

Annual Meeting of Postgraduates in Ancient Literature
6th-7th September 2014, University of Cambridge
'Failure in Ancient Literature'

Report for the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies for the receipt of a grant of the amount of £ 400 from the Hugh Last and Donald Atkinson Funds.

The Annual Meeting of Postgraduates in Ancient Literature is one of the most prestigious postgraduate conferences in classical literature in the UK, traditionally attracting speakers from around the globe. This year, the conference was held in the Faculty of Classics of the University of Cambridge on the 6th and 7th September 2014. A total of 78 delegates were present at the conference and had the opportunity to attend any of the forty-four papers presented and the keynote speech given by Professor Richard Hunter, entitled 'Talking the Positives'.



Before the keynote speech
Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge

Delegates came from all over the UK, Ireland, Germany, Italy, Greece, France, Spain and the USA. The theme of our conference was 'Failure in Ancient Literature'. This non-traditional theme, which was very well-received by our speakers and attendees, inspired new approaches on the more well-known texts of classical literature, as well as enquiries into less studied texts, such as Hipparchus, Hegemon of Thasos, Quintus Smyrnaeus, Nonnus and Longinus.

The conference also allowed for postgraduate researches from all over the world to come together in order to exchange ideas and discuss their research in a friendly environment. For many of our speakers, this offered them the confidence to present their first academic paper and receive constructive feedback in a relaxed atmosphere.

The generous grant of £ 400 from the SPRS was used to cover the travel and accommodation costs of seven delegates, whose universities were not able to offer them financial help. The contribution of the SPRS was invaluable for the success of our conference, as it allowed us to attract speakers based on their academic merit and not their financial circumstances. Therefore, we would like to thank the SPRS for their help in making AMPAL 2014 such a varied and stimulating conference.



AMPAL 2014 delegates outside the Faculty of Classics