

REPORT ON FIEC / CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

London, 4-8 July 2019

The conference of the Fédération Internationale d'Études Classiques (FIEC) for 2019 was held in association with the annual conference of the Classical Association of Great Britain (CA). It was hosted by a number of British academic institutions in London, principally Birkbeck College, King's College, Royal Holloway, University College, the University of Roehampton, the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, and the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies. Most of the papers were presented in the Institute of Education of University College London (UCL).

The FIEC meeting was held on Thursday 4 July at Senate House, UCL. The Classical Association of South Africa was represented at this meeting by the author of this report. The main function of this meeting was for CASA to register its presence at the conference and to demonstrate its willingness to assist in the furthering of Classics across the world. Unfortunately, I was the only delegate from Africa at the meeting, but I did meet a Classicist from Zimbabwe and one from Nigeria at the CA conference later. The business of the meeting is recorded in the minutes which can be found on the CASA website. Two issues are worthy of note: financial restrictions make it difficult for international bodies such as FIEC to manage their assets optimally, and meetings of FIEC now occur every three years (the next meeting in 2022 will be held in Mexico City, Mexico).

The FIEC meeting was followed by four days of Classics papers at the CA conference. These are usually huge and overwhelming events and this one was not an exception. Publishers represented included Bloomsbury, Brepols, Brill, Cambridge University Press, De Gruyter, Edinburgh University Press, Greek Comix, Harvard University Press, The Hellenic Book Service, LatinNow, Morh Siebeck, Oxford University Press, Princeton University Press, Taylor Francis, The University of California Press, and Yale University Press. Other publishers were represented through their advertising (Johns Hopkins University Press, Toronto University Press, The University of Pennsylvania Press, Olms, Franz Steiner, and Routledge). The brochure for *Acta Classica* was added to the list, but the editorial board should consider paying for this to be disseminated with the other advertising material in future. Individual universities and Classics departments in the UK also advertised the degrees they offer. The financial support of these publishers and universities clearly contributed a great deal to the success of the conference. The range and number of books and journals on display were impressive. Judging by them, Classics is doing very well in Europe and the UK.

The panels on the history of the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies and its Roman counterpart, which included discussion of the future of the Classical journals, especially JHS and JRS were particularly interesting.

The papers were presented in seven sessions consisting of a total of sixty-five panels. Each panel featured at least four papers, so there were approximately 260 papers in all, more if the plenary sessions are included in the count. This meant that it was impossible to hear more than about 28 papers (about 10% of the total). The

papers are listed on the conference website (www.fiec2019.org). The range and diversity of presentations was vast. Topics included Classics Reception Studies (many panels and the De Gruyter lunch lecture by Stephen Harrison), global Classics (China, Mexico, the Caribbaean, Japan, Russia), Classics and technology, Classics and communism, Classics and prison literature, gender and sexuality studies, teaching Classics, creative writing and the Classics, the Classics and orientalism, as well as the mainstream fields of philology, writing, archaeology, philosophy, literature, rhetoric, history and historiography.

In addition to the panels there were six plenary lectures on Martial, cult epithets in ancient religion, metalepsis and narratology, the role of travel in the formation of Classical Greece, the Catalogue of Women, the invention of patriotism in Horace, and the principle of equality in ancient Greece. There were also guided tours of the British Museum, the London Museum, walking tours of London, public events, a river boat tour on the Thames, film screenings, poster displays, a Classical quiz, an opera performance, and a conference dinner.

The next CA conference will be held at Swansea University, 17-20 April 2020. The deadline for titles and abstracts, which should be sent to CA2020@swansea.ac.uk, is 31 August 2019. Suggested themes are: Ancient narrative literature, ancient political thought, archaeology of Graeco-Roman Egypt, civil war literature, Classics and the future, commentaries, fragments, global Classics, metals and metallurgy, patronage, pedagogy and outreach, Plato, political failure, regionalism, Roman philosophy and satire, rules and rulership, the ancient reception of Augustan poetry, the literature of poverty and disgust, the Welsh Classical tradition. CASA should consider putting together a panel on Africa as part of the global Classics theme.

John Hilton
CASA delegate to FIEC,
17 July 2019