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Editor's Foreword



Belated but at last, I am excited to present Volume 8 of *Ceræ: An Australasian Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies*! In this non-themed issue, our two articles consider different aspects of cross-cultural appropriation, awareness, and influence. In our first article, Chrysovalantis Kyriacou examines the ways in which the appropriation and re-interpretation of Byzantine culture in seventeenth-century Cyprus became a tool for inter-faith contacts and communications. In our second article, Albrecht Classen explores representations of Persia in Middle High German literature. Classen argues that, although most of the references are largely fictitious, they represent an interest and openness towards non-European cultures in the high and late Middle Ages. He concludes by considering the place of these representations in relation to the concept of a 'Global Middle Ages'.

Our *Varia* section continues to show just how varied it can be. Whereas last issue we had to the pleasure to welcome our first creative piece, in Volume 8 we are delighted to present two pieces of very different character. In her contribution, Raissa R. Bombini presents a re-evaluation of the use of gemstones within medieval medical recipes, using the emerald as a case study. In our second *Varia* piece, Luiz Guerra, a contributor to one of *Ceræ's* sessions at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds (UK), gives a presentation of the Brazilian research network and study group GEHM. *Ceræ* accepts non-themed articles (peer reviewed) and *Varia* pieces (not peer reviewed) throughout the year – if you are interested in contributing, we would love to hear from you!

In addition to our new issue, *Ceræ* is excited to have participated in the Australia and New Zealand Association for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (ANZAMEMS) in June with three sessions, speaking to a variety of ways in which magic and witchcraft fit in to the conference's themes of embodiment and reception. In July, we are at the International Medieval Congress with two sessions that engage with the conference theme of borders by challenging conventional borders of time and space in medieval research.

I would, as ever, like to express my sincere gratitude towards the committee and editorial team of *Ceræ* for their hard work and dedication this past year. This is my final issue as Editor, and I am excited to leave the journal in the very capable hands of Matt Firth as incoming Editor, and Jenny Barnett and Zoe Enstone as Deputy Editors. They already have preparations for Volume 9 off to a rolling start, and I can't wait to see the future volumes they produce. My thanks as well to the committee of *Ceræ*, who keep the organization running, and keep us all on track as we continue in this new stage. Matthew Cleary has been an enormous help, and I am glad that he is remaining on the committee following the conclusion of his own tenure as Deputy Editor. Patrick Huang has done an excellent job in his first year as sole Book Reviews Editor. And of course, we are all very grateful to our contributors, peer reviewers, and publishers, without whom this journal would be impossible to produce. We are proud to support and promote early career researchers through our journal, organization, and conference presence, and to foster connections and networks that transcend regional and period borders. Being a part of the *Ceræ* team has been a rich and rewarding experience for me, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with all of the committee and editorial team members over the last two years.

Gwendolyne Knight

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