

Biografia Thérèse Ridley:

Thérèse Ridley is also a fine scholar, having studied German, Chinese and Japanese at both the University of Melbourne and Monash University. As Frederik Vervaeke notes, Thérèse has produced a “formidable English translation of Friedrich Münzer’s 1920 study on Roman Aristocratic Parties and Families, published in 1999 with the Johns Hopkins University Press. In doing so, she opened up one of the most influential works of scholarship to the widest possible audience as well as paying tribute long overdue to a most distinguished and prolific German Jewish scholar who died in miserable circumstances in the Theresienstadt concentration camp in October 1942.” The book features a chapter by Thérèse Ridley on Münzer’s life, including a powerful account of his arrest and “slow killing” at Theresienstadt. Ron contributed an Introduction on Münzer’s work. Reviewers praised Thérèse’s translation as “remarkable” (Ronald J. Weber, in *History: Reviews of New Books*, 28:2 (2000), and E. A. Judge, Emeritus Professor of History at Macquarie University, observed in the foreword that “Our dedicated translator has matched the patience and care of the one she serves”.

Together, Ron and Thérèse Ridley have created a lasting legacy of academic scholarship with their individual research and writings, and a model of collegiality, mentoring and friendship through the relationships they have formed with students and colleagues. Their gift ensures that graduate students from the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies whose focus is the Roman world, now have the opportunity not only to develop their own in-depth research, but to do this in the heart of the “Eternal City” of Rome.

It’s certain that the inaugural recipient of the scholarship, SHAPS graduate researcher, Donna Storey, would agree with Ron’s assessment that it was only “fair” that a scholarship should be offered to support research not only on ancient Greece, but also on Rome. Donna has recently returned from her time in Rome, delving into the archives for her work on Italian fascism and its use of Roman Imperial symbols. When she learned of her successful application, Donna wrote to Ron and Thérèse that she was “both humbled and honoured to be granted this award”, expressing her “gratitude for [Ron and Thérèse’s] generosity in making this scholarship possible”. The impulse behind this new scholarship will, as Donna notes, “benefit future recipients... and research in Classics and Archaeology at the University of Melbourne”. Looking back on her time in Rome, Donna describes how valuable it was for her work: “The incredible resources at the British School at Rome are rich and plentiful, as are those at the many other libraries and archives in which I undertook research while in Rome. Additionally, I was able to visit many ancient and modern sites and exhibitions, all of which were instrumental to a very productive couple of months in furthering my research.”

Donna's supervisor, Associate Professor Frederik Vervaeet, also applauds the Riddleys' generosity, along with their immeasurable contribution to scholarship. Frederik recalled that in 2006, when he was applying for his current position, Ron gifted him a copy of his "myth-busting monograph on the *Deeds of the Divine Augustus*, complete with a charming letter offering me all the support I would require should I accept the position. I know for a fact that he has shown similar support to a great many people and given away countless prized books."

I can also attest to this extraordinary kindness. When I met with Ron, I mentioned that I was soon to visit Greece and Crete as a 2019 recipient of the Jessie Webb Scholarship. I told Ron that I had developed a keen interest in Jessie Webb and her work. A week after our interview, Ron unexpectedly presented me with a signed copy of his book *Jessie Webb: A Memoir*. Both Ron and Thérèse have a reputation for extending kindness to junior scholars in this way, as well as for their general joie de vivre!



<https://blogs.unimelb.edu.au/shaps-research/2019/12/12/all-roads-lead-to-rome-the-therese-and-ronald-ridley-scholarship/>