

Editorial

The Institute's move to LaTrobe University has started and will be largely complete by the time this issue of *Buried History* is being read. While it will be some time before the museum is re-established, the library and the artefacts themselves are available for research and study.

This edition of *Buried History* begins with a paper that was partly delivered as the 2005 Petrie Oration. Emeritus Professor Edwin Judge has kindly allowed us to publish his paper in full. While it is longer than normal, the paper presents the basic arguments supporting Professor Judge's view about the context of early Christian development in the light of current scholarship. As such it is an important work. The relevance of the paper to the early twenty-first century will also not escape many readers who are aware of the exploration of church and societal models.

Professor Judge has a classical background and became Australia's first Professor of Ancient History at Macquarie University in 1967. In the twenty-five years that he held the chair he changed the teaching environment for ancient history in tertiary and secondary education in Australia. His broad publishing record has advanced many fields of knowledge, especially the understanding of the first century world in which the early Christians lived. Professor Judge has many honours and distinguished awards and we were delighted that he accepted an Honorary Fellowship of the Institute.

The paper by Albrecht Gerber is a fascinating discussion about a most important philologist and archaeologist, the German theologian Gustav Adolf Deissmann. As Gerber explains, Deissmann was also important outside these disciplines. It is interesting to realize that in spite of his significant contribution to New Testament studies and international diplomacy, Deissmann has been all but forgotten.

We are indebted to Albrecht for this scholarly resurrection of the man. Albrecht himself is a doctoral student at the University of New England.

The paper on the Siloam Tunnel inscription by Terence Mitchell was previously published in *Faith and Thought* without illustrations and we are pleased to include it in this edition of *Buried History*. Before his retirement, Terence was for many years a Keeper of Western Asiatic Antiquities at the British Museum.

We are again pleased to have another paper about Kellis which is in the Dakhleh Oasis of the Western Desert of Egypt. Thomas Chandler and Derrick Martin have applied their virtual reality skills to the archaeological evidence. At this site the remaining walls are comparatively high giving a much greater reliability to their reconstructions than would often be the case.

A number of book reviews follow. In subsequent years we hope to increase this section of the journal.

This edition of *Buried History* was delayed because of the near end of year date for the Petrie Oration. That will not be the case this year so we expect that Volume 42 will be ready before the end of 2006. I am pleased to inform readers that the 2006 Petrie Oration will be delivered by Dr Kathryn Eriksson on the comparative dating during second millennium BC and the Exodus tradition.

Buried History is being included in a number of electronic databases so that its contents will have circulation well beyond our current subscription base. This will also increase its international circulation which has been growing in recent years.

Christopher Davey



The research library of the Australian Institute of Archaeology