Seneca, Medea

Tuesdays 17.00 to 18.30, Wadham College (Knowles’ Room, s/c 5).

After an introductory session, these classes will work through the text of the Medea, discussing textual and literary issues as they arise. They are designed for those taking the Latin Textual Criticism option for Schools, the M.St. or the M.Phil., but would be suitable for anyone wishing to read a Senecan tragedy carefully. Subjects to be considered include the rhetorical and philosophical backgrounds, editorial technique, interpolation, and metre. Handouts will be provided. The OCT text of Seneca’s tragedies should be brought to each session. The classes will continue in Hilary Term. Those aiming for the examination must also attend the Latin Palaeography classes (Mondays at 12 in Michaelmas Term).

Planned programme
Michaelmas Term: week 1: Introduction
Seneca: biography and family
  chronology of works
  philosophy
  rhetoric
  bibliography
Medea
Manuscripts and stemma
Corruption
Textual criticism

wk 2: 1-55 [+ iambic trimeters]: SJH
wk 3: 56-115 [+ asclepiadeans, glyconics, hexameters]: TR
wk 4: 116-202: SJH
wk 5: 203-300: TR
wk 6: 301-79: SJH [+ anapaests]
wks 7-8: 380-578: TR

HT wks 1-6
wks 1-2: 579-739 [+ sapphics]: SJH
wks 3-4: 740-890 [+ trochaic tetrameters catalectic + iambic dimeters catalectic]: TR [+ student contributions]
wks 5-6: 891-1027: SJH [+ student contributions]