

QUADRIVIA

The HPRC Newsletter



April 2006

An autumnal chill in the air, Easter holidays slip away and the BA review rolls on. With a poignancy well-suited to the season, your editors humbly submit the April issue of *QUADRIVIA*.

Please note that contributions can be sent to us at any time, regardless of deadlines.

Your editors,

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Head of School's Report

One lesson of the past month or so is the importance of teamwork. Intimations of teamwork began to be felt as the School, especially Philosophy, reckoned with the pointy end of the restructuring process. Philosophy took a stand about the necessity of a proposed redundancy in that Discipline which, I believe, made it onto the radar of senior managers of the university. We await news about whether such magic will work on this one, but the latest word is that the University is waiting for the NTEU to approve the decision that no forced redundancy in Philosophy will be necessary.

And then there is the implementation of the BA Review. At the start of the process there may have been some justifiable “kicking and screaming,” but the Disciplines finally came together as teams to do the best they could to complete the job, notwithstanding a paucity of consultation with the School, directives from above to make significant changes to our Majors, and to do this in a remarkably short time. The school is proud that as of 10th April all of our newly revised majors have been approved by the BA Review Implementation Committee. (I have it on good advice that at least two other Schools, one being in Arts, and the other in SBS, have been asked to “revise and resubmit”). Well done to all staff involved!

Perhaps more ordinary examples of recent teamwork were when all academic staff offered four of their very best publications on behalf of the School for inclusion in the

2006 Research Quality Assessment exercise and, of course, as we worked through and began to use our new Workload Policy 2006. Hats are off to Bob Elson, Ray Johnson and our Research Committee for doing this job quickly and efficiently.

I think that these and other instances of teamwork go to the heart of a School that is running on a pretty good participatory basis. An autocratic management style is not what was promised when I became Head of School eight months ago. I am grateful for those comments about this change that I have received from some members of staff in recent weeks. I trust that members of the School appreciate being engaged in “running the show” this way.

In most instances, managing the School on a participatory basis is a means of spreading the administrative workload: if we all contribute what we can, then it's likely that nobody's research and teaching will be seriously compromised amidst such fair play. As we meet together soon for the standard round of Annual Performance Reviews a focus on teamwork, and how each of us contributes his or her fair share to the School, can frame discussions. No doubt we will discuss how the School may be able to help each of us to become better teachers and researchers.

Moreover, I shall also want to discuss with staff how they might be able to assist in the “bigger picture.” Namely, how might each of us contribute to the ongoing process of developing the School's overall strategic direction, as well as fulfilling its ever-present university responsibilities?

Richard Hutch

Head of School



Haiku Classics #2

Aristophanes' Clouds

Right's wrong and wrong's right –
think of the money you'll save!
God's dead – enrol now!

Euripides' Helen

Helen's in Egypt,
not Troy – fobs off the pharaoh,
saves hubby, sails home.

Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics

Pleasure? Honour? No!
The supreme good's Happiness.
Some seem unconvinced.

Paul Murphy



School News

Stefano Girola was interviewed by the Italian national newspaper *Avvenire* on March 3. The interview dealt with the forthcoming 20th anniversary of John Paul II's speech to Australian Aborigines in Alice Springs (November 1986). This speech by the late Pope is considered a milestone in the Catholic Church's teaching on the rights of Indigenous peoples.



The 2005 number of HPRC's refereed journal *University of Queensland Historical Proceedings* has just appeared. Now in its sixteenth year, *Proceedings* provides an in-house publishing forum for historical research and discussion in the School. Researchers are encouraged to revise and submit their papers to other journals after they appear in *Proceedings*.

This issue showcases work by HPRC figures such as John Wilkins, Frank Zelko, Martin Stuart-Fox, Andrea Humphreys, David Brown and Craig Barrett. Former students (Emily O'Gorman) and research associates (Kerry Heckenberg) are also represented, alongside an article by Deborah Ford at the UQ research office.

All members of the history fraternity in HPRC and other interested parties will have received a copy via internal mail. Others should contact Margaret Higgs in the Thesis Library (Rm. 308 Michie Bldg.) for a copy (ph: ex. 56477).



Congratulations to Helen Farley and Danielle Kirby, who have been awarded \$1000 from the Faculty of Arts to revise their application for a Carrick Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning. The Arts citation selection committee felt the application was an

excellent project that reflected some very exciting initiatives in Teaching and Learning.



The Museum of Brisbane in City Hall recently launched an exhibition 'Taking to the Streets' featuring research by HPRC postgrad Katie McConnell (recent doctoral thesis submittee and MoB Research Historian). The exhibition presents the recent radical history of Brisbane (1965-1985). Themes explored in the exhibition include crucial world events that sparked protest activities such as the Vietnam War and the Apartheid regime in South Africa, as well as events specific to Brisbane and Queensland such as the Right to March campaign and the struggle for Aboriginal rights (at MoB until September 24).



HPRC recently accepted a \$15,000 donation from the Venerable Hui-Chyuan of the Bodhicitta Chan International Association, Buddhist Meditation Centre, Pimpana, Qld. The donation will be used to further the research of HPRC's Centre for Buddhist Studies and to provide postgraduate scholarship funding.



Joining the Venerable Hui-Chyuan in presenting the donation was Charles Wang, Director, Southern Paradise Foundation, Mt Ommaney, Qld. The donation was accepted by Richard Hutch on behalf of the School, and Tamara Ditrich and Primoz Pecenko on behalf of the Centre for Buddhist Studies.



Seminars

April 2: Friends of Antiquity

Caillan Davenport, 'The Coinage of the Roman Emperor Septimius Severus', and

Tim Parkin, 'Ancient ageing in the 21st century' (illustrated).

From 2 p.m., Rm 139, Goddard Building (Bldg 8), with afternoon tea to follow (Level 3, Michie Building). A \$4.00 donation includes afternoon tea.

April 6: History

Geoff Ginn: 'Between Archangels and Archaeology: introducing J.S.M. Ward and the Abbey Folk Park'

J.S.M. Ward (1885-1949) was an antiquarian with a difference. A Cambridge-trained historian, his career takes us from the Edwardian occult revival to the fringe 'Orthodox Catholic' sects of the 1930s. His unique and innovative history museum, the Abbey Folk Park at New Barnet in north London, fused a passion for Britain's disappearing heritage with his Adventist conviction that the collapse of western civilisation was imminent.

Rm. E109, Forgan Smith Bldg., 4.15 p.m. – 5.30.

April 7: Philosophy

Martin Lloyd: 'Intellectual History, Archaeology and the Marquis de Sade' (confirmation seminar).

3 pm, Rm. E348, Forgan Smith Building (or Rm E356 if a large attendance or projection is required).

April 7: Classics and Ancient History

Caillan Davenport: 'The Commemoration & Communication of Imperial Policies on the Coinage of Septimius Severus'

Rm. 323, Michie Building, from 3.30 p.m.

April 12: Biohumanities Project

Robert Solomon and the Philosophy of Emotion (1/2 Day Workshop)

Venue: TBA, 9.00 a.m. -1.30 p.m.

Robert Solomon has been instrumental in making the emotions a major topic of research in contemporary philosophy. Through his role in the International Society for Research on the Emotions, of which he was a founding member, he has also played a key role in encouraging interaction between emotion researchers in philosophy and in the sciences. He is the author of more than forty books, and appeared, via his animated alter-ego, in the film 'Waking Life'. There is no charge to attend the workshop, but you must register via the Biohumanities website: <http://www.uq.edu.au/biohumanities>

Note: Prof. Solomon's co-author Prof. Kathleen Higgins will be speaking in the Philosophy seminar series in the afternoon.

April 12: Philosophy

Kathleen Higgins: 'The Gay Science: Responses to Zarathustra, Pindar, and Descartes' (confirm time of seminar with HPRC office)

Rm E348, Forgan Smith Building (or Rm. 302 Parnell Building (Bldg. 7) if a large attendance or projection is required).

April 13: CHED

Professor Anne Freadman (U. Melb.): 'Does 'Peirce' have a history?' (History of Theory Seminar)

CCCS Seminar Room, Level 4, Forgan Smith Tower, 4-6 pm.

Anne Freadman's book *The Machinery of Talk: Charles Peirce and the Sign Hypothesis* (Stanford University Press) was published in 2004. She has published extensively on semiotic theory and on issues in genre theory, as well as on French women's writing, and is currently engaged on a project on Colette's journalism. She holds the position of Chisholm Professor of French in the University of Melbourne.

April 21: Philosophy

Dr Tim Bayne (Macquarie University, Visiting Fellow ANU): [title to be confirmed]

Rm. E348, Forgan Smith Building (or Rm. E356 if a large attendance or projection is required).

April 24: Philosophy

Steve Barker (Nottingham): 'Chance, cause, and dispositions' Rm E348, Forgan Smith Building (or Goddard Building (8) Rm. 212 if a large attendance or projection is required).

April 28: Philosophy

Aurelia Armstrong: [Title to be advised]

Rm E348, Forgan Smith Building (or Rm. 356 if a large attendance or projection is required).

April 28: Classics and Ancient History

Paul Murphy: 'Moving Statues: the Greek Epinician Genre' and Dr Don Todman: 'The Treatment of Epilepsy in the Graeco-Roman world: Hippocratic and Asclepian Temple Medicine compared'

Rm. 323, Michie Building, from 3.30 p.m..



Travellers Tales

Eliza Matthews (HPRC postgraduate) reports on Fulbright life in the US:

One of the wonderful things about the Fulbright programme is the opportunity to meet people from every culture and all backgrounds. I recently travelled to Chicago for a Fulbright enrichment seminar. The seminar was a wonderful but confronting experience. Chicago is a great city and the conference was absolutely fascinating because of the people I met and the experiences I had getting to know these people.

There were about 120 Fulbright scholars at this conference from 63 countries (I was the only Aussie). I became friends with and come to understand much more about people who are from countries that I never visited, some of whom have had incredibly difficult lives before they came to the United States.



Eliza (far left) and fellow Fulbrighters

Probably the most profound experience I had while at the seminar was that I was fortunate enough to be able to visit a Chicago high school where I spoke to the students about the Fulbright programme and Australia. I visited the Marie Curie High School which has about 3,400 students and 300 staff. It's in a poorer area of the city, but the teachers have worked hard at retaining the kids in school so only about 10% drop out before graduation. Still not a good figure, but better than some of the other schools in the area where only around 60% of students graduate. Whilst I really enjoyed the experience it was shocking for a number of reasons.

Initially when we arrived (after my first and very exciting ride on yellow American school bus) I thought the school looked like a jail or a detention center. The buildings were boxy and locked up due to the cold, but from the outside it really did look like the kids were being detained. I'm told, however, that this is typical of the majority of American schools.

When we went inside I was really upset to find that there was a metal detector at the door. Of course I wasn't upset that they were trying to keep the school secure. What I was upset about was the fact that the school has to protect students from seriously harming other students. I knew some schools in the United States had metal detectors in them, but to see it myself was a huge shock and very upsetting when I realised the reality of what many of these students have to deal with in their every day lives. I can't imagine my own brother at 15 spending every day at school with the thought being imprinted in his mind that he could be shot or get caught up in some sort of gang violence while he was standing at his locker. I know that's the reality for many very young people here but the fact that I've now seen the evidence was incredibly confronting and upsetting.

The children themselves were incredibly intelligent. We talked to them about the Fulbright programme and about our own countries. They loved the boomerang that I brought as well as a few of the pictures and their questions were second to none. Really intelligent and sensitive questions. The kids were particularly interested to hear about the differences between Australia and the United States and how difficult it was for me to move overseas.

It was a pity that we didn't get to spend more time at the school, but I found it really rewarding. Despite most of the children having to encounter terrible hardship in their lives, they were fantastic and incredibly inspiring.



Antiquities Museum

Once again the start of semester has meant that the Antiquities Museum is now busy with students from a number of Classics and Ancient History courses intently studying their chosen research artefacts. But other UQ students are also using the collection. The new Museum Studies Postgraduate program (based in the School of English, Media Studies and Art History) is also utilizing the collection. Two coins have recently been examined (by non-invasive techniques only, rest assured) by students working on the Scanning Electron Microscope at the Centre for Microscopy and Microanalysis (Nanoworld). Indeed I have recently had discussions with the Centre with the view to setting up some scientific research at an Honours level on certain antiquities, especially coins and pottery fragments. Hopefully this will attract both Science and Arts students. Surely this is a clear case of the merging of ancient skills and modern technology and demonstrates the interest in the past by even the most modern of disciplines.

At the end of 2005, the Antiquities Museum acquired two new artefacts for the teaching of Roman art and society. These objects were purchased through the generosity of

Assoc. Prof. Dorothy Watts and her UQ Excellence in Teaching Award (2004). Both items are Roman. One is a small and unusually delicate red-slip piriform jug from North Africa (AD 200-275) and decorated with appliqué which include palm fronds, an Eros and a Janus head. But the most interesting appliqué is a tabula ansata inscribed PENTASI NIKA, the name of a Sodalitas, an association of professional fighters.



The second item (*see left*) complements the jug for it is a 1st century AD terracotta figurine of a gladiator once part of the Pitt-Rivers Collection. This rather attractive piece has a strong resemblance to an Australian opening batsman, for not only does he appear to be taking a long sweeping shot but he wears very long greaves or pads. Unfortunately the lower left

arm is missing so we can't be absolutely sure if he held a spear or a cricket bat. As one colleague pointed out, this is excellent evidence for the inclusion of cricket in the Olympics - and would surely result in another gold for Australia.

Sonia Puttock

Director, Antiquities Museum



BLAST from the PAST



Miss-spent youth?



PSC

Please make a note that the next PSC afternoon tea will be held:

Tuesday 2 May

from 3pm in the Forgan Smith Building.

All are welcome...

UQ Student Philosophy Association

The Student Philosophy Association (SPA) aims to provide invigorating and engaging philosophical activities for students. It frequently puts on its own seminars, film screenings and debates at which students discuss the issues of importance, and socialise afterwards. Wine and cheese is available throughout the evening.

Philosophy staff in HPRC encourages the Association, and believes students of philosophy will find the SPA a stimulating group.

Contact:

Gerald Keane (President): geraldkeaney@hotmail.com

Grace Nye (Secretary): grace.nye@gmail.com



Conferences

Classics and Ancient History Conference

May 5-6, 2006

'ANCIENT DISASTERS'

Saturday, 6th May: the 12th annual Ancient History Conference will be held at the University of Queensland. As usual, the venue is the Abel Smith Lecture Theatre, Campbell Road, UQ Campus, St Lucia, and will run from 9am-4pm. Cost: \$25 pp (\$15 school students and students with ID). Prior booking is essential, and a booking form will be available from this website in the near future. A book display will be held in the foyer of the theatre.

One the preceding evening - Friday, 5th May at 8pm - a free **Public Lecture** will be given in the same lecture theatre by distinguished Egyptologist Dr Colin Hope, Director of the Centre for Archaeology & Ancient History at Monash University. The topic is **"The disastrous arrival of the ancient Egyptians in the oases of the western Desert: a view from Dakhleh"**. Dr Hope will also be the keynote speaker at the conference on Saturday.

On the conference program:

Mr Don Barrett: 'All shook up: earthquakes in the ancient world', Dr Colin Hope: 'The reign of Akhenaten – a disaster waiting to happen?', Emeritus Professor Bob Milns: 'Plagues in Greek and Roman literature', Professor Tim Parkin: 'The last days of Pompeii', Professor John Moorhead: 'The Fourth Crusade', Dr Tom Stevenson: 'The Roman disaster at Cannae', Dr Sonia Puttock: 'Whose disaster? An exploration of the Boudiccan revolt'.

Further details about Friends of Antiquity are available from Mrs Juliet O'Brien (07-3892.5692) or Mrs Lyn Milns (07-3378.1880), and from the University's Alumni Association website: <http://www.uq.edu.au/alumni> - and follow the links to "special groups – Friends of Antiquity".



2nd Queensland Biohumanities Conference:
The Philosophy of Ecology

The University of Queensland
St Lucia Campus, 29-30 June 2006

This workshop-style event will involve most of the active researchers in this new and important area of philosophical enquiry, along with some leading ecologists. It is hoped that the meeting will help set the agenda for research in this area.

Speakers include: Mark Colyvan (Philosophy Program, Biohumanities Project, and The Ecology Centre, University of Queensland); Greg Cooper (Society and the Professions Program, Washington and Lee University); Kevin De Laplante (Philosophy Department, Iowa State University); Greg Mikkelsen (Department of Philosophy and School of the Environment, McGill University); Jay Odenbaugh (Department of Philosophy and Environmental Studies, Lewis and Clark College); Hugh Possingham (Mathematics Program and The Ecology Centre, The University of Queensland); Kim Sterelny (Philosophy Programme, Victoria University Wellington and Philosophy Program, RISS, ANU)

The issues to be addressed will include: whether ecology has laws; the role of mathematical and formal methods in ecology; whether there is any sense to the notion of a "balance of nature"; the status and significance of the complexity-stability hypothesis, and the relationship between ecology and conservation biology.

All philosophically-minded ecologists and ecologically-minded philosophers are welcome and, indeed, encouraged to attend.

Attendance is free but you will need to register in advance. Further information, including registration form and details

of venue and timetable is available at: <http://www.uq.edu.au/biohumanities/>

The conference is supported by the Biohumanities Project, an Australian Research Council Federation Fellowship awarded to Prof. Paul E. Griffiths



The Olden Days

A jokey email circulating recently presented some "facts about the 1500s". Would any learned colleagues care to respond to these alleged truths?

Bridal bouquets

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Hot baths

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children-last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

Roof-top creatures

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the dogs, cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could really mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

Floors

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying "dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they kept adding more thresh until when you opened the door it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the saying a "thresh hold."

Tasty

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes the stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme, “Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old.”

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man “could bring home the bacon.” They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and “chew the fat.”

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or “upper crust.”

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock them out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a “wake.”

Last rites

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a “bone-house” and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they thought they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the “graveyard shift”) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be “saved by the bell” or was considered a “dead ringer.”



Design

QUADRIVIA is designed by HPRC postgraduate Laurence Brown on behalf of Congress Of Dreams. If you have any questions or comments please call on +61 0421 349 086 or email at: congressdreams@optusnet.com.au.

Web: www.members.optusnet.com.au/storyboy/congressofdreams/

