This issue of *History in the Making*, like each issue before it, represents months of hard work by an eclectic group of history students and enthusiasts. In this issue, the journal maintains its high standard of inquisitive, thoughtful works by undergraduates, complemented and honed by a dedicated team of postgraduates. The issue also marks another generational change in the journal’s development, with several of our collective members moving on to exciting new phases of their professional lives.

Two articles in this issue exemplify the exciting and diverse source material available to undergraduate history students. Rebecca Hart provides a close analysis of death certificates, wills, obituaries and deceased estate files to reveal the very personal experiences of a Victorian family. Hart focuses on the experiences and relationships of prominent women within the family, and uncovers the rich stories that can be found in often-dry legal documents. David Taylor accesses interactions between white Tasmanians and indigenous Australians through Benjamin Duterrau and Thomas Bock’s portrayals of Truggernana, Mannalargenna, George Augustus Robinson and their contemporaries, concluding that there is more to these artworks than meets the eye.

Eighteenth and nineteenth century United States history remains a popular topic for our contributors. Hope Williams recounts the activities of abortionist Ann Lohman, known as ‘Madame Restell’, in nineteenth-century New York City. Her career, the controversy with which it was met, and the media coverage of that controversy, are evaluated as manifestations of contemporary social issues. Peter Harney also accesses the social issues that loomed large in the United States at the
turn of the nineteenth century, by examining the transformation of punishment from physical violence to architectural power and surveillance. Harney places that transformation in a broader social context of disease, secularisation and industrialisation.

*History in the Making* continues to publish strong works examining early modern and ancient periods. Jennifer Lord explores the portrayal of female mystics by male and female hagiographers, to identify attitudes to gender in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. She concludes that these mystics were constructed in a way that accommodated their spirituality within existing power structures. Debbie Turkilsen reaches further back, closely examining the rhetorical devices used by Julius Caesar to persuade his audience in *The Civil War*. She reveals that the text is indeed rhetorical, intended to communicate Caesar’s attitude towards the controversial events described in his work.

This issue is the last for several members of our collective, who are moving on to exciting opportunities. Andrew Kelly has completed his PhD and is moving on to professional work in the historical field. The journal’s reviewers will miss his dedicated supervision of the review process. James Keating’s thoughtful approach to each and every submission that crossed his desk, and his hard work building the journal’s blog, has been recognised in a role with the *Journal of Australian Studies*. Aden Knaap will join the PhD program at Harvard, where his experience coordinating the review and editing of submissions to *History in the Making* will serve him well. They have each made enormous contributions to the journal, and we wish them the best in their new endeavours.

**Acknowledgements**

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Articles

Punishment by Design
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Tears and Text: Constructing Difference in the Vitae of Marie d'Oignies and Douceline of Digne
Jennifer Lord
Third year undergraduate, Monash University

Presence and Absence: The Play of Race and Aesthetics in the Portraits of Thomas Bock and Benjamin Duterrau
David Taylor,
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Rhetoric Used by the Voice of the Narrator in Julius Caesar’s The Civil War
Debbie Turkilsen
Third year undergraduate, University of New England

Shrewd entrepreneurialism or accidental victim? Madame Restell and Reproductive Rights in Nineteenth-Century New York City
Hope Williams
Third year undergraduate, University of Sydney