



Bennett, E. (2017) 'Introduction'

Rosetta **Special Edition: CAHA Colloquium Extended Abstracts: i-ii**

<http://www.rosetta.bham.ac.uk/CAHAColloquium2017/Bennett.pdf>

Introduction

Welcome to a Special Edition of the Rosetta Journal, where we are proud to present the extended abstracts from the annual CAHA Colloquium held at the University of Birmingham on 13th May 2017. Like previous years, papers at this colloquium were both varied and fascinating, covering almost every field found in the University of Birmingham's Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology department. With the remit of showcasing the research of the postgraduates within this department, this annual symposium is always engaging – and this year's was no disappointment.

After a brief introduction to the Colloquium, Dr. van der Blom opened with a Keynote speech discussing her path to becoming a lecturer at the University of Birmingham. This was of great interest to the postgraduates in attendance, and demonstrated one of the many ways early career academics can start their careers. Dr. van der Blom also explained her interests and research, including some fascinating and exciting projects in studies of Roman oratory.

The first panel followed on from Dr. van der Blom's Keynote speech by continuing the 'Roman' feel, ranging from the Julio-Claudian era of Rome through to the Byzantine Empire in the eleventh century AD. Angela Parkes opened this panel with a discussion on the description of Tertullian as the first writer in 'Christian Latin', followed by Elizabeth Crump's paper on the tyrant in Seneca's *Controversiae*. The last paper of the panel was given by Francisco Lopez-Santos Kornberger, discussing the role of philanthropy in the Byzantine Empire in the eleventh century AD.

The second panel demonstrated the wide range of disciplines the department covers. Two papers were presented on Greek military history, and the final paper was about heritage. Alex Barber began the panel with a look into the '*hippeis*' of Sparta – who they were, how many there were, and their function. George Harrold followed this paper with a discussion about the use of the high ground in Thucydidean warfare, with the conclusion that those who held the high ground were those who made decisive action in the battle. Coralie Acheson provided a very different viewpoint from the department, as her paper was on tourism management at Ironbridge Gorge. This paper discussed the use of the ideal rural past in tourism – regardless of whether this reflected the true nature of the site.

The final panel reflected CAHA's special interest in the Ancient Near East, in both mythology and history. Kerrie Myers presented a paper focussing on Lamashtu and the themes in which this character turns up. She discussed her research as well as her wish to make the Mesopotamian ritual corpus more accessible to those outside of Ancient Near Eastern studies. The final paper was from Ben Dewar, who examined the peculiarities of Ashurbanipal's Grosse Jagdinschrift and the motif of gods bringing rain and springwater as a cause of a negative event. This included an interesting connection between the motifs of the lion hunt and the mentions of Elam in both inscriptions and reliefs. Dewar's conclusion is that the victory over Elam had to follow two negative events – a lion hunt and the first Elamite campaign.

As demonstrated by this brief introduction, the CAHA Colloquium was a fantastic showcase of the postgraduate research taking place in the department of Classics, Ancient History and Archaeology at the University of Birmingham. The Rosetta Journal is proud to present the extended abstracts submitted by the speakers to give some more depth to the proceedings.

On behalf of the editorial board of the Rosetta Journal, we hope you enjoy this Special Issue.

Ellie Bennett

General Editor