



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF QUEENSLAND  
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE

# Antiquities Museum Annual Report 2018





## Welcome

The RD Milns Antiquities Museum is a dynamic public space that encourages interaction with, and understanding of, the cultures of the ancient Mediterranean, and the profound impact that these cultures have had upon the literature, art, politics, and society of our modern world.

## Preserving, Connecting, and Inspiring

The Museum aims to be an accessible space for students at The University of Queensland to explore and learn from the material remains of ancient civilisations. In particular, the Museum supports the discipline of Classics and Ancient History within UQ's School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry. This report reflects on the Museum's activities for the 2018 calendar year, which saw the continued growth of our collection and increased reach of our engagement activities at UQ and beyond.

### A Golden Jubilee Gift

The Museum was fortunate in early 2018 to receive a donation from Dr Stephen G Papas via the Alumni Friends of The University of Queensland to purchase two Athenian black-figure *lekythoi* (oil flasks) dating to the early 5th century BC.

The donation was made to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Alumni Friends.

The vases are beautiful examples of the late black-figure style produced in ancient Athens, with scenes relating to festivals of Dionysus.

One lekythos has a procession of figures, including two maenads (female attendants of Dionysus), and a satyr (half-man half-goat followers of Dionysus) holding a rhyton (drinking horn). The scene includes mock-Greek "labels" for the figures, made up of nonsense characters.



Dr Janette McWilliam, Director, said the vases were a significant addition to the Museum's Greek collection.

“We are truly fortunate to receive such a generous donation from Dr Papas.”

The second vase features maenads in procession with a chariot drawn by two horses: one figure mounts the chariot while another, at the head of the procession, sits in a chair.

Two other figures hold vine sprays. Such festive scenes would have been familiar in ancient Athens as part of frequent public festivals.

Both pieces were purchased from a London-based dealer and come from a Swiss and a German private collection respectively, each formed in the 1980s and 1990s.

### 2018 in Review



9380  
Total visitors to the Museum in 2018



7%  
Increase in visitation from 2017 to 2018



4717  
Walk-in visitors to the Museum's gallery



1368  
Attendees at Museum events



1638  
School students participating in education programs



1799  
Tertiary Students accessing the Museum as part of 12 courses



17  
Artefacts added to the collection



\$10,000 +  
Donations towards acquisitions and travelling scholarships

## Citizenship: Ancient and Modern

The Antiquities Museum's 2017/18 Exhibition *Why Citizenship? Stories from Athens and Rome* explored the stories of ancient people from a wide variety of backgrounds and asked why citizenship mattered to them. It also invited visitors to consider concepts of citizenship, and to reflect upon issues of gender, sexuality, politics, race and social status in the modern day.

While it might appear that citizenship in the ancient world was a simple and straightforward concept, not everyone thought about citizenship in the same way. In Classical Athens entry into the citizen body was closely controlled, determined by gender, birth and ancestry, while in Rome, people of both free and freed status came to enjoy at least basic citizen rights over time.



“Citizenship to me is the right to belonging to a community where you feel safe.”

In a series of collaborative public lectures and panel featuring the Museum also engaged UQ colleagues and the public in discussions over the meaning of citizenship in the ancient and modern worlds, and invited visitors to reflect on what citizenship means to them.

“Citizenship means to me being part of a community and uniting with people who are different to create a nation.”

These personal reflections have been compiled and digitised along with voting results and will form an important historical archive for the future.

“Vote. Democracy. Freedom.”

### The Votes are In!

As part of the *Why Citizenship?* exhibition, visitors were asked to have their say on a series of questions drawn from the exhibition's main themes. These questions were designed to have relevance to the rights and responsibilities of citizens in both the ancient and modern worlds.

Over 38,000 individual votes were cast across the seven questions, with some interesting results.

- Should you be considered a citizen if you don't participate in democracy?  
☒ 51      ☐ 49
- Should military service be compulsory for someone to gain their citizenship rights?  
☒ 30      ☐ 70
- Should someone be excluded from the citizen body because their parents were not citizens?  
☒ 28      ☐ 72
- Should someone only be eligible for welfare assistance if they are a full citizen?  
☒ 50      ☐ 50
- Does citizenship still matter today?  
☒ 75      ☐ 25
- Should an 'immoral' profession exclude someone from their full citizen rights?  
☒ 33      ☐ 67
- Should you have to be a resident in a country to hold citizenship rights there?  
☒ 59      ☐ 41

Full results: [padlet.com/antiquitiesmuseum/whycitizenship](https://padlet.com/antiquitiesmuseum/whycitizenship)





## Dionysos: Portrait of a God

The Antiquities Museum's 2018/19 exhibition, *Dionysos: Portrait of a God*, explores the many faces of Dionysos in the Classical Greek world through artefacts from the Antiquities Museum and Australian partner institutions. It invites visitors to enter the playful, mysterious and sometimes dark world of Dionysos and come away with a new appreciation for this complicated god, who is much more than just the god of wine.

Dionysos represents the breadth of human experience. To the ancient Greeks he was the god of wine, of life and of death, and an ecstatic god of the wild, associated with untamed animals and the rejection of the normal way of things.

“Dionysos was a god whose character was based on illusion, transformation, ambiguity, impersonation and the coexistence of opposite traits.”

In art, and in myth, Dionysos is accompanied by satyrs, half men, half goats, and maenads, wild women from the east. Dionysos could be masked and was the god of theatre, taking on the appearance of both men and women. He could also be unmasked in ritual, revealed in joy or in fury.

“Cadmos’ daughter Semele bore to Zeus, a splendid son... Laughing Dionysos, a mortal woman, giving birth to a god, but they are both divine now.”

- Hesiod, Theogony, 946-949

Dionysos is a god of opposites, between civilization and wildness, city and country, life and death, man and woman, old and young. But Dionysos also a great equaliser, bringing Greek cities together in worship. At the heart of Dionysiac cult were the mysteries, secret knowledge of life, death and rebirth, known only to initiates.

The exhibition includes loans from the University of Tasmania's John Elliott Classics Museum, the Museum of Antiquities at the University of New England, and the Classics Museum at the Australian National University.

*Dionysos: Portrait of a God* is on show until late June 2019.



## Collection Development

The Antiquities Museum added 17 artefacts to its collection in 2018, all of which will be used in educating and inspiring our audiences about the past.

- Two Athenian Lekythoi dating to the 5th C BCE, Purchased from ArtAncient, London, with funds from the Alumni Friends of The University of Queensland donated by Dr Stephen Papas (see page 1).
- A late Bronze Age Greek figurine of a chariot (below). Purchased from Charles Ede Ltd, London, with funds from the Queensland Friends of the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of their founding.
- A fragment of a Roman Jug from North Africa, dating to the 5th C AD (right). Gift of Dr Patrick Jory, Brisbane, on behalf of Prof. E. J. Jory, Perth.
- Thirteen fragments of early Greek pottery (Bronze and Iron Age) donated by Prof. RM Cook, Cambridge, in 1966 were located in the collection store.



## Figurine is the gift that keeps on giving

A donation by the Queensland Friends of the Australian Archaeological Institute in Athens (QFAAIA) has allowed UQ's RD Milns Antiquities Museum to buy a rare Bronze Age chariot figurine from Greece.

The donation was made on the occasion of QFAAIA's 30th Anniversary.

The chariot figure is a highly simplified type produced on the Greek mainland by the Bronze Age Mycenaeans between 1200 and 1050 BC.

The animals, decorated with stripes, are probably horses or other equids, and are depicted with only one leg each, which is not uncommon for these types of figurines.

The artefact was purchased from Charles Ede Ltd, London, and was originally in the collection of Professor Dr Günther Marschall (1913-1997) of Hamburg. He acquired it from a gallery in Cologne in 1973.

QFAAIA President Chris Griffiths said the group hoped the piece would be of interest to future generations.

"We specified that we wanted something that could be used as a teaching resource, it will be a gift that keeps on giving."

The Australian Archaeological Institute in Athens promotes Greek studies and fosters wider Australian involvement with Greek cultural output.



## Our Donors

The Museum would also like to recognise and thank its many donors for their generous monetary support.

Your donations contribute to the growth of the Museum's collection, and to our ability to give undergraduate students access to international experiences like the Alberese Archaeological Field School.

### \$5,000 - \$9,999

Queensland Friends of the Australian Archaeological Institute, Athens

### \$1,000 - \$4,999

Prof Alastair Blanshard

Two Anonymous Donors

### <\$1,000

Mr Weston Bruner

Dr Pamela Davenport

Ms Effie Detsimas

Mr Trevor Findlay

Mrs Rosemary Hinrichsen

Dr Foti Inglis

Miss Rebecca Jackson

Dr Patrick Jory\*

Mrs Anne Melson

Mrs Margaret Rahman

Ms Fiona Wilson

Two Anonymous Donors

N.B. Information correct to 31 December 2018, as provided by UQ Advancement Office.

*\*Indicates a gift in-kind*





## Teaching Support Activities

**The Antiquities Museum supports the teaching of undergraduate students in Classics and Ancient History and associated disciplines by making its collection, and the expertise of its staff, available to academic staff in a formal classroom setting.**

In 2018 the Museum supported 12 undergraduate courses from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in the areas of Classics and Ancient History, Archaeology, Museum Studies, Tourism, Religion and Writing.

- ANCH1240 - The Rise of Ancient Greece - 1 Tutorial (228 students)
- ANCH1250 - The Rise of Ancient Rome - 1 Tutorial (256 students)
- ANCH2030 - Myth, Magic & Religion - 1 Tutorial (147 students)
- ANCH2130 - Alexander and The Hellenistic World - 1 Tutorial (122 students)
- ANCH2270 - Roman Art & Archaeology - 12 tutorials (48 students each - 576 total)
- ANCH2900 - Museum Internship/Field School - 1 Tutorial (14 students)
- ARCA2130 - The Archaeology of Turkey - 3 Tutorials (36 students each - 108 total)
- MUSM7002 - Collections - 3 Guest Lectures (17 students each - 51 total)
- MUSM7006 - Exhibiting Culture - 1 Guest Lecture (19 students)
- RELN2410 - The Bible - 2 Tutorials (23 students each - 46 total)
- TOUR7031 - Visitor Management - 1 Tutorial (160 students)
- WRIT2100 - Creative Writing: Poetics - 1 Tutorial (95 students)

## Teaching Support Statistics



**12**  
University Courses



**1799**  
Formal Student Learning Experiences



**6**  
Majors supported

## Poetic Collaboration

Notable in the Museum's 2018 teaching support activities was the course WRIT2100 - Creative Writing: Poetics. Lectured by Dr Victoria Bladen, the course incorporated the Antiquities Museum into an assessment item which gave students the option of responding to an artefact from the Antiquities Museum in the form of an ekphrastic poem.

'Ekphrasis (in Greek ἐκφρασις) is traditionally a literary description in detail of a painting, sculpture, or other work of visual art. Perhaps the most famous ekphrastic poem is *Ode on a Grecian Urn* by John Keats (1819). Students and supporters of both the course and the Museum met in late October to hear recitations of the student's compositions accompanied by a brief introduction to their selected antiquity by Mr James Donaldson, Senior Museum Officer. The best composition was judged by Em Prof RD Milns AM and Assoc Prof Bronwyn Lea. They selected *Ritual* by Gabriel Robertson, responding to UQ 82.020 a Kantharos in the form of a Satyr (UQ 82.020 - pictured, p. 3) as the best composition.

## Ritual

I drunk from the satyr's skull, pressed lips  
To his cold stone, brought bovine ears up  
To my own, stood hard on my head and  
Kegged the dregs. With dusty claws he sculpted  
My disembodied throat, his innards slicking  
Down to my brown guts where they churned  
And growled.

And I felt a lot better, for a hot minute,  
Snubbing my nose at the stars and  
Howling in the wind. Then I fell,  
My fur in the dirt, my sick in the gutter,  
Spouting out ribbons of maddening mutters.  
I held the satyr's muddy mug and faced  
His Sunday morning scowl. To myself  
I made half a vow, to never again drink  
his blood in excess, fur caught in my throat,  
I coughed up the rest.

Of course, that next Friday I tracked the beast down,  
To run wild in the forest and drink from his crown.

- Gabriel Robertson

## Education Programs

**The RD Milns Antiquities Museum offers a range of programs for secondary school students studying the ancient world. These programs seek to connect students to the past through our world-class collection of Mediterranean antiquities located at The University of Queensland St Lucia campus.**

Each year, over 1500 school students from Queensland and northern New South Wales visit UQ to take part in these popular programs. The Museum also offers special outreach programs that bring the Museum collection into the classroom.

"Such a high quality, low cost program! Will definitely promote this with my colleagues and be back in future years!"

"It was an excellent visit overall and the students really enjoyed it. We will be back!"

## Education Program Feedback



**58**  
School Groups



**1638**  
Participants



**83%**  
Surveyed Teachers rate  
satisfaction with Museum Staff



**83%**  
Surveyed Teachers  
Program Overall



**100%**  
Surveyed Teachers Likely to  
Return

## Student Engagement Activities

**2018 saw the continuation of the Museum's informal student engagement activities which support and extend the student experience outside of the classroom.**

Informal student engagement activities in 2018 included:

- Hosting of events with the Classics and Ancient History Student Society, including bi-annual welcome lunches for new students.
- Providing a venue for the Classics and Ancient History CLAMO Greek and Latin language mentoring program.
- A collection masterclass for undergraduate students in Semester 1 on the topic of Roman Republican Coinage with Assoc Prof Tom Stevenson.
- A collection masterclass for undergraduate students in Semester 2 on the topic of Egyptian Hieroglyphs with Dr Serena Love.
- Volunteer opportunities with the Antiquities Museum.

## Give to the Museum

**The RD Milns Antiquities Museum is the premier collection of ancient Mediterranean antiquities on public display in Queensland. Our collection comprises over 6000 artefacts, spanning over 3500 years of history.**

Since its foundation in 1963, donations to the Museum by individuals and groups have enabled the purchase of over 350 artefacts, today worth \$1.4 million. Recent donors have contributed funds towards the purchase of artefacts including: a Roman memorial tablet for a man named Secundio (2013), an Athenian gravestone for a woman named Theophile (2014), and the Dr Owen Powell OAM Memorial Medical Collection (2015).

Your gift, whether large or small, will help us to acquire quality artefacts which will enhance our collection. It will also enable us to continue to bring the wonders of the ancient Mediterranean world to present and future generations.

## Donate Now

<https://www.uq.edu.au/giving/donations/>

*Select the RD Milns Antiquities Museum as the destination of your gift.*

## Bequests and Planned Giving

Individuals wishing to support the Museum's activities via a bequest should contact Weston Bruner, Director of Advancement, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, on +61 7 3346 1640 or at [w.bruner@uq.edu.au](mailto:w.bruner@uq.edu.au).

## The Museum Team



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## RD Milns Antiquities Museum

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