

SSEC NEWS | March 2018. Welcome to the Society March newsletter.

We trust you find this useful and informative. It is easy to read on your smart phone, tablet or computer. No need to print this out. There are five "buttons" or images to click on below. Take a look and tell us what you think.

Our top stories



From the President's Desk

SSEC PRESIDENT | By Chris Forbes. [Read more.](#)



Conference & Upcoming Events

SSEC EVENTS | You are cordially invited to all our upcoming events. [Read more.](#)



SSEC Recent Events

PEOPLE, TRAVEL, HONORS, BOOKS | We have had a number of successful SSEC & Ancient History events in recent months. Travel Reports. Awards. Honours. Books. Happenings. [Read more.](#)



SSEC Article

WHAT ABOUT THOSE OTHER GOSPELS? | By Darrell L. Bock



SSEC Events Calendar

QUICK GUIDE TO UPCOMING SSEC 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.

Not interested anymore? [Unsubscribe](#) | [Contact us](#)

FIND OUT MORE

Macquarie University NSW 2109 Australia

mq.edu.au/ssec/events | [Previous SSEC newsletters](#) | [On-line donations](#)



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Society for the Study of Early Christianity



March 2018 Newsletter #87

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SSEC NEWS

From the President's Desk | CHRIS FORBES

Welcome to the **March 2018** SSEC newsletter. We have had a number of great events since our August 2017 newsletter.

In September 2017, it was our pleasure to hear from **Professor Darrell L. Bock** (Dallas Theological Seminary). His topic was: "**What about those Other Gospels?**". He was brought to Australia courtesy of the SCD (Sydney College of Divinity). SSEC Members were invited to attend this day time event. Read more later in the newsletter.

In October 2017, the SSEC Evening Lecture was given by **Dr David Starling** (Morling College) Head of Bible and Theology, Lecturer in New Testament. His Topic was : "**Putting on the New Self: The Theatrical Background of a New Testament Metaphor**".

Wednesday 8 November 2017, was the SSEC Year End Event. The speaker was **Associate Professor Ian Young** (Sydney). Topic: "**Into the Lion's Den: Daring to Be Daniel in the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Old Greek**".

At this event, we included a **Book Launch** by Dr Ian Plant, Head of Department, Macquarie University. This celebrated the launch of the third (and final) volume in a series edited by Mark Harding and Alanna Nobbs. The book is titled "**Into All the World**" and subtitled "**Emergent Christianity in its Jewish and Greco-Roman Context**" and has contributions by a number of SSEC members, (including myself!) and other SSEC supporters.

Also, the event included an **Exhibition launch: "Ben Hur to Brian."** This is an exhibition of posters that celebrate Jesus in film, collected by Liam D. Jensen, which have been displayed in the Museum of Ancient Cultures. See some great photos of this event later in the newsletter.

Many thanks on behalf of all Society members, to all the speakers for attending and making all SSEC events so worthwhile. Also a particular thank you to those SSEC volunteers, who set up seats, provide supper, meet/greet new members, and act as "hosts" to make everyone feel so welcome at all SSEC events.

We also have some outstanding events lined up for SSEC for the 2018. Refer to the "Calendar section" of this newsletter for full details.

Of particular note is the SSEC upcoming conference Curtain raiser on **Thursday 3 May 2018. Professor Troy W. Martin** (Saint Xaviers Uni, Chicago) with his topic "**Transfiguration: A Christian View of the Afterlife**". Professor Martin is the **2018 SSEC visiting fellow** and he will speak again on **Saturday 5 May 2018** - as one of our six speakers at the annual SSEC day conference.

We hope to see you at one of these great public events. Feel free to bring along a colleague, neighbour or friend.



Dr Chris Forbes
President SSEC
March 2018

REMINDER: THE UNIQUE EMPHASIS OF OUR SOCIETY IS ONE OF HISTORY. THE STUDY OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY IN ITS JEWISH AND GRAECO ROMAN SETTING

SSEC UPCOMING EVENTS

UPCOMING SSEC EVENT | Tues 6 March 2018

Speaker: **Dr Edwina Murphy** (Morling College) will be speaking on the topic of "**Early Christian Exegesis: Cyprian's**

Use of the Apostle Paul"

Dr. Edwina Murphy is the winner of this year's SBL-De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History for her work on "Cyprian's Use of Paul".



★ **Edwina Murphy**, a staunch Society member, and Ancient History PhD graduate of Macquarie University (supervised by Laurence Welborn with Paul McKechnie and Alanna Nobbs as Associates). Edwina was announced as the **Winner of the 2017 SBL– De Gruyter Prize** for Biblical Studies and Reception History.

From the announcement in 2017:

In partnership with the Society of Biblical Literature, De Gruyter is delighted to announce **Dr. Edwina Murphy** as the winner of this year's SBL–De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History. Murphy's manuscript, "Cyprian's Use of Paul," was selected as the 2017 winner by the prize committee.

"The growing interest in reception history has been accompanied by a recognition that biblical interpretation is not restricted to the writing of commentaries," Murphy said. "Treatises, letters, and homilies (not to mention material remains) also reveal the interplay of text, context and theology in exegesis, shaping belief and practice. The field is ripe for harvest and I would like to thank SBL and De Gruyter for encouraging scholarly laborers to enter it."

Dr. Anke Beck, Managing Director of Publishing at De Gruyter, emphasizes that De Gruyter has been pursuing publishing in the field of reception history for many years. "With the publication of volume 15 this autumn, one of our major reference works, the Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception will be reaching its halfway mark of the 30 volumes planned. This achievement documents the tremendous growth this rapidly developing area of research has had in recent years. Now in its fourth year," she said, "the SBL–De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History acknowledges the continued excellence of research and publishing in this field, and Dr. Murphy's work provides scholars with further knowledge on topics addressed in our Studies of the Bible and Its Reception book series. We at De Gruyter would like to congratulate Dr. Murphy and thank the prize committee for the invaluable time and effort spent reviewing the many top-notch submissions."

Edwina Murphy is Lecturer in Church History at Morling College, Sydney (affiliated with the Australian College of Theology and the University of Divinity). Her research interests revolve around Cyprian of Carthage and the early Christian interpretation of Scripture.

The De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History promotes the study of the reception history of the Bible and aims to highlight the broad impact of the Bible in a wide variety of historical contexts and cultural settings. SBL is grateful to De Gruyter for investing in this growing area of research and teaching, one that also cultivates interdisciplinary studies in the humanities. It is a service to SBL and its members, and we congratulate Dr. Murphy on receiving the award.

SSEC members extend their congratulations to Edwina for winning this prize. We are very much looking forward to her speaking to us on **Tues 6 March. 7:05pm**. Venue: **Museum of Ancient Cultures Seminar Room (XB5)** level 3, find us at **29 Wally's Walk, Macquarie University**.

UPCOMING SSEC EVENT | SSEC Evening Event - Thursday 19 April 2018 (date confirmed)

Speaker: **Dr Craig Barker (Sydney)** Topic: **"Jesus in Movies"** (Editors note: speaker and topic confirmed on 17 April).

Craig Barker is Manager of Education and Public Programs at Sydney University Museums. He has extensive experience in K-12 and adult museum education, and has published and presented on museum education in teacher and academic conferences and publications.

Craig has a PhD in Classical Archaeology from the University of Sydney and has considerable archaeological fieldwork experience in Australia, Greece, Turkey and Cyprus. He is the Director of the Paphos Theatre Archaeological Project excavating at the World Heritage listed site of Nea Paphos in Cyprus.



Above: Dr Craig Barker

Note added 17 April 2018: **Liam D Jensen** generously donated the "**Ben-Hur to Brian**" Daybill posters to the Museum of Ancient Cultures and will be giving a very brief description of this collection and how it came to be.

Liam will also be unveiling a special donation to the Museum of Ancient Cultures in honour of a very popular former senior Ancient History Department member (well known for his flamboyant Hawaiian shirts and amazing mane of hair), which has been a collaboration between himself and the Department of Ancient History. (Editors Note: Namely: **Associate Prof Tom Hilliard.**)

UPCOMING SSEC EVENT | Thursday 3 May 2018 is the **SSEC Conference Curtain Raiser Evening**, Speaker: **Professor Troy W. Martin** (Saint Xaviers Uni, Chicago) with his topic "**Transfiguration: A Christian View of the Afterlife**". This will be a great evening curtain raiser to introduce the conference **Theme: Jesus' Inner Circle: Peter, James and John**



Professor Troy W. Martin (Saint Xaviers Uni, Chicago) is the 2018 SSEC visiting fellow.

UPCOMING SSEC EVENT | Saturday 5 May 2018 SSEC Conference
Theme: Jesus' Inner Circle: Peter, James and John

SSEC Annual Day Conference Speakers: **Professor Troy W. Martin** (Saint Xaviers Uni, Chicago) is the **2018 SSEC visiting fellow**. At this stage, we are still planning this great event. Our international speakers include:

- **Professor Troy W. Martin** (Saint Xaviers Uni, Chicago), Topic: "**Christ's Healing Sore: A Medical Reading of 1 Peter 2:24**"
- **Dr Paul Barnett** (Honorary Visiting Fellow Ancient History Macquarie), Topic: "**Peter and Paul in Rome: Some Questions**"
- **Dr Michele Connolly** (Catholic Institute of Sydney), Topic: "**A Woman in the Inner Circle of Jesus? Intimations from the Johannine Mother of Jesus**"
- **Dr Christopher Forbes** (Macquarie Uni, & SSEC President), Topic: TBA
- **Professor Bronwen Neil** (Macquarie Uni), Topic: "**Leo the Great's Homilies on the Apostle Peter**"
- **Blake Wassell** (Australian Catholic Uni, Macquarie Uni Graduate & PhD Candidate at Uni of Otago), Topic: "**The absence of John from John: projecting the disciple into the book**".

Time: approx 8:30am to 5:00pm

Venue: **Robert Menzies College** Trinity Chapel 136 Herring Road, North Ryde 2113. Please advise: special dietary requirements - (Vegetarian, Celiac, Diabetic, no dairy, Kosher etc)

Same cost as last year (includes lunch, coffee/ tea & book of notes)

Non Members \$145,

Alumni \$140,

SSEC member \$130,

Pensioner (Age) \$95,

Student \$55

Part time Lectures at \$25 per lecture (SSEC Concession rate \$20 per lecture)

CONFERENCE REGISTRATIONS

[Click on this link](#) to download a form, to register for the conference (combined membership, renewal and conference payment form).

Conference Coordinator is **Karyn Young**, further information by email at SSEC@mq.edu.au.

COMING REALLY SOON. (On-line registrations - Trybooking - Link To Be Advised). Check on the SSEC Website, in due course.

FULL DETAILS OF FUTURE EVENTS

★ For full details of other SSEC upcoming events see the SSEC calendar, at the end of this newsletter. [Jump down to details of Calendar](#)

NOTICE OF SSEC AGM

★ Notice of AGM. Saturday 5 May 2018 - **SSEC Annual General Meeting**, Time approx lunchtime, Venue: **Robert Menzies College**, 136 Herring Road, North Ryde 2113. All SSEC members are invited to attend. This is an annual event, and forms a small part of our Conference program. It is conducted as part of the lunch break, so that members can attend.

As usual, after the Secretaries report and Financial reports are tabled, all positions on the SSEC committee are vacated, and a short election will be held. If you are interested in participating, either as an office bearer (President, VP, Secretary or Treasurer), or perhaps on the SSEC Committee, then please contact us by email at SSEC@mq.edu.au.

NOTICE OF SSEC COMMITTEE MEETING

★ The next **SSEC committee meeting** will held on **Tuesday 6 March 2018 at 3:30pm**, agenda and venue will be advised in due course, to SSEC committee members. SSEC committee members serve from May to May each year. Please consider this worthwhile role in our Society. Note: we are continuing to plan some wonderful events for 2018 and beyond. If you are interested in joining the SSEC committee then please contact us by email at SSEC@mq.edu.au.

SSEC OFFICE HAS MOVED

★ Notice of new address and phone number. If you have noticed, the Macquarie University is currently undertaken large building works, and the SSEC office, and all the ancient history staff have re-located.

Our mailing address is:

**The Secretary,
Society for the Study of Early Christianity (SSEC)
Museum of Ancient Cultures, X5B321, level 3.
Macquarie University NSW 2109.**

Our new physical location is:

**Museum of Ancient Cultures, Building X5B, Level 3.
29 Wally's Walk, Macquarie University.**

We prefer that our correspondence be sent via emails (if at all possible) to at SSEC@mq.edu.au. If you can not email us, then our contact phone number is Professor Alanna Nobbs on **(02) 9850 8844** - where you may leave a short message.

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT 2017

★ **Financial Report 2017** This report will be tabled at the SSEC committee meeting on 6 March 2017. Any enquiries to Karyn Young Treasurer and Honorary Secretary

SSEC FINANCIAL REPORT PRESENTED BY KARYN YOUNG, SSEC TREASURER

AT THE SSEC COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 6TH MARCH 2018

FOR THE PERIOD 1ST JANUARY 2017 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2017

OPENING BALANCE		37597.87
INCOME		
DONATIONS	2800.00	
MEMBERSHIP	3376.37	
CONFERENCE FEES	7286.36	
NEW DOCUMENTS	55.00	
TOTAL INCOME		13517.73
EXPENDITURE		
CONFERENCE COSTS	1788.64	
CONFERENCE SPEAKER COSTS	1083.29	
EBSCO SUBSCRIPTION	969.65	
FRAMING POSTERS	1800.00	
HONORARIUM – SECRETARY	750.00	
LIBRARY	103.11	
PARKING	160.00	
POSTAGE	18.13	
SALARIES	3009.04	
SSEC GIFT	300.00	
THESIS BINDING	247.05	
TRAVEL GRANT REIMBURSEMENT	2500.00	
TYNDALE FELLOWSHIP 2017	1898.62	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		14627.53
CLOSING BALANCE		36488.07

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT 2016 - MENTIONED AT LAST YEARS AGM

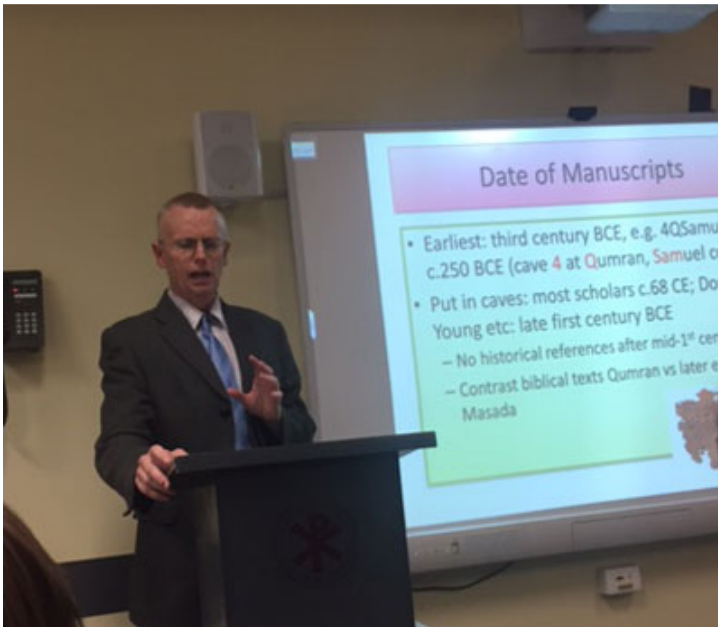
★ Financial Report 2016

Note: At the AGM on Saturday 6 May 2017, the chairman of the AGM, **Paul McKecknie**, explained that **Peter Edwell** had given his apologies to the AGM meeting. The accounting/ financial details from the University and bank balances of accounts for the 2016 year were to be forwarded to Karyn Young (incoming Secretary/ Treasurer) to prepare the Income/Expenses and the Balance Sheet (assets & liabilities) for 2016 year, in consultation with Peter Edwell. These will be made available for scrutiny by members and will be available at the SSEC office in due course.

SSEC RECENT EVENTS

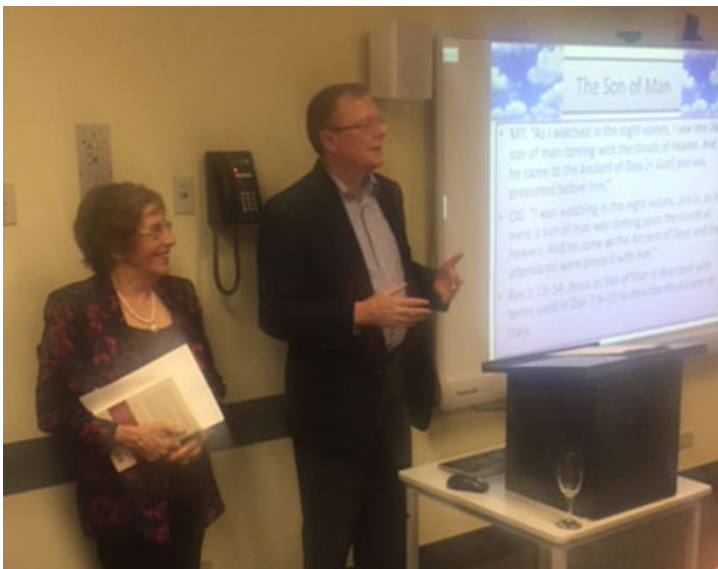
SSEC RECENT EVENT | Review of Christmas/End of Year function, Book Launch & Posters

Wednesday 8 Nov 2017, was our End of Year/ Christmas Event. The speaker was **Associate Professor Ian Young** (Sydney). Topic: "**Into the Lion's Den: Daring to Be Daniel in the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Old Greek**". This was an informative and enlightening talk about dating manuscripts. It was very well attended and carefully argued.



Caption: Associate Prof Ian Young (Sydney)

At this event, we included a **Book Launch** by Dr. Ian Plant, Head of Department, Macquarie University. This celebrates the third (and final) volume in a series edited by **Mark Harding and Alanna Nobbs**. The book is titled **"Into All the World :Emergent Christianity in Its Jewish and Greco-Roman Context"** and has contributions by our new President, Chris Forbes, among many other SSEC friends and supporters. See further details below.



Caption: SSEC Vice President Professor Alanna Nobbs with Mark Harding, at the book launch.

Also, the event included an **Exhibition launch: "Ben Hur to Brian."** An exhibition of posters that celebrate **Jesus in film**, collected by Liam D. Jensen, to be displayed in the Museum of Ancient Cultures.



Caption: SSEC President Dr Chris Forbes congratulating Liam D. Jensen.



Caption Above: Liam D. Jensen, with one of the posters.



Caption: Associate Prof Ian Young (Sydney) after his informative lecture.

SSEC RECENT EVENT | **Book Launch**

The following book was launched at the 2017 Christmas Event, and several members expressed their desire to purchase a copy, but unfortunately the list with their details has been mislaid. If you were one of these people, our deepest apologies. Could you please contact us asap at SSEC@mq.edu.au

"Into All the World : Emergent Christianity in Its Jewish and Greco-Roman Context"

DESCRIPTION

"Into All the World" — the third volume from editors Mark Harding and Alanna Nobbs on the content and social setting of the New Testament — brings together a team of eminent Australian scholars in ancient history, New Testament, and the early church to take the story of Christianity into the Jewish and Greco-Roman world of the first century.

In thirteen chapters, the contributors discuss all the post-Pauline New Testament writings, devoting attention to both their content and their context. They examine the impact of the growth of the church on both Jews and Gentiles, exploring issues such as the diaspora, minorities, the Book of Acts, and the Fourth Gospel. The book then proceeds to a discussion of the impact of Christianity on the Roman state, including consideration of the book of Revelation and the imperial cult. A final chapter investigates how the church was perceived by Clement of Rome at the end of the first century.

CONTRIBUTORS

Bradley J. Bitner
Paul McKechnie
Edward Bridge
Alanna Nobbs
Johan Ferreira
Ian K. Smith
Chris Forbes
Murray J. Smith
Lydia Gore-Jones
David Starling
James R. Harrison
L. L. Welborn
Stephen Llewelyn
Bruce W. Winter
Timothy MacBride

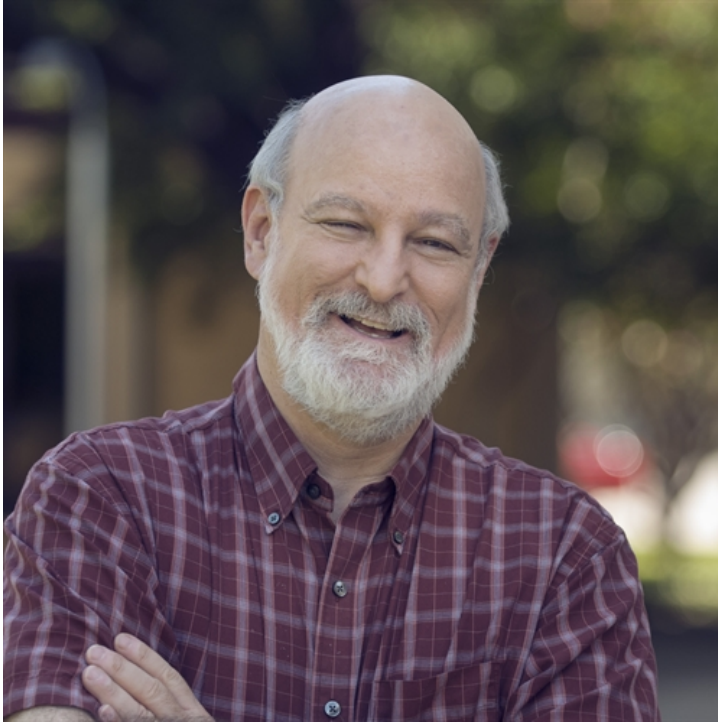
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE THIS BOOK, THE COST IS \$89.

PLEASE SEND US AN EMAIL AT SSEC@mq.edu.au ALONG WITH YOUR CREDIT CARD DETAILS. IT IS ALSO AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE AT THE CO-OP BOOKSHOP, MACQUARIE UNI CAMPUS.

SSEC RECENT EVENT | SSEC Welcomes Professor Bock for Daytime Lecture in Sept 2017

This was a great opportunity for all at Macquarie University, to meet with **Professor Bock**, in a number of smaller groups, over coffee or over lunch. It was valuable for our postgraduate students to hear from this international guest speaker. The discussions and questions after the talk were insightful and informative.

He has given us a summary of his talk, for inclusion in this newsletter, for those SSEC members who were unable to attend during the daytime. Read more later in the newsletter, under " SSEC Articles".



Caption: **Professor Darrell L. Bock** (Dallas)

Professor Bock is Dallas Theological Seminary Executive Director of Cultural Engagement and Senior Research Professor of New Testament Studies. He was brought to Australia courtesy of SCD (Sydney College of Divinity). SSEC Members and members of the public were invited to attend this enlightening day.

SSEC RECENT EVENT | Review of SSEC Evening event in October 2017

On Tuesday 24 October 2017, the SSEC Evening Lecture was given by **Dr David Starling** (Morling College) Head of Bible and Theology, Lecturer in New Testament. His Topic was : "**Putting on the New Self: The Theatrical Background of a New Testament Metaphor**". This event was well attended, and SSEC members found it both informative and well presented. Many thanks to Dr Starling, from all Society members.



HONOURS

★ **Chris Forbes** honoured.
Email advice from **Martina Mollering**

"It is my pleasure to advise the Faculty that on Wednesday, 1 November, the Academic Staff Awards were presented by Professor Sakkie Pretorius, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and Professor Kevin Jameson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Registrar, with several Faculty of Arts staff receiving awards and commendations for their excellence in Research and Learning & Teaching. I would like to warmly congratulate the following member of staff for their outstanding achievements.

**Student-Led Teaching Champions
Christopher Forbes (Senior Lecturer, Ancient History)"**

We wish to extend our congratulations to Chris Forbes on behalf of all SSEC members for this honour.

TYNDALE TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIP 2018 THANK YOU

Note from Marty Feltham: I'm flying home from Cambridge tomorrow 17 Feb 2018. Tyndale House has been amazing! My report for the SSEC Newsletter is below.

**★ Tyndale House Travel Report 2018
by Marty Feltham (PhD candidate)**

From mid-January to mid-February 2018 I was privileged to spend 4 weeks doing research at Tyndale House, Cambridge, thanks to a generous scholarship provided by SSEC and Tyndale House. While I was there I focused all my investigative energy on the opponents in the First & Second Letters to Timothy, a topic integral to my PhD. I can say without reservation that Tyndale House is an extraordinary place to pursue research — the biblical studies library is world-class and living on-site immersed me in a community of scholars who generously gave their time to help me think things through and chase down leads. I was also able to attend a couple of the Senior New Testament Studies Seminars put on by Cambridge University faculty members and was fascinated to see the calibre and vigour of their debate.

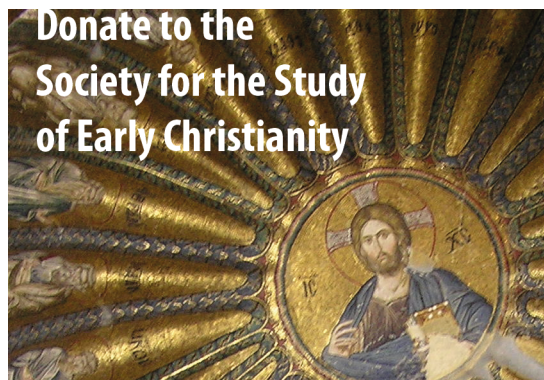
Thanks to a kind invitation from the convenor, I also had the opportunity to present a research paper at the Cambridge Postgraduate New Testament Studies Seminar, and it was a great opportunity to engage at length with some other postgrads who were full of keen insights and thoughtful questions. All in all, it was an incredibly rewarding time and I would like to say a very big thank you to SSEC and the generous donor(s) who so kindly funded the scholarship and made this fruitful period of research possible. It was very much appreciated!



Marty Feltham, Tyndale scholarship.

**SEEKING DONATIONS
TYNDALE HOUSE TRAVEL GRANT FOR FUTURE YEARS**

Each year, the Tyndale Travel Grant scholarship is provided by a donation by a SSEC member or members. We are once again seeking support for Tyndale House Travel Grants. These annual scholarships, enable students to travel to Cambridge UK, to visit Tyndale House in January each year, in conjunction with the warden of Tyndale House and via special arrangement with Professor Alanna Nobbs. These grants are very worthwhile for the individual students, for SSEC, and for fostering and supporting Macquarie University study and research into Early Christianity. Scholarships or travel grants cover the cost of airfare, transfers, accommodation, library costs, for a few weeks and we are seeking an amount of **\$5,000 each student**. The grants provide a worthwhile study environment and access to world class libraries, research facilities and/or archaeological sites for research. If you feel that you can assist with a special donation, either anonymously or perhaps in memory of someone, please contact **Professor Alanna Nobbs** on (02) 9850 8844, or by email to Alanna.Nobbs@mq.edu.au



SEEKING DONATIONS SSEC SMALL TRAVEL GRANTS (\$500)

Each year, we seek support from SSEC members, to supply small travel grants of **up to \$500 per student**, to assist in conference fees &/ or attending international events/ Conferences in the field of early Christianity. Payments are made to postgraduate students who are (or are willing to become) SSEC members(Students membership is only \$15).

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. Payments are made by way of reimbursement of bona fide costs, after the presentation of receipts. Winners are asked please to provide a short report for the following SSEC newsletter.

If you would like to support some of our younger SSEC members, at the post graduate level, then please contact **Professor Alanna Nobbs** on (02) 9850 8844, or by email to Alanna.Nobbs@mq.edu.au

COPTIC NEWS by A/Prof Malcolm Choat.

★ **Coptic Teaching Highlights.** It has been a very satisfying and fulfilling year. **Bruce Barnes** successfully passed his PhD (just needs to submit corrections, all signed off), "**Personhood in Coptic Hagiography: Strategies of Characterisation and Rhetoric**". Last year we were very busy with the Pope's visit, see below.

★ On 31 August 2017, Macquarie University played host to **His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, Pope of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt**, during His Holiness's first ever visit to Australia. See image below.



★ **Background.** Since its humble origins 15 years ago as an idea germinating in the minds of two young Coptic alumni, Coptic Studies at Macquarie has come a long way. Coptic Studies, which focuses on the language and culture of the Coptic people of Egypt, is a relatively unknown field of study. "The heritage and history of the Copts of Egypt has not received the attention it deserves," says **Peter Hanna**, a Macquarie alumnus and one of the founders of the program. "It's often treated as an after-thought to the glamour of Ancient Egypt, or as a neglected pre-cursor to Islamic Egypt."

Once Peter and his fellow Coptic alumna **Lisa Agaiby** developed their idea to help establish Coptic Studies at Macquarie, there was no going back. His Grace Bishop Daniel, Coptic Bishop of Sydney, soon signed an agreement with the University to formalise the sponsorship of the program by the Coptic community, and the rest is history.

Sixty members of the Australian Coptic community donated almost \$200,000 to enable Coptic Studies to start at Macquarie, and **Dr Heike Behlmer**, now Professor of Egyptology and Coptology in Göttingen, was appointed to develop the program. In 2006, Peter and Lisa became the first two graduates from the Masters of Arts in Coptic Studies – the first program of its kind anywhere in the world. "It wasn't even available in Egypt," says Peter. "How ironic that the history of such an ancient culture and civilisation has been supported by a country and institution as young as ours. It speaks volumes for the spirit of our country and its great institutions."

Since then, Coptic Studies at Macquarie has built an internationally recognised program, acknowledged by prominent scholars throughout the world as providing world-class graduates, and one of most prominent centres in the study of Coptic language and culture. The Macquarie program is still the only one of its kind in Australia.

Coptic Studies has also been awarded four Australian Research Council-funded Discovery Projects since 2006, totalling \$675,000 in funding. "It's a great privilege that my work allows me to pass on what I know about the Coptic language and culture," says **Associate Professor Malcolm Choat**, convenor of the Coptic Studies program at Macquarie. "And I get to uncover more and more about it through my research; I save people in the past from being lost to history by connecting them to the present, and I get to use history to help communities maintain their traditions. It's an enormous privilege, and it's thanks to Coptic Studies."

Find out more about Coptic Studies at Macquarie on the website. [Click here](#)

ANCIENT ISRAEL PROGRAM

★ Macquarie Uni hunts for King David

by **Gil Davis**

42 students in the Ancient Israel Program have travelled to Israel to undertake units set up between Macquarie and Hebrew Universities. These include a Biblical Archaeology Course, an Ulpan (modern Hebrew) and an archaeological dig at the site of Khirbet el-Rai. All have been organised by the director of the Israel Program, **Dr Gil Davis**. The dig is being co-directed by our own **Dr Kyle Keimer** and **Professor Yossi Garfinkel** from Hebrew University. This site is similar to and contemporary with the neighbouring site of Quirbet Khaifa which Yossi has convincingly argued us a Judahite site dating to the time of King David. Both sites were violently destroyed probably by the neighbouring Philistines.

Hopefully our excavations will soon reveal the answers.



Caption: Digging can be so tiring



Caption: Professor Yossi Garfinkel briefs the students

SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES

★ Macquarie Ancient History Scholarships

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

- The **Macquarie /Tyndale Travelling Scholarship**, which is funded by SSEC. The closing date will be - **March 2018**. Details will be on the Ancient history website in March 2018.
- The **Sir Asher Joel Foundation Scholarship**. For further information gil.davis@mq.edu.au

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

- Which is [Link to Ancient History Scholarships](#)

Further enquiries: Phone: 9850 8833 (Department of Ancient History Office), Email: angela.abberton@mq.edu.au.

★ Other Macquarie Uni Scholarship & Prizes

Note: the University is undergoing a review of the currently published Conditions of Award for all 2018 Scholarships in view of these changes. Conditions of Award will be updated as soon as possible on the website.

- Which is [Link to Scholarships & prizes](#)

Higher Degree Research Scholarships

Note: for recipients, if they are postgrad (HDR) students they must fill in an OSR (off site report) before they go and also need to consult one of the departmental administrators before they go.

Prizes include (among others):

- **Patricia Geidan's Prize** for the best thesis in the Master of Research program in the broad area of Early Christian and Jewish Studies.
- **Society for the Study of Early Christianity Prize** for the highest achievement in a 200-level Early Christian and Jewish History unit.
- **Society for the Study of Early Christianity Prize for Coptic History** for proficiency in the unit AHPG855 The Art and Archaeology of Coptic Monasticism or AHPG856 Egypt in the First Millennium.

When we know the winners of these Early Christianity prizes, we will let you know in future newsletters.

INVITATIONS

★ Invitation to attend BYZANTINE GREEK SUMMER SCHOOL | [KEN PARRY](#)



Ken Parry has advised this amazing opportunity for students, post grads and others who have appropriate levels of Greek language.

BYZANTINE GREEK SUMMER SCHOOL

Bogazici University, Istanbul

9–27 July 2018

[Click on this link for the details](#) (Download PDF)

Or from the uni <http://byzantinestudies.boun.edu.tr/index.php?page=events&id=23>

SSEC ARTICLES



ARTICLES

Note from **Darrell L. Bock**

The following is a summary of my lecture to the Ancient History post graduates at Macquarie University on September 27 2017. I express my thanks to the department for the kind invitation to speak, inviting me to follow up with this summary, and for hosting me in such a gracious manner during my visit to campus.

★ What about Those Other Gospels? | [DARRELL L. BOCK](#)

With great fanfare and some hype, the discovery of the Nag Hammadi codices in 1945 triggered much excitement with its cache of materials including an array of other gospels. These materials gave us a much fuller and deeper insight into what has become known as Gnostic Christianity, a movement of the second century that brought much hostile response from other Christian writers known as the Church Fathers. In the aftermath of the discovery, claims were made that included the common idea that history is written by the winners, so what gets suppressed are writings by the losers to our great loss in understanding the real historical circumstances. Such suppression has a negative impact on our understanding of what went on because some voices are not fully nor accurately heard.

Others claimed even more emerged from these findings. They argued that what these texts showed was a wide variation in what went with the name Christianity. So there existed no group having a better claim to pedigree to express what the

earliest Christian faith was. The result was the "Alternative Christianities" model of early Christian history, a view now widely taught and supported with a whole host of works on the "secret", "missing" or "hidden" gospels. What had been suppressed was now exposed and the claim was that early Christian history should not be seen in the same light.

Alongside the impact of these new discoveries came another claim about what became known as orthodoxy. It was that the unity of that movement was largely the product of work done starting in the late second century with the choice of a canon and the faith's eventual acceptance of the faith by Constantine. Irenaeus (late second century) is presented as the originator of orthodoxy by beginning to give the church a canonical consciousness that resulted eventually in the recognition of the New Testament in the middle fourth century. The argument here is that without a canon to regulate teaching the earliest Christian teaching was open to much development in directions that might have little to do with Jesus or that might all go back to him. In other words, the earliest Christianity is not as old or unified as later reflections on it argued.

There is no doubt that this discovery and the materials it unearthed have advanced our knowledge of these movements and filled out lacunae in our understanding of this period. But what of the larger claim? Do those other gospels really have a claim to early roots? And did the earliest teaching of Christianity really involve a contention between factions that had very different remembrances of Jesus with all of them having some claim to his imprimatur? I seek to examine this perspective by considering two questions: (1) Could an orthodoxy be passed on without a functioning canon? (2) Do those other gospels really have a claim to a pedigree going back to Jesus?

This lecture summarizes work I have presented in more detail in my book, *The Missing Gospels*. In it I took the writings of all camps and examined them carefully, using those written before Irenaeus as the barometer for the orthodox camp. I asked two questions. Was there a theological unity in the orthodox materials before the functioning of a canon? Could the other gospels have a pedigree going back to the earliest period given the Jewish roots of the Jesus movement? To get at the second question, I looked at four areas: the view of God and creation, the view of the person of Jesus, the view of the work of Jesus, and how salvation was seen.

Christianity before the Functioning of a Canon

In looking at works written before Irenaeus, it was clear there was a doctrinal unity in these materials long before Irenaeus's work. The formation of the New Testament did not form the teaching of early and emergent orthodoxy, it reflected that teaching. When asked how this worked before the formation of a canon, the answer comes in four levels of teaching in very public contexts that reinforced and instructed all in the church. They are (1) Scripture, namely the Hebrew Scriptures, (2) Summaries of doctrine present in short memorable form, (2) Singing, hymns that contained core theological themes affirmed in corporate worship, and (4) Sacraments that observed and pictured core teaching in participatory acts of the community.

Whatever the historical extent of the Hebrew Scripture canon in first and second century Judaism, the key texts were already well established. The Pentateuch, Samuel through Chronicles, the major prophets, Psalms, Proverbs and almost all of the minor prophets were accepted. They represented the books through which the early church made its theological appeals for its teaching. It was books, like Ruth, Esther, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes and Lamentations that were not yet so fully established, but none of these impacted the portions of the Hebrew Scriptures to which the earliest church appealed.

Short doctrinal summaries included a wide selection of texts each touching different core Christian themes: Rom. 1:2-4 (Jesus as human and divine), 1 Cor. 8:4-6 (a binitarian confession), 1 Cor. 11:23-26 (the teaching about Jesus' death in the Lord's Supper), Rom. 6:4-6 (on the new birth, raised to new life) and 1 Cor. 15:3-5 (on the resurrection). These are traditional materials covering core teaching in short memorable expressions. They are also very early, first century texts, significantly predating Irenaeus.

The singing includes hymns on core themes. Phil. 2:6-11 overviews the career of Jesus sent from heaven and, after his incarnation and death, exalted back to it. Col. 1:15-20 presents Jesus as the first born of creation, describing him as the one through whom all creation took place. This gives Jesus a position on the divine side of creator-creature divide, functioning in a creator role. This Colossian hymn also presents Jesus as the first born from the dead, again highlighting resurrection and new life.

Finally, the sacraments point to baptism as a picture of cleansing to new life, while the Lord's Table presents a regular reminder of the sacrificial, substitutionary, atoning death of Jesus.

All of this shows how unified the core teaching of the church was in this early period. A look at the pre-Irenaeian writings shows is that almost all of them affirm these most core ideas with a surprising consistency. The teaching of this group was well established and sociologically supported long before a New Testament canon was recognized.

A Look at those Other Gospels

What about the other side of the ledger? What do we see as we examine works from outside the "orthodox" circle? Here the major finding was tied to the story of the creation that is important to the dualism of these other expressions of faith. An interesting feature came with a look at God and creation in this community of faith. The key document at Nag Hammadi was the Apocryphon of John. That work was found in four manuscripts and the work existed in two versions, a long and short version. In it was the core creation story. It gives an account of a creation gone wrong from the start, the act of a female emanation who acted without consultation from the prime aeon. Her creation was flawed and one of the products of that creation was responsible for a flawed creation that was to become the human. Creation of humanity took place at a secondary level of the transcendent world. Some public claims argue that this movement was pro-female because female transcendentals are affirmed as a matter of belief. However they need to look at the details of the portrayal that are less than flattering. It is a female deity that created the flaws in our creation and the Gospel of Thomas 114 also contends that the only way females can be saved is to be made male! Only a secretive breath of the spiritual presence from the top aeon saved the flaws introduced in the creation, so that although the material element of the person was flawed, there was a spiritual feature of humanity that possessed a value that was redeemable about people.

What makes this so important is that this view of creation runs headlong into Jewish orthodoxy about the creation, namely, that the original creation was an act of the one Creator God (not a second level deity) and it originally was all good. In fact, it was very good. The dualism of these outside texts reflects a view that an embrace of the Hebrew Scripture would never accept. The tension here points to the fact that such movements and beliefs would lack a pedigree going back to the earliest expressions of Christian faith, which embraced the Hebrew Scripture's view of creation.

Tensions are also found elsewhere. The person of Jesus is seen as a revealer of mystery about the spiritual in people and is also portrayed in some texts as being virtually omnipresent in some spiritual form (Gospel of Thomas, sayings 13 and 77). This undercuts some popular presentations of Jesus in this material as being about a strictly human figure. He is rather shown to be at some level transcendent. What the teaching on the person of Jesus also shows is that there is no saving role for Jesus as a key figure of the faith. His role is more to guide others into a form of spiritual self-awareness. Also the movement is shown to be something only some of the disciples appreciated (here Thomas), portraying a severe divide among key disciples and pointing to an insider, elitist knowledge.

When it comes to the work of Jesus, the key here is that Jesus does not actually suffer on the cross, as his spirit departs the human shell of his presence before the crucifixion. This move leaves him laughing because he has fooled those who sought to crucify him (Apocalypse of Peter 81:7-23). This kind of teaching is the kind of thing we see traces of in the Muslim descriptions of Jesus' death.

Salvation is seen in gaining the self-understanding of being a spiritual being and living accordingly (Gospel of Thomas 111). Only some have this insight that is in contrast to the very public way the teaching of orthodoxy was circulated.

What one sees in these teachings is a prevalent dualism that does not fit an appeal to a movement that emerged from Second Temple Jewish roots. The influence of neo-Platonic elements is far more pervasive. When one adds to this that our evidence for this material only takes us back to the second century, the claim of a parallel and early pedigree is in doubt. What we also see is that these other gospels were truly other.

Conclusion

This kind of comparative exercise is a valuable one to pursue. As in much historical work, the angel is in the details. To see what is really going on, one has to dig deep below the surface level of claims. What we also discover is that as helpful as these findings were to open up for us a direct access to these early movements from outside the winning circle, there also was revealed an interesting discovery that what was secret, hidden and missing was not as missing a piece as some of the public discussion tried to portray. When the key Apocryphon of John text was read by the earliest students of this Nag Hammadi text, they also recognized that Irenaeus had told this story accurately enough in his late second century work that we could recognize that this was the creation story he was relating to us accurately second hand. He did it well enough that we could identify it later. The secret and hidden message was not so hidden and missing after all. We have known about it for centuries.

The summary we have undertaken also shows us one other thing. History may be written by the winners, but sometimes the winners deserved to win. In this case the claims for the most ancient pedigree land on their side of the debate. The claim of the alternative Christianities model is not nearly as strong as those who hold it claim. Maybe our earlier understanding of the history of the Christian faith is still the better way to relate that account.

SSEC ARTICLES

Editors Note: "The Society takes no position on the intellectual content of papers and articles."

VALE

MANSFIELD, Bruce Edgar (1926 - 2017)

Died at home in Gordon, on 9 September 2017, Aged 91

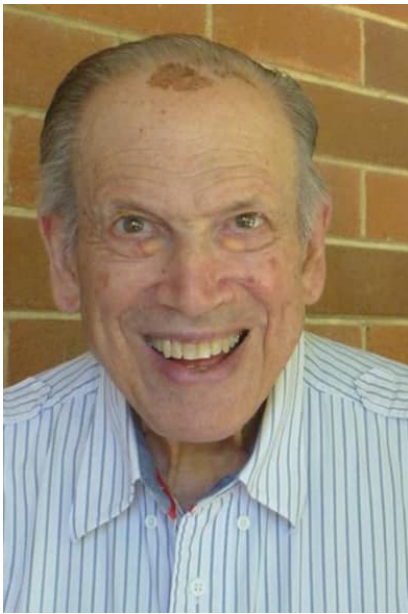
Much loved husband of Joan, father and father-in-law of Martin and Helen, Paul, Nick and Yvonne, Poppy to Emma, Oskar and Mathilde, brother and brother-in-law of Garth and Margaret. "A gentle man". A Memorial Service was held at 11.30am on Friday 15 September 2017 at Pymble Uniting Church, Pacific Hwy, Pymble.

He was a **founding member of SSEC**. One year he co-ordinated an inspiring "slide show" of images and photographs at the Christmas party highlighting the early days of SSEC. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him in SSEC. A great loss to all.

Emeritus Professor Bruce Mansfield AM was, like his principal historical subject, Erasmus of Rotterdam, truly a Renaissance man. His interests and achievements covered many aspects of Australian and international academic, educational, cultural and religious life.

He started his teaching career at Sydney University in 1949 as a temporary lecturer and soon progressed to associate professor. In 1965, when the family was in the United States where Mansfield was on a Fulbright Scholarship at Yale University, he received an appointment as the first professor (he disliked the term "foundation professor") of history at Sydney's third university, **Macquarie, which was to be his academic home for 20 years**.

Mansfield was passionate about the innovations introduced at Macquarie including supplementing lectures with small-group teaching, enrolling students who were not straight from high school, thus broadening access to higher education, especially for women, and Macquarie's inter-disciplinary approach. He believed that it was vital for students to be exposed to different academic philosophies and approaches, in order that they might become broad-minded, open-minded, tolerant Australian and world citizens.



Emeritus Professor Bruce Mansfield (deceased)

During his first decade at Macquarie, Mansfield taught undergraduate courses including "The West in Early Modern Times", which introduced thousands of first-year students to the study of history at university, supervised many postgraduate students, and led the School of Historical, Philosophical and Political Studies. Then, from 1976 to 1985, he was deputy vice-chancellor (academic) with responsibility for the overall academic life of the university. Mansfield's time at Macquarie was not an easy period to be an academic leader but he never wavered in his commitment to a broad pluralistic education and to the frank and honest contest of sincerely-held ideas and values. His involvement at Macquarie was the start of a family tradition. His three sons, a daughter-in-law and a granddaughter have all studied and taught at the university. After retiring from Macquarie, Mansfield returned to his alma mater, Sydney University, to continue history teaching and research.

Mansfield's historical research and writing initially focused on Australian history and culminated in his first book, on the life of the NSW politician Edward O'Sullivan. He also researched the British socialist William Morris while on a Nuffield Fellowship in England in 1953. But increasingly, in both research and teaching, the Reformation was becoming his predominant passion. He became a world authority, perhaps the world authority, on the life and work of the Renaissance humanist philosopher and theologian, Desiderius Erasmus. He wrote a three-part study of the widely divergent reactions to Erasmus and his ideas, starting with Phoenix of His Age, Interpretations of Erasmus circa 1550-1750.

Mansfield was a humble person and never went looking for honours but his various contributions have been recognised in many ways. He was awarded honorary doctoral degrees at three universities: Macquarie, Sydney and Charles Sturt. He received the History Council of NSW's Annual History Citation in 2005, and a Centenary of Federation Medal. And in 2009 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia "for service to education as an administrator and academic in the fields of theology and history".

Mansfield continued to read widely and to write right up until his death. He had just completed the text for a talk that he was to give on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. He was thrilled that Pope Francis was to attend celebrations for the anniversary but unfortunately he did not live to see them himself.

He is survived by his wife Joan, his brother Garth and their families.

[Click to read the full article](#) in the SMH about Bruce Edgar Mansfield

VALE

WEST, Roderick Ian West
29.06.1933 - 25.01.2016

Sometime Head Master of Trinity Grammar School. Dearly beloved husband of Janet (nee Conti); beloved father and father-in-law of Michael, Julia and Peter, Catherine and Colin, Marcus and Melainie; greatly loved Nonno of Daniel, Galileo, Alexander, Saskia, Carmen, Nina, Marcus, Angelica, Salome and Agapantha.

Loved son of Margery (nee Fraser) and Harry West, loved brother of Mary, Jack, Douglas, Catherine and Margaret (all deceased). "Awaiting the Resurrection"

Roderick's funeral service was held at the Trinity Grammar School Chapel, Prospect Road, Summer Hill on Friday 5th February 2016 at 11.00am, followed by morning tea. All clergy were requested to robe for the funeral.

SSEC extends on behalf of all members, the deepest sympathy to the family. **Professor Alanna Nobbs** has provided a copy of the editorial on the edition of Classicum I assembled in honour of **founding Society member Rod West**, shown below.



Honorary Prof Roderick West (deceased)

Classicum, Vol. XLIII.1

Editorial: Alanna Nobbs

Alanna Nobbs AM is Honorary Professor of Ancient History at Macquarie University.

This tribute to the work of Roderick West in the teaching and promotion of Classics consists of contributions by a very varied group of people who were touched (changed, even, given Rod's compelling personality) by his vibrant love for the classical world. Who could ever forget the look of infectious enthusiasm on Rod's face as he toasted the Classics at the annual dinner of the Classical Association?

As many will already know, Rod's Classics teaching began at Cootamundra High, Penshurst Girls' High and Fort Street, continued at The King's School and Trinity Grammar and did not end with his first 'retirement' from Trinity. He went on to temporary headships at Coptic Orthodox schools at Mt Druitt and Wattle Grove (at the urging of former Trinity pupil Peter Hanna), PLC Armidale and Kambala, and to teaching posts at MLC and Meriden up to 2014. Adaptable to the last, as befits a lover of the pragmatic Romans, he faced the challenges in his final years of teaching the International Baccalaureate. Nor was his teaching career confined to NSW and even Australia. In his time at Timbertop in Victoria he forged a connection with the young Prince Charles and as an early-career teacher taught at The Abbey School, Sussex, and King Edward School, Surrey. From these he learned much about boarding practice and was able to put ideas into fruition later at King's and Trinity.

For the complete catalogue of his teaching, I refer you to his semi-posthumous autobiography, *The Heart of Education*. West (2016). [The book was launched by his former pupil and ex-state politician Rodney Cavalier.] The book was conceived after particular urging from a parent and council member at Trinity, Neil Inall, and was largely written or dictated by Rod but finished by his much-admired wife Janet with the help of Graham Anderson.

A review of this by Robert Marshall is included here to whet your appetites. It is noteworthy that Rod's own 'most influential' Latin teacher, Mavis Best inspired him as he then did countless others, including (as the autobiography reveals), Prince Charles, who stayed in contact with Rod to the end. Rod's pride in those pupils who themselves became teachers and Principals was obvious from the glow when he spoke of them. One anecdote for me sums up Rod's presence and his teaching philosophy perfectly, so it's quoted here from the text of the book. You'll have to buy it to get the rest.

"One particular incident is engraved forever on my psyche. It was that most torturous eighth and last period on a sultry Friday afternoon. I was explaining to a Third Form Latin class the delights and intricacies of the gerundive of obligation, and how it should be followed by the dative of the agent. On this soporific day, as I warmed to my subject, I noticed a lad sitting at the back looking restless and quite ashen faced. 'Are you all right, John?', to which he blurted out: 'How can a nice man like you teach such an awful subject?'. Over that weekend, I realised that what was meat and drink for me was uninhibited horror for many of my charges. Latin is hard." [West (2016), 42.]

The anecdote continues with his conclusion that a more generous approach (rather than a negative one) produces better results. "If there is to be joy in learning there must be tangible rewards." [West (2016), 43.] Those who were fortunate to come into contact with Rod (in my case via the Classical Association) were encouraged to see and put into practice the long-term benefits of this approach.

Some of the following tributes have been solicited, others among them were spontaneously offered as soon as word of this edition passed around. The list could have been far longer, and it is representative at best. As it stands, our list of

contributors includes former pupils from way back in 1965 at Penshurst Girls' high, from Fort Street, from King's and from his beloved Trinity.

Appreciation of Rod's lifetime educational work was not of course confined to the Classics. He was made a member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2004, and in the 1990s was asked to write a report for the Federal Government on the funding of higher education (the West Report).

Alongside those from the obvious category of former pupils, tributes in this edition of Classicum come also from those who were employed by Rod, or were his staffroom colleagues, or simply those who crossed paths with him and were left with the usual very positive impression. The tributes and longer articles included here reflect various aspects of Rod's inspiration, either reflecting directly on his own influence and practice or else pursuing topics he would have found to be of interest. He did, after all, have a mesmerising enthusiasm for a broad spectrum of subjects including especially Drama, French, and English – though I believe that in teaching his first and highest love was always Latin.

As much as Rod's life was enriched in every respect by the Classics, it did not have the only or final claim upon him. Here we must make mention of his family. [It is fitting that as this article was in its final stages Rod's nephew, Associate Professor Stuart Piggin of Macquarie University followed (after his retirement) the longstanding advice of his uncle, and learned Latin. He received the equivalent of a High Distinction, a result of which his uncle would have been most proud.]

He always spoke with the warmest praise of his wife Dr Janet West, and of his children. His passion for Classics, drama, and modern languages has come to fruition in the interests and careers of his children. Much more might be said about Rod's life and particularly his faith, but as befits a Classics journal, our focus here is upon Rod's life and legacy as a remarkable figure in Australian Classics education.

Thanks are due to many helpers in putting together this tribute to an inspiring teacher and lover of the Classics. I would like to thank all those who supplied their reminiscences of Rod. Only slight editing has taken place, such that the reactions to Rod's career and influence are truly those of the writers. I must also warmly thank Alex Macdonald for his invaluable help in editorial matters, bringing this diverse collection of tributes into a form fit for publication, as well as Michael Smee for his sharp-eyed perusal of the penultimate draft. Tributes are arranged alphabetically according to the surnames of their authors, and they are flanked at beginning and end respectively by a review of Rod's autobiography and a research article offered in his honour.

**Alanna Nobbs,
Macquarie University**

Bibliography: West, R., *The Heart of Education* (Narrabeen, 2016).



SSEC Events Calendar - for 2018

Update 6 March 2018: "The SSEC committee recently voted to abolish all entry costs for meetings (except day conference). There will instead be a strictly optional gold coin donation. In the past the money thus raised, once the supper etc costs were met was banked and went towards the costs of the scholarships prizes etc supported by SSEC. If needed at the treasurer's discretion some of these may be a little cut back. However, it was felt and agreed that the members deserve the main consideration."

Note: Building X5B has been re-named **29 Wally's Walk**. The seminar room is in the same location, where we have met in previous years on Level 3, next to the Museum of Ancient Cultures.

Table 1: SSEC Calendar of Events for Year 2018

As at 4:00pm 9 March 2018

Date	Activity	Location	Cost
Tues 6 March 2018 7:05pm	SSEC Evening Lecture Speaker: Dr Edwina Murphy (Macquarie Ancient History PhD Graduate, Morling College) will be speaking on the topic of : " Early Christian Exegesis: Cyprian's Use of the Apostle Paul " Dr. Edwina Murphy is the winner of this year's SBL-De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History. Murphy's manuscript, entitled "Cyprian's Use of Paul," was selected as the 2017 winner by the prize committee.	Museum of Ancient Cultures Seminar Room (XB5) level 3	members \$5 alumni \$7 non members \$8
Thurs 19 (confirmed) April 2018 7:05pm	SSEC Evening Lecture Speakers: Liam D. Jensen . Topic: " Ben Hur to Brian " Possibly Dr Craig Barker (Sydney) not yet confirmed TBA, Topic:TBA	Museum of Ancient Cultures Seminar Room (XB5) level 3 29 Wally's Walk	gold coin donation (SSEC committee 6 March 2018 voted to abolish all entry costs for future meetings.)
Thurs 3 May 2018 7:05pm	SSEC Conference Curtain Raiser Theme: "Jesus' Inner Circle: Peter, James and John" Speaker: Professor Troy W. Martin (Saint Xaviers Uni, Chicago) with his topic " Transfiguration: A Christian View of the Afterlife "	Museum of Ancient Cultures Seminar Room (XB5) level 3	gold coin donation
Sat 5 May 2018 Day time Approx 8:30am - 5:00pm	SSEC Annual Day Conference Theme: "Jesus' Inner Circle: Peter, James and John" Speakers: Professor Troy W. Martin (Saint Xaviers Uni, Chicago). Professor Martin is the 2018 SSEC visiting fellow. At this stage, we are still planning this great event. • Professor Troy W. Martin (Saint Xaviers Uni, Chicago), Topic: " Christ's Healing Sore: A Medical Reading of 1 Peter 2:24 " • Dr Paul Barnett (Honorary Visiting Fellow Ancient History Macquarie), Topic: " Peter and Paul in Rome: Some Questions " • Dr Michele Connolly (Catholic Institute of Sydney), Topic: " A Woman in the Inner Circle of Jesus? Intimations from the Johannine Mother of Jesus " • Dr Christopher Forbes (Macquarie Uni, & SSEC President), Topic: TBA • Professor Bronwen Neil (Macquarie Uni), Topic: " Leo the Great's Homilies on the Apostle Peter " • Blake Wassell (Australian Catholic Uni, Macquarie Uni Graduate & PhD Candidate at Uni of Otago), Topic: " The absence of John from John: projecting the disciple into the book "	Robert Menzies College 136 Herring Road North Ryde 2113 Confirmed: Trinity Chapel	Same cost as last year (includes lunch, coffee/ tea & book of notes) Non Members \$145, Alumni \$140, SSEC member \$130, Pensioner (Age) \$95, Student \$55 Part time Lectures at \$25 per lecture (SSEC Concession rate \$20 per lecture
June- July no events due to University winter break.			
Thurs 16 August Lunch time event 12:30pm (sharp)	SSEC Lunchtime event : 12:30pm (sharp) Speaker: Daryn Graham (Macquarie Uni graduate) Topic: TBA Daryn Graham is author of "Rome and Parthia: Power, Politics and Profit" and "Finding the Lost Years of Jesus: A Christian Approach"	TBA	Confirmed no charge, lunchtime event.
September - TBA	TBA: Possible Dead Sea Scrolls Manuscript event	TBA	TBA
Thurs 25 October 7:05pm	SSEC Evening Event Speaker: Dr Karin Sowada (Macquarie) Topic: " Archaeology, the Bible and the Media " Dr Sowada is the Australian Research Council Future Fellow, Project 'Pyramids, Power and the Dynamics of States in Crisis'.	TBA Possibly Museum of Ancient Cultures Seminar Room (XB5) level 3	gold coin donation
Tues 27 Nov 7:05pm	SSEC Christmas Function Speaker: Dr John Dickson Topic: TBA	TBA Possibly Museum of Ancient Cultures Seminar Room (XB5) level 3	gold coin donation

Parking Update 6 March 2018: "The University is in the process of changing some parking costs and availabilities. We will advise what we know, but also suggest you check on arrival".

Current Parking Charges: Macquarie University enforces **parking charges up to 8:00pm daily**. Parking charges are \$10 for 1 hour, \$15 for 3 hours, **\$40 all day** (or for more than 4 hours). **Confirmed rates for 2018**. As seminars start at 7:05pm, attendees need only pay for one hour. We suggest public transport, buses or train to Macquarie University train station.

TBA: To Be Advised. When we hear more, we will let you know. This information will be loaded onto the SSEC events website. Short link is www.mq.edu.au/ssec/events (all in lower case).

REMINDER: THE UNIQUE EMPHASIS OF OUR SOCIETY IS ONE OF HISTORY. THE STUDY OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY IN ITS JEWISH AND GRAECO ROMAN SETTING

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS Notice for SSEC membership Renewals:

Membership renewals are in February/March each year. Membership rates have not increased.

[Click on this link](#) to download a form, to renew your membership (combined membership, renewal and conference payment form).

Note: The university Cashier insists on a paper form, but we are happy to print it for you if you sign, scan and return it to us via email: SSEC@mq.edu.au

NON-SSEC EVENTS: Events in ancient history of interest to Society members

★ **Note: from Louise Pryke**

I'm giving a free lecture at the Nicholson Museum, Camperdown on the **Saturday 3 March 2018**. Attached is a link with all the details:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/bad-blood-in-byblos-politics-and-murder-in-mesopotamia-tickets-42514851064>

This forms part of the 2018 Saturday series, Postcards from the Past, by Dr Louise Pryke.

Louise M. Pryke is the Lecturer for the Languages and Literature of Ancient Israel, at Macquarie Uni and a Research Associate at the University of Sydney. Her most recent book, "Ishtar", was released in 2017.

Also Hebrew C (AHIS358) is being run for the first time in Semester 1. We'll be studying a variety of texts including poetry and inscriptions!

★ **Hymns, Homilies and Hermeneutics in Byzantium**

On **Saturday the 18th of August 2018**, a symposium entitled "Hymns, Homilies and Hermeneutics in Byzantium" will take place at the Museum of Ancient Cultures, Macquarie University (9:30am until 4:30pm).

The symposium will explore the interactions between hymnody, homiletics and hermeneutics in Byzantium. It will probe how hymns and homilies functioned as a form of biblical exegesis in the liturgical life of the Byzantines but also more broadly in a performative and rhetorical sense.

While there will be a focus on the liturgical context of hymns and homilies, such texts could also engender imperial propaganda or create a discourse of subversion—themes that are not beyond the scope of the symposium.

Confirmed speakers include:

Professor Bronwen Neil—Macquarie University

Professor Wendy Mayer—University of Divinity

Associate Professor Eva Anagnostou-Laoutides—Macquarie University

Dr Damaskinos Olkinuora—University of Eastern Finland

Dr Meaghan McEvoy—Macquarie University

Dr Sarah Gador-Whyte—Australian Catholic University

Dr Andrew Mellas—University of Sydney

If you are interested in attending this symposium, please contact andrew.mellas@sydney.edu.au or on 0403 329 268.

★ **John Barclay** will be visiting Alphacrucis College on **1 March 2018** and will give a public lecture in the evening. Exact time and topic are yet to be confirmed, but we will aim for a 6 or 6.30 start. The night will include refreshments. More details will follow, but if you would like to come, please RSVP to adam.white@ac.edu.au for catering purposes.

★ **Continuing Education**

To download the 2018 Continuing Education information click here. Information is available about these **ancient history courses** for first session 2018. For further information please contact:

Phone: (02) 9850 9962 or (02) 9850 7512 Email: ahistconted@mq.edu.au

[PDF of all the subjects & details](#) (PDF 550kB) Enrolment cut off date is Tuesday 27 February 2018.

★ **Department of Ancient History Seminars - 2018 Session 1**

The convener of these session for 2018, Session 1 is gil.davis@mq.edu.au, please refer the ACRC (Australian Cultures Research Centre) website for further detail, or contact the Ancient History Department.

★ **MAHA** : Macquarie Ancient History Association

Short Link: <http://www.maha.ancienthistory.com.au/>

★ **MALS** : Macquarie Ancient Language School 2018
Winter Week 2018: 9–13 July

Notice MALS **new website** at URL at <http://mals.org.au/>

The Australian Centre for Egyptology (ACE)

Short Link: www.egyptology.mq.edu.au

or email enquiries to: egypt@mq.edu.au

FINAL NOTICES:

SSEC NEWS: is a digital newsletter sent by email to SSEC members, donors, supporters, university colleagues. It is a major marketing tool to the general public and to the wider community, who are encouraged to attend our public lectures and events.

Editor: **Peter Eyland**,
Newsletter layout, copy & Website: **BJ Eyland**,
(For suggestions or content email BJ on bjeyland@optusnet.com.au)

SSEC Conference coordinator: **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

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