



ARCHIVE OF PERFORMANCES OF GREEK & ROMAN DRAMA

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Newsletter no. 13 (Summer 2007)

APGRD LECTURES

ALL ARE WELCOME!

JATINDER VERMA (Artistic Director, Tara Arts Theatre Company),
'Tara Arts and the Greeks',
2.15pm, Monday 12 November 2007, Classics Centre Lecture Theatre.

BLAKE MORRISON (Professor of Creative and Life Writing, Goldsmiths' College),
'Turning Classical Plays into Contemporary Theatre',
2.15pm, Monday 26 November 2007, Classics Centre Lecture Theatre.

TERRY EAGLETON (Professor of English Literature, University of Manchester),
'Lacan's Antigone',
2.15pm, Monday 14 January 2008, Magdalen College Auditorium.

'SIRENS: THE SEDUCTIVE LURE OF THE FEMALE VOICE'

THE ONASSIS PROGRAMME

This lecture recital, featuring Hannah Rosenfelder (mezzo soprano), with Merel van der Knoop (piano) and Anneke Hodnett (harp), will take place at 5pm on Wednesday 31 October 2007, Magdalen College Auditorium. Since antiquity the figure of the siren has embodied the potent mix of women, danger, seduction and song. This lecture recital examines religious and cultural attitudes which have lent the Siren her symbolic power over the past three millennia from the earliest known reference in Homer's *Odyssey*. Songs include a specially commissioned setting of the Homeric Sirens' Song for voice and harp by Benjamin Wolf, and various Siren and Lorelei songs by Arne, Liszt, R. Schumann, C. Schumann, Bizet, Elgar and Gershwin. This is a free event. Seating is limited; please email onassis@herald.ox.ac.uk to reserve a place.

TOM RYAN'S COLLECTION OF BOOKS

Eileen Cadman, the partner of the American dramaturg/lecturer/playwright, Tom Ryan (1935-2007) who sadly died in the spring, has very kindly donated to the Archive a sizeable collection of books on theatre history, classical theatre and dramatic theory from his private library in London. We have also been given Tom's large cuttings library and his collection of theatre programmes. The addition of some two-hundred and fifty volumes to our library, together with the programmes and numerous cuttings from US papers, has very considerably enhanced our collection and we are extremely grateful to Eileen for having made this possible.

NEW DIRECTIONS IN ANCIENT PANTOMIME
edited by Edith Hall and Rosie Wyles (OUP, forthcoming in 2008)



This collection of essays is the first substantial publication ever to focus on the ancient adaptations of Greek tragedy in the form of danced pantomimes during the late Roman republican period and throughout the Empire. It began life at a conference with the same title, organised at the APGRD in July 2005.

The conference was the first step in the APGRD's new AHRC-funded research initiative devoted to the reception of classical drama within Mediterranean antiquity. It is also related to another new direction in the Archive's activities, the exploration of the reception of classical dramatic texts in the context of musical theatre (opera and dance). Most of the essays were delivered by the guest speakers invited to the 2005 conference; these have been supplemented by some other, specially commissioned articles, most of which were inspired by the discussions which took place on the day. The book includes illustrations and an introductory chapter by the editors, offering a bibliographical survey, exploring the reasons why ancient pantomime has historically suffered such a remarkable degree of scholarly neglect, and suggesting avenues for possible further research.

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Editors' Introduction – Pantomime: a lost chord of ancient culture

I The World of the Pantomime Dancer

1. Ruth Webb – Inside the mask: the subjectivity of the dancer
2. Rosie Wyles – The language of costume in ancient pantomime
3. Janet Huskinson – Pantomime imagery and Roman sarcophagi
4. John H. Starks – Pantomime actresses in Latin imperial inscriptions
5. T. P. Wiseman – 'Mime' and 'Pantomime': some problematic texts

II Pantomime Libretti

6. John Jory – The pantomime dancer and his libretto
7. Yvette Hunt – Augustus' Romanisation of the Greek Classics
8. Costas Panayotakis – Vergil on the popular stage
9. Jennifer Ingleheart – Ovid and the pantomime
10. Bernhard Zimmermann – Seneca and pantomime
11. Alessandra Zanobi – Pantomime aesthetics and Senecan tragedy
12. Edith Hall – Is the Barcelona *Alcestis* a Latin pantomime libretto?

III The Idea of the Pantomime Dancer

13. Ismene Lada-Richards – Was pantomime 'good to think with' in antiquity?
14. Karin Schlapbach – Lucian's *On Dancing* and the models for a discourse on pantomime
15. Regine May – The metamorphosis of pantomime: Apuleius' Judgement of Paris (*Met.* 10.30-34)
16. Edith Hall – Ancient pantomime and the rise of ballet

Appendix – Jacob of Sarugh's Syriac *Homilies* on the theatre: an English translation



OLIVER TAPLIN'S POTS AND PLAYS

Oliver Taplin's latest book, *Pots and Plays: Interactions between Tragedy and Greek Vase-painting of the Fourth Century BC*, which features 84 colour and 40 black and white illustrations, has been published by Getty Publications. This hardback is priced at £45.



ARISTOPHANES IN PERFORMANCE

Aristophanes in Performance, 421 BC to AD 2007: Peace, Birds, and Frogs, edited by Edith Hall and Amanda Wrigley, has been published by Legenda at Oxford. This hardback volume, priced at £48, may be ordered online at www.legenda.mhra.org.uk.

APGRD NEWS

Rosie Wyles, the APGRD's AHRC-funded doctoral researcher, has successfully submitted her doctorate to the University of London on 'The stage life of costume in Euripides' *Telephus*, *Heracles* and *Andromeda*; an aspect of ancient performance reception'. We are happy to announce that she has now begun work as Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the APGRD, and from January will be Stipendiary Lecturer in Latin and Greek at St Anne's College, Oxford.

We warmly welcome Helen Damon onto the APGRD team. Helen was appointed as Administrative Assistant in June 2007 after graduating from Oxford with a degree in Classics in 2006. We are also delighted to have incorporated Professor Reinhard Strohm as Honorary Research Associate. Reinhard is Professor of Music at the University and a Professorial Fellow of Wadham College.

The APGRD's Study Room, offices and collections are now very happily located in the Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies, the stunning new Classics Centre at the University which was officially opened by the Chancellor Lord Patten in April.

EDWARD GERMAN PREMIÈRE

The world première took place on Saturday 22 September of two pieces of music by Sir Edward German that were thought to have vanished without trace but were discovered recently by APGRD Director Peter Brown. These were a March and Chorus for Sophocles' *Antigone*, composed for performance at Wimbledon School, Surrey in 1888 but never in fact performed because of an epidemic at the school. Peter discovered a proof copy of the programme for the performance, which printed the music in full, and the March and Chorus were performed by members of Charles Court Opera at the annual meeting of the Sir Arthur Sullivan Society at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, using a translation written by Peter to match the rhythms of German's setting. Peter also gave a brief introductory talk.

PETER BROWN'S TRANSLATION OF TERENCE

On Sunday 30 September there was a 'rehearsed reading' of Peter's translation of Terence's *Phormio* at the Questors Theatre in West Ealing, directed by Susan Solomon. Again, Peter gave a brief introductory talk. This is one of the plays included in Peter's translation of *Terence, The Comedies*, published in December 2006 by OUP and due to appear as an Oxford World's Classics paperback in January 2008.

'ANCIENT DRAMA IN MODERN OPERA, 1600-1800' CONFERENCE, 12 JULY 2007

The speakers at this conference were drawn from the worlds of Classics, Modern Languages, and Music, and they included people involved in the performance of operatic works as well as some of the leading academics in this field. Over sixty-five delegates attended. Following the papers there was a recital of arias from 18th-century tragic operas by Ensemble *La Falsirena*. See www.apgrd.ox.ac.uk/events/confopera.htm for the programme.

'THEORISING PERFORMANCE RECEPTION' CONFERENCE, 14-15 SEPTEMBER 2007

This conference attracted over sixty-five participants to hear the eight speakers and two respondents who were drawn from departments of Classics and Drama and Theatre Studies and included people involved in performance as well as the leading academics in this field. The conference programme is at www.apgrd.ox.ac.uk/events/conftheory.htm.

'THE ANCIENT CHORUS AND CONTEMPORARY MOVES', 13 DECEMBER 2007

An informal discussion at The Place, Thursday 13 December, 6-8pm. For details contact either fiona.macintosh@classics.ox.ac.uk or henrietta.bannerman@theplace.org.uk.

'IMAGINING SLAVERY' CONFERENCE, 17-18 DECEMBER 2007

The anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in the British colonies by an Act of Parliament in 1807 is being celebrated by a conference organised by Edith Hall and Leanne Hunnings at Royal Holloway and the British Library on 17-18 December 2007. Several speakers will discuss the performance reception of ancient drama. See www.rhul.ac.uk/Classics/news-and-events/ImaginingSlavery/index.html.

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