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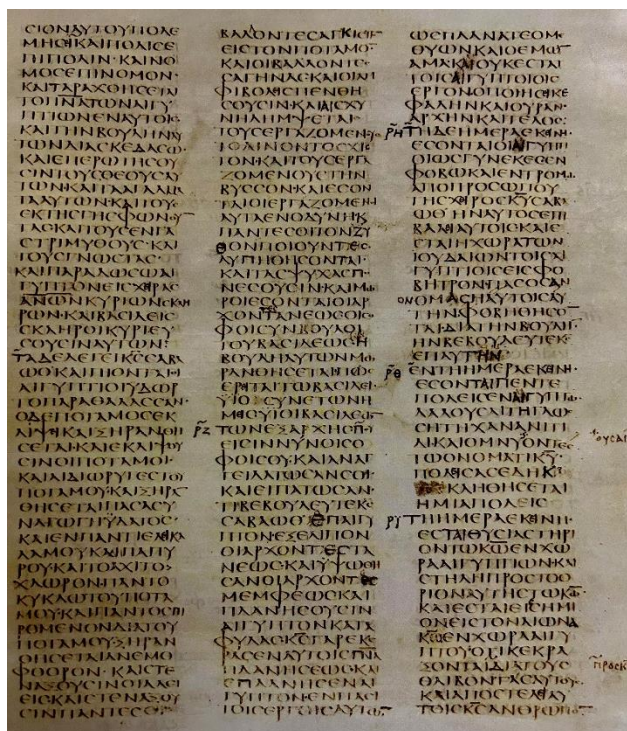
SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY

2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SCRIBES, SCHOLARS AND SCRIPTS

CURTAIN RAISER THURSDAY 4 MAY 7.00PM (VIA ZOOM)

CONFERENCE SATURDAY 6 MAY 8.30AM – 4.40PM



Isaiah Chapters 18-19, Codex Sinaiticus

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

2022-2023



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of Early Christianity

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Mrs Karyn Young

Editors' Note: The Society takes no position on the intellectual content of lectures given.

The unique emphasis of our Society is on history – the study of Early Christianity in its Jewish and Graeco-Roman setting. **Views expressed at this conference are those of the individual speakers.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 4	Program Timetable
Page 5	Abstracts
	CONFERENCE CURTAIN RAISER THURSDAY 4 MAY 7.00PM
	Professor Tommy Wasserman , Professor of Biblical Studies, Ansgar University College, Kristiansand, Norway. Professor Wassermann will also be giving a talk via Zoom at the Saturday Conference.
	CONFERENCE SATURDAY 6 MAY 8.30AM TO 4.40PM
	Dr Amelia R Brown , University of California at Berkeley, AB Princeton MCL, President, Australasian Association for Byzantine Studies, Senior Lecturer in Greek History & Language Classics, University of Queensland
	Prof Alan Cadwallader , Adjunct Research Professor, Centre for Religion, Ethics and Society, Charles Sturt University
	Dr Chris Forbes , Honorary Senior Lecturer, Discipline of Ancient History, Macquarie University, PhD Macquarie University
	Prof Larry L Wellborn , Professor of New Testament and Early Christian Literature, Fordham University, New York, USA
	Associate Prof Adam White , Associate Professor, Head of Bible, Alphacrucis University College, PhD Macquarie University
	Dr Rachel Yuen-Collingridge , Associate Lecturer, Department of History and Archaeology, PhD Macquarie University
	Michael Zellmann-Rohrer , Postdoctoral Researcher Papyrology; Classical Philology; Semitic Philology, Freie Universitaet Berlin, Germany
Page 8	Ancient History Contact Details
Page 9	Book Publications by Members
Page 13	SSEC Calendar of Events
Page 14	SSEC Membership Form

SCRIBES, SCHOLARS AND SCRIPTS



Society for the Study
of Early Christianity

2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE TIMETABLE

CONFERENCE CURTAIN RAISER THURSDAY 4 MAY 2023 (VIA ZOOM)

7.00pm Zoom	Tommy Wasserman	The Dating Game: Text, Paratext and Dating of Early Christian Papyri
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SATURDAY CONFERENCE 6 MAY 2023 (IRL)

TIME	SPEAKERS	DETAILS	SESSION CHAIR
8.30am-9.00am	Registration	Tea and Coffee available	
9.00am-9.05am	Welcome		
9.05am-9.45am Zoom	Michael Zellmann-Rohrer	Another early adopter of the papyrus codex: Astrological treatises and worldview in Roman Egypt	Alanna
9.50am-10.30am Zoom	Tommy Wasserman	Traces of Singing: Poetic Layout in Ancient Psalms Manuscripts	Don
10.30am-10.50am	Morning Tea	Tea, coffee and refreshments available	
10.55am-11.35am	Rachel Yuen-Collingridge	Scribal practice and knowledge technologies in Roman Egypt: Manuscripts in context	Paul
11.40am-12.20pm	Alan Cadwallader	The trouble with Colossae is that no-one knows how to spell the name	Chris
12.20-12.30pm	Alanna Nobbs	Book Celebrations	
12.30pm-1.20pm	Lunch Break	Tea, coffee and lunch provided	
1.25pm-2.05pm	Chris Forbes	Paul's Scribes and Co-authors	Alanna
2.10pm-2.50pm	Adam White	Scribes, Scholars, and ... Hypocrites? An Examination of Jesus' Charge against the Pharisees.	Chris
2.50pm-3.10pm	Afternoon Tea	Tea, coffee and refreshments provided	
3.15pm-3.55pm	Amelia Brown	Who wrote the letters of Paul?	Paul
4.00pm-4.40pm Zoom Recording	Larry L Wellborn	Did Early Christian Readers Think Paul's Letters Were "Sublime?": Some Evidence from Papyrus Fragments and from Patristic Writers	Don

DATE OF NEXT YEAR'S CONFERENCE: Saturday 4th May, 2024

ABSTRACTS – ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THURSDAY CONFERENCE CURTAIN RAISER

TOMMY WASSERMAN (VIA ZOOM)

The Dating Game: Text, Paratext and Dating of Early Christian Papyri

Recently, Brent Nongbri has challenged the accepted dating of several of the most significant papyri of the Gospels, including those known by New Testament scholars as P4+64+67 (Luke, Matthew) and P75 (Luke, John), whose texts are akin to Codex Vaticanus. Whereas these papyri are assigned to 200–250 CE in the dominant hand-edition (Nestle-Aland 28), Nongbri proposes a broader date range suggesting that they may be as late as the fourth century. Some of Nongbri’s arguments move “beyond palaeography” to paratextual features like the presence of textual divisions which he thinks suggests a later date. In order to evaluate this and other paratextual features, however, there is a significant body of evidence found in Greek manuscripts of the Septuagint that needs to be taken into account. In light of this evidence, I will argue that the presence of such features in Christian manuscripts is not necessarily indicative of a late date. On the contrary, Christians inherited this and other practices from Greek-speaking Jews at a very early stage, and therefore we must avoid the notion of an evolutionary development of these features in Christian manuscripts.

SATURDAY CONFERENCE

AMELIA BROWN

Who wrote the letters of Paul?

I will consider the scribes of the letters of Paul, from Paul himself or his amanuensis, to the literate members of the first congregations of Christians who collected, copied, recopied and added to these letters in order to create their new sacred communal texts. The internal evidence of the letters suggests these scribes were mainly in the Greek port cities who received and circulated the letters like Ephesus, Corinth or Thessalonica. What does the external evidence of the earliest manuscripts show?

ALAN CADWALLADER

The trouble with Colossae is that no-one knows how to spell the name

Part of the consignment of Colossae to a premature oblivion following an earthquake in 60 CE, was that there were supposed aberrations in the spelling of the name. These were not just a wayward alpha, sigma or omega but there was a complete change of name — Chonai. But this name also wandered anywhere but into the security of a stable lexicon. Even more troubled was the effort to give the place a secure location on a map — Colossae even swam across the Carpathian Sea to land in Rhodes. And then there are the efforts to plot the origins and meaning of the name — again beset by fog. New Testament manuscripts were far from immune to these meanders in spelling and geography. One manuscript even decided to cover its bases by giving almost a full range of designations at the top of each page. Curiously, it was the turn to numismatics that began to provide some answers and today gives us a small window into the first and second-century efforts of the city to restore its cultural capital in the Lycus Valley and beyond. It may also explain a few distinctive elements in the New Testament letter that has ensured that the city has not been lost to the dust.

CHRIS FORBES

Paul's Scribes and Co-authors

TOMMY WASSERMAN

Traces of Singing: Poetic Layout in Ancient Psalms Manuscripts

In the earliest phase of Christian gatherings, the Old Testament scriptures were read aloud in the community and the New Testament authors frequently cite and allude to the scriptures, not least the Psalms. Consequently, early Christian scribes who copied the Old Greek/LXX Psalms must have used exemplars copied by Jewish scribes at various points. As a result, some continuity is expected which also affects how these texts were written, read or chanted in liturgy. A preliminary survey of the poetic layout in the early Greek Psalms manuscripts, including the distinctively Greek Jewish manuscript, P. Oxy. 77.5101 (second century CE), in comparison with the pandects Sinaiticus, Vaticanus and Alexandrinus, shows that there is significant continuity between the Jewish and Christian textual transmission.

LARRY L WELLBORN

Did Early Christian Readers Think Paul's Letters Were "Sublime?": Some Evidence from Papyrus Fragments and from Patristic Writers

This paper examines an early stage in the process by which Paul became a literary influence, in order to test the hypothesis that the aesthetic quality of Paul's epistles was appreciated by some of his first readers. The passages from Paul's epistles most frequently attested on papyri and most frequently cited by patristic writers (e.g., 1 Cor. 2:6-16; 1 Cor. 15:50-58) seem to be among the most "sublime" in the Pauline corpus. Taking the definition of "sublimity" from the first-century treatise *Περὶ ὕψους* attributed to Longinus, the paper examines whether frequently cited Pauline passages qualify as "sublime."

ADAM WHITE

Scribes, Scholars, and ... Hypocrites? An Examination of Jesus' Charge against the Pharisees

One of Jesus' frequent charges against the Pharisees and teachers of the law is that they are "hypocrites". It is a term familiar to most us, generally understood as referring to person whose actions are in contradiction to their beliefs or values. But for Jesus and his listeners, the term had the more tangible meaning of an actor in the theatre. In light of this fact, this paper explores Jesus' use of the term and considers what implications it would have both to the hearers and especially to the recipients.

RACHEL YUEN-COLLINGRIDGE

Scribal practice and knowledge technologies in Roman Egypt: Manuscripts in context

MICHAEL ZELLMANN-ROHRER

Another early adopter of the papyrus codex: Astrological treatises and worldview in Roman Egypt

ANCIENT HISTORY CONTACT DETAILS

Macquarie Ancient History Association (MAHA)

Contact details: Phone No: 02) 9850-8833, Email: ancienthistory@mq.edu.au,
Website: www.maha.ancienthistory.com.au

The Australian Centre for Egyptology and the Rundle Foundation

Contact details: Phone No: 02) 9850-8848, Email: Egypt@mq.edu.au,
Website: www.egyptology.mq.edu.au

Macquarie Ancient Languages Winter and Summer Weeks (MALS)

Offers a wide range of courses in Classical and Koine Greek, Latin, Egyptian Hieroglyphs, Classical Hebrew, Coptic and others.

For details of their upcoming Winter Week in July 2023 and Summer Week in January 2024, please go to their website below.

Contact details: Website: <http://mals.org.au/upcoming-events/>

BOOKS PUBLISHED BY MEMBERS FROM JUNE 2020 ONWARDS

(There are no doubt many others, apologies if any have been overlooked)

Paul Barnett

Jerusalem to Illyricum: Earliest Christianity through the Eyes of Paul, Eugene Oregon: Wipf and Stock, 2023

A Letter of Love, Commentary on 1 Corinthians, Sydney: Aquila, 2022

Deslee Campbell

The Topkapi Beggar, ed Paul McKechnie (editor in chief) with Alanna Nobbs and Sam Lieu in Brepols series classica antiqua Australiensia.

Rosemary Canavan

Infants, Orphans, Children and Siblings: Strengthening the familial bonds of the ekklēsia of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, The First Urban Churches Vol 7: Thessalonike edited by James Harrison and Larry Wellborn. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2022.

Mercy (Ἐλεέω) in the Gospel According to Mark, The Australasian Catholic Record 99, no. 3 (2022): pp 312–20.

Marianne Dacy

The Situation of the Jews of Ancient Alexandria (300BCE-100CE), Newsletter of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies no 18 Autumn 2021: 17-18.

Winds of Change. The Contribution of the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion to Jewish/Christian Relations in Australia:1960s-2020+. Melbourne: Ellikon Printers, 2020, ii-v, 32pp.

John Davies

The A to Z of God's Grace Inscribed on the Human Heart: Psalm 119, God's Grace Inscribed on the Human Heart: Essays in Honour of James R. Harrison, ed. Peter G. Bolt and Sehyun Kim. Early Christian Studiers 23; Macquarie Centre, Aust: SCD, 2022, 3-17.
Many Abidings (John 14:2), The Future of Gospels and Acts Research, ed. Peter G. Bolt. CGAR Series 3; Sydney: SCD, 2021, 209-31.

Luke–Acts as Prophetic Proclamation, Journal of Gospels and Acts Research 5 (2021).

Nonverbal Responses to Jesus in the Gospels, The Impact of Jesus of Nazareth: Historical, Theological, and Pastoral Perspectives, vol. 1, Historical and Theological Studies, ed. James R. Harrison and Peter G. Bolt. CGAR Series 1; Sydney: SCD, 2020.

Peter Edwell

Case that Stopped a Nation, Angus and Robertson, 2022 (shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Literary Award).

Lydia Gore-Jones

Rewriting History: When Judaism Lost the Temple

Jim Harrison

A Festschrift in his honour with contributions from SSEC Members including Edwin Judge and Rosalinde Kearsley was presented to him on September 2022.

Edwin Judge

On This Rock: When Culture Disrupted the Roman Community, Cascade Books, Oct 2020. AD Macdonald (Ed)

Out Here, Down Under, Ed AD MacDonald, Wipf and Stock, 2023.

Antonios Kaldas

This Great Mystery of Life: An Introduction to the Coptic Orthodox Church, St Shenouda Press, May 24, 2022.

Sam Lieu

A Festschrift in his honour, ed Ken Parry and Gunner Mikkelsen, Byzantium to China: Religion, History and Culture on the Silk Roads, with contributions from Malcolm Choat, Alanna Nobbs and Paul McKechnie, Brill 2022.

Jacqueline Lloyd

Archaeology and the Itinerant Jesus (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2022).

Paul McKechnie

Mani Eats Greek Bread: the Sitz im Leben of the Cologne Mani-Codex' in Gunner Mikkelsen and Ken Parry (eds.), Byzantium to China: religion, history and culture on the Silk Roads: studies in honour of Samuel N. C. Lieu (Leiden and Boston, 2022), pp. 306-319.

Paul McKechnie et al

A monument more lasting than bronze: Classics in the University of Malawi 1982-2019, Harvard Hellenic studies series forthcoming May 2023.

Edwina Murphy

Fiery Trials and Salvific Water: 1 Peter in Cyprian of Carthage, Studia Patristica 126 (2021): 317–26.

The Duties of Deacons according to Cyprian of Carthage, Studia Patristica 106 (2021): 19–28.

Like Angels in Heaven: Cyprian, Sex, and Celibacy, Journal of Early Christian Studies 29 (2021): 193–214.

Scripture in the Letters of and Councils under Cyprian of Carthage, The Bible in Christian North Africa. Part I: Commencement to the Confessiones of Augustine (ca.

180 to 400 CE), edited by Jonathan P. Yates and Anthony Dupont, 119–41. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2020.

Stooping to Conquer: The Gentleness and Generosity of the Early Church, Not in Kansas Anymore: Christian Faith in a Post-Christian World, edited by Michael Frost, Darrell Jackson and David Starling, 87-98. Sydney: Morling Press; Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2020.

Cyprian, Parenthood, and the Hebrew Bible: Modelling Munificence and Martyrdom, *Studia Patristica* 100 (2020): 123–31.

Gillian Spalding-Stracey

Journeys, Borrowing, and Assimilation in the Material Culture of Early Christian India, *Journal of the Australian Early Medieval Association* 17, no. 2 (2021): pp117–33.
The Cross in the Visual Culture of Late Antique Egypt, Brill, 2020.

Greg Stanton

Unity and Disunity in Greek and Christian Thought under the Roman Peace [Studien und Texte zu Antike und Christentum, 125] (Tübingen, Mohr Siebeck, 2021),

David I Starling

Reading Ephesians and Colossians: A Literary and Theological Commentary. RNT; Macon: Smyth & Helwys, 2020.

Dramatizing the Gospel of the Kingdom: Colossians as Notes for Ecclesial Performance. *Colloquium* 53 (2021): 30–47.

“At Many Times and in Various Ways”: Hebrews and the Hermeneutics of Exposition’. *Journal of Theological Interpretation* 14 (2021): 121–32.

Baptists, Scripture and the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification. *Pro Ecclesia* 30 (2021): 420–41.

“The Harvest of your Righteousness”: Scripture, Bread and Benefaction in 2 Corinthians 8-9’. Pages 13–51 in *Scriptures, Texts, and Tracings in 2 Corinthians and Philippians*, ed. A. Das and B. J. Oropeza. Minneapolis: Fortress Academic, 2022.

Hermeneutics and Preaching: Theological Interpretation and the Preaching Task, Pages 83–97 in *Theology is for Preaching: Biblical Foundations, Method, and Practice*, ed. C. Kuhn and P. Grimmond. Bellingham: Lexham, 2021.

The Weapons of our Warfare: Culture, Conflict and Character in 2 Corinthians. Pages 60–72 in *Not in Kansas Anymore: Christian Faith in a Post-Christian World*, ed. M. Frost, D. Jackson and D. Starling. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2020).

William R. Stewart

The Death of the Prophet? A Comparative Study of Prophetic Signs in the Royal Archives of Mari, Syria (ARM 26/1.206) and the Hebrew Bible (Jeremiah 19:1–13), in Johannes Unsok Ro and Benjamin D. Giffone (eds.).

Inscribe It in a Book: Scribal Practice, Cultural Memory and the Making of the Hebrew Scriptures (Forschungen zum Alten Testament II. Reihe 139; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2023), pp. 35–66.

Adam White

Paul, Community, and Discipline: Establishing Boundaries and Dealing with the Disorderly. Paul in Critical Contexts. Maryland: Lexington Books/Fortress Academic, 2021.

“Setting the Boundaries: Reading 1 Timothy and Titus as Community Charters,” *Biblical Theology Bulletin*, 52.4 (2022), 136–146.

“‘You’re Stealing from Us, Paul’: An Examination of Paul’s ‘Painful’ Visit to Corinth and the Charge of Embezzlement,” *Australian Biblical Review* 69 (2021), 37–46.

“‘Three Strikes, You’re Out!’ A Reflection on Church Excommunication in Light of Pauline Practice,” *Journal of Pentecostal Theology*, 29.2 (2020), 275–296.

“Paul’s Absence from Corinth as Voluntary Exile: Reading 2 Corinthians 1.1–2.13 and 7.5–16 as a Letter from Exile,” *Journal for the Study of the New Testament*, 43.1 (2020), pp. 44–66.

Norm Young

The Man Nobody Knows, *Ministry* 93/4 (April, 2021) 16–19.

The Trial of Jesus before Pilate in the Fourth Gospel: A Comparison with Mark, *Evangelical Quarterly* 92/1 (August, 2021) 1–20.

The Rise and Fall of 1844, Part I, *Adventist Today*, 24 May 2022.

The Rise and Fall of 1844, Part II,” *Adventist Today*, 26 May 2022.

‘Would I Lie to You?’: The Limits of Truth-telling, *Adventist Today*, 1 December 2022.

A Gross Hermeneutical Inconsistency: The Day of Atonement in Daniel 8:14 and Hebrews, *Spectrum* 50/4 (2022) 68–73.

SSEC CALENDAR OF EVENTS AS AT 6th May 2023

DATE AND TIME	EVENT
Tuesday 20th June, 7pm - Zoom	Speaker: Edwina Murphy Topic: Imitating the Devil: Cyprian on Jealousy and Envy
Monday 28th August, 7pm – Zoom	Speaker: Julien Cooper Topic: Pagans par excellence? Evidence for Christianity amongst the Blemmyean nomads of Eastern Sudan
Tuesday 26th September, 7pm – Zoom	Speaker: Ryan Strickler Topic: A Tale of Two Healers: A Consideration of Miracles of Christ and The Emperor Vespasian
Thursday 16th November Christmas Event 6.30pm – Zoom	AGM 6.30pm Talk at 7.00pm Speaker: Gareth Wearne Topic: Luke’s Census in Its Historical and Literary Setting

For further details, please visit the new SSEC Website: <https://mq-ssec.org/> (member password Cleo&Mark34).

or contact us via email at SSEC@mq.edu.au Parking: Macquarie University no longer charges parking fees after 6pm. Costs: The SSEC committee voted to abolish all entry costs for meetings. There is instead a strictly optional gold coin donation.

If you would like to make a **donation or bequest** to the Tyndale Scholarship, Pat Geidans Prize or any Ancient History project, please contact Professor Alanna Nobbs via email: ssec@mq.edu.au or alanna.nobbs@mq.edu.au or on (02) 9850-8844

SSEC MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

If you would like to become a member of the Society for the Study of Early Christianity, please complete this form and hand it in today, email it to: SSEC@mq.edu.au or post it with your payment details to the address shown below.

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Membership rates: Ordinary rate \$30; Family rate \$35; Concession (pensioners [not seniors], Fulltime students) \$15 - all include GST.

Payment is strongly encouraged by Credit Card (Visa/Mastercard), Google Pay or Paypal through the following **Trybooking** links:

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Cheques or money orders payments will, as of this year, no longer be accepted by the University as per their protocol. Our apologies.

Many thanks for your ongoing support of the Society and our Conference