

Editorial

During 2015 Australians will commemorate the centenary of the landings on Gallipoli. While the Australian presence in Middle East did not have a lasting impact, it did lead to the elevation of the General responsible for the successful Turkish defence, Mustafa Kamal. Ataturk, as he became known, created modern Turkey guided by a number of principles, one of which was the separation of religion and politics. Since 1947 events in the Middle East have blurred this distinction and archaeology is now being added to the religious and political landscape.

This volume of *Buried History* marks half a century of publication. Fittingly the first paper is co-authored by two scholars who have been active in archaeology for this entire period. Professors Eric and Carol Meyers of Duke University are preeminent archaeologists and Old Testament scholars who during 2014 visited Australia as guests of the Australian Institute of Archaeology. In their main lecture given to the Institute and reproduced here, Eric and Carol draw on their fifty years of archaeological experience in the Holy Land to explain their concerns about the current direction of the discipline.

They saw how earlier archaeologists were careful not to adopt approaches that put archaeological research at risk of falling captive to narrow Christian interests, but they now feel that not enough discretion is being exercised to preserve archaeology's intellectual independence. In particular Carol and Eric believe that archaeology can promote peace and they describe how this could play out with respect to their own site of Sepphoris, but as they explain, the Israeli government appears to be going in a different direction.

One possible attempt to influence the academic process is discussed in a paper I have written describing the beginning of ancient world archaeology at the University of Melbourne. In the event, wise heads prevailed and the overall aim of the Institute and its founder, Walter J. Beasley, to promote tertiary teaching of archaeology and ancient world history in Australia was successful. The detailed reviews of this paper by colleagues at the University of Melbourne and the Institute are duly acknowledged.

Professor Alanna Nobbs has provided an illuminating piece on the name of Maria in the early Christian world. Alanna has recently retired as head of the Department of Ancient History at Macquarie University. Her distinguished career included being appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for her service to ancient history and the classics in the 2012 Queen's Birthday honours. She continues as President of the Society for the Study of Early Christianity.

Malcolm Anderson is a Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne and also the Australian Institute of Archaeology. His first degree was in archaeology and prehistory from the Australian National University. In 1998 he completed a PhD in economics and last year he

completed a second PhD dissertation at the University of Melbourne entitled *Clearing the Ground: William G. Dever and the Reorientation of Palestinian Archaeology*. His paper derives from that thesis and describes Bill Dever's extraordinary influence on the idea of biblical archaeology. Bill visited Australia as a guest of the Institute in 2012.

Sam Wolff and his colleagues Baruch Brandl and Norma Franklin have written an interesting footnote to the paper in the last edition about Nancy Champion de Crespigny. They also add some fascinating detail about Nahman Avigad; his cartoons reveal him to have been an affable dig-team member. In relation to Nancy, reference is made to Miriam Davis' biography of Kenyon, in which the editor was also interested to read that Kenyon and Nancy visited Kourion, Cyprus, on the way to Samaria in early 1933. Kenyon intended to apply for a permit to excavate the site but was beaten to it by George McFadden. The Institute is now part of a consortium excavating at Kourion.

Reviews provided by Emeritus Professor Alan Millard, University of Liverpool, and Dr Andrew Jamieson, University of Melbourne, are greatly appreciated. Alan has been a long term contributor to the Institute and in recognition of this was recently appointed a Fellow.

While we turned to Professors Carol and Eric Meyers on our fiftieth anniversary, *Biblical Archaeology Review*, which is in its fortieth year, marked the occasion by interviewing them. They discuss the name Biblical Archaeology and their fascinating career. Included is an amazing 'Raiders of the Lost Ark' photograph, which can also be seen at <http://sites.duke.edu/downhome/eric-and-carol-meyers/>. Below is our photographic contribution.

Christopher J. Davey



Professor Carol Meyers 'capturing' a rock wallaby at Healesville Wildlife Sanctuary while Eric 'stands guard', during their 2014 visit to Australia.