

Editor's Foreword



Christina Cleary

I am pleased to present the sixth edition of *Cerae: An Australasian Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies*, which focuses on the theme of 'Landscapes'. This theme is timeless and relevant not only to our understanding of the medieval world, but also to interpreting social and political issues around landscape that prevail in the modern world, as well as the human experience.

As the contributors to this volume's theme demonstrate, societies have used landscape throughout history to make sense of their surroundings, and their physical and emotional place in the world, by connecting features in the land to stories, myth and history. Andrea Maraschi shows in his contribution that mankind has always found solace and comfort in the exercise of understanding and interpreting the past: this message could not be more relevant as society enters a time of great upheaval in the face of a pandemic. The function of these stories was both practical and entertaining, which ensured their survival through the centuries. Indeed, the substantial body of Early Irish material known as *dindsenchas* 'place-lore', transmitted as a corpus and featuring frequently in Early Irish literature, is a testament to the cultural importance of landscape; without it, a medieval Irish poet's education was incomplete. Similarly, modern scholarship of the medieval period benefits from investigating the cultural and historical function of landscapes.

Cerae Journal also welcomes non-themed submissions throughout the year, and I am delighted to present an article that contributes to our understanding of the development of the role of the pious knight and the history of chivalrous ideals.

I would like to thank the Volume 6 Committee for their commitment and dedication to the journal, particularly Tess Watterson and Kirsty Bolton, who provided me with additional editorial support at various points. Every member of the committee deserves special commendation for their devotion to their respective roles and the journal, to providing

a platform for early career researchers, and the pursuit of good scholarship. I wish to extend my thanks also to the authors, peer reviewers, and publishers, without whom this volume could not have been completed. Finally, I thank the University of Western Australia for their continued financial support of the journal.

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