

GEOFFREY DUNN 2002

Thanks to funding from the Centre I was able to attend the Colloquium at Princeton University from 9 to 11 January entitled "The Ways that Never Parted: Jews and Christians in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages." It was organised by the Department of Religion at Princeton University in conjunction with the Oxford-Princeton Research Partnership "Culture and Religions of the Eastern Mediterranean" Project. The presenters challenged the traditional notion that after Bar Kokhba revolt of AD135 Jews and Christians went their separate ways and had no further contact. Their evidence suggested a much more complex reality of cultural contact after that time between Jews and Christians. It was a tremendous experience for me to listen to scholars like Martin Goodman, Robert Kraft, Elaine Pagels, Paula Fredriksen, Daniel Boyarin, Peter Schäfer, John Gager and Averil Cameron, among others, some of whom I have not met before.



View from the Empire State Building: Princeton is out there somewhere.

I spent the remaining time in New York staying with Dr. Brian Kelty and his wife Mary. Brian is a colleague in the School of Theology at Australian Catholic University who is spending some time this year lecturing at Fordham University.



Brian and I outside his residence on a warm January morning in New York.

This was my first visit to New York and I managed to spend several days investigating Manhattan. It certainly is a lively and dynamic place, even in the light of the events of last September. I went down and lined up in the below freezing sleet and stood on the viewing platform to see the site of the World Trade Center. It was a moving experience. I also went to the Metropolitan Museum, which was a very uplifting experience.



The new lower Manhattan skyline.

On Friday, 10 May, Dr. Bronwen Neil and I presented papers to the annual gathering of the Brisbane Seminar Group for New Testament and Early Christian Studies. This is an opportunity for post-doctoral scholars to share some of their research. Bronwen and I were examining Clement of Rome and papal primacy. My paper was entitled "Clement of Rome and the Question of Roman Primacy in the Early African Tradition."

From 23rd - 25th May I attended the annual North American Patristics Conference at Loyola University in Chicago and presented a paper entitled Did Tertullian Have Anything to Say About the Jews? From 27th - 30th May I attended the Canadian Society for Biblical Studies seminar on Religious Rivalries in Carthage and the Canadian Society for Patristic studies conference at the University of Toronto. At the latter I presented a paper entitled The White Crown of Works: Cyprian's Pastoral Ministry & Almsgiving in Carthage.

After a couple of days enjoying the hospitality of Brian and Mary Kelty again in New York, where I had the opportunity to contrast summer with the winter I had experienced five months earlier, it was on to the Catholic University of America in Washington DC and their conference on The Early Christian Book. Bronwen Neil was also in attendance. Not only were there excellent papers, stimulating discussion and friendly colleagues, but the warm and generous hospitality of Dr Philip Rousseau. I even managed a little sight seeing then (6th - 9th June).



I should have used the photo of me going through the gate!

Then it was onto London for a meeting with Richard Stoneman from Routledge about the progress of my volume for the Early Church Fathers series on Tertullian. In London this time I had just enough time to visit Kensington Palace and St Paul's Cathedral.



The only trouble with this view is getting wobbly legs on the way down.

I was in Vienna from the 14th - 16th June to consult with Dr Leena Marie Pettomaa of the University of Vienna, who is the co-ordinator of the International Mariology Project, which involves our Centre at ACU National. Not only were we able to catch up with recent developments concerning the project and to plan future directions, but I squeezed in a whirlwind tour of some Viennese sights like Stephansdom, the Hofburg, the Imperial Vaults of the Capuchin Crypt and the Scloss Schönbrunn.



While I was out the back at the Schoss Schönbrunn...



...Leena Marie was out the front.

Then it was on to Rome till 27th June for some research work. No sooner had I arrived back in Australia then it was off to Melbourne to help organise last minute details for our third Prayer and Spirituality in the Early Church conference from the 10th - 13th July. This was certainly a rewarding if not exhausting experience. never before had I realised how many things a conference organiser had to worry about!



Still in FOCUS... at Conference Dinner!