

“Theatre after Athens: Reception and Revision of Greek Drama”

A Sawyer Seminar Series
2008-10

The Classical Traditions Initiative and the Department of Classics are happy to announce that we have been awarded an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant for a John E. Sawyer Seminar Series entitled “Theatre after Athens: Reception and Revision of Greek Drama.” In the first year, 2008-09, seminars and conferences will take up the theme of theatre produced outside Athens in antiquity. In the second year, 2009-10, a series of events will examine the reception of Greek drama in the United States.

The series concentrates on the changing contexts of reception of ancient Athenian drama. In recent years, many successful and useful conferences have been organized on specific plays of antiquity: Persians (NU 2006-07), Antigone (DePaul 2007-08), Medea (Chicago, 2008). This seminar series branches in a new direction taking as our starting point and our focus not a *single* work of literature but a series of known periods and places of the reception and reproduction of Athenian drama. We hope to provide a forum to contextualize and re-examine literary interpretations of ancient theatre, and also to provoke different but complementary questions about the enduring power of Athenian drama.

The Sawyer grant provides for two one-year Ph.D. fellowships and a one-year postdoctoral fellowship at Northwestern University. In 2008-09, the Ph.D. fellowship holder is Christine Scippa, a Ph.D. candidate in the Interdisciplinary Program in Theatre and Drama at Northwestern.

Detailed information about events will be available on the seminar website soon, but below is a brief summary of upcoming events.

2008-09

October 13, 2008: Inaugural lecture and roundtable

“Counterpoint Athens”

Robert Wallace, Northwestern (speaker) with Gregory Dobrov, Loyola (respondent)

Roundtable on the purpose and scope of the series:

with Kathryn Boshier, Tracy Davis, Reginald Gibbons, Marianne Hopman, Sara Monoson, Christine Scippa, and John Wynne (all Northwestern University)

November 5, 2008: Public Lecture

“Were women among the theatre audience in ancient Athens? And does it matter?”

Oliver Taplin (Oxford University)

November 7 and 8, 2008: Conference

“Theatre Outside Athens: Drama in the Greek Colonies of Sicily and South Italy”

with Oliver Taplin (Oxford), Benjamin Acosta-Hughes (Michigan), Anne Duncan (Nebraska-Lincoln), Inge Nielsen (Hamburg, Germany), Lucia Rodriguez Noriega Guillen (Oviedo, Spain), David Smith (San Francisco), Stefano Vassallo (Palermo Archaeological Superintendency, Sicily), Andreas Willi (Oxford, England)

January 16, 2009: Conference

“Plato and Aristotle go to the Theatre”

(provisional)

with Pierre Destrée (Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium), Stephen Halliwell (St. Andrews, Scotland), Richard Janko (Michigan), Jeffrey Rusten (Cornell)

(further events to be announced)

For more information, please contact Kathryn Boshier, k-boshier@northwestern.edu or Christine Scippa, c-scippa@northwestern.edu

For information about the January 16, 2009 conference, “Plato and Aristotle go to the Theatre,” please contact John Wynne, j-wynne@northwestern.edu