland, Sam (PhD student, Leeds University)

Arriving early at any BES colloquium is a requirement. The discussions with acquaintances new and old that precede the days formal structure always offer new perspectives and an injection of enthusiasm that enhances the enjoyment of the formal side of the colloquium. Before Prof. Osborne's paper on Thespiai, I had discussed everything from Bronze age palace records to Cyrpus in late antiquity. The pairing of Osborne's paper with that of Prof. Orlandi was enlightening in itself, the former being a paper dense in information on an area I know intimately, the latter presenting a more general illustration of the problems of epigraphy in the Coliseum. Both offered much food for thought, especially marked being the travails of the epigrapher when it comes to publishing. This featured heavily in the discussion following Professor Orlandi's paper, and is a useful example of the difficulties behind the published epigraphic material on which so many histories (including my own) rest.

Lunch provided a continuation of lively discussion with other participants in the colloquium, and this was followed by a treat of a presentation by Dr. Salway on two inscriptions from Ephesus in the British museum. Rushing back from there to attend the AGM of the society, the mechanisms of the function of the BES were laid bare, and as with Prof. Orlandi's paper earlier in the day, this 'behind the curtain' view of the process of academia was enlightening, and made one appreciative of all of the hard work that attends the continuation of an organisation that undertakes such important and beneficial work.

The afternoon continued with a lively and enjoyable paper by Prof. Corsten on some issues around the epigraphy of Lycia. The paper provided interesting insights into the picture of Hellenistic and Roman Lycia, and with this the effects of 'Big Power' changes to political and epigraphic trends. This paper was followed by three exciting online projects to record the epigraphy of Assyria, Italy and Libya. Once again, the different stage of development and general format of each of these projects helped to elucidate the process by which these projects are born and managed, and the difficulties and successes that accompany them. Following coffee and more new acquaintances, Prof. Crawford gave a personal and practical take on the price edict of Diocletian. In this he emphasised both the serendipity of initial discovery and the long term task of understanding monumental inscriptions. His paper was followed y Dr. Milner and Prof. Corsten reflecting on their previous year's work in parts of Southern Turkey.
A final session of wine and posters brought the colloquium to a fitting end; convivial company and further academic discussion. The day was a ubiquitously enjoyable experience and alongside the significant academic insight offered by each of the sessions, I will take form the day an increased awareness of the practicalities of epigraphy, whether it be discovering, publishing or organising a society. I am very grateful to the BES for allowing me to attend by means of their student bursary.

Homann, Margit (PhD student, Universität Leipzig)

For me the main reason to attend the BES autumn meeting (Nov. 19th 2011 in London) was to hear Prof. M. Crawford's lecture on Diokletians Prices Edict, for I am writing my dissertation on the Edict. The lecture was very helpful for my studies and showed up many interesting aspects, which I did not even know until that day. Furthermore, I had the possibility to talk to Prof. Crawford about my dissertation, which was a great fortune. But not only him, but also Dr. Simon Corcoran and Dr. Benet Salway, which I met at the meeting, gave me helpful hints and literature on the Edict, for they both were working on the topic in the past. Of course, I also enjoyed the other lectures, especially those on the databases and online editing, for the same questions and problems do exist in papyrology (I am also active in this scientific field). All in all the meeting was a complete success: I met very friendly and helpful scholars, which promised to help me with my dissertation and heard very interesting lectures on various topics. Furthermore I got to know some PhD candidates, with whom I definitely will keep in touch. The location of the meeting was large enough and good to arrive, the technique was working well. So finally, I was very happy to be there, and if time allows I am definitely not averse to visit one of the next meetings.

Labonia, Francesca (PhD student, Università del Salento)

My participation in the BES Autumn Colloquium in London was one the most profitable and interesting experience in the epigraphic field. I had the opportunity to present my PhD research project with a poster entitled "Towards a new *corpus* of Greek inscriptions from Lucania" during the young Epigraphy session of the meeting. I had the wonderful chance to discuss my work for over an hour, to let it know, to put it to the test, and to receive feedback and suggestions. I met colleagues from other universities with whom I discussed at length my poster and exchanged contacts. I had the honor to receive appreciation on my work by Prof. Crawford (who suggested me the existence of a Greek inscription from the Sanctuary of Mefite in Rossano of

Basilicata), Prof Roy (interested in the possible presence of bilingual inscriptions in my collection), Prof Davies (interested in the Greek texts from indigenous settlements), Dr. Milner and other scholars interested in the Greek background of the region. Some of the participants with whom I had the opportunity to discuss - as the collegue Katherine McDonald, who studies the pre-Roman languages of Southern Italy - or Professor Crawford - who coordinates the publication of the first *corpus* of Italic inscriptions (*Imagines Italicae*) - carry out research on Southern Italy, very interesting for my project.
Secondly, but certainly not least, this conference was a full immersion into epigraphy. Nine reports have offered a broader view of both Greek and Latin epigraphy, and on technological tools applied to the study of inscriptions. In particular, there have been papers that, through the epigraphic documentation, offered a historical reconstruction of local and regional areas of the ancient world: Prof. Osborne presented the case of Thespiai in Boeotia, offering not only an epigraphic overview of the city, but also drawing attention to some epigraphic anomalies (such as the absence of inscriptions about politics); Prof. Corsten offered a historical view on a regional scale, presenting new documents from Lycia, and Dr. Milner, also about Lycia, presented the case of Oinoanda, which interested me, in particular, for the activity of epigraphic survey that I have also started in Basilicata: really "epigraphy in action". Prof. Orlandi presented a report which I strongly appreciated (even though I am a Greek epigraphist), since the aim of my PhD research is to create an epigraphic *corpus* re-editing IG XIV (Lucania section). The results her project about the re-editing of CIL VI (inscriptions from the Flavian Amphitheatre) offered elements to consider for my study about the publication criteria.
The Colloquium was well structured, with two sessions spaced-out by epigraphic talks within the beautiful and very apt setting of the nearby British Museum. I found very important the virtual Epigraphy session, with the presentation of three epigraphic databases, a very useful open-source instrument to share and improve research. I also created for my research an information database, within which texts have been recorded according to topographic criteria.

Lewis, Juan (PhD student, University of Edinburgh)

At the BES Colloquium 2011, I participated with the presentation of a poster, which basically summarized my article "Hapax legomenon? A new reading of *Inscriptiones Latinae Jugoslaviae* 3, 2119", published in *ZPE* 179 (2011), 244-246. The poster was well received and the comments were in general positive and encouraging. Most questions were directed towards how my new reading fitted into my doctoral research, as it was not self-evident at first sight. There was practically no discussion about my method or conclusions, which most commentators agreed were sound and solid.
I was particularly interested in Professor Orlandi's talk on the epigraphy of the Colosseum. During the question session, I communicated my concern about the shortcomings of online epigraphic databases and printed collections of inscriptions. Professor Orlandi was very incisive in her answers, laying out both the technical and the political constraints practicants of the discipline have in furthering the public access and understanding of the epigraphic record. Her invitation to participate through voluntary collaborations and suggestions in the elaboration of the EAGLE/EDR epigraphic database was more than welcome. As the main appendix of my PhD thesis is a collection of inscriptions, many of which are still

incompletely described by that database, I am planning to send her my own findings and new readings after submission.
Another presentation that was very stimulating was Professor Crawford's paper on the Edict of Maximum Prices. His skeptical approach to the process of reconstruction of the epigraph and the type of information recorded by the extant fragments of that imperial pronouncement was very instructive, as it showed in one paradigmatic example the limits of the evidence epigraphists work with.
The poster session featured some young epigraphists from Italy and Britain. Due to community of interests, I was particularly inclined towards the work of Francesca Lai, Francesca Labonia and Serena Zoia. We decided to follow each other's work through academia.edu with the aim of keeping updated about our research and establishing a network of epigraphists in the early stages of their academic career.

Matuszewski, Rafal (MA student, Universität Göttingen)

The BES Autumn Colloquium "Epigraphy in Action" took place the 19th of November in London. Due to my interest in the history of mainland Greece and the political organization of small poleis, of particular interest for me was the first paper of the day delivered by Prof. Robin Osborne, who presented the epigraphic history of Thespiai. Inscriptions Prof. Osborne presented displayed a variety of issues and problems - from the border *horoi* of a sacred place, dedication to the deity, reorganization of the Mouseia, inscriptions concerning land leases (which have again become a popular investigation topic), to various kind of lists - lists of magistrates, cult group for Thamyris, temple inventory or military catalogs. From this collection of inscriptions emerged the picture of a rather limited political life, mainly due to the membership in the Boeotian Confederacy.
The second paper in the morning session - "Re-editing CIL VI, Inscriptiones in Amphitheatro Flavio repertae: new methods and results" by Prof. Sylvia Orlandi of Rome – dealt with problems and dilemmas confronted nowadays by epigraphists, which are responsible for the edition of inscriptions in the Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum. On the example of the material of the Colloseum, Professor Orlandi raised the question of how to choose the best way of editing inscriptions, often engraved on some older ones - a kind of "inscriptional palimpsest". Prof. Orlandi showed also some inscriptions with visible gaps, probably designed for attaching bronze letters. Therefore, the problem lies in the choice of the editing method, as the text of the inscription itself, without its full visualization, does not give the whole picture to the researcher using the CIL.
I was notably impressed by the talk given by Prof. Thomas Corsten, whose main area of research is Asia Minor. In his lecture entitled "Epigraphic sidelights on the history of Lycia", Prof. Corsten focused first on the presentation of the richness of the epigraphic material which is now at our disposal for investigating the history of the area localized in today's South-Western Turkey. Corsten discussed very interesting findings, including some coming from Xanthos, Patara, Bubon and Olbasa. A constantly increasing collection of inscriptions from this area forces us to revise our knowledge on the local elites of Lycia, organization of the province of Lycia, or on the relations between Rome and the Lycian Confederacy in the late Hellenistic period.
Three papers delivered in the short panel "Virtual Epigraphy" were aimed to present practical concerns and features of various new technologies applied to

the epigraphic research: on-line databases and publications, digital drawings and reconstructions, etc. I found the information about databases such as SAA Online particularly valuable.
The paper of Prof. Michael Crawford concerned one of the most important sources on the economy of the Roman Empire known to historians nowadays - the famous Diocletian's Edictum De Rerum Pretiis Venalium. In his speech, Prof. Crawford discussed what can this edict tell us at all (and what cannot!) on the functioning of ancient economy.
In the panel "Field Epigraphy", I had the opportunity to hear the most recent news on the last excavations and surveys in Lycia. Dr. Nicholas Milner presented several new inscriptions from Oinoanda, while Prof. Corsten discussed the inscriptions from a wider area of Kibyratis - the tetrapolis consisting of the cities Kibyra, Oinoanda, Bubon and Balbura.
To sum up, participation in the BES Autumn Colloquium has been an extremely valuable and stimulating experience for me and beside listening to fascinating and (I must admit), very inspiring speeches, I also had a very first opportunity to visit the British Museum exhibitions. I am extremely grateful for the support granted to me, which allowed me to participate in the Colloquium.

Zoia, Serena (PhD student, Università di Bologna)

The experience of attending the Autumn Colloquium of the British Epigraphy Society was very exciting and profitable. First of all I had the opportunity to know young researchers from both Italy and the United Kingdom: we discussed about our studies and past experiences and we exchanged our email addresses. Therefore, I met prof. Silvia Orlandi, who co-opted me in the EDR project, and prof. John Wilkes, who made me know an inscription found in Stobi (Macedonia) which will be quoted in one of my next publications; prof. Wilkes sent me a photo of this inscription by mail and we maintained contact. I talked a lot with prof. Nicholas Milner too, who was very interested in my poster and made me lot of questions.
Since I am a Roman epigrapher, I found extremely interesting prof. Orlandi's paper on the publication criteria of the inscriptions found in the Flavian Amphitheatre, and prof. Crawford's paper on the Diocletian's Edict on Maximum Prices. In both cases the way in which a monumental location for the studied inscriptions was reconstructed grabbed my attention.
Anyway, the papers on Greek epigraphy were quite enlightening too. Prof. Osborne's speech on the inscriptions of Thespiai was of particular interest because he was able to link an epigraphic oddity (the absence of political actions recorded on stone) to a specific historical background (Thespiai's affiliation to the Boeotian Confederacy); I was also struck by his definition of lists as “an epigraphic habit phenomenon” because finding epigraphic habits in Milan is the object of my PhD studies.
Thanks to prof. Corsten and prof. Milner I learnt about the epigraphy of Lycia and especially of the Lycian city of Oinoanda, which was a completely new topic to me. I found particularly interesting the pillar found in Patara in 1993, which has a list of Lycian roads and distances. The builder of these roads was a Tiberius Claudius Drusus, probaly emperor Claudius, who presented himself as the one who had stopped civil disorder and anarchy in the country to start an era of order and fairness: it seems to me a good example of using a milestone inscription to propagandize the emperor's power.
Also the display of the three epigraphic databases was of a certain interest to me, because I'm building a computerized database too. I particularly appreciated

the choose of an opensource software to catalogue the cuneiform texts in The Open Richly Annotated Cuneiform Corpus and prof. Orlandi's call for cooperation in the EDR since a complete epigraphic database can exist only as a "collaborative project".

THANKS ARE DUE TO THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF HELLENIC STUDIES, THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF ROMAN STUDIES, AND THE CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT.

British Epigraphy Society Spring Meeting 2011
'New Discoveries in Greek Epigraphy'
7th May 2011, University of Manchester

P. THONEMANN, '*MAMA* IX: New Monuments from Asia Minor'

The first paper of the day consisted of two elements: an introduction to the forthcoming publication of *MAMA* IX (a digital publication (CSAD) at the end of 2012, and a print publication (CUP) in 2013), and a discussion of several of the most interesting inscriptions in the collection. MAMA IX contains between 500 and 550 unpublished monuments from central Asia Minor: c.200 from Phrygia, c.200 from Licinia and Southern Galatia, and c.100-150 from Cappadocia. Most are Greek texts, with c.5-10 % in Latin. They were originally recorded, photographed and squeezed by William Calder and his assistant Michael Ballance in the 1950s, but upon Ballance's death in 2006 they remained unpublished. The following year, Thonemann (henceforth T.) took on the responsibility for the publication of these texts, and was successful in gaining funding from the AHRC to do so. The monuments in the corpus of *MAMA* IX are mostly relatively simple. T. noted that the society that set up these monuments was remarkably unstratified, and did not appear to have anything resembling an elite. In fact, the institutions of this region seem to have been designed in order to prevent the emergence of an elite, and resisted incorporation into Roman class structures. T. then guided the audience through a number of particularly significant inscriptions, of which this report will mention two examples, The first of these was a statue base found at Yeni Çeşme, inscribed with a text in honour of Septimius Severus (dated to AD 196-7), dedicated by the demos of Moxeanoi. Large parts of the text had been erased and new letters had been cut in their place. A peculiar feature of this text was the fact that Severus has the victory titles Sarmaticus, Germanicus and Brittanicus: these titles did not belong to him, but to Commodus. However the individual who erased the name of Commodus left his victory titles intact. T. noted two other parallels for this, from Portus (*ILS* 5465) and Leptis Magna (*IRT* 396), in which the name of Septimius Severus has replaced that of Commodus, but the victory titles of Commodus were left untouched. Moreover, the text features 'fictive re-dating' in that the original dating was erased and a new date inserted. Finally, T. noted that the name of the honouring body was changed: the name of the city (Diokleia) was inscribed over an erasure. T.'s explanation of this is that the relative statuses of these communities changed between the original date of the inscription to Commodus and the visible inscription to Septimius Severus. This reflects the grant of civic status to these communities under Septimius Severus and the increase in the importance of Diokleia. Another of the illustrative inscriptions was a Hellenistic text from Apollonia, now in the İsmet Paşa Okulu. It is one of only four in the corpus that date from the 1st or 2nd centuries BC: this text dates from the first half of the first century BC. An equestrian statue on a round base, it contains honorific titles in the accusative, to an individual

(whose name is sadly missing) who was honoured with multiple statues and portraits. Of particular interest is the fact that he was honoured with a cult temple, which was very unusual: only very few civic benefactors received cult honours in their cities of origin. It is likely that this text was part of the architrave of the temple. T. gave a demonstration of the development version of the website, which is already in existence:

http://mama.csad.ox.ac.uk/dev/

The *MAMA* project is seeking comments on the layout and presentation of the inscriptions from any interested parties. If you would like to make a comment on the development version of the website, please email:

peter.thonemann@wadh.ox.ac.uk

Charlotte Tupman

C. MUELLER, 'Clarian Epiphanies: a new decree of the Ionian Koinon'

The second paper of the colloquium was delivered by Christel Mueller on a Hellenistic inscription from Kolophon documenting the response of the Ionian Koinon to the Kolophonians concerning the restoration of certain customs and games. The first issue of treated by M. was the provenance of the inscription itself. After being originally found in 1988, the stone on which the inscription was found has been lost and cannot be located at present. Two scholars previous to M. had examined the text (Etienne and Gautier) and M.'s analysis is from a squeeze made by the former before the stone's disappearance. She also thanked Etienne for the publication rights which he transferred to M. and with which she intends to publish the text in the next edition of *BCH* with the hope of future rediscovery of the original text. The central problems raised by M. with regard to this text were to do with chronological context and placing. Previous analyses have located it in the third century BC principally through letter forms. However, through consideration of the forms of various characters, M. suggested (following Crowther's palaeographic analysis) that the inscription could be placed in the early part of the second century. Furthermore, the likeness of the style of the inscription to an epistle from the two Scipios of c.190/189BC suggests that it could even have been the same letter cutter. Having successfully widened the possible chronology through paleography, M. continued to attempt to establish the dating of the text through the context of the inscription and its context. M. outlined the residual importance of Lysimachus' movement of the Kolophonians in 294BC to his re-foundation of Ephesus. Though it would not be a long period before Kolophon itself was re-founded, the memory of this early interaction with a Macedonian monarch left a deep impact on local memory. The mention of 'wars' in the inscription has been suggested by Etienne to fit the Syrian War of 262/1BC. Instead, M. suggests that a much better fit would be the wars against Antiochus III that would accord very neatly with the arrival of Roman power in the form of the two Scipios in the first decade of the second century. The successful resistance of the Kolophonians against the power of a Hellenistic monarch is highlighted by M. as both as an event worthy of monumentalisation and an example of the limits of 'big' power control of determined poleis in the period. Having adroitly navigated through the detail of possible dating of the text, M. concluded by articulating the significance of the text in its wider context. The inscription was shown to shed light on the situation of Kolophon and the Ionian Koinon in the crosshairs of a shifting 'big power' dynamic at the turn of the third century BC. There were suggestions (later confirmed in discussion of the paper) that the various games and the prominence of the Oracle at Klaros

mentioned in the text may have been accelerated by competition with local rival Magnesia, in an intriguing example of peer polis interaction. Similarly, the importance of the establishment of *asylia* (at the sanctuary rather than the city) may have been a product of a similar situation at Magnesia at the end of the third century. The re-dating of the text establishes the relationship between Klaros and Kolophon with Antiochus III and the Romans as the subtext that informs the language and demands. The Ionian Koinon, M. suggests, is here acting as acknowledged 'parent' power of Colophon and would have had an interest in asserting its positive acknowledgement of the new relationship with Rome, in relation to the arrival of the Scipios. M.'s paper was an enlightening combination of highlighting the practical difficulties confronting the epigrapher-historian and the splendid possibilities that a single text, if carefully treated, can afford. The lacunae in various important sections of the text that provided the focus of lively and intrigued discussion following the paper are relatively inconsequential compared to the more substantial lacuna that the loss of the stone could have provided.

Samuel Gartland

N. PAPAZARKADAS, 'A new Siphnian decree concerning the Ptolemies'

Nikolaos Papazarkadas presented in photographs and transcripts two fragments of a stele made of local white marble, found in Kastro, capital of the island of Siphnos in the western Cyclades, now housed in Kastro's Archaeological museum. This island was rich in mineral deposits of silver and gold with the result that they were able to dedicate a tenth of their profits to Apollo at Dephi, but its fortunes declined after 525 BC. Its good links with Athens are demonstrated by the fact that it was one of the eight places possessing a copy of the Athenian coinage decree. The upper part of this stele was discovered in 2004 and the lower part in 1971, but since thickness and letter height are similar they are thought to be part of the same inscription. The left part of the upper and the right side of the lower stele are eroded. Distinctive forms of *mu* and *epsilon* were employed for which there existed no comparison from Siphnos. However a similar style was noted on an epigraph from Delos dated to 250 BC. On the stele the citizens acknowledge the benefits provided by King Ptolemy (perhaps restoring exiles?) and undertake to offer annual sacrifices on his anniversary. The chronology of the events referred to on the stele presents an enigma. Is the King Ptolemy referred to Ptolemy II Philadelphus, (son of Ptolemy I Soter and Berenice), who died in c.245 BC. Ptolemy's II's first wife, Arsinoë I, daughter of Lysimachus, was the mother of Ptolemy III Euergetes, his successor. After her repudiation he married his full sister Arsinoë II, sometime between 279-272, who co-ruled with him till she died in 269, and it is she who is referred to as "philadelphou" on the upper part. However, there is also a reference to "father and grandfather". Could the stele then refer to Ptolomy III Euergetes? Although the 250 BC date suggests Ptolemy III Euergetes, known contemporary military opponents do not help to clarify the referent as being Ptolemy III, because the use of the term 'barbarians' does not fit them. The "Adulus" inscription, OGIS 54.3-11, (text 4) may refer to the restoration to Egypt by Ptolemy III of valuable and sacred objects stolen by the Persians. Were some restored to Siphnos? Professor Papazarkados tends to favour Ptolemy III Euergetes, although Ptolemy II Philadelphus remains a clear candidate. He suggests that another stele found on Siphnos, OGIS 730 (text 6) *Decree for Perigenes of Alexandria,* has been

overlooked and would reward further study at the museum of Siphnos.

Kathryn Westbrook

A. MATTHAIOU, 'Three new Attic inscriptions'

Angelos Matthaiou presented three inscriptions found quite recently in Athens which, despite their fragmentary state, are interesting sources of information *per se* or shed some light on other known epigraphic texts. M. related the first fragment of twelve very lacunose lines, found in 2009 on the Acropolis, to the fragment d of the decree *IG* I3 106. This decree mentions three men honored and granted *ateleia* by Athens until they return to their homeland. It seems that the three honorands were refugees who had fled from their country for political reasons. The Athenian practice of honoring groups of exiles appeared in the late 5th century BC. The new fragment should be placed at the beginning of the fragment d of *IG* I3 106. It is possible to read *τοῖς μετὰ Πολυκλέος ἐκ* + name of their homeland (4-5 letters) *ἐξελελυθόσι* in line 3 of the new fragment, as we have *ἐξελελυθότον* at the end of *IG* I3 106. The second fragment, found on a slope of the Acropolis in 1994, should be attached to *IG* I3 11, an inscription concerning the events preceding the Athenian expedition to Sicily. The issue about the name of the archon can be solved quite easily by the content of the inscription and the lettering: it must be Antiphon. This fragment is, according to M., a further piece of evidence that the Egestans came to Athens in the year of Antiphon's archonship (416/5 BC) in order to conclude not a new treaty, but a renewal of a treaty previously concluded under Laches' archonship. Moreover this interpretation agrees with Thucydides' passage about this event, where Egestans ask help from the Athenians while being involved in a war against Selinous, "reminding them of the treaty concluded in the year of Laches and during the previous war against Leontinians" (6.6.2). The third fragment was found in a 19th century house on the eastern side of the Acropolis, along with a lot of fragments of vases, which have been thrown there for obscure reasons but were certainly not exposed to fire. The vocabulary of the fragment is administrative: *πρύτανις, πρυτανεῖον, γραμματεύς, εὔθυναι, ἐπιστάτης* or *ἐπιστατεῖν*. M. explained several lacunae, such as *λεφ-*, which could be associated with *λέφσονται*, as well as *-ροφσι-*, maybe connected to the *παροψίδες* mentioned in Athenian comedy. The inscription could be dated to the late 60s of the 5th century BC.

Aurian Delli Pizzi

British Epigraphy Society AGM and Autumn Colloquium 2010
'Inscriptions and Construction'
20 November 2010, Darwin College, University of Cambridge

R. PITT, 'Syngraphai: inscribing construction at the Temple of Zeus at Lebadeia'

Robert Pitt's paper discussed a series of texts documenting the building process in the ancient world. *Syngraphai*, which are found in many cities of the ancient world, record the intricate nature of the public/private partnership that was forged when large-scale construction projects (for example, the long wall contract for construction at Athens) were sold by the state to private contractors. These documents, like their modern day counterparts, have developed into very complex legal, administrative and financial documents, often inscribed in a wall on the site or near the construction. The text (*IG* VII 3073) represents one of the most complete versions of a building contract, dated to the last third of the 3rd century BC (this date is based on Pitt's analysis of the lettering; he suggests that the

dating of the project to Antiochus IV's reign may be tendentious). An analysis of the contract revealed not only the incredibly complex nature of the building process and the regulation of private contractors but also the difficulties for the modern scholar in accessing and reconstructing the ancient landscape (one of the tablets, for example has been reused as a picnic bench). As an introduction Pitt raised questions about the display of these documents, drawing attention to the formulaic nature of the texts with clauses often drawn verbatim from earlier documents. The repetition of contractors' names on different contracts is discussed both in terms of price fixing and the itinerant nature of contractors (who appear in projects at Athens, Delos etc.), often requiring guarantors to make sure that a contractor did not 'take the money and run'. Pitt also addresses the advantages of parceling out the work to numerous different contractors as well as the problems that arise. The inscription (*IG* VII 3073) was broken down into 8 component parts, each of which offers an insight into the complexities of the process: 1. The appointment of guarantors; 2. The Payment schedule; 3. Starting time and penalties for poor craftsmanship; 4. The hindering of material by the *naopoioi*; 5. The regulation of rules and measures; 6. Dispute settlement between contractors; 7. Damaging works in the sanctuary; 8. Engraving, painting and cleaning of the stelai. The length of the document itself attests to the numerous problems and challenges involved in public building projects, which include: the resale of old contracts (which were unfinished), the process of payments, which were handed out in three parts at various stages of the work, the liabilities and penalties for craftsmen, the role of *naopoioi* in regulating and, at times, obstructing the work, as well as disputes and damages between contractors. The final clause of the contract demonstrates the inscription's significance as a monument, as well as a legible document, whose appearance must be maintained. Pitt closed by discussing the monumentality of the documents, not only with respect to what is recorded in the text but in the presentation of the information. The letters are beautifully carved (but often crowed at the bottom, suggesting they were carved *in situ*) and painted. The sections of the text are also clearly delineated with titles, indentations and *vacats*, which reflect the role of the inscription not only as a monumental block of text but as a functional document that was meant to be read. Stipulations for the inscription (in part 7) reveal that even the production of the inscription was regulated to assure that certain standards were maintained. Pitt also noted the irony in the fact that that the inscription was, in some cases, the only part of the project that was completed, and in a modern context, it is sometimes the only part of the structure that survives. In concluding, he cited comparanda from Athens and Tegea to further illustrate how these documents were displayed on a wall, often with other documents to which they sometimes referred. Pitt's thoughtful analysis was an illuminating venture into the bureaucratic quagmire of construction in the ancient world, demonstrating yet another aspect of the human experience that remains unchanged by the passage of time.

Abigail Graham

E. BISPHAM, 'Building Reputations: the Epigraphy of Construction in Late Republican Italy'

In keeping with the theme of the colloquium, Ed Bispham provided a stimulating paper, which considered dedicatory building inscriptions from Late Republican Italy. The task which Bispham had set himself was to consider how these inscriptions could serve as

evidence of and insight into the epigraphic habit in the late Roman Republic, beyond the details of construction presented within them. To this end, Bispham had conducted a number of statistical analyses of relevant inscriptions. However, the paper was equally interesting for the discussion which it prompted concerning the methodology to be employed in undertaking such a study. This referred particularly to the difficulties of categorisation of certain inscriptions, given the relatively brief and taciturn nature of Roman construction epigraphy, as compared to its Greek counterpart. For his paper, Bispham presented his findings in the form of bar charts, and illustrated them with examples of particularly interesting or problematic inscriptions. His first bar chart (elaborating upon the findings of the Italian scholar Silvio Panciera) compared the number of euergetic inscriptions found in fifteen different regions of Italy (Rome, Latium, Campania, Apulia, Brutii, Lucania, Sabina, Samnium, Picenum, Umbria, Etruria, Aemilia, Liguria, Venetia-Histria and Transpadana). The data showed considerable disparities between regions, with Latium providing more than twice the number of the next nearest region, and Rome, Campania and Samnium forming an approximate 'second tier'. Bispham suggested the possibility that the figures were to some extent distorted by the presence within certain regions of particular *coloniae* or *municipiae*, which had produced higher concentrations of such inscriptions. The chart also broke the data down chronologically, according to whether the inscriptions dated from the 3rd, 2nd or 1st centuries B.C. However, Bispham was careful to note the difficulty of chronologically placing some of these inscriptions to a particular century, where they have been previously dated, for example, as belonging to either the 1st or 2nd centuries. A second bar chart illustrated the contrast among municipal inscriptions between those which were public and those which were funerary in nature. Bispham presented separately the data for inscriptions concerning works undertaken by *duoviri* and *quattuorviri*, and the latter far outnumbered the former. In both cases, however, the number of public inscriptions far outweighed the number of funerary. A third chart categorised the types of public works undertaken by magistrates, as evidenced by inscriptions, according to whether they were religious, civic, infrastructural or uncertain. This information was also presented separately for *duoviri* and *quattuorviri*. Again, the difficulties posed by such an analysis were a topic of discussion. The category of public works whose type was 'uncertain' was notable by its size, forming a little under 20% of the total for *quattuorviri*, and a little under 33% for *duoviri*. Bispham illustrated the difficulties which some inscriptions posed in this regard, citing *CIL* i(2).1576, an inscription from Caiatia which records a building project, but does not state of what kind it was, and is no longer in situ, preventing the nature of the building work from being assessed. The fourth and final chart presented the sources of funding for such projects, as indicated by the inscriptions, categorising them as being public, private, mixed, *de senatu sententia*., uncertain, unspecified or diverted. An example of 'diverted' funds was provided by *CIL* i(2).3182, an inscription from Canusium which records the dedication of a building paid for with funds diverted, in accordance with a decree of the senate, from the fund for gladiatorial games. Similarly, an example of 'mixed' funds came from *Inscr. Ital.* III, 1, 36, no. 51, an inscription from Volcei concerning a building paid for by a combination of public funds and 'collected funds which the *municipes* and the *incolae* contributed of their own volition'. Though the

number of inscriptions which fell into the categories of 'uncertain' or 'unspecified' was again notable, a clear majority of inscriptions showed the senate to be the origin of the funds for such building projects, followed, at a moderate distance, by private funding. Several examples of the latter were provided, including *CIL* i(2).1505, detailing the granting of an area of land to the *municipium* of Signia by two *quattuorviri* at their own expense, and Pack and Paolucci, *ZPE* 68 (1987) p. 183 no. 12, an inscription from Clusium concerning the repair of a basilica and *porticus* at the personal expense of the undertakers. Finally, Bispham presented some inscriptions of especial interest. Despite the relative frugality of the Roman epigraphic style, *CIL* i(2).3173, from Brundisium, is a welcome example of an inscription which goes into considerable detail. Honouring one Galerius Falerius, the inscription gives the names and roles of several individuals who had attended the inscribing, as well as describing in detail the posts of the honorand, and the various public works which he and his family had undertaken. Also, an interesting case, indeed, almost an inversion of the pattern of private funding for public works mentioned above, was presented by *CIL* i(2).3118, an inscription from Cales which records work undertaken on the order of the senate in order to more conveniently convey clean water to the house of one Quintus Paconius, on the grounds that he had 'often...deserved well of the *res publica* and will continue to do so.'

Philip Davies

M. HORSTER, 'The Reliability of Roman (Latin) Building Inscriptions'

Marietta Horster's paper addressed the purpose of Roman building inscriptions, their value in understanding the origins of the structure they belonged to, and the messages they were intended to evoke. Most of these inscriptions are located on friezes, architraves or above entrances, and they usually detailed who paid for the construction and how much they paid, thereby placing the building (or *re*building as the case may be) in its financial and social context. Private benefactions of public buildings were the most likely form of benefaction to be recorded by an inscription. The act of inscribing the details of the benefactor emphasised the importance of the individual's engagement with the city and the needs of the people, and reflected the benefactor's awareness of what was expected of them as a member of the wealthy elite. So who were these benefactors? The fact that benefactors were in the first place permitted to inscribe their names on the structure underscores the importance of crediting the individual for their munificence. There is evidence for emperors on occasion making contributions at a local level, but the majority of inscriptions reflect a combination of the local and imperial elite. The entrance fee to office, *summa honoraria*, was intended to be used for the public good. Horster highlighted in particular magistrates' involvement with the building process, lending private support when public funds fell short and fulfilling their obligations to the city by spending out on building projects rather than games. Horster noted later in response to a question that sometimes the two overlapped: a wealthy benefactor may pay for games upon completion of the building, in celebration of the building's dedication. The short texts that were inscribed on buildings were not intended to describe the construction process or any other details pertaining to the building; their sole purpose was to advertise a benefactor's commitment. While we cannot know the true proportions of public and private spending in the cities and towns of the Empire, there does appear to have been a consistent pattern of private benefactions that suggests a

willingness to spend money beyond the realm of obligation. Horster offered the explanation that acts of benefaction in building were valued in the same vein as political virtue, and therefore that an inscription detailing one's benefactions to the city could be just as useful for the individual as the building was for the city. Certainly the act of funding a building held rewards for the generous benefactor: honour, prestige and exemption from tax and liturgies. In her conclusion, Horster addressed the matter of how the general populace would have viewed these building inscriptions and warns against overestimating the function and purpose of the texts. It is necessary, Horster concluded, to remember that the ancient visitor was not primarily a reader but a user and an observer – the information (or rather, lack of information) given in the inscriptions confirms this. While we might look for meanings in inscriptions, for ancient visitors the building was the focus of their attentions, not the inscription. We cannot look to these building inscriptions for details of expenses or the purpose of the building. The inscriptions were intended to promote individual benefactors and, in doing so, other information is neglected.

Sarah Platt

S. MITCHELL, 'The Buildings of Ankara - texts, monuments and material remains'

Stephen Mitchell reported some of the results of his recent survey of the inscriptions of Roman Ankara, concentrating especially upon texts relating to Roman building work. He explained that a new Turkish survey and map of the buildings of Roman Ankara has been invaluable in advancing our understanding of the Roman city. The first inscriptions discussed in detail by Professor Mitchell were those inscribed on the antae of the Temple of Augustus. The inscription on the north anta is Augustan, while that on the south dates from the time of Trajan; Mitchell demonstrated how the two illustrate changing attitudes to building and building inscriptions during the imperial period. The Augustan inscription lists the priests of the cult of Rome and Augustus at Ankara from the time that the cult was first established. Donations made to the cult by the priests are listed: these include *agones*, horse races and hunting. The dedication of cult statues is also mentioned. Mitchell pointed out that the phraseology of the first eighty lines of the inscription, which records the priests until AD 12, suggests that this part of the list was inscribed retrospectively and as single entity; presumably this eventually took place when either the entire temple or at least the north anta was completed. This mention of the cult statues and the appointment of priests implies that the cult was fully functional before the completion of the temple, reminding us that the physical location of a cult is not necessarily its most important feature. Notably, the donations from priests which are recorded in the Augustan inscription do not show them playing any part, financial or otherwise, in the construction of the temple. This demonstrates the difficulty of defining 'building inscriptions' and of distinguishing between building inscriptions and dedications, which had been highlighted at the start of the lecture. Mitchell argued that the grandeur of the Temple of Augustus was such that it would simply have been beyond anything that the inhabitants of a small town in Galatia could conceive, even those who were priests of the cult: the impetus and skills required for the project had to come from further afield. By contrast, the Trajanic inscription (dated from the mention of a priest known from other inscriptions) talks of *epidomata*, referring not to individual buildings but to donations towards building projects. By this stage, it seems, priests *were* routinely expected to be

involved in funding the construction of buildings. This development was symptomatic of a more general shift in attitudes, since by the time of Trajan building had become a key issue in the area. One example given was that of C. Iulius Severus, a senator who later became proconsul of Asia; he is recorded as having rendered services to the troops passing through Ankara in 113- 114. At this time he was serving as *sebastophant*, and the inscription records in particular that he provided oil and other necessities for the soldiers at his private expense, which allowed the sebastophantic funds to be used for public building projects. Again, the emphasis is on the importance of building projects, showing a building 'boom' in Asia Minor in the time of Trajan and Hadrian, perhaps inspired by similar building programmes at Rome, and contemporary with the building craze that the younger Pliny reports in Bithynia. The inscribed circular atate base honouring Ti. Iulius Iustus Iulianus, a man mentioned in five known inscriptions, who served three times as high priest, provides another example of the role of the city's élite in funding building work.. He is said to have been responsible for the construction of the *balineum*; however, since the date of the inscription is not certain, he cannot definitively be identified as responsible for the large excavated bathhouse, which has been dated to the early third century AD. From around AD 150 the majority of inscriptions from Ankara refer to the actions of the élite, including their involvement in building work. One of the few of these texts which can be directly linked to a building is *Inscript. Ankara* 33. This is an entablature from a two storey stoa which was found in ten pieces near the bathhouse. Excavation has demonstrated that this stoa linked the bathhouse to a street below; the inscription has been reconstructed and appears to be an example of a 'classic' building inscription. After discussing various other interesting texts, Mitchell ended with a more general overview of the state of our knowledge of inscriptions from Ankara. The city has produced around five hundred inscriptions and there is increasing evidence from rescue excavations for its Roman structures. But since systematic excavation is impossible, these remain random finds. The fact that we know only of such a limited proportion of the inscriptions which must have existed, and that we cannot gain a more comprehensive view of any one archaeological area, means that any observations drawn from the inscriptions we do have must be treated with great care. We cannot yet begin to reconstruct a building history of Ankara based on the inscriptions and the archaeological remains.

Emma Rix

L. ALLASON-JONES, 'The Inscripta Project'

In a short intervention at the end of the British Epigraphy Society Symposium on Saturday November 20th 2010 in Cambridge, Lindsay Allason-Jones, Director of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Artefact Studies at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, presented an interesting educational project devoted to Roman inscriptions. As Allason-Jones highlighted, the problem in teaching epigraphy – and especially for inscriptions from Roman Britain – is that it is generally quite difficult to show students concrete epigraphical examples on stones, as inscriptions are scattered across different museums and cannot usually be found on the Internet. Moreover, even if by chance an inscription is displayed in a nearby museum, visiting a museum is not really convenient for the students who have to work on the inscription later at home. Accordingly, as a compensation to such problems, a

team of collaborators from Newcastle have designed the "Inscripta Project":

http://cias.ncl.ac.uk/Inscripta/

This is an online resource showing around fifty examples of inscriptions from Roman Britain coming from different locations, such as altars and tombstones. In addition to Lindsay Allason-Jones, four persons are taking part in the project: Glyn Goodrick, Federico Santangelo, Andrew Parkin and Guy Schofield. This work, still in progress, should be ready for Christmas. For each inscription displayed, the website will provide a picture of the stone – which it should be possible to enlarge to have a more detailed view of the engraved letters –, the text with and without conjectures and an oral reading of the
text. No translation will be given but the student will be able to propose his own translation and check whether it is correct. A guide will also provide pieces of advice about how to publish an inscription. Moreover, students will find a glossary and a list of Roman names. Therefore, in spite of a restricted number of inscriptions, there is no need to emphasize how fruitful such a project should be to learn how to transcribe, translate and understand an inscription, for small groups of students or for a student working individually.

Aurian Delli Pizzi

R. PITT, 'A New Archaic Halter from the Theatre at Sparta'

Pitt reported on the discovery of part of an archaic halter (throwing weight) during excavations by the BSA in 2008 at the theatre in Sparta. It was in a context of secondary deposition having almost certainly tumbled down the hill from the sanctuary of Athena Chalkioikos where most likely it was originally dedicated. The halter is made of local green Lapis Lacedaemonius and would have been one of a pair. These were used jumping event of the pentathlon and were tailor-made for the competitor, rather than a standard weight. The inscription comprises about twenty letters in the archaic local script of Lakonia, and may be dated by letter-forms roughly to the sixth or fifth centuries B.C. Little more than a dozen archaeological examples of inscribed halteres are known, most of which come from Olympia, and follow the formula *Name + Name of Father + Won.* The halter from Sparta does not follow this formula, and no name may be construed in the surviving fragment, though a name could have featured in the lost part of the inscription, especially if the text was continued on or from the other halter. What the surviving text says is hard to discern, though one possibility is that it commemorates a victory at Olympia. Pitt summarised briefly inscriptions found during the same excavation campaign but from other periods. These consist of stamps on bricks and tiles, some of which refer to the *skanotheke* or stage-building. Amongst the remainder, the earlier material belong to the Roman Period or second to third centuries AD and include
the name of an individual plus that of a magistracy, and often the name of the contractor responsible for manufacturing the object. Later brickstamps pertain to the substantial Byzantine settlement that had occupied the acropolis of Sparta until the population had migrated to Mystras.

Peter Haarer

J. PRAG, 'A new bronze honorific in two copies from Sicily, C1 BC'

Jonathan Prag presented the final 'Short Report' of the day by briefly addressing his republication of the two bronze honorific inscriptions that were discovered in the excavations of the hilltop polis of Halaesa in northern Sicily, which was established around 400 BC. The bronze tablets were found in the basement room of what was

possibly a private residence located at the far end of a main street leading up the acropolis. Material in the room shows evidence of fire disruption that is dated to sometime in the 1st century AD—the context of the material suggests that it has fallen from the upper floors into the basement room. The decision to republish the inscriptions is due to Prag's reevaluation of Tablet B. Current scholarship on the tablets accept that most of the inscription on Tablet B is lost. After cleaning, however, Tablet B's inscription has revealed itself. Through a process of oxidation associated with heat damage from the fire (the tablets fell from an upper room, Tablet B landed on an amphora and was distorted by a the heat), the top few millimetres of the inscription have been completely lost, but it retains a slight etched appearance leaving an entirely legible trace of the surviving letters that are visible under properly angled light. The inscriptions of the two bronzes are nearly identical and exhibit only a few word variations, but visible architectural differences exist. Tablet A and Tablet B share similarities in their text structure, both contain Quadrate lettering in the first line and the rest of the inscription in Lunate—perhaps an argument for more than one engraver. Furthermore, both contain header text within a wreath located in the upper part of the inscribed field. Both bronzes show noticeable signs of reuse. Tablet A contains evidence of pre-existing text and at least four more instances of reuse. Underneath the architectural element that has been riveted to the top of the Tablet B text plate there appears to be traces of a previously engraved wreath or text. Dating the bronzes has been difficult. Based on textual elements of the inscriptions they have been placed somewhere in the later half of the 2nd century or first half of the 1st century BC. Prag was quick to note that dating any Hellenistic Sicilian inscription is a bit of a guessing game and further noted that the dates given by the letterforms are still rather difficult to use with certainty. Questions still remain about the relationship of finding the bronzes together, as well as, why inscriptions to be placed by *koinon* priests of Apollo look nothing like any *koinon* decree, but more like a Sicilian civic decree. The inscriptions raise questions about the civic and sanctuary organization of Halaesa, something that Prag appears intent on defining further through his research on these fine honorific bronzes.

La'akea Yoshida

Practical Epigraphy Workshop IV
Corbridge Roman Fort Museum
28-30 June 2011

From 28-30 June 2011 I was lucky enough to be able to participate in the fourth Practical Epigraphy Workshop, held in Corbridge Roman Fort Museum, whose curator Georgina Plowright made us all extremely welcome. The workshop provided me, and a group of like-minded students, with a unique opportunity to study the more hands-on aspects of epigraphy. Epigraphy is used by many scholars as a ready source of information and, as such, it is easy to either forget or underestimate the skill it takes to perform the successful autopsy of a stone. None of the workshop participants will ever make this mistake again as we were excellently tutored in all practical aspects of the study of inscriptions by a group of enthusiastic instructors: Roger Tomlin (Oxford), Charlotte Tupman (KCL) and Charles Crowther (Oxford). Peter Haarer (Oxford) is also to be thanked for his organisation of the course. As well as providing us with superb tuition, the British Epigraphy Society was also kind enough to source and award generous bursaries to all participants to assist with the course and accommodation fees. On

the first day we started learning about two important aspects of the autopsy of inscriptions namely, squeeze-making and drawing. Our group of nine participants was divided into two and I first tried squeeze-making which was shown to us by Charlotte Tupman. After this fun session we were taught how to best draw an inscription by Roger Tomlin. At the end of the day we were treated to a lovely dinner at a local restaurant, giving us the chance to properly meet our coursemates and instructors. The second day started with two highly informative sessions on the best way to photograph inscriptions, held by Glyn Goodrick and Charles Crowther respectively. After lunch we applied all the skills we had learned over the past day and a half to a stone assigned to us and providing a critical analysis thereof. Our tutors were on standby to help us with any issues or queries we had in this study. The autopsy allowed us not only to apply our learned skills but also showed us the reality of the study of inscriptions and the difficulties which can arise from this. As the workshop was held in such a wonderful location, a Roman garrison town near Hadrian's wall, Roger Tomlin also took us round the museum and site. After the site tour, we were given a wonderful lecture by Richard Grasby on *Roman Lettering in Stone*. Mr Grasby provided a unique perspective on inscriptions and opened our eyes to even more ways of viewing and thinking about inscriptions. After his talk Mr Grasby also demonstrated the art of letter cutting and allowed all of us to try it as well. As with everything else on the course, this only added to our learning as it demonstrated to us how easy it is to underestimate and disparage inscriptions on their letter-quality but how hard it actually is to cut perfect letters. After the lecture, Roger Tomlin led us around Corbridge and showed us the various inscriptions incorporated into the town in various ways, revealing us how current epigraphy can still be. The successful results of our autopsies were presented on the final day. As well as showing our drawings and photographs, we also provided a commentary on the inscription itself and our own insights into the reading of these stones. I cannot stress how enjoyable and instructive I found the course to be. The tutors were highly skilled and the whole workshop greatly aided the research of all participants. It also provided us with the opportunities to undertake these practical research methods, such as squeeze-making, which most student will never have the chance to do. The staff at Corbridge Roman Town Museum is also to be warmly thanked for welcoming us and for hosting this hugely enjoyable workshop.

Ghislaine van der Ploeg

Epigraphy Workshop for Lecturers and Post-doctoral staff

HEA Subject Centre for History, Classics and Archaeology/Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents, Oxford
12th-14th April 2011

A residential practical workshop took place in Oxford and involved ten participants, all postdoctoral or lecturing staff based in the UK Higher Education sector. The workshop provided Continuing Professional Development for these staff and enhanced their skills base in providing technical and practical knowledge of dealing with epigraphy and the handling and studying of inscriptions that will thereafter feed into their subsequent teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The workshop provided a unique opportunity for the participants to develop these skills by the study of inscriptions in the Ashmolean Museum and squeezes (paper impressions of inscriptions) in the Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents (= CSAD;

Classics Centre, Faculty of Classics, The University of Oxford). The programme was funded entirely by the Higher Education Subject Centre for History, Classics and Archaeology. A partnership between The British Epigraphy Society, whose members provided the training, the CSAD and the Classics Centre, who provided the facilities, teaching space, and support staff and made available materials such as squeezes, and the Ashmolean Museum who provided curatorial staff and made available some inscriptions from their collection and dedicated study spaces in the Antiquities Study Centre and Education Room to handle and work with the inscriptions. The programme was directed by Dr Sarah Francis (HEA Classics Subject Centre) and Dr Graham Oliver (The University of Liverpool). The teaching staff consisted of Dr Graham Oliver, Dr Charles Crowther (Assistant Director of the CSAD), Dr Roger Tomlin (Wolfson College), and Dr Charlotte Tupman (King's College London). Dr Peter Haarer (Regent's Park College, Oxford), who had developed the programme on which the workshop was based, acted as consultant for the event. The Ashmolean Museum partnership was overseen by the Keeper of Greek and Roman Antiquities, Dr Susan Walker, and facilitated by Dr Walker and the curatorial and administrative staff, in particular Dr Anja Ulbrich (A. G. Leventis Curator of the Cypriot Collection). Maggy Sasanow (CSAD) provided support for the Workshop as did the staff of the Classics Centre. Special thanks go to the Director of the Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents (Professor Alan Bowman), the Ashmolean's Keeper of Greek and Roman Antiquities, Dr Susan Walker, and the Director of the HEA Subject Centre for History, Classics and Archaeology, Professor Catherine Steel: without their support and encouragement the workshop would not have been possible. The workshop was a residential event and the non-Oxford residents were accommodated at St John's College which provided an excellent base close to the main locations for the event. The workshop took place in The Classics Centre and the Ashmolean Museum whose combined facilities and proximity to each other and St John's College made for an excellent combination of unique resources, excellent teaching facilities and infrastructure, and all the convenience of accommodation 50 metres from the workshop's teaching and museum space. The participants were all post-doctoral status or university lecturers and all were affiliated to UK Higher Education Institutes. Five participants specialised in Greek materials and five in Latin, but participants were encouraged to look at material in both languages. In addition, Richard Grasby (British Epigraphy Society member and a retired professional letter-cutter) gave an illustrated public lecture, this took place on the first evening of the workshop in the Classics Centre (30 people in attendance) and included a demonstration of letter-cutting on stone. The programme itself was designed to introduce the participants to a wide range of Greek and Roman inscribed material in the form of both Latin and Greek inscribed stones and squeezes. The participants were given instruction in: the recording, transcribing and measuring (from stones and squeezes) of inscriptions; the photographing of inscriptions and using new cutting edge computer software to enhance visual study of inscriptions; the study, reading and interpreting of inscriptions from stone and squeezes; an understanding of the technical issues of letter-cutting and how that perspective affects one's study and appreciation of epigraphy; the ways in which one can analyse a *Corpus* publication, deconstruct and reconstruct following more up-to-date standards of epigraphical publication; and finally in

discussion ways forward in the use of epigraphy in the teaching of the ancient world and more specifically in how one might develop the instruction in epigraphical techniques at University level teaching. Although participants were required to pay for their own travel costs and a £50.00 fee, the workshop was heavily subsidised and all accommodation, meals and materials were funded by the Subject Centre. Tuition and the public lecture were provided by the members of the British Epigraphy Society (Crowther, Oliver, Tomlin, and Tupman; and Grasby, respectively). This team has run on three previous occasions a version of this workshop for graduate students (MA and PhD level) and this was the first time that a workshop of this kind was provided for staff at post-doctoral status and above. The Workshop was felt to be a success (feedback has been collected and is available for consultation). The Subject Centre values highly operations that provide enhanced skills, and specialised ones, to established staff in the Higher Education teaching academy and believes that the Workshop delivered these features. The number of teaching staff in institutions that provide teaching in Classical related subjects is not large, and so the benefits of a moderately sized workshop such as this will be considerable in the short-, medium- and long-term. Participants were highly satisfied by the workshop and felt much more qualified to use inscriptions in their teaching and much more aware of the ways in which one could present epigraphical instruction and build that into their teaching practise in the future.

Graham Oliver
Sarah Francis

REVIEWS

R.D. Grasby, *CIL VI. 960. Dedicatory Inscription – Trajan's Column, Forum, Rome*. The Making of Roman Inscriptions, Study 1 (Oxford: CSAD, 2011). Pp. 25, figs 4, diagrams 17. £5.00.

Idem, *RIB* 330. *Fragments of a Dedication Slab, Caerleon, Wales*. The Making of Roman Inscriptions, Study 2 (Oxford: CSAD, 2011). Pp. 25, figs 4, diagrams 9. £5.00.

These two pamphlets represent two further instalments of Richard Grasby's series devoted to examining the processes of design and execution involved in the making of some Roman, or more specifically Latin, inscriptions from the triumviral period to the mid second century AD (see *BES Newsletter* n.s. 21 [2010], 6-8). As trailed in the earlier publication of Studies 8 to 11 (Oxford: CSAD, 2009), Grasby is now returning to those case-studies that first appeared in *PBSR* 64 [n.s. 51] (1996), 95-138, which contained the initial five studies of the series. Both of the case-studies reissued here are expanded from their original versions. The author has taken the opportunity to update references to other scholarship as well as incorporating some new illustrations and refinements on his own earlier observations. The pair is very much a set of companion studies, in that they treat inscriptions highly comparable in date and genre.

Of the two, Study 1 will undoubtedly be considered the more significant by most readers because it examines the text of the six-line dedication by the *Senatus Populusque Romanus* to the emperor Trajan of his eponymous column. The drafting of this text may be dated, on the internal evidence of the emperor's titles, to AD 113. Not only does the inscription still adorn one of the best preserved ancient monuments from the city of Rome but the lettering itself enjoys a particularly elevated status,

being regularly cited by students of Latin palaeography and practitioners of modern typography as the apogee of the Roman square monumental capital (the so-called *scriptura monumentalis*). Certainly, despite the weathering of the inscribed surface and the crudely gouged chevron left by the roofline of a medieval porch that disfigures the last line, the fineness of the layout and quality of the execution remain obvious even to the untrained eye. This inscription is of particular significance for Grasby's approach in two respects. First, as belonging to the dedication of a public work in the imperial metropolis, the lettering can reasonably be supposed to represent the finest production technically achievable in the absence of budgetary constraints. Secondly, it remains in position as carved so that the original intended angles of viewing may be reconstructed with a great deal of precision.

On the basis of photographs and his own rubbings of the stone, Grasby is able to offer a convincing case for the use of a geometrical grid in the layout (*ordinatio*) of the text. A consistent ratio of 1:10 of stem width to stem height is observable, with horizontal strokes occupying a depth of a half unit. In width the bodies of all the letter forms are seen to inhabit regular positions within a range from 1 (I) to 10 (M, O, Q), and serifs to extend by a further unit on either side. However, Grasby also demonstrates that the use of a measured grid would not necessarily mean that every stroke was laid out geometrically. Rather, once a minimum number of key lines had been established for each letter, a skilled sign writer could fill out the rest of the design with brush and paint. Grasby's application of the geometric principle interestingly reveals a probable error in the original drafting in the last third of line three of the inscription that has been subtly concealed by a combination of narrowed letters and widened spaces (p. 22). His analysis also debunks the idea that the reduction in letter sizes of lines five and six was designed to compensate for the effects of perspective, given that this compensatory effect is only produced when the viewer stands so awkwardly close that s/he needs to crane the neck uncomfortably upwards and can no longer take in the whole inscription without scanning from left to right. The intention to accord a greater priority to the names and titles of the emperor remains the better explanation for the larger module used for the first four lines, which are occupied by this information.

The second study concentrates on a text closer to home and one with which Grasby has been able to engage more closely as a practising stonecutter. This inscription is another building dedication of Trajanic date (AD 99-100), although far more damaged and no longer in situ (it probably originally stood over the south gateway to the fortress headquarters of the Legio II Augusta). Careful measurement of the individual letters on the surviving portion of the slab revealed geometrically constructed capitals designed on the same 1:10 ratio as found in the Trajan's column dedication. The stone of the dedicatory slab is not native to Britain, having been imported from the quarries above Luna (modern Luni). However, the author's conclusion (p. 12), that the carving of the inscription shares the same exotic (Italian) origin, seems less secure. The risk of damage to the inscribed surface in transit would seem to militate against this notion. That the quality of the design is comparable to that found on Trajan's column is even more interesting, if it has indeed been carried out in a provincial context.

The primary strength of this second case-study lies in the fact that it features more than simply passive analysis. For it documents the author's carving of a replica of the inscription in its entirety in

the same Carrara marble in order to test the processes that he believed to have detected in the making of the original. Grasby's experience vindicated the precision of the initial *ordinator* but suggested some slight carelessness by the subsequent brush letterer and some sloppiness in the final stone cutting. All this is evident at close quarters, of course, but might have mattered much less in the context of a slab mounted several metres above ground level.

In concluding my review of Studies 8 to 11, I reckoned this series to be a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the technical aspects of the carving of monumental Latin inscriptions. Taken together, these two case-studies, generously illustrated with photographs and the author's detailed diagrams and now reissued in enhanced form, represent very welcome additions to the series.

Benet Salway, *University College London*

Impressions from the Practical Epigraphy Workshop at Corbridge

(***for a student summary see pp.xviii-xix***)

Puzzle ID: 01-01/2012 'From vintage to *mise en amphore*?'

The problem:
A letter from Felice Maria Mastrilli, of Nola, to Anton Francesco Gori, of Florence, of 27 December 1745, includes the following information: 'Dalle parti di Taranto ho avuto un pataccio [a lump] di coperchio d'anfora per vino, con l'impronta de' nomi di Lucio Gellio e Lucio Sempronio ...' (S. Napolitano, L'antiquaria settecentesca tra Napoli e Firenze (Florence 2005), p. 77, n. 55)

Further information:
Amphorae dated by names of the two consuls of the year are of course common, and they are occasionally to be found dated by a single consul (see provisionally M. H. Crawford, CAH X (1996), p. 979). But there appears to be no year in which a Lucius Gellius and a Lucius Sempronius held the consulship together. On the other hand, a Lucius Gellius held the consulship in 36 BC, a Lucius Sempronius in 34 BC, a year from which at least two amphorae are known, CIL VIII, 22640.2, from Carthage, and CIL XV, 4606, a Dressel 1 amphora from Castro Pretorio.

Question:
Is it possible that with Mastrilli's amphora we have a vintage of 36 BC, 'bottled' in 34 BC? Or are there other ways of explaining the stamp?

Comment:
If you think you can answer this question, or have a useful suggestion, please comment via our **Puzzle-Blog**:

http://www.britishepigraphysociety.org/puzzles.html

?

For your puzzle notes …