

# CLASSICS CONVIVIUM

Classics Spring '11 | Volume XXIII

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Anna Moyer (L), Sonia Schmerl (R)

Sometimes, the hassles of administration become so many and so overwhelming that I forget why I'm doing this job. We have had a rough few months. Our department manager, Mariette Davis, took a new job in Aerospace Engineering, and then the Executive Secretary, Carly Kish, moved to Taubman. That's part of life in a relatively small department. You hire great people, they find ways to make the department work better, and then they are so capable that bigger units come and take them away. You go through a very difficult time, and then you find another wonderful staff person who has different and excellent ideas. So we are very happy to welcome our new key ad, Sonia Schmerl (formerly in Comparative Literature), and our new executive secretary, Anna Moyer (who is coming from the Center for Chinese Studies).

But one good thing about writing a letter like this one is that it forces me to stop thinking about all the immediate burdens of the job and invites attention to the real, meaningful life of the department. For example, after many years of fitful discussion, we have finally created a program in ancient philosophy (<http://ancphil.lsa.umich.edu>). Philosophy has hired another specialist in ancient philosophy, Matthew Evans, so that there will be three colleagues with primary interests in the field (with Victor Caston in Philosophy and Sara Ahbel-Rappe in Classical Studies). We hope to attract excellent graduate students in the field and to excite our undergraduates about ancient philosophy, and as a sort of celebration we are planning to host a conference on Plato's Moral Psychology in October 2012. We are especially happy that Debra Nails

from Michigan State is helping plan this. Indeed, we expect to be wildly busy in 2012. Professor Lisa Nevett plans a conference on Theory in Greek Archaeology for the winter. (People tend to think that the big theoretical work in archaeology is on the Roman side; Lisa believes that this event will reveal how much is happening in Greek archaeology and prompt more). We will also host the tenth iteration of Orality and Literacy in the summer, on the theme "What Difference Does Orality Make?" I selected this question because it isn't asked enough in Homeric studies, where literary scholarship often ignores oral theory, but it's a central question in many areas.

Meanwhile, we have a busy undergraduate club. After a group went to see a performance of *Oedipus Rex* a few weeks, the prytanis wrote to me:

Seeing a stage performance of *Oedipus* live on stage was an experience beyond anything one can get from reading it in text. Although the play was in English, we all took away a newfound respect for Greek tragedy...The faculty and staff have made possible wonders that I did not imagine at the beginning of this year. We have sampled bits from most parts of the classical world and have interacted with some of the leaders and best of the classics field on a personal level.

That is why we are here. That's why it's worth having administration—because without it, we couldn't do nearly as much to help our enthusiastic students grow intellectually.

*Ruth Scodel*

# CLASSICS ANNUAL LECTURES

## PAST & FUTURE



November 7, 2010

9th Annual Arthur & Mary Platsis Symposium on the Greek Legacy:  
Why Teach Thucydides?

W. Robert Connor

Former Director, National Humanities Center; Former President, Teagle Foundation

Clifford Orwin

Professor, Political Science, Center for Ethics, University of Toronto

[Read symposium review on next page](#)

[Click to watch the Platsis Symposium video](#)



April 12, 2010

2010 Gerald F. Else Lecture in the Humanities

The Ordering of Times: Chronography, Chronology, History

François Hartog

Historian, Professor at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris

[Click to watch the Else lecture video](#)



March 30 – April 6, 2011

2011 Thomas Spencer Jerome Lecture Series

Sweeping the Unswept Floor: Food Culture and High Culture;  
Antiquity and Renaissance

Leonard Barkan

Class of 1943 University Professor and Chair, Comparative Literature, Princeton

**Opening Lecture:** "What Kind of a Subject is Food?"

**Lecture II:** "Honest Pleasure"

**Lecture III:** "Copia and Cornucopia"

**Final Lecture:** "Metaphor and Embodiment"

## SAVE THESE DATES!

2011

SUN., SEPTEMBER 25, 2011 | 2PM

Rackham Amphitheatre

**10th Annual Platsis Symposium on the Greek Legacy**

**Prof. David Konstan, Columbia College and**

**Prof. Richard Sorabji, Wolfson College, Oxford**

*Details to come...*

2012

THURS., MARCH 29, 2012 | 4PM

Kuenzel Room, Michigan Union

**Gerald F. Else Lecture:**

**The Early Form of Tragedy, Revisited**

**Prof. Oliver Taplin, Magdalen College, Oxford**

*Details to come...*

# 2010 ARTHUR AND MARY PLATISIS SYMPOSIUM ON THE GREEK LEGACY

BY SARA FORSDYKE

[Click to watch the Platsis Symposium video](#)

The topic of the 2010 Platsis Symposium was framed as a question: “Why Teach Thucydides?” Two distinguished scholars were invited to discuss this question. The first, Clifford Orwin, is Professor of Political Science at the University of Toronto and Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution of Stanford University. The second speaker, W.R. Connor, recently retired from the presidency of the Teagle Foundation, a national organization devoted to improving undergraduate education in the arts and sciences. Prior to holding this position, he was Director of the National Humanities Center, and Professor of Classics at Princeton University.

Orwin began his presentation by sagely observing that there are as many answers to the question ‘why teach Thucydides’ as there are readers of his work. In recognizing that Thucydides was ‘an historian plus,’ Orwin paid tribute to the many facets of this work – the dazzling literary effects achieved through choice of detail and language, the deep thinking about human nature and about politics within and between states, and - of course - the rigorous use of evidence to construct an account of the (recent) past. Orwin focused on the legacy of Thucydides in the realm of political thought, while Connor, the second speaker, discussed the literary effects of Thucydides’ narrative style.

Orwin suggested that the key to the enduring value of Thucydides is the way he brings central issues of

politics to life through vivid narration. Abstract concepts like freedom, democracy, empire, piety, and justice are explored and their effects made concrete through his account of the Peloponnesian War. Though this war is remote from the present age, Thucydides’ vivid narration impresses itself upon even the most present-minded of students. Orwin’s prime example was Thucydides’ juxtaposition of the soaring ideals of Pericles’ Funeral Oration with the very real sufferings of the plague that prevented even the most patriotic of Athenians from looking beyond their own bodily pain. Orwin suggested that it is in such passages, which highlight the gap between the highest human ideals and the brutal realities of war, that Thucydides captures the tensions of human society in a way unparalleled by later writers.

Connor focused on the phenomenon of “literary surprise” in Thucydides’ history. Through close readings of several key passages in the work, Connor demonstrated how Thucydides builds up expectations in his readers and then lets them experience the same surprise as the actors in history themselves as their hopes are dashed and their expectations overturned. Thucydides achieves this effect in his readers by withholding key pieces of information – for example the Theban alliance with Sparta – in order that the readers can experience the same shock as the Greeks at the time when the Thebans joined in the Spartan attack on Plataea, an Athenian ally. Similarly, by using the word *δικασταί*

or “judges” to describe the Spartans as they prepare to determine the fate of the Plataeans after their surrender, Thucydides leads the readers to expect a fair-minded judicial proceeding. Instead, when the Spartans ask simply whether the Plataeans have done anything good for the Spartans and their allies in the war, the reader experiences the same shock and outrage that the Plataeans themselves felt at the time of the event.

The emotional highlight of the afternoon for many attendees was when Don Cameron, the recently retired and much admired teacher of Great Books, took the stage. Since the event was held in his honor, it was fitting that Cameron got the last word. His remarks were brief, but powerful. He read a letter, written by John Adams in 1777, to his son, John Quincy, who was ten years old at the time. John Adams perhaps answered the question “why teach Thucydides” best of all:

“As the War in which your Country is engaged will probably hereafter attract your Attention, more than it does at this time, and as the future Circumstances of your Country may require other wars, as well as Councils and Negotiations, similar to those which are now in Agitation, I wish to turn your Thoughts early to such Studies as will afford you the most solid Instruction and Improvement for the Part which may be allotted you to act on the Stage of Life. There is no history, perhaps, better adapted to this usefull Purpose than that of Thucydides, an Author, of whom I hope you will make yourself perfect Master, in the original Language, which is Greek, the most perfect of all human Languages... You will find [the work] full of Instruction to the Orator, the Statesman, the General, as well as to the Historian and the Philosopher. I am with much Affection, your Father, John Adams.”

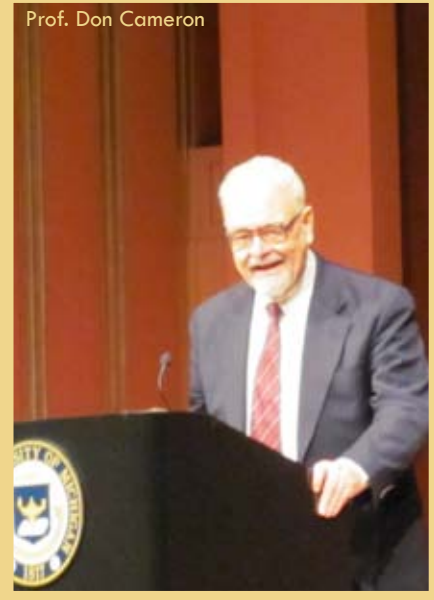
Prof. Ruth Scodel



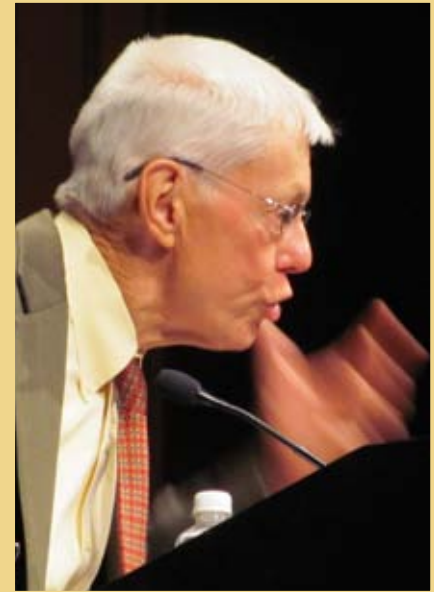
Paul Dooley (Platsis Prize Recipient)



Prof. Don Cameron



Prof. W.R. Connor



Prof. Clifford Orwin



# EDITH KOVACH FUND

BY RUTH SCODEL



“...she was not just teaching a language but a culture...”

Edith Kovach, a U of M PhD of 1944, taught languages and math in the Detroit Public Schools for nearly 21 years, chairing the foreign language department at Mumford High. In 1965 she joined the faculty at the University of Detroit where she taught another 21 years, and served as chair of the Classical Studies Department. Following her death in July 2009, her former students have endowed a fund in the Department for travel and research support for students preparing to be Latin teachers. We think this is an especially appropriate way to honor her memory, especially since she herself received a fellowship from the department to study at the American Academy in Rome.

The organizer of the fund, Jonathan Marwil of the U of M History Department, writes this about her:

Ultimately it is the force of a teacher's personality that engages students, and in matters of personality taste is determinative. That is why no teacher is held in high esteem by all of his or her students. But Dr. Edith Kovach, who taught Latin in two Detroit high schools in the 1950s and 1960s, came very close to being admired by all of her students. Even those taking Latin only because of their parents' insistence responded to her. They did so because she engaged them as if they were as committed to learning Latin as their most eager peers. This required more than a little patience; teachers are naturally partial to the eager and bright, and usually show it. It helped, of course, that Dr. Kovach always insisted she was not just teaching a language but a culture and ways of thinking at once familiar and alien. Our task was to gain a language, hers to pull us into a different world. In doing so she made the complexities of the language seem less forbidding.

Her goals and her methods allowed every student moments of success. One might stumble over the ablative but understand the plight of Dido or the dilemmas of “pius Aeneas.” That was enough to win praise. Do not imagine, however, that Dr. Kovach was sweetly dispositioned and always ready to dispense praise and encouragement. On the contrary, she was exacting in the classroom, and errors in translation or sloppy thinking were pointed out. There was a measure of toughness in her person, and at moments something almost Roman seemed to reveal itself in the planes of her face. Yet correction was accompanied by a whimsical smile that no student could ever forget. She also had a canny insight into her students, a sign of her formidable intelligence; yet she would have been uneasy with the notion that she needed to be or wished to be their friend. She was their teacher, and in that role she felt a responsibility and affection more demanding than friendship.

Sometimes Dr. Kovach would approach a student and ask if he or she had thought about anything interesting that day. The question may seem like a challenge. But the student realized it was a gesture of respect, the greatest reward a teacher can give.

## Edith Kovach Contributors

Barbara L. Quint, Esq., Dr. Jonathan L. Marwil, Mr. Eugene G. Kovach, Mr. George E. Kovach, Mr. Peter E. Quint, Mr. Peter J. Kovach, Mrs. Katherine E. Cochran, Mr. William Goodman, Ms. Christine Kovach, Richard E. Pollinger, Richard M. Goodman



At the moment I have several projects in the pipeline. Most exciting is a new series of monographs that Sara Forsdyke and I are editing for the University of Michigan Press. Entitled *Historical Studies in Classical Culture*, the series aims to bring together the best new research on social and cultural history of the Greek and Roman worlds.

"Burial of Unchaste Vestal Virgins" argues that, despite its similarity to the treatment of Gauls and Greeks, the live interment of priestesses of Vesta who violated their vows of chastity is not a sacrifice, but is instead ritual murder. This will appear later in 2011 in *Pollution and Propriety: Dirt, Disease and Hygiene in Rome from Antiquity to Modernity* edited by M. Bradley and K. Stow in the series Monographs of the British School at Rome.

## NEW CLASSICS PROFESSOR CELIA SCHULTZ

On to less gruesome matters. I am coming to the end of writing a commentary on the Latin text of the first book of Cicero's dialogue *De Divinatione*. The dialogue argues both sides of the question of whether it is possible to predict the future (or clarify the present) by reading signs in the natural world. The first book aims to defend the validity of divination against its critics and is an important text for Roman political, religious, and intellectual history, and for the history of Latin literature. It is a surprisingly rich repository of fragments of otherwise lost works of Republican literature. The dialogue has not had a new commentary since 1923, so it's due. I am hopeful that I'll be able to wrap it up this year. A few smaller articles have developed out of the commentary project. The latest ("Community and Divination in Cicero's *De Divinatione*") is part of a volume under consideration for the series *Studies in the History of Anthropology of Religion* (Peeters).

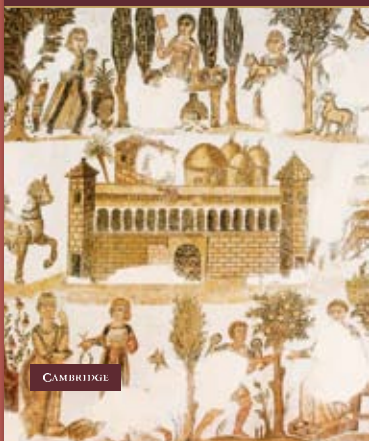
A few completely new projects are on the horizon. First up is an article for the *Blackwell's Companion to Roman Italy* edited by A. E. Cooley on "Italy and the Greek East, 2<sup>nd</sup> Century BC," so still focusing on the Republic, but looking at political and broader cultural developments. And after that...

In terms of my own research, I've been studying for some time now the practice of human sacrifice at Rome. One article to have spun out of this, "The Romans and Ritual Murder," appeared this year in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. It looks at the question of how common human sacrifice was among the Romans. The issue is complicated by a mismatch between the modern use of the term (where almost any ritual involving a human death is called human sacrifice) and a distinction the Romans made between sacrificial acts in which a human life is offered as a gift to the gods, and other rituals that required a human death. This latter type of ritual, called ritual murder, is not uncommon among the Romans. Ritual murder comes in several forms at Rome, the most frequent being the expiatory drowning of hermaphroditic children. In contrast, there is only a single ritual identified by the Romans as human sacrifice: the live burial of pairs of Gauls and Greeks, performed three times between the mid-third and late-second centuries BCE. A second piece to come out of this project, "On the

Celia Schultz is a PhD (Latin) graduate of Bryn Mawr College. Her fields of study are Roman history, Roman religion, Latin literature.

## Domestic Space in Classical Antiquity

LISA C. NEVETT



KEY THEMES IN ANCIENT HISTORY

Domestic Space in Classical Antiquity,  
Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.  
ISBN: 9780521789455.  
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# DOMESTIC SPACE IN CLASSICAL ANTIQUITY

BY LISA NEVETT

One of the great joys of working in the Classical Studies Department at Michigan is the truly interdisciplinary ethos of colleagues and students here. I hope that something of this spirit is evoked in my book, *Domestic Space in Classical Antiquity* (Cambridge University Press, 2010). The volume is written for the series Key Themes in Ancient History and my aim is to address a range of socio-historical questions. But it is the archaeological remains of houses that constitute my main source of evidence. At its most basic level the book argues for a closer and more balanced relationship between textual and archaeological evidence in the study of social history, with more weight and independence being given to archaeology than has been usual in the past. I make this argument through a series of five case-studies, each of which highlights a specific problem and focuses on a particular aspect of the material record in order to address it. My aim is not to provide comprehensive answers to the individual issues I explore, nor to provide a full catalogue of the relevant archaeological evidence in each case. Instead, what I hope to do is to highlight some ways in which a thorough and independent consideration of the physical remains left by households can contribute new perspectives to a range of major questions about Greek and Roman antiquity. Underlying all of these case-studies is the assumption that large scale political, social and cultural changes often have profound effects on individuals and households. The household therefore provides a valuable unit of analysis through which to explore such developments.

Two examples of the case-studies I cover will give a flavour of the book as a whole. Chapter 3 explores the development of *symposia* held in domestic contexts. In the past, scholars such as Oswyn Murray have constructed a rigid and static model

of the symposium as a transgressive social occasion taking place in isolation from the world outside the *andron* (the room where it took place). This idea is based, of course, on written accounts by authors including Plato and Xenophon. The model has sometimes been pushed back into the Archaic period, and even as far as the eighth century BCE, based on finds of drinking cups and on examples of poetry classed as 'symptotic' in character. I argue, however, that it is demonstrably anachronistic to talk of domestic *symposia* in the context of what we know about Early Iron Age and Archaic houses, which normally comprised between one and three rooms and lacked anything resembling the *andron* found in many Classical houses. Any ritualised drinking must therefore have taken place in the main – perhaps even the only – room of a house, in the open air, or in sacred contexts. Such settings would have meant that the formal and exclusive atmosphere argued to have been characteristic of the Classical *symposium* would have been difficult or impossible to achieve, making for a rather different kind of social occasion during these earlier centuries.

My second example is Chapter 4, in which I explore the use of housing to express cultural identity on the island of Delos during the second and first centuries BCE. In this period Delos was one of the key ports of the Mediterranean, hosting merchants from as far away as the Levant in the east and Campania in the west. A context like this shows how questions of identity and intercultural relationships, which are so central to our own contemporary society, are very relevant to study of the ancient world as well. In recent years the application of post-colonial perspectives to the process of cultural change as Rome's empire crystallised and expanded has led to the realisation that cultural interaction was

Continues on page 11



# FUND IN MEMORY OF TRAIANOS GAGOS

BY RUTH SCODEL



In our last newsletter, the chair's letter was about our grief for Traianos Gagos. We still miss him. His photo on the door of one of the graduate student offices reminds us every day of his joie de vivre. This issue of *Convivium* includes a very brief account of the conference held in his memory last fall, *Teaching Papyrology*.

Traianos' many friends and colleagues around the world have created an endowment in his memory. The Gagos Fund (to quote the official documentation) "will be used to prepare students, graduate and undergraduate, as well as recent recipients of the PhD (within three years of the degree) to use the resources of the University's collection of papyri and to help them conduct research in the collection. Research supported need not be exclusively papyrological, but may integrate papyrological work with research in related fields such as archaeology, history, or literature."

We want to draw everyone's attention to one item among the examples of uses for the fund: it can be used to bring students (graduate or undergraduate) from other institutions to visit Ann Arbor to work with the collection. If you are a student whose work would benefit from a close encounter with Michigan papyri, or you know such a student, contact us. There could be no better memorial to Traianos than continuing his work in making papyrology accessible to as many audiences as possible.

## TRAIANOS GAGOS FUND CONTRIBUTORS

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# “CENTURION” (2010): BEYOND THE WALL, BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

BY MIRA SEO

A man runs for his life across a frozen wasteland, hands bound, naked chest covered in fresh wounds, bare feet breaking through the deep snow. Close behind, a band of hairy Picts in noisy pursuit. In voice-over, Centurion Quintus Dias claims this story as his own. This desperate fugitive is the Roman?



Recently released on DVD, “Centurion” consistently defies expectations, both generic and ideological. In films about ancient Rome, of course, genre and ideology are largely intertwined: for American audiences, the Romans can be the exploitative imperial British of the Old World as in black-listed screenwriter Dalton Trumbo’s “Spartacus”, and more recently in Ridley Scott’s “Gladiator”; in Christian-themed movies such as “Ben Hur” and “Quo Vadis” (see suggestions for further reading below), Romans are the pagan persecutors, and in materialistic dramas of decadence such as the Burton-Taylor “Cleopatra”, well, we just want to be them. In all of these diverse portrayals, however, the Romans consistently represent power, most starkly visualized in the row of crucified slaves at the close of “Spartacus”. What might it mean, then, to show cinematic Romans in defeat?

The opening sequence indicates that this will be a different kind of Roman movie: instead of sword and sandal-appropriate Mediterranean settings, an icy blankness; instead of massed Roman power, outnumbered, desperate flight. “Centurion” dispenses with the details of historical accuracy to portray a scenario all too familiar to war-weary audiences: the Roman governor of Britain, Agricola,

seeks political advancement through military success, and sends the hardy 9<sup>th</sup> legion (the “lost” Legio IX Hispana beloved to military history buffs, currently revived also in “The Eagle”) to the unknown north to suppress the latest Pict rebellion. Poor Agricola has been stop-lossed well past his biographical dates (he died in 93 CE)—Tacitus’ father-in-law who campaigned with success and honor in 77-84 CE is still serving under Hadrian in 117 CE! Quintus Dias’ misadventures begin in the remote, northernmost fortification established after the historical Agricola’s advance. “Even the land wants us dead,” Dias gloomily intones, and the very name of this outpost, Inchtuthil, makes you believe it. Nothing good will happen at Inchtuthil.

Sure enough, a dramatic night raid wipes out the garrison, and Dias—a sober student of the enemy and versed in their language (the lost Pictish is replaced with plosive Scots Gaelic)—is hauled before the rebel leader, Gorlacon. This continues the many estrangements and reversals of this unconventional film: the savage mob is led by a Pictish Cincinnatus, a farmer turned military leader after his family, village, and people were exterminated by the Roman invasion. The film relates the abuses of the Romans to evoke sympathy for these primitive guerilla fighters: the mass

Continues on page 11

### “CENTURION...” CONT’D

rape and genocide that inspire their guerilla resistance clouds our easy identification with the “civilized” Romans. Dias escapes and is rescued by a fortuitous encounter with the 9<sup>th</sup> and their native scout, a mute female tracker called Etain. As we learn after she leads the legion into the ambush that will make them famous as the “missing legion”, Etain was a double agent all along, a fury sent to avenge her village’s destruction, her parents’ torture and murder, her own Philomela-like violation and mutilation. The casual murder of Gorlacon’s young son motivates the intense pursuit that occupies the rest of the film.

There is much subtle reference for the classicist to appreciate: the immediate reciprocal smoldering between the silent Etain and the commander of the 9<sup>th</sup>, Titus Flavius Virilus (a populist in the mold of Plutarch’s Antony perfectly played by HBO *The Wire*’s Dominic West), seems initially to promise a tedious, jerkin-ripping historical romance; more satisfyingly, their gazes lock in a duel to the death, only the Pictish Penthesilea wins this time as she impales her Roman Achilles before a jeering crowd. Etain herself and the other female warriors clearly evoke an earlier British warrior queen, Boudicca, who led the Iceni against the Romans in the 60s CE. Later, Dias adopts an anthropological tone straight from Caesar’s description of the Britons (*Gallic Wars* 5.14), as he elucidates the British sacrament of wood-painting.

Virilus dies fighting, but not before a rescue attempt launched by his devoted men fails. And here’s what’s unsettling about “Centurion”: in a Hollywood movie, an against the odds mission to save the only relatively well-known actor who had a supporting role in the blockbuster

“300” should definitely succeed. A rag tag, multi-ethnic band of survivors, led by the twice-defeated centurion Dias, comprising few combat soldiers among them: a scout, a peltast, a couple of grizzled veterans, and a cook? As Dias quips, “Hopeless is the stuff of legend. And it will get you laid!” In “Centurion”, produced by the French Pathé Pictures International and the UK Film Council with Warner Brothers, the Romans fail. And then they run. And then they die, one by one, hunted down by the ruthless Etain and her band of hairy companions (the hairdressing budget must have been immense). Their deaths lack nobility, and some come at the hands of their own. “Centurion” is the tale of a soldier’s disillusionment, of politicians’ venality and self-interested (neoconservative?) optimism. The recent cinematic prominence of the “missing” Legio IX Hispana and their “lost eagle” suggests a cultural moment for western audiences: are the imperial powers directionless, lacking the values and ideals to lead? Dias himself establishes the film’s post-Iraq, post-Afghanistan sensibility, “We are in a new kind of war, a war without honor, without end.” Centurion Quintus Dias’ personal odyssey leads to a homecoming of sorts, very like Homer’s *Odyssey* in which the hero finds his true place not among warriors, but at home with a Pictish Penelope.

#### Suggestions for further reading:

Hobbes, R. and Jackson, R. (2010) *Roman Britain: Life at the Edge of Empire*. London.  
 Scodel, R. and A. Bettenworth (2009) *Whither Quo Vadis: Sienkewicz’s Novel in Film and Television*.  
 Sutcliffe, Rosemary (1954) *The Eagle of the Ninth*.  
 Winkler, M., ed. (2004) *Gladiator: Film and History*.

### “DOMESTIC SPACE IN CLASSICAL ANTIQUITY” CONT’D

complex, multi-dimensional and multi-directional. My Chapter responds to recent calls for detailed case-studies to be undertaken of how these processes worked at a local level, and also to a particular interest in areas under Roman influence at a time before Augustus forged a distinctive cultural identity for Rome herself. By exploring the manipulation of views from the street and entrance area in a sample of Delian houses, I show that two distinctively different sets of cultural attitudes can be detected among households here: a majority of properties follow a traditional Greek pattern, hiding the interior from view. A minority of larger houses, however, offer deliberately arranged vistas through the interior space, in a manner more characteristic of the western Mediterranean. Such diversity provides a different model from some recent discussions which have sought to identify unitary, ‘hybridised’ new cultures in areas of cultural contact.

In closing I should stress that my ideas have not arisen in isolation. Housing in classical antiquity has become an increasingly popular area of research in recent years. The growing adoption of methodological and theoretical ideas into classical archaeology from a variety of other disciplines, including anthropological archaeology, ethnoarchaeology and architecture, has enabled us to begin to bridge the gap between the buildings and objects we find and the people who once inhabited and used them. In exploring a range of different aspects of the material record of ancient housing, and employing a variety of analytical techniques, I hope to have contributed to the further development of this relatively new and exciting sub-field. More broadly, I have tried to engage with ongoing conversations between scholars within and beyond Classical Studies about how to use our combined evidence and skills to achieve the clearest and most detailed understanding we can of the societies we study.

# ETA SIGMA PHI SOCIETY

BY PAOLO ASSO ETA-SIGMA-PHI PRESIDENT ERICH HEIDEN  
AND VICE-PRESIDENT STEPHANIE HUTCHINGS



"Ides of March,"  
student participants:  
Brianna Bloxsum  
Elizabeth Brady  
John Daukas  
Michael Hatty  
Erich Heiden  
Stephanie Hutchings  
Sarah Kunjummen  
Dylan Rustenholtz  
Cody Trombley  
Amelia Wallace  
Erika Valdivieso

Our Eta-Sigma-Phi chapter has been very active this year. This year the chapter includes the core group formed by students Erich Heiden, Dylan Rustenholtz, Sarah Kunjummen, David Wells, Stephanie Hutchings, Amelia Wallace, Elizabeth Brady, Cody Trombley, Brianna Bloxsum, Clara Sophia Reini, Suzanne Schueller, and Miriam Kamil; and a larger member network, including Andrew Hoppert, Zane Aukee, Katherine Goffeney, Michael Hatty, Hannah Gallagher, John Daukas, and Gabriel Moss. The agenda has been quite full, beginning with an initiation ceremony for new members held under the auspices of Jupiter of Decent Weather on the campus Diag. Among the activities held so far between fall 2010 and Winter 2011 up to the end of February, the members have played their own version of Jeopardy with such classical world categories as divinities, modern classics, grammar and syntax, medicine, Latin to English and Greek to English translations, heroes and villains, philosophy, food, drink and wine, geography, and wars. The members have held at least one tournament of Scrabble in Latin, more than one session of spoken Latin, and several readings of ancient Latin authors, including Ovid's calendar poem, the *Fasti*, and Seneca's gory play on Oedipus. Faculty are occasionally invited to share from their experiences as classicists in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Professor Ruth Caston entertained the group by sharing from her personal history as a Ph.D. student at Brown University and a U-M junior professor. She will soon direct a Catullus reading. Professor Donka Markus shared from

her expertise in Medieval Latin, while Professor David Potter discussed historical inaccuracies in film before the members watched a screening of *Gladiator*. Aside from modern reenactment in film and reading ancient plays, the students relived ancient drama by hearing a staging of Sophocles' tragedy *Oedipus King* at the Williamston Theatre, while some acted in the staging of Plautus' *Mostellaria*. Directed by Professor Gina Soter, the hilarious performance of Plautus' comedy on a ghost-infested house drew a large crowd. To complement their intellectual nourishment, the Eta-Sigma-Phi members organized a Roman-themed banquet, featuring egg asparagus, poached eggs, honey pancakes, sweet wine rolls, honey-glazed mushrooms, roasted chicken, and delicious honey-nut cakes, all of which was prepared by the students themselves, joined by our fearless Undergraduate Coordinator Robin Axelrod. To insure the future liveliness and leadership of our Eta-Sigma-Phi chapter, the members hold regular elections for the offices of secretary (*grammateus*), treasurer (*chrysophylax*), and marshal guardian (*pylorus*). The current *grammatea* is Sarah Kunjummen, the *chrysophylax* is Dylan Rustenholtz, and the *pylorus* is David Wells. The office of president (*prytanis*) is currently held by Erich Heiden, while the vice-president (*hyparchos*) is Stephanie Hutchings. The group meets weekly, usually on Thursdays, and many activities are already planned for the remaining half of Winter term 2011.



## SENIOR HONORS THESES

The following students completed a Senior Honors Thesis:

Back Row (left to right)

**Anthony J. Robbert**

*The Public Trust Doctrine: The Development of a Legal Concept from Ancient Rome to the Early Modern Era*

(Bruce Frier, faculty advisor)

**Penelope Filyo**

*A Nation Framed: Greece's Symbolic Capital and the Media*

(Artemis Leontis, faculty advisor)

**Helen Anne Zaharopoulos**

*Greek American Identity under Historical, Social, and Literary Transformation*

(Vassilios Lambropoulos, faculty advisor)

**Sarah Kunjummen**

*Conversations with Women: Scrutiny and Self-Scrutiny in Horace's Odes*

(Ruth Caston, faculty advisor)

**Erika Nicole Valdivieso**

*Hector and Iliad VI: Characterization through Conversations with Women*

(Ruth Scodel, faculty advisor)

Front Row (left to right)

**Bailey Kristen Benson**

*City Design in the Ancient Mediterranean World: The Relationship between Text and Site*

(Christopher Ratté, faculty advisor)

**Christina B. Tzortzinis**

*Expressions of Greek America: Diasporic Responses to Political Events in Greece and Cyprus*

(Artemis Leontis, faculty advisor)

**Amelia Brooke Wallace**

*Desperate Housewives: Women and Love Magic in Ancient Greece*

(Ruth Caston, faculty advisor)

**Cara Singer**

*Brotherly Love: An Explanation for the Successes and Failures of the Brother-Emperors of the Roman Empire*

(Basil Dufallo, faculty advisor)



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*On the cover: Unswept Floor in the Vatican museum*



## The Department of Classical Studies

Ruth Scodel  
Chair

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