



# THE CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND NEWSLETTER

**Issue IX: July 2020**

Welcome to Issue IX of the CANI Newsletter!

After getting off to such a hectic start, CANI, like the rest of the world has seen its public events for 2020 ground to a halt. Unsurprisingly then, Issue IX of the CANI Newsletter is somewhat different, but rest assured, we at CANI have still got some interesting and important news for our members. Along with the CANI blog, Twitter and Instagram accounts still churning out content, we have the opportunity to promote the sister-associations, friends and members, as well as looking ahead to what the future might hold. Perhaps most importantly, an event that looked to be cancelled due to COVID19 had been given a new lease of life in online!

## NATALIE HAYNES



CANI are proud to announce that Natalie Haynes has been chosen as our first Honorary Patron.

Natalie is the author of not only *A Thousand Ships*, which has been nominated for the Women's Prize of 2020, but also *The Amber Fury*, *The Children of Jocasta*, *The Ancient Guide to Modern Life* and the upcoming *Pandora's Jar*. Natalie has also just announced that she will be writing two more as-yet-untitled books on Medusa and Medea.

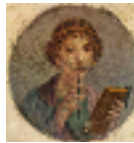
As well as a fantastic author, Natalie is a prodigious podcaster. The many episodes of her 'Natalie Haynes Stands Up for the Classics' with BBC Radio 4 can be seen at [THIS LINK](#)

During lockdown, she has also produced a series of videos called #OvidNotCovid, which looks at various female characters in the works of Ovid. These videos can be viewed following [THIS LINK](#)

Natalie has also been a frequent and fantastic guest of CANI since our refounding, presenting several talks in Belfast. We cannot wait for our Honorary Patron to return to these shores



## BELFAST CLASSICS



**GREAT NEWS!** The Belfast Summer School 2020 will be taking place after all online. Details can be seen below. BE QUICK as spaces are limited!

CANI Convenor and brains behind Belfast Classics, Helen McVeigh says "translating Ancient Greek is a satisfying puzzle. The texts written 2,500 years ago still speak to us. I have been teaching Ancient Greek at summer schools and evening classes since 2011 and see that there is a yearning to learn about the ancient Mediterranean. This is shown in the response to the virtual Summer School. Students have enrolled from UK, Ireland, Belgium, Spain, Mexico, USA and Canada." You can follow Helen's great work at... [www.facebook.com/belfastclassics/](http://www.facebook.com/belfastclassics/) [www.facebook.com/ClassicalGreekTutoring/](http://www.facebook.com/ClassicalGreekTutoring/) Twitter: @BelfastClassics Instagram: classicalgreek tutoring [Classical Greek Tutoring website](#)

## LOOKING AHEAD

Unfortunately, the outbreak of coronavirus has forced CANI to cancel the remainder of our planned programme of public events for the rest of the year. We very much hope to have Dr Phelan, Dr Curran and Michael Hughes present for us at a later date and no doubt Spartacus will be screened at some point too.

While the 2019/20 programme has been shelved, rest assured that plans are already in place for the 2020/21 programme, even if that means a series of online talks and we will continue to provide content for our followers on the CANI blog and youtube channel throughout the coming weeks and months.

Stay safe.

## BELFAST SUMMER SCHOOL ONLINE 2020

Classes will be offered in Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced Latin and Ancient Greek. Course materials will be forwarded via email.

Option 1 Dates:

Monday 20 July to Friday 24th July

Option 2 Dates:

Monday 27 July to Friday 31 July

Lessons will be conducted on Zoom each day from 10-11am and 12-1pm BST. Work will also be set for independent study.

As part of the Summer School, CANI Board

member, Barry Trainor will present an academic talk via Zoom on 'The Praying Mantis: Seercraft in Ancient Sparta' on Wednesday 22 July at 1.30pm BST.

You can email [belfastsummerschool@gmail.com](mailto:belfastsummerschool@gmail.com) with questions, queries or to register. The fee for the week is £70 and this may be paid by bank transfer or Paypal. Your place on the course is guaranteed once payment has been made.

You must be quick though as places are limited and some of the options are already filled. Apologies in advance if your chosen option and course is already filled up.

## TOP 5 TWEETS



12 Apr  
#OnThisDay in 240, Shapur I becomes Sassanid King, seemingly ruling alongside his father, Ardashir

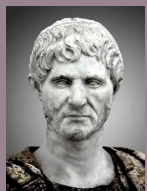
19 Apr  
#OnThisDay in 531, Belisarius is defeated by Persians at Callinicum, but his fighting retreat makes it somewhat Pyrrhic



21 Apr  
Happy 2772nd Birthday to Rome, founded traditionally by Romulus

#OnThisDay in 753BC (after he killed his brother!)

22 May  
Perhaps #OnThisDay in 334BC, despite almost dying, Alexander the Great defeated the Persian satraps at Granicus River



27 Apr  
Happy Birthday to Decimus Junius Brutus Albinus, one of the leading conspirators in the assassination of Julius Caesar, born #OnThisDay in c.85-81BC

Romulus: What should we name this great city?  
Remus: Reme.  
Romulus: \*sharpening spear\*  
I have a better idea.



When you live in Ancient Greece and see literally anyone who isn't Greek



## BLOGS, VIDEOS, PODCASTS ETC.

The CANI blog has continued to post on various aspects of the Ancient World. We had a look at [three imposters](#) who claimed to be the emperor Nero after his death and also the role the expectation of Nero's return - [the Nero Redivivus legend](#) - had on the religions of the Roman Empire.

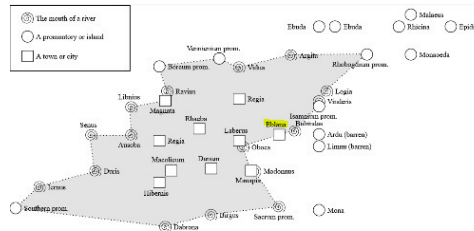
In [#SeeOvidI9](#), we also had a somewhat tongue-in-cheek look at some passages from the Roman poet, Ovid; specifically all of the sections of his various works that would be listed as I.9.



Finally, a previous guest speaker, Dr Paul Tempan joined forces with CANI's own Peter Crawford to present a piece on ['Ancient and Mythological Belfast Street Names.'](#) ranging from Muses and gods to horses and missions to the Moon.

### Coming Soon

We will soon see a second part of our look at Belfast street names will focus on the specific impact of Claudius Ptolemy's map of Roman age Ireland.



We also have a jovial look at the sheer number of reasons given for the fall of the Roman Empire and will keep up the Julio-Claudian flavour with a look at the scholarship undertaken by the emperor Claudius before and during his reign.



Check out the CANI blog [HERE](#)

As well as the CANI blog and youtube channel, we would encourage anyone interested in ancient trade, Ireland's position in the ancient world or connections between the east and west to head over to [Dr Raoul McLaughlin's youtube channel](#). Dr John Curran, has contributed a podcast on ancient pandemics called 'Civilisation Under Attack' for the Queen's University series on [A History of Pandemics](#).



You can also access the Classical Association of Ireland's June newsletter [HERE](#). This latest edition contains pieces on poetry, Terentian drama and a Latin translation of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, reviews of books, curriculum and the Hay Festival Online and branch news.

## CONTACT US

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