

## Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of Postgraduates in Ancient Literature 2015

The proceedings of the *Annual Meeting of Postgraduates in Ancient Literature* 2015 (AMPAL 2015) is the result of two days of postgraduate papers addressing the theme of progress. The conference brought together over 60 students from around the world at all stages of postgraduate study to discuss their work in a cordial and informal atmosphere. It took place at the School of History, Classics, and Archaeology, at the University of Edinburgh, from 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015. The conference stretched over three days, consisting of a drinks reception, sponsored by Edinburgh University Press, 13 panels over two days, and a keynote paper by Professor Douglas Cairns.

The theme of progress produced papers from a wide range of topics, including archaic Greek poetry, late antiquity, Greek philosophy, contemporary Russian poetry, and Middle Irish translations of Latin epic. In addition, the multiplicity of approaches to the term of progress saw papers which look at the term through many lenses, such as human progression, narratological progression, progress v. continuity, and progress v. primitivism. The theme was deliberately open ended, and one of the most fruitful components of the conference lay in engaging with new and inspiring interpretations of it.

With generous aid from the *Institute of Classical Studies*, the *Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies*, the *Classical Association*, the *Classical Association of Scotland*, Edinburgh University Press, and the School of History Classics and Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh, the conference ran successfully and all speakers who applied for bursaries were reimbursed in full or in part. Furthermore, the immeasurable kindness and generosity of fellow postgraduates at the Edinburgh ensured that the conference was well organised and highly enjoyable.

Owing to the stimulating results these papers produced, the decision was made to offer speakers the chance to publish their papers in this open-access journal. Thanks to the kindness and patience of Douglas Underwood (University of St Andrews), the process of uploading the papers has been easy, and has allowed two generations of AMPAL papers to be uploaded to the same place. Each contributor has taken great pains to produce well-polished pieces to follow up their presentations at the conference, and I am grateful to each one for their diligence, as well as to every other speaker who attended the conference.

Sarah Cassidy  
University of Edinburgh  
s.cassidy@ed.ac.uk  
Organiser of AMPAL 2015, and Journal Editor