

OIKOS Publieksprijs 2024 – OIKOS-dag 31 May 2024 (Amsterdam)

Dear colleagues,

It is our great pleasure to move on to the celebratory part of this morning's program: the annual awarding of the OIKOS 'Impact and Outreach prize', a prize that is to be awarded this year for the 20th time and that has become a staple of the yearly OIKOS meetings ever since Fik Meijer was awarded the first one in 2005. In the past we have seen prizes going to the nestors of our community, to young promising enthusiasts (like Anique Hamelink last year), to translators and disseminators, to colleagues from both within and without the academy. Publishers, designers, educationalists, performers, museums: the OIKOS Impact and Outreach prize can pride itself on a long list of laureates from all corners of the promotion of Classical Antiquity.

This year's jury, consisting of Saskia Stevens and Floris Overduin, are very pleased to present to you – in a moment or two – this year's winner. The jury was pleased to receive many nominations from so many colleagues, with several nominees receiving multiple letters of recommendation. We would like to thank all those that made the effort to generously shine an epistolary light on those worthy of our attention.

It would be a terrible cliché to state that the jury had an incredibly difficult job in sorting out the nominations and in reaching a verdict. The truth is that we actually did not require a lot of deliberation among us and that we were glad to find we could easily agree on this year's winner. Of course, this meant that we had to cast aside many worthy candidates, many of which we hope – and trust – will be nominated again in years to come. But as there can only be one winner it is time to shift our attention to the person in question.

Whereas quite a lot of the past winners are known for their specialized attention to Classical Antiquity, this year's winner is widely known for a more generalist approach. Translations and anthologies can be categorized as part of the more traditional output of the nominee, but numerous podcasts and keeping up an updated classics news website are products of a more contemporary approach. This year's winner has been

active in all these domains, with an eye for a truly broad audience, far beyond academia and education. For some 40 years he – yes, it is a he – has been active in bringing together texts, specialists, media and audiences to share in a communal appreciation of Classical Antiquity.

As a translator he brought us diverse texts as the *Alexander Romance*, and the *Grapjas*, the Greek book of jokes known as the *Philogelos*, and a translation of Einhard's biography of Karel de Grote. But he also delivered Dutch translations of books popular in English, such as those by Philip Matyszak and Jerry Toner. He compiled various anthologies, of Catullus, of early Greek lyric, but also thematic anthologies on humour (*Komt een Griek bij de dokter*, 2007), the afterlife (*Over de Styx*, 2003), *Van Alfa tot Omega. Een klassiek abc* (2000), or *Oude Keizers, Nieuwe Kleren* (1997); his latest, about the ancient Greeks and Romans determine our lives today, just appeared, with the witty title: *Zeus in Jeans* (2024).

Many of you may have guessed whom we are talking about by now.

His fascination with mythology shows in books titled *Het ei van Helena* or *De knipoog van Medusa*, among dozens of other titles. Especially worth mentioning is his bibliographical work, in collaboration with Andries Welckenhuysen, *De Oudheid in het Nederlands. Repertorium en bibliografische gids voor vertalingen van Griekse en Latijnse auteurs en geschriften* from 1992, which was an invaluable source in the dark days before the internet.

It is, however, in his capacity as 'man of the media' that we received several letters of nomination. Reviews in newspapers, appearances on the Flemish radio, but most importantly: his website *hic et nunc*, since 2021, on which he collects a broad range of articles, news, footage, and interviews related to the classics today. Not only is Patrick an ongoing force in keeping classics alive, he is also keen on drawing attention to other people's works and activities, which is an important virtue of his work.

It is a great joy, therefore, to announce this year's winner. The OIKOS Impact and Outreach prize 2024 goes to Patrick de Rynck. Congratulations on behalf of the OIKOS Publieksprijs jury and the whole OIKOS community.