

Preface

It will soon be three years since an international group of ancient novel scholars met during the fall of 2015 in Houston, Texas, to share new and important developments about the ancient novel. This meeting in Houston was the fifth of the international conferences on the ancient novel (ICANV V), and was held seven years after the last International Conference on the Ancient Novel (ICAN IV), which took place in Lisbon in the summer of 2008 and was hosted by Marília Futre Pinheiro. Since 2008, Marília has managed to publish almost of all the papers presented in Lisbon. This *magnum opus*—an enormous and admirable enterprise—is comprised of seven volumes published thus far with the eighth and final volume to materialize soon.¹ I apologize to Marília for having these selected essays from ICAN V appear before her last volume is out.

The two volumes that stem from ICAN V, *Re-Wiring the Ancient Novel Volume 1: Greek Novels* and *Re-Wiring the Ancient Novel Volume 2: Roman Novels and Other Important Texts*, do not include all of the papers presented in Houston—it was decided instead to return to volumes that include a more limited number of papers as was the case in the collections of essays from the first three international conferences on the ancient novel.

After the 2015 meeting, a call for papers was sent out to the conference participants, and quite a number of papers were submitted for review and potential publication. A total of thirty-three papers are included in the two volumes. I owe the greatest thanks to the following colleagues (using a double-blind vetting process) for helping me decide which papers should be published: for volume I, Stephen Harrison (Corpus Christi College, University of Oxford), Hugh Mason (University of Toronto), William Owens (Ohio University), and Sandra Schwartz (University of Hawaii); for volume II, Gareth Schmeling (University of Florida), Paula James (The Open University), Karen Ní Mheallaigh (University of Exeter), Stelios Panayotakis (University of Crete), and Nadia Scippacercola (Università degli Studi di Napoli ‘Federico II’).

ICAN V is the fifth conference in a long tradition going back to 1976. On the website that was created for the conference Professor Gareth Schmeling wrote:

¹ Cf. Marília’s essay, ‘Landmarks and Turning Points in the Study of the Ancient Novel since the Fourth International Conference on the Ancient Novel, Lisbon, 2008,’ in volume I.

‘A warm welcome to all scholars of the ancient novel and narrative, to ICAN V, the fifth international conference, to be held in Houston, Texas, 30 September – 4 October 2015, 39 years after the first ICAN in Bangor, Wales. It is our fond hope that all who so wish, will be able to attend the opening ceremony on 30 September and stay until the final paper on 4 October. Every effort has been made to control costs, and yet not to diminish the quality of this conference, which stands in a long and proud line of ever higher achievements’. Schmeling had elaborated on this long tradition in a 2012 article titled ‘International Conferences on the Ancient Novel (ICAN): The Intellectual Growth of an Idea, the Explosion of a Movement’:

On 12-17 July 1976, at University College of North Wales, Bangor, B. P. Reardon organized ICAN I. After the conference he edited a volume entitled *Erotica Antiqua* (1977), which was a record of the opening session plus dinner and speaker; the names of the speakers and the titles of their papers (49 in number; by country: UK 17, USA 8, Canada 7, Germany 4, France 3, The Netherlands 3, Spain 3, Italy 1, Mexico 1, New Zealand 1, Romania 1)...It was not until 1989, 13 years after ICAN I, that ICAN II was held at Dartmouth College, under the guidance of James Tatum....There were 117 participants...from 14 countries....Then in 1994 a new item was added to the ICAN profile, when Tatum edited a volume of 24 papers from the conference and published it as *The Search for the Ancient Novel* (Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press)... Eleven years later in 2000, ICAN was again held in July, 25-30, in Groningen, under the leadership of Maaike Zimmerman....The proceedings of ICAN III, *The Ancient Novel in Context*, published and distributed among all participants at the opening of the conference, provides the record of 99 speakers and the abstracts of their papers plus names and addresses (and email) of the 152 participants from 25 countries.... In 2008 the muscle that ancient novel studies had acquired became apparent at ICAN IV, organized by Marília Futre Pinheiro, held in Lisbon, 21-26 July (again), and called *Crossroads in the Ancient Novel: Spaces, Frontiers, Intersections*.... The muscle referred to above showed itself in the 270 speakers including 14 plenary session speakers, from 28 countries.

ICAN V had 159 attendees and 139 speakers from 21 countries. It is hoped that the ICAN V and the papers from the Houston meeting will stand in that ‘long and proud line of ever higher achievements’.

There are very many people that I need to thank for making ICAN V possible. Here in Houston, Dr. Deborah Shelley, Dr. William Flores, Dean DoVeanna Fulton, Ms. Liza Alonzo, Ms. Johanna Wolfe, Ms. Lola Washington, Ms. Olga Gomez, Ms. Isabel Grimaldo, Dr. Jane Creighton, Dr. G. V. Krishnan, Mr. Deepu Kurian, Dr. Tom Lyttle, Mr. Frank Vela, Mr. Luke Fedell, Mr. Shawn Hyder, Mr. Richard Vara, Mr. Aldair Hernandez, Ms. Cherilyn Pearson, Ms. Brittany Arata, Ms. Mercedes Williams, Mr. Alfred Saenz, Mr. Jose C. Salazar, Ms. Rachel Dickson, Ms. Ashley Peters, Kellie B. Fondel, and Ms. Gaby Hernandez are owed much gratitude for their financial, logistical, and musical support.

Thank you, Dr. Silvia Montiglio, Dr. Ruth Monreal, Dr. Heinz Hofmann, and Dr. Gareth Schmeling (my mentor, so he is to be credited for all that is good in this conference and the volumes). These volumes, of course, would not be possible without the great help and support of Mr. Roelf Barkhuis.

This conference could not have taken place without the encouragement and approval of Dean Susan Ahern and support of Ms. Janet Heitmiller, good friends, who are sadly no longer with us.

I would like to an end with an apology for the tardiness of these two volumes, but life and a hurricane (Harvey) got in the way.

Ed Cueva
Houston, Texas
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Bibliography

Schmeling, Gareth. 2012. 'International Conferences on the Ancient Novel (ICAN): The Intellectual Growth of an Idea, the Explosion of a Movement', *Ancient Narrative* 10, 89–93.