

THE JOURNAL OF  
HELLENIC STUDIES



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*The Journal of Hellenic Studies* (ISSN 0075-4269) is published once a year in November. A subscription to *The Journal of Hellenic Studies* includes the annual volume of *Archaeological Reports*, which provides fully illustrated accounts of archaeological work in Greece and other parts of the world that are sites of Greek culture. The subscription price (excluding VAT) of volume 141 (2021), which includes print and electronic access, is £93 net (US\$162 in the USA, Canada and Mexico) for institutions. EU subscribers (outside the UK) who are not registered for VAT should add VAT at their country's rate. VAT-registered customers should provide their VAT registration number. Japanese prices for institutions (including ASP delivery) are available from Kinokuniya Company Ltd, P.O. Box 55, Chitose, Tokyo 156, Japan. Prices include delivery by air where appropriate.

Orders, which must be accompanied by payment, may be sent to a bookseller, subscription agent or direct to the publisher: Cambridge University Press, Journals Fulfillment Department, UPH, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8BS, UK; or in the USA, Canada and Mexico: Cambridge University Press, Journals Fulfillment Department, 1 Liberty Plaza, Floor 20, New York, NY 10006, USA.

Printed in the United Kingdom at Bell & Bain Ltd, Glasgow  
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This journal can be found on Cambridge Core: [www.cambridge.org/jhs](http://www.cambridge.org/jhs).

THE JOURNAL OF  
HELLENIC STUDIES

VOLUME 141 | **2021**

PUBLISHED BY THE COUNCIL OF  
THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF HELLENIC STUDIES 2021

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### WITH ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS TO

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VOLUME 141 | 2021

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## PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF HELLENIC STUDIES 2020–2021

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at 6pm on Saturday 12 June 2021 at the Orchard Car Park, Didcot OX11 7ND, after a Zoom meeting at which members were able to consider the matters set out in the Notice of the meeting. Due to the social-distancing constraints in place for the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, only two members were present. Mr Lennon, the Honorary Treasurer, took the chair. The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were accepted as a correct record. The President, Professor Paul Cartledge, had provided the annual report on the Society's activities which is reproduced here.

We began the year on Monday 21 September 2020 with a talk – delivered, inevitably, via Zoom – by Professor Paul Cartledge: *Greece's Finest Hour? The Democratic Implications of the Battle of Salamis*. 2020 was strictly the 2,499th anniversary of the Battle, but it was also the 80th of the Battle of Britain, hence the Churchillian 'finest hour'. The question mark was designed to raise the question of what counted then as 'democracy', as opposed to what counts now, and for whom.

On Tuesday 20 October 2020, again by Zoom, Professor Leslie Brubaker (Birmingham University) delivered her much anticipated, postponed 2020 Summer Lecture: *Dancing in the Streets: Urban Life in Medieval Constantinople*. This enchanting foray into a topic, period and location less familiar than perhaps they should be to our members was a triumphant success. A salutary reminder that 'ancient Greece' had a new life in the New Rome long after the conquest of Greece by Rome in the second century BCE.

On Saturday 21 November 2020, also by Zoom, the *Thermopylae 2500* conference was held under the Society's auspices: <https://thermopylae2500.wordpress.com>. The indefatigable organizer, Dr James Lloyd (Reading University), brilliantly exploited the possibilities of an online event, both in advance (by attracting a very wide range of multinational submissions, pre-evaluated by a specially selected committee) and on the day itself by acting as the event's most genial host. Remote Zooming has its limitations, but the ability to cater for an almost literally worldwide participatory audience is one of its major compensations.

On Monday 22 February 2021, in association with King's College London and the British School at Athens, again by Zoom, a panel discussion was hosted entitled *1821: The Migration of Revolutionary Ideas*. Speakers were: Professor Georgios Varouxakis (Queen Mary University of London), Dr Athena Leoussi (University of Reading) and Dr Sanja Perovic (King's College London). This event was part of a series of events titled *21 in 21: Celebrating the 2021 Bicentenary of the Outbreak of the Greek War of Independence in 21 Greek-British Encounters*, being held under the overall organization of the Centre for Hellenic Studies, King's College London (Director, Professor Gonda Van Steen, Korais Professor).

On Tuesday 9 March 2021, again by Zoom, the first of this year's two joint Hellenic and Roman Societies' events was held: *Domesticity and Domestic Life*. Speakers were: Dr Zosia Archibald (University of Liverpool), *The Domestic and the Political: Domesticity, Private and Public Spaces at Olynthos in the Light of Recent Field Research*; Professor Penelope Allison (University of Leicester), *Artificial Intelligence and the Roman Table*; and Professor Julia Hillner (University of Sheffield), *Jewels: A Forgotten Category of Roman Women's Property Portfolio*. In the Chair was Professor Tim Cornell (University of Manchester), President of the Roman Society.

On Friday 23 April 2021, again by Zoom, the Hellenic and Roman Societies combined once more to host the transatlantic panel discussion *Race: Antiquity and its Legacy*. The speakers were Professor Zena Kamash (Royal Holloway, University of London), Professor Denise McCoskey

(Miami University, OH) and Professor Dan-el Padilla Peralta (Princeton University). The event – on one of the hottest of hot topics in classics/ancient world studies, as in other disciplines – was adroitly organized and chaired by Professor Phiroze Vasunia (University College London).

On Saturday 12 June 2021, again by Zoom, our Summer Lecture was delivered (at short notice) by Professor James Diggle (Cambridge University): *The new Cambridge Greek Lexicon*. This two-part Lexicon (published by Cambridge University Press) is the successor and intended replacement of the ‘Intermediate Lexicon’, likewise ultimately derived from ‘Liddell-Scott-Jones’. It has taken over 20 years to prepare and publish, and Professor Diggle and his small team are to be congratulated hugely on a formidable achievement of scholarship and typography.

During the unfortunately prolonged lockdown, the Hellenic and Roman Library in Senate House (Librarian: Ms Joanna Ashe) has continued, besides resuming its normal in-person services (under carefully controlled conditions), to provide remarkable remote support to readers, including negotiating an increased range of ebooks from publishers including Cambridge University Press, Brepols and De Gruyter. The Librarian and her staff are owed a vote of our deepest gratitude.

We are acutely aware that many of our members, and others who work in higher education, especially postgraduate students and early career staff on temporary contracts, have been, and will continue to be, severely affected by this crisis and the consequent contraction in university positions and temporary teaching opportunities. We have therefore inaugurated a temporary system of hardship grants, using funds which would normally be used for conference bursaries and other purposes to support those in need as a result of COVID-19.

As for lectures and other events, obviously we hope that we will soon be able to revert to the previous in-person system in its entirety, and to that end it is hoped that the postponed Presidential Lecture by Professor Judith Mossman will be delivered in person in October 2021, to be followed at some later date by the inaugural Green Lectures by Professor Victoria Sabetai (Athens). To conclude, I can only echo my predecessor’s citation from the Chorus in A.E. Housman’s fragment of a Greek tragedy: *Life is uncertain*.

Mr Peter Lennon (Honorary Treasurer) introduced and proposed the adoption of the 2020 Financial Statements, and Dr Fiona Haarer seconded the motion. Mr Lennon proposed that the subscription rates for 2022 remain the same, and Dr Haarer seconded.

Mr Lennon proposed, and Dr Haarer seconded, the following motions:

Mr Peter Lennon for re-election as Honorary Treasurer

Dr Stephen Harrison for re-election as Membership Officer

Professor Pat Easterling, Professor Robert Fowler, Mr Brian Gilmore, Mr George Lemos, Dr Pantelis Michelakis, Professor Judith Mossman, Professor Robin Osborne, Professor Christopher Rowe, Professor Malcolm Schofield, Professor Brian Sparkes and Dr David Thomas for re-election as Vice-Presidents.

Dr Anastasia Christophilopoulou, Dr Emma Greensmith, Dr Jon Hesk, Dr Emily Kneebone, Professor Fiona Macintosh, Dr Helen McVeigh, Dr Dan Orrells for election as members of Council to serve 2021–2024.

Mr Lennon proposed, and Dr Haarer seconded, the re-election of Buzzacott LLP as auditors for 2021.

Mr Lennon proposed, and Dr Haarer seconded, the Resolution to make the following changes to the Rules.

Add to Rule 30 after the first sentence: Meetings of Council may be held and conducted in such a way that persons who are not together at the same place may by electronic means attend and speak and vote at them, in accordance with these Rules.

Add to Rule 30 at the end: Notice of any meeting of Council must indicate its proposed time and date, where it is to take place, and, if it is anticipated that members of Council participating in the meeting will not be in the same place, how it is proposed that they should communicate with each other during the meeting.

Add to Rule 31: Members of Council participate in and form part of the quorum of a meeting of Council, or part of a meeting of Council, when the meeting has been called and takes place in accordance with the Rules, and they can each communicate to the others any information or opinions they have on any particular item of business of the meeting. In determining whether members of Council are participating in and forming part of the quorum of a meeting of Council, it is irrelevant where any member is or how they communicate with each other. If all the members of Council participating in a meeting are not in the same place, the meeting is to be treated as taking place at the place specified in the notice of Meeting.

Add to Rule 49: If so specified in the Notice convening the Meeting, a General Meeting may be held and conducted in such a way that persons who are not together at the same place may by electronic means attend and speak and vote at it, in accordance with these Rules. Such a meeting is hereafter referred to as a Virtual General Meeting.

Add to Rule 52: Two Members present in person shall be a quorum for General Meetings. Members shall be entitled to appoint the Chairman of the Meeting as their proxy to vote on their behalf at any General Meeting, on the terms set out in Rules 52D and 52E.

#### **NEW RULES 52A, 52B, 52C, 52D and 52E**

**52A** A Member is able to exercise the right to speak at a Virtual General Meeting when that person is in a position to communicate to all those attending the meeting, during the meeting, any information or opinions which that person has on the business of the Meeting.

**52B** A person is able to exercise the right to vote at a Virtual General Meeting when—  
That person is able to vote, during the Meeting, on resolutions put to the vote at the Meeting, and that person's vote can be taken into account in determining whether or not such resolutions are passed at the same time as the votes of all the other persons attending the Meeting.

**52C** (1) The Council may make whatever arrangements it considers appropriate to enable those attending a Virtual General Meeting to exercise their rights to speak or vote at it.

(2) In determining attendance at a Virtual General Meeting, it is immaterial whether any two or more members attending it are in the same place as each other.

(3) Two or more persons who are not in the same place as each other attend a Virtual General Meeting if the circumstances are such that if they have (or were to have) rights to speak and vote at that Meeting, they are (or would be) able to exercise them.

**52D** (1) A notice appointing the Chairman as proxy (a "proxy notice") shall only be valid if it is in writing and:

- (a) states the name and address of the Member appointing the proxy;
- (b) identifies the General Meeting in relation to which the appointment is made;
- (c) is signed by or on behalf of the Member appointing the proxy or is authenticated in such manner as the Council may determine; and
- (d) is delivered to the Society in accordance with the Rules and any instructions contained in the Notice of General Meeting to which it relates.

(2) The Society may require proxy notices to be delivered in a particular form and may specify different forms for different purposes.

(3) Proxy notices may specify how the proxy appointed under them is to vote (or that the proxy is to abstain from voting) on one or more resolutions.

(4) Unless a proxy notice indicates otherwise, it must be treated as:

- (a) allowing the person appointed under it as a proxy discretion as to how to vote on any ancillary or procedural resolutions put to the General Meeting; and

(b) appointing that person as proxy in relation to any adjournment of the General Meeting to which it relates as well as the Meeting itself.

**52E** (1) A Member who is entitled to attend, speak or vote at a General Meeting remains so entitled in respect of that Meeting or any adjournment of it, even though a valid proxy notice has been delivered to the Society by or on behalf of that Member.

(2) An appointment under a proxy notice may be revoked by delivering to the Society a notice in writing given by or on behalf of the Member by whom or on whose behalf the proxy notice was given.

(3) A notice revoking a proxy appointment only takes effect if it is delivered before the start of the Meeting or adjourned Meeting to which it relates. Attendance by a Member in person at a Meeting automatically revokes any appointment by that Member of a proxy.

(4) If a proxy notice is not executed by the Member appointing the proxy, it must be accompanied by written evidence of the authority of the person who executed it to execute it on the appointor's behalf.

Rule 53 at the end after "those present" add: and voting in person or by proxy. The Chairman of a General Meeting shall have a vote for each Member for whom he is appointed proxy and shall have a casting vote.

Rule 61 voting add: in person or by proxy.

Rule 64 voting add: in person or by proxy.

There was no other business, and the meeting closed at 6.10pm.

### PETER JOHN RHODES (1940–2021)

It is with great sadness but also great pride that I offer this brief commemorative tribute on behalf of the SPHS to our sadly departed Society member (he first was elected as a student member in 1960), colleague and friend. Peter served on the Society's Council from 1972 to 1974 and on the Editorial Committee of the Society's journal from 1982 to 1989, unstintingly refereeing anonymously many article submissions. He published two reviews and five articles in *JHS* between 1972 and 2003. Like most of his most substantial and original contributions to the elucidation of ancient Hellenic history and historiography, these too were all focused on the institutional arrangements of the world's first functioning people's democracy, that of Athens between the late sixth and the later fourth centuries BC.

Professor Rhodes was a front-rank scholar of international repute, associated first with the University of Oxford (where his doctoral supervisor was epigrapher supreme, Mr D.M. Lewis, Student of Christ Church) and then for over five decades with the University of Durham. Utterly understandably the Durham department he served so unswervingly over so many years has hailed him as a 'titan'. In 2015 he was awarded Durham's Chancellor's Medal. He was a Fellow of the British Academy since his late 40s and Chairman of its Classical Antiquity section 2002–2005.

He will be remembered chiefly and his authority long appealed to for his two groundbreaking *magna opera*: on the Athenian Boule/Council of 500 (1972, amended reprint 1985) and on the *Athenaion Politeia* ascribed to Aristotle (1981, amended reprint 1993; both published by Oxford University Press). The translation with abbreviated commentary of the latter that he published with Penguin Classics first in 1984 was an inestimable bonus – and service to students. But he also wrote highly admired general histories as well as a biography of possibly the ancient world character least like himself, the unscrupulous maverick Athenian politician Alcibiades.

Peter was very widely travelled, both on his own self-educational behalf and in pursuit of innumerable conference opportunities, constantly seeking to widen his extraordinary range of foreign scholarly contacts. He was a revered mentor both of his doctoral and other students in this country and of those whose graduate theses he examined so scrupulously. He not only mentored but also collaborated in publication with younger scholars from Portugal to Perm. In return, he was duly rewarded with a splendid *Festschrift* (2005), based on papers originally delivered at a conference held on the Greek island that in its anglophone spelling shared his last name, hence the conference's amusingly punning title. In 2014–2015 he served as President of the Classical Association. I knew him personally for over 40 years, was his respectful junior colleague and sometimes (always friendly) rival, and salute him as one to be remembered equally as both a gentleman and a titanically distinguished scholar.



*Photo courtesy of the Department of Classics and Ancient History, Durham University.*

*Paul Cartledge, November 2021*