

Report on the 2012 BSR Postgraduate course in Epigraphy by Dr. A Graham

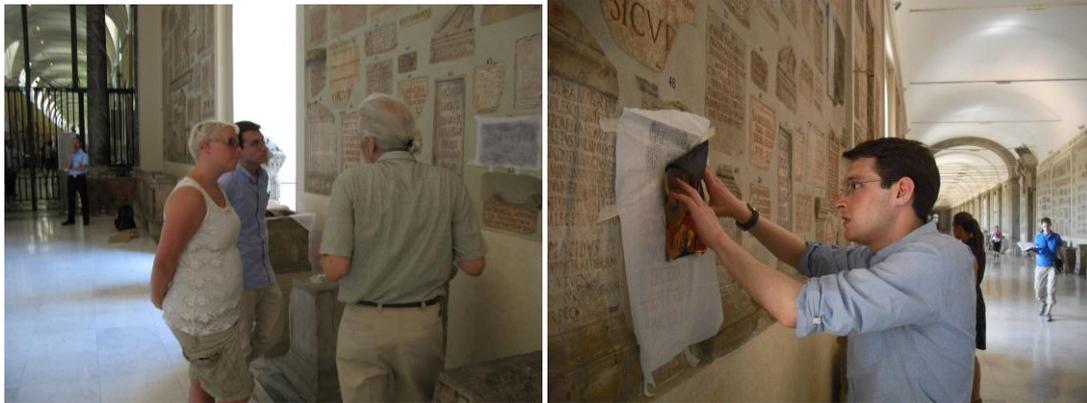
The postgraduate course in Epigraphy, like its sister course at the British School in Athens, was an intensive ten-day course, which considered the use of epigraphy as an historical source. Launched this year, the programme explored the numerous contexts in which epigraphy is represented (*in situ*, reused/restored, in museums and in published media) and the process by which epigraphy is documented (from excavation to publication in reference works, museum catalogues and online databases). Each day was structured around different contextual and practical themes with site & museum visits in the morning/early afternoon, followed by personal research/work in an epigraphic journal and an evening lecture (syllabus is available online). Presentations by leading scholars in the fields of archaeology, epigraphy, and ancient history offered the students an opportunity to interact with the material evidence as well as ongoing debates and research projects. Feedback on the syllabus and organization was positive: "I especially liked the on site lectures; viewing the monuments while talking about them helped greatly", "The course allowed me to study in context the inscriptions and monuments that I have been researching", "It was fantastic to see the epigraphy in context, not in a book or computer screen".

Site visits included rubbings of inscriptions in the Vatican's *Galleria Lapidaria* with the curator Prof. Giorgio Filippi and his mentor Prof. Stefano Manzella (Università di Viterbo); excavating on the Palatine Hill with Prof. Giacomo (Pardini) Università di Roma); a site visit to Ostia as well as an introduction to the inscriptions of the Colosseum and challenges of publishing epigraphic materials in the forthcoming edition of *CIL VI* by Prof. Silvia Orlandi (Università di Roma: La Sapienza). The facilities at the BSR and its proximity to many national academies allowed for collaboration with Italian, Swiss, Dutch, and American academics, an aspect of the course that we hope will continue in future years.

The 12 participants (primarily on a Ph.D track) represented a variety of nationalities (UK, America, Ireland, Germany & Spain) and disciplines (Classics, Ancient History, Classical Archaeology, Museum Studies and Art History). Each student submitted a research proposal and presented a 20 minute paper on the topic on the final day. Feedback was very positive: "It was fulfilling to work on a personal research project and to hear what others are interested in.." "I learnt an enormous amount about Latin epigraphy and Roman topography, which will no doubt avail me as I progress in my course.." "This course will help me greatly in writing my dissertation", "The programme was fantastic for seeing other styles & techniques of curation."

Through numerous 'on site' debates and discussions of specific texts, the participants gained a new appreciation not only for the materials, but the fundamental value of a collaborative approach and analysis in scholarship. This lesson and the relationships that were created on this course will, I hope, be its most enduring legacy.

Making Rubbings at the *Galleria Lapidaria* with Prof. Stefano Manzella



Studying & Drawing Inscriptions at the *Museo Nazionale dei Inscrizioni*



Assessing art and mosaics inscriptions at Mithraeum Felicissimus in Ostia

