



From The Director

Issue 3 – Winter, 2014

Greetings from the Waterloo Institute for Hellenistic Studies! We wish you all a very healthy and prosperous 2014. As you will see from the report on a 'challenge donation', we spent considerable energies in the past year securing financial stability; this effort will continue to receive our attention in the months ahead, and we ask you to consider contributing to it. This issue of the Newsletter includes another Profile of a Research Associate, and a brief report on a recently held book launch. A student shares his experience in taking an undergraduate course in Hellenistic history at the University of Waterloo, and we end with a section of brief news items on activities by our Research Associates.

XAIPETE

Riemer Faber



Riemer Faber



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WIHS Book Launch

In August 2008, the Department of Classical Studies at the University of Waterloo hosted an international workshop on the theme of "Belonging and Isolation" in the Hellenistic period. This highly successful, multi-disciplinary workshop explored the theme from a number of perspectives and provided a launching pad for the Waterloo Institute for Hellenistic Studies a little while later. It was hoped that a volume publishing the papers from the workshop would appear by 2012 – we were close. In 2013, WIHS' first publication *Belonging and Isolation in the Hellenistic World* (University of Toronto Press) appeared, wonderfully edited by Sheila Ager and Riemer Faber and positively reviewed as "A solid collection on an important topic, *Belonging and Isolation in the Hellenistic World* is extremely comprehensive, well informed, useful, and up-to-date." (Nicholas Rauh, School of Literature and Cultures, Purdue University).

In order to celebrate this scholarly achievement, WIHS held a book launch party on October 18th, 2013. The evening began with a celebratory lecture by Research Associate Prof. Daniel Ogden (University of Exeter) entitled "The Legend of Seleucus". Wonderfully attended by over 70 individuals, the lecture explored the web of myth and legend surrounding Seleucus, one of Alexander the Great's followers and a king whose exploits in what is now known as the Middle East fired the imagination of his contemporaries and of posterity alike. We then retired to the same venue where we had the Institute's launch party – the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery. The Dean of Arts (Dr. Douglas Peers), the Consul-General of Greece in Canada (The Hon. Dimitris Azemopoulos) and good friend and supporter of the Institute Mr. Nick Aroutzidis were among the Research Associates, students, and friends who all joined us to celebrate the book launch. It was truly a celebration in many respects, not the least of which as the department of Classical Studies used this opportunity to honour its students and hand out its numerous prizes

for top students in all the fields and disciplines of Classics. The food and drink were excellent, the company even better and it proved a superlative evening to celebrate this important moment in the Institute's history. We are dedicated to promote Hellenistic Studies in many different ways and different formats, but certainly the start of producing scholarly publications helps to celebrate our core mission in a manner that nothing else could. We at the Institute would like to thank all who participated and attended and we look forward to the production (and celebration!) of many more such publications in the years to come.



Sheila Ager, Riemer Faber, Andrew Faulkner and the Hon. Dimitris Azemopoulos at the Book Launch



Profile of a Research Associate *Daniel Ogden*

We continue with our regular column where we profile one of the Research Associates of the Institute. This issue we are proud to focus on a scholar known to you all, professor Daniel Ogden.

Prof. Ogden has been associated with WIHS from the very outset, taking part in our inaugural conference on “Belonging and Isolation” and just recently he delivered the keynote speech at the launch party for the publication of the workshop’s proceedings (see the coverage in this issue). Having been educated at Corpus Christi College and New College, Oxford, he is now professor of Ancient History at the University of Exeter, where he lives with his wife, Dr. Eriko Ogden, who is herself an Honorary University Fellow in the University of Exeter and a specialist in Plato. His publications are well known and run into the dozens (!) of authored and edited books and numerous articles. He is most well known for his work on the history of the Classical world but maintains a healthy interest in the mythology and folklore of cultures all over the globe. Among his major works, those of particular interest for us Hellenisticists include: *Greek Bastardy in the Classical and Hellenistic Periods* (Oxford, 1996); *The Crooked Kings of Ancient Greece* (London, 1997); *Polygamy, Prostitutes and*

Death. The Hellenistic Dynasties (London, 1999); *Alexander the Great: Myth, Genesis and Sexuality* (Exeter, 2011); and as editor of *The Hellenistic World. New Perspectives* (London, 2002). With this work he is in great demand as a speaker and travels a great deal - he has lectured on all continents except Antarctica (and so he lives in hope, as he says, “of one day sharing thoughts on the causes of the Peloponnesian war with an audience of penguins”).



Prof. Ogden before a captivated audience at the book launch

Daniel Ogden’s current project is a monograph on ‘The Legend of Seleucus’; he was honoured and delighted (his words – honest!) to be able to debut his work on the project in the celebratory paper he delivered at the magnificent launch for *Belonging and Isolation*. The book will review and contextualise the rich and copious legendary material attaching to Seleucus, from both historical and folkloric perspectives (much in the style of his treatment of legendary aspects of the Alexander tradition in his Alexander book). There is much to talk about: Seleucus’ siring by Apollo and his symbolic anchor birth-mark; his marvellous

escape from Antigonus in Babylon; his dealings with the magi at the foundation of Seleucia-on-the-Tigris; his encounters with thunderbolts, Zeus’ eagles and even dragons in the course of his city foundations along the Orontes, the colourful love-life of his young wife Stratonice, who contrived first to fall in love with a eunuch, and then to become the object of her stepson Antiochus’ passion; and finally Seleucus’ tragic assassination at the hands of the wicked Ptolemy Ceraunus as he finally crosses back into Europe to claim the ultimate prize of the throne of Macedon. Prof. Ogden has always brought a high level of intellectual acumen and erudition to his involvement with WIHS, as well as all his international collaborations. He is particularly proud to be an Honorary Research Fellow of UNISA (the University of South Africa) and a member of the Núcleo de Estudos da Antiguidade based in the State University of Rio de Janeiro. “I greatly admire the work of Waterloo’s Hellenistic Institute, and not least the commitment, enterprise and generosity of the team that has worked to establish it”, says Prof. Ogden of his involvement with WIHS. Particular praise was also given to the allied Seleucid Study group. All we can do is praise Prof. Ogden as well and thank him for his continued, energetic involvement in WIHS.

- Craig Hardiman



Recent Events

Seleucid Study Day IV: Seleucid Royal Women



(Montréal, 20-22 February, 2013)

Thanks to the generous grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, as well as to the support of the University of Waterloo and McGill University, the fourth meeting of the Seleucid Study Group was co-hosted by the Department of History and Classical Studies of McGill University and the Waterloo Institute for Hellenistic Studies. The conference was the first meeting to be dedicated solely to the topic of Seleucid Royal Women. The expanding size and inherently international character of the Seleucid Study Group was well reflected by the 24 participants, who came from Canada, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Italy, Romania, Israel, and the United States. Beginning with the welcome address by Dean Christopher Manfredi (McGill) and the

introductions by Hans Beck (McGill) and Altay Coşkun (WIHS), the three conference days saw the presentation of 18 papers that aptly captured and reflected the geographic and chronological breadth of the Seleucid realm. All contributors were privileged by the presence and thoughtful insights of Elizabeth Carney (Clemson), and the engaged discussions that followed each paper kept within the spirit of collegial exchange and collaboration known from the previous gatherings at Exeter, Waterloo and Bordeaux. The proceedings will be edited by Altay Coşkun and Alex McAuley and are expected to be published in 2015.

- Altay Coşkun

Hellenistic History - An Undergraduate's View

One of the oddest things, which had never really occurred to me until I was in the middle of a course on the subject, was that I really had no previous knowledge of the Hellenistic Age. As an undergraduate, and even before that from smaller high school studies, the vast majority of my knowledge of Greek antiquity ended with Alexander and began again with the appearance of Cleopatra VII Philopator into what I had considered at the time purely Roman history. Thus when I enrolled myself in an advanced Greek history course entitled "The Hellenistic Kingdoms", which explored this gap in my learning where the Hellenistic Age

should be, I did not have any idea what I was going to be studying. I was, however, eager to know what I was missing – and I wasn't disappointed.

What I found studying Hellenistic history was a complex and rich story of the rise and fall of an empire, several powerful dynasties, and Greek dominance in the Mediterranean. Beginning with the fracturing of Alexander's conquests between his generals, I learned of a period of great conflict between the newly created Macedonian monarchies. A time comprised of both subtle and forceful political manoeuvring, and pushes for control of more and more territory. Lineage and family tree composition became increasingly confusing, but it was enjoyable none the less to learn the epithets and deeds of each ruler as they came. These are just a few aspects of my impressions on the Hellenistic Age from this course.

Of particular interest to me personally are the military actions from antiquity; certainly there was no lack of armed engagements during this time. Great battles for control, like Ipsos in 301 BCE drew my attention. I ended up focusing (and writing my term paper) on the first three Syrian Wars between the Seleukids and the Ptolemies, conflict over territory between their respective kingdoms known as Koile-Syria. Like I previously said, I came into this course with a blank slate; everything was new to me. For



This reason it was both a challenge and very enjoyable. Due to everything being new, I could not rely on materials I had learned in other courses to help me, so paying close attention to all the details was a must.

Learning about the Hellenistic period was a great step in fulfilling my understanding of the Greek world. It added those extra puzzle pieces that helped to connect the Greek world to the Roman world in my understanding of history. It also gave me a priceless understanding of the events of antiquity, knowing where the actions of the fourth century would result and what factors went into determining the layout of the later Greco-Roman world in the Eastern Mediterranean. This resource has given me an advantage in courses I've taken since, such as my seminar on Anatolia. Knowing the people, the places, and the events means that when a question relating to the Hellenistic Age comes up in a course (or outside) I can answer, or at least am able to rely on my personal knowledge and experience.

I could not recommend this course enough to anyone, but I now say the same about studying the Hellenistic period in general. It was at one point that gap in everything I had learned, that I feel a lot of people know less than other areas of antiquity, but the course on Hellenistic history vastly improved my knowledge of what was happening after 323 BCE. It helped my view of history from the period, going back to my earlier example of Cleopat-

ra VII and her appearance in history: not purely Roman, but a continuation of Greek Kingdoms established hundreds of years before by warring generals. Names like Antiochos, Ptolemy, Antigonos, and many others have become familiar to me. Learning about the Hellenistic Age now only gave me knowledge about the period itself, but also improved my understanding of antiquity as a whole and my perception of the bigger picture of history.

- Mitchell Elvidge

News and Notes:

- Former Institute Visiting Doctoral Fellow (2011-2012) and current Research Associate, Monica D'Agostini received her PhD in September, 2013 - congratulations Dr. D'Agostini!
- Congratulations to R.A. Charles Campbell, who recently completed his doctoral studies. The title of his thesis was "Poets and Poetics in Greek Literary Epigram" - well done Dr. Campbell.
- Containing several essays by our Research Associates, Brill has recently published *Shifting Social Imaginaries in the Hellenistic Period*. This collection of essays explores the "shifting" relationships between East and West during, and prior to, the Hellenistic period.
- Congratulations to Prof. Sheila Ager, who has been named Area Editor, *Hellenistic World*, *Encyclopedia of Ancient History* (Wiley-Blackwell). Prof. Ager will co-ordinate efforts to in-

crease the entries in all matters Hellenistic and we look forward to the expanded entries to fully flesh out our beloved Hellenistic period.

- WIHS is pleased to host Prof. Olga Palagia (Athens University), who will present a lecture entitled "Alexander the Great and his Successors" at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto on March 27, 2014. All are welcome.
- If you have any news or notes related to WIHS' mission, its Research Associates or anything and everything Hellenistic, please contact us and we'll let everyone know.



Students and friends of the Institute enjoying the festivities

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Thank you.

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