

Girton College Humanities Writing Competition

Further Information 2023-2024

Girton's Humanities Writing Competition is for students in Year 12 (or S5/ Y13 - N.I) who have an interest in the Humanities. Students will submit a written piece on one or more objects selected from the College's small antiquities museum, the Lawrence Room.

This competition is an opportunity for research and writing beyond the curriculum, using one or more of the five objects as your focus. Essays or creative responses (such as dramatic monologues or short stories) are equally welcome. We are looking for the ability to connect different areas of knowledge, to think about details and to communicate clearly.

Closing Date: 5pm on Friday, 15 March, 2024

Prizes

The prize fund consists of £200 cash and books to the value of £200 from Cambridge University Press, the latter to be shared between the winning entrant/s and their school/s. The prize fund may be divided between winning entrants.

Funding is provided by the kind sponsorship of Cambridge University Press and Miss C. Anne Wilson, sponsor of the Wilson Bursary fund for Classics students at Girton.

The prizes will be presented by the Mistress at Girton College in late April/early May 2024.

About the Lawrence Room

Named after a Girton student, the Lawrence Room contains Anglo-Saxon finds from the College grounds, Egyptian material including the rare portrait mummy 'Hermione', and Mediterranean material from the Classical and pre-Classical worlds.

Competition Rules

- 1) Submissions **must** relate to one or more of the following Lawrence Room Objects (full information overleaf).
 - a) LR 775: Terracotta figurine of Leda with the swan (?)
 - b) LR 779: Terracotta stag
 - c) LR.1005: Carthaginian 'cocked hat' lamp
 - d) LR 1075: Porphyry bowl from Tell al Rimah, Iraq
 - e) LR.727: Early Anglo-Saxon wrist clasps
- 2) The word limit is 1800 words (although creative writing in particular may be shorter). Include a word count, and a list of references if applicable.
- 3) There is a **limit of 3 entries per school**.
- 4) Submissions should be typed in English in a standard font, lines 1.5 spaced, and every page should be marked with the entrant's name.
- 5) Submissions are made on a digital form found here:
https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eeukLYibe2Vu8IK
- 6) Submissions made by email or post will not be considered.
- 7) Submissions accompanied by incomplete forms will not be considered. Please check your submission form carefully before sending.
- 8) Submissions received after the deadline (5pm, 15 March 2024) will not be considered.
- 9) Entrants must be resident in the UK.
- 10) It will not be possible to provide feedback on all the essays.
- 11) The judges reserve the right not to award prizes if there is no entry of sufficient merit.

Competition Items

All entries must be related to at least one of the below items. To look up the full entries of these and other items in the Lawrence Room Catalogue online, see

<http://www.lrc.girton.cam.ac.uk/>

You can navigate to the catalogue from the Girton College website,

www.girton.cam.ac.uk, by clicking on 'About Girton', then on 'Art & Artefacts'.

Scroll down to find the link to the 'Lawrence Room' webpage.

For further information about the Lawrence Room, with links to information leaflets, see <https://www.girton.cam.ac.uk/lawrence-room>

The following themes have been suggested by the competition committee, but entrants are welcome to devise their own:

- The preservation of damaged, everyday or un-beautiful objects from the past
- The history of archaeology and museums
- Attitudes to sexuality and gender in the classical and early medieval worlds
- The social history of lighting
- Early trade in precious minerals