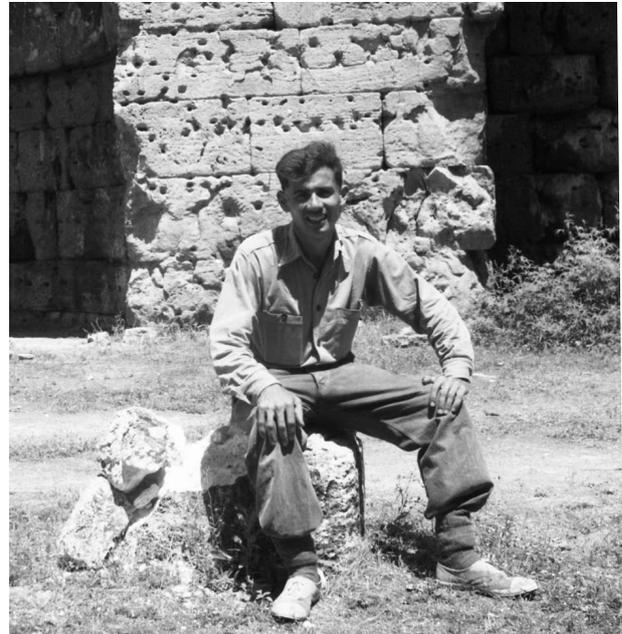


MAMA XI

The Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents is home to a major new research project to produce the eleventh volume of *Monumenta Asiae Minoris Antiqua* (MAMA XI). In contrast to previous volumes, which were issued only as standard hard-copy epigraphic corpora, *MAMA XI: Monuments from Southern Phrygia, Lycaonia and Cappadocia*, will be published online prior to the production of a version in book format. The project will publish approximately six hundred inscriptions from the archives of Sir William Calder and Dr. Michael Ballance, who made squeezes or transcribed and sketched the monuments during their travels in Turkey in 1954-1957. The majority of the monuments are dated to the period of the high Roman empire, although the earliest securely dated text comes from the reign of Augustus. The team is concentrating on the material from the Calder-Ballance archive, and there are as yet no plans to publish additional texts from the region.

*MAMA XI* is directed by Dr. Peter Thonemann, Forrest-Derow Fellow and Tutor in Ancient History at Wadham College, who obtained an early career grant of £140,998 from the Arts and Humanities Research Council to fund the project from April 2009 until March 2012. He is joined by Dr. Charles Crowther, CSAD's Assistant Director, and Dr. Edouard Chiricat, who will be working as a research assistant on *MAMA XI* as well as for the *Lexicon of Greek Personal Names*.

The edition of each inscription will contain information on the nature of the monument, its find spot and dimensions, as well as details on whether the reading



Michael Ballance at Pamukkale, 1953

was obtained from a squeeze, photograph, line-drawing, or notebook. Dr. Thonemann plans to make some trips to Turkey to check readings *in situ* or in local museums, although the majority of monuments are no longer extant.

One of the advantages of online publication is that it is possible to post high-resolution photographs of the inscriptions, as well as copies of squeezes and notebooks, to allow scholars to study the material for themselves. The editions will be marked-up in EpiDoc XML, which means that the text can be read accurately in any browser, preserving epigraphic editorial conventions such as square brackets and dots under the letters. Each word in the inscription will be individually marked-up, which will allow for greater flexibility in searching the archive, as well as facilitating the creation of an index for the print version of the corpus.

Two sample texts from Phrygia have already been marked-up and placed online for scholars to view: a monument for the emperor Septimius Severus erected at Brouzos and a statue base in honour of the asiarch Q. Claudius Pollio from Akmoneia. A user group has been set up to allow selected scholars to comment on the editions and their presentation before they are officially published. Approximately fifty to sixty texts will be posted on the website early in 2010, which will allow the team to test out the search and indexing functions.

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The Calder-Ballance archive contains a wide range of monuments which illuminate the social history of inner Anatolia. One of the undisputed highlights of the *MAMA XI* corpus is an honorific stele, dated to A.D. 6/7, which was erected by the “Greek and Roman women” for a woman called Tatia at Akmoneia in Phrygia. The inscription is exceptional, because, to quote Dr. Thonemann, it constitutes the only known example “of a corporate body of women taking joint responsibility with the male members of their community for a public decision”. Dr. Thonemann is currently preparing an article on this text for publication.

A funerary monument for a certain Flavius Buraido, who served as a *protector* in A.D. 390, will be of significant interest to military historians. This inscription from Sebaste was originally published by M. P. Speidel in 1984 (whence *AE* 1984, 849), but has now been re-read based on Ballance’s photograph and squeeze of the monument. The new reading shows that Buraido was a *protector* in the *schola peditum*, a detail which enhances our limited knowledge of the composition of the *scholae protectorum* in the late fourth century. Other important texts include an honorific inscription for the senator T. Fl. Montanus Maximianus, who served as governor of Thrace in the Severan period, and a monument for the polyonymous Gaius Claudius Egnatius Vigellius Valerius Ulpus Antonius Pollio Terentullianus, priest for life of the god Asklepios at Akmoneia.

The plan is for the *MAMA XI* web site to be completed in the next two to two and a half years. The EpiDoc xml files from which the website will be created will also be used to generate the camera-ready copy for the book version, to be published as a *Journal of Roman Studies* Monograph in 2013.



*MAMA XI* 1955/38-39 (Brouzos)



Peter Thonemann examining a sarcophagus in situ

In the long-term future, it is hoped that the archives of *MAMA V*, *IX*, and *X*, which are also held in Oxford, will also be converted to EpiDoc format and placed online. For further information on *MAMA XI* and to view the first two sample texts, visit the project’s website, located at <http://mama.csad.ox.ac.uk/index.html>.

## Interpreting Ancient Documents

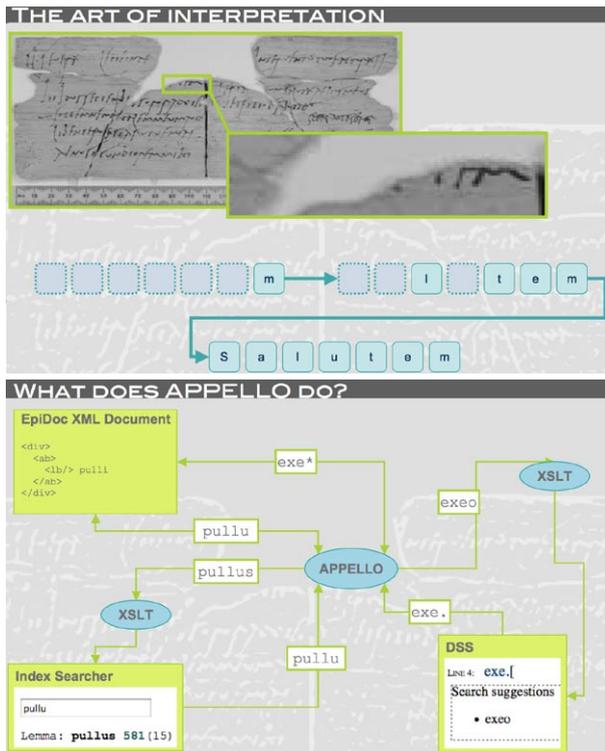
The process of interpreting ancient documents is about to become significantly easier, thanks to the work of a University of Oxford DPhil student based at CSAD. Henriette Roued-Cunliffe, who gained an MSc in Archaeological Computing at Southampton before joining the Centre, is working on a pioneering Decision Support System (DSS) to help researchers with their efforts to transcribe and interpret documents such as the Vindolanda tablets.

One of the key objectives of the DSS is to record decisions made by scholars as they are reading the documents. As Henriette explains: “You would record that the letter is an A, but also the reason that you think it is an A, so when you come back to it, after a week of teaching and administration, you know why you thought it was an A in the first place.”

To show how this might work in practice, Henriette uses an English example, the word ‘BAR’, where the reading of the ‘A’ might be doubtful. However, as she explains, “the fact that the document also includes the word ‘VODKA’ can be used as evidence in support of the ‘A’ reading.” Two or more researchers will also be able to work on a specific document at the same time, since they can leave notes for each other in the DSS. Henriette emphasises that the aim of the project is to support the work of scholars, not to replace them. “There are things that humans are good at, and things which machines are good at, and they don’t necessarily overlap.”

Henriette is also working on building a knowledge base of words as web services to assist scholars in their interpretations. For example, if the first two letters of a word have been convincingly read as ‘LE’, then the

system will suggest 'LEGIO' as an appropriate reading. Researchers will be able to choose an appropriate knowledge base to help their work depending on the type of text they are reading. Henriette is currently developing a prototype based on the Vindolanda tablets, which will assist with similar documents found in a military context, but also plans to construct a knowledge base from the corpus of inscriptions created by the MAMA XI project. Henriette says the aim of the database is to provide "inspiration for new interpretations or for confirming your current interpretation".



*Elements of a Decision Support System*

The Vindolanda Tablets are currently being encoded in XML, which will allow indexing to take place directly from the tags, eliminating the need for it to be done manually. Visitors to the web site will be able to search through the tablets using the Ajax Live Search technology. Henriette says that this will produce a more interactive and user-friendly web site, which will be officially launched at the 11th Roman Archaeology Conference, to be held in Oxford in March 2010.

One of the advantages of the DSS is that it is being developed in collaboration with ancient historians such as Henriette's supervisor, Professor Alan Bowman. Henriette explains that the Humanities have tended to use software developed for other industries, such as geography or urban planning. "It's really interesting how humanities have used software from other fields, but are now developing their own with open-source technology, depending on the needs of the users."

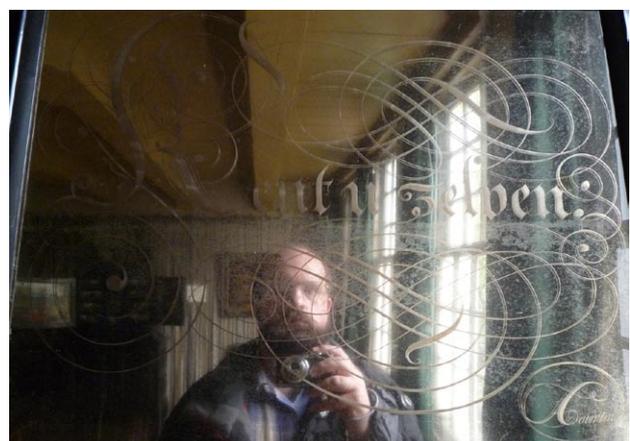
Henriette's blog about the DSS project and other issues in eScience and the Humanities can be accessed online at: <http://www.roued.com/e-doc/>

## New Arrival

The Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents is pleased to welcome Dr. Edouard Chiricat, who is working as a research assistant on the *Lexicon of Greek Personal Names (LGPN)* and the MAMA XI project for two years. He obtained his doctorate in 2001 from the École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris, on the subject of "The Cults of Hellenistic Gymnasia in Asia Minor and the Aegean Islands". He has been employed as a research and teaching assistant in several French universities, including the École Pratique des Hautes Études in the Sorbonne, where he worked with Professor Philippe Gauthier.

Dr. Chiricat spends one day a week focusing on MAMA XI, preparing the texts for publication online in EpiDoc format. He says that it is "extremely exciting" to be involved in such a project, since he believes that this will probably be "the future of epigraphic publications". He is also preparing editions of twenty five inscriptions from the Phrygian Pentapolis. "The inscriptions from the inland area of Asia Minor are very interesting because they provide information about rural areas, with particular insight on the life of shepherds, vine-growers and wool-merchants: they give us important information on the non-elite and their lives," he says.

In addition to his work at MAMA, Dr. Chiricat is involved with producing Volume VB of the *Lexicon of Greek Personal Names*, which will focus on coastal Asia Minor from Caria to Cilicia. He says that both projects are "complementary with my previous research on members of the *gymnasia*, which were the equivalent of modern-day universities, as they trained the future elite of the polis". Dr. Chiricat is currently working on a monograph based on his doctoral thesis, as well as projects on benefactors in the Hellenistic world in the gymnasial context and the Athenian ephebate in the first century B.C. He says he is pleased to be working at Oxford, praising the "dynamic academic environment" of CSAD and the Faculty of Classics.



*Edouard Chiricat in enigmatic mode*

## The 'Frisian Ox' Tablet

Collaboration between researchers at the Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents and the Department of Engineering Science at Oxford has led to a new understanding of a Latin stilus tablet which was first published in 1917. The wax tablet was originally thought to refer to the sale of an ox in the region occupied by the tribe of Frisii, which corresponds to areas of the modern-day Netherlands and Germany. However, after employing a new image capture technique developed at the CSAD in Oxford, scholars discovered that the tablet has nothing to do with an ox at all.



From left to right, Professor K. Worp, Dr. R. Tomlin and Professor A. Bowman, at the now-levelled site of the Tolsum Terp, where the tablet was found

The story of the 'Frisian Ox' began in the early twentieth century, when the tablet was discovered during the excavation to extract fertiliser of a low habitation mound (or 'terp') at Tolsum in the Netherlands. C.W. Vollgraff, at the time Professor of Greek at the University of Groningen (and great-great uncle of CSAD's Dr. Charles Crowther), published the *editio princeps* of the tablet in the Dutch scholarly journal *Mnemosyne* in 1917. As Professor Alan Bowman, Director of CSAD, said in a paper delivered at the Oxford eResearch Symposium last year: "Although Vollgraff's text showed many peculiarities of formula, syntax and nomenclature, it has always been accepted as basically sound. One of the main reasons for this is that the subject matter, as he interpreted it, fitted very well into a known historical context."

The Frisian tribe paid a tribute in ox-hides to Rome, originally instituted by Drusus, brother of the future emperor Tiberius, during the reign of Augustus. However, in A.D. 28, the Frisii rose in revolt after the Roman army commander on the scene demanded that they pay their tribute with a higher standard of ox-hide, an incident which appears in the *Annals* written by the Roman historian Cornelius Tacitus.

*"In the same year [A.D. 28] the Frisii, a people beyond the Rhine, eschewed peace more because of our greed than because they would not tolerate subjection. Drusus had imposed a moderate tribute on them, appropriate to their limited resources, which they should pay in the form of ox-hides for military uses. No-one had ever been concerned about the strength or size of the hides until Olennius, the former chief centurion appointed to control the Frisii, ruled that they should conform to the standard of the hides of wild oxen. This would have been hard for other peoples too and it was the more intolerable for the Germans whose countryside is full of huge beasts while their domesticated herds are modest in size. In the first place they had given up their cattle, then their lands, and had finally yielded the persons of their wives and children to slavery. This aroused anger and complaint and when they received no alleviation they sought a solution in war. The soldiers who were there to collect the tribute were seized and tied to the gibbet. Olennius anticipated their anger and fled for refuge to the fort named Flevum where a by no means contemptible force of citizen troops and allies garrisoned the shores of the Ocean."* (Tacitus, *Annals*, 4.72)

The connection between the wax tablet and Tacitus seemed a perfect fit, although, as Professor Bowman explained, "there has always been some uncertainty about the exact date of the stilus tablet because the names of the consuls in the dating formula were not clearly legible; Vollgraff and later scholars thought they might be the consuls of either A.D. 29 or A.D. 116, but the earlier date has generally been favoured".

The tablet was brought to Oxford so that it could be studied to resolve the issue of the consular date. High-resolution digital images were captured by Charles Crowther with the CSAD's LightPhase digital camera back, and enhanced by Dr Ségolène Tarte using a procedure known as "shadow stereo" or "phase



The 'Frisian Ox' Stilus Tablet

congruency”, developed by the e-Science and Ancient Documents project. The resulting images were then studied by Professor Bowman and Dr. Roger Tomlin in Oxford, while their colleague, Professor Klaas Worp of Leiden University, was able to view exactly the same pictures in real-time from the Netherlands. This cross-Channel collaboration was made possible by the new Virtual Research Environment (VRE) developed at CSAD and the Oxford eResearch Centre.



*Alan Bowman, Roger Tomlin, and Ségolène Tarte examining the tablet in the image-analysis environment*

The team of scholars working on the tablet was able to determine that the original consular date of A.D. 29 was correct, but that there was no reason to believe the document centred around an ox sale. As Professor Bowman noted in his paper, the “reading of the word *bouem* (ox) in line 4 on the front, which is the only possible reference in the text to an ox and hence the only reason for thinking that this document is the sale of an ox, is simply wrong: the correct reading is clearly the Latin relative pronoun *quem* (whom)”. This discovery led to a thorough re-evaluation of the tablet, resulting in a very different interpretation. The text actually refers to a loan involving a slave, Carus (or Andecarus), owned by a certain Iulia Secunda, who appears to have been the wife of a Roman military officer.

One of the most intriguing aspects of the revised reading is a reference to a certain Miunnio, a “soldier of the unit of Batavians”. The Batavians are well known from their presence at Vindolanda in Britain, but the first securely dated reference to an auxiliary cohort of Batavians occurs in A.D. 61. The editors therefore proposed that Miunnio served in an irregular unit of Batavians, raised as a type of local militia to deal with civil unrest in the Frisian region.

The new edition of the tablet, together with a full historical and philological commentary, can be found in an article in the 2009 issue of the *Journal of Roman Studies* entitled “*Emptio Bovis Frisica*: the ‘Frisian Ox Sale’ Reconsidered”.

## A Suitcase of Squeezes

Two postgraduate students have been volunteering at the Centre this term, helping to catalogue the *MAMA IX* and *X* archives. Jean Choi, who is enrolled as an MPhil student in Greek and Roman History, and Caroline Thurston, studying for an MPhil in Classical Archaeology, have been wading through Sir Christopher Cox’s collection of squeezes from Asia Minor, which are stored in an old trunk. Their primary task has been to draw up a concordance between the squeezes and the published editions, as some of the texts remain unpublished, or have appeared in scholarly journals, rather than the *MAMA* volumes themselves.

Jean, who studied Classics at Brown University in the USA before coming to Oxford, spent part of her final year on a study abroad programme in Greece, where she was introduced to epigraphy by scholars such as Dr Angelos Matthaiou of the Greek Epigraphical Society and Professor Robert Parker, now her MPhil supervisor. Jean says that she had a “phenomenal time” in Greece, which led to a “real awareness of epigraphy as a discipline”.

Caroline comes to CSAD from a material culture perspective, with a BA from King’s College London and three years of excavations at Lefkandi (where she and Jean first met). She was enticed into epigraphy by the thought of working with archival material kept in an old steamer trunk, which, she says, “sounded really exciting!” The task of spending hours reading squeezes and then matching them to publications may not seem too enticing, but both Caroline and Jean have taken on the responsibility with gusto. “It’s a great way to keep up with Greek!” Caroline says.

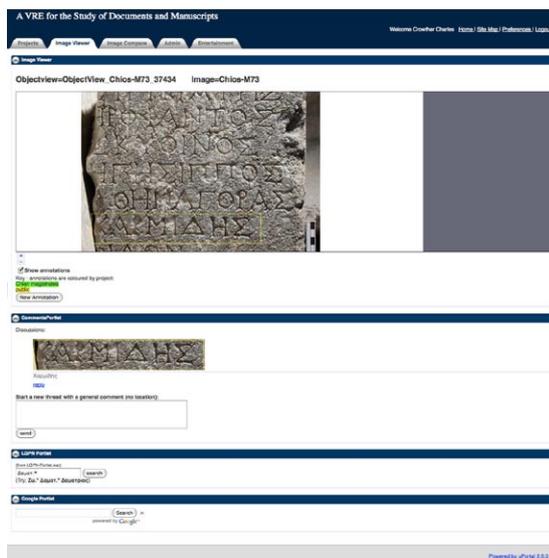


*Jean and Caroline explore the suitcase*

## CSAD News and Events

### Virtual Research Environments

CSAD's Director, Professor Alan Bowman, and Assistant Director, Dr. Charles Crowther, served as Principal Investigators on the innovative research project, "Building a Virtual Research Environment for the Humanities" (BVREH). In the initial phase of the project in 2005/2006, the team investigated the areas in which a VRE might prove useful for humanities scholars, including topics such as data creation and collaboration and communication with other researchers. Funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) provided the resources to build a demonstration Virtual Workspace for the Study of Ancient Documents in 2006. The latest incarnation of the project, "A VRE for the Study of Documents and Manuscripts", which ran from April 2007 until December 2009, has seen the construction of a pilot VRE system, closely linked to the archaeological VRE developed by the Silchester Roman Town project at Reading University. The results of this research were employed in the reading of the 'Frisian Ox' tablet, discussed earlier in the newsletter.



*Interface for the pilot VRE for the Study of Documents and Manuscripts*

### e-Science Colloquium

The e-Science and Ancient Documents (eSAD) project held a productive colloquium on the subject of "Understanding image-based evidence" on November 17, 2009. The papers addressed three main topics: (i) quality of digitization and capture of evidence; (ii) evaluation of the evidence; and (iii) restoration, palaeographical knowledge bases and classification of letter forms. In addition to members of the eSAD project team, speakers included researchers from Cambridge, London and Dundee.

### Emotions: The Greek Paradigm

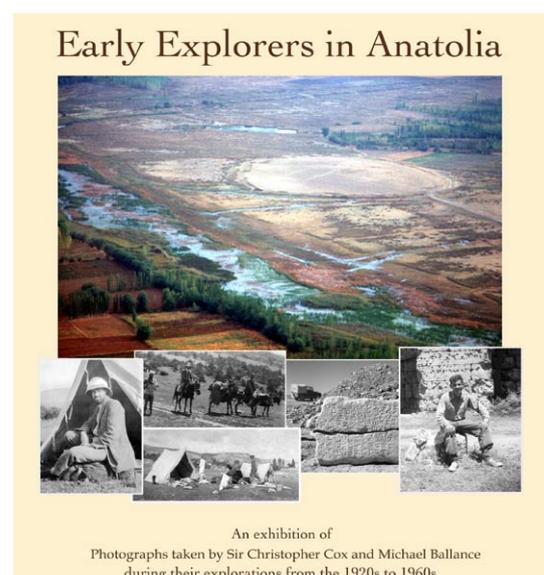
The Faculty of Classics is home to a major new research project, "The Social and Cultural Construction of Emotions: The Greek Paradigm", which will run from 2009-2013. Directed by Professor Angelos Chaniotis of All Souls College, the project will use evidence from inscriptions and papyri, as well as archaeological material and literary texts, to produce a new history of emotions in the Greek world. The use of documentary material will allow the project team to take into account the views of sub-elite members of society, whose perspectives are usually neglected by studies focusing only on Greek literature. The outcomes of this new initiative will include several scholarly monographs as well as an online database. Further information can be found at the project's web page: <http://www.classics.ox.ac.uk/research/projects/emotions.asp>

### CSAD Website

The CSAD website is currently being redesigned by Joseph Talbot, Web Design Consultancy Manager for Oxford University Computing Services, who also designed the Vindolanda Tablets web site. The new site, which will be launched in Hilary 2010, will incorporate several new sections. A new blog has also been launched to update students, scholars and the general public on events at and associated with the Centre: <http://cairo.csad.ox.ac.uk/users/csad/>

### Early Explorers in Anatolia

The Outreach Room at the Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies has played host this year to an exhibition, "Early Explorers in Anatolia", profiling the expeditions of Sir Christopher Cox and Dr. Michael Ballance to Turkey from the 1920s to 1960s.



*Poster for the 'Early Explorers in Anatolia' Exhibition*

Organised by CSAD Administrator and Research Support Officer Maggy Sasanow, the exhibition includes photographs and notebooks, as well as items such as passports, shoelaces, and even a desiccated packet of cigarettes! The exhibition was visited by over seventy people when the Ioannou Centre participated in the Oxford Open Access Day on September 12, 2009. Highlights of the exhibition are available to be viewed online: <http://mama.csad.ox.ac.uk/Exhibition/Home.html>



*Display case with essential items for explorers from the MAMA expeditions of the 1920s and 1950s*

## Academic Visitors 2009/10

Yuantao Yin

Yuantao “Micky” Yin is an academic visitor at the Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents from October 2009-September 2010. He is a PhD student at the Institute for the History of Ancient Civilizations (IHAC) at Northeast Normal University in Changchun in north-east China. Micky is particularly enthusiastic about Greek history, and is working on a translation of Xenophon’s *Hellenica* from Greek into Chinese.

There are some translations of other classical works into Chinese, such as the histories of Herodotus and Thucydides, but Micky wants to broaden the number of texts available to students and scholars in China. Moreover, many existing Chinese-language translations are only adapted from the English, rather than working from the Greek original.

The history of Greek and Roman civilizations is not studied extensively in China, and even fewer students are introduced to the literature of the period. Micky himself studied history as an undergraduate for four years, but was not exposed to the world of ancient Greece until he began his Master’s degree in 2004. He says that he is “very lucky” to be given the opportunity to study at Oxford, and is attending lectures on Greek history given by Professor Robert Parker and Dr. John Ma, as well as courses on epigraphy, papyrology, and Greek language. “I will benefit a lot from these lectures,” Micky says, adding that this is his first opportunity to study documentary sources. His Oxford supervisor is Dr. Charles Crowther, with whom he meets on a weekly basis to discuss his progress.

This is not only Micky’s first trip to Oxford, but also his first journey outside China. He says that in the weeks leading up to his departure, he was so excited that he was not able to sleep. “This is a big opportunity for me,” he says. Micky enjoys the “free atmosphere” in Oxford classes, as there is plenty of opportunity for debate and discussion with faculty members and other students in the classroom. In China, he says, students would have to discuss issues with professors outside the class.

During his first month in England, Micky has enjoyed touring the Oxford colleges and has visited Stonehenge, Bath, Stratford and Warwick Castle, although he has yet to develop a fondness for British food! He hopes to go back to China and encourage other students to come to Oxford. “There should be more communication between universities in different cultures,” he says, adding that he is very grateful to the Centre for giving him the opportunity to study in the United Kingdom.

Sophie Kovarik

Sophie Kovarik is a PhD student at the University of Vienna, funded for two years by the Austrian Academy of Sciences. She is an academic visitor at the Centre for the Study of Ancient Documents from August to December 2009 while working on her thesis on the Late Antique notariate. Existing research in this area has concentrated on the legal aspects of the notariate, but Sophie is interested in the documents themselves, especially their format, formulas, and signatures.

The focus of Sophie’s work is the Arsinoite nome in Middle Egypt from the fourth century to the eighth century A.D., when Greek disappears as an administrative language. The majority of her texts come from the sixth and seventh centuries, as the office of *notarius* is not well attested in this region in the earlier period. One of Sophie’s main objectives is to trace changes in the office over time, and she has been constructing a database, currently containing about six hundred texts, to help her achieve this.

The archive which forms the main source of evidence for the Arsinoite nome was originally found in the 1880s, and is spread between Vienna, Berlin and Paris. During her time at CSAD, Sophie has been examining additional unpublished material in the Bodleian Library and the British Museum. One of her most exciting discoveries so far is the fact that all the *notarii* in the Arsinoite nome were related. Eventually, Sophie hopes to develop a rubric to link documents to specific nomes, based on stylistic and linguistic criteria.

## Epigraphy Workshop

There was a successful series of informal lunchtime Epigraphy workshops in Michaelmas Term 2009, with speakers drawn from among Oxford Faculty and graduate students, as well as visiting scholars.

Papers were given on the following topics:

Week 2, 19 October 2009

Fabienne Marchand "IG VII 2433 and Philip V's citizenship decrees in Greece"

Week 3, 26 October 2009

William Slater "Theatres for hire: Acharnae and the language of leasing"

Week 4, 2 November 2009

Robert Parker "A new funerary foundation from Hellenistic Lycia"

Week 5, 9 November 2009

Riet van Bremen "Ares and Pegasus at Ionian Metropolis"

Week 6, 16 November 2009

Boris Chrubasik "Claudia Hedeia, a female benefactor from Chios in the First Century CE"

Week 8, 30 November 2009

F. Battistoni, L. Campagna, J. Prag "A new edition of the financial inscriptions from Taormina, Sicily (C2/1 BC)"

Meetings continue through the academic year. Scholars interested in offering papers to the workshop should contact one of the convenors, Professor Robert Parker (New College), Dr. Charles Crowther (CSAD), or Dr Jonathan Prag (Merton College).

## David Lewis Lecture

The fifteenth David Lewis Lecture will be given by Dr Maria Brosius of Newcastle University at 5.00 pm on Wednesday 26 May, 2010 in the Lecture Theatre of the Stelios Ioannou School for Research in Classical and Byzantine Studies at 66 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LU. The title of her lecture will be announced at a later date.

## Visitors to CSAD

The Centre is able to provide a base for a limited number of visiting scholars working in fields related to its activities. Enquiries concerning admission as Visiting Research Fellow (established scholars) or as Visiting Research Associate should be addressed to the Centre's Director. Association with the Centre carries with it membership of the University's Classics Centre.

## Circulation and Contributions

This is the twelfth issue of the Centre's Newsletter, which has resumed publication on a biannual basis after an interval of some years. The Newsletter is available online in HTML and pdf formats (<http://www.csad.ox.ac.uk/CSAD/Newsletters>).

We invite contributions to the Newsletter of news, reports and discussion items from and of interest to scholars working in the fields of the Centre's activities—epigraphy and papyrology understood in the widest sense. Contributions, together with other enquiries and requests to be placed on the Centre's mailing list, should be addressed to the Centre's Administrator, Maggy Sasanow, at the address below.

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