



THE ARCHIVE OF PERFORMANCES OF GREEK AND ROMAN DRAMA

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

SPRING 2001

NEWS

FUNDING

The Archive of Performances of Greek and Roman Drama has been awarded a major five-year grant by the Arts and Humanities Research Board which will ensure the continuation of its activities on their present scale until at least 2004.

PEOPLE

Much has happened since Edith Hall and Oliver Taplin founded the Archive in 1996, but the last year has been especially dynamic and exciting. **Peter Brown** has been co-opted as a third Director, and **Pat Easterling** has generously agreed to become involved as President of the Friends of the Archive on her retirement from Cambridge. **Fiona Macintosh** was a most welcome recruit to the team as a Senior Research Fellow at the beginning of 2000; and **Pantelis Michelakis** has also come aboard as a Research Fellow for the academic year 2000-2001. Most recently, **Amanda Wrigley** became the new full-time Researcher of the Archive in January 2001, replacing David Gowen who has returned to Canada to get married.

PUBLICATION

Medea in Performance, 1500-2000, edited by Edith Hall, Fiona Macintosh and Oliver Taplin and published by Legenda (the imprint of the European Humanities Research Centre at Oxford), is the first book to arise from the Archive's activity. It was published in December 2000 and is based on the papers delivered at the Archive's conference in July 1998. The volume, which has twenty illustrations, consists of eleven chapters and a catalogue of more than 500 productions of *Medea* on the Archive's database. Further details and an order form will follow shortly.

CONFERENCE 2001

The Archive is organizing its second major conference, *Agamemnon in Performance, 458 BC - 2001 AD*, to take place at Wadham College, Oxford, from Thursday 20 September to Saturday 22 September 2001. Please see the following document for the provisional programme and booking form.

ARCHIVE LECTURES 2000-2001

- ☞ 15 November 2000, Don Chapman (former theatre critic for the *Oxford Mail*), 'Agamemnon and after: how classical Greek drama helped rekindle Oxford's interest in modern theatre'
- ☞ 31 January 2001, Katharine Worth (Emeritus Professor of Drama, Royal Holloway), 'Greek and Roman notes in Samuel Beckett's scenography'
- ☞ 28 February 2001, Timberlake Wertenbaker (playwright), 'The voices we hear'
- ☞ 9 May 2001, David Wiles (Professor of Theatre, Royal Holloway), 'The use of masks in modern performances of Greek drama'

WEBSITE

The Archive's website, accessible at www.classics.ox.ac.uk/apgrd, is currently undergoing substantial development and redesign, and should be available in its full form by the summer of 2001.



BASIC INFORMATION

ABOUT THE ARCHIVE

Ancient drama has exerted a uniquely formative influence on cultural and intellectual life since the Renaissance, and today ancient plays are being performed in both the commercial and amateur theatre with greater frequency than at any time since antiquity.

The Archive of Performances of Greek and Roman Drama was founded in 1996 by Edith Hall and Oliver Taplin in response to the need for a coordinated research effort devoted to the international production and reception of classical drama since the Renaissance. They included within its scope revivals and adaptations on stage and film, and in opera and dance. The purpose of the Archive is both to serve as a repository of physical materials relating to the stage history of the works in performance, such as playbills, programmes, reviews, drawings, photographs and audio-visual recordings, and also to compile a comprehensive production history of ancient drama on the modern stage in the form of a fully searchable relational database.

This electronic resource is proving to be an invaluable research tool for an international body of scholars in a wide-range of disciplines and specializations, from those investigating the performance history of a particular play, for example, to those seeking to map the cultural history of a particular country in a specific decade. We plan to make the database accessible on our website in 2003.

CONSULTING THE ARCHIVE

The Archive's collections and electronic resources are open for consultation by researchers. Visits are arranged in advance in order that we may accommodate as many people as possible. Please contact us to discuss the resources available in specific areas of research and to arrange an appointment.

Although we do not have the resources to answer extensive or imprecise queries, we will endeavour to do our best to satisfy precise requests for information, such as "What productions of the *Bacchae* were there in Italy between 1900 and 1920?". Please see our website for further details on the ways in which the database can be searched.

CALL FOR MATERIALS

We warmly welcome any information, physical or even anecdotal, pertaining to performances of ancient drama on the modern stage. Any material loaned or donated to the Archive is always very gratefully received and its provenance carefully recorded. Items loaned to the Archive can be scanned or otherwise copied. Please contact us should you have any questions regarding the suitability to the project of any materials in your possession.

CONTACTING THE ARCHIVE

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ARCHIVE PEOPLE

PETER BROWN, DIRECTOR

Peter Brown has been a Tutorial Fellow of Trinity College at Oxford since 1968. He has published extensively on both Greek and Roman Comedy, and is currently working on a translation of Terence's comedies for The World's Classics. He is interested both in the performance aspects of ancient plays and in their relationship to the societies for which they were written. These interests will inform his work for the Archive on changing attitudes to Plautus and Terence, and the various ways in which their plays have been adapted for performance in the last 500 years. He will also supervise the Archive's growing interest in opera (especially appropriate as he is a keen amateur singer).

EDITH HALL, DIRECTOR

Edith Hall has been a Tutorial Fellow of Somerville College at Oxford since 1995. Her publications include *Inventing the Barbarian: Greek Self-Definition through Tragedy* (1989), and an edition of Aeschylus' *Persians* (1996). She also regularly writes in the *Times Literary Supplement* and reviews theatre productions on radio. She is currently collaborating with Fiona Macintosh on a history of Greek drama in the British theatre, *Greek Tragedy and the British Stage*, to be published by Oxford University Press.

FIONA MACINTOSH, SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW

Fiona Macintosh has been Senior Research Fellow at the Archive and a member of St Cross College at Oxford since January 2000. Her publications include *Dying Acts: Death in Ancient Greek and Modern Irish Tragic Drama* (Cork 1994), and numerous articles on the reception of ancient drama in the modern world. She is currently working on a production history of Sophocles' *Oedipus Tyrannos* for Cambridge University Press, and collaborating with Edith Hall on a history of Greek drama in the British theatre, *Greek Tragedy and the British Stage*, to be published by Oxford University Press.

PANTELIS MICHELAKIS, RESEARCH FELLOW

Pantelis Michelakis has been a Junior Research Fellow of Wolfson College at Oxford since 1999. He has published in *Classical Review* and the *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*. His forthcoming publications include *Achilles in Greek Tragedy* and a companion to Euripides' *Iphigenia at Aulis*. He is currently working on the reception of Greek tragedy in twentieth-century theatre and cinema.

OLIVER TAPLIN, DIRECTOR

Oliver Taplin has been a Tutorial Fellow of Magdalen College at Oxford since 1973; he was given the title of Professor in 1996. His books include *The Stagecraft of Aeschylus* (1977), *Greek Tragedy in Action* (1978), and *Comic Angels* (1993). He has always been concerned to disseminate interest in the ancient Greek world and in its reception. He has also worked with productions in the theatre, including *The Oresteia* at the National Theatre (1980-81), *The Thebans* at the RSC (1991-92), and *The Oresteia* at the National Theatre (1999-2000). The Archive combines his interests both in performance and in reception.

AMANDA WRIGLEY, RESEARCHER

Amanda Wrigley, who holds associate membership of Trinity College at Oxford, read Classics at the University of Leeds, and has a MA in Librarianship from the University of Sheffield. She has extensive experience of working with the special collections of Leeds University Library, the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, and Trinity College Library, Cambridge. She intends to develop her research interests in the reception of Sophoclean drama at the Archive.