

**EDITORIAL****Introducing Issue 2 of the 2015 Volume: Humour in the Classics****Ephraim Nissan**

We begun Issue 1 with a commemoration of the Paris atrocities of January 2015, including the massacre on the premises of *Charlie Hebdo*, but November saw yet more massacres in Paris, with over 130 killed. It was an attack aimed at the sociable young in a central district. Whereas terror in Paris in January 2015 hit specific identities — people in the offices of a satirical magazine, those at a kosher supermarket, a policeman and, separately, a policewoman — the more massive butchery in Paris on 13 November 2015 showed (and such was the aim) that just anybody in Paris could be a victim. Nevertheless, this time, too, which food one eats was a litmus test: restaurants were targeted, as well as a rock concert, a mark of Western culture just as Paris is iconic for the latter, and as free speech and satirical magazines are associated with Western democracies. Part of the several attacks took part in a Jewish neighbourhood, again showing a continuity in the choice of targets.

Issue 2 comprises review or response articles, as well as book reviews, concerning recent volumes whose theme is **the classics**. Of one book, we provide more than a single review, thus in a sense providing a panel expressing individual perspectives. In the longest contribution to issue 2, the main text discusses a book that taxonomises and analyses wordplay in Plautus' comedy, whereas the starting point of an appendix is how a theme from the classics found its way into 19th-century French visual art, and from there, into a series of political cartoons from the 1884 presidential electoral campaign in the United States of America. Another contribution about **19th-century political cartooning** is a long appendix to another work that will appear in issue 3.

Moreover, Issue 2 includes a **miscellaneous** section of further book reviews.

I express my gratitude to the reviewers, without whose efforts this issue would not have been possible.

Having mentioned satire earlier in this editorial, and as this journal issue is much concerned with ancient Roman humour, it is worthwhile to mention a book by Kirk Freudenburg, *Satires of Rome: Threatening Poses from Lucilius to Juvenal*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

# *International Studies in Humour*