OMNIBVS

Seventy-ninth Issue

Sam Hood Translation Prize 2019

This year saw a bumper crop of entries, with many exceptionally high quality translations, excellent both for their faithfulness to the original and for their imaginative and resourceful attempts to render these ancient texts relevant to modern settings.

The judges would like to commend in particular Celeste Foo (Henrietta Barnett School) for her exceptionally ambitious project to translate Ovid into Old English metre and Jess Cressey-Jones (Northampton High School) whose translation of Cicero brought out with great effectiveness the parallels between ancient and modern political issues. Cameron Bloch (Westminster School), Daniel Lam (Birkdale School), Pippa Wong (Guildford High School), and Tara Desai (King Edward VI High School for Girls, Birmingham) all produced excellent translations of Ovid using a variety of English forms — rhyming couplets, acrostic poems, and sonnets. However, this year's winner was Edward Gill (Abingdon School) for his accurate but imaginative translation of Aeschylus' *Agamemnon* into a modern gangland setting.

Aeschylus *Agamemnon* 1560–76

Chorus

What goes around comes around.
No brother can tell the right from wrong —
looter gets looted, killer gets clapped.
While Big Z rules elite, his justice rules the street:
'You do the crime, you do the time.'
  'Cos that's the law.

Who could send the cause of this bloodshed packing from the estate?
This hood is contaminated with one miserable fate.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

ὄνειδος ἥκει τόδ᾽ ἀντ᾽ ὀνείδους
δύσμαχα δ᾽ ἐστὶ κρῖναι.
φέρει φέροντ᾽, ἐκτίνει δ᾽ ὁ καίνων·
μίμνει δὲ μίμνοντος ἐν θρόνῳ Διὸς
παθεῖν τὸν ἔρξαντα· θέσμιον γάρ.
τίς ἂν γονὰν ἀραῖον ἐκβάλοι δόμων;
κεκόλληται γένος πρὸς ἄτᾳ.

Clytemnestra

Yeah, you get me and you get our predicament.
But me, I'm gonna
make a deal with the devil,
the daemon of this damned family.
I'll put up with its torment,
even though that won't be easy.

But at some point,
the curse will go on its way,
break down some other crib.
Just like us,
Brothers killing Brothers…

I only need the bare essentials.
All this madness of mutual murder in the gang!
If I can get that out of this place I know as home,
I'll be happy.

ΚΛΥΤΑΙΜΗΣΤΡΑ

ἐς τόνδ᾽ ἐνέβης ξὺν ἀληθείᾳ
χρησμόν· ἐγὼ δ᾽ οὖν
ἐθέλω δαίμονι τῷ Πλεισθενιδᾶν
ὅρκους θεμένη τάδε μὲν στέργει
δύστλητά περ ὄνθ᾽, ὃ δὲ λοιπόν, ἰόντ᾽
ἐκ τῶνδε δόμων ἄλλην γενεὰν
τρίβειν θανάτοις αὐθένταισιν.
κτεάνων δὲ μέρος βαιὸν ἐχούσῃ
πᾶν ἀποχρῇ μοι, μανίας μελάθρων
ἀλληλοφόνους ἀφελούσῃ.

The sacrifice of Iphigenia, right, to secure a favourable wind for the Greek expedition to Troy, led by her father, Agamemnon, set in train the chain of vengeful murders which forms the subject of Aeschylus' Oresteia.
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Gladstone Memorial Essay Prize 2020

Through the generosity of the Gladstone Memorial Trust *Omnibus* is again in 2020 able to offer prizes for excellent essays on classical themes. The competition is open to anyone under 19 and still in full-time education who has not yet completed A levels or IB. Entries should contain a statement from a teacher confirming that this is the case. The first prize stands at £200, the second at £100. **Essays must not exceed 2000 words.**

The topics for 2020 are:

1. What is the purpose of the gods in the epic poetry of Homer and/or Virgil?

2. What have the rubbish dumps of Oxyrhynchus ever done for us?

3. 'Greek tragedians update heroic myths to address the concerns of their own day.' Discuss with reference to one or more Greek tragedies.

4. Should we reconstruct Greek and Roman sculpture and/or buildings, or leave them in the state in which they have survived?

5. Alexander the Great: hero or thug?

6. Why did a small town like Pompeii have such large public monuments (forum, theatre, amphitheatre), and what does this tell us about Roman political life?

7. What use does Philip Pullman make of Classics in *His Dark Materials*?

Entries should be submitted electronically, as e-mail attachments, preferably in Microsoft Word format, to Dr Claire Gruzelier: c.gruzelier@kesbath.com

Deadline **10th July 2020**.

Please give your name, school, and e-mail address on your essay, and keep a copy of your essay. Essays cannot be returned. The judges' decision is final; no correspondence will be entered into.

Winners 2019

2019 saw another very strong field of entries for the Gladstone Memorial Essay Prize, with submissions from an ever-increasing number of schools, and a bumper crop of lively contributions from Year 10 pupils at St Olave's School! Hetty Richards (The Gryphon School) and Tom Phillip (Abingdon School), both writing on the portrayal of relations between fathers and sons in epic, were highly commended by the judges for their excellent work. However, this year's winner was Declan Boyd (Clitheroe Royal Grammar School), whose essay on Tacitus' *Annals* is published in this issue of *Omnibus*.

Omnibus Sam Hood Translation Prize 2020

Readers of *Omnibus* are invited to submit an entry for the 2020 Sam Hood Translation Prize.

The judges are keen to encourage elegant and stylish translations from Greek and Latin prose and verse. Try your hand at translating any one of the following passages (verse passages may be translated into either verse or prose, as you consider most appropriate):

Lucretius *De Rerum Natura* 2.1–19
Virgil *Georgics* 2.493–512
Tacitus *Agricola* 30
Homer *Iliad* 22.136–61
Euripides *Bacchae* 170–89
Herodotus *Histories* 4.32.1–33.5

Texts of these passages are on the Classical Association website (http://www.classicalassociation.org/samhoodtrans2020.pdf),

but you may use any text that is available to you, provided that you include with your translation a copy of the text you have translated.

The judges will be looking for accuracy but also, and especially, for creativity when making their decisions. The competition is open to anyone under 19, still in full-time pre-university education. Entries should contain a statement from a teacher confirming that this is the case. The prize-winner will receive not only a cheque for £75 but also a book of classical poetry.

Entries should be submitted electronically, as e-mail attachments, preferably in Microsoft Word format, to Professor Felix Budelmann: felix.budelmann@magd.ox.ac.uk

Deadline **10th July 2020**.