

Matthew Trundle

(12 October 1965 – 12 July 2019)



Matthew Trundle will be remembered as a larger than life figure who worked ceaselessly to popularize Classics in the United Kingdom and Ireland, in North America, and in Australasia. In particular, he made major contributions to the study of warfare in the Greek and Roman worlds and, in association with the payment of mercenaries, the role of money in ancient societies.

Matthew was born in London and graduated with a BA from the University of Nottingham in 1987 with Joint Honours in Ancient History and History. He then moved to McMaster University in Canada, first gaining a MA and in 1996 completing a PhD thesis, “The Classical Greek Mercenary and His Relation to the Polis”, under the supervision of Daniel Geagan. In 1999 he was appointed lecturer in Classics at the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, and rapidly rose to Associate Professor in Classics and Associate Dean (Humanities and Social Sciences), before being appointed Professor of Classics at the University of Auckland in 2012.

Xenophon’s story of the adventures of the Greek mercenaries fighting their way back from Persia in *Anabasis* was often mentioned by Matthew as the inspiration for his interest in Classics. Hence, his first major publication was *Greek mercenaries: from the late archaic to Alexander* (Routledge 2004) and, in association with his fellow McMaster graduate, Garrett Fagan, he organized a joint APA/AIA panel that formed the basis for *New perspectives on ancient warfare* (Brill, 2010). At the time of his death he was working on a monograph on the interconnection of coinage and warfare in the Greek and Hellenistic worlds as well as completing the report on inscriptions at the excavations at Corinth that had been entrusted to him by Daniel Geagan.

Most of all, Matthew will be remembered among his colleagues for his gregarious participation in the meetings of the major classical associations, including the Classical Association, the American Philological Association, the Australasian Society for Classical Studies and the Classical Association of South Africa. He also presented papers at numerous universities, including ones in China, South Korea, and Japan. An outstanding teacher, he was an untiring promoter of Classics wherever he went, not only encouraging undergraduates, secondary school teachers, and colleagues in the tertiary system, but equally generous of his time with the wider community. Among his successful pupils, for instance, he numbered Victor Vito, All Black and Wellington Hurricanes rugby team captain.

He is survived by his wife, Catherine Trundle, Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology at Victoria University of Wellington, and his young son, Christian.

The University of Auckland has established an endowment to fund a biennial lecture in Classics at Auckland and Wellington in his honour. Contributions from the UK can be made via [this link](#), which ensures that Gift Aid is added to your donation.

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