



THE CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND NEWSLETTER

Issue XII: April 2021

Welcome to Issue XII of the CANI Newsletter!

How is it that weeks and months can both feel like they have flown by *and* dragged like a month of Sundays? There must be a German word for such a phenomenon... In a world of pandemic slow crawl/fast-forward, CANI has managed to continue with a somewhat reduced schedule. Below you will see a brief round up of the events and talks so far this year, plus updates to the programme of events for next few months, with dates for some events and additions to others. There is also news of a CANI's members' essay writing success and a round-up of the blogs and videos published by CANI in the first quarter of 2021.

CONGRATULATIONS

CANI would like to send its congratulations to one of its members, Dr Patrick Bell, on his second prize in the Open University's annual Stephen Kassman Memorial Essay competition.

"My OU studies in Classics represented longstanding unfinished business. At school in the 1960s, opting for science subjects meant dropping Latin and much else. My interest in Classics was kept alive as I encountered all sorts of connections whilst studying and later practicing medicine. When retirement came 4 years ago, embarking on a BA in Classical Studies was an easy choice. It turned out to be a great experience, not least because of uniformly excellent tuition and support. I completed my degree last year and, when the final assessment was cancelled, had time to enter the Kassman Essay Prize.

In the year of coronavirus I used the benefit of a medical background to examine under the heading 'Plague and pandemic: echoes down the ages' how ancient Greek literary sources dealt with plague. It soon became clear from the chosen sources, Homer's *Iliad*, Sophocles' *Oedipus the King* and Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War*, that the attitudes and responses of the ancients are still relevant today. Specifically we see the same mistakes being made; explaining events in entirely irrational ways, indulging in a toxic blame culture and avoiding difficult political decisions.

I have taken a break from OU studies since the summer, but was recruited by my old medical school in Belfast to deliver a talk on 'The Legacy of the Classics in Medicine' in one of our undergraduate special study modules. I hope there may be other opportunities to demonstrate the importance of classics to the next generation of doctors."

MMXXI SO FAR

Normally at this time of year, we would be regaling you with news of our annual inundating of the Ulster Museum with eager school kids, marching Corkonian legionaries and a celebrity Classicist. As we all know, 'normal' is in short supply, but CANI have still got some events and talks to report on.

The Belfast Summer School Refresher Day saw 28 Greek and 19 Latin students from the UK, Ireland, USA, Australia, China. 4 classes each in Latin and Greek at beginners, lower and upper intermediate, and advanced levels.

Isabelle Torrance (Aarhus) presented a look at the work carried out by *Classical Influences and Irish Culture* project, a video of which is on the CANI Youtube channel. Also on our Youtube, through the CANI Outreach programme, Connor Hickey (Maynooth) presented 'Resistance is Futile: Tacitus, Josephus and the Inevitable Defeat of Provincial Revolts'.

MMXXI AHEAD

As we are not yet sure about the restrictions on gatherings in the coming weeks and months, those events we have planned will continue to take place online for the rest of the 2020/21 programme.

Dr John Curran (QUB) will look at 'Freud, the Greeks and the Invention of Personality', while Katerina Kolotourou will investigate 'The Oracle of Dodone'.

All before the return of the expanded online Ancient Greek and Latin Summer School in July 2021, featuring talks open to the public by Georgina Homer (Coventry) on 'Glauce in modern film receptions' and Rebecca Samuels (OU) on Roman Graffiti.

The CANI Outreach programme will continue with Hanna Clements Patrick presenting on 'Altruism or Ambition: *Populares* in the Late Republic' and Goran Durdevic will look at 'Mirrors in Rome and China'.

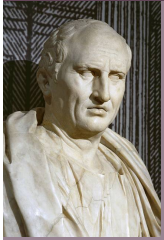
PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2020/21

'Freud, the Greeks and the Invention of Personality'
John Curran
21 April 2021, 6:45pm

'The Oracle at Dodone'
Katerina Kolotourou
19 May 2021, 6:45pm

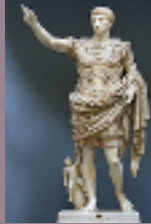
Belfast Summer School in Classics
Beginners, Lower Intermediate, Upper Intermediate and Advanced Latin and Greek
'Glauce in Modern Film Receptions'
Georgina Homer (Coventry University)
'Roman Graffiti' Rebecca Samuels (OU)
5-16 July 2021

TOP 5 TWEETS



25 January
#OnThisDay in 49BC, Cicero wrote to Atticus, who was in Rome, about Pompey and Caesar, with the latter now occupying Italy

16 January
#OnThisDay in 27BC as part of his First Settlement, Octavian is granted the names *Augustus* and *princeps* by Senate



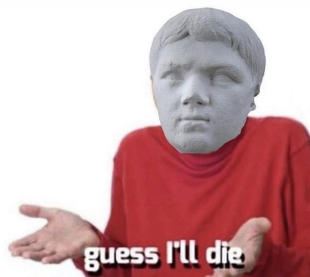
17 January
#OnThisDay in 395, Honorius became emperor in the west aged just 10. He too showed no ability for imperial rule

19 January
#OnThisDay in 379, Gratian elevated his *magister* Theodosius I to rule as emperor in the east.



31 January
Happy 2056th Birthday to Antonia Minor, 2nd daughter of Mark Antony and Octavia, born in Athens #OnThisDay in 36BC

When you're a healthy young man and Augustus names you as his successor

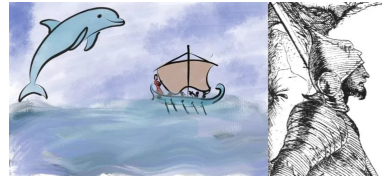


THE TROJAN WAR:



BLOGS, VIDEOS, PODCASTS ETC.

The CANI blog has continued its twin medium posting. Two written entries looked at something of a Greek version of 'Jonah and the Whale' with 'Arion and the Dolphin' and a tale of plotting and betrayal in the Persian Empire of the late sixth century BC with 'Oroetes the Satrap: Crucifixion and Comeuppance'.



CLIC

Along with Isabelle Torrance's 'Uses of the Past: *The Classical Influences and Irish Culture* project' and Connor Hickey's 'Resistance is Futile: Tacitus, Josephus and the Inevitable Defeat of Provincial Revolts', the CANI Youtube channel hosted Helen McVeigh's 'The Greek Novel', which she presented to our friends at Maynooth University.



Coming Soon



In something of a sequel to the Oroetes piece, we will look at the career of Democedes of Croton and how it may have brought Persian agents to Italy in the late sixth century BC. We will also look at the possibility of Germanic pirates raiding across the Mediterranean in the third century AD, and an unknown (and possibly non-existent) emperor/usurper in mid-fourth century AD Roman Britain.

Check out the CANI blog [HERE](#)



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