About the Cover

Cover image: 'Not Forgotten – Heigler Sand, Worms, Germany,'
© Jim Straka, 15 November 2009.

postmedieval: a journal of medieval cultural studies (2014) 5, 269. doi:10.1057/pmed.2014.28

The headstone bedecked with memorials left by visitors is a reminder that questions of historical interpretation touch upon us as individuals as well as members of the body politic. Those small witnesses, in stone and paper, allusively suggest the persistence of memory across generations, as well as its intimately personal quality. We remember names and identify with faces in photographs; we search for meaning in events. This special issue is concerned with themes of historical memory as these intersect with politics and historiography, but this image reminds us that history exacts a price from each of us that is ineluctable, ethical and difficult. Historical narratives offer us a way of understanding and accessing the past, even as we remind ourselves not to reach for too-easy explanations of historical Jewish suffering and survival.

Hannah Johnson
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.

Nina Caputo
University of Florida, FL.