

Ptolemy I Soter and the Transformation of Egypt 404-282 BC

Macquarie Ancient Cultures Research Centre
Macquarie University
North Ryde
Sydney, NSW 2109
Australia

28 September - 1 October 2011

Call for papers

This conference centres around the transformation which came over Egypt at the end of the Achaemenid period, measuring a 'long' fourth century BC from 404 BC, when Darius II died and Amyrtaeus rebelled against Persian power, to 282 BC, when Ptolemy I left Egypt to his son as an increasingly securely established Hellenistic kingdom.

The aim is to trace the movement from 'Persian Egypt' (a seldom-used term), via indigenous rule, to Egypt as part of a globalized and Macedonian-ruled empire. To experts on the Persian empire, this conference will afford an opportunity to study the impact which the Persians had in the richest, and (to its Persian overlords) the most important of the countries which the Achaemenid kings ruled. For experts in Greek history, there will be a chance to reflect on the encounter between Greeks and non-Greeks in Egypt before and after Alexander the Great. Egyptologists will find interest at the interface between indigenous and exotic cultures in Egypt.

Offers of full-length (forty-minute) papers are invited, and brief papers (twenty minutes) can also be considered. Offers of papers will be refereed. Abstracts (200 words) should be sent to Assoc. Prof. Paul McKechnie (paul.mckechnie@mq.edu.au), please, by 31 March 2011.

Background

Ptolemy I Soter and the Transformation of Egypt 404 -282 BC is the fourth in an international conference series. In Auckland in 2005 the *Ptolemy II Philadelphus and his World* conference took place: in 2008 twenty-one papers presented on that occasion were published as *Ptolemy II Philadelphus and his World* (eds. Paul McKechnie and Philippe Guillaume, Leiden, Brill: ISBN 978 90 04 17089 6). In Heidelberg in 2007 second conference took place with the title *Aegypten zwischen innerem Zwist und äusserem Druck: Die Zeit Ptolemaios' VI. bis VIII.*: a book based on that conference and edited by Joachim Quack and Andrea Joerdens will appear in due course. The third conference in the series was held in the Laskaridis Library in Piraeus in 2009, with the title *Ptolemaic Waterways and Power*, and the book of that conference will be edited by Kostas Buraselis.

The aim which the organizers of these conferences share is that of building up a series of edited books which will amount to a collection of the best up-to-date research on Egypt in the Ptolemaic period, rather as Heleen Sancisi-Weerdenburg edited an influential series about Achaemenid Persian history whose first volume appeared in 1987, with the thirteenth and last appearing in meomory of Sancisi-Weerdenburg in 2003.

The Philadelphus volume was devoted to an neglected third-century BC historical figure, while the second volume will address key issues in the second century BC by centring on Ptolemies VI (Philometor) and VIII (Euergetes II). The sea and the river Nile define another important perspective on Ptolemaic power and the workings of the Ptolemaic state.

And now the time has come to examine the transformation which came over Egypt in the fourth century BC, and which culminated in the formation of the Ptolemaic state after Alexander the Great's death. It is not a simple matter of writing a book about Ptolemy I on the model of the existing volume about Ptolemy II: to get a broad perspective on the reign of the founder of the Ptolemaic dynasty, it will be vital to bring in the fullest possible sense of the direction matters were taking, in Egypt, from the time when the Persians first lost control of the country (404) and to trace the movement from 'Persian Egypt' to Egypt as part of a globalized and Macedonian-ruled empire.

Sessions and Keynote speakers

This conference will be organized if possible without parallel sessions. Full-length papers (40 minutes) are preferred in principle, but brief papers (20 minutes) can be accommodated. Academic proceedings will be concentrated in the first three days (28-30 September), and 1 October will be a study day intended for the public, and especially for high-school teachers.

Keynote speakers will be scheduled at strategic moments in the program, but will have the same length of time to speak as other participants. At the date of writing this, the following have provisionally agreed to attend as keynote speakers: Prof. Pierre Briant (Collège de France), Dr. D.J. Crawford (Girton College, Cambridge), and Dr. Martina Minas-Nerpel (University of Swansea).

The Macquarie Ancient Cultures Research Centre (MQACRC)

Situated in the Department of Ancient History, this centre facilitates collaborative research on cross-cultural interaction in ancient cultures from Western Europe to China. It concentrates not only on the history of the societies concerned, but on the languages they used, and has a special focus on the close study of physical artefacts from antiquity. The Ptolemy I Soter and the Transformation of Egypt 404-282 BC conference will be held under the auspices of the MQACRC, with sessions taking place at the Macquarie Museum of Ancient Cultures.

Accommodation

Accommodation will be available at Robert Menzies College (http://www.mq.edu.au/rmc/conferences_guests/). Please contact the College to book accommodation (guests@rmc.nsw.edu.au). Rates for conference participants are as below (please mention the Ptolemy conference when you contact the College):

<u>SPECIAL RATES FOR "Ptolemy I and the Transformation of Egypt 404-282BC"</u>	
<u>28/9-1/10/2011</u>	
Ptolemy Delegates:	\$68 p.n. B&B \$78 p. n. B&D
Some ensuite rooms available:	\$95 p.n. B&D or B&B
First night non-refundable deposit of \$68 is required when making the booking, \$95 in the case of the ensuite room.	
Single rooms	
Shared bathrooms (except ensuite rooms)	
Some ensuite rooms available	
Bed linen supplied	
Towels supplied	
Computer room	
Pool table, foosball, table tennis, TV room, lounge area, all available for delegates use.	
Train station and bus stop just 20 metres from building	

Costs and subsidies

The registration fee will be \$Aus225.00. Funds are being sought which may make it possible to offer some subsidies to student participants. In most cases, participants will have to find the costs of transport, accommodation and food.

P.R. McKechnie MA DPhil
Associate Professor (CoRE) of Ancient Cultures
Macquarie University

paul.mckechnie@mq.edu.au

17 February 2011