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## *AEMA Newsletter: March 2023*

Dear AEMA members and supporters,

The **March 2023 Newsletter** is here! Thank you all for your patience. It's great to see the feedback response from our members interested in sharing their latest publications with us. We would like to invite everyone to continue sending in any updates or publications which they wish to have recognised in the next edition of our newsletter. Our objective for the newsletter is to showcase your achievements, and we are delighted to distribute them among our members. We express our gratitude to those who have already contributed to this edition. Thank you very much!

As always, we thank all our members for their support over these past few years! Any supporters who wish to become members are [welcome to apply](#). Our membership prices have remained the same with concession rates also available: **\$22/year - concession rate and \$44/year - full subscription rate**.

Julian Calcagno  
Newsletter Editor  
[info@aema.net.au](mailto:info@aema.net.au)

## *AEMA News*

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

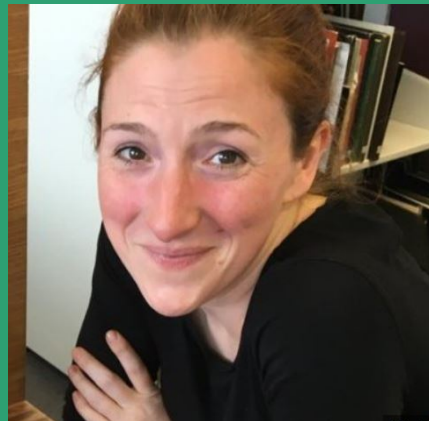
**Pamela O'Neill** has been elected as Convenor of the Celtic Council of Australia. The CCA supports tertiary educational institutions in research, training and study of Celtic culture, languages and history, in addition to liaising with Irish, Scottish,

Welsh, Cornish, Manx and Breton communities. The CCA also publishes an annual journal which can be found on their [website](#), as well as coming events and educational training seminars. *Well done Pamela!*



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**Erin Sebo** has been made an Associate Professor at Flinders University, Adelaide in Medieval Literature and Language. She is also the Research Section Head for Literature, Languages, Culture and Society. Erin took up this role in January and we wish her all the best for the remainder of the year. She also has an exciting new book on Beowulf coming out soon! The forthcoming monograph is due out with Manchester University Press.



As lead Chief Investigator, **Erin** has also been awarded an ARC Discovery Grant for 'The first English speakers in their own words' valued at \$122,540. According to the ARC project, she aims to produce the first comprehensive study of the attitudes in the earliest English literature. The project expects to generate new knowledge about the first English speakers, what issues mattered most to them and how broad the range of attitudes was. Expected outcomes of this project include new approaches to studying the past, enhanced international collaborations and a public access to the project's data through an open access digital resource. This should provide significant benefits in terms of our understanding of the past and how it shapes attitudes in contemporary Australia.

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In addition to this, lead CI, **Daniel Anlezark** and second CI, **Erin Sebo** have also been awarded an ARC Discovery Grant for 'Finding friendship in early English literature' worth \$249,088. This project aims to provide extensive new knowledge about the long story of friendship by reconceptualizing the ways in which this bond was lived and imagined in early medieval literature. The project expects to make an innovative contribution to our understanding of this fundamental human relationship through a case study of early English texts. Expected outcomes of this project include an unprecedented comprehensive study of friendship in an early medieval society through its writing, and with this develop a model for the engaged humanities. The project offers significant benefit for a range of academic disciplines, and also includes important benefit beyond the academy through engagement with a critical issue in contemporary society.

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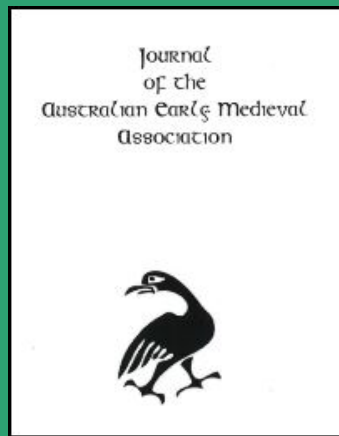
**Michael Stewart** has recently signed a contract as the editor for an Amsterdam University Press Volume due in 2024. The volume is titled 'Portraits of Generalship & Authority in the Age of Justinian, a study of Twelve Generals'. Contributors include: Leonora Neville, Henning Börm, David Parnell, Conor Whately, and Marco Crisitni. ***Congratulations Michael***, we look forward to its release!



## AEMA JOURNAL

As always, we encourage anyone to submit papers on any theme relating to the early medieval period. We welcome submissions throughout the year. We also strongly encourage all members who presented at last year's September conference to consider submitting their polished paper to the forthcoming volume of the journal. Of course, article submissions from non-members and members alike are equally welcome, and can be made here throughout the year. For any queries about submissions or the journal more generally, please contact our journal editor, [Professor Geoffrey Dunn](#).

**AEMA publishes two issues per year AND we accept papers all year round!**



Subscribe to our regular news service which delivers information about conferences, events, short courses, reading groups, exhibitions, and much more. The AEMA Gazette frequently posts two to three times a week and it is the best source for keeping up to date with a variety of information in the field of early medieval studies.

Please contact the [Gazette Manager](#) with any notices that you wish to have included in the AEMA Gazette, or to provide any updates to the material previously listed.

Australian Early Medieval Association Gazette  
academic conferences - events - study days - reading groups

The AEMA Gazette

Welcome to the new online resource for the Australian Early Medieval Association!

Founded in 2020 (and relaunched in May 2023) following the realignment of the AEMA Newsletter to focus on its core purpose of reporting on the activities and achievements of both our members and our association itself, the AEMA Gazette is a free online repository of information about upcoming events, conferences, and opportunities of interest to those with a scholarly interest in the early medieval period. While the site is fully searchable and can be browsed through the categories in the menu, it is best experienced by **subscribing to the Gazette** to receive notifications of new posts as they arrive. Our subscription options as well as AEMA announcements and social media outlets can be found in the sidebar.

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## AEMA GAZETTE

### New AEMA Member Publications

**AEMA Member:** Anya Adair

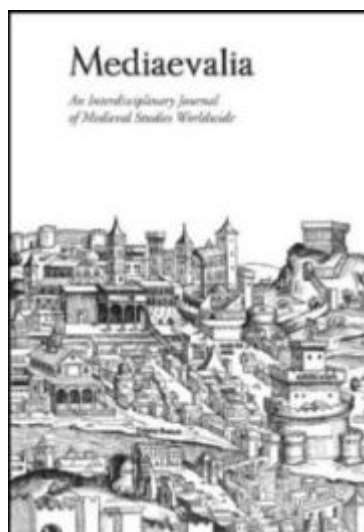
#### New Book Chapter

A. Adair, 'The Curious Incident of the Monster in the Night-Time: Circumstantial Evidence in Law and Poetry', in *Law, Literature, and Social Regulation in Early Medieval England*, (eds.) Andrew Rabin and Anya Adair (Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer, 2023).

[Purchase a copy here!](#)

#### New Article

A. Adair, 'A Troublesome Source: The *Liber Ex Lege Moysi* and the Mosaic Prologue to King Alfred's *Domboc*', *Notes and Reviews*, 35:3, (2022), pp. 213-217. [Read here!](#)



**AEMA Member:** Lisa Bailey

#### New Article

L. Bailey, "'Servi Servorum Dei': Serving the Religious in Early Medieval Europe', *Mediaevalia*, (2022), pp. 9-36. [Read here!](#)

**AEMA Member:** Samuel Cardwell

### **New Articles**

S. Cardwell, 'Welsh Princes in an Anglo-Norman World: A Historical Reading of the Third Branch of the Mabinogi', *Studia Celtica*, 56:1 (2022), pp. 63-76. [Read here!](#)

S. Cardwell, 'Be wifmannes beweddunge: Betrothals and Weddings in Anglo-Saxon England', *Anglo-Saxon England*, 48 (2022), pp. 1-26. [Read here!](#)



**AEMA Member:** Matthew Firth

### **New Article**

J. McCarthy, E. Sebo, and M. Firth., 'Parallels for cetacean trap feeding and tread-water feeding in the historical record across two millennia', *Marine Mammal Science*, 39:1 (2023), pp. 1-12. [Read here!](#)

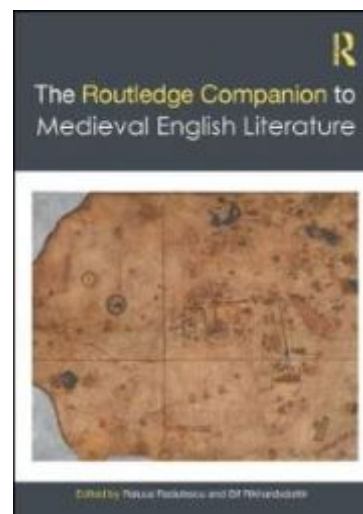
### **New Edited Book Series**

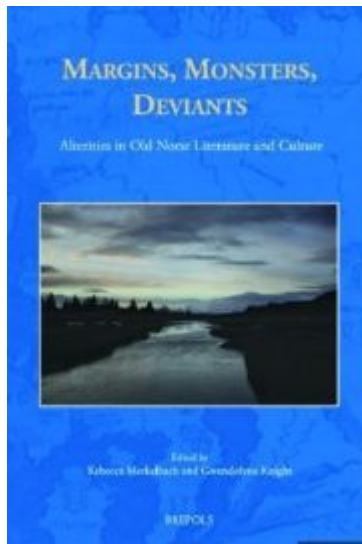
As editor of Book series 'East Central Europe, 476–1795 AD/CE', Matt has contributed to J. Dobosz, *The Church and Cistercians in Medieval Poland: Foundations, Documents, People* (Turnhout: Brepols, 2023). [Purchase a copy here!](#)

**AEMA Member:** Andrew Lynch

### **New Book Chapter**

A. Lynch, 'Emotion', in *The Routledge Companion to Medieval English Literature*, (eds.) R. Radulescu and S. Rikhardsdottir (Routledge, 2022), pp. 383-393. [Purchase a copy here!](#)





**AEMA Member:** Roderick McDonald

**New Article**

R. W. McDonald, 'Surface, Rupture and Contextualities: Conflicting Voices of the Iberian 'Other/s' in Old Norse Literature', in *Margins, Monsters, Deviants: Alterities in Old Norse Literature and Culture* (Turnhout: Brepols, 2020)

[Purchase a copy here!](#)

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**AEMA Member:** Bernard Mees

**New Book Chapter**

B. Mees, *The English Language Before England: An Epigraphic Account* (Routledge, 2023).

[Purchase a copy here!](#)



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**AEMA Member:** Kathleen Neal

**New Article**

K. B. Neal & N. Ferns, 'Primary sources, pedagogy and the politics of tertiary history in Australia', *History Australia*, 19(2) (2022), pp. 363-380.

[Read here!](#)

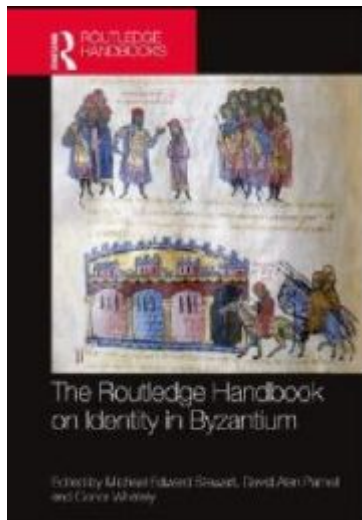
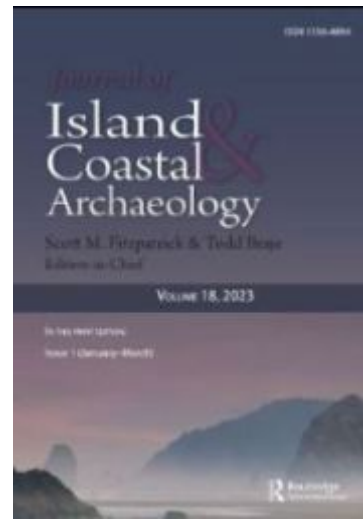


**AEMA Member:** Erin Sebo

### **New Articles**

E. Sebo, et al., 'The Kalvestene: a reevaluation of the ship settings on the Danish Island of Hjørnø', *Journal of Island and Coastal Archaeology*, 18(1), (2023), pp. 147-163. [Read here!](#)

J. McCarthy, E. Sebo, and M. Firth., 'Parallels for cetacean trap feeding and tread-water feeding in the historical record across two millennia', *Marine Mammal Science*, 39:1 (2023), pp. 1-12. [Read here!](#)



**AEMA Member:** Ryan Strickler

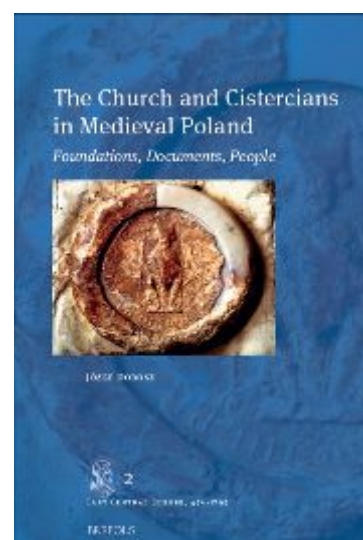
### **New Article**

R. Strickler, 'Dehumanisation, Apocalypticism, and Anti-Judaism: Reflections on Identity Formation in Seventh-Century Byzantium', in *The Routledge Handbook on Identity in Byzantium*, (eds.) Michael Stewart, David Parnell, Conor Whately (Routledge, 2022). [Purchase a copy here!](#)

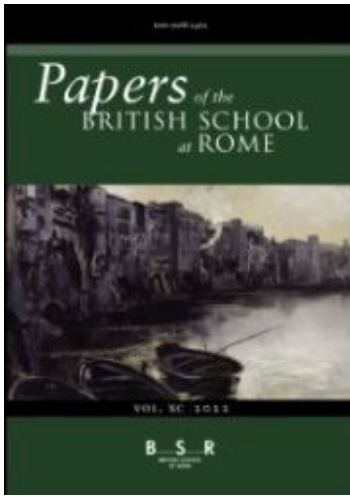
**AEMA Member:** Darius von Güttner-Sporzyński

### **New Edited Book Series**

As editor of Book series 'East Central Europe, 476–1795 AD/CE', Darius has contributed to J. Dobosz, *The Church and Cistercians in Medieval Poland: Foundations, Documents, People* (Turnhout: Brepols, 2023). [Purchase a copy here!](#)







**AEMA Member:** Janet Wade

### **New Articles**

J. Wade and A. Giovenco, 'Road Trips, Rail Journeys and Landscape Archaeology: Reconstructing Research Itineraries and Travel Excursions in Italy through the British School at Rome's Photographic Collections', *Papers of the British School at Rome*, 90 (2022), pp. 297-324. [Read here!](#)

J. Wade, 'Expeditions from Rome: Thomas Ashby, his BSR companions and the Roman Roads of Italy', *Papers of the British School at Rome*, 90 (2022), pp. 267-295. [Read here!](#)

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*We always accept recent publications, so please [contact us](#) if you are happy to share your amazing achievements with our members!*

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## *Recent Graduates*

### **Samuel Cardwell**

Social Media Officer for AEMA, **Samuel Cardwell**, has successfully defended his PhD with no corrections. *Congratulations Samuel!!* His thesis title is '**The Idea of Evangelisation in Latin Christianity from the Early Church to Bede**'



**Abstract:** Although much has been written on the history of the conversion of Europe to Christianity in the early Middle Ages, little has been done to understand the development of the Christian impulse to spread the Gospel 'to the ends of the Earth' (Acts 1:8) in this period. When and why did Christians develop the idea of the evangelisation of all peoples? When and why did they begin to express this idea by deliberately setting out to evangelise pagan peoples? How did the conception or expression of the idea of evangelisation change over time? How did authors interpret key scriptural texts to justify or explain their views on evangelisation? This dissertation traces the inception and development of the idea of evangelisation among authors writing in Latin from the earliest

years of the Christian Church to the mid eighth century, focussing especially on the period from Augustine of Hippo (354–430AD) to the Venerable Bede (672/3–735AD). It argues that the fifth-century authors Augustine, Prosper of Aquitaine and Patrick were the first to conceive of evangelisation as an ongoing part of the Church's task; however, it was not until the seventh and eighth centuries, in the writings of Gregory the Great and especially Bede, that evangelisation became a well-established part of western Christian thought.

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### Aimee Turner

Aimee has also successfully completed her PhD as of February this year. *Congratulations Aimee!!* Her thesis is titled: **'Caesar's Consort: Images of Livia in literature from Antiquity to the Early Modern Period'**



**Abstract:** Women's power has, traditionally, been negotiated through their male counterparts, arousing suspicion of the 'undue influence' of wives and mothers. As such, female consorts have faced intense scrutiny and their portrayal has been coloured by opinions of their male relatives. One of the most (in)famous consorts of history is Livia Drusilla, the wife of Augustus, Rome's first emperor. By tracing the reception of Livia in literature from Antiquity to the early modern period, I demonstrate how different aspects of her intersectional identity were continually reimagined in conjunction with gendered discourses of power. While the reception of Augustus has received some scholarly attention, the appearance of Livia has focused on her portrayal in modern television programs, overlooking the important developments of intervening receptions. Her portrayal was further negotiated through a Christian lens that served, in Late Antiquity, to erode the relevance of Livia. Despite the emerging Christian models and ascetic values, Livia persisted as a model of authority. She is restored to a place of prominence through the reception of not only Augustus, but also of her sources. Thus, in the Twelfth-Century Renaissance, interest in Ovid led to the revival of interest in the imperial consort as a source of political and secular danger. Simultaneously, Livia informed emerging debates in philosophy about the role of the consort in contemporary politics. In the Italian Renaissance, Livia becomes more closely tied with the imperial ambitions of key figures such as Petrarch. As such, the reception of Augustus is a focal point that draws attention

back to his consort. All of this paves the way for an explosion of interest in the imperial consort in Tudor and Stuart England. Here we find a complex figure, whose portrayal reflects a wide range of ancient sources, coloured particularly by the re-discovered works of Tacitus, which began to emerge from literary narratives into dramatic performances on the stage. Through the study of Livia's reception, I demonstrate more clearly the interest and utilisation of her sources from antiquity, providing a more nuanced understanding of their influence and transmission. Moreover, the appearance of Livia in context sheds light on contemporaneous debates around the role of women and their power. The selective use of Livia's intersectional identities highlights the way in which authors in different periods were shifting their definitions of masculine and feminine behaviours.

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*A friendly reminder to [contact us](#) if you have recently graduated and we would be happy to share your amazing achievement with our members!*

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## *AEMA Member Profile*



**Samuel Cardwell** has recently passed his PhD at the University of Toronto. As part of the newsletter's new profile section, I asked him a few questions regarding AEMA and academia more broadly.

### **1. What is significant to you about JAEMA?**

AEMA has been really important to me, especially when I was first dipping my toe in research – my first ever conference paper was at the AEMA conference in 2014, and my first ever publication was in JAEMA the following year. Early medieval studies is obviously a bit of a niche field, especially in Australia, so it's really important to have a community and a support network.

### **2. What is your preferred method of staying in touch with your field and other historians?**

A mixture of word-of-mouth, going to conferences like Leeds and Kalamazoo (making sure to spend plenty of time at the bookstall!), and also Twitter – sometimes following '#medievaltwitter' can be a bit dispiriting, but it is a very convenient way to

get a handle on the big news).

### 3. What aspect of historical writing do you find admirable?

Something that has always struck me about my favourite historical writing is the quality of empathy – the recognition that all the people we read about were exactly like us and deserve every consideration of sympathy and compassion that we expect from others. Historians like Peter Hunter Blair, Richard Fletcher and R. A. Markus jump out (at least among early medievalists) as especially good in this regard. It's a spirit I've tried to bring to my own writing, which means being careful and critical but not cynical.

### 4. Who is your favorite historical person and why?

That's difficult, as I hate making definitive choices. And my favourite historical people shift and change over time. But I will say that Nennius has always struck a chord with me, for I too have always held it to be my motto that '*coacervavi omne quod inveni*'.

## Medieval Studies 2023

**Medieval courses offered in 2023 across Australia are facilitated by the following university departments:**

**The University of Western Australia**  
Medieval and Early Modern Studies



**The University of Melbourne**  
Ancient, Medieval and Early Modern Studies



**Monash University**  
Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies



**Australian National University**  
Medieval History



**The University of Sydney**  
The Medieval and Early Modern Centre



**Macquarie University**  
Department of History and Archaeology



**University of Tasmania**

History and Classics



**Flinders University**  
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**The University of Queensland**  
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**Australian Catholic University**  
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