

**SSEC NEWS** It's August 2016. This month we are trialling a new way to send out timely information about the society. It is a wonderful new way of sending "SSEC NEWS" via a "clever" email. This uses web technology called html. We believe that it will streamline getting information out to you, without delays and bureaucracy.

There are five "buttons" or images to click on below:

We would appreciate your feedback, on the ease of using "SSEC NEWS", whether you like this kind of email, or whether you would prefer some other form of communication from us. Please be very honest. Send feedback to [SSEC@mq.edu.au](mailto:SSEC@mq.edu.au)

## Our top stories



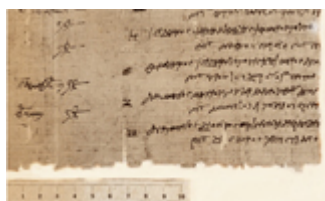
**From the President** INTRODUCING OUR NEW SSEC NEWS EMAILS | Please give us your feedback on whether you like the new format of this "clever" email.



**SSEC Recent Events** RECENT CONFERENCE AND OTHER EVENTS | We have had a number of successful events in recent months. Read more.



**Persons of Interest** INTRODUCING NEW STAFF AND MEMBERS WHO TRAVEL | introducing new staff members to Ancient History at Macquarie. Travel grants and where this has taken our members overseas.



**SSEC Article** CHRISTIANITY IN EGYPT IN THE FIRST THREE CENTURIES | By Don Barker, with an introduction from Alanna Nobbs. Have you considered supporting us with a donation?



**SSEC Events Calendar** THIS IS A QUICK GUIDE TO EVENTS | We would love to have you along to one of our events. Perhaps you have thought about bringing a friend along. We will make them feel most welcome. Stay after the lecture, meet others over a coffee or tea.

## Our top stories

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### From the President's Desk

Welcome to the new "SSEC NEWS". This month we are trialling a new way to send out timely information about the society. It is a wonderful new way of sending "SSEC NEWS" via a "clever" email. This uses web technology called html. We believe that it will streamline getting information out to you, without delays and bureaucracy.

We have had some wonderful events since our March 2016 newsletter. Our first SSEC lecture was held on Tuesday 5 April 2016 with **Dr Paul W Barnett** (Honorary Fellow in Ancient History, Macquarie) with his topic: Paul in Rome: some questions.

The conference curtain raiser was held on the evening of Thursday 5 May 2016, with two guest speakers. The visiting SSEC Fellow for 2016 **Dr Alan Cadwallader** (Australian Catholic University) with his topic: Parables, politics and place: who controls land and sea in Mark's Gospel? Also **Dr Rosemary Canavan** (University of Divinity) gave a talk on Jesus Clothed in Purple ... or Scarlet.

We had seven speakers at our annual SSEC conference on Saturday 7 May 2016. **Dr Cadwallader** gave the keynote address: Sometimes one word makes a world of difference: rethinking the origins of Mark's Gospel. We were also very fortunate to secure the distinguished international guest speaker **Professor Cilliers Breytenbach** (Humboldt University of Berlin), who spoke on The Making of Mark, e.g. Daemons and the Spirit in 3:20-35. The conference theme was Everyday life in the time of Jesus of Nazareth. It was very well attended and we sincerely wish to thank all of our speakers for making this event an educational experience for all our members.

We have some interesting SSEC events coming up for the remainder of the year. On Thursday 1 September 2016, we are very much looking forward to **Dr John Shannahan** (PhD graduate Macquarie University) with the topic of Coins and Society in the Holy Land under the Persians.

A Coptic Evening is being planned towards the end of August or early September. It looks as if **Professor Heike Behlmer** (Goettingen University) will be talking on The Copts in Modern Detective Fiction. When we hear more, we will let you know. This information will be loaded onto the SSEC events website.

On Thursday 29 September, **Associate Professor Mark Reasoner** (Marian University, Indiana) will talk on the topic: 'Torn between Two Lovers': The New Testament and the History of Religions at Macquarie University and the University of Chicago. He is brought to Australia by the Sydney College of Divinity.

On Wednesday 19 October, Dr Rachel Yuen-Collingridge (the new SSEC sponsored Postdoctoral Fellow in Early Christianity) will give a talk on her project Authority and Artefact: Magic, Scripture and Administration in papyrus manuscripts from Graeco-Roman Egypt.

We finish with the End of Year/ SSEC Early Christmas event on Thursday 10 November. Macquarie graduate **Dr Mark Stephens** (Excelsia college) will give his topic Jesus on Film. Join us for this early Christmas celebration combined with a wonderful lecture.

Professor Alanna Nobbs AM



### SSEC Recent Events

May 2016 Event SSEC Annual Day Conference

We are very pleased to see that the annual SSEC conference was once again a great success. It was held at Robert Menzies College in May, and was an enjoyable day for all. We wish to thank our Conference speakers who gave the following talks:

- **Professor Cilliers Breytenbach** (Humboldt University of Berlin) Distinguished International Speaker, The Making of Mark, e.g. Daemons and the Spirit in 3:20-35,
- **Dr Alan Cadwallader** (Australian Catholic University, SSEC Visiting Fellow 2016), Sometimes one word makes a world of difference: rethinking the origins of Mark's Gospel,
- **Dr Deslee Campbell** (an early Christian and Jewish Studies specialist), Synagogues Jesus Knew?,
- **Dr John Dickson** (PhD Graduate and Honorary Associate Macquarie University), Remembering Stuff: Memory and Education in the Time of Jesus,
- **Dr Chris Forbes** (Macquarie University), Jesus and First-Century Ideas of Purity,
- **Dr Louise Gosbell** (PhD Ancient History, Macquarie University and Faculty, Mary Andrews College) The woman with the Flow of Blood (Mark 5:25-34): An Example of a 'Disabled' Woman in Antiquity,
- **Associate Prof Robert McIver** (Avondale Seminary) The Traditions about Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels: Folklore or Collective Memory?

At the conference curtain raiser, held on Thursday evening we had the following speakers:

- **Dr Alan Cadwallader** (Australian Catholic University, SSEC Visiting Fellow 2016), Parables, politics and place: who controls land and sea in Mark's Gospel?
- and **Dr Rosemary Canavan** (University of Divinity) Jesus Clothed in Purple.... or Scarlet.

### Conference THANKS

Our thanks go to our conference co-ordinator Karyn Young, all our volunteer helpers and to the staff of Robert Menzies College for helping make this a great event.

### SSEC AGM

At the SSEC AGM, held 7th May 2016 the SSEC Committee for 2016-17 were elected as follows:

President: Alanna Nobbs; Vice President: Chris Forbes;

Secretary: Don Barker; Treasurer: Peter Edwell;

Committee Members: Leigh Hess, Lydia Gore-Jones, Peter

Eyland, Malcolm Choat, Gillian Spalding-Tracey, Benjamin Overcash, Angela Abberton, Paul March and Alice Baker.

Congratulations to Lloyd Graham being elected as a new Committee Member. Many thanks to Lisa Agaiby who has retired from the position this year. Note: many thanks to Returning Officer Paul McKechnie.

### Caption Competition

SSEC Committee member, Alice Baker advises the winners of the caption competition. Here are the winning entry and honourable mentions for the caption competition:

**Winner:** • Margot Taverne - I am not too impressed with your idea of a 'mystery honeymoon' darling!

#### Honourable mentions:

- Penny Carpentier - Two fish? I thought it was a carp-ax legomenon
- Richard Donnelly - If we lie quite still, maybe they'll think we're dead!
- Bryan Brown - Don't look now, but there's 5,000 hungry people out there, eyeing us off
- Vera Brown - There are better times ahead for us
- Chris Forbes - The fish John West rejects.



### Persons of Interest & Travel reports

#### SSEC Recent: Chis Dixon Medal

This year's medal is awarded to **Irene Petrou** for her doctoral thesis entitled *From North Africa to Byzantium and to New England: Augustine, Maximus and Jonathan Edwards on the meaning and shape of Christian Salvation*. The Chris Dixon Medal is awarded annually for 'the best thesis in early Christian thought and experience', a thesis bringing the light of the ancient world to the modern world. The medal honours the memory of Chris Dixon who received her doctorate posthumously in 2009. The Medal is awarded jointly by the Centre for the History of Christian Thought and Experience (CTE) and the Society for the Study of Early Christianity (SSEC).



Caption: Stuart Piggin and Irene Petrou wearing the Chris Dixon Medal after her graduation on 14 April 2016. Photo provided by Stuart Piggin

#### SSEC awards

##### Patricia Geidans Prize for 2016

At an award ceremony in April the inaugural Patricia Geidans Prize was awarded to **Penelope Carpentier**, for her thesis on *The Political Function of the Jerusalem Temple in the Seleucid Era (200-167 BCE)*.

This prize is awarded for the best thesis in the Master of Research program in the broad area of Early Christian and Jewish Studies. Patricia Geidans OAM received her Australia Day honours in

2009. She is a founding member of the Society, SSEC's long term secretary and continues to attend many SSEC functions.



Caption: Patricia Geidans OAM and Penelope Carpentier at the award ceremony  
Photo taken by Judy Eastman

### **SSEC Grants**

SSEC Postgraduate Travelling Grants Each year SSEC offers up to 4 travelling grants to members who are also postgraduates enrolled in higher degree work in Ancient History at Macquarie. These are awarded competitively and are worth up to \$500. Please apply to the secretary outlining your proposed travel, how it helps your thesis completion and how the money is to be spent. It may not, by University rules, be spent on air travel but can be used for conference registration or accommodation, for internal travel, etc. All refunds are given after the presentation of receipts. Winners are asked please to provide a short report for the following SSEC newsletter. The SSEC Committee agreed to give **Antonia St Demiana** a SSEC \$500 travelling grant toward her producing a new edition of a Coptic Leviticus manuscript. Congratulations to Antonia. We look forward to your short travel report.

### **SSEC Small Travel grant**

Report of thanks by **Emlyn Dodd** – PhD Candidate: Archaeology

In September 2015, I was the privileged recipient of a SSEC Small Travel Grant to be used towards my current research in Greece. The primary purpose of this research trip was to identify a corpus of archaeological data evidencing the paleochristian viticulture of sites in Athens and on Delos. While some features are briefly described in much earlier publications, I aimed to discover new evidence in the form of viticultural installations while also re-examining known features in order to illuminate previously unrecognised data. The project succeeded in both aspects.

This funding not only facilitated a field survey of known material culture in situ but also made possible the observation of spatial relationships between contemporary viticultural structures and paleochristian remains. The quantities revealed now call for an investigation into the place and significance of such an industry within the local and regional Church economy. The impact of these conclusions more generally also demands a re-evaluation and evolution of existing theories regarding population size and character on Delos from the 3rd – 6th centuries CE.

As facilitated by this SSEC funding, the data gathered has provided an evidential backbone for the consideration of new theories regarding paleochristian wine production on Delos. These theories will re-shape outdated interpretations of the Christian community on the island at this time and are already beginning to reinforce the notion of a fundamentally important viticultural industry within the paleochristian Eastern Mediterranean. I would like to express my sincere gratitude and utmost thanks to the SSEC and Macquarie University for their support of my research.

## **SSEC Travel report**

by **Mark Kulikovsky** - PhD Candidate

I would like to thank the SSEC community for supporting PhD students in their studies and especially for the provision of a grant to contribute to my accommodation costs while on a recent trip to Seoul, South Korea to present a paper at the 2016 international meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL IM), July 3rd-7th.

My paper was entitled: The Reception of 'Truth': A Comparative Study of the Johannine Epistles with Philodemus and Plutarch. It explored the similarities and differences between John's Epistles, Philodemus' On Frank Criticism, and Plutarch's How to Tell a Flatterer from a Friend regarding how the writers speak about 'truth' and how it was delivered and received. The session provided a good opportunity for me to defend the selection of documents in my comparative study and further expand on the method of my research.

Several participants requested copies of my PowerPoint slides and paper, and the chair of the Johannine Literature section of the SBL IM asked me to submit another paper for the next SBL IM in Berlin in August 2017. Thank you once again to the SSEC for providing grants which enable students to engage more widely with the scholarly community in their field of study.

Note: Mark Kulikovsky is a part-time distance-education PhD student working on the relationship between truth and love in the Johannine Epistles, under the supervision of Associate Professor Paul McKechnie and Professor Larry Welborn.

## **Scholarships**

There are a number of scholarships in Ancient History, such as:

- The Macquarie /Tyndale Travelling Scholarship, which is funded by SSEC.

Further details on applying for this and other Ancient History scholarships is on the ancient history website.

Further enquiries: Phone: 9850 8833 (Department of Ancient History Office), Email: [ancienthistory@mq.edu.au](mailto:ancienthistory@mq.edu.au)

## **Tyndale Travelling Scholarship**

It is our pleasure to announce that the 2017 Macquarie Tyndale scholarship was won by **Benjamin Overcash**. This is for travel in 2017. Congratulations to Benjamin. We look forward to a short travel report, next year.

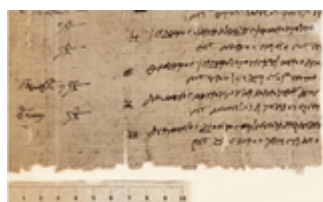
## **VALE**

### **Patrick Bernard Carey**

16 December 1946 to 18 July 2016

It is with deep regret that we have heard that Bernard Carey, has passed away after a long illness. Bernard was a member of the Society for a number of years. He was also a valued volunteer in the SSEC office processing all our membership receipts. He took on the role after he retired from Newcastle University NSW, as the Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University's Faculty of Business and Law.

He moved to Bristol in England. He leaves a wife, Hilary (also an academic) and 3 children (Eleanor, Benedict and Beatrice). All members of SSEC extend our condolences to the family. If you would like to contribute, please donate to Diabetes UK in Bernard's name at [www.justgiving.com/BernardCarey](http://www.justgiving.com/BernardCarey).



## SSEC Articles

Disclaimer By editors "The Society takes no position on the intellectual content of papers and articles."

### Introduction by Alanna Nobbs

The following article by Dr Don Barker is from a book he is preparing based on research conducted at Macquarie University for the Papyri documenting the Christianisation of Egypt. The book is aimed at the under graduate level of student and for members of the general public. It deals with the history of Biblical Manuscripts and how we got our Bible. If you would like to donate to this important research, then email me directly on [Alanna.Nobbs@mq.edu.au](mailto:Alanna.Nobbs@mq.edu.au) We are still working out all the technical details of how we can accept your donations directly on-line for this specific donation to Papyri documenting the Christianisation of Egypt.

### ARTICLE: Christianity in Egypt in the first three centuries, the beginning: Jews, Gnostics and St Mark

by Don Barker

Traditionally it was claimed that the Apostle Mark brought Christianity to Egypt in the early part of the first century AD. The earliest source that links Mark to Egypt is the early fourth century work of Eusebius, Bishop of Caesarea, in his Ecclesiastical History. There he states that Mark first came to Egypt between the first and third year of the reign of Emperor Claudius, which would make it sometime between AD 41 and 44, and that he returned to Alexandria some twenty years later to preach and evangelize. Jerome (c. 347 –420) records that the Christian School of Alexandria was founded by Mark and the first overseer appointed by Mark was Justus who later became the sixth bishop of Alexandria.



Caption: Ptolemy I Soter

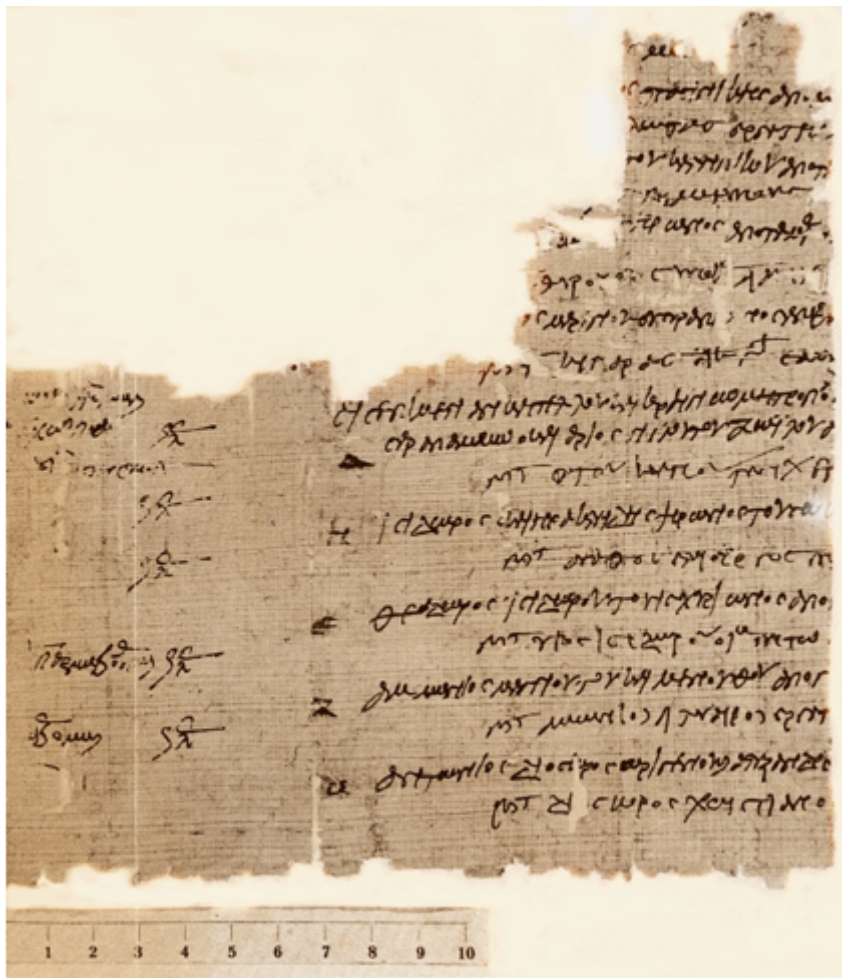
Like other ecclesiastical histories of ancient churches, this narrative went through centuries unchallenged until the early 20th century when A. Harnack stated in several places that Eusebius' report cannot explain the complex phenomenon of early Egyptian Christianity. Walter Bauer offered the strongest critique against the foundation of the Egyptian Church by Mark. The conclusion of Bauer was that the beginning of Egyptian Christianity was "heretical," swinging between a Jewish Christianity (the Gospel of the Hebrews) and a gentile/ national Gnosticism (the Gospel of the Egyptians) while Orthodoxy was as late as the first registered bishop of Alexandria Demetrius (189-232) who tailored the legend of Mark to serve the apostolic needs for his claims. Bauer argued that the overwhelming character of Alexandrian Christianity was Gnostic and that the second-century Gnostic teachers such as Basilides and Valentinus represented the majority of the Alexandrian churches. Bauer's thesis has been seriously questioned and undermined.

A consensus among more recent scholars, such as Birger Peason and Joseph Modrzejewski is that the proper understanding of the earliest Christianity in Egypt is within the context of first-century Judaism. Alexandria situated on the Mediterranean sea in Egypt was the second largest city the Roman empire and had a sizeable Jewish population in Ptolemaic period. The Jews after the native Egyptians and the Greeks formed the third largest ethnic group in Egypt. Some estimates put the number of Jews living in Alexandria as much as a third of the population. Under Alexander's successors, they were assigned two of the five districts in Alexandria. However in the Roman period tensions between the Jews and the rest of the Alexandrian population as well as the Roman officials were volatile.

In 38 CE the Roman provincial governor Flaccus allowed riots directed against Jews. Many Jews were murdered, their leaders were publicly scourged, synagogues were defiled and closed, and all the Jews were confined to one quarter of the city. On the Emperor Caligula's death in 41CE, after receiving support from their fellow Jews in Egypt and elsewhere Alexandrian Jews revolted against the authorities. The revolt was suppressed by the Romans. In 66 CE, influenced by the outbreak of the war in Israel, the Jews of Alexandria again rebelled against Rome. The revolt was crushed by Tiberius Julius Alexander and an estimated 50,000 Jews were killed. During the widespread rebellion of Jews in the Roman Empire in 115–117 C.E. the Jews of Alexandria again suffered and the great synagogue was destroyed by fire. As a consequence of these revolts the economic situation of the community was undermined and its population diminished. Nevertheless, and perhaps because of this disruption it appears that there was a considerable Jewish influence on early Christianity in Egypt. To discuss early Christianity in Egypt is to speak about Jewish Christianity at the same time. This view seems to be corroborated by a number of early traditions about the origin and development of Egyptian Christianity. The oldest source comes from the book of Acts in the New Testament. In Acts 18.4-25, it is said that an Alexandrian Jew named Apollos came to Ephesus and taught the things about Jesus accurately. Moreover, in the Pentecost account in Acts we are informed that in attendance at Peter's sermon were persons from 'Egypt and parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene' (Acts 2.10). The disputants in the controversy with Stephen included Jews from Cyrene and Alexandria (Acts 6.9). The traffic between Jerusalem and Alexandria was extensive in both directions and it is quite possible that some Alexandrian Jews who were converted to Christianity in Palestine would have returned home to spread their new found faith concerning Jesus, the long awaited Messiah.

In Pseudo- Clementines Homilies 1.9.1 we read that Clement wished to meet somebody in Alexandria who was acquainted with Jesus personally. He is introduced to a certain Barnabas who instructs Clement in the Christian faith. Clement also reports that he had been told by certain Alexandrian philosophers that they had heard about the Judean reported to be Son of God "from many who had come from there" How reliable this account is difficult to judge. Nevertheless that the earliest Christian missionaries came from Judea to Alexandria is inherently probable. The history of Christianity in Egypt, it seems, dates back to the beginnings of Christianity itself. Given the strong local tradition of a Markan influence in Egypt perhaps Mark's place in Alexandrian Christianity should not automatically be entirely eradicated in the suspicious agenda of Demetrius. The presence of Mark in the course of Alexandrian history could have been enlarged and embellished by the ecclesiastical authorities in Alexandria to strengthen its position in Christendom and was perfectly employed by the Roman Christian authorities. Whether we accept Eusebius's claim or a modified version it is clear that as Christianity spread throughout the Roman world it was established very early in Egypt. Under the leadership of the scholar Pantaenus, the Catechetical School of Alexandria became an important institution of religious learning, where students were taught by scholars such as Athenagoras (176), Clement (190), Didymus and Origen who was considered the father of theology and who was also active in the field of commentary and comparative Biblical studies.





Caption: List of nominees, SB 16. 12497

### Early Christianity in the Egyptian Countryside

Very little is known of how Christianity spread into the Egyptian countryside. It is not unreasonable to imagine that Jewish Christians who were caught up in the earlier Alexandrian Jewish riots and revolts against Rome sought refuge away from the problems and fled to the countryside so spreading Christianity into the Egyptian countryside, but this is speculation. There is no archaeological or epigraphic attestation of Christianity before the fourth century. There are some early Christian texts that have been discovered in the Egyptian countryside that have been dated by palaeographical means to the second and third centuries however this evidence is not without problems. One being the dating of the documents by palaeographical means which is fraught with difficulties. The other problem is the question of origin especially for the New Testament documents. There is a possibility that manuscripts were copied elsewhere and then much later delivered to Christians living in the countryside. For the third century there is some evidence for Christians in the countryside. A private letter, P.Bas.1.16 which has been dated by the handwriting to the third century uses the Pauline formula "in the Lord" and the nomina sacra. The content of the letter indicates that the correspondents are part of the municipal elite. SB 16.12497 is a list of nominees from landholders to undertake the supervision of the water tower and fountains of Arsinoë . One of the nominees is a certain Dioscorus who is described as being a Christian. Again this papyrus fragment has been dated by its handwriting to the third century. M. Choat comments concerning the identification of Dioscorus as a Christian, "by the mid-third century the profile of the Christian community in the Arsinoite capital was such that someone could be defined by membership of it". (M. Choat, 'The World of the Nile' in W. Tabbernee ed., *Early Christianity in Contexts*, Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, 2014, 192,) If the dating of these documents are accurate these two manuscripts indicate that by the third century at least there were Christians from the upper levels of society living in the Egyptian countryside and that there was a sizable number as to be noticed . The papyri documents give evidence of the expansion of Christianity, throughout Egypt in the second half of the third century. These documents include the New Testament and Septuagint manuscripts as well as unidentified Christian authors, hymns, prayers , apocryphal Gospels and letters.

# Calendar

## SSEC Calendar

Society for the Study of Early Christianity calendar of events 2016		
Date	Details	Venue and cost
Wednesday 24 August 2016 7:05pm	A Coptic Evening Speaker: Professor Heike Behlmer (Goettingen University), Topic: <i>The Copts in Modern Detective Fiction</i> . Enquiries to Malcolm Choat by email to <a href="mailto:malcolm.choat@mq.edu.au">malcolm.choat@mq.edu.au</a>	W6A 308 (Doc Centre) members \$5 alumni \$7 non members \$8 Proceeds will go towards the Coptic prize.
Friday 26 August 2016 Lunchtime 1:00pm to 2:30pm	SSEC Lunchtime Lecture Speaker: Professor Peter Arzt-Grabner (Salzburg University, Austria and Faculty of Arts visiting Research Fellow), Topic: <i>Birth, Marriage, and the Census in Early Christianity and the papyri</i> . Lecture plus coffee and discussion.	W6A 308 (Doc Centre) costs: Free at lunchtime
Thursday 1 September 2016 7:05pm	SSEC Lecture Speaker: Dr John Shannahan (PhD graduate Macquarie Uni), Topic: <i>Coins and Society in the Holy Land under the Persians</i> . His talk starts with the time of Ezra and considers how the coins might contribute to what we know from the Bible.	W6A 308 (Doc Centre) members \$5 alumni \$7 non members \$8
Thursday 29 September 2016 7:05pm	SSEC Lecture Speaker: Associate Professor Mark Reasoner (Marian University, Indiana), Topic: <i>'Torn between Two Lovers': The New Testament and the History of Religions at Macquarie University and the University of Chicago</i> . Brought to Australia by Sydney College of Divinity.	W6A 308 (Doc Centre) members \$5 alumni \$7 non members \$8
Wednesday 19 October 2016 7:05pm	SSEC Lecture Speaker: Dr Rachel Yuen-Collingridge, (the new SSEC sponsored Postdoctoral Fellow in Early Christianity), Project Topic: <i>Authority and Artefact: Magic, Scripture and Administration in papyrus manuscripts from Graeco-Roman Egypt</i> Note: Final lecture topic yet to be confirmed (as at 8 August 2016)	Museum of Ancient Cultures Seminar Room (XB5) level 3 members \$5 alumni \$7 non members \$8
Thursday 10 November 2016 7:05pm	SSEC End of Year/ Christmas Event (Date is confirmed) Speaker: Dr Mark Stephens (Excelsia College), Topic: <i>Jesus on Film</i> .	Museum of Ancient Cultures Seminar Room (XB5) level 3 members \$5 alumni \$8 non members \$10 (Light champagne supper)

Note : Macquarie University enforces parking charges up to 8:00pm daily.

Parking charges are \$10 for 1 hour, \$15 for 3 hours, \$40 all day (rates for 2016). As SSEC seminars start at 7:05pm, attendees need only pay for one hour.

Note: Several other events are TBA = To Be Advised. Further details will appear on the SSEC website as soon as they are confirmed.

Phone: SSEC Office (9850 7512), Professor Alanna Nobbs (9850 8844) or Ancient History Office (9850 8833)

Website: [mq.edu.au/ssec/events](http://mq.edu.au/ssec/events)

Email: [SSEC@mq.edu.au](mailto:SSEC@mq.edu.au)

## SSEC Conference 2017

For your diaries: next year's SSEC conference will be on

**Saturday 6 May 2017** - with the theme of Apostles and the Churches they Founded: History, Tradition and Legend,

• Call for papers by 30 November 2016. Please supply firm Topic, Bio, Hi-res portrait photo & abstract for consideration of the SSEC conference sub-committee.

## Non-SSEC Events:

### Events in ancient history of interest to members

Department of Ancient History Seminars - Session 2

Time: 4:30 sharp - 5:30 pm. Venue: Museum of Ancient Cultures Seminar Room (X5B), no cost.

A selection of these seminars are of particular interest to SSEC members:

• Friday 19 August 2016, **Ms Lydia Gore-Jones** (MQ PhD candidate)

Topic: Angelic Mediators: Gabriel, Uriel and Remiel in Jewish Apocalypses.

- Friday 16 September 2016, **Dr Louise Pryke** (MQ): The Sacred Scorpion: Myth, Monarch and Magic

and also at the same event, **Dr Brent Nongbri** (MQ): A First Century Papyrus of the Gospel of Mark (Not the One You Think)

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**Other Ancient History Lectures at Macquarie University**, in Conjunction with the Ancient Cultures Research Centre

- Friday 9 September, Time: TBA, Venue: Museum of Ancient Cultures Seminar Room (X5B), no cost. Half day Workshop: Scripture, Reception, and Authenticity. Faculty of Arts Visiting Research Fellow **Peter Arzt-Grabner** (Salzburg University, Austria) and other speakers.

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**Lectures at Mandelbaum House, Sydney University**

- Professor Matthias Henze (Rice University/Mandlebaum House Scholar in Residence), a series of topics, brought to Australia by the University of Sydney. More details through Fellowship of Biblical Studies (FBS) by email to [Rachelle.Gilmour@dbb.org.au](mailto:Rachelle.Gilmour@dbb.org.au)

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**More Events in ancient history of interest to members Department of Ancient History : Annual Studies in Religion Conference**

Date: Monday 14 November 2016

Time: Start at 9:00am, sessions from 9:30am to 3:30pm

Venue: Museum of Ancient Cultures Seminar Room (XB5) 3rd floor.

Cost: TBA.

This day, designed for teachers, features leading experts talking directly to the syllabus options. It includes a range of activities

and demonstrations designed to explore possibilities, and help you get the best outcomes for your students.

SSEC members & members of the public may possibly be able to attend a session or two, or even the full day depending on places available. At this stage the program has not been announced, if interested you should register your expression of interest in attending this event on their website: [studiesofreligionconf.com](http://studiesofreligionconf.com)

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#### Notices:

"The unique emphasis of our Society is one of history, the study of Early Christianity in its Jewish and Graeco-Roman setting." - Professor Alanna Nobbs AM

SSEC NEWS: is an email that is distributed to members from time to time.

Chief Editor: Prof Alanna Nobbs, Editor: Peter Eyland, Website: Mrs BJ Eyland, Emails: Karyn Young.

For further information about the Society for the Study of Early Christianity, to update your contact details or to subscribe to the "SSEC NEWS email" contact: [SSEC@mq.edu.au](mailto:SSEC@mq.edu.au)

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