

ROMAN SOCIETY

HUGH LAST AND DONALD ATKINSON FUNDS

Applications for grants are invited for financial assistance towards the undertaking, completion or publication of work that relates to any of the general scholarly purposes of the Roman Society, which are to promote the study of the history, archaeology, literature and art of Italy and the Roman Empire, from the earliest times down to about A.D. 700. In addition, postgraduate students may apply for small grants for visits to conferences and for other minor research expenses. Grants for the organisation of conferences, colloquia and symposia will be considered only in exceptional circumstances.

Applications, together with two references, should be made before 15 January and sent to the Secretary, Roman Society, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU. It is the responsibility of applicants to arrange for their references to reach the Society by the same date. Application forms may be obtained from the Secretary.

SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

The Society's Schools Committee makes grants to schools to help promote the teaching of Latin and Roman studies. Most of the grants are awarded for the purchase of textbooks and other books on Roman topics, but the Committee also makes awards to groups and schools organising lectures or study days on Roman themes. Applications from schools planning to start courses in Latin are particularly welcome.

The annual budget is *c.* £6,000, and the usual level of award is £50 to £500. The Committee meets three times a year. Applications should be sent to the Secretary, Roman Society, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU to arrive by 1 February, 1 July or 1 November in any year. There is no special application form, but applicants should provide information about the level of their departmental budget, the type of courses taught, and in the case of applications for books, a list of the books wanted with their prices.

REPRESENTATION OF THE SOCIETY ABROAD

The Council of the Society invites applications from members to attend a conference of a sister body in another country or to undertake a lecture tour as an official representative of the Society. The Society is willing to pay up to a maximum of £500 for a single conference or lecture tour, to help cover the travel costs. The delegate will be required to submit a report to Council on the state of Roman studies in the country concerned. Preference will be given to a delegate going to a country where the subject may benefit from the Society's representation.

Applications should be sent to the Secretary, at least six months before the conference or lecture tour, for approval by Council.

ARCHAEOLOGY COMMITTEE

The Archaeology Committee was formed in 1993. Its brief was to organise a regular conference to act 'as a forum where those interested in the archaeology of the Roman Empire and those more specifically concerned with Roman Britain' could come together. This initiative has led to a highly successful series of international, biennial conferences, the first four being held in the Universities of Reading, Nottingham, Durham and Glasgow respectively. The fifth will be in the University of Leicester from Thursday 3 to Sunday 6 April 2003; further details are available from Professor D.J. Mattingly or Dr S.T. James, School of Archaeological Studies, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH; e-mail: djm7@leicester.ac.uk or stj3@le.ac.uk ; fax 0116 252 5005.

The Committee also acts as a conduit through which the Society's advisory role in archaeological matters, as one of the national period societies, can be fulfilled. It considers reports and responds as appropriate.

The current members are: Dr I.P. Haynes (Chairman), Dr R.C. Hingley (Secretary), Miss L. Allason-Jones, Mr P.M. Booth, Mr R.J. Brewer, Miss A.J. Claridge, Dr J. Davies, Dr A.S. Esmonde Cleary, Dr H.E.M. Cool, Dr V. Gaffney, Dr W.S. Hanson, Dr S. T. James, Dr P.C. Roberts, Dr S.A. Scott, Mr A.R. Wilmott and a representative of the Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference.

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Individual slides and sets with notes may be hired. Filmstrips are available for sale. Further details may be obtained from the Keeper of Slides or from the web-site: <http://www.sas.ac.uk/icls/library/slides.htm>.



Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU
President: Professor R.G. Osborne

The Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, generally known as the Hellenic Society, was founded in 1879 to advance the study of Greek language, literature, history, art and archaeology in the Ancient, Byzantine and Modern periods. It has done this ever since by various means, chief among them being the annual publication of the *Journal of Hellenic Studies* and, since the 1950s, its supplement, *Archaeological Reports*. All members receive both these publications annually. Occasional monographs are published, the latest being *Greek Scripts: an illustrated introduction*, edd. P. Easterling and C. Handley (2001, 76 pp., 102 illus., paperback, ISBN 0 902984 17 9), available at £15/US\$30 to Society members; *Homer, Tragedy and Beyond: Essays in honour of P.E. Easterling*, edd. F. Budelmann and P. Michelakis (2001, 276 pp., 2 illus., paperback, ISBN 0 902984 19 5) available at £25/\$50 to Society members.

The Society also helps to maintain the Joint Library on the third floor of Senate House, in conjunction with the Roman Society and the Institute of Classical Studies. Membership of the Hellenic Society allows the reader to borrow (within the UK) up to four books at a time, either in person or by post. Members may also borrow slides from the Joint Library's extensive collection.

The Society also arranges an annual lecture series in London, holds occasional receptions and other meetings, and helps to arrange other lectures in collaboration with the various local branches of the Classical Association. A programme of all these lectures and other meetings is circulated to UK members in September. The Society holds a list of lecturers on topics in Hellenic Studies, which is supplied to Classical Associations and others to help them plan their own lecture programmes.

The Society aims to help those engaged in Hellenic Studies at all levels, and to this end it makes grants to schools, colleges, universities and individual students.

Membership is open to all, and there is a reduced rate for students. For current subscription rates and all further information please contact: The Secretary, Hellenic Society, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU (tel: +44 (0)20 7862-8730, fax: +44 (0)20 7862 8731, e-mail: hellenic@sas.ac.uk, web-site: www.sas.ac.uk/icls/hellenic).

The Classical Association

The Classical Association has a worldwide membership and is open to all who value the study of the languages, literature, and civilisations of ancient Greece and Rome. It creates opportunities for friendly exchange and co-operation among classicists, encourages scholarship through its journals and other publications, and supports classics in schools and universities. Every year it holds an annual conference, and it sponsors branches all over the country which put on programmes of lectures and other activities.

The Classical Association has about 4,000 members. The annual subscription is £8; life membership is £105 for those aged 65 or over. Members receive *The Presidential Address* once a year and a newsletter, *CA News*, twice a year. They may also subscribe at substantially reduced cost to the Classical Association journals *Classical Quarterly*, *Classical Review*, and *Greece and Rome*.

Applications for membership and subscriptions (cheques payable to 'The Classical Association') should be sent to the Secretary, Room 323, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU (tel: +44 (0)20 7862 8706, fax: +44 (0)20 7862 8729, e-mail: croberts@sas.ac.uk, web-site: www.sas.ac.uk/icls/classass). The Secretary can also give information about journal subscription rates, and about the Association's other publications, including the *Greece and Rome* supplements *New Surveys in the Classics*.

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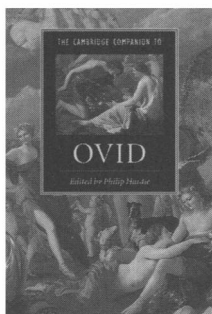
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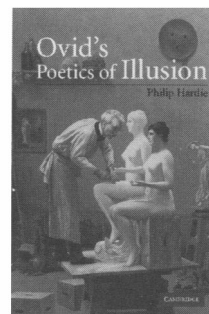
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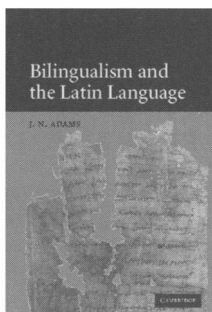
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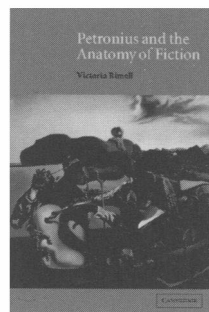
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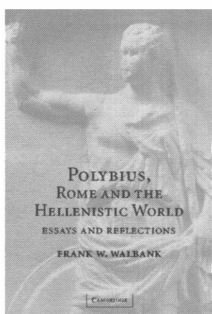
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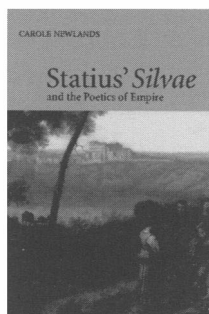
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THE ENCOUNTER BETWEEN SENECA AND CHRISTIANITY

Paul Berry

Paul Berry has made an eloquent case in his work, *Seneca and Christianity*, to support the ancient view that the Roman philosopher, Seneca, became a Christian late in his life. The case receives a full hearing in this convincing presentation. The conclusion is supported by a number of primary sources taken from various Latin authors of the 1st century A.D. But, direct testimony rests on passages in the Senecan canon itself. Interwoven with it is the evidence of the philosopher's correspondence with the Apostle Paul. The authority for these letters has been well established in Berry's previous study, *Correspondence Between Paul and Seneca A.D. 61-65* (1999).

The fact that the philosopher had turned away from the polytheism of the Empire, and from the deities enshrined in the Pantheon, has never been doubted by historians. To his friend, the Procurator of Sicily, Seneca had written,

God is with you, He is within you. So I say unto thee, Lucilius, a Holy Spirit dwells within us. Our good and evil He observes, having our own custody. As we treat this Spirit, so He treats us. In truth, no man is good without God.

Berry uses citations from the Latin classics to demonstrate the arrival of Christianity in Rome would have offered Seneca the alternative direction to which he was attracted. The first witness in the presentation is Tacitus, the great historian of the Empire, whose record indicates that the initial Christian presence in the capital had been noted before A.D. 37, and within the reign of Tiberius Caesar. Seneca - in one of the most evocative remarks in Latin literature - wrote that he had come of age under Tiberius and, at that time, certain new religions were being introduced. The biographer, Suetonius, pointed to the dramatic increase of Christians in the city, and he dated their expulsion from the capital to A.D. 49, during the administration of Claudius. The Roman historian, Dio Cassius, wrote of the persecution of Christians by Nero after the great fire of A.D. 64. That the *New Testament* had been in circulation in

in Rome through the Neronian years is known from Paul's reminder in his second letter to Timothy, "Bring with thee the books, and especially the parchments."

Berry employs the modern literary device of form criticism to good advantage in stating his case. He presents an extended number of quotations taken from the writings of Seneca, and places them in alignment with familiar verses found in the Gospel accounts. The accumulated parallels, both in imagery and in thought sequence, cannot be easily dismissed. He is particularly sensitive to the question of a common language in the 1st century of Christianity. The conclusion is based on his previous book, *Roman Handwriting at the Time of Christ* (2001). There, it is demonstrated that *Lingua Latina* served as the transport vehicle of Christianity through the length of the Empire, from Britain in the west to the Persian Gulf in the east.

But the crowning argument of this monograph is an examination of Seneca's gradual departure from the naturalistic world of Stoicism, and his advance toward the transcendent world of faith. Ultimately, the philosopher was repelled by the pagan disregard for the sanctity of life, and by its nihilistic acceptance of the final exit of suicide. His sea-change is placed within the context of Paul's arrival in Rome, and the Christian belief in the immortality of the soul.

Seneca's late essay, *de Providentia*, is one of the strongest assets in the demonstration. It appears in the monograph as an exact facsimile reproduction taken from the first printed edition of the philosopher's works, the *Editio Princeps*. Today, this typeset version, dated to 1475, is a rare book among rare books. It is reproduced here - and for the first time - through the generosity of the holding institution, the Corpus Christi Library of Oxford University. The essay is accompanied, on each facing page, by a fluent English translation.

In all, an inspired treatment of this enduring philosophical question. The monograph will be a watershed in modern Senecan studies.

Peter King, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Ohio State University

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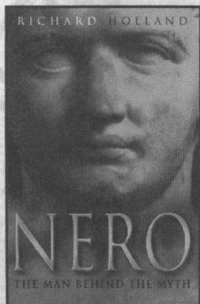
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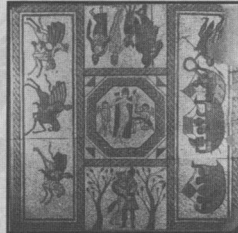


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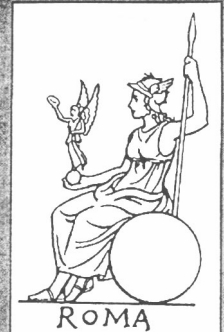
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