

THE VIRGIL SOCIETY
(Registered Charity)

MEETINGS 2014/15

The programme for the coming year is as follows:

Saturday 25th October 2014: 2.30 pm: Discussion session led by **John Hazel**: ‘*Virgil’s elisions: their nature and purpose*’. Those attending should please bring a text of *Aeneid 4* with them.

Saturday 6th December 2014: 2.30 pm: **Dr. Nora Goldschmidt** (University of Durham): ‘*Authoring Virgil*’.

Saturday 24th January 2015: 2.30 pm: **Dr Beverley Back** (University of Leeds): ‘*Alter erit tum Tiphys (Virg. Ecl. 4.34: Valerius Flaccus’ post-Virgilian helmsmen*’.

Saturday 7th March 2015: 2.30 pm: **Dr. Laura Jansen** (University of Bristol): ‘*Re-reading the Classics: Borges’ Virgil*’

Saturday 16th May 2015: AGM meeting day

11 am: **Reading of Aeneid 4:** Led by **John Hazel**

Approximately 12.30 Lunch (for those who have prebooked a lunch)

2.30 pm **AGM**

3 pm **Dr. John Roberts** (Harrow School): *The Virgil Commentary of Juan Luis de la Cerda*

All events take place in Room G22/G26 Senate House, University of London, Malet Street, WC1H 7HU. Membership of the society costs £12 (or dollar equivalent) a year and any membership enquiries should be made to Jill Kilsby, Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Email jillkilsby2012@live.co.uk

We hope that these notes about the lecturers may be helpful.

John Hazel is a loyal supporter of the Society who has run the Reading sessions on the AGM day for several years. He read Classics at Oxford and, after teaching at the French Lycée in London, moved to the City of London School where he was Head of Classics. He collaborated with Michael Grant in *Who's Who in Classical Mythology*, and also wrote *Who's Who in the Roman and Greek Worlds*. He was president of the ARLT (the Association for Latin Teaching) in the 70's. His teaching career spanned nearly 60 years including post-retirement spells at King's College School, Wimbledon and the Lady Eleanor Holles School, Hampton. For many years he ran the Classical Association Latin and Greek Reading Competition in London. The phonetics of the classical languages is a long-standing interest.

Dr. Nora Goldschmidt is a Lecturer in the Department of Classics and Ancient History at Durham University with a special interest in Latin poetry and classical reception. Overall, her work is driven by a fundamental curiosity about what happens to texts beyond their functions as hermetic literary artefacts: from Ennius in the memory culture of first century B.C. Rome to biographical receptions of ancient

poets and the impact of fragmentary ancient texts and objects on the literary and visual aesthetics of modernism. A revised version of her PhD (from Magdalen College, Oxford), *Shaggy Crowns: Ennius' Annales and Vergil's Aeneid*, was published in the Oxford Classical Monographs series with OUP (2013 See below). She currently divides her time between the lectureship and a research fellowship on the ERC-funded 'Living Poets' project at Durham, for which she is writing a book on the lives and afterlives of the Roman poets. Her research interests include Republican and Augustan Poetry and their interaction, Roman epic cultural memory, biography and biographical reception, classical reception,

Dr. Laural Jensen is a Lecturer in Latin Language and Literature in the Department of Classics and Ancient History at Bristol University. She is the director of the M.A. in classical Reception and Classics and Ancient History. Dr. Jensen teaches a range of courses on Latin language and literature, culture and philosophy, as well as courses more closely related to her own research interests. These are currently on the tradition of the Classics in peripheral modernities, starting with the literature and political writing of 20th century Argentina. To this end she is writing a monograph on Borges' Classics for CUP's *Classics After Antiquity* series, as well as preparing articles such as the one on Ernesto 'Che' Guevara's annotations on classical themes in his diaries and correspondence.

Dr Beverley Back is University Lecturer in Latin Literature the University of Leeds, where she has worked since 2013. Her PhD, awarded in the same year at the University of Liverpool, was on transgression in Valerius Flaccus' *Argonautica*, focusing specifically on primacy, technology, identity, sexual violation, and hybridity, and also included a chapter on modern receptions of the Argonautic myth in Science Fiction literature. Dr Back also has developed interests in the prominence and importance of the helmsman in Latin literature, and plans a wider study of the Argo myth in the Speculative Fiction genre, tentatively entitled 'Alternative Argonauts'. She is also continuing her research into identity, in particular thinking about the Latin pronoun *ipse* and its application and translation in Latin poetry and prose, prominently from a psychological perspective (i.e. looking at ideas of the 'self' and the 'same'). She hopes this will develop into a much larger interdisciplinary project, which tracks the use and transformation of this pronoun into late Latin and early modern Romance languages.

Dr John Roberts' primary research interest is in Renaissance commentary on Virgil, and in particular the monumental work on Virgil's collected poems by the Spanish Jesuit Juan Luis De La Cerda, first printed in Madrid in 1608. He is also interested in the role of the paratext and its function in commentaries on Latin authors, particularly Virgil, printed during the Renaissance. John is currently the Head of Classics at Harrow School in London where he has taught Latin and Greek for the past nine years. He was awarded his PhD in 2013 by the University of Warwick for his thesis on the prolegomena of La Cerda's Virgil commentary.

NOTES ON THE MEETINGS

Please bring copies of *Aeneid 4* to both the sessions John Hazel is leading. Should members be interested in being part of the Reading Group, please contact John by e mail (jnohazel@btinternet.com) for further details.