

A new edition of the scholia to Pindar

A Fribourg project with international significance

The Greek poet Pindar wrote songs praising the winners at the Olympic Games and other sporting competitions in Greece in the first half of the 5th century BC. These songs, known as the *epinician odes*, are the most important source of information on sport of this period. However, Pindar's sophisticated poetry has posed challenges to readers from antiquity to the present day. The starting point for the interpretation of Pindar's works are the *scholia*, ancient commentaries that have been preserved in the medieval manuscripts of Pindar's odes. These include extensive explanations that originated from the commentaries of Hellenistic scholars and were intended both for school teaching and private reading from the Roman period onwards.

What is our project?

At the Department of Classical Philology at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland, we have been working since 2021 on a new four-volume edition of the scholia to Pindar, which is already eagerly awaited by experts in the field. Using the 17 main manuscripts on which the modern editions of Pindar's epinician odes are based, we are editing the ancient Greek text of the scholia in order to replace the previous standard edition produced by A. B. Drachmann around 100 years ago. In addition, we will provide the first complete translation of the scholia into a modern language (German) and supply them with brief explanatory notes. The new edition will also have a detailed introduction, in which we will trace the history of the origins and transmission of the scholia, discuss their structure, content, sources and authorship, and highlight their importance to modern scholarship on Pindar and classical studies in general.

For which areas of research are the scholia to Pindar of particular interest?

- Classical Philology
- Literary Studies
- Ancient History and History of Sport
- Archaeology
- History of religion
- Musicology

How can you support us?

In order to complete this extensive project within a reasonable time frame, Dr. Estella Kessler, a classical philologist, is to be appointed as a postdoctoral research fellow at 80% FTE for a period of five years: The total salary costs (including social security contributions) for this position amount to CHF 460'000. We have so far secured CHF 400'000 by third-party funding.

Website



www.unifr.ch/philclass/de/forschung/pindar.html

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