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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE ESTABLISHES SBL PRESS

The Society of Biblical Literature is pleased to announce that its publications program will become SBL Press as of July 1, 2014. “SBL Press will continue a legacy of publishing excellence that stretches back to the first issue of the *Journal of Biblical Literature* in 1880,” said John Kutsko, SBL’s Executive Director.

Through the years SBL has published monographs and edited collections with various publishing partners as a service to members, students, and scholars. Its longest running association was with Scholars Press from 1974 to 1999. Following the dissolution of Scholar’s Press, the Society published under its own name from 2000 to 2014. Bob Buller, SBL’s Director of Publications since 2004, will continue as Director of SBL Press.

The establishment of SBL Press strengthens the identity and mission of the Society’s publishing program in a changing market. Buller explained the transition. “What’s in a name? A name both shapes and announces the character of its bearer. By adopting the name SBL Press, we signal our ongoing commitment to publishing the scholarly excellence for which the SBL is known with the uncompromising standards that one expects from an experienced press.”

John Fitzgerald, chair of SBL’s Research and Publications Committee added, “The change is a small one but intended to have important consequences. We want to make clear that we are a publisher in our own right, not just a professional organization with a publishing program. Inasmuch as we already are a member in good standing of the Association of American University Presses, we believe this change will help solidify our identity in the university press world. Doing so should raise the value of our imprint for tenure and promotion, and that is in our best interest as a learned society.” SBL Press will continue to simultaneously publish its titles in hardcover, paperback, and digital

editions, in order to provide its customers what they want.

As part of the new program, SBL Press will launch four new series. Two will be on the history of interpretation and reception of the Bible in ancient and contemporary contexts. A third, Writings from the Islamic World, which debuts later this year, will make English translations of ancient texts from Eastern traditions of biblical studies widely available. The fourth is a multivolume project offering an eclectic edition of the Hebrew Bible (The Hebrew Bible: A Critical Edition).

Since 2010, SBL has increased its publishing program from 28 books a year to 40, and it continues to expand its services to individuals and libraries. Karen Strauss of Strauss Consultants, who has helped SBL with its transition to the new data-driven sales market, stressed the importance of the establishment of SBL Press. “SBL has a mission to advance the academic study of biblical texts and their contexts of biblical interpretation. With the new branding of SBL Press, this mission will be more clearly defined and in turn strengthen our identity to the librarians and their patrons.”

In addition to its own series, SBL Press will continue to license and publish paperback editions of Brill titles. SBL Press will also remain the proud worldwide distributor for Brown Judaic Studies and the North American distributor for Sheffield Phoenix Press. Click [here](#) to view all available titles.

The [Society of Biblical Literature](#), founded in 1880, is the oldest and largest learned society devoted to the critical investigation of the Bible from a variety of academic disciplines. As an international organization, the Society offers its members opportunities for mutual support, intellectual growth, and professional development and is a member of the [American Council of Learned Societies](#).