

**Between slavery and freedom: aspects of manumission in the ancient world.  
The ancient Near East, Greece, and Rome.**

1 May 2015

A 1-day workshop hosted by the School of History, Classics and Archaeology at the  
University of Edinburgh

Organised by Dr David Lewis and Dr Ulrike Roth

Recent monographic work on ancient slavery has included a number of significant studies of manumission and freedmen. But despite these monographic treatments, it has become ever clearer that seminal aspects of the processes involved in slave manumission are understudied (including the workings and the place of *peculium*, the slave's ability to amass possessions that enables him or her to purchase their freedom, the role played by the slave's gender in the manumission process and prospects, etc.). Moreover, the status of freed slaves remains subject to debate. In light of the prominence of evidence for manumission and the importance of status in ancient societies, the transition from slavery to freedom is central to our understanding of the peculiar institution in the ancient world.

This workshop will bring together scholars working on manumission and slavery in both the classical world (Greece and Rome), and the Near East to debate specific aspects of the manumission process and the lives of freed slaves. There will be three formal sessions: one on Rome, one on Greece, and one on Near Eastern slavery and manumission. Each speaker is allocated one full hour for paper delivery and ensuing discussion, followed by a plenary discussion session at the end of the day chaired by the workshop organisers.

The workshop is preceded by the 5<sup>th</sup> in the School's 'Slavery in World History'-public lectures, to be delivered by Prof. John Cairns (Edinburgh, School of Law; 30 April 2015, 6.15 pm) on his work on the re-use of Roman 'slave law'.

Programme (papers; 9.30 am till 6 pm):

NEAR EAST:

Dr Cornelia Wunsch (SOAS, London): 'Manumission and oblation around the Eastern Mediterranean: a comparative view'

Dr Heather Baker (University of Toronto, Canada): 'Looking for slaves in Assyria'

GREECE:

Prof. Deborah Kamen (University of Washington, USA): 'Manumission and the quasi-*peculium* in classical Athens'

Prof. Rachel Zelnick-Abramovitz (Tel Aviv University, Israel): 'Partial manumission and its legal, economic, and social significance'

Ms Sara Zanovello (Edinburgh): 'Manumission and *paramone* in the Delphic inscriptions'

ROME:

Dr Paul du Plessis (Edinburgh): 'Slave interrogations in terms of the *Lex Iulia* on Adulteries'

Dr Juan Lewis (Edinburgh): '*vicarii* and manumission at Rome'

PLENARY DISCUSSION (6.15 pm; chaired by Drs Lewis and Roth)

POSTER SESSION (7 pm onwards) *All participants are invited to present a poster on their work on slavery.*

To register for this event, please visit our e-pay registration site: <http://www.epay.ed.ac.uk/> [Go to 'Between Slavery and Freedom'; College of Humanities and Social Science; School of History, Classics and Archaeology]