

THE APECSS NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2009

Asia-Pacific Early Christian Studies Society

Centre for Early Christian Studies

<http://www.cecs.acu.edu.au>

Newsletter Editors

Dr Bronwen NEIL

[<mailto:Bronwen.neil@acu.edu.au>]

Dr Naoki KAMIMURA

[<mailto:kmmrnk@nifty.com>]

GREETINGS FROM THE EDITORS

Dear APECSS colleagues in the fields of early Christian studies and patristics,

I am pleased to announce that this is the first edition of the newsletter with me as co-editor with Dr. Bronwen Neil, in order to increase the mutual relationship amongst the Asia-Pacific researchers. The information below is divided into four categories:

1. Report of the Fifth APECSS Conference in Sendai
2. Conferences
3. Position Vacant
4. Miscellanea: Research Grant Awarded, Recent Publications, etc.

This brief newsletter informs you the concurrent and imminent information about the matters in the area of patristic and early Christian studies in 2009 and 2010. Thanks for your enduring commitment to the activities of APECSS. We earnestly hope to see many of you in Melbourne next year.

Please send all items of interest for inclusion in this e-newsletter either to Dr. Bronwen Neil (<mailto:bronwen.neil@acu.edu.au>) or to me. Next newsletter will be issued in July 2010 by Bronwen.

With kindest regards,

Dr Naoki Kamimura

I. REPORT OF THE FIFTH APECSS CONFERENCE IN SENDAI

The fifth APECSS conference was held at Tsuchitai campus of Tohoku-Gakuin University in Sendai, Japan, from 10-12 September, 2009. The conference theme was "Letters in early Christianity". We were delighted to have Prof. Manabu Tsuji, from Hiroshima University, Hiroshima, Japan, as one of the three keynote speakers at the conference delivering his paper entitled "Beyond the Original Context: Reception of the Pauline Letters in the First Century". Second keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Geoffrey D. Dunn, from Australian Catholic University, showed us the part of his ARC project as the examination of the manuscript tradition of Innocent's letters, "Papal Letters of the Early Fifth Century: the Example of Innocent I". The conference was finished up with the fascinating presentation of the third keynote speaker, Prof. Ken Parry, from Macquarie University, entitled "The Lotus and Cross: Early Christianity in China and India".

Not only were the regular members of the APECSS well represented among the presenters and participants at the conference, but it was wonderful to see several South African, Russian, Canadian, and Japanese scholars join us as well.

It was great pleasure to have two plenary sessions, "Korean Poverty Project I and II", which have been funded by the Korean government for two years from 2008. Six South Korean scholars presented us their progressive research from various viewpoints of patristic thought.

The conference was a great success. Once again, let us thank the organisers of our APECSS conference at Tohoku-Gakuin University, for their efforts in bringing us together for a very enjoyable meeting, most especially Prof. Miyako Demura and her team of students from Tohoku-Gakuin University. As well, the Society has to extend the gratitude to the convenors of the conference, Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Dunn and Prof. Kazuhiko Demura.

As to the proceedings of the conference, the *Scrinium*, «Revue de patrologie, d'hagiographie critique et d'histoire ecclésiastique» will publish it. By the end of February 2010, please send your manuscript by e-mail attached document to: Basile Lourié, rédacteur en chef, St. Pétersbourg [<mailto:hieromonk@gmail.com>]. You are able to consult the «*Scrinium* Bibliographical Footnotes Style Sheet» on the *Scrinium* website [<http://scrinium.ru/news>].

2. CONFERENCES

The 2010 Korean Conference on the theme "Poverty, Riches, and Social Welfare (in Church History)"

will be held at Presbyterian College and Theological Seminary in Seoul [http://www.pcts.ac.kr/pcts_eng/index.html] on 19-20 March 2010. For further details, please contact Prof. Won-Mo Suh [<mailto:wonmosuh@hotmail.com>].

The sixth Prayer and Spirituality in the Early Church Conference on the theme "Politics and Religion"

will be held at St Patrick's Campus of ACU on 7-10 July 2010. Call for short papers now open. Please see this link for further details [<http://www.prayerspirit.com.au>].

The 31st Conference and General Meeting of the Australasian Society for Classical Studies

will be held at the University of Western Australia in Perth on 3-5 February 2010. Please see ASCS website for more details at [<http://www.ascs.org.au/index.php>].

Australian Association for Byzantine Studies XVIth Biennial Conference, on “Gender and Class in Byzantine Society”

on 16-18 April 2010 at University of New England, Armidale, NSW. Call for papers now open. Please see AABS website for more details at [<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~byzaus>]. It is not necessary to be a member to present a paper.

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the North American Patristics Society

will be held on 27-29 May 2010 at the Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza in Chicago. Now open “Call for Papers for Open Call Sessions, Prearranged Sessions, and Individual Abstracts”. Please see NAPS new website for more details at [<http://patristics.org/annual-meeting/call-for-papers/>].

The Canadian Society of Patristic Studies

will hold its annual meeting at Concordia University in Montreal from 30 May to 1 June 2010. The call for papers in English or French is now available. Please see the CSPA website for further details [<http://www.ccsr.ca/cspa/index.htm>].

The 29th International Conference of the Classical Association of South Africa

will be held in July 2011 at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa. Please see CASA website for more details [<http://www.casa-kvsa.org.za/Default.htm>].

3. POSITION VACANT AND SCHOLARSHIP

A postdoctoral position is available in the ERC project based at VU, Amsterdam and directed by Hagit Amirav. The project is entitled: “The Christian Appropriation of the Jewish Scriptures.” Please contact Dr Amirav on [<mailto:amirav@hetnet.nl>] for a flyer.

4. MISCELLANEOUS

Research Grant Awarded

Congratulations to the members of the Centre for Early Christian Studies at ACU, who have received generous funding from ARC.

Pauline Allen and Bronwen Neil, ACU, have been awarded \$262,000 for a three-year project entitled “Crisis management in late antiquity: the evidence of episcopal letters”. This Discovery Project is funded by the Australian Research Council (2010-2012). The two chief investigators will examine the Greek and Latin letters of bishops from 410-590 CE on such crises as natural disasters, climate change, population displacement, poverty, religious disputes, violence, and social abuses, seeking to anchor contemporary responses in their historical antecedents.

Recent Publications

Congratulations to the members (Pauline Allen, Wendy Mayer, Bronwen Neil, Geoffrey Dunn, Silke Trzcionka, and Edward Morgan) of ACU Centre's ARC-funded project "Poverty and Welfare in Late Antiquity" on their latest 2009 publication of *Preaching Poverty in the Late Roman World: Perceptions and Realities* (Arbeiten zur Kirchen- und Theologiegeschichte), eds. P. Allen, B. Neil, and W. Mayer (Leipzig: Evangelische Verlagsanstalt, 2009). Please visit the publisher's website [http://www.eva-leipzig.de/product_info.php?info=p2860_Preaching-Poverty-in-the-Late-Roman-World.html].

The volume 5 of the *Prayer and Spirituality in the Early Church*, eds. Geoffrey D. Dunn, David Luckensmeyer, and Laurence Cross, has been published from St Pauls Publications. It can be ordered from [<http://www.cecs.acu.edu.au/conferenceproceed.htm>].

Japanese young scholar, Jun Suzuki, one of the contributors to the *Prayer and Spirituality in the Early Church*, vol. 5 and the member of the Japanese funded project "Joint Studies in the Perspectives on Poverty in an Era of Crisis – Testing Some Social Models of Early Christianity", passed away shortly after the fifth *Prayer and Spirituality Conference* held on 9-12 January, 2008. We are grateful to our Japanese colleagues, Prof. Takashi Onuki and Prof. Miyako Demura, who have been edited Jun's posthumous papers for publication. His book entitled *Late Antique Asceticism and Evagrius Ponticus* will be published from Lithon publishing, Tokyo, on 15 December 2009.

If you have had a recent publication that you would like flagged here, please let me know.

Reminders:

The IAHR (International Association for the History of Religions) XX Quinquennial World Congress "Religion A Human Phenomenon", will be held on 15-21 August 2010 in Toronto, Canada. For further details see the IAHR Toronto website [<http://www.religion.utoronto.ca/resources/iahr/Home.htm>].

The thirty-sixth annual Byzantine Studies Conference will be held in 2010, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. For further details see the website [<http://www.bsana.net/conference/index.html>].

The next International Conference for Patristic Studies will be held in Oxford in August 2011. Please see the AIEP/IAPS website [<http://www.aiep-iaps.org/>].

The Japanese Society for Patristic Studies (JSPS) redesigned website is now available at [<http://c-faculty.chuo-u.ac.jp/~tsuchi/jsps.html>]. New items of interest include the contents of JSPS journal *Patristica*, the archived list of the JSPS Seminar, and the Links to the patristic societies and to the sites related to the early Christian studies.

Ecclesiastical Latin (3 units) and New Testament Greek (2 units) will be offered online in 2010 at Australian Catholic University. Please contact Dr. Bronwen Neil [<mailto:bronwen.neil@acu.edu.au>] for enquiries about Latin, or Dr. David Luckensmeyer [<mailto:david.luckensmeyer@acu.edu.au>] about Greek, or see the website of the Centre for Early Christian Studies Centre for Early Christian Studies.