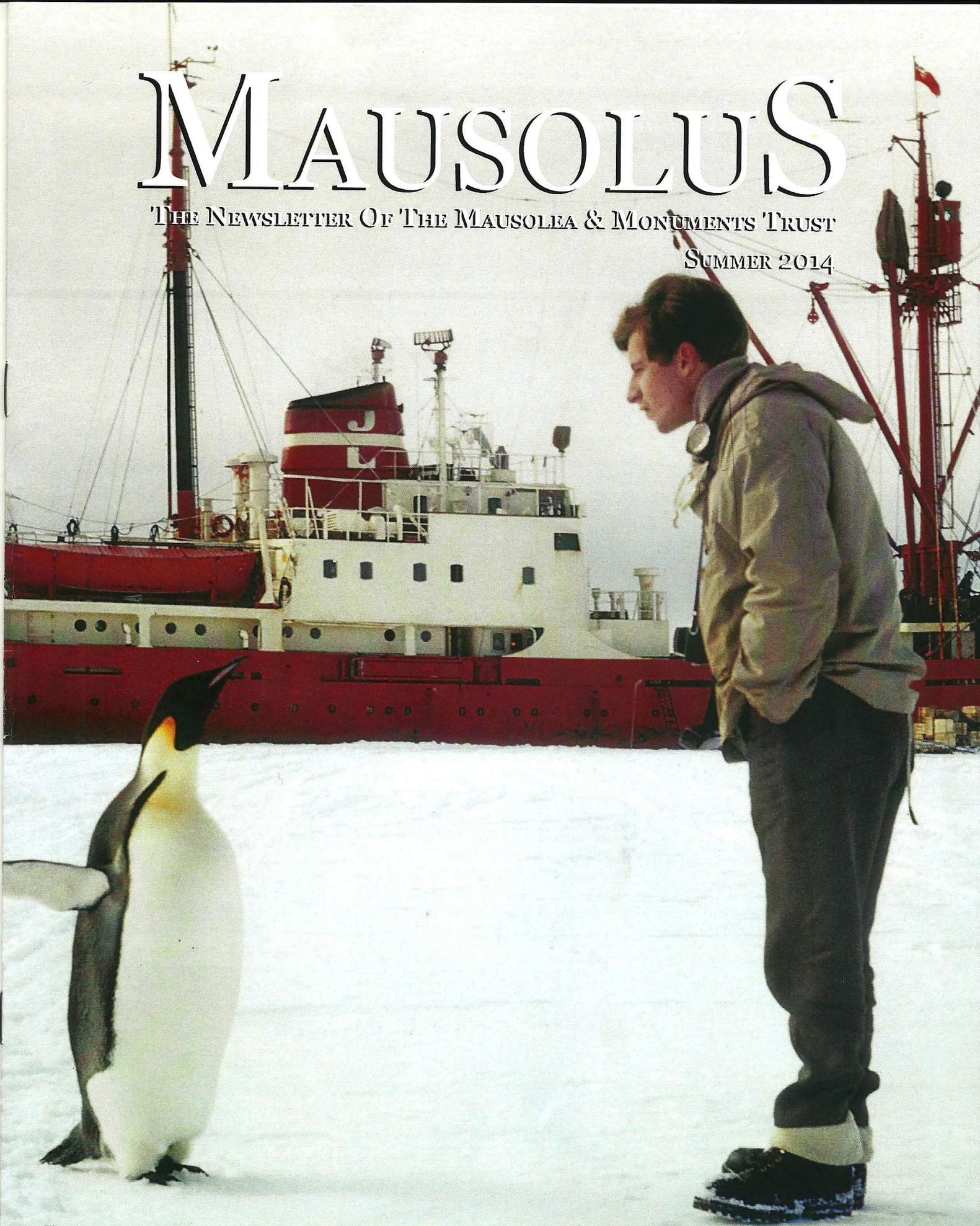


# MAUSOLUS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MAUSOLEA & MONUMENTS TRUST

SUMMER 2014



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## *From the Editor - Gabriel Byng*

I am delighted to take over as editor of *Mausolus*. My predecessor, Hannah Parham, has run this magazine brilliantly and I am conscious that I have very big shoes to fill.

We are keen to encourage members to contribute news of monuments, mausolea and related books and events through the MMT's members' email and *Mausolus*. If you have any news or photographs, or have recently visited an interesting monument or mausolea, please do email me at [gabriel.byng@gmail.com](mailto:gabriel.byng@gmail.com).

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Members and others are warmly encouraged to contribute photos, news and features to:

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'Poet, Seducer and Preacher of War': this is the sub-title of Lucy Hughes-Hallett's award-winning biography of Gabriele D'Annunzio, *The Pike*. Anyone who has visited his house-cum-shrine beside Lake Garda will remember the imposing mausoleum, built after D'Annunzio's death in 1938 with funds from Mussolini. A blatant homage to the Mausoleum of Augustus in Rome's Campus Martius, the structure consists of tiers of dazzlingly white marble with circuits of olives planted at each stage. These layers are the 'Rings of the Victory of the Humble, of the Artificers and of the Heroes'. This latter level has the feel of a sacrificial platform, and comprises a central sarcophagus to the man himself, ringed about by satellite tombs containing the remains of his followers.

Some were killed during D'Annunzio's seizure of Fiume in 1919. Giancarlo Maroni was the architect of the patently fascist pile, and he was guided in his plans by regular seances with the great man's shade. Il Vittoriale is a profoundly memorable experience (in a powerful yet perturbing way).

Roger Bowdler

