

ASHMOLEAN FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS, 2015-16 ANNUAL REPORT

Generously supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

The first full year of the Faculty Fellowship programme has concluded successfully, with five Fellows having been resident in the Museum over the course of the academic year. The 2015-16 cohort was selected from a short list of lecturers known to the Curators, individuals who were keen to participate in our "soft launch" and to contribute feedback to the process. The initial focus was on working with academic colleagues in fields which are close to object studies, who are most likely to be early adopters.

The Faculty Fellowship Programme will become a valuable teaching and research asset as our academic colleagues become aware of the potential of the collections to inform course topics. It is expected that Fellowship candidates will be proposed in future through the recommendations of Faculty and departmental Heads, and that the Museum builds a network of champions and advocates across the Divisions. A key component is the logistical support given to the Fellow in the preparation of course materials, with an option for full digital support in uploading syllabi on to the Cabinet teaching platform (<http://cabinetproject.org/>).

The 2015-16 Ashmolean Faculty Fellows were:

- *Andrew Wilson, Professor of the Archaeology of the Roman Empire, and Head of the School of Archaeology.*
- *Andrew Meadows, Professor in Ancient History, Faculty of Classics*
- *Abigail Williams, Professor, English Language and Literature*
- *James Lewis, Associate Professor of Korean History, Faculty of Oriental Studies*
- *Dr Thomas Mannack, Reader in Classical Iconography, Faculty of Classics*

Professor Andrew Wilson



Andrew Wilson was resident in Michaelmas Term 2015, in the Antiquities Department. He researched materials from rarely used reserve collections for an undergraduate lecture series, "Roman urban living", which supports the course option "Roman Archaeology: Cities and Settlements under the Empire", for the undergraduate degree programmes in Classics, Classical Archaeology and Ancient History, and Archaeology and Anthropology. The course will be available to teach by other lecturers. Andrew additionally was able to contribute his own notes to the Museum's object database.

(Photo: Prof Andrew Wilson, left, with Dr Paul Roberts, Sackler Keeper of Antiquities)

Professor Andy Meadows



Andy Meadows joined the Heberden Coin Room for Michaelmas 2015. His research and preparation was primarily in developing a teaching group of Greek coins relating to Alexander the Great. He worked closely with curators in the department and with the Keeper, Prof Chris Howgego.

(Photo: Prof Andrew Meadows (right) with Prof Chris Howgego, Keeper of the Heberden Coin Room)

Professor Abigail Williams

Abby Williams was an enthusiastic early adopter of object teaching, and quickly moved from gallery sessions to co-designing and co-convening both undergraduate and postgraduate Options courses. The Fellowship enabled Abby to deepen her knowledge of the material for undergraduate options on 18th-century topics, and for Masters' level courses. Her access to the Western Art collections will inform future modules, and provide new classes for a longstanding core curriculum paper in Romantic literature. Some of the work that went into the Masters course on



'Polite Science' was written up as a joint contribution by both Abby and a UEP member as a blog on 'Teaching Romanticism' (<http://www.romtext.org.uk/teaching-romanticism-xv-literature-and-science/>). Abby's Fellowship radically changed how she viewed the intersection of text and material culture; a forthcoming book on *The Social Life of Books* (Yale, 2017) will be illustrated with over 100 images, many of them selected after her Hilary Term 2016 Fellowship.

(Photo: Prof Williams, centre, with objects selected for her undergraduate class on Texts in Motion)

Professor James B. Lewis



Jay Lewis is an economic historian specialising in the history of Korea, and in the past has taught with curators from the Heberden Coin Room, where he is well known. Jay used his fellowship to create object teaching groups, which he was able to put to use while still in residence, for undergraduate courses in Final Honours (FHS) Chinese, FHS Japanese, and three papers – East Asia Survey, Japan, and China.

Jay has been working with Ashmolean curators on handling sessions on East Asian Economic History and Coinage, and Japanese export ceramics. He will be running his own handling sessions in 2017, and is co-authoring a paper with a Coin Room curator on the Museum's Korean coin collection, having completed a pilot project using XRF analysis in the research laboratory for Art and Archaeology.

(Photo: Prof Jay Lewis with class on Japanese coinage in the Coin Study Room)

Dr Thomas Mannack



Thomas has taught innumerable handling sessions with the Ashmolean Museum's classical Greek vases in the Beazley Archive every year since arriving at the University, for the Greek Vase Option in Classics (Mods) and CAAH (Prelims), the vase section of the Greats and FHS Course "Greek Art and Archaeology" and for the MPhil/MStudies course on Greek vases. His Faculty Fellowship provided an opportunity to work more intensively with his object groups, and to re-order and re-house his reference collection in the Beazley Archives Teaching room, where it is more accessible to students.