

Photographing Roman Corbridge

M. C. Bishop

In 1906, Francis Haverfield, Camden Professor of Ancient History at the University of Oxford, engaged (at the suggestion of Sir Arthur Evans) a young Leonard Woolley as the field director for his planned campaign of excavations on the Roman site at Corbridge in Northumberland. Woolley in turn employed John Pattison Gibson, a Hexham pharmacist, as site photographer. By this time, Gibson was already a prize-winning pioneer of photography in Northern England, as well as an archaeologist in his own right. The ‘Corstopitum’ campaign of excavations eventually ran from 1906 to 1914, Gibson remaining as site photographer until his death in 1912.

To start with, his task was set out as recording the structures and artefacts recovered in the excavations under the strict instruction of the excavation staff – his handwritten contract, signed by Woolley, survives. By 1910, however, he had moved on to producing studies of the archaeologists at work, both formal posed portraits, and informal images of the excavations in progress. The bulk of the labourers were hired from nearby Corbridge village and a core crew of the same men reappears each year in the photos.

I first began studying the Corstopitum photographs in preparation for a small exhibition of them mounted in English Heritage’s Corbridge Roman Site Museum in 1993. It rapidly became clear that there were several partial collections of the images surviving, and that no one set included copies of all of the images.

One of the most important is the Gibson Collection in Northumberland Archives at Woodhorn, near Ashington. This not only includes postcards and



A workman clears out the main drain under the entrance to Site 11 at Corbridge in 1910 (looking E). Note the rather precariously upended cover stone and the piles of pottery and other finds behind it.

prints produced by Gibson (his postcards used to retail at 6d each), but also large numbers of his original glass-plate negatives (most of the surviving prints are in fact contact prints taken from these negatives). The Corstopitum photographs form only a part of the Gibson Collection, which includes images from all over Northumberland and the north of England in general. Other important collections include prints held by English Heritage (now archived at Corbridge site museum) and the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne (now kept at Woodhorn), and glass lantern slides originally in the Department of Archaeology at the University Newcastle, also now held at Woodhorn, and in the Archive of the Institute of Archaeology in Oxford. Oxford is also the location of a series of prints now held in the Sackler Library, and perhaps most intriguing of all, four albums of prints (formerly in the Richmond Room of the old Ashmolean Library, where I first saw them) that belonged to Francis Haverfield, which are now housed in the CSAD. Divided between the structures (1907–11 and 1912–13) in two albums and the finds (both the smaller artefacts and the larger objects, such as sculpture and inscriptions) in two more, they are a fascinating record of what was at the time a state-of-the-art Edwardian excavation.

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Two workmen (a shoveller and a barrower) clear another room in the south range of Site 11 in 1910 (looking S). Note the broom for cleaning stone, the surveyor's flag, and how loose stone from the site was used to revet the spoil heaps (a couple of these revetments survive).

The Haverfield albums encapsulate two separate and distinct periods in the study of Roman Britain. First there is Haverfield himself, known at one point as 'The Pope of Roman Britain'(!), his terse captions written on the rear of the photos, usually in pencil, giving little away. He acquired the photos as the chairman of the Corbridge Excavation Fund (which still exists and in fact owns all of the pre-1930 finds in the museum at Corbridge). Then there is the man who was in so many ways his successor: Ian (later Sir Ian) Archibald Richmond. His approach to the photos was very different, often writing bold ink captions on the front (there are usually multiple copies of each image, some glossy, some matt), imitating the Roman epigraphic style with uppercase lettering, employing Vs instead of Us, and often using • spacing characters. Some are even marked with the cardinal points and brief, one-word identifications of particular features. Richmond was to go on to become the first Professor of the Archaeology of the Roman Empire at Oxford, but his annotations of the album probably belong to the late 1930s or 1940s during his most intensive period of excavation at the site, along with Eric Birley and John Gillam. In 1933, the excavated area of the Roman site was given to the nation by the landowner, Capt David Cuthbert, and the Ministry of Works began an intensive programme of clearance and consolidation. The then Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, J. P. Bushe-Fox (who had himself worked as a supervisor on the Corstopitum campaign) realised that there needed to be archaeological supervision of this work and appointed Eric Birley to the task and he was subsequently joined by Richmond. The albums – together with the published interim reports – were thus key to understanding what had already happened at the site and Richmond clearly studied them intensively.

The photographs fall into five main categories: site photographs (buildings, usually with workers removed

but tools and piles of finds still present); artefacts, or what would nowadays tend to be called small finds; sculpture (of which Corbridge produced a lot, mostly reused as building material); inscriptions (same again); and, finally, what we might nowadays term human interest photos, such as shots of excavations in progress or portraits of individual workmen or groups of them. The first four fall exactly within Gibson's original remit, as outlined by Woolley in their agreement, but the fifth was an interesting development that reaches a peak during 1910.

I am currently engaged in collecting digital copies of all the images I catalogued back in the 1990s, providing them with detailed captions and appropriate metadata, primarily in order to form a research archive for English Heritage. Copies of the archive will be given to each of the institutions that holds part of the collection and, like CSAD, has generously cooperated in the project. Over the years, I have been able to identify the date, location, and direction of photography for most of the images, and even the names of some of the excavation staff.

Many of the published Corstopitum photographs (now out of copyright) are available online at <http://tinyurl.com/Corstopitum>. Finally, as a matter of interest, Gibson's pharmacy was reconstructed in the Science Museum when it came to the end of its life in Hexham.

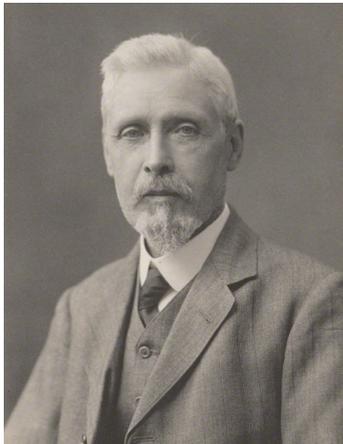
New Inscriptions from Inner Anatolia

Peter Thonemann

One of the richest bodies of archival holdings in the Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents consists of the epigraphic field notebooks of Sir William Mitchell Ramsay (1851-1939). Ramsay is a towering figure in the history of epigraphic and topographical research in Asia Minor. Between the 1880s and 1920s, he travelled extensively in inner Anatolia, under ferociously Spartan conditions. He was the first scholar to undertake systematic epigraphic survey work in ancient Phrygia and Lykaonia (*terra incognita* in his day), and he recorded many thousands of Greek and Latin inscriptions from central Turkey, most of which have since been lost. He published very widely on the history, geography and epigraphy of the Asia Minor peninsula: his two volumes on *The Cities and Bishoprics of Phrygia* (1895 and 1897) remain the standard works on the topography of the Lycus valley and central Phrygia.

Ramsay worked fast. The 141 inscriptions from Laodikeia Katakekaumene that he published in the *Athenische Mitteilungen* for 1888 had been hand-copied in a mere two days, in 1882 and 1886. Ramsay took no photographs, and he seems never to have wielded a squeeze-brush. He recorded the inscriptions that he found in small, floppy notebooks, usually with only a brief indication of their provenance ("Ladık; in

the W cemetery”), without measurements, and often without any indication of the physical form of the stone. His publications can be infuriating to use, since he generally provides nothing more than the bare text of the inscription, often without even indicating line-divisions. But we should not be ungrateful: no one has done more for our knowledge of the history of these remote rural parts of the Roman world.



Sir William Mitchell Ramsay
c. 1910

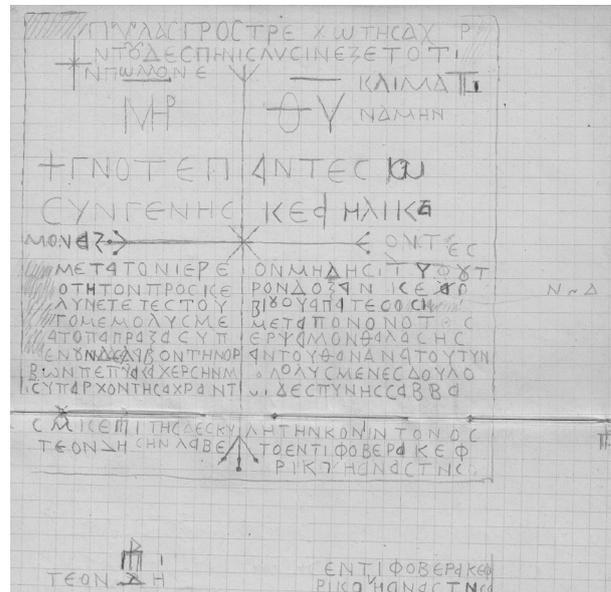
After Ramsay’s death in 1939, his field notebooks came to Oxford. They were initially housed in St John’s College (where Ramsay had been a student in the 1870s); they were transferred to the Ashmolean Museum in 1952, and finally came to CSAD in summer 2016. Few people seem ever to have looked at them. In the early 2000s, the late Maurice Byrne

systematically worked through the notebooks relating to Ramsay’s excavations at Pisidian Antioch between 1911 and 1913; he found no fewer than 241 previously unknown texts from Antioch, which he published, in collaboration with Guy Labarre, in 2006 (*Nouvelles inscriptions d’Antioche de Pisidie d’après les Notebooks de W. M. Ramsay, IGSK 67*). Until this year, I had vaguely assumed, given the sheer volume of Ramsay’s epigraphic publications, that there was unlikely to be more to be discovered in his notebooks.

That assumption turned out to be wrong. In September 2016, I worked systematically through two of Ramsay’s notebooks, one from 1906, the other from 1911. They turned out to include another 79 unpublished Greek inscriptions, this time from eastern Phrygia. It rapidly became clear that I had a major research project on my hands: CSAD holds more than fifty of Ramsay’s notebooks in total! In Michaelmas term 2016, I put together a small team of graduate students (Leah Lazar, Bradley Jordan, Martin Hallmannsecker, Marcus Chin, Alice Correia Morton, Emanuel Zingg) to help with the monumental task of working through the notebooks in search of unpublished material. We have been making rapid progress, and it looks as though we will end up with a medium-sized corpus’ worth of new inscriptions from inner Anatolia.

Most of the new texts are short Greek epitaphs, whose chief interest lies in the hundreds of Greek and indigenous personal names that they preserve. But a significant minority of texts are of broader historical interest in their own right. The Ramsay notebooks include an important new group of verse inscriptions of the fourth and fifth centuries AD from the village

of Gdanmaa in eastern Phrygia, one of the most fertile sources of funerary verse from any part of the eastern Roman empire. We have several new epitaphs for female clergy from early Christian Lykaonia, and, from Ikonion, the tombstone of a previously unattested late Roman general and “friend of the emperors”, one Aurelius Pinytos.



Ramsay’s 1911 notebook drawing of a
Byzantine verse epitaph from Ikonion

Perhaps the single most unexpected find so far (illustrated above) is an extraordinary text from Ikonion in Byzantine dodecasyllabic verse, perhaps dating to the eighth or ninth century AD, a period which is otherwise more or less a complete blank in the epigraphic record of Asia Minor. The first part of the inscription has some (not terribly close) parallels in 10th-century Byzantine epigrams from Cappadocia, but the curse-formula at the end is adapted from formulae that are common in epitaphs of the third and fourth centuries AD:

“I run to the gates of the immaculate mistress; I ask deliverance from my many sins. Amen. Mother of God. Read this, all you kinsmen and friends, and monks along with the priests. Let no-one take pride in the glory of this world, and be defiled by the deceptions of life, as I too am defiled . . . having done terrible things, greater in number than the sands of the seashore. And now, having come to my senses, at the hour of my death, I have built this tomb with my defiled hands, being a servant of the immaculate mistress: I, Sabbas, monk and presbyter. If anyone plunders the dust of my bones, let him be punished in the fearful and terrible resurrection.”

We look forward to finding many more exciting riches buried away in Ramsay’s notebooks over the coming months.

Roman London's First Voices

Roger Tomlin

Roman London was divided by the Walbrook, a tributary of the Thames which drained the marshes to the north. Buildings and embankment soon encroached upon it, the river silts and dumped material combining to form deep, waterlogged deposits which preserved organic material including wooden writing-tablets. Today the Walbrook has long been buried in sewers and culverts, but these deposits are still penetrated by new building and redevelopment. In



Timber-framed room containing writing-tablets

1954, archaeologists discovered a temple dedicated to the god Mithras on the east bank. Despite protests at the time, with Londoners queuing to see its remains, the Mithraeum was demolished to make way for Bucklersbury House, a 14-storey modernist slab which gained few admirers. Half a century later, it was demolished in its turn, and the site was redeveloped as the European headquarters of the media giant Bloomberg, which allowed Museum of London Archaeology to excavate what was left of the Walbrook deposits in 2010–14. Thousands of small finds dated successive levels to periods within London's first half-century, from the late AD 40s until the 90s; buildings included a timber-framed room with fragments of 19 writing tablets embedded in the floor.

Fragments were found of 400 stylus writing-tablets in all, the largest total from a single site in Britain. They are thin wooden panels usually about 140 by 100 mm, of which one face (sometimes both) was recessed to take a thin coating of black beeswax. They were inscribed with a needle-pointed stylus, the wax being coloured black so as to contrast with the bare wood when it was exposed. The scribe used the other, flattened end of his stylus to erase mistakes or change a word or phrase: he rubbed out what he had written, and wrote something else instead. In fact whole tablets could be re-used by smoothing them out again with a special broad spatula, a few of which – not to mention two hundred iron styluses – were also found. Tablets were hinged together, so as to protect the waxed inner

α λ α α Μ α ι ι ρ α

a	b	c	d	e	f	g
λ	α	Ϸ	δ	ι	ι	α
h	i	k	l	m	n	o
H	I	K	L	M	N	O
p	q	r	s	t	u	x
Ϸ	α	ρ	ς	τ	υ	χ

Letter-forms in the Bloomberg London tablets

faces like a notebook: stronger than paper, reusable, ideal for writing letters and documents, keeping accounts and records.

It has been a privilege to decipher these tablets, but not easy to eavesdrop on the first generation of Roman Londoners. Their 'voices' are not an archive; they are random, discarded rubbish. The waterlogged, anaerobic conditions which preserve the wood almost always dissolve the wax. So the text must be recovered from the scratches left by the stylus in the wood, but only if the tablet was not re-used: when such traces overlap, they are usually illegible. But by using a microscope and raking light, it was possible to draw some 80 tablets (almost all fragments), and by drawing them letter by letter with the help of photographs, to read them once again after the lapse of nineteen centuries. The letter forms resemble those already found in the wax of better-preserved tablets from Egypt, Pompeii and Herculaneum.



Tab. Lond. Bloomberg 44 reconstructed from a photograph and drawing

Some letters look surprisingly familiar, but others do not: the loop of *b* goes the 'wrong' way, for instance, and *e* is made with two separate strokes which can look rather like *u*. But it was thrilling to pick up a wet tablet from the conservator's bench and to read at once the first word, *Nerone*.

The three-line heading is the date: 8 January 'in the second consulship of Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus

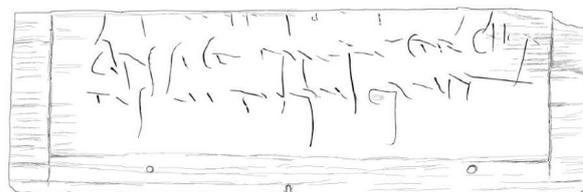
Germanicus' (AD 57). One businessman writes to another: 'I, Tibullus the freedman of Venustus, have written and say that I owe Gratus the freedman of Spurius 105 *denarii* from the price of the merchandise which has been sold and delivered. This money I am due to repay him or the person whom the matter will concern ...' Silver *denarii* were the standard coin of account: a Roman soldier earned 225 a year. This is the City's first financial document, indeed Britain's earliest dated manuscript, and it wonderfully illustrates what Tacitus says of London on the eve of its destruction by Queen Boudica in AD 60 or 61: it was then 'very full of businessmen and commerce.' Tibullus and Gratus were both former slaves, identified as usual by the name of their former owner, who was now their 'patron'; they were probably acting as his agent or partner, rather than on their own account. Thus a certain Secundio writes to his own freedman, telling him to receive a note of hand (*chirographum*) from someone else's slave. The slave Florentinus writes in AD 64 'by order of my master' that he has received two payments in respect of a farm.

This is the only evidence of investment in land, but there are several loan notes. Atticus, for example, promises Narcissus, the slave of Rogatus the Lingonian, that he will faithfully repay the money he has borrowed. He makes his promise 'in the presence of witnesses', and another note was witnessed by three cavalymen called Longinus, Agrippa and Verecundus. They are evidence of a military presence, just as Rogatus probably belonged to one of the cohorts of Lingones which are later well attested in Britain, and a tablet found in that timber-framed room refers to another cohort, the Vangiones. They would be two of the eight auxiliary cohorts sent from the Rhineland to reinforce the British army after the defeat of Boudica, as Tacitus reports. However, another scrap of evidence is even more striking.

The bottom of this page reads: '... Classicus, the prefect of the Sixth Cohort of Nervii.' The cognomen Classicus is very rare, and the only equestrian officer of this name known to us is the famous Julius Classicus, who was commanding a Roman cavalry regiment in AD 69 when he rebelled against Rome. This would have been his third equestrian command, implying that his first, the prefecture of a cohort, was in the early 60s. In AD 61 the new Procurator of Britain was another aristocrat from Trier, Julius Classicianus, who was surely his kinsman. Classicus would then have owed his first commission to him, the Sixth Nervii being another of the Rhineland cohorts.

Tacitus depicts Classicus dressing up as a Roman general to receive the surrender of Roman legionaries, but the Bloomberg tablets mostly reinforce his picture of London as a thriving business community. There is the letter addressed to 'Mogontius in London', which is one of the first times the word 'London' (*Londinio*) was ever written. Another is addressed to Junius the

cooper (*cuparius*) 'opposite (the house of) Catullus', who is thus London's first named householder. Perhaps Junius made the barrels for the large quantities of beer (*cervesa*) recorded in a fragmentary account, or worked for the recipient of another letter, Tertius the *bracearius*. This rare term derives from *bracea*, a kind of grain, and means either 'maltster' or 'brewer'. The name 'Tertius' is scored on a barrel-stave from another site in London and, more surprisingly, on a stylus tablet found in Carlisle, which also describes him as a *bracearius*. Although the name 'Tertius' is common, the term *bracearius* is not; this is surely the same man, running a business which now spread from London to the northern frontier.



50 mm

Tab. Lond. Bloomberg 33: photograph and drawing

Commercial mishaps are also revealed. One letter begins: 'Taurus to Macrinus his dearest lord, greetings. [...] when Catarrus had come and had taken the beasts of burden away, investments which I cannot replace in three months ...' Taurus goes on to explain that he was at Diadumenus' house (*ad Diadumenum*, another London householder?) the very day that Catarrus arrived unexpectedly and took the beasts away. He calls himself *Taurus*, but this word is written over *Taurinus*, as if he were uncertain of his own name: he must have been dictating to a secretary, like the owner of the slave Florentinus.

A pre-Boudican fragment begins in mid-sentence with the ominous words '... because they are boasting through the whole market that you have lent them money.' The phrase *per forum totum* may be a metaphor for the '(money) market', but it sounds like London's new forum on Cornhill, and certainly the City's first bad investment, just as another letter alludes to its first shortage of ready money: '... I ask you by bread and salt that you send as soon as possible the 26 *denarii* in *victoriati* and the 10 *denarii* of Paterio ...' The writer uses the unique phrase *per panem et salem*, perhaps a reference to hospitality: he had done the recipient a favour in the past – the Roman equivalent of a free lunch – and now he wants

a favour in return. *Paterio* is someone's name, but the reference to *victoriati* is a puzzle: *victoriatu*s was an informal term for the half-*denarius* coin originally minted as equivalent to the Greek drachma. But when this tablet was written (in the AD 60s, judging by the archaeological context), *quinarii* had not been minted for fifty years; and hoards suggest they were rare. Perhaps these 52 so-called *victoriati* had been deliberately hoarded because they now contained more silver than the *denarius* which Nero had recently debased.

Historically the most important document is a contract dated 21 October AD 62, which begins: 'I, Marcus Rennius Venustus, have written and say that I have contracted with Gaius Valerius Proculus that he bring from Verulamium by 13 November, twenty loads of provisions at a transport charge of one-quarter denarius for each, on condition that ...' It breaks off here, the 'condition' probably being that one-quarter was withheld until the job was completed. Venustus started writing 'from London' (*Londinio*) by mistake, having meant to write 'from Verulamium', but found there was not enough room for *Verulamio* at the end of the line, so he postponed it until the next line. He must have erased *Londi* in the wax, of course, but there is no trace of this erasure in the wood, which is all that now survives. The exact date and place are more important than he knew: London and Verulamium (now St Albans) were destroyed by Boudica in AD 60 or 61 when, according to Tacitus, 70,000 lives were lost. But Venustus was writing only a year or two later. Londoners have long prided themselves on their resilience: he now provides the first instance of their rapid recovery from disaster.

Photos: Museum of London Archaeology

AshLI Project

Alison Cooley

Our project, 'Facilitating Access to Latin inscriptions in Britain's Oldest Public Museum through Scholarship and Technology', is now completed. The project was led by Prof Alison Cooley (University of Warwick), with Co-Investigators Dr Susan Walker, Dr Paul Roberts from the Ashmolean Museum, and Dr Charles Crowther from CSAD. The project team included Dr Jane Masségia (now University of Leicester), Dr Hannah Cornwell (now ICS), and Dr Abigail Baker. The two major aims were to publish an online corpus and critical edition of the museum's Latin inscriptions and to explore ways in which Latin inscriptions can be used to educate the general public, visitors, and children about the Roman world.

The Ashmolean Museum now has an up-to-date scholarly edition of all 460 ancient Latin inscriptions in the museum, soon to be freely available online. Unpublished, unknown

or lost inscriptions were uncovered, and autopsy and Reflectance Transformation Imaging have offered new readings of known inscriptions. Ben Altshuler generated RTI records of some very weathered inscriptions.

Several galleries now have new objects and displays appealing to both academic and lay audiences.

Around 30 lectures and workshops for the general public and schools were organised. Notably, 'Dead Friday' on Halloween emphasised the more ghoulish elements of the collections: <http://www.ashmolean.org/ashwpress/latininscriptions/2015/11/23/the-walking-dead-staging-a-roman-funeral-at-the-ashmolean-museum/#comment-1913>, and 'Remembering the Romans', for a younger audience, included activities such as 'Learn how to read a Latin epitaph' and making inscriptions out of clay.

A variety of social media such as Facebook and Twitter has reached out to the public, and a series of vodcasts highlight topics such as 'The Roman soldier who went to Newcastle and punched Hercules', 'The bricks that built the Roman Empire' or 'Early Christian Gold-Glass'. Our blog Reading Writing Romans presents some of highlights of our research.

- Reading Writing Romans blog: <http://www.ashmolean.org/ashwpress/latininscriptions/>
- Vodcasts: <https://itunes.apple.com/gb/itunes-u/id1029462049>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AshmoleanLatin>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ashmoleanlatininscriptions/>



"Roman around" at the Ashmolean

The team has worked closely with the museum's Education Department to offer stimulating activities for schools, and our online corpus is designed for non-specialists, epigraphers and ancient historians alike.

From January 2017, we have secured AHRC follow-on funding for engagement and impact for an extension to our project, 'Latin inscriptions in the Ashmolean Museum: influencing curatorial practice and extending educational scope to new audiences'. Over four months, a cohort of Warwick Sutton Scholars (school students aged 13/14) learnt about Roman culture and society via a series of day-workshops at Warwick, carried out their own research into individual inscriptions, and produced a research poster of their results. There followed a trip to the Ashmolean and a handling-session. Two workshops

– at Warwick, 15-16 May and at the British School at Rome 23 May – provided an opportunity for museum professionals to exchange ideas about best practice in engaging the public in epigraphic collections in the UK and Europe.

Thanks go to: at the Ashmolean Museum Anjanesh Babu, Jude Barrett, Graeme Campbell, Clare Coleman, Clare Corey, Tim Crowley, Sarah Doherty, Helen Hovey, Kevin Jacques, Jonathan Moffett, Mark Norman, Ilaria Perzia, Harry Phythian-Adams, David Provan, Jo Rice and Anya Ulbrich; Claire Venables for the wonderful gallery redisplays, and the University of Warwick for their additional funding for some of the public engagement activities.

Sprouting and Growing Up: The IHAC and Study of Ancient Civilizations in China

Yin Yuantao (IHAC, NENU, Changchun)



Dr Yuantao Yin

A Chinese researcher in the UK, studying (Western) Classics? This might seem unusual but it became a reality for me when I spent one year, from September 2009 to September 2010, living and studying at the University of Oxford. I am a Chinese historian at the Institute for the History of Ancient Civilizations (IHAC) at the Northeast Normal University in

Changchun, Northeast China and Oxford is one of the most memorable places I visited during my second year as a PhD candidate. I felt greatly honoured to be invited by Dr. Charles Crowther to visit the Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents (CSAD), where I studied Greek epigraphy under his supervision. These days few scholars in China work on Greek epigraphy and make use of epigraphical sources, partly because the ancient Greek language is an obvious barrier for them, and partly because Greek inscriptions are not easily accessible to Chinese academia. After fruitful discussions with Charles and my Chinese supervisor, Prof. Zhang Qiang from the IHAC, I decided to focus on Greek epigraphy and Greek history, mainly of the 4th Century BC, and my doctoral dissertation specifically analysed the naval alliance, which was formed against Persia called the Second Athenian League. Staying abroad gave me the chance to meet many talented students and senior scholars, including some honourable emeritus professors who had been working with great enthusiasm and producing invaluable academic insight since their retirement. I greatly benefitted from my talks with

them, which are an enduring source of inspiration for my current work.

Since I was awarded my PhD in 2012, I have been working as a lecturer at the IHAC, a research institution at the Northeast Normal University for postgraduate studies on the languages, history, archaeology and philosophy of the Ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean world. It was the first institute in the People's Republic of China to establish academic research positions for Assyriology, Hittitology, Egyptology, and Classics (Latin and Greek Philology) in 1984, and it is the only institute with such a broad approach to ancient civilizations.

In 2014, my research project "Greek Public Inscriptions and the Athenian Democracy in the Classical Period" was approved and supported by the "Chinese Research Projects of the Social and Humanity on Young Fund of the Ministry of Education". Later that year I was invited by Prof. Nikolaos Papazarkadas to spend one month as visiting scholar at the Sara B. Aleshire Center for the Study of Greek Epigraphy at UC Berkeley. Whilst there I met Prof. Ronald Stroud, an epigraphist I particularly admire. At Berkeley I was given much advice and many suggestions regarding my study of Greek epigraphy and my further research. As a result, I plan to write a handbook introducing



The Rizhi Classical Library

the basic knowledge of Greek epigraphy to Chinese beginners within the next the few years.

This emphasis of my research and projects on original texts of ancient civilizations is a distinctive feature of the IHAC, where ancient languages are taught so as to prompt further research on ancient civilizations. For example, new students of Classics at the IHAC have to learn ancient Greek and Latin. This is particularly necessary because most Chinese colleges and universities currently do not offer such courses. In China, Classics, Egyptology and Near Eastern Studies are regarded as a small research field, and are often seen as a component of so-called "ancient world history" instead of being regarded as single subjects with distinct approaches, methods, issues and languages. IHAC staff work hard every day to demonstrate the importance of detailed study of ancient civilizations. Up until very recently all Chinese

translations of Greek were made from English or other translations. Instead we are aiming to translate important works of ancient Greek and Roman writers directly from Greek or Latin into Chinese. Our aim is to publish a series of books named the *Rizhi Classical Library* (Rizhi is the pen name of the founder of the IHAC, Prof. Lin Zhichun), similar to the famous *Loeb Classical Library*, which will present the original Greek and Latin text on the left-hand page and the Chinese translation on the right. The first volumes edited by the current director of the IHAC, Prof. Zhang Qiang, include the works of Homer, Hesiod, Aristophanes, Livy, Cicero and Nepos. My colleagues are also devoted to epigraphy: a selection of Greek historical inscriptions edited and translated by Prof. Zhang Qiang has been published, as well as a selection of Latin historical inscriptions edited and translated by Dr. Zhang Nan. They are the first Chinese versions of Greek and Latin inscriptions, which we hope will offer access to all aspects of Greek and Roman history for Chinese scholars and students.

The IHAC also publishes an annual double-blind peer-reviewed academic journal, the *Journal of Ancient Civilizations (JAC)*, which aims to publish high-quality scholarly articles contributed by international and native Chinese scholars working on the material culture and society of the ancient civilizations. Presenting articles written mainly in English, but also in German and French, the JAC is the only Chinese academic journal that covers all ancient civilizations with a comparative approach, including not only Near Eastern, Egyptian and Greek and Roman Studies, but also Chinese ancient civilizations and the Eastern and Western Medieval Ages that followed them.

Since the foundation of the IHAC, international scholars from Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States, France, etc. have been invited as short-term visiting professors (for one or two years) to teach and research at the Institute and in its unique library. Last year Dr. Sven Günther, an ancient historian from Germany, who was a visiting professor in 2014/15, joined us as a new member of our IHAC family. He has accepted the offer to be a long-term professor. His research interests are mainly the interdependences between economy and other socio-political fields in ancient times, and the creation of regulatory frameworks by ancient authors to reflect and modify these economic circumstances. Recently, the IHAC has also invited senior scholars such as Prof. Richard Seaford (UK), Prof. Ian Shaw (UK), Prof. John Baines (UK), Prof. Peter Brand (US), Prof. Paul Demont (France) and Prof. Kostas Buraselis (Greece), as well as Dr. Charles Crowther, to come for short term visits to give several lectures to our students.

IHAC is proud of its past achievements, and it also ready for future developments. I am glad to be working in an institution which is willing to contribute its

own, “Chinese” view on (Western) Classics, Egyptology and Near Eastern Studies, and I am proud to be contributing my small tesserae to our mosaic, which we hope presents an innovative picture of ancient civilizations!

One of the most amazing things to happen to me is being given a chance to return to Oxford, my dream place. It is also like a dream that I have already been here since the beginning of September, as an academic visitor of the CSAD and a member of Queen’s College. I cannot give enough thanks to the Centre for this precious opportunity to return to Oxford after six

The Philae Obelisk

Tales from Egypt, Dorset and Outer Space
Maggie Sasanow



The RTI team at work on the obelisk

In late 2014 the Centre for Study of Ancient Documents at Oxford University carried out an extensive RTI and 3D imaging campaign on an obelisk from the Island of Philae in Egypt, now standing in the grounds of the Kingston Lacy estate in Dorset.

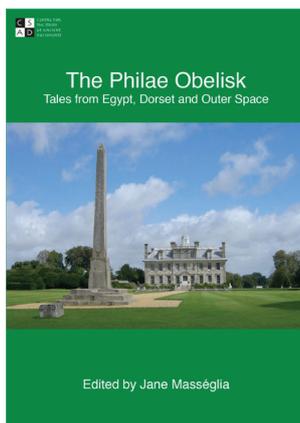
The aim of the campaign was to capture and revise readings of the obelisk’s bilingual inscriptions. It

was serendipitous that, at exactly the same time that the imaging teams were preparing to reveal the results of their research on the Philae obelisk, the European Space Agency (ESA) was preparing to launch the Philae lander from the spacecraft Rosetta, to land on Comet 67P/Churyumov–Gerasimenko.

This booklet celebrates this remarkable coincidence of two apparently diverse scientific ventures, which brought together two varieties of digital “archaeology”, on earth and in space.



Artist's impression of Rosetta orbiter and Philae lander



If anyone is interested in acquiring a copy of the booklet, please contact Maggy Sasanow at the Centre from the Study of Ancient Documents:

Margaret.Sasanow@classics.ox.ac.uk

Roger Tomlin, and Abigail Graham for acting as instructors; and to Roger Tomlin, Alan Bowman and Alison Cooley for the programme of lectures. The organisers are also grateful for the generous support of sponsors including the Craven Committee, the British Epigraphy Society, the Haverfield Bequest, and the CSAD; and the Corpus Christi College Centre for the Study of Greek and Roman Antiquity for its kind assistance with accommodation and evening meals.

A further Ashmolean based Practical Epigraphy Workshop is planned for 2019.

Practical Epigraphy Workshop 2016

Ashmolean Museum, 21-23 June

Peter Haarer



Participants in the 2016 Practical Epigraphy Workshop

The Practical Epigraphy Workshop 2016 was a great success. The Ashmolean Museum offered a good range of Greek and Roman material for study and with which to demonstrate and practice the practical elements of the course. There were forty-eight applicants for the Workshop from an impressive international field, giving the workshop organisers the unenviable task of reducing these to the twenty - the maximum that could be accommodated in the museum's study area. The majority of participants were graduates who are using inscriptions as a central part of their research, but five places were given to undergraduates with the aim of fostering interest in epigraphy in potential future researchers. In addition, a student of Egyptology was accepted, for whom an understanding of the squeeze-making process was indispensable for her project on collections of old squeezes and who worked on a stele from the Ashmolean's reserve collection.

As ever the CSAD provided the vital institutional framework that makes the workshop possible. Many thanks are owed to numerous individuals most, if not all, of whom have connections with the CSAD: to Maggy Sasanow for looking after much of the administration, and for setting up teas, coffees, and lunches during the various breaks in the schedule; to Charles Crowther,

Corpus of Greek And Bilingual Inscriptions of Ptolemaic Egypt

Conference and forthcoming Proceedings

Maggy Sasanow

On April 1-2 2016 the CSAD hosted a successful conference entitled *Greek And Bilingual Inscriptions of Ptolemaic Egypt*, to discuss and expand upon material included in the current CPI Project.

Professor Alan Bowman, the Principal Investigator, opened the conference with an introduction to the CPI project, and Professor Dorothy Thompson of Cambridge University spoke about the late Peter Fraser, whose work in the 1950s and 60s on Greek inscriptions of Ptolemaic Egypt and the Ptolemaic Empire forms the basis of the current Corpus.

The four Oxford based CPI members each gave a presentation; Dr Kyriakos Savvopoulos offered an overview of the Corpus with some examples, Professor Alan Bowman spoke about inscriptions of the Greek cities, and Dr Charles Crowther gave a presentation on the dating of Ptolemaic inscriptions. Professor Simon Hornblower spoke about the approximately 50 metrical epitaphs, dedications and four long Isiac hymns included in the Corpus.



Metric inscription: epitaph of Agathokleia, who died in childbirth

There were seven speakers from outside Oxford. Dr Rachel Mairs of the University of Reading gave a presentation entitled *The Bilingual Inscriptions: Egyptian Language Texts*. Professor Christelle Fischer-Bovet of the University of Southern California spoke

on soldiers' dedicatory inscriptions, and Dr Mario Paganini of the University of Copenhagen spoke about the epigraphic habits of private associations. Dr Supratik Baralay of Harvard University gave a paper entitled *Hellenistic Sacred Dedications: The View from Egypt*, and Professor Willy Clarysse of the University of Leuven presented a paper entitled *Inscriptions and Papyri: two worlds with some overlaps*. Professor François Kayser of the Université Savoie Mont Blanc spoke about the Etienne Bernand Archive recently made available to the CPI team, who afterwards spoke about the unpublished texts found within it. Dr Jane Masegla of the University of Leicester presented a paper on the imaging of inscriptions, in particular the Kingston Lacy obelisk.

The Proceedings will form a print publication, which is to include all conference papers plus one or two additional contributions, and will be published during 2017.

Visiting Scholars

Irene Nicolino (Università di Bologna)

I worked at CSAD for three months, from January to April 2017, as a postgraduate visiting student. The choice of undertaking a period of traineeship at the CSAD funded by the Erasmus+ placement project was determined mainly by my interests in Ptolemaic Egypt, particularly in inscriptions and papyri. My BA dissertation focused on the development of the royal titulatures of Ptolemy VIII. I aim to continue to work on this topic and to devote my MA Thesis to a comprehensive and more in-depth study of the titulatures of the late Ptolemies up till Cleopatra VII (under the supervision of Prof Lucia Criscuolo and Dr Alice Bencivenni).



Irene Nicolino at the CSAD

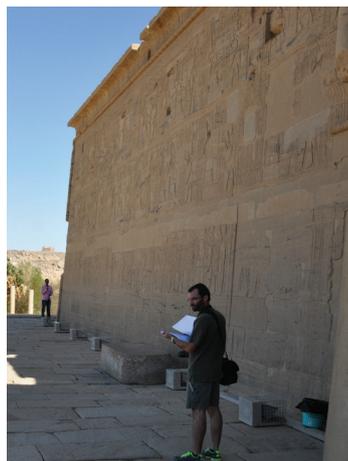
The opportunity to join the CPI (Corpus of Ptolemaic Inscriptions) project in Oxford was not to be missed. The large number of inscriptions, both edited and unedited, to be included in the corpus, the chance of making use of Fraser's personal archive and the experience and helpfulness of a first-rate team were invaluable for my work. I hope to contribute to the

project's application of modern technologies to ancient documents - specifically the digitisation of inscriptions through the EpiDoc encoding system - a field with which I already have some familiarity. I am sure that I will gain enormously from this enriching experience and I hope that it will be just the first of many other stays in Oxford.

Athanasios Koutoupas

My first experience of the CSAD was in summer 2014. Since then, I have revisited the Centre three more times: in November 2015, June 2016 and November 2016. These visits enabled my participation in the project "Corpus of Inscriptions of Ptolemaic Egypt", which is still ongoing.

During my stay at the CSAD, I worked on various aspects of the project, mainly the transcription of inscriptions and the surrounding bibliography. Moreover, during my visit in June 2016 I had the chance to attend the "2016 Practical Epigraphy



Athanasios Koutoupas at the Philae Temple Complex

Workshop" that took place in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

Visiting CSAD was fruitful for two reasons. First, it gave me access to archaeological material - especially coins and inscriptions. I used this material in my MA thesis, on the role of religion in the development and promotion of the Ptolemaic royal ideology, and the process of Ptolemaic deification.

Secondly, I was able to enlarge the primary material for my PhD, which will address the cultural relations between Cyprus, Egypt and Alexandria during the transformative period of Hellenistic and Roman rule prior to the Christian conversion of the Eastern Mediterranean. My research will be based on the examination of the numismatic, epigraphic and artistic evidence. Combining modern technologies, such as RTI, I aim to investigate Ptolemaic and Roman ideological, political and religious approaches to Cyprus.

Sophie Kovarik

When I was applying for a research grant from the Austrian Science Council (FWF) to pursue post-doctoral research abroad my thoughts went immediately to the CSAD, whose hospitality I was lucky enough to have experienced before when I came here for a research period during my PhD studies. The CSAD is not only part of the wider academic network in antiquity studies in Oxford, but it is also



Sophie Kovarik at the CSAD

very conveniently located just around the corner from the Sackler Library with its papyrological collections. My project "People and Power in Late Antique Fayyum: the Formation of a Local Elite, 5th to 7th Centuries" is based entirely on primary sources, and deals with the emergence of a new landed bureaucratic aristocracy in the course of the 5th century to its gradual dissolution and subsequent demise in the decades after the Arab conquest in 641. This is connected to the rise of the "great estates", large agrarian enterprises in the hands of these noble families. However, aristocrats were not only active as great landowners, but also functioned as state officials, up to the highest provincial positions. A prominent representative in Egypt is the noble family of the Apions, whose members rose to the uppermost echelons of Byzantine society.

While single studies have been undertaken for the elites of other Egyptian regions, the Arsinoite nome, located in the Fayyum oasis, has so far not been the subject of a systematic study, despite the abundance of papyri known from that time and place.

The aim of the project is to first identify members of this elite in the papyri from the Fayyum, including different genres from contracts (in which they let, lend or lease their power or property) and letters (private, official, business) to administrative documents (accounts, orders of payment, tables) concerning estate management or official affairs, and then to put them into context, creating a "who is who" of the Late Antique Arsinoite aristocracy. The study is based on the numerous Fayyum findings from the late 19th century, mainly housed in Vienna, Berlin

and Paris, but also in London, Oxford, Liverpool and other collections, with the addition of new unpublished material, still unknown to the scientific community. I will be spending 2 years of a 3 year project in Oxford and I am looking forward to a productive time in pleasant surroundings and good company.

Maya Muratov (Adelphi University)

Dr Maya Muratov, Associate Professor of History of Art at Adelphi University, visited the CSAD for a month in October-November 2016. She holds a PhD in Greek and Roman Art and Archaeology from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. Her research interests, which include the cultural, religious, and social history of the Greek colonies in the Northern Black Sea area and the interactions between the Greeks, Romans, and the indigenous population, are reflected in her fieldwork: for many years she has been excavating the site of the ancient Pantikapaion, the capital of the Bosphoran Kingdom. At the CSAD Dr Muratov is collaborating with Dr. Rachel Mairs on two projects. The first one, entitled *Interpreters and their Social Context in Antiquity*, is a study that predominantly deals with epigraphic sources on interpreters of languages and bi- or multilingualism during Hellenistic and Roman periods in the multicultural milieu of the Bosphoran Kingdom in the Northern Black Sea, Western Roman Provinces, in Egypt, and in the city of Rome. The second project is a continuation of their work on the 19th and early 20th century British and American travellers to the Middle East and their interactions with the local guides and interpreters (dragomans). Their first co-authored book, entitled *Archaeologists, Tourists, Interpreters: Exploring Egypt and the Near East in the late 19th-early 20th Centuries*, was published in September 2015 by Bloomsbury (Egyptology Series).



Maya Muratov at the ancient Nymphaion in Eastern Crimea

Oxford Epigraphy Workshop Michaelmas Term 2016

Monday 10 October: *Peter Thonemann, "Unpublished inscriptions from the notebooks of William Ramsay"*

Monday 17 October: *no meeting*

Monday 24 October: *Peter Kruschwitz, "We were the other 99%: the epigraphic poetry of Rome's poor and disadvantaged"*

Monday 31 October: *William Mack, "Gods! Re-reading the theos/theoi heading over public inscriptions"*

Monday 7 November: *Alan Bowman, Charles Crowther, and Kyriakos Savvopoulos, "A Ptolemaic miscellany"*

Monday 14 November: *no meeting*

Monday 21 November: *Pawel Nowakowski, "Fragment of a new imperial or episcopal letter from the Ephesian dossier or a building inscription for a local basilica? Notes on the reedition of IG XII 6,2, no. 928 (Pythagorio, Samos)"*

Monday 28 November: *Sofia Kravaritou, "Navy crews and mystery cults in a new Hellenistic dedication from Tenos"*

Charles Crowther, Jonathan Prag, Peter Thonemann

Visitors to CSAD



The Centre is able to provide a base for a limited number of visiting scholars working in fields related to its activities. Enquiries concerning admission as Visiting Research Fellow (established scholars) or as Visiting Research Associate should be addressed to the Centre's Director, Professor A.K. Bowman. Association with the Centre carries with it membership of the University's Stelios Ioannou School for Research in Classical and Byzantine Studies. Further information concerning application procedures and other formalities can be obtained from the Centre's Administrator and Research Support Officer, Dr Chloe Colchester (chloe.colchester@classics.ox.ac.uk).

Circulation and Contributions

This is the twentieth issue of the Centre's Newsletter. The Newsletter is also available online in HTML and pdf formats (<http://www.csad.ox.ac.uk/CSAD/Newsletters>).

We invite contributions to the Newsletter of news, reports and discussion items from and of interest to scholars working in the fields of the Centre's activities—epigraphy and papyrology understood in the widest sense. Contributions, together with other enquiries and requests to be placed on the Centre's mailing list, should be addressed to the Centre's administrator, Chloe Colchester, at the address

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