



THE ARCHIVE OF PERFORMANCES OF GREEK AND ROMAN DRAMA

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

SUMMER 2001

EDITH HALL MOVES TO DURHAM BUT STAYS WITH ARCHIVE

We are delighted to announce that Edith Hall, founding Co-Director of the Archive, has been appointed to the new Leverhulme Chair of Greek Cultural History at the University of Durham, where she will be moving this summer (although she will be very much in evidence, of course, at our *Agamemnon* conference in September). She will remain a Director of the project, attend its special lectures and other functions, and be as involved as ever in our database, research strategy, publications and other activities.

There will be great advantages in having a Director resident in the north-east (including easy access to the Scottish theatre scene, the Edinburgh Festival, the West Yorkshire Playhouse and the Manchester Royal Exchange). We offer her our warmest congratulations on her new appointment combined with our great pleasure that she will remain a Director of the project.

'AGAMEMNON IN PERFORMANCE, 458 BC - 2001 AD' **20 TO 22 SEPTEMBER 2001, WADHAM COLLEGE**

We would like to remind you of our second major conference in Oxford, to take place from Thursday 20 September to Saturday 22 September 2001. The contributors are confirmed as Anton Bierl, Pat Easterling, Michael Ewans, Inga-Stina Ewbank, Helene Foley, Massimo Fusillo, Lorna Hardwick, Pierre Judet de la Combe, Pantelis Michelakis, Yopie Prins, Rush Rehm, Margaret Reynolds, Alessandro Schiesaro, Dmitry Trubotshkin and Michael Walton. Between them they will cover an extraordinarily wide range of periods, places and approaches. We are also delighted that the actress Diana Quick will be giving a performance and a discussion of the role of Clytemnestra.

Both the programme and booking form can be found on our website at <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~apgrd/confagam.htm>; alternatively, please contact us for a paper copy (01865 288210 or apgrd@lithum.ox.ac.uk). We have had a healthy response to earlier publicity and we would urge those wishing to attend to book without delay in order to secure accommodation at Wadham.

NETWORK OF RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION OF ANCIENT GREEK DRAMA

The Archive is very pleased to be hosting the 4th annual meeting of the Network of Research and Documentation of Ancient Greek Drama on Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 September 2001 (immediately following the *Agamemnon* conference).

The Archive is one of the twenty-three partners of the European Network, which was founded in 1995 by Oliver Taplin and Platon Mavromoustakos of the Department of Theatre Studies,

University of Athens. The establishment of the Network sought to coordinate the research activities of a number of research bodies and individuals across Europe, whose collaborative relationships were already well-established on an informal basis. The Network has since grown to comprise partners in twenty-one member countries, all of whom are actively involved in research and collection of data on the performance history and contemporary relevance of ancient Greek drama and its role in shaping European culture and civilization.

Further details on the collaborative effort towards the electronic publication of a database can be found on the Network's website at www.cc.uoa.gr/drama/network. Future goals are centred around activities of an interdisciplinary and comparative nature. First among these is the foundation of a summer school of lectures, workshops and performances in Epidaurus to begin (it is hoped) in 2002; the exchange of students and teaching staff across member countries; and a film festival of Greek drama.

MEDEA IN PERFORMANCE, 1500–2000

This volume may be ordered through the European Humanities Research Centre, University of Oxford, 76 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6LE (enquiries@ehrc.ox.ac.uk) or through the David Brown Book Company, PO Box 511, Oakville, CT 06779, USA (david.brown.bk.co@snet.net).

Since its publication in December 2000 *Medea in Performance, 1500–2000* has been getting very favourable reviews. Helene Foley, writing in the *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*, reports that "reception studies in classics have gained an increasingly significant scholarly visibility in recent years. Extensive international cooperation and external funding have enabled the Archive to establish a particularly solid basis for further study ... This volume represents an impressive start to what promises to be a series of valuable studies" (*BMCR*, 27 April 2001). Jane Montgomery, writing in the *Times Literary Supplement*, declares that "the book exemplifies a welcome and relatively recent shift in the academic analysis of ancient drama, which has started to place more emphasis on viewing plays in a historical and performance context" (*TLS*, no.5112, 23 March 2001).

ARCHIVE LECTURES, 2001-2002

- ☞ **Jane Glover** (conductor) will give a lecture on 'The Opera House of Atreus' at 2.15pm on Wednesday 17 October 2001 in Magdalen College Auditorium
- ☞ **Marina Warner** (writer) will chair a discussion on 'How Do We Believe in the Gods?' at 2.15pm on Wednesday 21 November 2001 in the Headley Lecture Theatre, Ashmolean Museum
- ☞ **Abd' Elkader Farrah** (1963-1991 RSC Associate Designer; since 1991 RSC Honorary Associate Artist) will give a talk on 30 January 2002
- ☞ **Lorna Hardwick** (Open University) will give a lecture on 'Greek Tragedy and Anti-Colonialism' at 2.15pm on Wednesday 27 February 2002 in the Headley Lecture Theatre, Ashmolean Museum
- ☞ **David Raeburn** (Oxford University) will give a lecture on 8 May 2002
- ☞ **Colin Teevan** (Queen's University Belfast) will give a lecture at 2.15pm on Wednesday 29 May 2002 in the Headley Lecture Theatre, Ashmolean Museum

'TANTALUS'

A conference about the large-scale set of plays based on Greek myths was hosted by the Centre for Hellenic Studies at KCL on 18 May 2001. Speakers included Paul Cartledge, Pat Easterling, Michael Kustow, Ismene Lada-Richards, Graham Ley, Jane Montgomery, Michael Silk and (as the Archive's representative) Oliver Taplin. John Barton, who wrote the original plays, was present for the whole day and answered questions in the final session. The day's discussion proved to be an excellent springboard for exploring the dramatization of Greek material in the modern theatre, including, for example, the adaptation of epic and the positive exploitation of conventions such as the chorus and masks. 'Tantalus' was part of the Greek season at the Barbican which culminated in the BBC Radio 3

Greek Day on 20 May 2001, in which Edith Hall participated with Paul Cartledge, Peter Hall, Michael Kustow and Colin Teevan.

POSTGRADUATE SYMPOSIUM ON GREEK DRAMA IN MODERN PERFORMANCE

We were involved in hosting part of an exciting two-day postgraduate symposium from 19 to 20 June 2001, organized by graduate students in the Department of Drama and Theatre, Royal Holloway, University of London. The twenty-five or so participants included a strong selection of postgraduates with a broad subject focus and a few academics in the field. Day one benefitted from the different performance spaces available at Royal Holloway and day two from being located in Oxford at the Archive.

It is hoped that abstracts of papers will soon be available through the websites of both the Archive and Royal Holloway. We also have hopes that the symposium will become an annual event at which postgraduates, practitioners and academics come together to share their various experiences and research.

DATABASE

Our database now holds records for over 4500 productions of ancient drama performed internationally and through the ages. We look forward to celebrations soon when we reach the 5000 mark! We also record on the database the source of information for each production, and we are equally proud to report that we have long since passed the 5000 mark for these entries (which comprise either physical ephemera, bibliographical references or anecdotal evidence). As we come to the end of the current academic year, we are focusing on a consolidation of our designated research areas for 2000-2001, namely Seneca and Aeschylus, with special regard for the *Agamemnon* of both playwrights in anticipation of our forthcoming conference.

WEBSITE

We are soon to launch a comprehensive image bank organized by ancient play on our website at www.classics.ox.ac.uk/apgrd, together with something of a 'text bank' of articles and programme notes written by Archive staff. The list of current and forthcoming productions of ancient drama is now accessible on the Events page on the website. We want this section to be as comprehensive as possible, and so whether you are involved in or have simply heard about a production of ancient drama, whether in Budapest, Tokyo or your local school, we would be very interested to hear of it and publicize it on the site. Keep us in touch!

CONTACTING THE ARCHIVE

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