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# Editorial

## History in the Making Journal Collective:

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Andrew Kelly

Aden Knaap

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Matthew Varley

### Editorial

We publish this spring issue of *History in the Making* in the wake of New South Wales' annual history week. For those of us lucky enough to attend events on its calendar, the week provided a salient reminder of the importance of showcasing histories from outside the academic firmament and the value of building communities of historians and enthusiasts.

To that end, this issue continues our proud record of publishing the work of talented history students across a wide range of topics. It includes accounts of political change and struggle, from Ryan Coates' gripping account of United States Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes' term during the turbulent passage of the New Deal, to Alanna Speer's explanation of the ascension of Christianity as the dominant religion of the Later Roman Empire.

Our editors have selected a number of vibrant examples of cultural history, including Amy Butterfield's treatment of the role of English royalist literature during the Interregnum, and Catherine Horne's account of changes in the cultural construction of the New Girl in the late

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nineteenth-century United States. Donna Selby explains how European nuns negotiated their religious identities during the tensions and transformations of the Reformation.

Marian Lorrison explores the construction and celebration of Australian Federation at its centenary through the words of historians and public figures. Her work sits alongside Kate Narev's piece on the significance of the city-state within Sumerian civilisation, as two contrasting approaches to national identity and the development of states.

Finally, another strong issue in modern American history is rounded out by Matthew Lesh's fascinating use of oral history to chart Mexican American veterans' experiences before, during and after World War II, and Thomas Mackay's description of the development and promotion of the American advertising industry in the Progressive Era.

Thank you to all of our authors, reviewers and editors who helped make this edition possible. It comes at time of both consolidation and change for *History in the Making*.

The journal has solidified its online presence, with our blog and Facebook page continuing to draw readers to the project. We are very proud of our new website. It presents a simple and elegant public face for the journal.

We are also proud that our commitment to publishing both undergraduate and postgraduate students' work has been recognised by the University of New South Wales, with the collective invited to join a panel on the future of academic publishing at its Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences postgraduate conference in late November. We'll report on our discussions there in our next editorial.

Behind the scenes, the journal has undergone a significant transition. We've welcomed James Keating and Aden Knaap to the collective, who have each brought a passion for history and a determination to continue the journal project. They join a new generation of members who have quickly taken on important roles within the team.

At the same time we farewell two of our founding members, Steph Mawson and Karol Florek, who leave this month for England. Steph and Karol have made their mark on so many features of *History in the Making*. They were instrumental in the establishment of the journal and it is also in large part due to their vision and commitment that it has continued to grow over time. Thank you to both of you for all the work you have put into the project over the last four years.

While they we will be sorely missed, we wish them all the best for the future. We are excited for Steph as she takes up a wonderful opportunity at Cambridge University and are confident that great things lie ahead for Karol too. Although Steph and Karol will be stepping away from an active role in the journal, they have promised to lend a helping hand from afar – and we are sure to call on them in the months ahead.

*The History in the Making Journal Collective*

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## Acknowledgements

### Editors

Alexis Bergantz, *Australian National University*

Jane-Anne Denison, *University of New England*

Samuel Finch, *University of Queensland*

Matthew Haultain-Gall, *University of New South Wales*

Catherine Horne, *University of Sydney*

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Sophie Robinson, *University of New South Wales*

Laura Stanley, *Victoria University*

Andrew Watson, *University of Adelaide*

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Phil Andrews, *University of Sydney*

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Ryan Coates, *Durham University*

Marcus Colla, *University of Tasmania*

Emily Duthie, *Australian National University*

James Lesh, *University of Melbourne*

Lauren Mackay, *University of Newcastle*

Cameron McPhedran, *University of New South Wales*

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Henry Reese, *University of Melbourne*

Daniel Rowney, *Macquarie University/University of New England*

Liz Smith, *Macquarie University*

### Partners

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### **Article Abstracts**

#### **‘A Shoulder to Cry On: the Consumption of Royalist Literature as a Mourning Ritual in Seventeenth Century England.’**

Amy Butterfield

*Honours, University of Sydney*

In January 1649, Charles I was beheaded, beginning a process of transformation of the monarch from tyrant to martyr. In this article, Amy Butterfield explores this moment in English history through the lens of Royalist literature, focusing specifically on the ways by which such texts reconstructed the image of Charles I. This article places Royalist literature within the context of alternate forms of propaganda, as well as the processes of grief and mourning rituals in the aftermath of Charles I’s execution, to better understand the ways by which Parliamentary attempts to overthrow the monarchy were prevented. The restoration of the monarchy by 1660 was achieved, Butterfield argues, not through cavalry charges or musket fire but – importantly - through words.

#### **‘In Defence of the Court’s Integrity: The Role of Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes in the Defeat of the Court-Packing Plan of 1937.’**

Ryan Coates

*Honours, Durham University*

In 1937, US President Franklin D. Roosevelt introduced the Judicial Procedures Reform Bill – a legislative initiative designed to allow the President to add additional members to the US Supreme Court. Ryan Coates’ article explores this watershed moment (known as the ‘Court-Packing Plan’) in American legal history through the career and role of Charles Evans Hughes, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court from 1930. Coates uses the intervention of Chief Justice Hughes as a focal point through which to re-examine existing histories of both the Court-Packing Plan and the man himself, and argues that Hughes’ attempt to preserve the institutional integrity of the Supreme Court is worthy of more thorough historical appreciation.

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**‘Devoted to Sport: Health, Fitness and the American New Girl, 1890-1902.’**

Catherine Horne

*Honours, University of Sydney*

Throughout the nineteenth century, the health and wellbeing of the middle-class girl became an increasing concern in popular literature and culture. In this article, Catherine Horne traces the rise of the American ‘New Girl’ – a conceptualisation of girlhood interwoven with ideas of physical fitness. The New Girl, Horne argues, was a cultural symbol rather than a lived reality, and rose to prominence within an historical context characterised by its focus on physical health. This article seeks to shed light on this cultural construction, and in doing so raises important questions about the idea of femininity in nineteenth and early twentieth century America.

**‘Mexican Americans and World War II: Change and Continuity.’**

Matthew Lesh

*Third Year Undergraduate, University of Melbourne*

The experiences of Mexican Americans during World War II, both in combat roles and on the home-front, is an under-examined aspect of that country’s history. Using an archive of oral history interviews recently undertaken with Mexican American war veterans, Matthew Lesh explores the complex series of lived experiences of this group before, during, and immediately after World War II. The participation of Mexican Americans in the war effort, Lesh argues, instigated the process of eradicating some of the discriminatory practices present in American society in the mid-twentieth century, and gave Mexican Americans an increasingly important voice in their nation’s culture.

**‘Much to Mourn or Much to Celebrate? Historical Reckoning and the Legacy of Federation.’**

Marian Jean Lorrison

*Masters, University of New England*

In 2001, Australia celebrated its Centenary of Federation, an event marked by significant historical and historiographical re-examinations about the nation and its history. In this article, Marian Jean Lorrison traces these scholarly works, arguing that the debates around the commemoration of Federation highlighted a broader unease about Australia’s history of British colonisation. Lorrison examines the ongoing absence of Federation in the national psyche, its marked lack of emotional resonance for most contemporary Australians, and questions around the presence (or absence) of Indigenous Australians and women from Australia’s historically-focused national identity. This article convincingly suggests that when history is in the headlines, as it was in 2001, it enriches our historiography and our sense of national self.

**‘Advertising Advertising: The Emerging Advertising Industry’s Dual Promotional Campaigns, 1890-1920.’**

Thomas Ashley Mackay

*Honours, University of Adelaide*

The popularity of television show *Mad Men* has seen a recent academic preoccupation with the history of advertising. In this article, Thomas Mackay examines advertising from the end of the nineteenth and into the early twentieth centuries, tracing the ascent of the industry in the context of the Progressive Era. This early industry, Mackay argues, was characterised by a dual purpose –

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to represent itself to the public as a conscientious institution, while simultaneously proving itself to potential clients as capable of cultivating ‘prejudice’ towards consumables. The result of this negotiation, Mackay suggests, was the need for the industry to effectively sell itself – to advertise advertising.

### **‘The Nature and Importance of Sumerian City States.’**

Kate Narev

*Masters, University of New England*

In examinations of Ancient Mesopotamia, it is the cities of Uruk and Ur – arguably the world’s first city-states – which have most fervently captured the attention of historians. However, much of this historiography is one-dimensional, and Kate Narev’s article is an attempt to more critically engage with the evidence and narratives of Sumerian city-states. In this article, Narev examines the key features of the Sumerian city-state, focusing on the structures, institutions, writing, and art of these multi-faceted civilisations. Of particular import is the rise of specialisation these city structures afforded, marking an indelible shift in the ways by which human societies functioned. The Sumerian civilisation, Narev argues, provided a cultural cohesion throughout Mesopotamia, and set the groundwork for future cities.

### **‘Brides of Christ: Faith and Action in Reformation Europe.’**

Donna Selby

*Second Year Undergraduate, Macquarie University*

The sixteenth century Protestant and Catholic Reformations dramatically altered the experience and practice of institutional Christianity. Donna Selby’s article explores this watershed moment in religious practice through the lens of the female experience of the Reformations; specifically, the changing roles of women (especially nuns) within the Church. Addressing an under-examined area of religious historiography, this article details the complex and nuanced responses to the Reformations by Protestant and Catholic nuns, with a particular focus on those who left their religious orders. Drawing on a rich archive of primary source material, Selby argues that the experiences of female monasticism in the early modern period is in need of much more sustained academic attention.

### **‘How Did Christianity Become the Dominant Religion of the Later Roman Empire?’**

Alanna Speer

*Honours, University of New South Wales*

The rise of Christianity as a dominant religion has characterised much of the history of the Western world. In this article, Alanna Speer examines the ways by which Christianity rose to prominence – and, indeed, dominance – in the Later Roman Empire (250AD to 450AD). Employing both historiographical analysis and primary source research, Speer details the role of Constantine I in solidifying the presence of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire, and traces the evolution of Christianity from a small, persecuted religious sect to the official state religion of the Empire. This turbulent rise, Speer argues, is a far more complex series of narratives than those currently shown in studies of Christianity and in Roman studies.

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