

CANISW

Newsletter

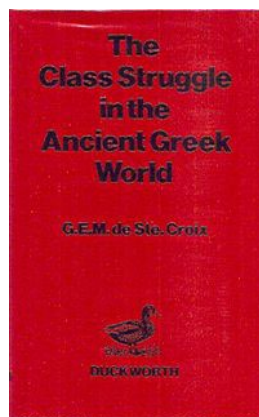
February 2026

In this issue we are delighted to share several upcoming events, along with a selection of notes and reflections on Classical languages and the ancient world. Below are three dates to mark in your diary.

1. FORTHCOMING TALKS

i. February 25th. The Critical Antiquities Public Lecture

The Critical Antiquities Network is pleased to announce that the 2026 Critical Antiquities Public Lecture will be delivered by Professor **Page Dubois**, Distinguished Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature at the University of California, San Diego. The title of her lecture is, '**Blind Spot: Marxism in U.S. Classics.**'



The event will be held on **Wednesday, 25 February 2026, 9:30-11:30** (Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra time).

The event will take place in a hybrid format, with the lecture delivered on Zoom and an in-person element held at the *Vere Gordon Childe Centre* Boardroom, Level 4, Madsen Building, University of Sydney.

To register for the Zoom link, please sign up for the Critical Antiquities Network mailing list to receive Zoom links and CAN announcements:

<https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1930251/1916146/>

Here is the abstract for Professor Dubois' lecture:

G.E.M. de Sainte-Croix, in his massive text *The Class Struggle in the Ancient Greek World*, makes a crucial point about the avoidance of the term class in the work of historians of Greek and Roman antiquity: "Whereas descriptions of ancient society in terms of some category other than class--status, for instance--are perfectly innocuous, in the sense that they have no direct relevance to the modern world . . . an analysis of Greek and Roman society in terms of class, in the specifically Marxist sense, is indeed . . . something threatening, something that speaks directly to every one of us today and insistently demands to be applied to the contemporary world, of the second half of the twentieth century." (The Class Struggle, p. 45) The original first edition of this book contained a reproduction of Van Gogh's *Potato Eaters*, an image of the poverty and desolation of the exploited and wretched of the earth.

What I am concerned with in this lecture is the threat that de Sainte Croix sees, and the attempt to thwart it, the hostility to Marxist theory, to anarchism, socialism, communalism and communism, that characterize the history of the United States of America, and the consequences for immigrants, people of color, women, queers, for university education, the humanities, and the discipline of classical studies in particular. In this moment, when the US is being wracked by new leadership's descent into neofascism and return to unbridled imperialism, it's time to enrich critique with the legacy of Marxist critical theory. This lecture derives from work in progress on the progressive voices in classical studies in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. I consider some examples of US responses to Marxism in classics, including the cases of Moses Finley and Jean-Pierre Vernant, then ask briefly: Could we use the theory of Antonio Gramsci to read Euripidean tragedy differently?

We hope to see you there.



ii. **Wednesday 25 February (in Canberra) Friends of the ANU Classics Museum Annual General Meeting and Lecture.**

Dr Keren Hammerschlag, Director of the ANU Centre for Art History and Art Theory, will present a lecture on the topic: Daughters of Empire Matchmaking across Racial Lines in Edwin Long's Babylonian Marriage Market (1875). This talk centres on Edwin Long's painting Babylonian Marriage Market (1875) and Victorian conceptions of the races of ancient Assyria and Babylon. That monumental canvas, which resides in the Royal Holloway Collection in London, offers an illustration of an ancient Babylonian marriage auction as described by Herodotus (1.196). There will be a reception in the ANU Classics Museum (AD Hope Building) at 5.30pm, followed at 6.15pm by the lecture in the RSSS Auditorium (next door to AD Hope Building). The lecture will be preceded by a brief AGM of the Friends of the Classics Museum. CANSW members who are not in Sydney for the Critical Antiquities public lecture, are warmly invited to this talk at the ANU.

iii. **March 18th. The Australian Paliochora-Kythera Archaeology Survey: final results**

Dr Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory, co-director of APKAS will present the final results of the work of the APKAS archaeological survey, alongside Dr Timothy Gregory and Dr Stavros Paspalas. Also in the **Vere Gordon Childe Centre** Boardroom, the presentation is offered as part of the Greek festival of Sydney. For more information:

<https://greekfestivalofsydney.com.au/program/event/dionysios-solomos-awards-2026>

iv. March 27th. CANSW AGM

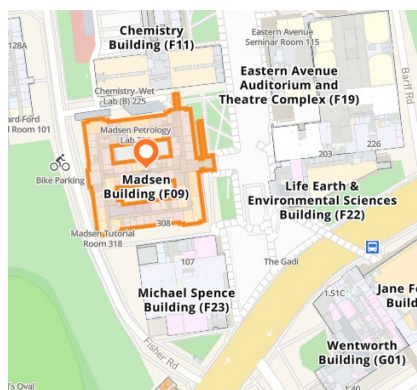
Speaker: The invited speaker for the AGM is Professor Alanna Nobbs (AM).

Alanna will lead a discussion on the topic, 'Engaged not Endangered: Ideas for the future of NSW Classics'. Everyone is welcome. Please come along and join the discussion on this particularly important subject.

Date and venue: the AGM will be held on the 27th of March at 5.30pm in the Boardroom of the *Vere Gordon Childe Centre*, Level 4, Madsen Building, University of Sydney.

Vere Gordon Childe Centre

This link will take you to the map: <https://maps.sydney.edu.au/?room=F09>



2. EXHIBITIONS

i. The Hellenic Museum.

The Hellenic Museum is always worth a visit when you are in Melbourne. Their *Ex Graecia* exhibition is a collection of marble fragments dating from the Roman Empire: <https://www.hellenic.org.au/exhibitions/ex-graecia>

ii. Chau Chak Wing Museum

The CCWM offers a school holiday program in April (suitable for children aged 7-12). This program is part of the 2026 Greek Festival of Sydney.

<https://www.sydney.edu.au/museum/whats-on/talks-and-events/greek-myth-school-holiday-workshop-2026.html>

3. CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

i. CLTA Professional Development Day

On Friday 13th February, the CLTA held their perennially successful Professional Development Day at The View Hotel in North Sydney. Over sixty teachers of classical languages came from schools in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, and elsewhere to enjoy talks on pedagogy, literature, and the state of Classics itself. Highlights included a talk on the current landscape of classical languages in Australia by Dr Kate Edwards. She stressed the importance of renovating the current image of classical languages and the fact that Latin is facing a dire PR problem. On a much more positive note, however, Dr Edwards' surveys of students and parents found that a much greater appreciation of Latin was developed over the course of students' studies. Moreover, the high quality and deep passion of classical languages teachers was noted in these surveys to a superlative degree. Associate Professor Bob Cowan also gave a highly entertaining talk on the new Latin Extension prescription of Elegy. Among his deeply considered readings of poems by Catullus, Propertius, Ovid and others, the take-home message was that elegiac poetry which plumbed the depths of human desire proved to be a radical departure from the established literary tradition of Rome. Although we take for granted the omnipresence of 21st century media that takes romance as its subject, the Latin poets of the 1st century BC were widely expanding upon their precedents in Sappho and the Hellenistic Age to create something entirely new. Louella Perrett and the rest of the CLTA Council must be thanked for another splendid, seamless day of education.

Phillip Dupesovski

ii. Where to learn ancient Languages in Sydney & further afield

a. Latin

The Community College offers Latin at introductory and higher levels:

<https://www.sydneycommunitycollege.edu.au/courses/learn-language/latin>

The WEA is again offering Latin classes (starting in February):

<https://www.weasydney.com.au/course/LATIN.101.F2F>

Classical Latin is offered at Campion College as part of the Diploma of Classical Languages:

<https://www.campion.edu.au/units/latin/>

You may study Latin at undergraduate and postgraduate levels at the University of Sydney, the University of New England, and the Australian National University.

<https://www.sydney.edu.au/courses/subject-areas/major/latin0.html>

<https://www.une.edu.au/study/humanities-arts/latin>

<https://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/major/LATN-MAJ>

Futures@PLC Sydney offers extension and enrichment programs for children, including Latin for Years 3-6:

<https://futures.plc.nsw.edu.au/after-school-courses/latin/>

β. Ancient Greek

The WEA is offers Ancient Greek as well as Latin classes:

<https://www.weasydney.com.au/courses/Languages/Ancient-Greek>

The Greek Orthodox community in Melbourne offers a course in Classical Greek ('for adults'):

https://old.greekcommunity.com.au/gocmv_public/index.php/en/schools/ancient-greek/for-adults

As with Latin, you may study Ancient Greek at undergraduate and postgraduate levels at the University of Sydney, the University of New England, and the Australian National University.

<https://www.sydney.edu.au/courses/subject-areas/major/ancient-greek.html>

<https://slll.cass.anu.edu.au/students/future/study/ancient-greek>

<https://www.une.edu.au/study/units/introduction-to-classical-languages-clla101>

iii. Language Discussion forum

If you like to discuss classical language, you can subscribe to this blog on Koine Greek and join the fun:

<https://greekincommon.substack.com/>

iv. Teaching Symposium

There will be a Symposium on Teaching Classical Languages again this year. So put Friday 14th August at the Vere Gordon Childe Centre into your diary.

The keynote speaker is Carla Hurt, a Latin high school teacher and YouTuber. For more about her work see <https://foundinantiquity.com/>. Further details will be circulated nearer the date. If you are after more information and can't wait, please contact one of the convenors: Dr Tamara Neal (t.neal@sydney.edu.au) or Dr Sarah Lawrence (sarah.lawrence@une.edu.au).

4. WHY STUDY CLASSICS?

i. A teacher's perspective

Here is a short bio on a Latin teacher: Dr. Jack Galuchie. He provides a teacher's perspective on why teach and why learn Latin.

<https://www.knightcrier.org/top-stories/2026/02/11/doctor-galuchie-dead-language-lively-teaching/>

ii. What the students think

Here are some testimonies from former students of Classics from ANU. They speak of the value of the Classics degrees they have taken.

<https://vimeo.com/1123451635>

5. TRENDING CLASSICS

i. 2026: The Year of the Trojan Horse

More details about the private screening for *CANSW* in July of Nolan's *The Odyssey* will be shared when they are confirmed. If you can't wait until then, there is a recent retelling of the story that you can listen to by Natalie Haynes on the BBC: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001brj5>

6. ♪ CLASSICAL NOTES ♪



i. **Have you seen this cat?**

Classics hit the headlines recently when antiquities were stolen from the Abbey Museum of Art and Archaeology in Caboolture, north of Brisbane.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/world/australia/ancient-egyptian-artifacts-stolen-australian-museum-rcna259138>

ii. **Poop as a pharmaceutical?**

Research has confirmed the medicinal use of poop by the Romans. See: 'Feces, fragrance and medicine chemical evidence of ancient therapeutics in a Roman unguentarium.'

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S2352409X26000246?via%3Dihub>

iii. **A note on ancient books**

What were books like in ancient Rome? Dr Konstantine Panegyres, from The University of Western Australia, introduces the subject for us:

<https://www.uwa.edu.au/news/article/2026/january/what-were-books-like-in-ancient-greece-and-rome>



i. CANSW Membership

Now would be a good time for you to renew your membership. Please follow this link for the details:

<https://classics.org.au/association/membership>

ii. Upcoming events

Events planned for CANSW will be posted on the Association's website.

<https://classics.org.au/>

If you want to be added to the mailing list for the University of Sydney Classics and Ancient History seminars, please contact Dr Tamara Neal (t.neal@sydney.edu.au).

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Classical Association of New South Wales

<https://classics.org.au/>