

<i>ACTA CLASSICA</i> <i>UNIV. SCIENT. DEBRECEN.</i>	<i>XLIII.</i>	<i>2007.</i>	<i>p. 213–216.</i>
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## REPORT ON THE 7TH HUNGARIAN CONFERENCE ON ANCIENT STUDIES<sup>1</sup>

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Organised by the Department of Classical Philology and that of Ancient History of the University of Debrecen, the Hungarian Society for Ancient Studies held its 7th biennial conference between 26 May and 28 May 2006. (The former venue in 2004 was Budapest.) The keynote lecture entitled „Orpheus and Eurydice” was given by Thomas Köves-Zulauf, doctor honoris causa of the University. After the lecture the sessions were held in three parallel sections.

The largest section with almost half of the lecturers participating was that of Classical Philology – Transmission (organised by László Havas). The temporal aspect of the lectures ranged from the question of word order in the ancient Egyptian language to Bonfini’s translations of Philostratus. The topic of the lectures showed similar variety. The section was opened by Béla Adamik’s „Linguistics and Epigraphy: Some Interesting Inscriptions from Pannonia”, which was a study on spelling mistakes and it drew morals from them concerning the development of Vulgar Latin. For the audience interested in linguistics two more lectures were offered. Barbara Egedi gave a presentation on the change of the word order in the ancient Egyptian language while Attila Forgács dealt with ellipsis. The series of lectures focusing on literary question was started by Ibolya Tar’s lecture on *ecphrasis*. Ágnes Darab presented artist-related anecdotes found at Pliny the Elder drawing attention to the sociological aspects of being an artist. Three lecturers (Erzsébet Burai, Ferenc Öz and András Németh) raised questions on the genre of letters with special emphasis on fictional letters. On the second day of the conference Tamás Böröczki examined how Plutarch made use of an instruction from Plato’s *Timaeus* when dealing with questions on natural science. On the basis of Cicero’s speeches against Verres Géza Lakfalvi looked at the development of the individuals’ role in so-

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<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately we are unable to present all the lectures in this report because of length constraints. The programme of the conference and the title of the lectures can be found in Hungarian at <http://mok7.unideb.hu>.

ciety while Levente Pap spoke about Tertullian's *Adversus Iudaeos*. Péter Mayer examined the new Archilochus' papyrus published in 2005 (P.Oxy. 4708) and came up with a new interpretation. Tamás Mészáros focused on the legal background and the proceedings of an act of murder from Antipho's 6th speech. Dániel Kozák drew a comparison between the two reports on the preliminaries and the beginnings of the Trojan War as Statius presents it in his *Achilleis* and the way they were presented by Herodotus and Thucydides. Further lectures were given on recent research into history of ancient philosophy and patristical studies. Sebestyén Kiss had a closer look at the Asclepius' image found at Arnobius while Attila Simon tried to reconstruct the comments on Augustine made by József Balogh, who was one of the most prominent classical philologists in the first half of the 20th century.

In the second afternoon there was a subsection of medievalists, where the audience could hear lectures starting Iordanes (Szilvia Horváth) and the medieval Bavarian historiography (Tamás Nótári) till the analysis of A. E. Housman's inaugural address in 1911 (Péter Kovács). The topic of Előd Nemerkenyi's lecture was Lucanus's judgement and reception from Quintilian until the first native language translations of *Bellum civile*. Balázs Déri first reviewed the critical editions of St. Gerhard's *Deliberatio*, which was followed by the presentation of plans of a new edition to take into consideration the quotations in the text and the intertextuality.

The programme of the Ancient History section (organised by György Németh) was highly different from the former conferences as 14 out of the 27 lecturers dealt with the history of Ancient Near East. The question of interest in Babylon was raised by Zoltán Csabai as well as the medicine or the view of history in Qumran (Ida Fröchlich, Tamás Balázs). Zsolt Simon drafted the historical context of a Hieroglyphic Luvian inscription. Péter Vargyas („The Median Empire in Different New Light”) and Ádám Vér („Media and the New Assyrian Empire's Eastern Expansion”) concentrated the history of the Medians. Of the lectures on classical antiquity Péter Kató's paper illustrated the way how Polybius presented Kynaitha's destruction highlighting its contradictory points and giving a new explanation for the city's fall into ruins. György W. Hegyi („Vertical Relations in the Republican Society”) studied the relationship between those in power and of lower classes e.g. general and soldier, *patronus* and *cliens*. Zsuzsanna Várhelyi assigned an important role to the *Genius* cult of senatorial families, which helped the legitimization of the cult of emperors („Power and Religion: the Roman Senators' Religion in the Age of Empire”). Ágnes Anna Nagy had a close look at the traditions and the French tradition of Sergius Paulus, who was a governor of Cyprus allegedly converted by St. Paul.

As regards military history, Zsolt Mráv and Ádám Szabó delivered a lecture on a military discharge paper.

In the Archaeology section (organised by Tamás Gesztelyi) András Patay-Horváth dealt with a bronze disc excavated from Olympia. According to the presenter the votive offering dating from the end of the 6th century B.C. was originally a shield attached to a statue. László Berczelly examined the role of „sub-themes” on Roman sarcophagi, which were in definite connection with the person offering them, thus they bear the most important information about the individual. Beside the lectures on Roman *tumuli* in Transdanubia (Levente Nagy) and the Roman findings from Moravia (Balázs Komoróczy) there were also lecture in connection with Late Antiquity and the transmission of the motifs in ancient art. László Török presented a Hellenistic motif found in late ancient Egyptian architecture while Zsolt Visy examined the structure of early Christian tombs in Pécs (Sopianae), which are part of the world heritage. Tamás Gesztelyi gave an interpretation of the seal of Nagyszombat (Tyrnavia) with the help of scholasticism.

The conference was closed on Sunday morning by the section meeting of Classical Philology. Imre Kőrösi devoted his lecture to the personal portrait that reveals itself from Horace's poems. László Horváth dealt with textual criticism, while Ágnes Szőke talked about the present state of Latin. After the opening speech Tamás Adamik drew the attention again to Orpheus question. The topic of László Takács' lecture entitled „Three brothers” was the tragically ended carriers of the three Annaeus brothers (Seneca, Novatus/Gallio and Mela) from Corduba. From Gábor Bolonyai's lecture it turned out that Bonfini translated as many as four of Philostratus' works in the Hungarian court. The lecture revealed why Bonfini had chosen exactly Philostratus' works, what standard these translations are, how they fit the manuscript tradition of Philostratus' works, etc. In his closing speech László Havas presented the influence of St. Stephen's Admonitions on Hungarian humanists, then on Ferenc Rákóczi and so on until the 20th century.

As an accompanying programme a concert from the works of Kodály, Bartók and Liszt was given to the participants in the Conservatory of the University (organised by Tamás Kedves). Furthermore, there was a round-table discussion about the introduction of the Bologna process and the M.A. training. Compared to the former conferences the presenters and the participants could encounter several novelties. Beside the above mentioned appearance of Near East related studies another pleasurable change was the great number of young researchers in all sections. We were also glad to see students and young researchers of the University enthusiastically undertake different tasks of organisation. The technical staff was directed by Zoltán Nemes.

The organisers paid attention to this conference not to be for researchers from Hungary only but appealed to Hungarian scholars beyond borders. Consequently almost a dozen out of 90 lecturers were Hungarian classical scholars living abroad. Their fields of interest were also manifold. László Berczelly gave a lecture on sarcophagi presenting mythological scenes while István Bajusz gave a presentation on the excavations in Porolissum. Beside Levente Pap's and Ágnes Anna Nagy's lectures on Christianity and Zsuzsanna Várhelyi's one on the senators' religiousness several archaeologists from Transylvania represented the Hungarian scholars beyond borders.

The most eye-catching novelty to appear first in the history of Hungarian conferences on ancient studies was that several researchers presented their results on posters. Especially high standard posters were brought by the young Transylvanian scholars e.g. Lóránt Vass made a poster on bone carvings and Alpár Dobos produced one on the Byzantine accessories and jewellery from the 6<sup>th</sup>-8th century found in the Carpathian Basin. György Németh drafted the interpretation of a so far unpublished magical inscription from Aquincum. Edina Gradvohl and Tünde Forgács presented a field of ancient medicine each. Péter Forisek, Róbert Kerepeszki and András Patay-Horváth made a common poster entitled „Parallel Lives” in the memory of Jenő Darkó and András Alföldi, two one-time professors of the University of Debrecen.

Due to the manifold topics and the great number of lectures presented the material of the conference cannot fit one single volume, they are expected to appear in different Hungarian periodicals on classical studies, mostly in the present number of *Acta Classica Debreceniensis*, and in *Antik Tanulmányok* (*Studia Antiqua*).

The venue of the 2008 conference will be the city of Szeged.