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February 2020

From the Editor

Happy New Year to all AEMA members! I hope everyone will be able to stick to their resolutions to write that article you've been meaning to, mark more papers, or (as in my case) finish that thesis! I also sincerely wish that any of our members who have been affected by the truly dreadful Australian bushfire season can recover and move forward into 2020 stronger than ever.

As you can see, the AEMA Newsletter is starting 2020 with a bit of a new look and a new editor! I am very pleased to be taking on this role and want to thank Erica Steiner for all her (very) hard work on the newsletter for the last three years. She has turned the newsletter into an invaluable resource for AEMA members and Early Medieval enthusiasts in general. In an effort to preserve that hard work, the newsletter will rededicate itself to focusing specifically on AEMA members, activities

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and information on a quarterly basis - February, May, August and November. At the same time, we will be launching a new website as a more general Early Medieval resource, so check out Erica's introduction to the *AEMA Gazette* below! As for myself, I am looking forward to bringing my own Early Byzantine flavour to AEMA and the newsletter.

So, as we welcome 2020, AEMA has some fresh new projects on the horizon. We also look back to a wonderful Conference 2019, held at Monash University Melbourne, and forward with excitement to AEMA15 International Conference 2020, to be held at the University of Western Australia in Perth in October with the theme of *Journeys: Discovery and Belonging*. We have the CFP hot off the press below! And, as always, if any individual AEMA member has exciting projects, milestones, qualifications, publications or events happening, let me know so that all of AEMA can be informed, benefit from your expertise, and share in the excitement of your achievements!

Amy Wood
Newsletter Editor
info@aema.net.au

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AEMA15
JOURNEYS
DISCOVERY AND BELONGING

AEMA15 International Conference 2020

Journeys - Discovery and Belonging
30 September – 2 October, 2020

Call for Papers. Deadline: 31 May, 2020



The 2020 AEMA annual conference will be held at The University of Western Australia, Perth. Proceedings will begin on the evening of September 30 with a public lecture and reception for registrants. The conference is on October 1 and the morning of October 2. There will be a Masterclass for postgraduates and early career researchers on the afternoon of October 2.

Plenary speakers:

Professor Dáibhí Ó Cróinín (History, NUI Galway, retired).

Dr Victoria Flood (English, University of Birmingham).

The conference committee invites papers on the theme ***Journeys: Discovery and Belonging***. The period we study was marked by the disintegration of established political and social orders, widespread migrations and incursions, and rising competition between religious ideologies. Developing forms of inter-cultural contact and exchange gave rise to new ways of conceptualising and articulating identity and alterity, but while new boundaries – physical and ideational – were established, all boundaries remained porous. People, objects and ideas continued to circulate, to take journeys. How did existing communities and new migrants adapt to, or resist, each other? How were institutions modified to include, accommodate or exclude new worldviews? What was the role of material culture in holding fast to the old, and in legitimising and promoting new polities, new ethnicities, and new ideologies? How did cross-cultural contacts in the early medieval period shape history?

We invite submissions on any related topics, including the following:

- Exchange across borders - trade, culture, and human trafficking;
- Maintaining and modifying identity;
- Maritime exploration;
- Invasion, settlement, assimilation;
- Cultural geography: significant space and place;
- The book as traveller / the reader as voyager;
- Imagined otherworlds / imagined others;

- The idea and material expression of homelands;
- Emotions and journeys / emotional journeys
- Pilgrimage and adventure;
- Travel narratives;
- First contacts;
- Reading race and ethnicity: conflict and co-existence;
- Conversion and religious conflict;
- Accommodation and defiance—tensions in the quest to belong;
- Translation, adaptation, linguistic change;
- Viewing 'Europe' from outside;
- Afterlives of the early medieval in modern identity formation.

AEMA also welcomes papers concerned with all aspects of the Early Medieval period (c. 400 - 1150) in all cultural, geographic, religious and linguistic settings, even if they do not strictly adhere to the theme. We especially encourage submissions from graduate students and early career researchers.

Submissions may be in the form of:

- individual papers of 20 minutes duration;
- themed panels of three 20-minute papers;
- Round Tables of up to six shorter papers (total of one hour).

All sessions will include time for questions and general discussion. Please send proposals (150–200 words per paper), along with author's name, paper/panel/RT title, and academic affiliation (if any) to conference@aema.net.au by May 31, 2020. Enquiries about the conference may also be sent to this address.

A limited number of bursaries are available for low income PG/ECRs who are also AEMA members and are selected to present. Please attach an expression of interest with your paper proposal.

A Best Paper Prize will also be awarded for the best PG/ECR paper presented by an AEMA member. More details to come!

We look forward to seeing you in Perth in the Spring!

Andrew Lynch, Georgina Pitt, and
Rosemary Atwell (Conference Conveners)



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Achieving International Excellence

For further conference updates, please check the
Conference Tab on the [AEMA Website](#).



Elise Jakeman of ANU delivering her prize-winning paper, "Anarchy in Anglo-Saxon England".



AEMA14 International Conference 2019 Report

by Cassandra Schilling
Flinders University

Last October I had the pleasure of attending the 14th International Conference of the Australian Early Medieval Association at Monash University. It was my second time

attending the conference and the collegial atmosphere was once again welcoming. The conference theme, 'Legitimacy – Illegitimacy' spawned a variety of papers on all aspects of the Early Medieval period, prompting great difficulty in deciding which sessions to attend. For most it came down to the presentations most closely related to our own research, or the last moment flip of a coin. Unfortunately, I do not have space to review all the sessions I attended, so I'll limit myself to the three Keynote presentations, and a few others that really stood out for me.

The three keynote papers attest to the breadth in subject matter that the conference theme allowed. Adrian Boas' paper, *The Founding and Early evolution of the Tunic Order*, energetically discussed the excavations of Acre's recently located Germanic Quarter and Monfort Castle, demonstrating how the Tunic Order distinguished themselves from their Templar-Hospitaller origins in the crusader context. Lisa Karen Bailey's keynote, *Legitimate Violence and the Bodies of the Servi Dei*, examined Late Antique body politics, drawing parallels between the treatment of slaves and free women. She focused on 'legitimate' and 'illegitimate' violence towards religious women, and the distinctions made regarding sexual violence. Clare Monagle's closing keynote brought the medieval into the present as she discussed issues of cultural memory in her paper, *Notre Dame is Burning*. Her emotionally rich conversation on the distortion of medieval narratives of history and 'the West' impressed the purpose in our roles as historians and educators.

The quality and intrigue of the conference was far from limited to the conference's keynote speakers. I had the pleasure of attending Elise Jakeman's paper, *Anarchy in Anglo-Saxon England*, which examined the hierarchical models used to draw conclusions about Anglo-Saxon burial practices. I had this marked as not to be missed and it did not disappoint! Elise's discussion on the inconsistencies between commonly held and applied theories pertaining to gendering based on grave depth and grave goods as well as determining of social status through burial position were fascinating and well argued. Caroline Foster's paper, *Who may be Rex Francorum?* had me venturing out of my comfort zone as she discussed Frankish succession and the line of kingship from Clovis. Her paper convincingly argued that prior to the seventh century, the Frankish people were not only aware of, but accepted shared kingship by inheritance and more surprisingly, the feuds it generated.

I presented my own paper *Lessons in Leadership* alongside papers by Jennifer Hekmeijer and Bob di Napoli. Jennifer's presentation, *The Enigmata Eusebii* presented on her PhD research and contended that the riddle collections of Eusebius and Tatwine do not adhere to the 'century of riddles' assumption that sees them as a composite text. Bob's paper, *Telling Tales*, looked at the layers within Old English storytelling as containing the ideology of the new Christian milieu as well as the underlying meaning and intentions of previous pagan ideologies.

Though this review contains only a sample of the plethora of fantastic research presented at the AEMA Conference last year, I hope it manages to express the quality and innovation that presenters are continually producing each year. Monash University was an accommodating host and Andrew Lynch did an amazing job of organising their wonderful Special Collections manuscript viewing.

Cassandra Schilling
Flinders University

Introducing the AEMA Gazette!

The AEMA Gazette

Since 2016, when I took over the role of Newsletter Editor from Timothy Scott, I had grand plans of being able to create a valuable resource that any Australian-based Early Medievalist could use as a one-stop-shop for all of their information needs. Little did I know how huge that

put here into the brand-new space of the AEMA Gazette.

The brand-new Gazette website will be devoted to the many listings on Medieval events and so forth, and will no longer be tethered to the periodical schedule of the

undertaking would become! Over the months, the AEMA Newsletter grew exponentially with each issue to include various listings of events, conferences, study days, and of course reading groups – so much so that it had begun to impact upon the readability of the Newsletter (not to mention the ability of some email inboxes to accept the ever-growing file size). This meant that it was not able to come out as often as the information about the various events was being created and disseminated. Therefore, the decision was made to firstly split the information contained in the Newsletter, and secondly to work out the best way to present that information.

Since the end of 2019, both myself and the wonderful new Newsletter Editor, Amy Wood, have been collaborating on how best to split the information which had hitherto been contained in the Newsletter. The result is twofold. Firstly, we now have a sleeker, rebranded Newsletter that has been trimmed down to provide a

Newsletter. The idea behind this is that listings on the website will be added as new information arrives, and older notices will be removed regularly so that it contains a snapshot of future events relevant to the (mostly) Australian-based Early Medievalist. While the cupboard may be somewhat bare at the moment on the Gazette at the moment, please do continue to monitor the site as updates will be occurring on a continuous rolling basis as and when information is given to or gathered by the Gazette team. I hope that you - and AEMA members and supporters - will find this new resource helpful and informative, and also that you will continue to visit the Gazette website regularly.

And I would like to end this introduction with three requests. Firstly, that each of you consider providing feedback on the usability and quality of information on the Gazette website, and that you share the site with your colleagues and friends! Secondly, to please consider providing the



focus on the many achievements of our AEMA members individually as well as collectively through the work of the Association itself, and our annual conference and journal. Secondly, all of the other sections of the Newsletter – listings of various Australian and international conferences, exhibitions, study days, medieval language reading groups, and much more – have now been

Gazette team with your notices of conferences, lectures and so on directly. And last but not least, a more personal plea is directed to each AEMA member and supporter that (if you have the time) all offers of help in maintaining the current listings on the Gazette will be most warmly received. Many hands make light work after all.

*Erica Steiner
University of Sydney*

The AEMA Gazette

JAEMA News

Contributors to JAEMA
Volume 15 Themed Volume,

Journal
of the
Austrian Early Medieval
Association



In extremely exciting news, *JAEMA* is soon to release its very first themed volume! Volume 15 (2019) will focus on the theme of the ***Christianisation of Europe*** from Scandinavia to Poland to the Eastern Steppes, in Roman lands, former Roman lands and beyond! This volume will contain articles from a number of eminent European scholars as listed opposite.

christianisation of europe

- Józef Dobosz
- Darius von Güttner
Sporzyński
- Maria Dzielska
- Maciej Salomon
- Jan Prostko-Prostyński
- Roman Michałowski
- Jakub Morawiec
- Przemysław Urbańczyk
- Marek Cetwiński
- Jarosław Dudek

The journal is going to print shortly, so please make sure your mailing details are up-to-date in Group Spaces and keep a lookout for Volume 15 in the post!

We are currently welcoming submissions for the next volume of *JAEMA* and encourage all AEMA members to consider submitting a paper. Please visit the [AEMA Website](#) for submission guidelines.

Recent AEMA Graduates

Dr Alix Thoeming, University of Sydney



Thesis title: Around the Barbarian Sea: Settlements and Outcomes in the Early Medieval Baltic

Supervisor: Prof. Roland Fletcher, Dept. of Archaeology, University of Sydney

Conferred: May 2019

Abstract:

The development of urbanism in the Viking Age is undoubtedly one of the best-studied fields in the archaeology of the period. The Viking towns of Birka, Kaupang, Hedeby and Ribe have captured the imagination of archaeologists and the public alike, presenting the lives of their enigmatic inhabitants. Discussed in the literature but only occasionally discussed comparatively are a significant number of other settlements founded across the Baltic coast in the Early Medieval Period, from northern Germany to the tributary rivers of north-western Russia. These settlements appear across the *Mare Barbarum* at a very similar time, in similar forms, in response to ostensibly similar circumstances. Some survive through to today, most meet a variety of different ends, but all transformed in some way into the world of the later, more easily recognisable High Medieval town.

This thesis presents a model of Early Medieval settlement in the Baltic region, acknowledging the modern day historical and political reasons for the lack of representation of the southern and eastern Baltic countries and emphasising a comparative approach to remove these barriers of recent history. Thirteen settlements have been chosen for analysis, selected for the availability of information for the development of a quantitative model of settlement trajectory. Despite their similar beginnings, the settlements all met very different ends, and a triadic framework of settlement analysis is applied to this problem, highlighting interconnection between material form, social operation, and settlement outcome. Regardless of just what these settlements were, as indeed discussions around the terminology of urbanism have predominated in recent years, they undoubtedly were something, strangers in an overwhelmingly rural and agricultural landscape, situated outside contemporary political and social systems. As the Viking -centric focus on archaeology of the Early Medieval period in Northern Europe begins to change, this thesis illustrates the role of comparative analysis in revealing the importance of sites less well-studied.

Our congratulations to Alix on this momentous achievement!

AEMA Member News

CONGRATULATIONS!

Dr Geoffrey Dunn: was elected as a Fellow of the prestigious Australian Academy of Humanities in November 2019. Geoff was elected by his peers in recognition of the excellence and impact of his scholarship and practice. The Academy notes that Dr Dunn's "*publications are highly influential in [his] field and are much quoted by other scholars worldwide.*"

In further exciting news, as of February 2020, Geoff will officially be appointed

Assistant Professor of Greek and Latin Patrology at John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland. It is a non-teaching, non-residential appointment, so there are no plans for Geoff to move across the globe just yet!

Dr Janet Wade: is one of the two inaugural recipients of the British School at Rome's Library and Archive Awards for 2019-20. Janet's project is called 'In the footsteps of Thomas Ashby and his companions: the Via Flaminia, 100 years on' and the award is specifically to work with the manuscript and photographic material in the BSR's Special Collections. It is the continuation of the research project that Janet worked on at the BSR as the Macquarie Gale Rome Scholar for 2017-2018.

As part of the award Janet will be resident at the BSR for four weeks in March 2020 and during that time will work in the library and archives and also in the field, visiting and documenting sites along the ancient Via Flaminia (the road stretching from Rome to Rimini). She will also be working with an Italian photographer to produce a collection of modern photographs of the ancient road and its surrounds. These images will reproduce photographs taken by Thomas Ashby (former BSR Director from 1906-25) and several of his travelling companions in the late 19th/early 20th century. These images – and the project overall – will showcase the impact of modernity on the road and its surrounding landscape and the changes that have occurred to the Via Flaminia over the last 100 years.

Janet has suggested that a wonderful taste of the archive collection at the BSR can be accessed [here](#).

Hopefully one of our next newsletters will feature a report from Janet about her time in Rome!

Dr Ryan Strickler: has recently been appointed to a full-time position as Lecturer in Classics at The Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra, joining several

other AEMA members who are past and present members of the ANU Classics faculty.

VALE

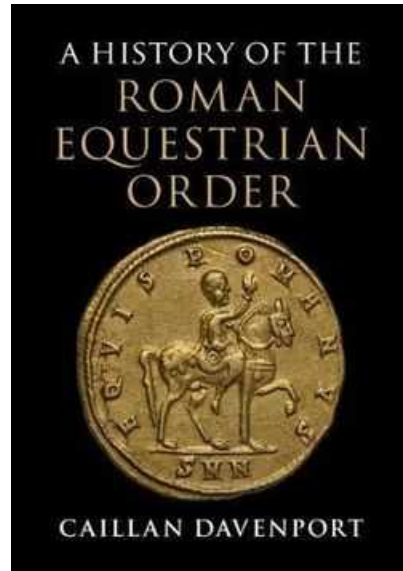
Dr Roman Zaroff (7 September, 1954 - 7 November, 2019): it is with great sadness that we bid farewell to AEMA member Dr Roman Zaroff, who suddenly passed away on 7 November, 2019. Dr Zaroff was born in Warsaw, Poland, but immigrated to Australia and attained the following academic qualifications: a B.A. in Medieval History, a B.A. Honours, 1st Class in Medieval History and a PhD in Medieval History, all from the University of Queensland. He also achieved a B.A in Archaeology from La Trobe University, Melbourne and had been working most recently as an independent scholar. His academic interests lay in the Medieval history of the Slavic and Baltic regions in particular, and he published a number of articles on these subjects. Dr Zaroff attended our most recent conference in Melbourne in October and I had the great pleasure of discussing my work with him, as we shared similar research interests in early Slavic history.

AEMA extends our well wishes to Dr Zaroff's friends and loved ones in this difficult time.

Vale Dr Zaroff.



New AEMA Member Publications



A History of the Roman Equestrian Order **by Caillan Davenport**

Cambridge University Press, Feb 2019, 738 pages

[Purchase a copy!](#)

Member Dr Caillan Davenport has recently published a wonderful monograph dealing with a social class whose evolution has never been comprehensively examined and which, in its later iterations, had lasting effects on the Roman Empire as it transformed into a Late Antique and then Byzantine (Early Medieval) society. From the publisher:

"This book offers the first comprehensive history of the equestrian order, covering the period from the eighth century BC to the fifth century AD. It examines how Rome's cavalry became the equestrian order during the Republican period, before analysing how imperial rule transformed the role of equestrians in government. Using literary and documentary evidence, the book demonstrates the vital social function which the equestrian order filled in the Roman world, and how this was shaped by the transformation of the Roman state itself."

The Preface of Gildas, the Book

***of David, and the British Church
in the Sixth Century***
**by Stephen J. Joyce & Constant
J. Mews**

Peritia, vol. 29 (2018), pp. 81-100.

<https://doi.org/10.1484/J.PERIT.5.118486>



AEMA member and Vice President Steve Joyce, together with Constant J. Mews, have published this paper in the most recent edition of *Peritia*. The paper examines the connections between the penitential works attributed to Gildas and David and those of the anonymous author of the *Poenitentiale Ambrosianum* and Cumnian. It argues that the penitential attributed to Gildas should be regarded as a genuine work by Gildas and that the *Ambrosianum* be considered as ‘the Book of David’, from which excerpts were made. Attempts by Cumnian to combine these two authorial traditions in seventh-century Ireland point to the continuing strength of a British Church, against the image presented by Bede.

AEMA is always happy to see what new work Steve is doing on his favourite guy, Gildas!

***The Apologetic and Literary Value
of the Acts of Justin***
by Chris Baghos

Phronema, vol. 34.1 (2019), pp. 25-54.



AEMA member Chris Baghos has recently published this article in *Phronema*. It outlines the consistent apologetic function and literary value of the *acta* describing the trial and execution of St Justin Martyr and his disciples in Rome (aspects which have largely been overlooked by scholarship hitherto). The article examines whether the most authentic recensions echo the apologist's understanding of the rapports between Christianity and pagan philosophy. Moreover, it discusses the editors' articulation of Christian identity through their representation of Justin and his disciples, including the influence of the New Testament in this regard. It also highlights the editors' censure of paganism via their negative depiction of Quintus Junius Rusticus (a descendant of a Stoic martyr, an influential philosopher himself, and the urban prefect who served as Justin's judge).

***The Remarkable Journey of
Leonardo's Inscrutable
Masterpiece***
**by Dr Darius von Güttner
Sporzyński**

18 December, 2019

[University of Melbourne Website Article](#)



Frank Zöllner (2000). Leonardo da Vinci,
1452-1519. Taschen. Public Domain.

Check out this very interesting write up on a unique piece of da Vinci art by our President, Dr Darius von Güttner Sporzyński. The subject is Leonardo da Vinci's portrait of Cecilia Gallerani, known as the Lady with an Ermine. It is one of Poland's national treasures, but is a painting which has had an extraordinary history.

Exciting Opportunities:

Flinders University Archaeological Field Methods Short Course 2020

From 13th June - 2nd July 2020 (inclusive of international travel), Flinders University College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences in collaboration with the Museum of First Piasts and the Nicolaus Copernicus University Centre for Underwater Archaeology will be running a field course which will introduce students to archaeological field methods including underwater excavations, mapping, photogrammetry, site documentation, artefact analyses and some basic conservation skills whilst working on one of the most remarkable European Early Medieval sites at Ostrów Lednicki in Poland.



College of Humanities and
Social Sciences

2020 Short Course

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD METHODS



This short overseas course will introduce students to the archaeological field methods including underwater excavations, mapping, photogrammetry, site documentation, artefact analyses and some basic conservation skills whilst working on one of the most remarkable European early medieval sites.

Further information: Ania Kortaba
College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.
Email: ania.kortaba@flinders.edu.au

When it's run
June 13 – 2 July, 2020

Cost
\$2,133 (excluding transport,
accommodation and food)

Registration
[Pay online](#)

Mode of delivery
Face-to-face

Location
Ostrów Lednicki early medieval
archaeological site, Poland, Europe

Ostrów Lednicki is a historical island in the middle of Lednica lake in Central Poland and was one of the key fortified settlements of an emerging Polish Kingdom between 10th and 11th centuries. It remains one of the most important medieval architectural monuments in the country and in this part of Europe. Underwater excavations have yielded the largest collection of early medieval military equipment and weaponry ever found in Europe, including a high percentage of Viking weapons. Students will engage in fieldwork on the submerged bridge and boats, site documentation, the study of early medieval artefacts and weaponry as well as a number of organised trips to other medieval archaeological sites and museums of interest. Students with diving experience are most welcome, though some positions will be reserved for non-divers.

For non-Flinders students from Australia, costs are anticipated to be approx. \$3,000 for travel, food and accommodation (camping equipment provided) plus the enrollment fee of \$2,133 for the relevant short course unit which can be credited to future post graduate studies. International students are also welcome (enrollment fee of \$3,350).

Places are VERY limited, so please submit your application as soon as possible.

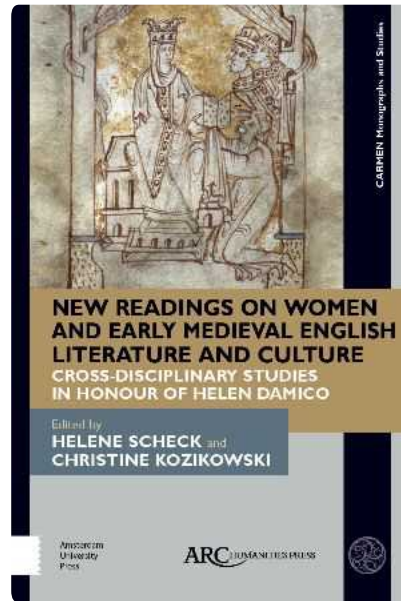
Express your interest [here](#) (first step).

Submit your application [here](#).

For further information, please see full promotional flyer [here](#) or contact:

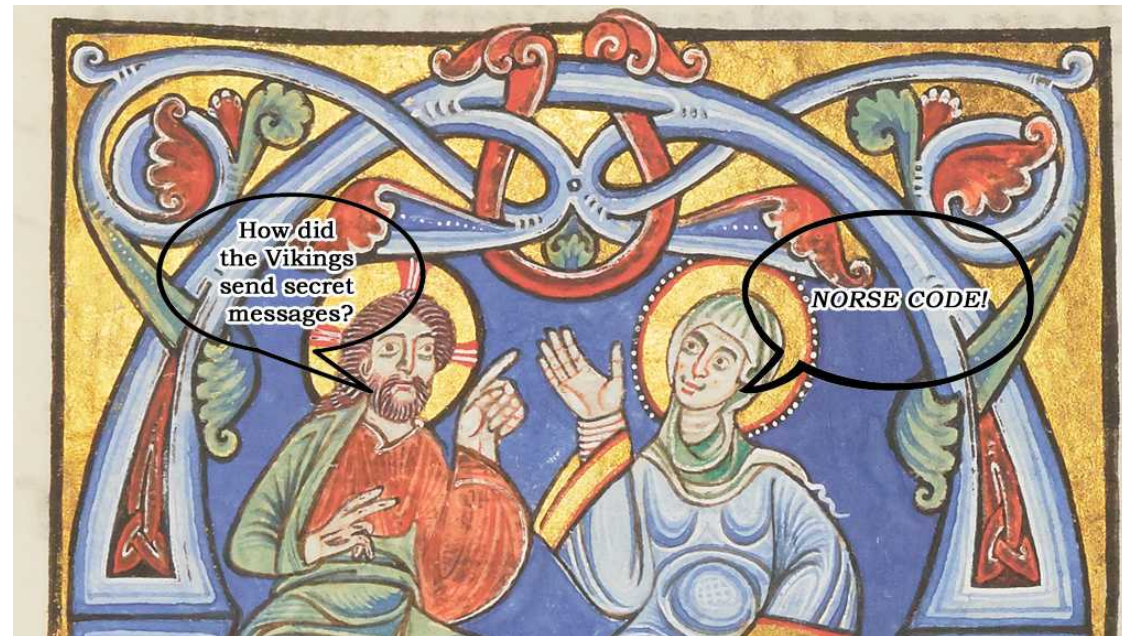
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Book Deals & Discounts for AEMA Members



Just out from ARC Humanities Press, featuring cross-disciplinary studies in honour of Helen Damico: **'New Readings on Women and Early Medieval English Literature and Culture'** is edited by Helene Scheck and Christine Kozikowski and showcases current and original scholarship relating to women in Early Medieval English culture and in Early Medieval English studies. You can read the introduction and full listing of contents and contributors [here](#).

AEMA members are invited to use the coupon code "Pub_NewReadings" to receive a 20% discount. Valid until 29 March, 2020.





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