SEPTEMBER 2019

THE FALL NEWSLETTER

DALHOUSIE DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS

Top Row (L to R): Tom Curran, Astrid Brunner, Cristalle Watson, Warren Huard, Isaac Grainger. Chris Gibson, Drew Badgley, Bernard Wills, Alex Edwards, Eli Diamond
Middle Row (L to R): Kristin Newell, Giulia Bonasio, Naomi Blackwood, Maria Euchner. Meghan Jamieson, Hannah Griffin, Andrew Griffin, William Cochrane, Neil Roberts
Front Row (L to R): Patrick Anderson, Emily Parker, Michelle Wilband, Allison McLay, Alex Elvidge, Joseph Gerbasi, Ariel Weiner, Kaitlyn Boulding, Walter Hannam
Not Pictured: Matthew Robinson, Kevin Gibson, Christopher Rauscher, Austin Hiltz, Brian Kocak, Jennie Lapp, Daniel Brandes, Peter Bryson, Jacob Glover, Alexander Treiger

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Hissing With Fury and Shaking our Fists!
Reading Plato's *Cratylus* With Dal Classics Alumni

On Natal Day Weekend of 2019, classics nerds from coast to coast dusted off their Middle Liddells and descended upon the King's Boardroom in Halifax, Nova Scotia to inaugurate the (now-to-be-annual) Dal Classics Alumni Text Seminar, orchestrated by our incomparable colleague, friend and mentor, Dr. Diamond. News of this auspicious occasion reached me in the dregs of a protracted Chicago winter, and the thought of a Plato-based reunion with dear friends and summer days in Halifax was enough to carry me through the dispiriting final months of graduate coursework. The topic of this year's seminar was to be Plato's *Cratylus* — a historically under-appreciated dialogue about the conventional versus the natural meaning of names in human and divine languages.

And, in the course of two days and three sessions (over the assiduous rustling of Loeb editions) a number of stimulating discussions ensued, running the gamut from Heraclitean epistemology to Jewish language mysticism, and punctuated by occasional excurses on the metaphorics of ancient Greek weaving. The more than thirty seminar participants (each seated behind a name card artfully-inscribed by Dal Classics' own calligrapher-in-residence, Dr. Grundke) included many notable personages from the department's recent and more distant past. Additionally, in the spring, Professor Diamond ran a Cratylus reading group for current students, a small contingent of whom participated in the Alumni Text Seminar as well; and the sobering insights of these future alumni ensured that — in addition to the antique, the antiquated and the antiquarian — the beating heart of the department's present was also on full and impressive display.

Although, in the end, we remained uninitiated with regard to certain linguistic mysteries, we did arrive at some shared understandings without lapsing (like the historical Cratylus) into the abyss of mute gestic expression. And, as befits a true Platonic Symposium, the seminar hit its crescendo in the final session with an Alcebiades-esq entrance by alumna, Astrid Brunner, inviting the crowd of dialecticians to a bacchic evening of oysters and bubbly at Eliot & Vine in the Halifax north end. In sum, the first- annual Dal Classics Alumni Text Seminar was a resounding success. It was a wonderful opportunity to rekindle old friendships and to forge new connections; to carry on longstanding debates and to formulate new questions between disciplines and across generations.

Occasions for this type of sustained conversation are few and far between, but they are integral to maintaining the living continuity of a departmental ethos wherein the spirits of James Doull and Robert Crouse are still at home. And, if the Cratylus leaves us with few other certainties, it clearly affirms that a certain constancy, amid the Heraclitean flux, is essential for the possibility of true knowledge. For otherwise (in the inimitable words of Socrates): “things are exactly like people with runny noses...and drip over everything” (Crat., 440c-d). Thus, we are all profoundly indebted to Eli Diamond and Donna Edwards, whose labors have brought this new tradition into being — and I for one am counting the days until the next (tragic?) installment of the Dal Classics Alumni Text Seminar.

Ariel Weiner

Dionysius: Issue 37

The next *Dionysius* is well on the way to appearing online and in your email and post boxes. A large and varied issue, it is edited by Dr Wayne Hankey (Emeritus Professor), and produced by Jacob Glover (MA 2015) with copy-editing by Amy Bird.

André Lanoue, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, "L'interprétation du carme de Simonide dans le Protagoras : une herméneutique de la censure philosophique."

Jordan Daniel Wood, Boston College, "Stoic Motifs in the Cosmology of Maximus Confessor."

Daniel Heide (MA 2016), McGill University, "Divine Eros: The Providential and Perfective Ecstasy of God in Dionysius' Divine Names IV."

Michèle Anik Stanbury, Notre Dame, Indiana, "The Metaphysical Origin of the Principles of Logical Thought in Plotinus's Emanative System."

Matthew Vanderkwaak (MA 2018), "'A Shrine for the Everlasting Gods': Matter and the Gods in Proclus." Matthew is part of the European Research Project Neoplatonism and Abrahamic Traditions. A Comparative Analysis of the Middle East, Byzantium and the Latin West (9th-16th Centuries) at the University College Dublin School of Philosophy where he will do a PhD in Philosophy. Other members of the research team in Dublin are Evan King (MA 2012) and Elizabeth Curry-King (MA 2013). Daniel Watson (MA 2013), having just completed a PhD at Maynooth, is also at UCD with a postdoctoral fellowship.

Edward P. Butler, “Damascian Negativity.”

Dwight Crowell (MA 2019), “Thomas Aquinas’ Attribution of Participation to Aristotle.” Dwight is starting a PhD in Philosophy at the University of Toronto fully funded by a “super SSHRC.”

Wayne J. Hankey, “Divine Henads and Persons. Multiplicity’s birth in the Principle in Proclus and Aquinas.”

James Bryson (MA 2007), “The Cambridge Platonists in Henry Fielding’s *Christian Platonic History of Tom Jones*." James has just finished two years as a Research Associate in the Cambridge Platonists at the Origin of the Enlightenment Project at Cambridge University, coming there from a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship at McGill University. He and his family now move to Munich where Dr Bryson’s position is in the Martin-Grabmann-Forshungsinstitut für mittlalteriche Theologie und Philosophie part of the Katholisch-Theologishe Fakultät in the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität. There he will work on “Christian Neoplatonic Sources of Franz von Baader’s Philosophy of Love.”

Cezar Enia, Université de Montréal, “The Problem of the Individuality of the Archaic Man according to Carl Gustav Jung: A Complementary File to See Mircea Eliade’s Thesis on Primitive Religions in a New Light.”

M. Laura Gemelli Marciano, University of Zurich, “Revisiting Jung and Corbin: A Review of Peter Kingsley’s Catafalque.”

Vae Victis!
CAC Essay Competition Winners

The Dalhousie Classics Department is pleased to announce that Caleb Sher and Angus Wilson have both placed second nationally in the Classical Association of Canada's annual essay competition for Classics undergraduate students across Canada. Caleb Sher placed second in the Senior Category and Angus Wilson placed second in the Junior Category. We anticipate that they will continue to bring honour and glory to this department!

Caleb is completing his final year of a BA in Contemporary Studies (King's) and Classics (Dalhousie). He hopes to go on to grad school next year, but please don't ask him about it, as he hasn't figured out exactly what for yet. He is thankful for Greek and Latin and his professors in both languages for introducing him to the joys of language learning and translation. He also likes British quiz shows.

Angus Wilson is in his second year of an Honours degree in Classics at Dal. Although he's only at the beginning of his degree, he has discovered that there's never enough space in his schedule for that one extra course. Recently, he's been enjoying studying Greek and Latin, and is doing some research into coinage and currency in the Roman Empire. He is looking forward to continuing to explore the opportunities this department has to offer - hopefully he'll be able to fit them all in!

Pseudo-Dionysius: Volume XX - XXI

Pseudo-Dionysius, a publication of Classical Studies by graduate and undergraduate students, is pleased to announce that this year's journal is a joint publication combining nine submissions from 2018 and twelve submissions from 2019. The selection and editing team was comprised of ten students, including former and current graduate students of Dalhousie's Classics department. The range of work reflects the diverse interests and abilities of undergraduate and graduate students at Dalhousie and University of King's College. Hard copies will be available for purchase at $5 in the near future when the journal launches at an upcoming departmental lecture.

VOLUME XX

Dwight Crowell, "The Happiness of Aeneas"

Alex Elvidge, "Pentheus and the Destruction of the polis in Euripides' *Bacchae*"

Andrew Griffin, "Skepticism as a Way of Life"

Aidan Ingalls , "Al-Fārābī and Aristotle on Language as Origin of Politics"

Marielle V. Nicol, "'Everything in Every Concept': The Reconciling Power of the Not-other in Nicholas of Cusa"

Ksenia Romashova, "The Reflection of John of Damascus' Theological Writings in the Second Canon of Πεντηκοστάριον"

Jennie Selman, "Love and Memory in Sappho"

Cristalle Watson, "Medea's Mirror: ὄμμα and the 'Reflective Gaze' in Euripides' *Medea*"

Madelaine Wheeler, "Red-Hot Iron: Stoic Theories of Mixture in John of Damascus and the Theory of Perichoresis in Theosis"

VOLUME XXI

Cameron Yetman, "Form and Matter, In Short"

Caleb Sher, "Interpersonal *Ataraxia*: On the Atomic Qualities of Epicurean Friendship"

Cristalle Watson, "De Suffragio Muliebri (Liber Primus)"

Ethan Speigel, "The Non-Being of Something: The Question of Quasi-Being in Stoic Ontology"

James G. Lees, "Politics, Piety, and Resistance: The Anglo-Saxon Reception of Christianity in Kent and Essex"

Jonah Mullen, "True Pleasure and Tranquility for Mortals and Gods: An Exploration of Tranquility & Renewal in Lucretius's *De Rerum Natura*"

Irene Serra, "Ἄπειρον in Aristotle's *Physics* and *Metaphysics*"

Lucy Fitch, "Graphic Censorship: An Analysis of the Representation of Prostitutes in Erotic Roman Art"

Nathan Ferguson, "Material Metaphors of Conversion: Light and Sight in St. Augustine"

Sarah Sharp, "Translation of Catullus' *Carmen13*"

Michela d'Entremont, "Dido's Guilt in Ovid's *Heroides VII*"

Ksenia Romashova, "A Non-mathematical Analysis of Astronomy in Aristotle's *Metaphysics*"

Res Publica: Classics Undergrad Society

Are your friends sick of hearing you talk about Aristotle? Do you think Thucydides is light bedtime reading? Do you have a strong opinion on the Elgin/Acropolis Marbles? Have you spent a lot of time trying to understand the subjunctive (in any language)? If so, join *Res Publica*, the undergrad society for all Classics students and those curious about the Classics Department! *Res Publica* has some exciting events lined up for the school year, we hope you'll join us!

FB Group: Dalhousie Res Publica Classics Undergraduate Society
Email: dalrespublica@gmail.com

President: Ian Mergelas

Ian is in the final year of his BA in Classics and Philosophy. He enjoys playing Dungeons and Dragons and talking about education in antiquity. The only things Ian likes better than DnD and Classics are jazz and tomato soup.

Vice President: Zainab Syed

Zainab is in her 3rd year of an Honours BA in Classics. She can usually be found muttering incoherently in the Classics Library. She has at least three languages running rampant in her brain at all times and enjoys talking to unsuspecting people about Athenian grain silos.

Departmental Seminars 2019 - 2020

The Dalhousie Classics Department is pleased to announce the schedule for this year's visiting speakers!

Tuesday, October 8th, 2019

Dr. Paul Shore: *From Classical Arabic to Baroque Latin: Translations of the Qur'an by Two Seventeenth-Century Scholars as Windows into the Counter-Reformation Mind*

Tuesday, November 5th, 2019

Dr. Elizabeth Asmis: *Epicurean Justice with a focus on Lucretius*

Tuesday, January 21st, 2020

Dr. Warren Huard: *Herakles the God*

Tuesday, February 11th, 2020

Dr. Ronald Haflidson: *Augustine's Confessions, Book Ten*

Tuesday, February 25th, 2020

Dr. Melissa Funke: *Post-Classical Receptions of Immigrant Sex Workers in Classical Athens*

Tuesday, March 10th, 2020

Dr. Peter Meineck: *Theatrocracy*

Classics Neoplatonists strong at Ottawa Conference

Msgr Hans Feichtinger (MA 2003), Rector of St George's Parish in Ottawa, teaching at St Paul's University there, and Dr Seamus O'Neill (PhD 2009), Professor of Philosophy at Memorial University, organized a panel for the International Society for Neoplatonic Studies meeting at the Dominican University College, Ottawa, 12-16 June, 2019. Entitled "Alterity in Neoplatonism: Christian and non-Christian," they invited Dr Wayne Hankey to give a leading paper. He, and Andrew Griffin, entering his second year of MA studies in the Department, and working on medieval Platonists, travelled to the Capital District to take part. There they found a welcome from Dalhousie Classics graduates and friends of the Department from around the world, many of whom have published in *Dionysius*. Alumni, friends, and those whose work we have furthered, made up a very substantial part of the Conference.

In the Alterity panel, Dr Hankey spoke on "Divine Henads and Trinitarian Persons. Multiplicity's birth in the Principle in Proclus and Aquinas"; Msgr Feichtinger on "Processions in God: Albert and Aquinas" and Dr O'Neill on "Henads and Angels: Difference from the First Principle in Proclus, Dionysius, and Aquinas." Dr David Butorac (MA 2001) set up a panel on "The Realm of the One" where he delivered a paper entitled "Procline Intentions, Damascian Achievement: rethinking the ground," and Dr Rebecca Coughlin (MA 2006) spoke on "Metaphysics or Mysticism? The One and the One of the Soul in Marsilio Ficino's Later Thought." Eric Perl, who has visited the Department and been published in *Dionysius*, organized a panel on "Platonism as Systematic Metaphysics," where Dr Gregory MacIsaac (1st Class Hons 1992) spoke on "The Ontology of Plato's Theaetetus."

The conference had other features reminding us of the important role it plays in Neoplatonic studies. Professor Jean-Marc Narbonne, a longtime friend of the Department, set up a panel honoring a scholar who passed away young: “Some originalities in Zeke Mazur’s Commentary to Plotinus’ Treatise 33 (II 9): a tribute to his work and insights.” *Dionysius* published Dr Mazur’s early and ground-breaking work. Dr Seamus O’Neill has now a thriving graduate studies programme on Neoplatonism in the Philosophy Department at Memorial University. Three of his students gave papers. One of the faculty of the Dominican University, Dr James Lowry, was the first PhD of the Classics Department, finishing *The Logical Principles of Proclus' Stoicheiôsis Theologikê as Systematic Ground of the Cosmos* in 1976. As a monograph his dissertation has become a standard work in Proclean studies. Dr Francis K. Peddle, Vice President of the Dominican University welcomed the participants in the Conference on behalf of the University. He has a MA in German from Dalhousie on Hegel (1980). Then German and Classics worked closely together in philosophy and he spoke warmly of the Department. All in all the conference was a very encouraging manifestation of the quality and continuing influence of the Department’s work.

International Thomist Conference in Rome, September 2020

Since April 1925, approximately every ten years, the largest Congress devoted to a single philosopher meets. Accordingly, the XIth International Thomistic Congress, organized by the Pontifical Academy of St Thomas and the Thomistic Institute of the Angelicum, will be held in Rome, 21-26 September 2020. Entitled "*Vetera novis augere: Thomistic tradition in contemporary context*" the XIth Congress will take stock of Thomistic studies since the beginning of 21st century and open new perspectives. Along with the three organizers of the Congress, who include the Professor of Medieval Philosophy at the Sorbonne and the Dean of Theology at the Angelicum, Dr Wayne Hankey, Professor Emeritus of Classics, will address the opening session. His Lecture, "Aquinas' Platonism", will report on a major change in thinking about Aquinas which his research and publications have importantly furthered. A number of present and past students of the Department are planning to accompany Professor Hankey for this culminating exposition of his philosophical work. As details emerge, we will keep you posted.