

Editorial

After lamenting in last year's editorial about the arbitrary nature of the Australian journal ranking system, which was limiting the capacity of Australian academics to contribute to *Buried History*, I am pleased to report that the system has been discontinued. Although not completely as a consequence of that state of affairs, this edition of *Buried History* is the largest to date.

While it is good to recognise significant intellectuals, it is also good not to be starting this issue with a tribute to a departed scholar. However we do acknowledge the sudden death on 28 December 2011 of one of our Council members, Dr Paul Kitchen. Paul was a semi-retired surgeon who was beginning doctoral studies at La Trobe University researching medicine and surgery in first century Palestine. We offer condolences to his wife Merrill, who is a member of our Editorial Board.

During the year we were honoured to welcome two people onto the Editorial Board, namely David Gill, Professor of Archaeological Heritage and Head of the Division of Humanities at University Campus Suffolk, Ipswich, England, and Tim Harrison, Professor of Near Eastern Archaeology, University of Toronto. We were delighted to have a visit from Tim Harrison in May 2011. As many readers know he is President of the American Schools of Oriental Research and the director of the Tayinet Archaeological Project.

This edition has a distinctly Classical and New Testament tone beginning with a paper by Dr Jim Harrison on Augustan honorific arches. Dr Harrison has been Head of Theology at the Wesley Institute, Sydney, since 2002. His book, *Paul's Language of Grace in Its Graeco-Roman Context* (Paul Mohr, 2003), was the 2005 Winner of the Biblical Archaeology Society Publication Biannual Award for Best Book Relating to the New Testament, and his latest book, *Paul and the Imperial Authorities at Thessalonica and Rome* was published by Mohr Siebeck in 2011. We acknowledge Michelle Fontenot, Registrar of the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, who assisted with images for this paper and the cover.

We are again privileged to have a contribution from Albrecht Geber, this time on some little known ostraca at the Nicholson Museum, University of Sydney. Albrecht lives on a farm near Bendigo in central Victoria where he struggles with limited band width. This has not prevented him from completing a PhD at the University of New England involving German academic history in the early twentieth century. His book *Deissmann the Philologist*, (De Gruyter, 2010) is reviewed in this edition.

Greg Horsley has been a staunch supporter of this journal and has contributed a comprehensive piece on the first one hundred years of the Leob classical library. Since March 1995 Greg has been Professor of Classics and Ancient History at the University of New England, Armidale, NSW. He was the author of *Documents Illustrating Early*

Christianity series, which was produced by the Ancient History Documentary Research Centre at Macquarie University and published by Eerdmans. His most recent book *The Greek and Latin Inscriptions in the Burdur Archaeological Museum* (British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara, 2007) is reviewed in this issue.

Dr. Craig Keener has addressed the issue of the genre of biography in the New Testament world. He is Professor of New Testament at Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky, and author of fifteen books, including three commentaries that have won national awards. The book most relevant to the subject of this paper is *The Historical Jesus of the Gospels* (Eerdmans, 2009). In 2011, when Dr Keener was Professor of New Testament at Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University, Philadelphia, he was sponsored by the Institute to visit Australia where he lectured in Sydney and Brisbane. Craig is ordained in an African-American denomination and we pay tribute to him for the work he shares with his wife, Médine, seeking ethnic reconciliation in the U.S. and Africa.

We are pleased to include a brief contribution from Barbara Mordà reporting on her Master's thesis. She completed a Master of Arts in Archaeology and Conservation of Archaeological Heritage at University of Venice, Italy, in 2011.

We are grateful to Emma Rix who has provided a detailed review of Professor Greg Horsley's publication of inscriptions in the Burdur Archaeological Museum, Central Turkey. She is a member of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and works with Dr Peter Thonemann who is responsible for *Monumenta Asiae Minoris Antiqua XI*, a project that seeks to make available some 600 unpublished inscriptions and other ancient monuments in Anatolia that were recorded by Sir William Calder and Dr Michael Ballance over sixty years ago.

Albrecht Gerber's book on Gustav Adolf Deissmann is reviewed by Professor Edwin Judge. Edwin is Emertius Professor and Honorary Professorial Fellow in History of Macquarie University, he has a Doctor of Letters from Macquarie University, is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities and he is a Member of the Order of Australia. He is also a Fellow of the Institute.

John Noack is at present engaged in research at the Australian Institute of Archaeology and is researching the enigmas in the Gospel according to St. Mark.

As always we thank our reviewers and all who have contributed to this issue of *Buried History*. The voluntary and professional work of anonymous reviewers is the oxygen of academia on which publications like *Buried History* rely.

Christopher J. Davey