

Omnibus reaches 40!

With this, the eightieth issue, *Omnibus* completes forty years of publication. The first issue of *Omnibus* appeared in March 1981, headed by Peter Parsons, later the Regius Professor of Greek at Oxford, writing on 'The oldest Roman book ever found', and concluding with Ken Gransden on 'W.H. Auden on Homer and Virgil'. You can find these articles, and all articles from *Omnibus* 1–78 at: <https://archive.org/details/omnibusmagazine>. So papyrology and studies of the classical tradition, represented in this issue by the pieces by Rachel Mairs, Barbara Goff, and Neville Morley, have been fuel for *Omnibus* from the beginning.

Oliver Taplin, who with the late Geoffrey Fallows, conceived and edited the first edition, set out in a preamble his vision for *Omnibus* that remains our vision:

In E.M. Forster's short story The Celestial Omnibus the boy is carried off by the strange vehicle to the sublime mountain of the imagination – of poetry, music, and true feeling for the culture of the past. He is met by Achilles who raises him up on his shield. 'He crouched on the wonderful shield, on heroes and burning cities, on vineyards graven in gold, on every dear passion, every joy, on the entire image of the Mountain that he had discovered, encircled, like it, with an everlasting stream.' We hope that Omnibus will in its small way lead its readers towards that mountain and open up vistas worth exploring further.

Gladstone Memorial Essay Prize 2021

Through the generosity of the Gladstone Memorial Trust *Omnibus* is again in 2021 able to offer prizes for excellent essays on classical themes. The competition is open to anyone under 19 and still in full-time education who has not yet completed A levels or IB. Entries should contain a statement from a teacher confirming that this is the case. The first prize stands at £200, the second at £100. **Essays must not exceed 2000 words.**

The topics for 2021 are:

1. Why are Greek myths still so powerful today?
2. Is either Pentheus or Hippolytus responsible for his own fate? (You can write about either Pentheus or Hippolytus or compare the two.)
3. What are the chief characteristics of epic poetry? Discuss with reference to any one Greek or Roman epic.

4. Why did Greek men go to a symposium?
5. How much do we know about the Etruscans, and what is our evidence?
6. Hannibal: hero or villain?
7. Choose any modern portrayal of either Achilles or Cassandra and discuss its relation to Greek and Roman sources.

Entries should be submitted electronically, as e-mail attachments, preferably in Microsoft Word format, to Dr Claire Gruzelier: c.gruzelier@kesbath.com

Deadline **10th July 2021.**

Please give your name, school, and e-mail address on your essay, and keep a copy of your essay. Essays cannot be returned. The judges' decision is final; no correspondence will be entered into.

Omnibus Sam Hood Translation Prize 2021

Readers of *Omnibus* are invited to submit an entry for the 2021 Sam Hood Translation Prize.

The judges are keen to encourage elegant and stylish translations from Greek and Latin prose and verse. Try your hand at translating any one of the following passages (verse passages may be translated into either verse or prose, as you consider most appropriate):

Homeric Hymn to Dionysus 35–57
 Sophocles, *Oedipus at Colonus* 1181–1203
 Thucydides 7.71
 Virgil, *Eclagues* 10.9–30
 Horace, *Odes* 1.9
 Seneca, *Epistulae Morales* 1 (On saving time).

Texts of these passages are on the Classical Association website (<http://www.classicalassociation.org/samhoodtrans2021.pdf>),

but you may use any text that is available to you, provided that you include with your translation a copy of the text you have translated.

The judges will be looking for accuracy but also, and especially, for creativity when making their decisions. The competition is open to anyone under 19, still in full-time pre-university education. Entries should contain a statement from a teacher confirming that this is the case. The prize-winner will receive not only a cheque for £75 but also a book of classical poetry.

Entries should be submitted electronically, as e-mail attachments, preferably in Microsoft Word format, to Professor Caroline Vout: cv103@cam.ac.uk

Deadline **10th July 2021.**