

The Association of Ancient Historians
Newsletter



The Association of Ancient Historians Newsletter is published three times a year by the Association of Ancient Historians and distributed free to members

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear colleagues,

As an incoming President of the AAH, I thank you for your ongoing participation in, and membership of the AAH. The AAH has just over 700 members and at our core there are many selfless colleagues who devote time and energy to Committee work, this Newsletter, Membership and Finance, the website, and (of course) organizing and delivering the Annual Meeting. Thanks to all of you for your ongoing work for our Association.

In the Fall newsletter it is always timely to recognize our meeting organizers of the previous Spring: Sarah Bond, Rosemary Moore, and Shane Bobrycki delivered a very successful meeting in Iowa City, and various parts of The University of Iowa offered their generous (financial) support to the conference. We enjoyed your hospitality and you even offered us the passing threat of a tornado (which Fortuna ensured never arrived)! A great deal of work is invested in the Annual Meeting and Iowa provided us with a rich and varied range of topics and speakers. Two Keynotes added considerable chronological breadth to the meeting, which spanned the Iron Age to the Fourth century CE. We heard speakers who were young (undergraduate and graduate students), junior, and senior.

That our outgoing President, Georgia Tsouvala, began her two-term Presidential stint at Iowa virtually and ended it in Iowa in person provided neat bookends to her six-year leadership of the AAH. Georgia was elected in Spring 2020 at the first (of three) virtual Annual Meeting hosted by The University of Iowa and ended her second term at Iowa City, this time in person. After two further online meetings hosted by U. of California at San Diego, and U. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, it was not until 2023 that the AAH met in person (at Tallahassee) under Georgia's

President's Column continues on page 5.

Association of Ancient Historians Annual Meeting, Loyola University Chicago, April 1-3, 2027

The **2027 AAH Annual Meeting** will take place in person at Loyola University Chicago. The conference website can be found at: https://sites.google.com/view/aah2027/home. Registration information is forthcoming.

This year's theme, "Wars with Words: Conflict, Voice, and Legacy," invites scholars to consider how words—spoken, written, inscribed, taught, withheld, or contradicted by the material record—shaped ancient societies and continue to shape our understanding of them.

We welcome papers addressing any aspect of the ancient world, broadly construed across geography and chronology, that engage with one or more of the conference's central threads:

• Conflict: war, violence, rhetoric, debate, and the discourse of power

• Voice: whose words survive, whose are lost, and how we recover or interpret them

• Legacy: how ancient words, ideas, and events continue to inform (or distort) modern thought, policy, and pedagogy

The program is organized around six featured panels, described below. Prospective presenters are encouraged to submit to the panel that best fits their work; general submissions are also welcome and will be slotted into

2027 Annual Meeting continues on page 2.

additional sessions as needed. Papers should be 15-20 minutes in length. We invite abstracts of no more than 500 words, to be submitted to aahmeeting2027@gmail.com by **December 11th, 2026**. All sessions are plenary and in-person. Presenters must be current members of the AAH; if you are not already a member, please register here.

Call for Papers

Panel 1: Conflict and Combat: Ancient Warfare Reconsidered
(co-sponsored by the Society for Ancient Military History)

War in the ancient world was fought with more than swords and spears. This panel invites papers on the practice, experience, and representation of ancient warfare, including strategy and tactics, the lived experience of soldiers and civilians, military institutions, and the rhetoric of war: declarations, propaganda, war oratory, and the narratives historians and commanders constructed around conflict. We welcome comparative and cross-cultural approaches, as well as papers examining how ancient warfare has been received, remembered, or mythologized.

Panel 2: Recovering Voices: Women and Gender in the Ancient World

This panel examines the lives, roles, and representations of women in antiquity, and the methodological challenges of recovering perspectives often filtered through, or silenced by, male-authored sources. Papers might address women's political, religious, economic, or domestic roles; gender as a category of historical analysis; feminist historiography and source criticism; or case studies that bring underrepresented voices into clearer focus.

Panel 3: The Past as Precedent: Ancient History and Modern Decision-Making

How do policymakers, military strategists, business leaders, and ordinary citizens invoke (and sometimes misuse) the ancient past to justify present-day choices? This panel welcomes papers on the reception and application of ancient history in modern decision-making, the historiography of "lessons from history," case studies of ancient precedents cited in modern debates, and critical reflections on the risks and rewards of applied history.

Panel 4: Teaching the Ancient World: Pedagogy for a New Generation

This panel focuses on the practice of teaching ancient history today, at any level. Topics might include curriculum design, digital and multimedia tools, strategies for engaging diverse student populations, translating and adapting primary sources for the classroom, addressing controversial or sensitive topics (such as slavery, violence, or gender) in teaching, and assessment of what "ancient history" should mean in a modern syllabus.

Panel 5: The Letter of the Law: Legal Cultures of the Ancient World

Few words carried more force in antiquity than those of the law. This panel invites papers on ancient legal systems, codes, courts, and dispute resolution; the rhetoric of legal argument and advocacy; the relationship between law and power; and comparative approaches across different ancient legal cultures. Papers considering how ancient law continues to influence modern legal thought or institutions are also welcome.

Panel 6: Beyond the Text: Epigraphy and the Limits of the Written Word
(co-sponsored by the American Society of Greek and Latin Epigraphy)

This panel invites papers on epigraphic evidence from any period or region of the ancient world, including the production and reception of inscriptions; epigraphic habit and its rise or decline; methodological challenges of reading, dating, and interpreting damaged, erased, or fragmentary inscriptions; and the ways epigraphic evidence confirms, complicates, or contradicts literary and historiographical narratives. We particularly welcome papers that explicitly engage with the tension (or dialogue) between inscribed and literary evidence.

General submissions outside these themes are also welcome and will be considered for additional sessions.

NEWS FROM AND ABOUT COLLEAGUES

Mireille Corbier (corbier@msh-paris.fr), director of *L'Année épigraphique* (1 place Paul Painlevé - 75005 Paris), announces that *L'Année épigraphique 2023* (containing 1552 entries, and 1071 pages, including

News about Colleagues continues on page 3.

228 pages of index) was published in August 2026, and is now available. Orders should be sent to Presses Universitaires de France at revues@puf.com

John Marincola writes that his book, *Plutarch's On the Malice of Herodotus and the Writing of History in the Greco-Roman World*, has now been published by Oxford University Press.

Stephan Nitu announces the recent publication, co-edited with Arlene Holmes-Henderson, of *Humanities Forward*: *Opportunity, Innovation, and Policy in the 21st Century*. As a manifesto for the value of the humanities, the volume brings together 50 contributors, ranging from academics, policymakers, publishers, and schoolteachers—from Colombia to Northern Ireland to Hong Kong—to showcase the innovative contributions the humanities are making today.

Duane Roller writes that a new translation and commentary on Pausanias' geography is in production at Oxford University Press and is expected to appear in early 2027.

Kaius Tuori announces the publication of the *Cambridge History of International Law*, *vol. 4*: *Antiquity* and that he has taken over the directorship of the Finnish Institute in Rome, at the Villa Lante al Gianicolo, for a term of four years.

Georgia Tsouvala and **Lee L. Brice** announce that they have been selected as Gertrude Smith Professors at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens for 2027 and 2028. They will co-lead the six-week Summer Session Program, "Ancient Greece in Depth" in summer 2027. The program starts June 14. We encourage graduate students, advanced undergraduates, professors, and teachers of Latin or Greek to apply. Deadline January 15. For more information email us at gtsouva@ilstu.edu or ll-brice@wiu.edu.

Kathryn Waterfield is pleased to announce the publication of two new books for young readers. *Who Was Cleopatra* was released in March 2026, and *What Is Greek Mythology* was released in May 2026. Both are published by Penguin Random House.

ANNOUNCMENTS

The Society of Ancient Military Historians advocates for the subfield and provides resources and support to graduate students, instructors, researchers, and all interested parties. We publish reviews and announcements in our newsletter *Res Militares*. To join *SAMH* and receive *RM,* contact Ioannis Georganas at i_georganas@yahoo.com or visit our website: https://www.ancientmilitaryhistorians.org/links.html. For further information contact **Jonathan Roth** at Jonathan.roth@sjsu.edu

Call for Papers: Mercenaries through the ages
March 3-5, 2027
Downtown Library, Sioux Falls, SD

The Many Faces of War XII: An annual hybrid interdisciplinary conference on the experience and impact of war throughout history.

2027 Theme: Mercenaries and soldiers of fortune

The study of warfare is often restricted to the sphere of military history and rarely allowed to transcend the artificial boundaries of historical study, namely those limited by geography and periodization. Throughout the ages war has had the greatest impact, not on the political elite who declare wars, but on those who fight and die and their families and friends. This annual interdisciplinary conference aims to address both the experience and impact of war for those fighting as well as for those on the periphery.

With the Russo-Ukrainian War and the events of the Wagner group as well as the recent attempted or successful mercenary coups around Africa and Asia, soldiers of fortune are just as relevant now as they ever have been. From popular depictions such as *The A-Team* or *The Wild Geese*, or even bounty hunter armies in *Star Wars*, the idea of soldiers for hire has gone through many iterations. This conference aims to approach the history of mercenaries through all periods of conflict, examining such things as

Announcements continue on p. 4.

origins of mercenaries and their ideals, their impact on specific conflicts, cultures, or societies, or their enduring public image. The conference aims at an interdisciplinary approach, and underappreciated aspects of war and nation building are especially welcome. All periods of history are of interest and all related disciplines, especially English and archival studies.

We also welcome papers on any and all aspects of military history from any discipline.

The conference is aimed equally at postgraduate students, academics, researchers in the early stages of their careers and established scholars. There are no specific geographical or temporal parameters regarding the subject matter of papers, and scholars and students of ancient, medieval and modern warfare are encouraged to submit proposals. We would also encourage the proposal of panels of three or four papers. Send an abstract of 300 words and a brief bio to Graham Wrightson (graham.wrightson@sdstate.edu **BEFORE** December 1, 2026.

ASSOCIATION OF ANCIENT HISTORIANS – MOMMSEN SOCIETY 2026 ANNUAL LECTURES

Monday, November 02, 2026 at 6 p.m. CET – 12 p.m. EST – 9 a.m. PST The lectures will take place via Zoom. Please register by sending an e-mail to Hannah Brandenburg until October 29, 2026: schriftfuehrerin@mommsen-gesellschaft.de

Mars, the she-wolf, and the Roman community

Jaclyn Neel, Carleton University

The Roman she-wolf, nurse of Romulus and Remus and one of the earliest symbols of Rome, has rarely been analyzed in depth (exceptions include Dulière 1979; Mazzoni 2010; Prescendi 2024). Yet her role as symbol of the city and nurse of its founders has led to broad generalizations, including in antiquity: that the Romans were fierce and bloodthirsty (Trogus 38.6.7-8) or that the story of the twins' rescue reflected a more rustic era of Rome (Prop. 4.1; Dion. Hal. 1.79.8; cf. Kossaifi 2010). The question "why a wolf" has generally been glossed over in scholarship, with the explanation that the wolf was Mars' special animal (e.g. Martínez Pinna 2011; Hraste and Vuković 2015). A linguistic survey of Greek and Roman texts suggests that the line of causality may lie in the opposite direction: that is, Mars becomes associated with the wolf via the foundation myth. Republican authors mentioning wolves do not use the word Martis, but rather adjectives (such as *martialis)* that are also applied to other animals unconnected with Mars. This usage suggests that other explanations for the appearance of the she-wolf must be sought, as Bettini (2013) has argued for other myths: wolves are both allotrophic and territorial, characteristics that are important within the broader foundation legend. The she-wolf thus offers herself as a role model for the nascent Roman community. The significance of the she-wolf evolves over time; in the Principate, authors unequivocally associate the wolf with Mars. This development affects our understanding both of the twins (see e.g. Neel 2015) and of changes to Mars' worship in the Republic and Principate (see e.g. Giannotta 2003). Most notably, the domestication of the wolf as Mars' animal may reflect the Augustan-era shift from Mars as a god of protective war to Mars as a deity of preserving peace (see e.g. Bianchi 2016; Cunha 2021).

Reading Multilingual Inscriptions: Visual Organization and the Construction of Audiences in the Graeco-Roman World

Sara Chiarini, University of Potsdam

Since the fundamental works by James Adams appeared around twenty years ago (above all, Adams 2003), several attempts have been made to classify the epigraphic evidence for bi-or multi-lingualism in the ancient Mediterranean world, as well as to define the writing (and speaking) habits of the communities involved. The most recent contribution on this topic, offered by Maria José Estarán Tolosa (2016), aptly warns from a too-immediate association between the mastery of a certain language and the assimilation of the respective cultural identity. Even the latest scholarship is, however, still bound to a text-based approach, which neglects the visual features involving the framing and the arrangement of the text on the inscribed object. Such inferences are methodologically problematic, particularly because written multilingual practices cannot be straightforwardly equated with patterns of spoken language use. A readership-based approach to the study of multi-lingual and multi-scriptural inscriptions in the Graeco-Roman world is proposed here instead, shifting attention from the linguistic competence and ethnolinguistic identity

Announcements continue on p. 5.

of the authors to the audiences for whom these texts were produced. The visual organization of the inscriptions can provide important evidence for understanding their intended readership.

Focusing particularly on bi-version bilingual inscriptions, I will examine how spatial arrangement, graphic separation, framing devices, letter size, and the positioning of different linguistic versions shape the reading experience. Examples from different areas of the Mediterranean basin, especially from Roman North Africa, demonstrate a spectrum ranging from strongly separated linguistic versions to layouts in which the languages are visually intertwined. Where separate versions are spatially or graphically distinguished, the layout can suggest that each linguistic component was intended to be independently comprehensible, thereby accommodating monolingual as well as bilingual readers. Conversely, when different languages are closely integrated or interwoven within the same textual sequence, the inscription appears to presuppose a readership capable of navigating both linguistic codes.

On this basis, the paper proposes a twofold layout-based taxonomy distinguishing inscriptions in which bilingual readership is expected from those in which it is not. Rather than replacing existing text-based classifications, this approach complements them by introducing visual organization as an additional analytical criterion. Systematic application of this method to multilingual epigraphy could contribute to reconstructing the linguistic landscapes of ancient communities by providing evidence for the coexistence of monolingual speakers and bilingual populations.

President's Column continues from p. 1.

presidency. Since then, we have been to Harvard (for the 50th Anniversary Meeting) and to Cincinnati in 2025. Those challenging COVID-19 years made being President of the AAH more difficult but Georgia was able to see us through that period with her untiring energy.

During Georgia's Presidency, the Association has become more digitized, with the Newsletter becoming an e-Newsletter only and publications moving to an e-book format. A great deal of progress has been made in terms of the Association's platform for professional ethics, teaching, and diversity. All these developments have relied on the work of individuals whom Georgia was keen to thank in her address at the end of our Iowa meeting. Another welcome innovation in this period has been the introduction of the collaborative annual online lecture of the AAH and the Mommsen Society (which happens next month, see page 4).

In 2027, we return to Illinois for what will be another wonderful opportunity to come together in plenary sessions, the bedrock of the Annual Meeting, and to meet and catch up with familiar and new Ancient History colleagues alike. The AAH provides a meeting point for Ancient Historians in North America, many of whom are often in departments where there is no other Ancient, or even pre-Modern, member of Faculty. Many colleagues are in institutions that have no doctoral programs. And for those colleagues who are in places with doctoral programs, they are looking at a future with much-reduced numbers of doctoral fellowships. The financial crunch and the opportunities and/or challenges of AI are dominant themes on campuses both here and abroad. The long-term view of history that being an Ancient Historian offers us, and which was underlined so well at Iowa City in the Spring, provides some perspective. Our subject area continues to attract commentary and interest, whether in the pages of popular publications such as the *National Geographic* or on screens (big and small alike) as witnessed by this summer's *Odyssey* and the ongoing fascination with gladiators, Pompeii, etc. And in 2028 the Olympics return to Los Angeles…for the third time… no doubt with the regular interest in ancient athletics (we hope!).

I encourage you to spread the word about AAH membership. The AAH remains, even after the slightly raised membership prices that we approved in our Spring Meeting, a small-cost organization that offers great value and real benefit to its members. And I ask that those of you who are already serving on committees or thinking about doing so (the Teaching Committee is looking for new members), to continue to provide your altruistic support to our Ancient History community: thank you, again, Georgia, for being our President for six years.

I look forward to seeing you (virtually) at the AAH-Mommsen lecture next month and to seeing as many of you as possible next Spring for our next Annual Meeting at the University of Loyola Chicago on April 1-3, 2027.

Graham Oliver
AAH President

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Department of Classics at The University of Texas at Austin invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor to begin in the fall of academic year 2027-28. We seek a Romanist working in the Republican period, with specialization either in history (particular areas of interest include political, military, or social history) or language/literature (particular areas of interest include poetry, world literature, pedagogy, or critical theory).

In addition to actively researching and publishing, responsibilities include providing administrative and committee service to the department, directing undergraduate honors theses and eventually Ph.D. dissertations, and teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in Classics.

Duties will include contributing to the department's Latin instruction at all levels and teaching in the core curriculum (particularly in "Western Civilization").

Apply
apply.interfolio.com

IN MEMORIAM

Professor **Elio Lo Cascio**, one of the world's leading ancient historians, died in Rome on September 6, after a long and very trying illness. He was 78 years of age. A student of Santo Mazzarino, he became the most sophisticated and productive historian of the Roman economy and its underlying demography, often collaborating with other economic historians as well as Romanists. But he was far from being a mere specialist: he ranged over the social and institutional Roman history of at least six centuries. A generous and good-humored personality, he was also an exemplary internationalist, well-known in several countries, not least the United States. His death seriously impoverishes the field. (*submitted by William Harris*)

The Borza Publications Subvention Fund. The Grants & Awards Committee is accepting applications for the Borza Publication Subvention Grant that will provide small awards ($500 maximum) to assist with publication expenses. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis and must include: 1) a letter that includes a brief description of the project, outlines their publication costs, identifies the specific amount requested, and addresses the need for and are dependent upon available funds; and 2) either an invoice or receipt(s) of their expenses. These grants are open to all members of the association, although preference will be given to non-tenured faculty. Applications should support beyond what their institution or publisher can offer. Submit applications to grants@associationofancienthistorians.org

The **AAH Teaching Committee** is looking for new members. If you are interested, please contact **Kevin Westerfeld** (kwesterfeld@ucsd.edu) or **Eliza Gettel** (eliza.gettel@villanova.edu).

AAH MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please remember to renew your AAH membership dues; dues cover each calendar year. It is possible to pay in advance for up to five years. Members are notified of their membership status at the beginning of each year, so expect an email in January. For questions or information about financial matters and membership, please contact Cheryl Golden at Treasurer@AssociationofAncientHistorians.org.

Membership Dues:

Regular: $30; Associate: $15 *(students, contingent faculty, and non-academics only***) Life: $500 (***one-time payment; retired members over 60 only);* **Institutional: $70** (*may be paid up to five years in advance*)

Please mail dues to: Cheryl Golden, History Department, 114 Fiske Hall, Wichita State University, 184 Fairmount St., Wichita, Kansas 67260.

FOLLOW THE AAH ON X The Social Media and Technology Committee invites you to follow the AAH on X (formerly Twitter) as we share updates about the upcoming annual meeting and other items of interest. Link: https://twitter.com/AAH_ancient	