

The Jamie Rumble Memorial Fund

Department of Classics
King's College London



Rumbling On...

The Jamie Rumble Memorial Fund on its Fifth Anniversary

Spring 2018 marks a very special occasion for the Department of Classics at King's College London: the fifth anniversary of the Jamie Rumble Memorial Fund.

Since 2013, when the Rumble Fund was established, the Department has organised five student trips to classical lands: three trips to Greece (in 2013–2014, 2014–2015 and 2016–2017), and two to Italy (in 2015–2016 and 2017–2018). Records of each trip are available online, and the relevant webpages have been visited over 10,000 times. Since 2015 each trip has had its own Facebook profile and hashtag on Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat. The trips have been planned and led with enormous care and enthusiasm by staff from the Department, led by Dr Michael Squire, with assistance from Dr John Pearce (in 2015–2016 and 2017–2018) and Dr Alexia Petsalis-Diomidis (2013–2014, 2014–2015).

Over the last five years, 122 students have benefited from Rumble Fund trips – a mixture of BA (102), MA (18) and PhD (2) students. All costs have been covered thanks to the generosity of the Fund, and the trips have been embedded within the Department's teaching programme. Each year, we have worked in partnership with the British School at Athens

and British School at Rome; many Rumble Fund students have gone on to take part in longer summer teaching programmes and excavations led by these two Schools. Since trips have been held at different times of the year, we have braved all weather conditions – from snow on Mount Parnassus, through thunder storms in the Colosseum, to scorching sun on the Acropolis: nothing has dampened the camaraderie of our student cohorts.

In addition to these student trips, the Rumble Fund has supported other ventures within the Department, focused above all on outreach and public engagement. Each year in March, starting in 2014, the Rumble Fund has allowed us to host an open guest-lecture by a leading academic in the field of ancient art history: our Rumble Lecturers have been Verity Platt (Cornell University : 2014), John Onians (University of East Anglia: 2015), Whitney Davis (UC Berkeley: 2016), Elizabeth Prettejohn (University of York: 2017) and Mary Beard (University of Cambridge: 2018). These lectures have attracted ever-increasing numbers. As a result, we have resorted to larger venues at King's – from the River Room, through the Safra Lecture Theatre and Great Hall, and on now in 2018 to the Bush House Lecture Theatre, which will accommodate 400 people. In total, the lectures have enabled us to welcome around 1,200 people to King's. Since 2015, online videos of the lectures have also been watched over 20,000 times.

On the occasion of the Fund's fifth anniversary, the Department has contacted a number of students who benefitted from the Jamie Rumble Memorial Fund. We asked them to share their memories – and to pass on some photos; we also invited students to say something about what they have gone on to do, and how their Rumble Fund experiences have informed their subsequent working lives. The texts and photos that follow are just a small selection of the responses that we received. Together, they demonstrate the varied career paths that our alumni have pursued, and the impact that the Rumble Fund has had on them.



We – the staff and students in Classics at King’s – are hugely proud of our Department: its excellence in research and teaching; the results that students achieve; the varied career paths that students pursue after graduation; our efforts to recruit widely, from a wide-range of backgrounds; the diverse and innovative projects to engage public interest in the world-leading research that we do; our all-inclusive and friendly sense of community, embracing teachers and students alike.

The Rumble Fund has been instrumental in this work over the last five years: it has enhanced our programme of teaching, added tremendously to the learning experience of our students, and helped us to engage and excite prospective students (as well as a wider general audience).

None of this would have been possible without the support of Sandra Rosignoli – a former student in our Classical Archeology programme (2011–13), and a long-standing friend of King’s. The Rumble Fund was established through Sandra’s initiative, in memory of a close personal friend. We are hugely grateful to Sandra for so enhancing our work in the Department, Faculty and College – and we hope that the Rumble Fund will be able to continue its vital role long into the future.

Dominic Rathbone

Professor of Ancient History

Head of Department of Classics





Sam Dolbear

PhD student

2013–18

Birkbeck College, University of London

For me, the Rumble trip to Athens was a personal high point of the last few years. I was an exception to the 2013–14 cohort in that I was a PhD student – and in the humanities department at Birkbeck College, rather than at King’s. I had never studied classics, but instead specialised in philosophy – and had begun to write on German romanticism and particularly Novalis’ reading of statuary in his *Notes for a Romantic Encyclopaedia*. I wrote to Michael Squire out of the blue asking

if I could audit the course: I was allowed to attend the classes, and special arrangements were made so that I could attend the Rumble trip (which is usually only open to King’s students).

When I started the course, I never realised how important both my study of Greek art and the Rumble trip to Athens would turn out to be for me. The group was incredibly generous, committed and knowledgeable. Standing in the middle of the Parthenon in the November sun, walking around the Agora with a number of scholars of world-leading experts, becoming a member of the British School of Athens for a year, to mention just a few things: these not only represented an incredible learning experience, but they inspired me in ways that I am still discovering today.

I am currently in the final stage of writing up my PhD – now in Lisbon, teaching at the university to help cover my living costs. Michael and the King’s group stand centre stage on my page of acknowledgments. The Rumble Fund allowed me to visit Athens

for the first time. I hope, at some point, to publish on the Novalis, Goethe and Walter Benjamin (the main figure of my PhD) particularly in relation to the statues found on the Antikythera shipwreck, which I saw for the first time at the National Archaeological Museum of Athens during this trip. Although I do not come at the subject as a traditional classicist, everything I learnt on the course and trip informs my approach.



I would have not been able to afford the trip without help from the Rumble Fund. I never had the opportunity to study classics, and went to a state comprehensive school. At the time of the Rumble trip, I was working in a University of London halls of residence to support my studies, as I do not receive a maintenance grant. I hope very much that the Rumble Fund will be able to continue its work long into the future. It provided me with a life-enhancing experience, and with memories that will resonate with me forever.



Emilie Hames

BA Classics
2014–17
King's College
London

I was lucky enough to take part in two Rumble Fund trips during my undergraduate degree at King's, visiting Rome in my second year (2015), and Greece in my third year (2016).



The opportunity to visit these archaeological sites, combined with astounding teaching from Dr John Pearce (Roman art) and Dr Michael Squire (Greek sculpture), was certainly the highlight of my education so far. Not only was it incredibly inspiring to visit the monuments that I'd spent years studying in London, but it was great to share an enthusiasm for Classical art and the ancient world with my classmates and instructors. In each case, the trips brought us all together as a cohort too, developing a special rapport that continued long after we

returned to London. Our visits to the British School at Athens and the British School at Rome were also hugely beneficial, as many of us were interested in their courses, and I know several people who went on to study at their summer schools as a result of their time in Italy and Greece.

We also had a lot of fun, creating wonderful memories. Posting about the trip on social media, I was lucky enough to win three photography prizes during the trips: just as Pippa Leon published an account of our trip to Rome online, I wrote an account of the Rumble trip to Athens, and also edited a short film about the trip!

I have just started my MA in Classical Art and Archaeology at King's, and I thoroughly look forward to continuing my studies.





Katerina Velentza

BA Classical
Archaeology
2012–15
King's College London

I started my undergraduate degree at King's College London in 2012 and graduated in 2015. I studied Classical Archaeology and during my second year I was on the first Rumble Fund trip, as part of

the module 'The Classical Art of the Body: Greek Sculpture and its Legacy', taught by Dr Michael Squire.

The trip was totally unexpected when we chose the module: it turned out to be one of the most important experiences in my undergraduate years, and for various reasons. The incredible interactive teaching methods and the study of Greek sculpture with the original artefacts in front of us in the museums and archaeological sites of Athens triggered for me an interest for ancient sculpture; it taught me in practice the importance of archaeological context in the study of ancient artefacts. I am myself Greek, and had visited many (but not all) of the sites and museums experienced on the trip before. But during the trip, and in the context of my King's module, I saw things in a completely different way.

All that has had a big impact on the route that I have subsequently followed as an archaeologist and researcher. Right now I am in the second year of my PhD degree in the Centre for Maritime Archaeology at the University of Southampton: I am researching 'The Transport of Sculptures in the ancient Mediterranean', and am looking at sculptural material discovered in shipwrecks and other underwater sites of the Mediterranean (my PhD is sponsored by the

Greek Archaeological Society). Additionally, I continue to work – now for the fourth year – in the Athenian Agora excavations directed by the American School of Classical Studies in Athens: it was the Rumble Fund trip to Athens, and work with the British School, that introduced this opportunity to me. This year I also became an assistant supervisor in one of the trenches over the Stoa Poikile: working in the Agora, I often remember the Rumble Fund trip and the visit to the site with Michael Squire and Robert Pitt (then Assistant Director of the British School of Athens), thinking how crucial that visit was to what I now do.

Overall, the Rumble Fund trip had a long-term influence on my career and gave me an opportunity that I would not have been able to afford otherwise. I really believe that trips like these offer unique life-changing opportunities: I only wish they could be available to more students.





Belinda Martin Porras

MA in Classical Art and
Archaeology
2016–18
King's College London

I am an art historian, currently undertaking a Master's degree at King's in Classical Art & Archaeology: I study part-time, while also working to subsidise my studies (given the accelerating costs of studying in London). My first degree was in Spain, and I arrived in London in 2016 as an

international student.

I was one of the 30 fortunate who took part in the 2016 fieldtrip to mainland Greece, in connection with one of the Classics Department's most popular and instructive modules, the 'Classical Art of the Body: Greek Sculpture and its Legacy'. The Rumble Fund provided us first-hand experience of ancient materials and sites we had studied at King's.

My Rumble experiences fired my interest in ancient visual culture. It directly led me, in the summer of 2017, to apply to work as a curatorial trainee at Musée d'Art Classique at Mougins (thanks to the Department's new Erasmus+ exchange, made possible through EU funding). At the same time, the Rumble fieldtrip has reaffirmed my interest in pursuing further postgraduate research on Classical art. Ultimately I want to develop a career in museums and galleries as a curator, focusing on classical culture and its *longue durée* in western art.

It is sometimes forgotten how crucial it is for the academic and personal formation of any individual attracted by the arts to engage directly with the actual objects that they are studying. This is beneficial not only for improving our understanding of the pieces –

especially in terms of materials, techniques and details, which might otherwise pass unnoticed – but also for having a better and coherent sense of their longer legacy across the centuries until the present day. This is precisely what the Rumble Fund championed: there is no way that I would have been able to afford the trip without the help of the Rumble Fund.









Bryanna Lloyd

BA Classical Archaeology
2011–14
King's College London

I was incredibly fortunate to be a part of the group that went to Athens thanks to the Rumble Fund in 2014. Since then, I have finished my degree and King's, gotten a Master's degree at Yale University, and I am now pursuing my PhD at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (which is, I'm proud to say, a partner university of King's). As a student of Classical Archaeology, travel has formed a vital part of my educational career, but the Rumble Fund trip was a singular experience.

The trip to Athens made the associated class ('The Classical Art of the Body') one of the best classes I've taken in my life. The opportunity to see the material we were learning about up close created a much deeper and richer understanding. Now that

I am teaching first-year undergraduate students myself, I still use the photos I took on the trip in my lectures, which the students very much enjoy. While I cannot mirror the experience fully in my own teaching, I try to encapsulate features of the Rumble Fund experience by having my students visit local museums to see materials up close. I believe that my experience with the Rumble Fund trip made me a better student – but above all also a better teacher.

I am perhaps a unique case in that I have stayed in the field of Classical Archaeology. I feel, however, that everyone who went on this trip also benefitted tremendously. Any opportunity to travel abroad and experience another culture is a beneficial experience,



and we all got practice with skills like public speaking in an unfamiliar environment that are useful in nearly any career: they have been incredibly important within my own.

The Rumble Fund trip was an exceptional experience: I would hope as many students as possible get the chance to take part in this sort of initiative.





Ryan Young

BA Ancient History

2011–14

King's College London

In my final year I attended a trip to Athens made possible through the Rumble Fund at King's. It was my first ever visit to Greece. As a student of ancient history it was a truly amazing experience to experience a place so rich in the presence of the past – and above all to visit somewhere that, up to that particular point, I had only read about in books. A particular highlight was our being allowed to enter the Parthenon: to this day the

experience still feels completely surreal.

I honestly do not think that I could have afforded the trip without the great support that the Rumble Fund provided: not only did this enrich my degree by providing extra to my studies, it also allowed the group that attended to form stronger bonds. It truly improved my university experience.

At present, I am attending Sandhurst – with a view to commissioning into the British Army within the next year.



My life is in many ways quite removed from my studies. But I still look back at the Rumble trip as one of the highlights of my three years at university, and can only hope that it continues far into the future to provide others with the opportunities that I received. In the grand scheme of things, funding for these sorts of projects risks being neglected due to a lack of perceived importance – at least for someone looking in from the outside. But I am sure that I speak for many others, and certainly for everyone in my own student cohort, when I say that the Rumble Fund’s importance is immeasurable. I could never have afforded the costs for this trip without the Fund’s support, and the memories will stay with me for decades to come.



Charlotte Britton

BA Classics

2011–14

University College London



I have the fondest of memories of the Rumble Fund trip which I was lucky enough to participate in during my final year of my undergraduate degree. Every day I remember waking up and thinking how lucky I was to have the opportunity to see so many pieces of classical history and so many beautiful landmarks; to walk in the physical remnants of the culture I studied. I was able to use the opportunity to pursue

my interest in museum photography, building my portfolio and document what we saw. It was an incredible experience, and some of my photographs of the Kallithea Monument in the Piraeus Museum have recently been published in a Cambridge University book on *The Frame in Classical Art: A Cultural History*.

Since the trip, and after a period of paid work, I have been fortunate enough to be able return to further study. After my undergraduate degree at University College London (graduating in 2014), I enrolled in an MA at King's in 2016 (the MA is on the 'Reception of the Classical World'). I'm currently also working full-time (with Eurostar) – the income subsidises my part-time study for the MA, which I am taking over a two-year period. I chose this MA course specifically because of my experiences during the King's module and Rumble trip: the inspiration lay in being asked to look at the past and the present and try to understand where the two merge, and what the implications of that 'merging' are. I'm hoping that my Masters might lead me either to a PhD or into a career teaching classics.

The Rumble trip was an incredible opportunity: the experience, the lessons, the laughter, and the company were incomparable with anything else I experienced at university. I would never have been able to afford the trip myself, nor would I have been able to find the time had it not been funded: I worked throughout my undergraduate studies, and even the effects of not working for a week, in order to take part in the Rumble trip, were a struggle at the time.

I absolutely believe an initiative like the Rumble Fund should continue: it's an opportunity for classicist students to experience the very places that they've spent so long reading about, to view objects *in situ* and truly connect with the subject of the classical world and its legacy. It's also an opportunity for many who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford either the financial cost or the time away, and for an experience which lasts a very long time. Whatever I end up doing next, the trip to Athens was something that I shall never forget.





Hayley Walker

BA Classical Studies

2011–14

King's College London

I went to Athens in my third year thanks to the Rumble Fund, helping to supplement the Greek sculpture course I took in my final year at King's. For me, the highlights of the trip included handling a 5000-year old Cycladic figurine and walking inside the Parthenon, among many other activities.

As a third-year student, I would never have been able to afford a trip like this. The Rumble Fund provided an opportunity for me

to experience something way out of my financial reach. I was lucky enough to study some classics at school (Classical Civilisation at GCSE and A Level, and Latin at GCSE); I went to Slough Grammar School, a non-fee paying school recently re-named as Upton Court Grammar School. It was my time at King's – and above all the experience of the Rumble trip – which made me fall in love with the subject, and which made me want to pass on that love to others through teaching.



After completing a PGCE at King's in 2014, I now work as a classics teacher at West London Free School (an independent, co-educational state-funded school, founded in 2011: like other 'academies', it is free to attend but is not controlled by a local authority). I started as a newly qualified teacher in 2015, and became Head of Year 7 (11–12 year olds) in 2016. My memories of the trip remain with me on a daily basis. I teach 'Greek art' (year 12) and 'art and architecture of the ancient world' (year 13) in the context of Classical Civilisation A Level. I draw on my trip to Athens regularly – above all, when I talk about sculpture. To give just one example, I teach lessons on the painted *korai* that I studied up close and presented on in Athens. I often think about my teaching at King's when planning lessons: I aim to make them as dynamic, inspiring and engaging for my students as the lessons I experienced at King's.

The trip has proved invaluable in my ability to pass on my understanding of the art that I saw in Athens to my sixth-form students. The trip has had a significant impact on me in two other ways. First, it helped to cement firm friendships with other people on my course that I am sure will remain for life. Second, seeing such beautiful works of art in person has instilled a personal interest in art history that has prevailed beyond my professional work, but which I now try and pass on in the classroom.







Department of Classics, King's College London, Strand, London WC2R 2LS

For more information, or if you are interested in supporting the work of the Rumble Fund, please email Dr Michael Squire (michael.squire@kcl.ac.uk)