

MOUSEION REPORT FOR CAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

10 May 2018



1. RECENT AND UP-COMING ISSUES.

15.1 Special Issue: Lyric Poetry, guest edited by William Allen and Laura Swift. These articles arise from the Mouseion Colloquium held at Memorial University. Published April 2018.

15.2 Regular archaeology issue: three articles plus five reviews. This issue will be followed by a Supplementary Issue containing a festschrift in honour of John Oleson. The publication date for 15.2 should be July. The supplement will be mailed later.

15.3 Special Issue: Socrates as Gadfly with guest editors John Harris and Katrin Koslicki. There will be seven articles plus two+ reviews. The issue is due to the press in June for publication in November. This issue will also be accompanied by a supplementary issue, a festschrift in honour of Mark Golden. The publication date for 15.3 should be November.

16.1 Regular Issue. With a supplement for a festschrift in honour of Anthony Podlecki. This issue is due to the press in early November.

2. PUBLICATION SCHEDULE.

We continue to be more or less on track with our publication schedule. There are often slight delays either at our end or at the press, but nothing is delayed more than a few weeks (15.1 appeared in April rather than March 2018).

3. RETURN OF "ECHOS DU MONDE CLASSIQUE / CLASSICAL VIEWS

14.3 marked the arrival of the renewed *Varia* section under the title "Echos du Monde Classique / Classical Views". The goal of this section is not only to provide a space for material traditionally included in the old *Varia* (translations of poetry, *gratiarum actio*) but also for scholarship of a more speculative or creative nature. The editors are intending to promote the translation of modern English and French poetry into Latin and Greek through an annual contest with a set text.

4. SUBMISSION RATES

Since May 2017 we have received 39 submissions, eight of which are part of a Festschrift in honour of Nigel Crowther.

In archaeology (sent directly to Myles McCallum) three submissions have come in for 16.2 (one accepted with minimal changes; two still out for

review), and two more are anticipated (of which one is the CIG report). Of the submissions considered for 15.2, three were accepted; two rejected and one sent back for revisions for resubmission (but not yet resubmitted).

Of the submissions sent to the *Mouseion* email address, there have been 20 submissions that have not belonged to Festschrifts or theme issue collections.

Female author – 9

Male author – 12 (one submission has two authors)

Canadian – 7

US – 6

Other – 6

English – 18

French – 2

Accepted – 4

Rejected – 3

Revise and Resubmit – 4

Out for Review – 9

Areas covered: Greek and Latin literature; art; pedagogy; Greek history; reception; three for the new *Echos du Monde Classique / Classical Views* section.

5. *MOUSEION* COLLOQUIUM

Myles McCallum has begun the process of organizing the next *Mouseion* colloquium, following on the success of the colloquium on Lyric Poetry organized by the previous editor, Brad Levett. The next colloquium will be held in Halifax and will deal with new trends in Roman archaeology. The anticipated date of the colloquium is summer 2019.

6. SSHRC FUNDING FOR LEARNED JOURNALS

This is perhaps the most pressing issue for the editors of *Mouseion*. At present, SSHRC is fine-tuning a new policy on Open Access. In December of 2017, Antonia Pop, the editor with whom we deal at the University of Toronto Press, sent us the following information:

“In the most recent Advisory Committee meeting, SSHRC presented their proposed changes to the funding opportunity, namely:

1. In order to be eligible for funding, all journal content must be fully Open Access with either no embargo period or have a moving paywall of no greater than 12 months. Deposits in repositories (Green OA) is not deemed sufficient.

2. A financial incentive of \$5K will be made available to journals that make use of the Érudit platform, and there is continued discussion at SSHRC of a mandate that funded journals must deposit content on the Érudit platform.

3. At the same time that these changes are being proposed, the maximum annual grant will remain unchanged at \$30,000 per year for a maximum of three years and the funding formula will remain unchanged: peer-reviewed articles being funded at \$850 per article with no additional funding available for other manuscript types, such as book reviews, review essays, etc.

This is very disappointing news, certainly for *Mouseion* and for the broader scholarly community in Canada. It will force journals to make some difficult decisions related to their operations. Both proposed changes present a threat to *Mouseion's* closed-access revenue. Even with an embargo of 12 months, subscriptions will decline significantly. Royalty income, which currently forms such a large portion of *Mouseion's* annual revenue will also decline, likely by approx. 80%. For us, this will become a question of which revenue stream to lose, and given that the grant constitutes much less of the total revenue than subscriptions and royalties combined, at this point it looks like the grant will be the smaller loss. Also, from a long-term perspective, the grant, as any other government funding, is always at risk. SSHRC could introduce another eligibility criteria in the future, further reduce the annual maximum, further reduce the funding formula, or eliminate this program completely. If none of these happen, there is also the possibility that *Mouseion* will be unsuccessful in a future competition. Going from a paywall to OA is very easy, but going in the opposite direction in the future will be near impossible. For future proofing, the smart decision now might be to look at ways to offset the loss of the grant.”

As SSHRC has yet to make their announcement about open access and journal funding, we are still a little in the dark and it is perhaps premature to say exactly how *Mouseion* might react. In general, as noted above, the revenue from the grant is less than royalties, which are on the rise. If we were to eliminate the print edition of the journal, which is roughly equal to the current grant, we would be in the exact same, quite good financial situation for the immediate future. We could work on a print-on-demand solution (with a user fee) for those who wish to continue receiving a hard copy of the journal. Opting out of the grant and SSHRC's new open access rules (assuming that they are similar to those reported to us by Antonia in December) might also increase the number of submissions, as we would not charge authors a fee for open access (possibly making us a more attractive venue). Things are less clear in the long-term, of course.

We are also aiming to develop a plan of action with respect to SSHRC's open access guidelines in-step with that of *Phoenix*.

7. EDITORIAL CHANGES

Myles McCallum has become a co-editor along with Peter O'Brien and Kathy Simonsen. We welcome Robert DiBartolomeo as the *Mouseion* intern

for 2017-2018. We thank the School of Graduate Studies at Memorial University for partnering with *Mouseion* on the funding for that position. Hans vanderLeest has retired from *Mouseion* as well as from Mount Allison. We congratulate him on his retirement and thank him for his years of service to *Mouseion* as Associate editor for Archaeology. Guy Chamberland has stepped away from his role as French editor but has agreed to stay on as Associate Editor for Roman History. The editors want to thank Guy for all his work with the French submissions and translations. We will find a new Associate Editor for French as well as for Greek Literature in the year to come.

8. FINANCES

Mouseion's finances are in good shape. We have a surplus this year of over \$23,500, some of which will be spent on publishing the supplementary issues. Please see the attached financial report prepared by Craig Maynes.

Respectfully submitted by
Kathryn Simonsen
Peter O'Brien
Myles McCallum