

Bret Mulligan, Classics

Project description:

The Summer Student Research Assistant will help me finalize the draft of my monograph, *Membra Commissa: The Poetics of Claudian's Carmina Minora*. Tasks will include bibliographic research, information checking, and significant textual editing, as well as the possibility of targeted research projects on selected topics.

Membra Commissa: The Poetics of Claudian's Carmina Minora is the first monograph in any language to analyze the 'light' verse of the Egyptian poet Claudius Claudianus (c. 370–404 CE), one of the most important Latin poets of Late Antiquity and a vital source for our knowledge of Roman politics and culture at the moment when the Empire was irrevocably fracturing into East and West. Among the extant works of Claudian are fifty-four, mostly short, Latin poems on a diverse range of subjects, including bizarre animals, sexual pervers, literary criticism, friendship, patronage, scenic vistas, statues, Christ, tourist traps, a princess, royal gifts, scientific curiosities, giants, and more.

In *Membra Commissa* ['joined pieces'] I examine this miscellaneous collection of hexameter and elegiac poetry within the context of the Greco-Roman literary tradition and contemporary poetic production of the late fourth- and early-fifth-centuries CE. Claudian's light poetry, which was assembled into several different collections after the death of the author, confronts reader and critic alike with a serious interpretive challenge: in a scholarly environment in which the criticism of ancient poetry remains heavily influenced by reference to the architecture and tensioned cohesion of a circumscribed *liber* ('book'), how can we make sense of the diverse elements of a non-authorial conglomerate of poems, a 'non-*liber*'?

10 weeks, fulltime: 400 hours

Estimate of the number of hours of work needed and when:

40 hours per week for 10 weeks, needed during the summer of 2011.

Special skills required (languages, editorial experience, computer or web skills, etc.):

Latin a must; Greek and editorial experience preferred.

Does the project relate to current or past initiatives of the Hurford Humanities Center? (Faculty Seminar, Curriculum Development Project, Working Group, or other project):

N/A

What would you hope to achieve if funded?

Student assistance is essential for the timely completion of my monograph, which will be submitted to press in the Fall of 2011.

And, of great importance, what might the student learn from this collaboration?

The assistant would develop a familiarity with the bibliography in several burgeoning areas of Classical Studies, and gain exposure to examples of current scholarship in the field, as well as editorial experience working on a monograph-length publication.

Application Deadline: *January 31, 2010.*

Please address inquiries and proposals to the Associate Director, Emily Cronin

(ecronin@haverford.edu).