
Editorial

Eras was founded in 2001 with the intention of facilitating interdisciplinary dialogue among postgraduate and early career researchers working across all areas of history, archaeology, theology and Jewish Civilization. In 2010 our scope further expanded to include the disciplines of international studies and philosophy, particularly when such work also contains significant historical content. The sixteenth edition of *Eras* fully reflects this vision for the journal.

Mason Tattersall's contribution to this issue offers a new perspective on the motivation and meaning of Søren Kierkegaard's interest in the Faust myth. Tattersall argues that the dominant view of Kierkegaard's reasons for drawing on the Faust myth throughout his writings – as a way of working through his ideas about the meaning of doubt – may be incomplete. Tattersall suggests that the nature of Kierkegaard's exploration of essential doubt required him to convey these ideas to his reading public through poetic and indirect means, and that the Faust myth provided him with a means of doing so.

In an article that bridges the disciplines of history, phenomenology and architectural theory, Phyllis Henderson investigates the origins of the belvedere (an architectural structure built to take advantage of scenic views) in the ancient Roman peristyle garden. Henderson argues the portico belvedere was designed not merely to present a static view of the surrounding landscape but to create a transformative space by superimposing multiple shifting planes, ultimately bridging the real and the illusionary for those occupying the structure.

Ian E. Van Dyke explores the evolution of American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr's ethical and political worldview, particularly in the face of the unique moral challenges posed by the creation of atomic weapons. Van Dyke discusses the intricacies of Niebuhr's moral framework, a framework which is perhaps best encapsulated by his *Serenity Prayer*: "God, give me the grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things that should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish one from the other." In addition, Van Dyke discusses Niebuhr's influence on American opinion leaders during the Cold War, as well as the ongoing relevance of Niebuhr's philosophy.

The fourth and final article considers the role that nuclear energy should play in South African energy policy. Ognan Williams discusses South Africa's energy background, the controversies surrounding nuclear energy, and the potential role that nuclear energy seems poised to play in the country's future. Williams ultimately recommends that the South African government commission the completion of a Pebble Bed Modular Reactor – technology that is engineered and developed locally.

In addition to these refereed articles, this issue of *Eras* contains a number of book reviews. Tristan Samuel's provocative review essay questions Debbie Challis' treatment of race in *The Archaeology of Race: The Eugenic Ideas of Francis Galton and Flinders Petrie*, and argues that an engagement with critical race theory would strengthen the book's discussion of Petrie and his contemporaries. The shorter reviews likewise draw on the reviewers' areas of expertise to not only summarise and critique the work being considered, but to also offer fresh insights.

This edition of *Eras* includes our first publication of a student essay. 'Jimmy Carter: A Moral Hero' explores the nature and extent of Carter's moral idealism, as well as the importance of moral malleability in the American political tradition. The essay was submitted to us in early 2014 by Danny Haidar, who was at the time a high school senior enrolled in a college preparatory program. Although the submission was not subjected to external peer review, we are publishing it here in recognition of the high standard of Haidar's work, and in the spirit of encouraging other young scholars to pursue in-depth research and publication early in their careers.

Eras would not be able to exist today if not for the generous help of many disparate individuals. The editorial committee for this issue of *Eras* comprised John D'Alton, Stuart John Ibrahim, Stephen Joyce, Iryna Ordynat, Stephanie Rocke and Kathleen Shaw. I would like to offer our gratitude to the numerous publishers that have provided us with review copies of their publications, the authors that have submitted manuscripts for consideration, and the academics who recommended or acted as peer reviewers, without whose anonymous contribution *Eras* would not be possible.

Julian Koplin
Managing Editor