



Rapport du secrétaire intérimaire *Report of the Acting Secretary*

May 2020 / mai 2020

Au nom de James Chlup et en mon nom j'aimerais remercier pour leurs services (et leurs rapports) les organisateurs des compétitions et des tournées de conférence, ainsi que la présidente du Réseau des femmes et l'administratrice des comptes Twitter et Facebook:

Reyes Bertolín Cebrián Riemer Faber
Noreen Humble Craig Maynes Aven McMaster
Kathryn Simonsen Catherine Tracy

Leurs rapports sont présentés ci-dessous. J'aimerais souligner que le rapport des organisatrices des concours de dissertations sont à peu près identiques à ceux présentés au conseil de la Société à l'automne puisque la prochaine compétition n'aura lieu qu'à l'été. Comme toujours, les noms des gagnantes et gagnants seront communiqués au conseil à l'automne, puis dans le *Bulletin*. Le rapport de l'organisateur des concours de version est tout récent ; les résultats seront annoncés dans le prochain *Bulletin*. Certains rapports ont été légèrement édités pour le style et la longueur.

Atlantic Lecture Tour

Kathryn Simonsen (MUN)

CAC Atlantic / ACA Tour 2019

This year's speaker was Ben Akrigg, University of Toronto, who toured Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland in late September and early October. He gave seven public lectures as well as talking to a high school class in Fredericton and giving a guest lecture to an ancient history class in St. John's. Ben's tour was innovative as he did not rent a car, but took the bus from Halifax to Fredericton and from Fredericton to Sackville, and was driven from Sackville to Wolfville.

The 2020 speaker will be Professor Michael MacKinnon from the University of Winnipeg. We also have speakers lined up for 2021 (Frances Pownall) and 2022 (Katherine Blouin). Circumstances may force us to move Professor MacKinnon's tour to the late winter in 2021, but we hope to be able to run it at some point.

Central Lecture Tour

Riemer Faber (Waterloo)

The Central Lecture Tour was held from September 23 until October 24, 2019, with 14 departments in Ontario and Quebec participating. The speaker was Professor Brendan Burke (University of Victoria), an archaeologist who is co-director of excavations at the site of ancient Eleon in central Greece, and is past Director of the Canadian Institute in Greece. Dr. Burke offered a selection of three papers: 1. Uncovering Ancient Eleon in Central Greece: New Discoveries from the Bronze Age through the Classical Periods; 2. Excavations at Ancient Eleon and the Evolving Landscape of Death in Early Mycenaean Greece; 3. The Golden King: Midas of Phrygia and the Myths of Wealth in the Greek Imagination.

At the recommendation of the CAC executive, and in consultation with the planned speaker, Professor Lea Stirling (University of Manitoba), it was decided to postpone by one year the Central Tour planned for Fall 2020. This is disappointing news for everyone involved, and for the 14 departments that again are prepared to sponsor it, but as most universities have imposed work-related travel bans until further notice, and as it is not at all certain that regular on-campus lectures and other activities will resume in Fall term, this is a prudent decision. We're confident that the Central Tour is viable and that we may look ahead to Fall 2021 with good expectations.

Western Lecture Tour

Noreen Humble (Calgary)

The Western Lecture Tour was held from October 30 to November 8, 2019 with eight universities across three provinces again participating. Our speaker was the CAC president, Allison Glazebrook. The talks she offered ranged across different aspects of female labour and status in ancient Athens and were enthusiastically received in all locations.

Kyle Gervais from the University of Western Ontario is the next speaker lined up for the Western Tour, the timing of which is still under negotiation. Fall 2020 is out but we hope to get it scheduled for sometime in the calendar year 2021.

Sight Translation Competition

Craig Maynes (Calgary)

I took over the coordination of the sight competition this year. I am very grateful to Rob Nau, who passed along a meticulously organized portfolio and has been very helpful answering any questions I came up with over the year.

I am grateful also to this year's university adjudicators (Fanny Dolansky, Kyle Gervais, Kathryn Mattison, and Vernon Provencal), and high school adjudicator (Diana Pai) and her team (Patrick Letendre, Margaret Rogow, and Agathe Roman), as well as to Guy Chamberland for his help with translation into French.

Despite a few “learning moments” and the attendant minor delays, the initial organizing and conducting of the competitions went well. I have made a few notes to myself about things to do differently next year, particularly with regard to increasing participation at institutions that have students who could participate, but choose not to. One avenue I plan to pursue is to encourage the establishment of small, local “side prizes” to reward the best translations at each institution. These would be administered locally and awarded by each institution before submitting the entries to the CAC for adjudication in the national competition.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 crisis hit our country just as the adjudicators were doing their assessments. This has delayed the process. The university adjudicators have now all submitted their reports, but the high school adjudication must be postponed indefinitely. I am currently in the process of figuring out how to get the post-secondary winners their certificates and cheques.

Participation

This year, 27 post-secondary institutions participated in the competitions, although 7 of them had no submissions to enter (see above, about my desire to encourage more participation). In total, there were 40 submissions for Junior Greek, 24 for Senior Greek, 59 for Junior Latin, and 36 for Senior Latin.

As you will note from the results below, Université de Montréal dominated this year’s competitions, placing at least once and often twice in each of the four categories. Perhaps we should all interrogate them about what they are doing!

Results

Junior Greek

- 1st place Christophe Turcotte-Richard (Université de Montréal)
- 2nd place William Chénier (Université de Montréal)
- 3rd place Madeline C. McIntire (Mount Allison University)
- Honourable Mention: Dana Jensen (University of Victoria)

Senior Greek

- 1st place Jakob Barnes (University of Toronto)
- 2nd place Romane Auger (Université de Montréal)
- 3rd place Graham Braun (University of Victoria)
- Honourable Mention: Dustin Backer (Concordia University)

Junior Latin

- 1st place William Bouchard (Université de Montréal)
- 2nd place Élias Massey-Neves (Université de Montréal)
- 3rd place John Gillmore (Université d’Ottawa)
- Honourable Mentions: Malcolm Sepulchre (Dalhousie University), Angus Wilson (Dalhousie University)

Senior Latin

- 1st place Julie Parent (Université de Montréal)
2nd place Yilin Zhu (University of Toronto)
3rd place Romane Auger (Université de Montréal)

High School Latin

TBA

Adjudicator's Reports

Junior Greek [Achilles Tatius, *Leucippe and Clitophon* II.8.2-3]

Report from Vernon Provencal, Acadia University

There were no near-perfect translations; those chosen were quite good. At first (as usual) I thought the passage was too hard, but it turns out to have worked out ok – everyone got some of it. The real qualitative difference lay in those who got some sense of what the passage was about generally, which seemed to have guided them through it. It may be that the most peculiar downside was a result of that general sense: of the four chosen, all confused *hoios* (of such a sort) with *oinon* (wine), and so confused the key moments of first sharing a drink of water (same water as the oxen drink) and then drinking the wine provided by the god. Generally, they stumbled on *pothen* (whence), *oupw* (not yet), which indicates not paying enough attention to detail (it would be worth knowing if students felt they had enough time). Finally, as expected, brave attempts to make good sense of the effect of drinking the wine – I would have been surprised if anyone had heroically traversed those waters – and it was there, if anywhere, that I thought #1 fared a little better, though not much, than the rival #2.

Senior Greek [Hesiod, *Works and Days*]

Report from Kathryn Mattison, McMaster University

I received 24 total test papers (only two in French). Of those, 8 were significantly incomplete with large gaps in the text owing, presumably, to issues of vocabulary (there was one which, in spite of “non possum” written across the top was not bad at all!).

Of the remaining complete papers, the four [winners] were all truly excellent. They were distinct from one another in very small ways, and my final ranking came down to the particular elegance of the winner.

The difficulties seemed to come from vocabulary and morphology, which I suspect stems from a lack of familiarity with epic in general. There were some that started strong but appeared flummoxed by fairly regular epic forms (ἔησθα, for example). The top papers clearly had familiarity with the genre in a way that the others did not.

Junior Latin [Cicero, *In Verrem* 2.1.46]

Report from Fanny Dolansky, Brock University

Overall the quality of the submissions was good with some programs showing a number of very strong submissions; these programs should be especially proud of their students' achievements

and the strength of instruction taking place. Though the number of French submissions was much smaller than English, the French submissions were all solid and among the top 20% of the total submissions.

A few issues with the grammar came up even among the strongest submissions:

- Only a couple of students from the total number of submissions successfully translated the result clause that begins *est enim tanta...* I think word order threw many off and then things were complicated by recognizing what the subject was – most took it to be *fani* rather than the two 3rd declension nouns, *religio* and *antiquitas*, on which *fani* is actually dependent; additionally, *antiquitas* was thought to mean “antiquities” by all but a few and sometimes thought to be accusative plural.
- In the same sentence, the indirect statement introduced by *arbitrentur* was difficult.
- The negative purpose clause *ne forte... pertineret* was missed by most but was more consistently a problem for English translators.

Fairly consistently students had difficulty with *forte* (thought to be *fortiter*) and deponent verbs (basic meaning more so than recognizing that these translate actively). Other problems that recurred a number of times were: neuter plurals *signa* (and associated adjectives) and *ea* translated as singulars; *venire* taken to mean “to go”; *audebant* mistaken for *audiebant*; the meaning of *ferre* as to bear something emotionally rather than literally; confusion over the adverb *ibi* (thought to be a form of *eo*, *ire* by several); confusion over the alternate 3rd pl. masculine personal pronoun *ii* as the equivalent of *ei* (several thought this was “two men”). Generally students seemed to have a good core vocabulary at their disposal though not surprisingly either did not translate or mistranslated a number of the adverbs (e.g., *clam*, *postridie*, *vix*).

Senior Latin [*Epigrammata Bobiensia*]

Report from Kyle Gervais, Western University

There ended up being a very clear top three. Of these three, [the clear first place winner] has a lovely (French) translation with only a few minor vocabulary issues (and mostly in the places where everybody had some trouble).

I had a tough time deciding between second and third place. Both had a few minor vocabulary issues, but also a couple larger difficulties with the meaning (and by “larger” I mean not quite getting the syntax of one line of poetry here and there). In the end, [the second place] had a couple more vocabulary problems than the [third], but had fewer syntax problems (and I figured that vocabulary issues are more forgivable than syntax).

Of the remaining translations, I classified 13 in the second rung, meaning that they mostly got the sense of the passage but had significant issues in several section.

The remaining 20 I classified in the third rung, meaning that they weren’t able to keep up with the sense of the passage or had really severe problems with sections that I wouldn’t have expected difficulty with.

In terms of overall reflection, I was mildly surprised that so many translations kept up with the passage all the way through. The problems mostly came where I expected. Lots of people had trouble with l. 2, which is hard to render in satisfying English (something like “beautifully represented in wondrous ways” might do it). People had vocabulary issues in consistently the

same places: 3 *finxit*, 4 *laesa*, 12 *ulta*, 16 *furta*. I was a little surprised with how many people had trouble with the syntax of l. 15 (“you, readers, trust more in historians when it comes to me than in...” – even two of the three winners didn’t quite get it. But I guess *historicis* is easy enough to misread as an ablative of comparison rather than a dative with *credite*, and *de me* meaning “on the topic of me” is tricky... l. 9 also tripped a few people up, often when they couldn’t figure out what *castus* meant. Kids these days!

Undergraduate Essay Competition

Reyes Bertolín Cebrián (Calgary) and Catherine Tracy (Bishop’s)

Junior essay competition (R.B.C.)

I received 14 essays: 3 from Ontario, 4 from British Columbia, 5 from Alberta, 1 from Nova Scotia, 1 from Manitoba. From the names I think there were 5 men and 9 women.

Topics: Greek literature: 4 (2 of them creative writing), Roman History: 1, Greek art: 2, Roman art: 1, Philosophy and political thought: 2, Women, gender, sexuality: 2, Comics: 1, Roman Spectacle: 1.

1st prize: Yoel Jakobi (Guelph), “Ekphrasis and the Significance of the World within the Shield of Achilles in Homer’s *Iliad*”; written for CLAS*3080*01: Epic Heroes & Poems (in Greek).

2nd prize: Angus Wilson (Dalhousie), “Bodyguards or Assassins? Addressing Misconceptions of the Praetorian Guard’s Influence upon Early Imperial Politics”; written for CLAS 2233/HIST 2023 – The Roman Legions and the Barbarians.

3rd prize: Juliette Halliday (Simon Fraser), “Minoan Palatial Interaction: Power or Peers?”; written for ARCH 312.

Senior essay competition (C.T.)

I’ve evaluated the CAC senior essay competition submissions. Here are the stats, and the essays that I’ve ranked as top three:

I received 10 essays in total. 6 of the names probably belonged to women, and 4 of them probably to men. All were written in English.

The geographical breakdown was as follows: 8 from ON, 1 from AB, 1 from NS.

Topics of essays: Latin literature (2); Greek & Latin literature (1); Roman history (2); Greek & Roman history (1); Roman archaeology (1); Greek archaeology & literature (1); Greek literature (1); Philosophy (1).

These are the best essays in my opinion:

1st prize: “Penelope’s Book 19 Recognition”, by Rachel E. F. Hill (Guelph); CLAS*3030 – Epic Heroes and Poems.

2nd prize: “Equality and the Second City in Plato’s *Laws*”, by Caleb Sher (Dalhousie); CLAS 3404 – The Dialogues of Plato.

3rd prize: “Lucretius the Mythbuster: A Poetic Analysis of *De Rerum Natura* 3.980-1010”, by Elakkiya Sivakumaran (Toronto); LAT 332 – Advanced Readings in Latin: Poetry (Lucretius and Cicero).

Social Media

Aven McMaster (Thorneloe at Laurentian)

The Facebook page now has 458 “followers”, and posts are seen by 150–200 people, on average. I post each *CCB*, and have been re-sharing information from other departments as well as news about Association members. If departmental Facebook pages wish their posts to be shared on the CAC page, just tag us in the post and I can do so.

The Twitter account now has 582 followers. I post the *CCB* and information about the AGM; beyond that, I have made it my general policy to RT (re-tweet) tweets from Canadian classicists (meaning people working in Canada and Canadians working abroad) when they are about Classics (broadly conceived) whenever I see them. I follow a list on my own account of “Canadian Classics” and try to monitor that, but of course I don’t catch everything. When people tag the CAC account in their tweets I’m able to ensure that I RT it, usually quite quickly, so that’s the easiest way to ensure I’ll broadcast information. In the last several months I have fielded enquiries from a number of people about CAC events (sometimes by asking the relevant Council member for further information), or passed on messages that were sent to the Twitter account to Allison Glazebrook. It is clear that for some people the Twitter account is the first place they turn for information, or when they want to include the Association in ongoing conversations about the field.

For the Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/CACSCEC/>) and Twitter (https://twitter.com/cac_scec) accounts, you can always email me at amcmaster@laurentian.ca with any information you’d like me to post, either departmental or personal (for instance, I would be very happy to post any new publications, student accomplishments, awards, CFPs, job postings, or departmental events). Although there may be few in-person events in the coming months, online interactions will be more important than ever, so please get in touch if I can help with anything.

President of the Women’s Network

Kathryn Simonsen (MUN)

The Women’s Network had planned to sponsor a panel (Academic Foremothers – Women in Classics) and a discussion round table (on inclusivity) at the CAC this year. Our plan is to keep these for next year.

We intend to run our AGM on Friday, May 29th, at 2:30 pm Newfoundland Daylight Time (so, 10 am Pacific, 11 am Mountain, noon Central, 1 pm Eastern and 2 pm Atlantic). Information about the AGM along with minutes from last year will be sent to WN members soon.

We are working on a description of the WN Bursary, which was initiated at last year’s AGM.

We hope to have a draft text available for the AGM.

This is my last year as president of the WN. I want to thank warmly the other members of the WN executive: Lisa Hughes (VP), Emily Varto (Secretary) and Vicky Austen-Perry (Communications). I also want to thank Chelsea Gardner, who has agreed to stand for in-coming secretary. I am very pleased to report that Vicky is willing to stay on in her role.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Simonsen

Ainsi se termine le rapport du secrétaire intérimaire.

Respectueusement soumis,



Guy Chamberland
Acting Secretary / Secrétaire intérimaire
Sudbury, ON, May 7th 2020 / 7 mai 2020

