

Editor's Note

This year, *Past Imperfect's* new editorial board is proud to present the twenty-first edition of the journal. The editorial board would like to thank all of our contributors and reviewers for their interest in *Past Imperfect* and their work that have made this year's publication possible. Gino Canlas and Andreea Resmerita, the journal's previous editors, have graciously introduced us to the process of journal editing at the beginning of our editorial venture. We will forever be indebted to them for their help. We would also like to thank Dr. Adam Kemezis and the Department of History & Classics for ensuring the journal has continued.

This edition features four articles and a book review, ranging geographically and temporally in the fields of history and classics. In "*Miasma: Malaria's Breeding Grounds and Effects on Ancient Rome*," Jazz Demetriooff examines the effects that malaria, specifically miasma, had on ancient Roman society and environment.

Next, Cahit Mete Oguz, in "An Analysis of the Socio-Economic Viewpoints within the Writings of Patriarchs Athanasios I and Philotheos Kokkinos," surveys the writings of two patriarchs, Athanasios I and Philotheos Kokkinos, to highlight different socio-economic views of the post-1261 Byzantine world. Oguz argues that the reading the writings of these two patriarchs together helps paint a clearer picture of religious, social and cultural life in late-Byzantine society.

In "Economic and Transactional Language in the *Confessions*," Donald McCarthy explores the lexicon of exchange used by St. Augustine in the *Confessions*. According to McCarthy, Augustine uses notions of patronage and economy to define the human soul and the Divine. The use of such language links Augustine's pagan upbringing and new Christian beliefs, and imbues the *Confessions* with references to "daily domestic life" and to Roman culture and society.

In "Smoking, Diplomacy, and Sociability: Indigenous Knowledge and European Tobacco Use, 1492-1700," Cole Hawkins examines tobacco and the transfer of Indigenous knowledge around tobacco to European society. According to Hawkins, tobacco was not simply exchanged between the two groups, but knowledge about its healing, diplomatic and social uses was

transferred from Indigenous peoples to Europeans, and formed the basis for tobacco's consumption in Europe.

In our Book Review section, Richard Yeomans reviews Ruma Chopra's 2018 *Almost Home: Maroons Between Slavery and Freedom in Jamaica, Nova Scotia, and Sierra Leon*.

We invite you to peruse the digital pages of our journal, and we welcome your contributions for future publications.

Past Imperfect Editorial Board

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