

Editor's Note

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It is my great pleasure to introduce the 2016 issue of *Past Imperfect: History and Classics Graduate Student Journal*. This is the 19th issue of *Past Imperfect*, which, aside from two gaps (2001-2004 and 2012-2016), has been published annually since 1992. The journal began as a regional publication, seeking work from graduate students in the prairies. That scope expanded quickly, and, as we can see from the contributors to the current issue, *Past Imperfect* now attracts submissions from graduate students at major universities in Europe, Britain and the USA. It continues to provide a valuable forum for Canadian graduate students' research and an excellent opportunity for University of Alberta graduate students to learn about academic editing and publishing.

Before introducing the articles, I would like to thank Karin S. Tate, the previous editor for this issue, and the faculty members who reviewed the research article submissions. I am grateful to Dr. Adam Kemezis and the Department of History and Classics for this opportunity to serve as editor, even if only for a short time. Lindsey Rose of History and Classics and Sonya Betz of the University of Alberta Library provided invaluable assistance as I learned how to use the online publication system. Finally, I appreciate the contributors' patience and promptness, which made them all a pleasure to work with.

This issue features four research articles and five book reviews. The articles cover a wide range of topics, from the poetry of Catullus to the use of Hudson's Bay Company records. In the first article, "'As If Augustine Had Said': Textual Interpretation and Augustinian Ambiguity in a

Medieval Debate on Predestination,” Jenny C. Smith analyzes Hincmar of Reims’ approaches to defending Catholic orthodoxy regarding predestination against Gottschalk of Orbais. Smith looks closely at Hincmar’s use of Augustine to support his position, but argues that Hincmar was forced to use additional authorities in order to refute his opponent, because Gottschalk also cited Augustine as an authority. This article provides a fascinating glimpse into the ways in which early medieval theological orthodoxy was constructed.

Stacy Nation-Knapper’s “Shoes, Canoes, and Lives in Unexpected Archives: Searching in Fur Trade Ledgers beyond the Hudson’s Bay Company Archives” is an important examination not only of what records on the fur trade exist, but also of how they can be used by cultural historians. Nation-Knapper’s remarks on data pertaining to gender roles in the fur trade are particularly illuminating, but the article as a whole offers valuable insights into the use of archival records for cultural history, a subject of importance to scholars in many fields.

Stefanie Kletke’s “Catullus’ *Otium*: A Transgressive Translation?” is a close study of the final stanza of Catullus 51. This tightly focused article considers the stanza’s relationship to the rest of the poem it is part of, the rest of Catullus’ corpus, and the poem by Sappho that it translates. Kletke argues that the stanza is not as much of an anomaly as previous scholars have suggested; read as a translation, it “makes sense” as part of a Catullan poem and, more broadly, as part of Roman poetic culture. Kletke’s work will be of interest primarily to specialists; however, it also serves as a solid example for other readers of how such detailed and careful analysis is done.

Finally, Christos Aliprantis takes us to the Habsburg Empire in “A Case of Peculiar Orientalism? The late Habsburg Empire through the early writings of R. W. Seton-Watson

(1906-1914).” Aliprantis analyzes a range of the British scholar Seton-Watson’s writings on the Austro-Hungarian Empire through the lens of Orientalism, arguing that Seton-Watson came to see the Empire in Orientalist terms. One of this article’s strengths is that it shows the changes in Seton-Watson’s attitude over time, revealing intriguing shifts as the historian and traveler learned more about the Empire and its member states.

There is something to learn from all of the articles and reviews, which showcase a variety of fields, approaches and talents. I hope readers enjoy this issue.