

QUADRIVIA

The HPRC Newsletter



May 2009

Editorial

Your newsletter has been slow in appearing this year, for which your editors humbly beseech your collective forgiveness.

But in our defence we should point out that this is a School newsletter, and can only survive and thrive with input from across the School. Despite several appeals it can only be said that contributions have trickled in so far this year, leaving us with several extensions of the deadline and still not much to show. At this rate this will be the only *QUADRIVIA* to appear in Semester 1, and we hope that a few more contributions are forthcoming for the next issue, due in August.

Keep in mind that items and suggestions can be sent to us at any time, and we'll keep them on ice for the next issue.

Geoff Ginn (g.ginn@uq.edu.au)

Serena Bagley (s.bagley@uq.edu.au)



Head of School's Report

Welcome to first semester 2009. In April I was interviewed by the team from the Australian Universities Quality Agency Unit, responsible for university accreditation and for assessing the success of all universities in delivering quality teaching. Much is made of UQ's mission statement and the "UQ Advantage".

The UQ mission statement stresses three objectives: Learning, Discovery, and Engagement. UQ strives for the highest levels of excellence in teaching and learning to create a world class institution. UQ strives to have the highest level of research training and to apply research so that knowledge is generated. UQ aims to engage in multiple ways with the community, whether that is locally in Brisbane, nationally or internationally, reaching out to government and industry. UQ also has adopted the phrase the "UQ Advantage", to stress aspects of UQ that make it unique as a teaching and research institution. What does

this all mean for HPRC and what could I tell the AUQA panel about HPRC?

There is a definite advantage, as many aspects of HPRC are quite unique. We are the only tertiary institution in Queensland to offer substantial Philosophy and Classics programs. HPRC staff have teaching expertise in Classical Greek, Koine Greek, Latin, Arabic and Sanskrit, and use these languages towards building undergraduate and postgraduate expertise. We also offer a wide range of courses in Ancient History, Philosophy, Religion and modern History. We have the wonderful R.D. Milns Antiquities Museum as a central asset to our Classics and Ancient History discipline, and fully incorporated into teaching strategies. Philosophy staff have initiated innovative teaching links into first year sciences courses. Studies in Religion discipline has links to the Centre for Educational Innovation and Technology. And the School has recently appointed Professor Paul Turnbull as professor of eHistory.

Recently, I was asked by a member of staff what were the goals of HPRC in achieving teaching quality? As Head of School I have been working towards implementing UQ's general goals, but I also have other more personal goals in mind, such as fair and transparent distribution of funding, and to ensure that all teaching is of the highest quality, while encouraging the use of new techniques. I want the School grow into new areas and develop new strengths, without losing sight of quality teaching.

UQ and other universities are at something of a technological cross-road. The days when "chalk and talk" were supreme have just about gone, although the quality of teaching that often accompanied the more old-fashioned style of presentation are still with us. Certainly, tutorials are still at the centre of how we teach. I am very conscious that the advent of Blackboard as an IT teaching system has changed the style of delivery. Many of our courses are now what are called "Blended" courses, where there is a combination of conventional teaching styles with a series of IT innovations. We are experimenting with Lectopia: it enables automatic recording of lectures at the St Lucia campus along with Powerpoint slides, so that they can be listened to and watched as a remote package by students at a later time. Other staff make their own digital recordings

and replay them on the Blackboard system. These changes have come quite fast and it makes me wonder what teaching will be like in five or ten year's time?

For these reasons I have asked Professor Debbie Terry (Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) and Professor Phil Long (Director, Centre for Educational Innovation and Technology) to visit the School on Friday 22 May between 1.00 and 2.00 pm, to give us some background on what the possibilities are for Blended Learning in the future.

HPRC combines both the old and the new. Our four discipline areas are basic to the Humanities, and as UQ approaches its centenary it is worth remembering that in slightly different forms all four disciplines were there at the beginning. In another hundred years all four disciplines will still be part of UQ, although I would expect that the way the disciplines relate to each other, and to other teaching areas at UQ will have changed. This is what has happened over recent decades and it will continue to happen: such is the fluidity that makes any university great.

HPRC is constantly changing. We have recently appointed new staff in Studies in Religion and History, and we now have a Deputy Head of School, Dr Deborah Brown. While the AUQA review concentrated my attention in April, at other times it is our staff achievements in producing research and gaining grants that generates excitement. We have just begun a new HPRC Centre for the Government of Queensland, to replace the Centre for Applied History and Heritage Studies, based on substantial funding provided by the Queensland Government for Q150, the sesquicentennial celebration of the State. This development has led HPRC into new collaborations with the Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences and the Library. I am pleased to be able to be Head of the School at such an exciting time.

Lastly, take the time to visit the "Triumph in the Tropics: Selling Queensland" exhibition in the UQ Art Museum between 24 April and 12 July. The exhibition was curated by two HPRC staff, Professor Peter Spearritt and Dr Marion Stell. Those attending the opening were requested to dress for "Tropical Friday". I wore my best Fijian shirt but was outdone by many much louder outfits. The exhibition draws on the work of graphic designers who have "sold" Queensland on everything from T-towels to tea cups and travel posters. "Triumph in the Tropics: Selling Queensland" is an excellent example of how the new HPRC reaches out to the wider community. One hundred years on we are constantly re-inventing ourselves and remain as relevant as ever.

Clive Moore



Classics Haiku #1

Bacchylides, *Ode 4*

*Three wins at Delphi
and it should have been four! Still,
credit where it's due.*

Sophocles, *Ajax*

*He falls on his sword
in a fit of pique over...
another hero's?*

Euripides, *Heracles*

*Labourer from Hell
deconstructs house, family. Claims
'It's all Hera's fault!'*

Paul Murphy



School News

Andrew Gentes has been awarded a Kluge Fellowship from the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, which will fund several months' research in the library's collections next year.



Aaron Ghiloni (Religion) presented a paper to the annual meeting of the John Dewey Society which met in San Diego, California in April. The paper was titled 'A Deweyan Reading of Creation: Pedagogy as a Guide to Theology.' The trip was funded by HPRC.



David Pritchard and **Kriston Rennie** have received Early Career Researcher Grants. David's is for his project "The Impact of Democracy on the War-making of Fifth-Century Athens", and Kriston's is for his project "The Collection Burdegalensis: A Canon Law Collection in the Age of Reform".



Jeff Hopkins-Weise (former History postgraduate) has published a book, *Blood Brothers: the ANZAC genesis* with Penguin in NZ and Wakefield Press in Australia. Jeff and his partner Elspeth have just returned to Queensland after

some time in the Hunter Valley and have also just been married. Congratulations all round!



Nearby history: Toowong

From 5th to the 29th May Toowong History Group will celebrate with a display of 150 years of Toowong History at the Toowong Library on the third floor of the Toowong Tower, 1 Sherwood Road, Toowong.

Along with photographs of early Toowong and artefacts from days gone by, there will be a poster on the window of the library setting out events which shaped Toowong each year over the last 150 years. Our new publication: *TOOWONG: Tales of Toowong and early Brisbane*, will also be on display. Along with Toowong history it contains a number of stories describing early days in Queensland.

If you had an ancestor who came to Queensland on one of the old sailing ships there is a story from Rod McLeod, one of the founders of the Queensland Maritime Museum, which tells of the hardships people endured living on board one of these immigrant vessels for approximately three months. If you have memories of World War II in Brisbane, Bill Benson, a Toowong resident, has a story on what it was like being an American on General MacArthur's staff during those years. The book is on sale at the Book Bank opposite the library.

On July 18, from 10am, some of our authors will give a talk about the book at the library. On that day the 150 years of Toowong history will be for sale for \$4 in a photocopied format.

Marilyn England, Toowong History Group



Books for Papua New Guinea

I completed my PhD and graduated early 2006. The Huli church in the Highlands of PNG (where I worked for 20 years in a number of training situations earlier in my life) had been asking me for a number of years to return and help them to set up a ministry training college using English as the language medium. In the last couple of years I have had extended visits to the Highlands to discuss with leaders the possibilities and implications, and have taught a couple of intensive courses.

The new college, however, will be 'starting from scratch'. Apart from the possibility of buildings becoming available in the next couple of years, there is no equipment, no library, no reference materials. This is a poorer and less

developed part of the country, where rural wages are less than AU\$1.00 per hour – and very few are able to get paid work. By and large the people are subsistence horticulturalists and support themselves from their own plots of land. Most training in the past has used the vernacular and trade languages for instruction, and live-in students have had to make their own gardens and survive on their own produce. This self-support will also apply, partly at least, to the students at the proposed college.

The difference for the proposed new college is that the academic level of training will be higher (it will train students at a post-secondary, diploma level), and the language medium will be English. The urgent need is for English material, both as books that can be borrowed and reference books: books on theology, ministry, religion, Bible commentaries, and any books at all that will help students with English, even books of stories – but most importantly dictionaries and thesauruses. A good encyclopaedia, or encyclopaedia set, would also be invaluable in the reference section to give students access to wider knowledge of the world.

If UQ students, staff or alumni have books that they no longer need, or are throwing stuff out, anything that would fit into any of the above categories and are relevant in today's world would be gratefully received.

If doubtful about suitability, enquiries could be sent to me via email: smgould@tpg.com.au

Thank you.
Syd Gould



History in the Making

This semester's "History in the Making" work in progress day will take place on Friday, 5 June. Proposals for papers/panels on any topic of historical study are requested of faculty and students alike. Please send a title and 100-word abstract to Dr Andrew Gentes: a.gentes@uq.edu.au.



Haiku Classics #2

Aeschylus, *Prometheus Bound*

*Mess with Zeus, will you?
Man's benefactor reduced...
to eagle fodder!*

Pindar, *Pythian 7*

*Pious victors all,
Megacles' clan – what a shame
he's been ostracized!*

Pindar, *Olympian I*

*Water's best, gold's next.
Rich, but thirsting for success?
Just go west, young man!*

Paul Murphy



History in Harristown

On Friday March 13, John Moorhead, Andrew Bonnell and I drove up to Harristown State High School in Toowoomba to contribute to a day of history talks for the 12-year history students, aimed at students who may be considering an Arts Degree next year. In the last few years, Classics and Ancient History have gone to Harristown SHS for a day of ancient history talks; this was the first modern history day, on the same general principles, organized by the head of history there, Ms Donna Jones. There were well over 200 students, coming in from schools around Toowoomba and from as far afield as Pittsworth. It's encouraging to see so many young people doing history.

Andrew talked about Germany in the 1930s, John about Jews and Muslims: the Medieval Perspective, and I discussed Australia and Asia. Hitler remains as popular as ever. There were also a couple of other presentations by several local teachers. The home economics students prepared and served lunch – very nice too, though not exactly vegan-friendly. It was a good day, and hopefully it switched on a few students to the possibility of doing History at university. We have had good feedback from Donna since – and she is hoping that we can make it an annual event, as it already is for the Ancient Historians.

Marion Diamond, History Convenor



Some recent publications

Andrew Gentes, "Vagabondage and Siberia: Disciplinary Modernism in Tsarist Russia," in *Cast Out: A History of Vagrancy and Homelessness in Global and Historical Perspective*, ed. A. L. Beier and Paul Ocobock (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2008), pp.184-208.

Kirby, Danielle, 'From Pulp Fiction to Revealed Text: A Study of the Role of the Text in the Otherkin Community' in *Exploring Religion and the Sacred in a Media Age*, (Chris Deacy and Elisabeth Arweck eds.), London: Ashgate, 2009



Travellers Tales

At the end of September I arrived in Vienna to attend an international conference from 1st to 3rd October. My first two nights, before the conference began, were spent in a comfortable, modern apartment in a heritage building in the old part of town, sharing with an American colleague till her roommate arrived. It was a great location because of its proximity to the cathedral and other sites, all within an easy walk. The first evening, the two of us just walked round getting our bearings and admiring the local architecture. There were plenty of pavement restaurants with affordable food and we were also able to self cater in the apartment. The only fly in the ointment was the two flights of spiral stairs, and getting my bag and backpack down. However, the estate agent happened to come by and carried my port to the taxi rank near the cathedral. Lack of time prevented me from attending a concert and visiting the Freud museum.



The other four nights I spent in a hotel, sharing a room, and a bed, with another American colleague, who arrived after I did. On the train on the way to the

opening session of the conference at the Austria Centre, I noticed four women travelling together, who were variously dressed in a Muslim head scarf, a sari, or Western dress. I guessed they were going to the conference and asked them. Indeed they were. They were working in the Persian Gulf and were Palestinian, Indian and British. As I know three women who have worked or are working in the Gulf, educating health professionals, I mentioned their names, and these four women knew each of them well and regarded them highly. The world felt very small.

The first evening of the conference I attended a dinner in a traditional cellar restaurant with Mozart connections. I shared a table with people I had never met before, from Canada and Boston, and had an enjoyable evening with them. The restaurant is run by a father and son. The father, quite the raconteur, goes round the tables telling

stories of the cellar restaurant's past. So I assume the son does all the hard work. The second night of the conference there was a mayoral reception in the rathaus, which all of us who had booked for the whole conference were entitled to attend at no cost. On both these occasions I forgot to take my camera.

Conscious of my tight budget, I had not booked to attend the lavish event on the third evening, a dinner cruise on the Danube. However, earlier in the week a close friend of mine from Texas (that's Texas, USA, not Texas, Queensland) told me she had a very special surprise for me. She had paid for my ticket for the dinner cruise on the Danube. I was overwhelmed. As a result, four of us had a wonderful evening together – my friend, her sister, and two close friends, including me. It was indeed a highlight, partly because it was so unexpected, but also for the good company and conversation. The restaurant was the Piaristenkeller, under the Piarist monastery (Mozart composed for the Piarist order and his son attended the Piarist school). The schnitzel I had was melt-in-the-mouth tender.

The conversation was so good that I can't remember what else I ate.



The conference? Yes, it had an excellent

program and was worth attending. I presented two posters, one based on my presentation on the last History in the Making day in the School of HPRC. My first roommate was the presenter of one of the winning posters. A highlight of the conference was the address by Sir Richard Bowlby, son of John Bowlby of attachment theory fame. He was an entertaining and relevant speaker. Unlike conferences in the US, where at least some of the meals are included, at this conference people were expected to queue to buy meal tickets. There was practically nothing gluten-free.

Before the conference I managed to have a week in Exeter with English relations. My cousin had been waiting for me to come so that I could help her find her grandfather's grave in the Bridgetown cemetery in Totnes, which I'd located on one of my previous visits in 1982. The graveyard was very overgrown and the paths uneven. Normally my spacial sense would have sent me right to the graves, but nothing looked the same. This fazed me at for a while. After I got my bearings and worked out where the family graves should be in relation to the side fence and the back fence, I was able to go straight to them. A tree had grown, making the area look different, and its roots had tilted the gravestones. I had been looking for two straight gravestones, side by side. My cousin was pleased to find the grave of her grandfather and two of his siblings, next to the grave of the great-grandparents we share.

In retrospect, considering the mess I made of both legs in a fall on a bus here in Brisbane after my return, I am so relieved I didn't fall in the overgrown cemetery in Totnes. It might have made a good story, but not one I'd have wanted to tell.

Virginia Thorley (History)



Haiku Classics #2

Bacchylides, *Ode 4*

*Three wins at Delphi
and it should have been four! Still,
credit where it's due.*

Sophocles, *Ajax*

*He falls on his sword
in a fit of pique over...
another hero's?*

Euripides, *Heracles*

*Labourer from Hell
deconstructs house, family. Claims
It's all Hera's fault!*

Paul Murphy



PhD stories: Clive Ayre

After spending most of his life working in and studying the church, Clive Ayre has just completed his PhD in HPRC on religion's role in tackling issues such as climate change. "It's becoming such an important issue in general that it seems logical that churches get involved, especially since it stems from the most basic theology," he said.

Dr Ayre said his study had significant implications for social justice in addition to ecological issues. "Part of the problem has been that Christian theology and mission has tended to be anthropocentric, and along with the population at large, to have taken the natural world very much for granted."

To gauge the level of eco-theology and eco-mission practices in Australia, Dr Ayre created a targeted survey that was distributed to 90 groups and individuals, and conducted a series of interviews. "From that, I was able to build up quite a good picture," he said. "Part of my work

looked at such things as emerging themes, how eco-congregations form, why they sometimes fail, and whether they have a mission statement.”

His research took him to the UK to see what eco-friendly measures the churches had taken, and how these compared to those in Australia.

“There are a number of variations between Australia and England, mainly relating to issues such as heating and cooling, and the UK has a focus on local issues, such as cleaning up graveyards and recycling,” he said. “One thing I did like in Britain was that churches have a good support network available, and are able to work for eco-awards.”

Dr Ayre said that Australian churches at all levels are increasing looking at ways of helping to care for the natural environment, in co-operation with other groups. “Some are into local, practical issues, such as waterway cleaning in Sydney, and there are a number of those where people get their hands dirty, planting trees and gardens. In some cases environmental audits are being conducted, and the use of solar power is being explored. There are also some who include ecology in worship, have education programs, and encourage lifestyle integrity of members.”

“My own congregation has an ecological mission statement and is starting to implement it, but many other groups don’t know how to begin. My research gives them a theological background and a practical way to be eco-friendly.”

He thinks there is a lot of work to be done to encourage eco-theology education and eco-mission practices at various levels of the Church's life. “Care for the environment is part of the churches' charter and mission, and while my research was mainly limited to Uniting, Anglican and Catholic Churches, many of the major faith perspectives are saying very similar things,” he said.

“When you look beyond Christian religions, major world faiths are essentially on the same page with this issue. There is so much commonality. The official position is that faiths want to save the planet, but unfortunately this doesn't always filter through to all the levels.”



R.D. Milns Antiquities Museum

We're pleased to announce the acquisition of a Funerary Stele from Palmyra. Dating to the late 2nd - 3rd centuries AD, the purchase of the stele was made through the British antiquities merchant Charles Ede, a company which has a long standing and beneficial relationship with the Museum. The Stele represents one of the most significant purchases

by the museum in recent years and has created a great deal of excitement for Museum staff and volunteers.

Originally from the Turner collection, the large limestone stele depicts a young, clean shaven man wearing a toga, with facial features that are distinctly eastern in their execution. The upper right hand corner retains the fragments of an Aramaic inscription, the contents of which have not yet been deciphered. It remains to be seen if enough survives to provide a comprehensive translation.



Fig. 1: Object 09.001 - A Palmyrene Funerary Stele.

The Stele is a valuable addition to the museum, enhancing our collection of relief sculpture and artistic techniques that typify the social interaction of the Roman provinces. The use of the toga in this stele would suggest the possibility that the young man depicted held a position within the Roman administration, though it is also possible that he, or his family, merely aspired to a Roman lifestyle. The city of Palmyra was situated in the Roman province of Syria, and was an important stop for caravans trading in luxury goods, as well as being used as a legionary base against the Parthian threat.

The stele is currently on display in the front cabinet of the Antiquities Museum and is best viewed Monday to Friday from 9am-5pm, free of charge.

Suzanne Kortlücke and James Donaldson

