Grant Report 2023 – Individual Grant

Report by Max Ratcliff, Undergraduate at Durham University on HERC summer school – *The Epigraphy of the Aegean Islands: Studying Greek Inscriptions on Paros.*

I attended this summer school in June as part of wider research for my upcoming dissertation looking at Thucydides and the *polis*. The summer school provided intensive training in epigraphy through a combination of physical work with visits to the Archaeological Museum (Paros) and the Epigraphical Museum (Athens), and via a series of in-person and zoom lectures taught by world experts in the field. These lectures covered a wide range of material, allowing myself to gain a broader appreciation for inscriptions beyond the scope of my own project. HERC quickly highlighted that epigraphy has become much less popular within younger generations of up-and-coming academics. I make this known to readers to gently acknowledge the importance of continuing such work.

I am pleased to have gained invaluable resources and connections through this summer school. Naturally, the ability to challenge my own concept of the *polis* was my greatest appreciation from the course. Moreover, I have developed a deeper respect for the value of inscriptions and those academics who work tirelessly to maintain resources like IG and SEG. The school has not only enhanced my dissertation research, but also sparked several new ideas I plan to pursue in the near future, both independently and as part of my final year at Durham.

I kindly thank all the professors who made this possible, HERC for the opportunity and I must extend a particular recognition for Dr Angelos Matthaiou for his meticulous and genuinely inspiring commitment to the summer school and, of course, Epigraphy.

I sincerely thank SPHS for their generosity in helping fund this experience.