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Roman Liberty

Monday 14 May 2012
5pm: Beves Room, King's College

The author

Professor Schofield is Emeritus Professor of Ancient Philosophy at Cambridge University, where he taught in the Classics Faculty for close on forty years. He is a Fellow of St John's College, and a Fellow of the British Academy. He has worked in many areas of his subject, mostly over the last two decades in ancient political philosophy, where he co-edited *The Cambridge History of Greek and Roman Political Thought* (2000). He is the author of *The Stoic Idea of the City* (1991; expanded edition, 1999), *Saving the City* (1999), and *Plato: Political Philosophy* (2006). Last term he delivered this year's Carlyle Lectures in Oxford: 'A republican political philosophy: Cicero and Rome'.

The paper

The present paper is a version of the first of the Carlyle Lectures. It looks at the contested ideal of liberty as it worked in political and theoretical discourse in the late Roman republic, and at the associated but no less contested conceptions of political equality. And it asks how far the republican theory of liberty championed in modern political philosophy most notably by Philip Pettit captures the focus of the Roman ideal.