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**The Annual Meeting of Postgraduates in Ancient Literature (AMPAL)
Conference 2011
Saturday 10th – Sunday 11th September 2011
Royal Holloway, University of London (RHUL)**

The Annual Meeting of Postgraduates in Ancient Literature (AMPAL) 2011 provided an opportunity for postgraduate doctoral students in the field of Classics to present their research, take part in discussion, exchange ideas and meet other postgraduates and academics. The conference provided a platform for students to present papers before a receptive audience in a non-confrontational environment, and provided an ideal opportunity for postgraduates to present their work for the first time.

AMPAL 2011 was organised by Christina Poulos, Giulia Brunetta and Katie East and was held at Royal Holloway, University of London (RHUL) from 10th – 11th September 2011. There were 65 speakers and delegates who attended over the two days of the conference from all over the UK, Greece, Italy, Belgium, Finland, the Netherlands, the United States and Australia. The conference contributed to the professional training of these doctoral students by developing their presentation skills, increasing their confidence and encouraging them to defend their ideas and research. It offered an opportunity for students to investigate their research from a different perspective, promoting new ideas and assisting their critical analysis. The event also promoted communication and collaboration between postgraduates at different institutions in the UK and internationally, as it presented an occasion to network and socialise with students working in similar fields. AMPAL 2011 provided an excellent opportunity for the organising committee to work within a team to co-ordinate an international event, to take responsibility for administrative and financial management of the conference, and to deal with academics and academic institutions within a professional context.

There was a high level of interest in AMPAL 2011 and a large number of abstracts were submitted to be considered as conference papers under the theme 'Power and Manipulation'. The organising committee analysed the abstracts and were able to create a two day conference programme with parallel panels for a total of 43 selected papers. The theme 'Power and Manipulation' inspired a variety of interpretations from all areas of the classical field, and panels at the conference included papers on historiography, tragedy, comedy, poetry, epic, novel, religion, language, politics, ethics, rhetoric, philosophy and reception.

AMPAL 2011 offered the valuable provision of peer review and delegates were given the opportunity to offer anonymous feedback on the speakers, chairs and on the conference as a whole. All speakers and chairs received peer review and were highly appreciative of the opportunity to receive constructive feedback on their presentation skills and research. The conference organisers also received very positive feedback from delegates and speakers on the organisation and structure of the conference. A summative session was held at the close of the conference in order to discuss positive and negative aspects of the conference, and to ascertain interest from students wishing to organise AMPAL 2012. This was therefore a unique and valuable learning opportunity for all participants, as well as future organising committees who will benefit from the lessons learnt at AMPAL 2011.

The AMPAL 2011 Conference Proceedings Issue is not only being published in the *Rosetta* journal at the University of Birmingham, but a summary of the conference has also been published in the *Bollettino di Studi Latini*.

Thanks to the generous financial support from the Classical Association, the Institute of Classical Studies, the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, the RHUL Hellenic Institute, and the Department of Classics and Philosophy at RHUL, the organising committee was able to award student

bursaries to cover conferences fees and bursaries towards accommodation costs for every delegate and speaker that applied for financial support. The AMPAL 2011 organising committee is extremely grateful for the generous funding provided towards the conference, which was ultimately a very successful event.

The AMPAL conference began in 2005 at the University of Cambridge, and then moved on to the University of Manchester in 2006, the University of Nottingham in 2007, the Open University in 2008, the University of Birmingham in 2009 and on to RHUL in 2011. Over the years, new and innovative aspects have been added to the conference including poster competitions, peer review schemes, and published conference proceedings. The popularity of the conference continues to grow and, after the huge success and support from AMPAL 2011 at RHUL, the organising committee has been able to co-ordinate with postgraduate students at the University of Oxford to ensure that the tradition continues and that AMPAL 2012 will be held at the University of Oxford in September 2012.

Christina Poulos, Giulia Brunetta, Katie East
AMPAL 2011 Organising Committee