

Bronwen Neil, FAHA
Professor
Department of Ancient History
Email: bronwen.neil@mq.edu.au
Phone: +61 2 9850 7933



Biography

Bronwen Neil is Professor of Ancient History at Macquarie, and member of the Macquarie University Ancient Cultures Research Centre. She studied Linguistics, Classics and Ancient History at the University of Queensland (1987-1991), before undertaking a Master of Arts in Theological Research at Durham University, UK (1997/1998) and completing her PhD at Australian Catholic University in 1999. Subsequently, she joined the Centre for Early Christian Studies there (2000-2015), serving as Associate Director (2014-2015). From 2001-2005 she held an ARC Postgraduate Research Fellowship, while teaching in the School of Theology at ACU. In 2010 she was appointed the inaugural holder of the Burke Senior Lectureship in Ecclesiastical Latin, and in 2015 was promoted to Associate Professor. She was awarded an ARC Future Fellowship (2014-2018) and joined Macquarie University as Professor of Ancient History in 2017.

Qualifications

Medieval Latin, PhD, Australian Catholic University
1992 → 1999

Theological Studies, Masters of Arts, University of Durham
1997 → 1998

Classics, Bachelor of Arts Honours, The University of Queensland
1990 → 1991

1 Jan 2018 HDR Supervision Orientation 2018-2020, HDR30

1 Nov 2017 HDR Supervision-Orientation & Registration, HDR01

Employment

Professor

Professor
Department of Ancient History
Macquarie University
3 Jan 2017 → present

Editorial board

Journal of Late Antiquity
United States
1 Jan 2019 → present

Council

Australian Academy of the Humanities
Canberra, Australia
1 Jan 2017 → 1 Jan 2020

Series editor, *Byzantina Australiensia*

E.J. Brill
Netherlands
1 Jan 2017 → present

Research Associate

University of South Africa
South Africa
1 Jan 2017 → 1 Jan 2019

Editorial board, *Vigiliae Christianae*

E.J. Brill

Netherlands

1 Jan 2016 → present

Editorial board, *Scrinium*

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

Leuven, Belgium

1 Jan 2015 → present

Subject editor, Brill Encyclopedia of Early Christianity

E.J. Brill

Netherlands

Research outputs

Empathy and Learning Outcomes in a Virtual Reality Greek Villa: Immersive vs Traditional Teaching Methods

Lupack, S., Neil, B., Richards, D. & Bilgin, A., 2021, (In preparation) In : Australasian journal of educational technology.

Memories of Utopia: the revision of histories and landscapes in Late Antiquity

Neil, B. (ed.) & Simic, K. (ed.), 2020, (Accepted/In press) Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group. 352 p.

Merovingian Letters and Letter-Writers

Neil, B. & Rosbrook, C., 2020, In : Journal of Medieval Latin.

Dreams, virtue and divine knowledge in Early Christian Egypt

Neil, B., Costache, D. & Wagner, K., 2019, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (CUP). 350 p.

Gelasius I

Neil, B., 2019, *Great Christian jurists and legal collections in the first millennium*. Reynolds, P. L. (ed.). Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press (CUP), p. 297-314 18 p. (Law and Christianity).

Hagiography

Neil, B., 2019, *The Oxford handbook of early Christian Biblical interpretation*. Blowers, P. M. & Martens, P. W. (eds.). Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, p. 304-314 11 p. (Oxford Handbooks).

Manipulating the message: Letters of Gelasius and Nicholas I on papal authority

Neil, B., 2019, (Accepted/In press) In : Journal of Epistolary Studies. 1, 1, p. 38-47

Mary as intercessor in Byzantine theology

Neil, B., 2019, *The Oxford handbook of Mary*. Maunder, C. (ed.). Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, p. 140-153 14 p.

Pope Gelasius's theory of law and its implementation at the end of the fifth century

Neil, B., 2019, *The fifth century: age of transformation: proceedings of the 12th biennial shifting frontiers in late antiquity conference*. Drijvers, J. W. & Lenski, N. (eds.). Bari: Edipuglia, p. 273-284 12 p.

Visions, female sexuality, and spiritual leadership in Byzantine ascetic literature of the sixth and seventh centuries

Neil, B., 2019, *Gender in the Premodern Mediterranean*. Moore, M. (ed.). Tempe: Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, p. 45-62 18 p.

Addressing conflict in the fifth century: Rome and the wider church

Neil, B., 2018, In : *Scrinium*. 14, 1, p. 92-114 23 p.

An introduction to *Dreams, memory and imagination in Byzantium*

Neil, B., 2018, *Dreams, memory and imagination in Byzantium*. Neil, B. & Anagnostou-Laoutides, E. (eds.). Leiden ; Boston: Brill, p. 1-13 13 p. (Byzantina Australiensia; vol. 24).

Apocrisiarus

Neil, B., 2018, (Accepted/In press) *Brill Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*. Brill

Cubicularius

Neil, B., 2018, (Accepted/In press) *Brill Encyclopedia of Early Christianity*. Brill

Dream portents in early Byzantine and early Islamic chronicles

Neil, B., 2018, *Dreams, memory and imagination in Byzantium*. Neil, B. & Anagnostou-Laoutides, E. (eds.). Leiden ; Boston: Brill, p. 208-226 18 p. (Byzantina Australiensia; vol. 24).

Dreams, memory and imagination in Byzantium

Neil, B. (ed.) & Anagnostou-Laoutides, E. (ed.), 2018, Leiden ; Boston: Brill. 347 p. (Byzantina Australiensia; vol. 24)

Dream-visions, prophecy and contemplation in Origen's *Contra Celsum*

Neil, B., 2018, *Praying and contemplating in Late Antiquity: religious and philosophical interactions*. Pachoumi, E. & Edwards, M. (eds.). Tuebingen: Mohr Siebeck, p. 123-137 15 p. (Studien und Texte zu Antike und Christentum ; vol. 113).

Greek and Latin letters in Late Antiquity: the Christianisation of a literary form

Allen, P. & Neil, B., 2018, (Submitted) Cambridge University Press (CUP). 290 p.

Hagiography

Neil, B., 2018, (Accepted/In press) *Oxford Handbook of Early Christian Biblical Interpretation*. Blowers, P. & Martens, P. W. (eds.). Oxford University Press, 15 p.

Leo Magnus

Neil, B., 2018, *Preaching in the Patristic Era: sermons, preachers, and audiences in the Latin West*. Dupont, A., Boodts, S., Partoens, G. & Leemans, J. (eds.). Leiden; Boston: Brill, p. 327-346 20 p. (New History of the Sermon; vol. 6).

Letters on Church Conflict (500-700 CE)

Neil, B. & Allen, P., 2018, (Accepted/In press) Catholic University of America Press. 270 p.

Memories of Utopia: Revising Texts and Landscapes in Late Antiquity

Neil, B. (ed.) & Simic, K. (ed.), 2018, (In preparation) Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group. 300 p.

Pelagius I. und der Primat Roms: Ein Beitrag zum Drei-Kapitel-Streit und zur Papstgeschichte des 6. Jahrhunderts

Neil, B., 2018, In : *Journal of Late Antiquity*. 11, 2, p. 442-443 2 p.

Vigilius

Neil, B., 2018, *The Oxford dictionary of late antiquity*. Nicholson, O. (ed.). Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press

Insanity and sanctify in Byzantium: the ambiguity of religious experience

Neil, B., Nov 2017, In : *History*. 45, 6, p. 157-158 2 p.

Leo the Great's Letters on the 'Manichaean Perversity'

Neil, B., 2 Aug 2017, (Submitted) *Manuscripts and Letters: Second International Conference on Patristic Studies-San Juan-Proceedings*. Ciner, P. (ed.). Brepols Publishers

Dream interpretation and its application in religious traditions: from early Byzantium to contemporary fundamentalism
Neil, B., 17 Jan 2017, (Accepted/In press) *Christianity and conflictual culture*. van der Heever, G. (ed.). Brill

Apocalypse then: dreams and visions in Byzantine apocalyptic in the context of conflict

Neil, B., 2017, *Text and the material world: essays in honour of Graeme Clarke*. Minchin, E. & Jackson, H. (eds.). Uppsala: Astrom editions, p. 349-358 10 p. (Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology and Literature; vol. PB 185).

Conclusion: translating Byzantium in the new millennium

Neil, B., 2017, *Byzantine Culture in Translation*. Brown, A. & Neil, B. (eds.). Leiden: Brill, p. 256-265 10 p. 14. (Byzantina Australiensia; vol. 21).

Maximus the Confessor: Jesus Christ and the transfiguration of the world

Neil, B., 2017, In : *Journal of Early Christian Studies*. 25, 4, p. 656-658 3 p.

Papal letters and letter collections

Neil, B., 2017, *Late Antique Letter Collections: a critical introduction and reference guide*. Sogno, C., Storin, B. K. & Watts, E. J. (eds.). Oakland, California: University of California Press, p. 449-466 18 p.

The reception of late-antique popes in the medieval Byzantine tradition

Neil, B., 2017, *Studia Patristica Vol. XCVII: papers presented at the Seventeenth International Conference on Patristic Studies held in Oxford 2015 : Volume 23 : from the fourth century onwards (Latin writers); Nachleben*. Vinzent, M. (ed.). Leuven ; Paris ; Bristol, CT: Peeters Publishers, p. 283-293 11 p. (Studia Patristica; vol. 97).

Studying dream interpretation from early Christianity to the rise of Islam

Neil, B., 1 Mar 2016, In : *Journal of Religious History*. 40, 1, p. 44-64 21 p.

Reading First Thessalonians as a consolatory letter in light of Seneca and ancient handbooks on letter-writing

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Byzantine scholarship in Australia in the new millennium

Neil, B., 2016, *Proceedings of the 23rd International Congress of Byzantine Studies, Belgrade, 22-27 August 2016: plenary papers*. Belgrade: Serbian National Committee of AIEB, p. 333-339 7 p.

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The resurrection of the body in Leo the Great's Ascension and Pentecost homilies

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Collecting early christian letters: from the Apostle Paul to late antiquity

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Continuities and changes in the practice of letter-collecting from Cicero to late antiquity

Neil, B., 1 Jan 2015, *Collecting early Christian letters: from the apostle Paul to late antiquity*. Neil, B. & Allen, P. (eds.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p. 3-17 15 p.

De profundis: the letters and archives of Pelagius I of Rome (556–561)

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Death and the Bishop of Rome. from Hormisdas to Sabinian

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Divine Providence and the gnomic will before Maximus

Neil, B., 2015, *The Oxford Handbook of Maximus the Confessor*. Allen, P. & Neil, B. (eds.). Oxford: Oxford University Press, p. 235-249 15 p.

Dream interpretation and Christian identity in Late Antique Rome and Byzantium

Neil, B., 2015, *Christians Shaping Identity from the Roman Empire to Byzantium: studies inspired by Pauline Allen*. Dunn, G. D. & Mayer, W. (eds.). Leiden: Brill, p. 321-341 21 p. (Supplements to *Vigiliae Christianae* : texts and studies of early Christian life and language; vol. 132).

Gregory the Great

Neil, B., 2015, *The Wiley Blackwell companion to patristics*. Parry, K. (ed.). Chichester, West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell, Wiley, p. 238-249 12 p. (The Wiley Blackwell companions to religion).

Martin I

Neil, B., 2015, *Encyclopedic Dictionary of the Christian East*. Farrugia, E. G. (ed.). 2nd ed. (revised and expanded) ed. Rome: Pontifical Oriental Institute

Maximus the Confessor

Neil, B., 2015, *Encyclopedic Dictionary of the Christian East*. Farrugia, E. G. (ed.). 2nd ed. (revised and expanded) ed. Rome: Pontifical Oriental Institute

Patristics in Australia: current status and future potential

Neil, B., 2015, *Patristic Studies in the Twenty-First Century: proceedings of an international conference to mark the 50th anniversary of the International Association of Patristic Studies*. Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols Publishers, p. 145-161 17 p.

Synesius of Cyrene on dreams as a pathway to the divine

Neil, B., 2015, In : *Phronema*. 30, 2, p. 19-36 18 p.

Theophanes Confessor on the Arab Conquest: the Latin version by Anastasius Bibliothecarius

Neil, B., 2015, In : *Travaux et Memoires*. 19, 1, p. 149-157 9 p.

The Oxford handbook of Maximus the Confessor

Allen, P. (ed.) & Neil, B., 2015, Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Oxford Handbooks)

Jerome's Epitaph on Paula : a commentary on the *Epitaphium Sanctae Paulae*

Neil, B., 2014, In : *Catholic Historical Review*. 100, 1, p. 106-107 2 p.

Religious Leaders: Late Antiquity

Neil, B. & Casey, D., 2014, *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Gender Studies*. O'Brien, J. M. (ed.). New York: Oxford University Press, 5 p.

Synesius and dream interpretation in fifth-century Alexandria: dreaming as an approach to the divine

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The Invention of Peter : apostolic discourse and papal authority in late antiquity

Neil, B., 2014, In : *Theological Studies*. 75, 3, p. 662-664 3 p.

The Letters of Gelasius I (492-496): pastor and micro-manager of the Church of Rome

Neil, B. & Allen, P., 2014, Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols. 252 p. (Adnotationes : commentaries on early Christian and Patristic studies)

A Companion to Gregory the Great

Neil, B. (ed.) & dal Santo, M. (ed.), 2013, Leiden: Brill. 453 p. (Brill Companions to the Christian Tradition; vol. 47)

An introduction to questions of gender in Byzantium

Neil, B., 2013, *Questions of Gender in Byzantine Society*. Neil, B. & Garland, L. (eds.). Farnham, UK: Ashgate Publishing, p. 1-10 10 p.

Crisis management in Late Antiquity (410-590 CE): a survey of the evidence from episcopal letters

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Questions of gender in Byzantine society

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Regarding women on the throne: Representations of empress Eirene

Neil, B., 2013, *Questions of Gender in Byzantine Society*. Neil, B. & Garland, L. (eds.). Farnham, UK: Ashgate Publishing, p. 113-131 19 p.

Religious conflict from early Christianity to the rise of Islam

Mayer, W. (ed.) & Neil, B. (ed.), 2013, De Gruyter. 256 p. (Arbeiten zur Kirchengeschichte; vol. 121)

The Decretals of Gelasius I: making canon law in Late Antiquity

Neil, B., 2013, *Lex et religio: XL incontro di studiosi dell'Antichità cristiana*. Rome: Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum, p. 657-668 12 p. (Studia Ephemeridis Augustinianum; vol. 135).

The Earliest Greek understandings of Islam: John of Damascus and Theophanes the Confessor

Neil, B., 2013, *Religious Conflict from Early Christianity to Early Islam*. Mayer, W. & Neil, B. (eds.). Berlin: De Gruyter, p. 215-228 14 p. (Arbeiten zur Kirchengeschichte; vol. 121).

The Papacy in the age of Gregory the Great

Neil, B., 2013, *A Companion to Gregory the Great*. Neil, B. & Dal Santo, M. (eds.). Leiden: Brill, p. 3-27 25 p. (Brill's Companions to the Christian Tradition; vol. 47).

A Crisis of Orthodoxy: Leo I's fight against the "deadly disease" of heresy

Neil, B., 2012, *Ancient Jewish and Christian Texts as Crisis Management Literature: Thematic Studies from the Centre for Early Christian Studies*. Sim, D. C. & Allen, P. (eds.). London ; New York: T&T Clark Continuum, p. 144-158 15 p. (Library

of New Testament Studies; vol. 445).

Anastasius Bibliothecarius

Neil, B., 2012, *The Encyclopedia of Ancient History*. Bagnall, R. S., Brodersen, K., Champion, C. B., Erskine, A. & Huebner, S. R. (eds.). Chichester, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, Wiley, p. 399-400 2 p.

Crisis and wealth in byzantine Italy: the libri pontificales of Rome and Ravenna

Neil, B., 2012, In : *Byzantion: Revue Internationale des Etudes Byzantines*. 82, p. 279-303 25 p.

Divine providence and free will in Gregory of Nyssa and his theological milieu

Neil, B., 2012, In : *Phronema*. 27, 2, p. 35-51 17 p.

Maximus the Confessor

Neil, B., 2012, *The Encyclopedia of Ancient History*. Bagnall, R. S., Brodersen, K., Champion, C. B., Erskine, A. & Huebner, S. R. (eds.). Chichester, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, Wiley, p. 4368 1 p.

Monothelism

Neil, B., 2012, *The Encyclopedia of Ancient History*. Bagnall, R. S., Brodersen, K., Champion, C. B., Erskine, A. & Huebner, S. R. (eds.). Chichester, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, Wiley, p. 4581 1 p.

Transformations of Late Antiquity : essays for Peter Brown

Neil, B., 2012, In : *Zeitschrift fur Antikes Christentum*. 16

Beggar, Begging: III. Christianity : Patristics and Medieval Times

Neil, B., 2011, *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*. Klauck, H-J. (ed.). Berlin: De Gruyter, p. 768-769 2 p.

Charity: V. Christianity : A. Patristics, Orthodox Churches, and Early Medieval Times

Neil, B., 2011, *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*. Klauck, H-J. (ed.). Berlin: De Gruyter, p. 22-24 3 p.

Discourses on the poor in the Psalms: Augustine's *Enarrationes in Psalmos*

Allen, P. & Neil, B., 2011, *Meditations of the Heart: the Psalms in early Christian thought and practice : essays in honour of Andrew Louth*. Andreopoulos, A., Casiday, A. & Harrison, C. (eds.). Turnhout: Brepols Publishers, p. 181-204 24 p. (*Studia Traditionis Theologiae (STT)*; vol. 8).

Displaced peoples: reflections from Late Antiquity on a contemporary crisis

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Imperial benefactions to the fifth-century Roman church

Neil, B., 2011, *Basileia: Essays on Imperium and Culture in Honour of E.M. and M.J. Jeffreys*. Nathan, G. & Garland, L. (eds.). Virginia, QLD: Australian Association for Byzantine Studies, p. 55-66 12 p.

Pagan ritual and Christian liturgy: Leo the Great's preaching on sun-worship

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Blessed are the rich: Leo the Great and the Roman poor

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Church Fathers

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From *tristia* to *gaudia*: the exile and martyrdom of Pope Martin I

Neil, B., 2010, *Martyrdom and Persecution in Late Antique Christianity: festschrift Boudewijn Dehandschutter*. Leemans, J. (ed.). Leuven: Peeters Publishers, p. 179-194 16 p. (*Bibliotheca Ephemeridum Theologicarum Lovaniensium* ; vol. 241).

Sophronius of Jerusalem and Seventh-Century Heresy : the *Synodical Letter* and other documents

Neil, B., 2010, In : *Catholic Historical Review*. 96, 2, p. 321-322 2 p.

Spiritual peace and civic harmony in Leo the Great's *Sermo 95*

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Leo the great

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Anastasius Bibliothecarius

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Conclusions

Neil, B., 2009, *Preaching Poverty in Late Antiquity: perceptions and realities*. Allen, P., Neil, B. & Mayer, W. (eds.). Leipzig: Evangelische Verlagsanstalt GmbH, p. 209-231 23 p.

Leo I on poverty

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Preaching Poverty in Late Antiquity: perceptions and realities

Allen, P., Neil, B. & Mayer, W., 2009, Leipzig: Evangelische Verlagsanstalt GmbH. 252 p. (*Arbeiten zur Kirchen- und Theologiegeschichte*; vol. 28)

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Towards defining a Christian culture: The Christian transformation of classical literature

Neil, B., 1 Jan 2007, *The Cambridge History of Christianity: Constantine to c.600*. Casiday, A. & W. Norris, F. (eds.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p. 315-342 28 p.

'Blessed is poverty': Leo the Great on almsgiving

Neil, B., 2007, In : *Sacris Erudiri*. 46, p. 143-156 14 p.

Introduction: text and transmission in medieval Europe

Bishop, C., Kudrycz, W., Martyn, J., Neil, B. & Speed, D., 2007, *Text and Transmission in Medieval Europe*. Bishop, C. (ed.). Newcastle, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, p. 1-16 16 p.

The politics of hagiography in ninth-century Rome

Neil, B., 2007, *Text and Transmission in Medieval Europe*. Bishop, C. (ed.). Newcastle, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, p. 58-75 18 p.

Commemorating Pope Martin 1: his trial in Constantinople

Neil, B., 2006, *Studia Patristica: Historica, Biblica, Ascetica et Hagiographica*. Vol. 39. p. 77-82 6 p.

Exploring the limits of literal exegesis: Augustine's reading of Gen 1:26

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Letter of Vigilius to John

Mayer, W. (ed.) & Neil, B. (Translator), 2006, *The Cult of the Saints: select homilies and letters, by St. John Chrysostom ; introduced, translated, and annotated by Wendy Mayer with Bronwen Neil*. New York: St Vladimir's Seminary Press, p. 265-280 16 p.

Narrating the trials and death in exile of Pope Martin I and Maximus the Confessor

Neil, B., 2006, *Byzantine narrative: papers in honour of Roger Scott*. Burke, J. (ed.). Melbourne: Australian Association for Byzantine Studies, p. 71-83 13 p. (*Byzantina Australiensia*; vol. 16).

On true humility: an anonymous letter on poverty and the female ascetic

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Seventh-Century Popes and Martyrs: the political hagiography of Anastasius Bibliothecarius

Neil, B., 2006, Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols. 356 p. (*Studia Antiqua Australiensia*; vol. 2)

The body in St Maximus the Confessor : holy flesh, wholly deified

Neil, B., 2006, In : *Journal of ecclesiastical history*. 57, 2, p. 324-325 2 p.

The miracles of Saints Cyrus and John: The Greek text and its transmission

Neil, B., 2006, In : *Journal of the Australian Early Medieval Association*. 2, 2006, p. 183-193 11 p.

The Cambridge history of early Christian literature

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"The Blessed Passion of Holy Love": Maximus the Confessor's spiritual psychology

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"It is I who am a man, you who are women": sayings of the Desert Mothers

Neil, B., 2004, In : *Women-church*. 35, p. 11-15 5 p.

"Let me know you..." : reflections on Augustine's search for God

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Neil, B., 2003, In : *Theologische Literaturzeitung*. 128, 11, p. 1171-1173 3 p.

Prayer and Spirituality in the Early Church: volume 3 : liturgy and life

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Rufinus' translation of the *Epistola Clementis ad Iacobum*

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The cult of Pope Clement in ninth-century Rome

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The life of Maximus the Confessor: recension 3

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