Dear ASGLE Members,

The year 2020 got off to a great start with our Third North American Congress of Greek and Latin Epigraphy (NACGLE) hosted at Georgetown University. It is truly impressive to think that this was only our third epigraphic Congress in North America. We designed the theme for the congress, “Inscriptions and the Epigraphic Habit,” to be broad, and it drew in a wonderfully diverse group of scholars, classicists, historians, archaeologists, linguists, and philologists. With 19 paper sessions, poster sessions, a plenary panel on the developments with Epigraphy.info, and keynote addresses by John Bodel and Elizabeth Meyer, NACGLE provided a packed three days that brought together epigraphers in North America with our global counterparts and showed how much great epigraphic work is currently taking place. Thank you to all those who participated and made it the friendly, intellectually stimulating success that it was. A special thanks goes to Cathy Keesling and Georgetown University for being such gracious and generous hosts, and to the other members of the organizing committee (see below).

The new year also brings new officers: Jonathan Edmondson begins a two-year term as Vice President, and Jim Sickinger picks up the mantle of Editor of our venerable ASGLE Bulletin.

Colleen Kron is also filling a new position as Communications Chair. She has begun a Twitter account and a Facebook group for ASGLE, so it’s now easier than ever to learn about the many epigraphic opportunities and events taking place. Colleen will work with our Bulletin editor (Jim) and our website editor (Sarah Bond, temporarily covered by Stephanie Frampton), and helping to publicize news from AIEGL, our international association, as they too begin to share news on social media outlets.

Many thanks to our new officers for your efforts and your willingness to serve.

Finally, please note the following:

1) Consider submitting an abstract for the next ASGLE panel “Inscriptions and Literacy,” to take place at the 2021 SCS in Chicago. The “Call for Papers” can be found later in this issue; abstracts are due to benefielr@wlu.edu by March 1, 2020.

2) Keep an eye out for information later this year about the next international congress of epigraphy sponsored by AIEGL, which will take place in August 2022 in Bordeaux, France.

3) Finally consider whether your institution could host the next North American Congress of Greek and Latin Epigraphy. This will take place in 2024 or 2025, and we hope to have self-nominations at our next business meeting in January 2021. Feel free to contact Cathy Keesling (keeslinc@georgetown.edu) or Rebecca Benefiel (benefielr@wlu.edu) if you have questions.

Finally, we want to hear from our membership! The ASGLE Bulletin comes out twice a year, and if you have recent publications or other information to share, please contact Jim Sickinger (jsicking@fsu.edu) or Colleen Kron (kron.15@osu.edu).

As I mentioned in my opening remarks at NACGLE, this is an exciting time to be an epigrapher. The last decade has seen a remarkable number of first-rate books, articles, and chapters published on epigraphic topics. We are a dynamic group, as our third NACGLE clearly attested. Keep up the good work, everyone!

Rebecca R. Benefiel,
President, ASGLE
CALL FOR PAPERS


What does the ubiquity of inscriptions in the ancient world communicate about ancient literacy?

The aim of this panel is to consider the relationship of epigraphy and literacy in, as Peter Kruschwitz has described it, a “fundamentally lettered world.” Scholars have profitably examined the interrelated concepts of orality and literacy (cf. the Orality and Literacy in the Ancient World series), and recent publications are bringing archaeological material to bear on the question. Yet following Harris’ Ancient Literacy (1989), work ranging from Literacy in the Roman world (JRA Supp. 1991) to Literacy in ancient everyday life (De Gruyter 2018) demonstrates that epigraphy offers particularly productive ways to approach the topic of ancient literacy.

How do inscriptions rely on the abilities of the viewer to communicate their message? Should we consider ancient literacy or ancient literacies? Each type of material, from monumental inscriptions to ostraka, from lead tablets to dipinti and graffiti, provides a different perspective on the use and the ability to read and write.

Papers might address the topics of literacy or literacies, audience and viewer, the concept of working literacy or subcategories of literacy, the variety of written material from the ancient world, or other points of contact between epigraphy and literacy.

Abstracts should be a maximum of 500 words (bibliography excluded) and will be evaluated anonymously by two reviewers. Please follow the SCS “Guidelines for Authors of Abstracts”. Send abstracts as a Word or PDF file that does not include your name by March 1, 2020 to Rebecca Benefiel at benefielr@wlu.edu. (Please note that authors submitting abstracts must be SCS members in good standing and will need to register for the 2021 meeting.)
REPORT ON NACGLE 2020

The Third North American Congress of Greek and Latin Epigraphy (NACGLE 3) took place in Washington immediately after the Joint Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America and the Society for Classical Studies. More than 100 registered participants from around the world converged on the campus of Georgetown University for two and a half days of talks and epigraphical conviviality.

Building on the success of NACGLE 2, held at UC Berkeley in January 2016, NACGLE 3 included 19 paper sessions united under the theme “Inscriptions and the Epigraphic Habit.” The Congress also featured two keynote addresses, by John Bodel (Brown University) and Elizabeth Meyer (University of Virginia). Other highlights included a welcome by Christopher Celenza, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Georgetown, and a session in the historic Riggs Library in Healy Hall.

The NACGLE 3 organizing committee (ASGLE President Rebecca Benefiel, Web-Editor Sarah Bond, Jorge Bravo, Catherine Keesling, Michael Laughy, and Nikolaos Papazarkadas) would like to thank all of the participants for making the Congress such a great success. It is not too early to begin thinking about NACGLE 4!
Morgan E. Palmer has published “Inscriptional Intermediality in Livy” in Martin T. Dinter and Bettina Reitz-Joosse, eds. Trends in Classics: Special Issue: Intermediality and Roman Literature, Vol. 11, no. 1, (2019), pp. 74–95. This publication examines ways in which Livy vividly recreates aspects of the historical Roman epigraphic landscape in his text. Palmer has also been awarded a four-week research scholarship at the Fondation Hardt to support her work on inscriptions in Livy.

Journal of Epigraphic Studies 2 (2019), NOW PUBLISHED.

The second issue of the Journal of Epigraphic Studies (JES) was published at the end of 2019. The Journal now welcomes articles written in English, German, French, Italian or Spanish for issue number 3 (2020). More details about subscription, the submission procedure and the editorial rules are accessible through:

https://www.libraweb.net/riviste.php?chiave=137

History of Classical Scholarship 1 (2019), NOW ONLINE

The Editors are glad to announce the publication of the inaugural issue of “History of Classical Scholarship” (HCS). The journal hosts papers on any aspect of the history of classical studies, in any geographical context, from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century, covering the whole range of the discipline: from ancient history to literary studies, from epigraphy and numismatics to art history and archaeology, from textual criticism to religious and linguistic studies. We also welcome editions of significant items from the Nachlässe of classical scholars, including letters and documents that may shed light on matters of historical or historiographical interest. We publish articles in English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish. The contents of the journal are accessible at: https://www.hcsjournal.org.

Submissions and informal queries may be addressed to the Editors, Lorenzo Calvelli (lorenzoc@unive.it) and Federico Santangelo (federico.santangelo@ncl.ac.uk).

New Issues of Horos


Member News and Publications

ASGLE LIFE MEMBERS

Rebecca Benefiel
John Bodel
Christer Bruun
Jonathan Edmondson
Laura Gawlinski
John D. Morgan
Nikolaos Papazarkadas
George Pesely
Andréj Petrović
Stephen V. Tracy
Georgios Tsolakis
In the summer of 2019, the British School at Athens welcomed a group of thirteen students, including myself, from universities in the UK and the US as participants in the Postgraduate Training Course in Greek Epigraphy. Taught and led by Robert Pitt (BSA) and Graham Oliver (Brown, Member-at-Large of the ASGLE Executive Committee), the course offered us comprehensive training in both the study and the practice of epigraphy.

The first week consisted of coursework covering the history of the study of epigraphy, the techniques involved in reading inscriptions, and the process of creating an edition of an inscription. But the learning was not confined to the classroom: the lessons were supplemented with trips to the Acropolis, Agora, and Kerameikos to study inscriptions in the field. We even had the opportunity to hunt for horos inscriptions on Alepovouni just outside of Athens.

The second week of the program was spent in the Epigraphical Museum, where we were each tasked with producing an edition of an inscription assigned to us. The time spent sprawled out on the floor of the museum, taking measurements, sketching the inscriptions, tracing the letters on acetate, and consulting the expansive collection of research materials in the BSA library led up to a presentation of our finished product: an edition of our inscriptions complete with lemma, bibliography, commentary, and translation.

My experience in this course not only left me with valuable skills needed to carry out my own work in epigraphy, but also with a fuller understanding of the “personality” of the field and just how essential epigraphy is to the field of Classics. Please note that this BSA course is scheduled to run again in Summer 2021!!
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF GREEK AND LATIN EPIGRAPHY (ASGLE), founded in 1996, is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to further research in, and the teaching of, Greek and Latin epigraphy in North America. The Society fosters collaboration in the field and facilitates the exchange of scholarly research and discussion, both in the public forum and in published form. It sponsors a thematic panel each year at the meetings of the Society of Classical Studies (formerly the American Philological Association) and an international congress every five years.

Membership in ASGLE is open to all person interested in the study and promotion of Greek and Latin epigraphy and related disciplines. Full membership, for college and university faculty in North America, includes membership in L’Association Internationale pour l’Épigraphie Grecque et Latine (AIEGL). A reduced-rate membership does not include membership in AIEGL and is available for students, independent scholars, retired faculty, and foreign scholars who are already members of AIEGL. Lifetime memberships are also available. Please see the table below for a schedule of fees.

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<th>Category</th>
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<td>Full (for college and university</td>
<td>Includes annual membership in L’Association Internationale</td>
<td>$45/year</td>
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<td>Student, Retired, Independent,</td>
<td>Does not include membership in L’Association Internationale</td>
<td>$15/year</td>
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<td>Foreign Scholars</td>
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<td>Lifetime</td>
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Individuals may join the Society by completing and detaching the form below and sending it, with payment, to the Secretary-Treasurer at the address listed. Checks should be made payable to ASGLE in US dollars and drawn on a US bank. Dues may also be paid online by visiting the Society’s website at http://www.asgle.org/.

Name:  __________________________________________________________________________
Address:  _____________________________________________________________________
Email:  __________________________________________________________________________
Amount Enclosed:  __________________________________________________________________________
Year(s) to which  ____________________________ fees applied (e.g., 2018, 2019)

Please mail payment, with this form, to:
Prof. Rebecca Benefiel
President, ASGLE
Washington and Lee University
Tucker Hall 105
204 W. Washington St.
Lexington, VA 24450