

INTRODUCTION TO THE *PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF POSTGRADUATES IN ANCIENT LITERATURE 2013*

The *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of Postgraduates in Ancient Literature 2013* is the reflection of an international two-day conference which brings together postgraduate students from various disciplines within Classics to present and discuss their research in a friendly and informal atmosphere. The focus of AMPAL 2013 was “Discovering the Unreal” in ancient literature. The meeting was held at the University of St Andrews, Scotland, from the 7th-9th June 2013 where over 50 delegates from France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America came together to exchange ideas, and experiences. The conference featured panels of 20-minute papers followed by 10 minutes of discussion, as well as two plenary lectures by Dr. Jason Koenig (St Andrews) and Dr. Kyle Erickson (Trinity Saint David). Papers were presented on a wide range of topics including ghosts and illusions, death and afterlife, false images, metamorphoses, and monsters in areas such as rhetoric, historiography, philosophy, poetry, mythology, astronomy and geography, comedy, and reception studies. A Near Eastern panel broadened the scope even further by contributing to the awareness of (un)reality in works outside the Graeco-Roman world in antiquity.

Subsequent to this conference, some speakers have chosen to have their paper appear in an Open Access Journal. This issue is therefore an excellent opportunity to see on what current postgraduates throughout the world are working, which approaches they are taking and what they have to contribute to the academic discourse in their field. We hope that the *Proceedings* are beneficial not only to all those who participated in AMPAL 2013, but also to those who did not, yet who are working on and are interested in these topics. The format of the journal favours further discussions. We thus encourage readers to contact the authors and to talk about any comments they might have.

At this stage we would also like to thank all the participants of AMPAL 2013 for their contributions of papers, ideas, and viewpoints. These stimulating presentations, discussions, conversations, and meetings have made AMPAL 2013 a great success. A special thank you is also going to our keynote speakers Dr. Jason Koenig and Dr. Kyle Erickson; to the members of the AMPAL 2013 committee, Michael Beardmore, Miles Lester-Pearson, Aiste Celkyte, Hannah Mace, Elsbeth Hymes, and Matthijs Wibier who have worked incessantly to help organise this conference; to Dr. Jon Hesk and Margaret Goudie from the School of Classics; to Jacqueline Proven from the University of St Andrews library; and to our sponsors the University of St Andrews Gradskills, the Classical Association of Scotland, the Institute of Classical Studies, the British Institute for the Study of Iraq, and the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies.

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