

2012

With the end of my Australian Research Council fellowship at the end of 2011 the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy at ACU appointed me as a Senior Research Fellow for two years, working in the Centre.

From 5 to 9 February I attended the 33rd annual conference of the Australasian Society for Classical Studies, hosted by Monash University, this year held at the Hellenic Museum in Melbourne. I presented a paper entitled “The Religious Policy of Constantius III in Gaul” as well as attending the various ASCS executive meetings.



The Hellenic Museum, Melbourne

From 10 to 12 May I attended the annual incontro di studiosi dell'antichità cristiana at the Augustinianum in Rome with my colleague Dr. Bronwen Neil, where I presented a paper entitled “Zosimus and the Pardon of Caelestius.” From 17 to 18 May, again together with Bronwen, I attended the inaugural International Donatist Studies Symposium hosted by the Theology Faculty, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, and the Augustinian Historical Institute of Heverlee, where I was an invited keynote speaker. My paper was entitled “Optatus and Parmenian on the Authority of Cyprian,” and will be published by Peeters in *The Uniquely African Controversy: Studies on Donatist Christianity*. I am most grateful to the conference organisers, especially Dr. Matthew Gaumer, Dr. Antony Dupont and Prof. Mathijs Lamberigts for the invitation and for the hospitality, particularly the reception hosted by Peeters.



reception in Leuven hosted by Peeters



enjoying the reception



Bronwen and I working

From 24 to 26 May I attended the annual conference of the North American Patristics Society in Chicago. As an elected member of the Board of Directors I participated in several executive meetings, starting on Wednesday 23 May, and as an associate editor of *JECS* I attended the business meeting of the journal. I also presented a paper entitled “Did Zosimus Travel to Turin in 417?” Losing my reading glasses made giving my paper a little more challenging than usual, but I managed to survive.



the Board of Directors at dinner

From 29 to 31 May I attended the annual conference of the Canadian Society of Patristic Studies at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, in Waterloo, Ontario, as part of the annual Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, where I was this year’s programme chair, a duty I have performed twice now. I presented a paper entitled “Zosimus’ *Placuit apostolicae* (Ep. 1) and the Ecclesiastical Reorganisation of Gaul.” In addition, I was respondent in the book discussion about Tim Pettipiece’s *Pentadic Redaction in the Manichaean Kephalaia*. This was a pleasure to have read and the discussion was stimulating.



going hitech in Waterloo

Following these four conferences on the one trip, I returned home via Buenos Aires in Argentina and Santiago in Chile. It was my first visit to these two countries. There is something very European about Buenos Aires and it was most enjoyable watching some street tango at a restaurant. Flying over the Andes was spectacular and Santiago was interesting.



a day off in Buenos Aires on the way home

From 5 to 7 July I attended the 7th annual conference of the Asia-Pacific Early Christian Studies Society at the Presbyterian College and Theological Seminary in Seoul in South Korea, where I presented a paper entitled “The Clerical *cursus honorum* in the Late Antique Roman Church.” Our Korean colleagues were tremendous hosts, providing us with a spectacular dinner and a great visit to the National Museum of Korea.



speaking in Seoul

From 19 September to 14 October I was in Italy. First, on 20 and 21 September, I attended the conference at the Accademia d’Ungheria in the Palazzo Falconiere in Rome entitled “Pagans and Christians in Late Antique Rome: Interpreting the Evidence” organised by Marianne Sághy from Central European University. This was a well-focused and targeted conference.



view from the rooftop of the Hungarian Academy in Rome looking over the Pantheon.

On 25 to 29 September I attended the conference “Kampf oder Dialog? Begegnung im Horizont von Augustins *De ciuitate Dei*” (Conflict or Dialogue? An encounter with culture in the horizon of St Augustine’s *City of God*) at the Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum in Rome. It was organised by the Zentrum für Augustinus Forschung from Würzburg, and Christof Müller, its president, welcomed participants, and did Robert Dodaro OSA, the president of the Augustinianum. It celebrated the 1600th anniversary of Augustine’s great work. As part of this conference, participants were invited to attend the world premiere of the opera “Augustinus: A Mosaic of Sounds,” at the Apostolic Palace of Castel Gandolfo in the presence of Benedict XVI on 26 September. The opera, written by Wilfried Hiller and Winfried Böhm, was commissioned by the Diocese of Würzburg and performed by their cathedral choir directed by Martin Berger.



me at Castel Gandolfo

Benedict XVI speaking in the courtyard of Castel Gandolfo after the opera performance

After this I spent time in Italy consulting manuscripts from a number of libraries: the Biblioteca Vallicelliana in Rome, the Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana in Florence, the Biblioteca Capitolare Feliniana in Lucca, and the Biblioteca Ambrosiana in Milan. For the first time I visited Fiesole outside of Florence. While in Italy I also had the opportunity to visit Paestum and see the archaeological remains and spend a weekend on the Amalfi coast at Positano. This also enabled me to visit the island of Capri. On another weekend I was able to go and visit Pisa for the first time.



overlooking Florence



finally found the library in Lucca



Fiesole



at basilica of St Ambrose in Milan



Temple of Poseidon at Paestum



I didn't touch it

I also had the opportunity to revisit the Milvian Bridge in Rome since I would be speaking on this at a seminar in Sydney later in the year. On 4 December I gave one of the keynote addresses at the fourth St Paul's College Symposium "Christianity and the Prince: The Interweaving of Faith and Secular Power since Constantine" in University of Sydney, celebrating the 1700th anniversary of



Positano



Capri

the Battle of the Milvian Bridge. My paper was entitled "The Conversion of Constantine: Faith and the Political Life."



on the Milvian Bridge