

The Hellenic Society – Dover Fund Award Report

11th Celtic Conference in Classics, University of St Andrews, 11th-14th July 2018

Thanks in part to the generous funding awarded to me by The Hellenic Society through the Dover Fund Award, I was able to attend the 11th Celtic Conference in Classics on 11th -14th July 2018, hosted by the University of St Andrews. I relished the opportunity to attend this fascinating and thought-provoking gathering of c.200 academics and researchers from all over the world. The conference consisted of 14 parallel panels and 4 plenary lectures spread across several days and with themes ranging from Landscapes and the Manuscript Tradition to Classical Reception the Ancient Greek Novel; the hardest choice was deciding which panels to attend on any given day! A full list of panels and papers is available here: <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/classics/events/conferences/ccc/#abt4-tab>.

I attended 3 panels in total: ‘(Un)Set in Stone: Fresh Approaches to Epigraphic Material’, ‘How Diplomacy was Characterized in Ancient Greek Historiography and Oratory’, and ‘The Long Third Century BC’. I was particularly struck by the similar themes that arose in these panels, such as imagery and power, and social capital. I was very pleased to represent the University of Wales Trinity Saint David Lampeter by giving a paper entitled ‘Epigraphy and International Relations Theory: Kings and Cities in Hellenistic Asia Minor’ as part of the ‘(Un)Set in Stone’ panel. In this, I was able to not only gain valuable feedback on my own work, but also situate myself within the field of Epigraphic Studies. My wider PhD research aims to introduce new perspectives of International Relations Theory into studies of Hellenistic history, and I hope that this paper can form the backbone of a chapter of my thesis. There is also the potential of publishing this paper as part of edited volume on methodological and theoretical approaches to epigraphy; a wonderful opportunity that may turn out to be my first published, peer-reviewed work.

One of the most useful benefits of attending this conference was the chance to network with other academics in my field. It allowed me to access a wider, more specialised audience beyond the Faculty in Lampeter. It was fascinating to see how other academics, such as Dr Polly Low and Dr Myles Lavan, used an ‘art historical’ approach (emphasised in the works of John Ma) in discussions of epigraphy, which also reassured me that this is an area requiring further study.

Finally, I would like to say that I immensely enjoyed attending the CCC. I would like to extend my thanks to the organisers, Professors Anton Powell, Sian Lewis, Douglas Cairns, and Dawn Hollis. I am also grateful to Dr Eleri Cousins for accepting my abstract and organising the ‘(Un)Set in Stone’ panel, and, of course, to the Hellenic Society for providing the financial support that enabled my attendance.