

## CA Prize-winner 2010: Charlotte Higgins

The 6th annual Classical Association Prize was presented by our President, Richard Stoneman, after the Association's dinner in Cardiff's magnificent City Hall. This year's winner was Charlotte Higgins, the *Guardian's* chief arts writer, for her contribution to keeping Greece and Rome in the public eye. If you are a *Guardian* reader, you will very likely have spotted the frequent classical allusions in Charlotte's articles, and they are even more prominent in her blog ([www.guardian.co.uk/culture/charlottehigginsblog](http://www.guardian.co.uk/culture/charlottehigginsblog)). To take just a small handful of examples, the last year has included pieces entitled "Why study Latin?" (24/5/09), a whole series on politicians ancient and modern, like "Who's the modern Cicero – Barack Obama or Peter Mandelson?" (20/10/09), and – a personal favourite – the delightfully titles "Penises and caustic soda: the case of the Cambridge antiquities".

The Prize was awarded also in recognition of Charlotte's two books of 2007-8, *Latin Love Lessons* and *It's All Greek to Me*. The first of these, subtitled *Put a little Ovid in your life*, takes the reader on an entertaining tour of Roman views on the subject of romantic love, focusing on Ovid's *Art of Love*. Particularly welcome is the way the book deploys extracts in Latin, with lively translations, to demonstrate the poem's vibrancy and relevance 2000 years on. The second book is again summed up in its subtitle, *From Homer to the Hippocratic Oath: how ancient Greece has shaped our world*. What the Greeks had to say on war, politics, religion, morality, attitudes towards women and foreigners, the birth of modern science – it's all here, presented in a humorous and eminently readable way. Rather than including quotations actually in Greek, this time Charlotte provides a section on "the Greek in your English" – a very effective way of showing that there's nothing "dead" about this language either.

As CAN readers will know, the Prize was established in 2005 to reward "significant contribution to the public understanding of Classics", at the suggestion of, and generously funded by, an anonymous donor. In view of the success of its first five years of running, last year Council decided to add some of the CA's own money to the fund, which has been further swelled by additional private donations, so that the Prize is now set to continue its role in rewarding and encouraging the promotion of Classics in the UK for at least the next 10 years.

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