

# British Epigraphy Society NEWSLETTER

[www.csad.ox.ac.uk/bes/](http://www.csad.ox.ac.uk/bes/)

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spring 2004

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## BES SPRING COLLOQUIUM 2004: Language, Power and Politics

Saturday 8th May 2004; Faculty of Arts, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL. (Directions and a map of the campus can be found on the University website: [www.man.ac.uk](http://www.man.ac.uk)).

### Programme

10.30 - 11.00: Coffee

11.00-12.00: Simon Corcoran (UCL): "Galerius's jigsaw puzzles: the Caesariani dossier"

12.00-1.00: Lucy Grig (Reading): "Power and nobilitas in inscriptions from late antique Rome"

1.00-2.00: Lunch: Kro Bar

2.00-3.00: Claire Taylor (Cambridge): "Power and Participation in Democratic Athens"

3.00-4.00: Peter Liddel (TCD): "Political epigraphy in Attic Oratory"

4.00-4.30: Tea

4.30-5.30: Alastair Blanshard (Reading): "Fitzwilliam GR 13.1865: Understanding a document relief and its context"

5.30: Wine

There will be a small fee, payable on the day, which will include lunch/refreshments: £3 student members of BES; £5 BES members/student non-members; £7 everyone else. If you intend to come, please contact Polly Low ([polly.low@man.ac.uk](mailto:polly.low@man.ac.uk)), or fill in the booking form at the back of this newsletter.

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## 2 ... conferences

### **Hellenistic Citizenship: Paris, 21-22 May 2004**

The Centre Gustave Glotz is holding a round-table conference on “**Citoyenneté et participation à la basse époque hellénistique**”. The aim of the conference is to study the idea of citizenship from the 2nd Century BCE to the 1st Century CE: were there changes in the definition of *politeia*, and in citizen participation in public life? Were these changes reflected in the operation of public institutions? How was the distinction between citizen and non-citizen affected? Did the elite have a different role to that occupied in earlier periods? In answering these questions it will be possible to start to re-examine the nature of the late Hellenistic period – a concept which is still disputed – in the history of the Greek city.

The conference will be held at INHA, 2, rue Vivienne / 6, rue des Petits Champs, 75 002 Paris. A full programme can be seen on the BES website. For more details, contact: Pierre Fröhlich, Université de Paris-I Panthéon-Sorbonne, 17, rue de la Sorbonne, 75 231 Paris Cedex 05 (pierre.frohlich@univ-paris1.fr)

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### **Alphabetic Responses to Western Semitic Writing: Oxford, 1st-3rd July 2004**

The significance and long-term consequences of the development of an alphabetic script for writing Greek need no emphasis. At present agendas for the study of this phenomenon tend to view questions of where, when, how and why it developed largely from a Greek perspective stressing Greek creative genius. Is this justified, or is Greek alphabetic writing one specific of a general response to a set of conditions prevailing across the Mediterranean during the Early Iron Age?

This conference aims to address this issue by setting the development of Greek alphabetic writing into the wider context of the development of scripts for different languages to the east and west of the Aegean. It will focus on questions of how writing was used, and the similarities and differences in this respect between the local scripts of Greek speakers and those of neighbouring non-Greek speakers.

The conference will bring together scholars who study disciplines which, though closely related, are separated by geographical or administrative boundaries, and provide them with an opportunity for exchanging information and ideas, including recent developments in their fields. By doing so it is anticipated that the conference will contribute to discussions of why Greek alphabetic writing was introduced and followed the trajectory that it did. In addition, patterns of imitation, reaction and innovation revealed will contribute to wider questions of cultural inter-relationships during a highly formative phase in the history of the Mediterranean. The significance and long-term consequences of the development of an alphabetic script for writing Greek need no emphasis. At present agendas for the study of this phenomenon tend to view questions of where, when, how and why it developed largely from a Greek perspective stressing Greek creative genius. Is this justified, or is Greek alphabetic writing one specific of a general response to a set of conditions prevailing across the Mediterranean during the Early Iron Age?

The conference, which will be accompanied by a small exhibition illustrating the life and work of Anne Jeffery, will be held at St Hilda's College. Further information (including a full programme) appears on the conference website: <http://www.csad.ox.ac.uk/LSAG/conference2004/>. Some student bursaries will be available.

### David Lewis Lecture: Oxford, 26th May 2004

This year's Lewis Lecture will be given by Prof. A. Bresson (Bordeaux), on the subject of:  
*"The Harpasos valley in Northern Caria: From Ptolemaic to Rhodian and Roman control"*

(The lecture will take place at 5.00 pm, Garden Quad Auditorium, St. John's College)

#### OTHER EVENTS, REMINDERS AND FUTURE PLANS ...

- The programme and booking details for the **Cultures of Commemoration** conference (London, 16th and 17th July 2004) are now available on the British Academy website: [www.britac.ac.uk/events/](http://www.britac.ac.uk/events/)
- Still to come in the year-long Accordia seminar series on **The Establishment of Literacy in State Societies** : Lene Rubinstein on writing and orality in Greek diplomacy (May 11th); Peter Haarer on alphabetic writing on different media (May 18th); and Alison Cooley on Roman documents in the Greek east (May 25th). All seminars are on Tuesdays at 5.15pm in the Institute of Classical Studies, London.
- The **Autumn Meeting** of the BES will be held in London in November 2004, on the theme of 'Dedications'. Full details will appear on the BES website, and in the next newsletter.

### Epigraphic Language Learning

A new approach to teaching Beginners Greek, being developed at Leicester's Dept of Ancient History, takes the unusual step of introducing learners to epigraphic texts at an early stage of their linguistic careers. The course is intended to provide an introduction to reading and writing Greek for undergraduates studying ancient history and archaeology, or a useful grounding for advanced undergraduates or postgraduates who plan to specialise in epigraphy or a related discipline. Traditional grammars, and traditional 'literary' texts are not ignored, but the course also exposes students to a variety of epigraphic texts, of differing levels of complexity, as well as a variety of non-Attic alphabets. It is planned to distribute copies of the outline for this course (called *Hellenizein*) to Classics and Ancient History departments in the UK. A report on the project, which was led by Eva Parisinou and Graham Shipley, can be downloaded from the LTSN website: <http://hca.ltsn.ac.uk/resources/TDG/reports/Parisinou-Shipley.pdf>

#### AIEGL URL

The AIEGL website has left its old home in Cologne and, it is promised, will soon reappear at its new Italian location: <http://www.aiegl.lettere.unibo.it>

### BES Autumn Colloquium 2003

There was lots of pioneering spirit in evidence at this year's Autumn Colloquium, held in London on November 15<sup>th</sup> 2003. The meeting headed for new territory in the most literal sense – abandoning its traditional home in the familiar surroundings of the Institute of Classical Studies and assembling, instead, in the welcoming (if labyrinthine) home of UCL's history dept. Any participants who felt that safe arrival in the right room constituted enough exploration for one morning were soon proved wrong: the trailblazing theme was continued in the series of reports on recent epigraphic projects which made up the morning session; reports which showed (as if it needed showing) that epigraphy is never far from the cutting edge in research, and in the dissemination of the results of research.

Gabriel Bodard made his third appearance at the BES colloquium, presenting his final report on the progress of the "Aphrodisias in Late Antiquity" (EPAPP) project. The project is now nearing conclusion and the website is due for release in the next few months. The many benefits of web-publication (and of the xml database on which the publication is based), which had been discussed in theory in earlier presentations, were now visible in practice: a text (presented in reassuringly familiar Leiden form), brief commentary, multiple images; and, through the miracle of hypertext, easy access to much more detailed historical discussion, a whole range of indices, cross references, parallels, and so on ... The pilot project has revealed various difficulties: xml tags require the epigrapher to give a particularly explicit label to and rationale for their decisions – in itself no bad thing perhaps, but a feature which does bring with it the risk of 'spurious accuracy' (to use Joyce Reynold's label). But it has also solved many problems, led to many refinements of the EpiDoc proposals for electronic publication of epigraphic texts, and, it is hoped, smoothed the path for future projects in electronic epigraphy. (The EPAPP website is at <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/humanities/cch/epapp/>)

The second report introduced a project which is still in its early stages: "Developmental Literacy in Ancient Italy" (or the "Ancient Literacy Project" for short). Kathryn Lomas, the project's director, provided a brief introduction to its scope and aims: the project will study the diffusion of writing and literacy; it will investigate the relationship between text and artefact; it will study the archaeological contexts of writing; and it will explore the impact of literacy on the societies of ancient Italy. The aim, in other words, is to move away from the primarily philological approach which has dominated this field in the past, and to set writing back into its societal and cultural context. There are three regional case studies (based on NE, SE and NW Italy), and Dr Lomas gave a short survey of the results which have emerged from the first study (NE Italy). Writing appears in this region from the end of the seventh century; it is mostly of the Venetic and Raetic groups (although there is some use of Greek and Latin); and it appears almost exclusively in funerary or votive contexts (although inscribed gravestones become increasingly rare in later periods). Most writing is associated with sanctuaries – but not all sanctuaries produce evidence of writing, and inscribed votives form only a tiny proportion of the total corpus of dedicated objects. Intriguingly, the tools of writing themselves become votive objects: the sanctuary at Baratella has produced dedications in the form of writing tablets and a number of styluses, almost all of which were dedicated by women.

The third paper took us further south down the Italian peninsula. Will Broadhead reported on the progress of the *Imagines Italicae* project. This too is a project which aims to bring an archaeological and historical perspective to a body of material (the non-Latin inscriptions of Italy) which has usually been tackled in purely philological terms: the project has been attempting not only to establish the texts of inscriptions but also to locate, describe and record the objects on which those texts are inscribed. As Dr Broadhead eloquently explained, such a task is not always easy: the intrepid epigraphist might un-

cover hidden treasures in the basement of the *CIL* headquarters in Berlin (Mommsen's drawings of inscriptions of Pompeii, for example), but they might also find themselves marooned in time-warp Italian towns or shrouded in dust in museum store-rooms. But the rewards seem eminently worthwhile: the database of inscriptions now contains over 1,300 entries (containing text, translation, discussion and photographs), and the project website includes masses of other helpful data: a cross-referenced checklist of *communi* and *municipia*; bibliographic information and guidance; a discussion group; and even a set of epigraphic puzzles. Rush to: <http://www.sas.ac.uk/icls/imaginesit/>

Technology was also the focus of the final paper of the session – not, though, the electronic tools used to present the results of epigraphic research, but the more fundamental (though no less complex) set of techniques which underlie the creation of the raw materials of all that research: the inscribed stones themselves. Richard Grasby presented the results of his investigations of the science of Roman *scriptura monumentalis* – a style of lettering which is so uniform, and so widespread (geographically and chronologically), that it is hard to believe that it is not regulated by some fixed set of principles. The paper demonstrated the precise set of geometric calculations which determine the shapes of these impressive letters, as well as their position on the stone, and provided an important reminder that epigraphers should not forget the basic processes by which the texts they study come into existence.

After a light lunch and the equally light relief of the Society's AGM, the meeting returned to Italic epigraphy, with papers by Margaret Watmough and Michael Crawford on Etruscan and Pompeian inscriptions.

*Continued on p.9...*

#### **DIOGENES OF OENOANDA**

The massive Greek inscription (the largest known) set up by the Epicurean philosopher Diogenes at Oinoanda, in the mountains of Lycia, in the second century AD, is one of the most extraordinary documents to come down to us from the ancient world. British investigations at Oinoanda in 1968-1983 more than doubled the number of known fragments of the inscription, and in *Diogenes of Oinoanda, the Epicurean Inscription*, published by Bibliopolis of Naples in 1993 (ISBN 88-7088-270-5), Martin Ferguson Smith presented all that had been discovered down to that date. Since then more of Diogenes' work, including the largest piece yet found, has come to light. The latest texts, together with many new readings and suggestions relating to the texts in the 1993 edition, are contained in Smith's *Supplement to Diogenes of Oinoanda, the Epicurean Inscription*, published by Bibliopolis in December 2003 (ISBN 88-7088-441-4). The *Supplement* is priced at Eur.40.00, and there is a special offer price of Eur.100.00 for the 1993 edition and the *Supplement*. The volumes, both hardbacks, can be ordered through booksellers or direct from the publisher (postage is extra). Orders to the publisher may be sent by post (Bibliopolis, Via Arangio Ruiz 83, 80122 Napoli, Italy), fax (+39-081-7616273), or e-mail (info@bibliopolis.it), or via [www.bibliopolis.it](http://www.bibliopolis.it).

## IBERIAN NEWS

### **Hispania Epigraphica**

The Archivo Epigráfico de Hispania of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid have announced the publication of issue 9 (1999) of *Hispania Epigraphica*.

This issue, produced with the help of several Spanish and Portuguese scholars, includes references to inscriptions published during the year 1999, although it also reflects later publications until the year 2003. In total there are 765 inscriptions of several kinds (Latin, Greek, Christian and Visigothic), which are sorted by geographical origin (736 from Spanish territory and 28 from Portugal); many of them are re-edited with comments, emendations and further bibliography. Among the most important *corpora* presented are: Alicante, Baleares, Christian inscriptions of Mérida, Cástulo, Valladolid; also included are some other works on Latin epigraphy, such as the bronze *signacula* of the Museo Arqueológico Nacional (Madrid), the Mithraic altar recently found in *Lucus Augusti* (Lugo), Sánchez-Ostiz's whole text of *Tabula Siarensis*, new works about the *S.C. de Pisone Patre* and the new bronzes published by W. Eck in *Chiron* 27, 1997, 195-207. As usual, the issue includes a much improved index (almost 71 pages), designed to facilitate the searching as quickly and completely as possible.

The Archivo's collection (with exhaustive data about more than 24,000 Latin inscriptions of Hispania) is available for public use and for all scholars and researchers. All this data is being included in a extended database, of which a small part is now available on the Archivo's website: [www.ucm.es/info/archiepi](http://www.ucm.es/info/archiepi)

The address of Archivo Epigráfico de Hispania is: Escuela Universitaria de Estadística, Avda. Puerta de Hierro s/n, 28040 Madrid.

### **Complete Reissue of Fichero Epigraphico**

Fichero Epigrafico is the epigraphic supplement of CONIMBRIGA, a journal published by Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal, and devoted to report new epigraphical findings in Hispania. It has published more than 300 new pieces, mostly in Portuguese, but with some papers in Spanish, French and English.

Since past issues of FE are hard to find and few institutions and individuals own a complete set, Prof. Encarnação and Prof. Joaquín L. Gómez-Pantoja have translated past issues (1 [1982]-66 [2001]) into PDF and added some improvements. The resulting CD-ROM contains 291 inscriptions, new and revised indexes and a concordance with CIL II, AE, and Hispania Epigraphica.

This work was made possible by a grant of the European Union (Culture 2000, Project 2002-0462/001-001 CLT CA 22: Ubi erat Lupa). CD copies of this new issue of Fichero Epigrafico are available on request: please contact Prof. Gómez-Pantoja: [gomez.pantoja@uah.es](mailto:gomez.pantoja@uah.es) (or Departamento de Historia, UNIVERSIDAD DE ALCALÁ, E-28801 Alcalá de Henares (España); Tel: \*34 918 854 446, Fax: \*34 918 854 410)

### **Hadrianic Letters at Alexandria Troas**

The Forschungstelle Asia Minor/University of Münster excavations at Alexandria Troas (led by Elmar Schwertheim) report the discovery of a new inscription containing three letters of Hadrian. The inscription is over 80 lines long (on a stone 1.80 x 0.90), and provides (among other things) a full sequence for the festival calendar of the Greek East. More details, including a picture of the stone (and its happy excavators) at [http://idw-online.de/public/zeige\\_pm.html?pmid=70972](http://idw-online.de/public/zeige_pm.html?pmid=70972)

### **Improving Standards in Oxford**

According to tradition, until the end of the nineteenth century there existed on Syme a complete stele of the Athenian Standards Decree. The stone was (or so the story goes) broken up to provide material for a garden wall (two fragments — one small, one tiny — have since reappeared), and — at a stroke of the sledgehammer — one of the biggest epigraphic puzzles (and, sometimes, arguments) of the last century was made possible. And a good thing too, perhaps, or there would be less excuse for events like that arranged in Oxford this month by the Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents, the British Museum, and Corpus Christi Centre for the Study of Greek and Roman Antiquity. These institutions, in the persons of Charles Crowther, Andrew Meadows and John Ma, combined forces on 16-18th April 2004 to organise a weekend devoted to exploring 'The Athenian Standards Decree: New Texts, New Contexts?'.

The first day was given over to the problem of establishing a text: Nikos Parpazardakas, Charles Crowther, David Blackman and Angelos Matthaiou provided fresh studies of long-known pieces from Smyrna, Siphnos and Syme, Odessa and Cos (in this last case, Professor Matthaiou had been able to re-examine the stone and make important new discoveries not only about the text, but also about the nature of the marble on which the text is written); Harold Mattingly reiterated the (now overwhelming case) for the inclusion of the Hamaxitos fragment (*IG i<sup>3</sup> 1454 ter*) in this document; and Miltiades Hatzopoulos introduced the fragments — now three in number — from Aphytis (the new Aphytis text will be published in the next issue of *Horos* (no. 14-16, 2000-2003)). Among many other points of interest, it emerged that the Aphytis fragment clearly contained a shorter version of the decree (without the reference to the 'previous decree of Clearchos') than that found on other copies. Professor Emilio Crespo provided a valuable discussion of the linguistic characteristics of the various fragments of the decree, and of their possible implications for questions of the date of the document, and its method of dissemination and publication.

Armed with the makings of a brand-new composite text of the decree, discussion moved on to consider its context. Henry Kim, Andrew Meadows and Alain Bresson offered numismatic and economic expertise; Lisa Kallet made a strong case for the economic motive as a driving force of Athenian imperial expansion; and John Ma provided some final reflections, from the perspective of the Hellenistic historian, on the surprising strangeness of fifth-century Athenian epigraphy (at least as practised by modern epigraphers), and the (equally surprising) familiarity of fifth-century Athenian imperialism.

It is planned that the Proceedings of the conference will be published.

## Language, Power and Politics: Booking Form

All are very welcome at the conference, but advance booking is essential. If you would like to attend, please email your details to [polly.low@man.ac.uk](mailto:polly.low@man.ac.uk), specifying whether you are a member of the Epigraphy Society and whether you are a student. Alternatively, you can fill in and return the form at the bottom of this page. Lunch and other refreshments will be provided and are included in the conference fee, which is:

Students/unwaged

BES members: £3  
Others: £5

Non-students:

BES members: £5  
Others: £7

The conference fee is payable (by cash or cheque) on the day.

We can help in arranging accommodation in Manchester: contact Polly Low if you would like further information.

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### BES Spring Colloquium: Language, Power and Politics

#### Faculty of Arts, University of Manchester

Please return to: Polly Low, Dept of Classics and Ancient History, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL

I would like to attend the 'Language, Power and Politics Conference' on May 8<sup>th</sup> 2004.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Tick all that apply:

I am a student

I am a member of the BES

I would like information on accommodation in Manchester



## BES Autumn Colloquium 2003 (continued from p.5 ...)

After the AGM, at which the Society's officer's presented the accounts and draft of the annual report for the Charity Commission and at which three new members were elected to the committee: David French, Peter Haarer (Secretary), and Peter Liddel, the colloquium resumed with two papers of the day's theme of the Non-Latin Epigraphy of Italy.

Margaret Watmough (Imagines Italicae Project, Institute of Classical Studies) spoke on the 'Evidence of Names on the Cortona Tablet.' Dr Watmough began by describing in detail the physical appearance of a bronze tablet from Cortona that bears on its two faces an inscription in Etruscan. It is one of only ten known objects of this kind. The tablet, which was originally rectangular and headed by a small riveted handle, was deliberately broken into eight pieces at some point in antiquity, seven of which pieces are preserved at the Soprintendenza di Archeologia della Toscana. Nevertheless the text itself is more or less intact and the decipherment of the script presents few problems. The tablet was engraved after casting with 32 lines filling side A and continuing with 7 lines on side B. The alphabet is north Etruscan of c. 250-125 BC and includes the retrograde 'E' characteristic of texts from Cortona. However, the relatively high proportion of *hapax legomena*, which is testament to the imperfect state of our understanding of the Etruscan language, means that determining the sense of the text is far from problematic.

The consensus is that it is a legal text but the precise details are controversial. The medium of bronze and the careful breaking into pieces as a sign of cancellation are certainly consistent with such an interpretation. All scholars agree that the central figures are the brothers Cusu, named several times on the document. However, interpretations of the content range from a land purchase (Agostiniani), a contract for the treatment of tenant farmers on a recently sold piece of land (Rix), a long-term lease of farm land (Focchetti), to a *parentatio*, i.e. rules for the establishment of a family funeral cult (de Simone).

Dr Watmough took her audience through a careful analysis of the structure of the document, paying attention to the punctuation (two end of line *vacats* and four zig-zag clause dividers are observable), which appears to divide the text into seven clauses, and also the four separate lists of names, relating both to the various interpretations of the document. While it is possible to advance a fairly firm interpretation of part of one clause ("Thus were acquired the vineyard and other piece of land by the oil-merchant Petru Sceva"), the precise meaning of the rest appears to remain enigmatic.

Michael Crawford (History Dept, UCL) speaking on the theme of 'Language Change and the Italic Epigraphy of Pompeii', also presented the fruits of work done for the Imagines Italicae project. Professor Crawford explained that, while the progressive linguistic domination of Italy by the Latin language in the late republican period had obviously presented no problems for its native speakers, we should bear in mind the problems this posed for non-native speakers. He argued that it is dangerous to use mediaeval or modern parallels for this process, because republican Italy lacked powerful machinery such as that of the Catholic Church or the Nation State by which a standard norm might be imposed. Thus, by imposing the standard of the modern classroom, there is the danger that what was intended as Latin by its authors may be falsely interpreted as a genuine attempt to write one of its Italic relations. This needs to be considered when examining the supposed epigraphic evidence for Latin and Oscan side by side at Pompeii; where it is claimed, for instance, that a solitary graffito (*markas*) from the brothel attests the survival of Oscan as a written language alongside Latin as late as AD 72/79. This series of graffiti includes much Latin material transliterated into Greek letters, so that it is equally possible that this supposed late Oscan survival is rather an inferior bit of 'Gratin'. With the existence of this famous piece of Oscan thus now in doubt, Professor Crawford suggested that it would be worth reconsidering the evidence for the dating of the certainly Oscan *alphabetaria* known from Pompeii (mostly from the outside of the House of the Faun and not seen since the nineteenth century).

## EPIGRAPHIC SATURDAY, CAMBRIDGE (28 February 2004)

On a snowy Saturday in February, the Classics Faculty in Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge, was once again host to a day devoted to recent work in Greek and Roman epigraphy organised by Joyce Reynolds.

Charlotte Roueché (King's College, London) opened proceedings with an examination of the use of verse in inscriptions, focusing on the re-emergence of the phenomenon of the honorific Greek epigram for the living in the late Roman period. Considering primarily examples from Asia Minor, she analysed the use of epigrams alongside the contemporaneously emerging phenomenon of inscribing honorific acclamations, and raised questions about the relationship between the oral and written. An interesting example of this phenomenon is *SEG XLVII 1788*, an epigram commemorating honours awarded the city of Perge under the emperor Tacitus (AD 275-6), inscribed on a pilaster beside a similar pilaster inscribed with acclamations celebrating the same event. The 'purity' of the language of the epigram contrasts with the Latinisms contained in the text of the acclamations, emphasising the contrasting 'registers' used simultaneously in the different genres. Mrs Roueché observed that, while the Greek epigram was deemed an appropriate form of honour for Roman officials already in the third century, it was not used of reigning emperors until the late fifth century, which may be a measure of the progress of the Hellenisation of Constantinopolitan court culture. The proliferation of interest in such verses in this period is, of course, what led to their circulation and collection in manuscript versions. An instructive example is that of the two-stanza epigram in honour of a certain Asclepiodotus at Aphrodisias (Roueché, *Aphrodisias in Late Antiquity* No 53), the second stanza of which is also known, with one slight variant, from the *Anthologia Palatina* (IX 704). The example is instructive because the nature of the variant suggests not that some Byzantine copyist ignored the first verse or that he or a successor blundered in the second, but that the manuscript version derives from a second inscription (of the second verse alone) located elsewhere. In relation to this example, a plea was made to literary scholars for the treatment of epigrams that survive solely on stone as of equal merit as those that were fortunate enough to be copied into the collections that eventually coalesced into the Greek Anthology.

Leonardo de Arrizabalaga y Prado then made an announcement of his multifaceted project *Studia Variana* devoted to the history and both ancient and modern reception of the reign of [Sex.] Varius Avitus Bassianus (*PIR*<sup>1</sup> V 184), better known under his imperial title M. Aurelius (*sic*) Antoninus sacerdos amplissimus dei invicti Solis Elagabali, commonly known as Elagabalus. One of the strands of *Studia Variana* involves the study of the epigraphic evidence for his reign and Sñr de Arrizabalaga is very keen to be put in touch with anyone working on this material or who would like to contribute to his project. He may be contacted at: Moralzarzal 14, 28034 Madrid, Spain; e-mail [odranoel@telefonica.net](mailto:odranoel@telefonica.net).

Henrik Mouritsen (King's College, London), presented some results of his re-analysis of Italian epitaphs and the epigraphic habit. It has long been controversial that 50-75% of epitaphs in Roman Italy relate to *liberti* (freedmen) rather than *ingenui* (freeborn individuals). Lily Ross Taylor had emphasised in 1961 that this should not be taken not to reflect the composition of the population but rather the differential reasons for epigraphic commemoration. Freedman might be expected to be proud of establishing a legitimate family, so that it is unsurprising that most libertine epitaphs are by parents commemorating children (compensating for this early loss) and that the striking Augustan period monuments bearing family portrait groups tend to be of freedmen. Looking at the tomb monuments of Ostia and Pompeii, Dr Mouritsen noted how the families of the native freeborn élite, whose members dominate in the centrally located public epigraphy of the municipal life of the town, generally indulge in what might be termed 'funerary restraint' in comparison to immigrant *ingenui* and parvenus *liberti*, who took full advantage of the

opportunity for commemoration and display afforded them in this topographically marginal and diffuse location.

Thomas Corsten (*Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum*, Heidelberg), presented the texts of some as yet unpublished inscriptions from the region of Lycia-Pamphylia, mostly from around of Cibyra. Though most were unexceptional in form, they did offer a number of interesting additions to the Onomasticon, such as Albasis (*gen. -ios*), grandfather and grandson, in a slab now in the floor of the church of St. Nicholas at Myra, and Panagoas and his father Osagetas, in an honorific inscription from the countryside north of Cibyra, to be published by Greg Horsley. This latter text also adds a considerable number of items to the known toponyms of the area, while the former attests to the existence of a priesthood *pro poleis* of the enigmatic *Prwimoi Theoi*. Also from Kibyra is another text of interest to students of Anatolian religion. This is a dedication to Herakles, the son of Herakles '*bosios kai dikaios*', and the 'Golden Virgin' by three priests, one of whom describes himself as '*mammothreptos*' ('reared by his mother', i.e. son of a single mother?), a term that apparently has the derogatory meaning of 'mother's boy' in modern Greek.

Stephen Mitchell (Exeter) gave a taste of his forthcoming publication of the text of a treaty between the Romans and the Lycian league. The treaty is dated to 24 July 46 BC, i.e. in the period of Caesar's dictatorship. Although preserved on bronze the full text and commentary is to appear in a volume entitled *Papyri Graecae Schøyen*, edited by Jens Braarvig. A photograph and synopsis of the text can be consulted at:

<http://www.nb.no/baser/schoyen/5/5.4/index.htm#2070>.

The text (in Greek) is intact, save for a small portion of the top lefthand corner, from which the opening protocol has suffered worst. The rather odd style of the language betrays its origin as a translation of a Latin original and its contents conform to the standard pattern known from other surviving treaties. After a declaration of friendship, alliance and peace both by land and sea in perpetuity, the Lycians are enjoined to observe the power and preeminence of the Romans, as is proper in all circumstances. There are then declarations of mutual agreement not to give aid or succour to the enemies of the other party financially or with ships or weapons and both parties agree to help the other by all possible means if the other is attacked. Amongst other matters covered are the prevention of smuggling (i.e. the protection of import/export due revenues), and the rules for determining the application of which legal system in various circumstances, but, perhaps most interestingly from the historical perspective a detailed definition of the geographical limits of Lycian authority at this moment in time.

To round off the day, David French, offered a fresh analysis and some new or revised readings of the milestones from the Roman road from Caesarea (Kayseri) to Melitene (Eski Malatya) in Cappadocia. His findings demonstrated that the first activity attested by the milestones was as early as the reign of Titus, which fits perfectly with the contemporary establishment north-south frontier in Anatolia between Melitene and the Black Sea coast and that the milestones indicate measurements from either end of the road; that is not that each milestone shows two distances but that those from Melitene are measured in a westerly sequence as far as Osmanpinar (1 *mille passuum* north of Comana), where they meet those measured in an easterly direction (most peculiarly) from point 5 m.p. to the east of Caesarea, rather than from the gates of the *colonia* itself – an oddity that remains to be properly explained.

**Benet Salway**



(Photograph: Schøyen Collection MS 2070)