

THE SCIENCE AND EMPIRE READING GROUP  
Spring Semester 2008: Tuesdays, 1-2pm  
School of Classics, Swallowgate, Room S11

- **Seneca, *Naturales Quaestiones* Book II.** Text: *Seneca in Ten Volumes*, vol. VII: *Naturales Quaestiones* I (Books I-III), transl. T. H. Corcoran. Loeb Classical Library, 1971. A new translation of the relevant passages by Harry Hine will also be available.
- **Pliny the Elder, *Historia Naturalis* Book VII.** Text: *Pliny, Natural History*, vol. II (Books III-VII), transl. H. Rackham. Loeb Classical Library, 1942. Translation and commentary: M. Beagon, *The Elder Pliny on the Human Animal. 'Natural History' Book 7*. Oxford, 2005.

The spring semester's reading group will be focusing on Latin material, and exploring aspects of Seneca's cosmological thought in *Natural Questions* book II (*On Lightnings and Thunders*), and Pliny's anthropology in *Natural History* book VII.

Note that this semester's sessions will be weekly, and take place on Tuesdays over lunchtime (lunch may be brought along).

Timetable of sessions:

Weeks 1-6: Seneca, *Naturales Quaestiones* (*NQ*)

Weeks 7-12: Pliny, *Historia Naturalis* (*HN*)

Week 1 (12<sup>th</sup> February): *NQ* Book III. Preface and general introduction to the text, Seneca and Stoic cosmology (Harry Hine)

Week 2 (19<sup>th</sup> February): *NQ* II. 1-20

Week 3 (26<sup>th</sup> February): *NQ* II. 21-31 (Alex Long)

Week 4 (4<sup>th</sup> March): *NQ* II. 32-40

Week 5 (11<sup>th</sup> March): *NQ* II. 41-53

Week 6 (18<sup>th</sup> March): *NQ* II. 54-59

Week 7 (25<sup>th</sup> March): *HN* Preface and general introduction to the text

Week 8 (15<sup>th</sup> April): *HN* VII. 1-33 (Joe Howley)

Week 9 (22 April): *HN* VII. 34-76 (Laura Jansen)

Week 10 (29<sup>th</sup> April): *HN* VII. 77-132

Week 11 (6<sup>th</sup> May): *HN* VII. 133-170

Week 12 (13<sup>th</sup> May): *HN* VII. 171-215

Those interested in presenting please contact Katerina Oikonomopoulou ([ao40@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:ao40@st-andrews.ac.uk)), or Daniel Mintz ([dm433@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:dm433@st-andrews.ac.uk)) and Alex Long ([ag110@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:ag110@st-andrews.ac.uk)). The discussion will be informal, content-based and will presume no prior knowledge of Latin, or the authors and texts studied.

General issues to consider:

- Literary form, structure and narrative voice in the texts
- Seneca and Pliny's scientific method: the roles of observation, reasoning, and inherited knowledge
- Science and philosophy in imperial Rome: the Roman character of Seneca and Pliny's scientific projects, and the authors' relationship to Rome
- Stoicism in Seneca's cosmology
- Literary and intellectual backdrop: ideas about the cosmos and human nature in Greek and Roman thought and literature

KO, 8/2/2008