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Preface

The Past, Present, and Future of Classics

On June 15th–16th, 2022, the Israel Society for the Promotion of Classical Studies held its 50th annual conference.¹ To mark this jubilee, some sessions were dedicated to the topic of Classics both within and outside Israel, the interdisciplinarity of Classics with scientific studies, and the intersections of the Classical world with other civilizations (see the Proceedings of the 50th Annual Conference at the end of this volume). Expanded versions of three of the papers delivered at the conference are included in this volume: Ory Amitay ('Classics in Israel: Where Do We Go From Here?') and Amit Baratz ('Greece and Rome in Israeli Schools') review the situation of Classics in Israel; and the paper of Andrea Balbo, Elisa Della Calce, and Simone Mollea ('Towards an Unusual *speculum principis*? Virtues in the *Confucius Sinarum Philosophus*'s *Proemialis Declaratio*') demonstrates the intersection of Confucianism, the Jesuits, and the Greco-Roman culture.

These three studies, as well as other papers given at the conference or submitted to the journal and published here, and much recent work throughout the field, are dedicated to the idea that the field of Classical Studies—with its inherent creative energy, wide scope and openness to new methods and concepts—will constantly evolve as it both influences and is influenced by changing cultural contexts and trends in scholarship.

Rachel Zelnick-Abramovitz

The Jubilee of the annual conference follows that of the ISPCS itself, celebrated last year (2nd-3rd June 2021) and commemorated in a speech by its former president, Prof. Margalit Finkelberg (see *SCI* vol. 41, 1–3).