

# PLOUTARCHOS, n.s.

Scholarly Journal of the  
INTERNATIONAL PLUTARCH SOCIETY

Plutarchus



Plutarchus ein natürlicher maister vnd aussprechender geist. In welchem er ein gepie-  
ter vñ anrichter des kaisers Trajani ist zu diser zeit an dem Dolche in dem beschreibung vñ  
Plutarchus der natürlich maister vñ in dem heiligthumb schen der siten ein so vñ so in de  
gewest das er leichtlich ein gepier des kaisers hat miten er ein vñ so in de vñ so in de  
chus ist sundern fleiß dem kaiser seinen unger vier ding ein vñ so in de vñ so in de  
digkeit sein selbs erkantet. der amblewt man gar vil bicher vñ so in de vñ so in de  
ung vñ so in de vñ so in de vñ so in de vñ so in de vñ so in de vñ so in de vñ so in de  
sachen in frechischem vñ lateinischem gesung got trefflich besayden vñ so in de vñ so in de  
tappferheit bey Trajano angenehme begabung erlangt.

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## PRESENTATION

by

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In autumn 1987, three very important things happened to me. I began a new job in the Department of History at Utah State University, I travelled abroad for the first time to my first international conference in Athens, and I inherited the editorship of a small newsletter, *Ploutarchos*, which serviced the fledgling International Plutarch Society. Now it is autumn 2003, and I am still very happily at Utah State University, and I have continued to travel abroad, having done so many times since, including multiple trips to Athens. But *Ploutarchos* is undergoing a tremendous change. Professor Pérez Jiménez has thoroughly explained the circumstances behind this, so I am going to provide a personal reminiscence of these last sixteen years.

When I joined the Society, I had no expectations. I was working on my dissertation, a commentary on Plutarch's *Nicias*, and it seemed an obvious step to investigate an International Plutarch Society. The newsletter seemed handy, and I was glad to see there were other people working on my author. But quickly, all this changed, and a lively international community of scholars and friends sprang up.

I encountered mentors of all kinds who are close friends today, and when I had the great good fortune to take over the position as international coordinator of the Society, the whole world opened up to me, quite literally.

As Professor Pérez Jiménez explains in his *Presentación*, the Society has held a number of international conferences over the years. Athens, Greece was the first, in 1987, followed by Oxford, England in 1989, Siena, Italy in 1993, Leuven, Belgium in 1996, Cuenca, Spain in 1999, Nijmegen, the Netherlands in 2002, and now Rethymno, Greece in 2005. Other sections hold vigorous meetings on a regular basis, notably those in Italy and Spain, while still others sponsor programs of great interest to Plutarchans if not necessarily strictly attached to that author, like the conferences on "Greek Romans or Roman Greeks?" in Lund, Sweden, or "Purse and Paideia" in Liverpool, England, or "Sage and Emperor" in North Carolina, USA. At these conferences, discussion usually spills out of the sessions themselves and continues through the cocktail hour and even through dinner. One memorable night in Cádiz, a valiant society member persuaded the then closed cocktail lounge to serve us so the raging



debate over the significance of negative *Lives* could continue unabated. This energy more than anything has fueled the production of a great deal of meaningful scholarship on our author, and it is gratifying to see the *New Series* of our journal reflect the maturity and weight of our collective efforts.

The conferences have yielded a series of impressive publications, but even more important, they have provided a forum for a fantastic network of scholars and friends. The Society boasts members and leaders from the finest and most senior Plutarch scholars in the world, yet our programs regularly include graduate students and junior faculty. The opportunity for beginners to interact in an informal but scholarly setting with senior members in the field is, in my opinion, unparalleled in the world of classical scholarship. Not only do

Society members benefit from consulting one another on matters of scholarship, they form personal and professional connections that reach far beyond traditional boundaries. Members routinely deliver guest lectures at one another's institutions, write letters of recommendation, and provide warm hospitality when the occasion arises. I for one will be in residence in Leuven, Belgium, as a Fulbright Scholar conducting research at the Katholieke Universiteit, both invited and recommended by senior Plutarchists.

This last is an excellent example of the symbiosis that our author, Plutarch, encourages by his own example. I for one believe that if we could somehow bring him here to our times, he would be delighted at the level of intellectual congress as well as the level of bonhomie. In my humble opinion, we have all done him proud.