

Report on 'Women as Classical Scholars' conference 23rd-24th March 2013

We are very grateful to the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies for their generous grant towards student bursaries for our conference on Women as Classical Scholars held on 23rd-24th March 2013.

The conference brought together individuals independently researching women classical scholars who worked between the European Renaissance and the late 20th century. The speakers included many of the most eminent scholars, from across Europe and America, working in this field and enabled the establishment of a valuable network of contacts for this research project. Our primary objective was to share and compare evidence, thus laying the foundations for a rigorous international understanding of the contribution made by women to the history of classical scholarship between the Renaissance and the last third of the 20th century. We addressed the specific problem that most of our subjects have received attention only from researchers lacking the classical skills to assess their achievements precisely. The papers offered close readings of our subjects' translations, commentaries and essays and established the value of applying a cautiously biographical method for the analysis of this new material. The presentation of test cases in this format, and chronologically organised, over two days enabled the key themes of the research project, central to the questions posed in the volume, to emerge organically from the data.

The round-table at the close of the conference clarified best practice, and recommended methodological approaches for future research in the area, through identifying similarities/differences between the contributions of our individual subjects and distinguishing the most fruitful lines of enquiry to pursue. This offered an excellent opportunity for contributions from postgraduates who were able to attend through the generous grant from SPHS. It was of great value to the discussion to have their perspective on what kind of resource might be appropriate to develop as a result of the conference and vice versa they expressed what a valuable experience the conference had been. In fact, as a result, of this discussion we were delighted to be able to include one of these postgraduates in the volume that we will be publishing as the output of the conference. This collected volume of essays on female Classicists from the Renaissance to the 20th century, 'Unsealing the Fountain', will explore female contributions to the development of the discipline, the historical process of commemorating these women, and the cultural prejudices seemingly inherent to female engagement with Classics; it will be published in OUP's 'Classical Presences' series.

For photographs from the conference please follow this link:

<https://notredame.box.com/s/hqd02f48skj6dx2e26mv>

We would like to thank the Society again for its generous support for student bursaries at this conference; it offered a valuable experience to students and their presence created a wonderful dynamic at the conference.

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