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## EDITORIAL

The first issue of any new journal must invite the obvious question: ‘why?’ In the case of *Syllogos*, it is a question that can only be answered, first, by a story of origins. The journal has its roots in an online seminar series that began in the context of the first COVID-19 lockdown of 2020. The choice of Herodotus as a focus for that seminar was made in part simply because of his centrality in the study of antiquity, but also as a symbol: of the value of contact across boundaries and of a boundless intellectual curiosity. The seminar was intended to make up for the sudden interruption of any collective research activity at the time, but also — aware, as we had to be, that there were more important concerns — as an expression of international fellowship. The warmth of the atmosphere that developed in that unique moment has persisted. The ‘Herodotus Helpline’ has now taken on a more formal status as a charitable organisation with ‘members’. But it has always been conceived as — and we hope will remain — an antidote to more formal, established subject associations: a venue where free, frank and friendly dialogue is the norm, where all scholars and students of Herodotus and his world are welcomed and supported, and where ‘grandstanding’, ceremony or boorishness have no place.

The trigger for us to give serious thought to publishing the results of our dialogue was a passing suggestion of Paul Demont’s: ‘can *you* not publish it?’ (Fittingly, the paper in question is one of the first published here.) The journal’s title *Syllogos* (‘joint discussion’, assembly) recalls its origins in the collective of the Helpline seminar. (The word σύλλογος is used within the *Histories*, for example, for the seven conspirators who wrested back the Persian throne from the false Smerdis.) But the journal’s title also speaks to our ambitions. *Syllogos* is a journal committed to the widest possible dialogue, the widest possible engagement with Herodotus and his world. Just as the Helpline has a world-wide membership, we encourage submissions from authors from any language tradition or background; from any discipline; from established scholars and from those beginning their studies; from those with university affiliations or with none.

*Syllogos* is also intended for the widest possible readership. The journal is ‘open-access’ not only in the limited sense that there are no barriers (beyond internet access) to reading or publishing, but also in the kind of material that we publish. ‘Critical round-ups’ (this issue includes the first of these by Alexander Meeus) survey both our current understanding and the history of scholarship on particular central themes, in a manner which is readily understandable by students and general readers as well as scholars. Everything we publish will be edited to avoid the jargon or unexplained abbreviations that too often render scholarly publications inaccessible to all but the initiated.

*Syllogos* is also, finally, committed to honouring a plurality of voices. Echoing the polyphony of Herodotus’ text, we do not publish single reviews of important new publications; instead we invite *multiple* responses, and invite the authors to respond in turn. (This issue includes twin reviews, by Suzanne Marchand and Maren Elisabeth Schwab, of the *Herodotus Encyclopaedia*.) Future issues will

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offer similar reflections on the most significant interpretations of past decades, both those that are widely credited as influential and others whose importance has perhaps been overlooked.

That *Syllogos* has become a reality is the result again of a very collective effort. First, it could not have happened without the support of a number of institutions: the Christian-Albrechts University of Kiel, Columbia University, Sorbonne Université, the Universities of Genova, Leicester and St Andrews, Swarthmore College, the Association ‘Sauvegarde des enseignements littéraires’, and, not least, the Propylaeum team of the University Library of Heidelberg (especially, Maria Effinger, Daniela Jakob and Daniela Wolf). John Marincola (*Histos*), Douglas Field (the *James Baldwin Review*), and Anthony Cond (Liverpool University Press) all generously shared their experience and advice. Lida Cardozo Kindersley and John Mawby of the Cardozo Kindersley Workshop designed a new Greek typeface (Kindersley Greek) for exclusive use by *Syllogos*. Jenny Messenger (Atomic Typo), our typesetter, and Wong Tsz have made an immense contribution to the design of the journal, to the page and cover design respectively.

Final mention, however, must go to two figures who can no longer be thanked in person. P.J. Rhodes — a generous, authoritative presence at nearly all of the Helpline’s early meetings — helped to shape the journal’s style guidelines. (The rule that authors’ names are cited as they sign off their own work — by initials or first names — is a concession to Peter’s robust preference for the use of initials.) Although Doris Post’s first passion was Sophocles, her warmth, enthusiasm and initiative were central to the initial planning of the journal — of which she was due to be production manager. (Each year from 2023, the journal will publish the winning essay of the Doris Post prize for early career researchers.) We hope that *Syllogos* will grow to become a fitting tribute to them both, to the generations of readers of Herodotus on whose contributions we are building, and to the Father of History himself.

Paul Demont  
John Dillery  
Francesca Gazzano  
Thomas Harrison  
Jan Haywood  
Elizabeth Irwin  
Polly Low  
Andreas Schwab  
Pietro Vannicelli