

*Visiting scholars*

In the course of the academic year, two scholars from other universities spent periods in Cambridge. Professor Staffan Wahlgren, Professor of Classical Philology at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, was an academic visitor in the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages for the Michaelmas Term 2008. Professor Wahlgren's research interests include Byzantine and early Modern Greek language and literature. Ms Rita Emmanouilidou, a PhD candidate in Comparative Literature at the University of California, Los Angeles, was accepted as a visiting student in the Modern Greek Section for the Easter Term and Long Vacation 2009. Her thesis involves a comparative study of English, French, Spanish and Greek texts of the Renaissance.

*Exchange Agreement*

The existing co-operation agreement between the Modern Greek Section and the Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies at the University of Cyprus has been renewed for a further five years. The agreement provides for the exchange of undergraduate and postgraduate students for study and research. In this context, Elizabeth Bailey, who took the new "Introduction to Modern Greek language and culture paper" in 2008-9, will spend part of her year abroad at the University of Cyprus.

*Graduate Seminar*

The Graduate Seminar was again convened by PhD students Foteini Lika and Stratos Myrogiannis. A particularly rich and varied programme included papers by the following scholars: Professor Angeliki Ralli (Patras), Professor Staffan Wahlgren (Trondheim), Professor Michael Paschalis (Crete), and Professor Tzina Kalogirou (Athens). There were also papers by graduate students from other universities: Marianna Smaragdi (Lund), Thanasis Giannaris (Athens) and Rita Emmanouilidou (UCLA), Jason Leech (King's College London), and Eleni Mouatsou (Birmingham); and from Cambridge: Theoni Neokleous.

*Reunion*

A Reunion Dinner for former students of Modern Greek was held at Selwyn College on 16 May 2009. The guests of honour were HE Dr David Landsman OBE, HM Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic, and Mrs Catherine Landsman. More than twenty former students attended, representing every decade from the 1970s to the present. Professor David Holton welcomed the guests and spoke about the activities and achievements of the Modern Greek Section in recent years, as well as current uncertainties about its future. Dr Landsman, who did his PhD in Modern Greek linguistics at Clare College, proposed a toast. It is hoped to hold further reunion events in the next few years.

*“Cambridge in Athens”*

More than 120 people attended a public event, organized by the Modern Greek Section, at the Academy of Athens on Wednesday 8 July 2009. The occasion was a twin celebration: both of the 800th Anniversary of the University of Cambridge and of the distinguished contribution of Cambridge to teaching and research in Modern Greek studies over more than seven decades. It was also an opportunity to alert the Greek public and media to the campaign that has been launched to secure permanent funding for Modern Greek at Cambridge after 2013.

The President of the Academy of Athens, Professor Panos Ligomenidis, welcomed an audience that included many Cambridge alumni, as well as leading figures in Greek society, politics, business and education. The Ambassador of the United Kingdom, HE Dr David Landsman OBE, spoke of his time as a PhD student in Greek linguistics at Cambridge, and drew attention to the distinctive contribution of the Modern Greek Section. Other speakers were Cambridge professors David Holton (Modern Greek), Athanasios Fokas (Mathematics) and Paul Cartledge (Ancient Greek Culture), and two prominent Cambridge graduates who hold chairs at the University of Athens and the Panteio University respectively: Nasos Vayenas and Stephanos Pesmazoglou. Another distinguished Cambridge graduate,

Professor Catherine Morgan, Director of the British School at Athens, completed the line-up of speakers. The texts of the speeches will be published in a special volume.

*Activities of members of the Modern Greek Section*

Professor David Holton was elected as a member of the first Executive Committee of the Society for Modern Greek Studies for 2009, having previously been on the Interim Executive Committee. He served on the judging panel for a children's art and poetry competition organized by the Breathing Life Trust, which supports medical facilities in Cyprus. Speaking engagements this year have included participating in an event in London entitled "Love, war and music in Renaissance Crete: *Erotokritos* after 400 years", organized by the Cretan Association of Great Britain (January 2009); a talk to the Oliver Prior Society (for school teachers of modern languages) on "Why should we teach 'small' languages?" (March 2009); and a lecture at the British School in Athens on "The first modern Greek printed book: *Apokopos* (1509)" (July 2009). In April he attended a meeting, held at Vouliagmeni, of the organizing committee for a major symposium planned for November 2010 by the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, with the title "The Athens Dialogues". Finally, he was one of the speakers at a conference held at Siteia from 31 July to 2 August 2009, on the theme "Ο κόσμος του *Ερωτόκριτου* και ο *Ερωτόκριτος* στον κόσμο".

Ms Marjolijne Janssen is one of the authors of an impressive new two-volume Greek-Dutch/Dutch-Greek dictionary: *Prisma Groot woordenboek Nieuwgrieks-Nederlands en Nederlands-Nieuwgrieks* (Amsterdam: Uitgeverij Het Spectrum 2009). The project was led by Arnold van Gemert and Marc Lauxtermann.

Dr Notis Toufexis served as an elected member of the Executive Committee of the Society for Modern Greek Studies in 2009; before that, he was on the Interim Executive Committee.