



I write to thank the Society again for its very generous support of last year's Annual APGRD/London Postgraduate Symposium on the Performance of Ancient Drama. (<http://www.apgrd.ox.ac.uk/events/2015/02/postgraduate-symposium-2015>)

The theme last year was 'Viewing and Spectating in the Theory and Practice of Greek and Roman Drama' and we had a total of 55 attendees over the two days in London and Oxford.

The £180 from the Hellenic Society was granted to two students, Mali Skotheim (Princeton) and Estelle Baudou (Paris X- Nanterre). The bursaries contributed to their travel costs. Please find their reports below.

Dr. Fiona MacIntosh

I was delighted to present a paper at the APGRD conference on June 30, 2015, titled "Mixed Audiences: Spectatorship at the Greek Festivals of the Roman Imperial Period." I received a bursary of 90 pounds to aid with travel expenses, which was a great help. Through the excellent papers and lively discussions during the conference, my conception of the many aspects of spectatorship in performance of ancient drama has been truly broadened. Particularly valuable, I thought, was the inclusion of both academics and performers and directors, who provided different and complementary perspectives. In fact, one director is currently working on a play about the actor's guild (the *Technitai* of Dionysus), who figure in my dissertation. In a way, we have both been working on the same material, but the end result of her research will be a play, whereas the end result of mine will be an academic book. These intersections are fascinating, and have made me think about certain aspects of my dissertation in a new way. For example, Steph mentioned the contemporary theater being attacked from all sides, which has sparked me to consider how the Greek *Technitai* of Dionysus may have felt pressured by external forces, and how this may have influenced their negotiations with Greek cities and the Roman imperial center. This comment arose during a group discussion, a particularly strong aspect of the conference. I very much hope to return again next year.

Mali Skotheim (Princeton)

My thesis research is focused on the chorus in contemporary performances of ancient Greek tragedies in Paris, London and Berlin, hence my need to meet researchers in these three countries. I think that this symposium was one of my best opportunities to exchange with British researchers from the beginning of my doctoral work. It is not common to gather specialists of Ancient World from the fields of Classics and from Theatre Studies. Moreover, one of the conditions of completing my PhD in France is that I attend two international conferences. I am capitalising upon this brilliant opportunity by actually giving a paper in a foreign language.

The subject of “viewing and spectating” is inherently linked with the problem of the chorus in contemporary performances of Greek Tragedies. This conference offered me a fantastic chance to develop what could be the point of view of the chorus on modern stages. I will definitively use this concept in my dissertation.

Estelle Baudou (Paris X- Nanterre)



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