

It is my pleasure to distribute the ICI REPORT for January 2010

(a) DEVELOPING A NETWORK OF LIAISONS & TEACHING COLLABORATION PROJECTS

Nat Levtow (Nathaniel.Levtow@mso.umt.edu) who has recently joined the ICI Task Force is now working on developing a substantial network of colleagues who would like to serve as liaisons for ICI projects in different countries and to spread awareness of ICI and its teaching collaboration projects. Please contact him if you wish to volunteer, suggest others and if you have any ideas that you think may be helpful to advance awareness of ICI around the globe.

(b) PUBLICATIONS: IVBS

The prototype of the IVBS website is being tested right now. The general editors, Monica Melanchthon (monixm@gmail.com) and Louis Jonker (lcj@sun.ac.za) will be able to announce it soon. The site looks already very good. Please consider publishing articles, books and collections of essays in this important series.

(c) ANEM/MACO

Please read the article about ANEM/MACO by Alan Lenzi, available at <http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/article.aspx?articleId=854>

See also

[http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books\\_ANEmonographs.aspx](http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ANEmonographs.aspx)

(d) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS

For the list of the books published online as of Feb 1, 2010 please go to [http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books\\_ICIbooks.aspx](http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ICIbooks.aspx)

The following books were added since the last report:

Gibson, Craig A., Translator. *Libanius's Progymnasmata: Model Exercises in Greek Prose Composition and Rhetoric* (with an Introduction and Notes). Writings from the Greco-Roman World 27. Atlanta, Society of Biblical Literature, 2008.

This volume presents the original text and the first English translation of the largest surviving ancient collection of "preliminary exercises" used to teach young men how to compose their own prose, a crucial step toward public speaking and a career worthy of the educated elite. Graded in difficulty, the exercises range from simple fables and narratives to discussions of wise sayings, speeches of praise and blame, impersonations of figures from myth, descriptions of statues and paintings, and essays on general propositions (e.g., "should one marry?"). It provides a unique glimpse into the schoolrooms of the ancient Mediterranean from the Hellenistic period to the Byzantine Empire, vividly illustrating how ancient educators used myth,

history, and popular ethics to shape their students' characters as they sharpened their ability to think, write, and speak.

Haber, Susan. *"They Shall Purify Themselves": Essays on Purity in Early Judaism*. Edited by Adele Reinhartz. *Early Judaism and Its Literature* 24. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2008.

Recent decades have witnessed numerous studies of the role of purity in early Judaism, from ancient Israel to the rabbinic period, covering a variety of topics and approaches. The essays in this volume address three less-studied areas of this broader field: the connection, if any, between purity and the synagogue; Jesus' observance of purity laws; and women's relationships with purity in the first century. By providing a new perspective on the role of purity in first-century Judaism, this stimulating and refreshing collection illuminates ancient practice and informs our understanding of the role of purity in the contemporary world.

Heil, John Paul. *Ephesians: Empowerment to Walk in Love for the Unity of All in Christ*. *Studies in Biblical Literature* 13. Atlanta, Society of Biblical Literature, 2007.

This book analyzes Paul's Letter to the Ephesians and demonstrates that the Letter's implied audience heard its individual units as a rich and complex pattern of chiasmic structures. It shows that, not only is the entire Letter arranged in fifteen units that function as a comprehensive chiasmic structure, but that each of these fifteen units in turn exhibits its own chiasmic structure. By attending carefully to the structure and rhetoric of Ephesians, this work demonstrates how the implied audience is persuaded and empowered by the progression of the Letter to "walk in love" and so contribute to the cosmic unity of all things in Christ.

Mandolfo, Carleen R. *Daughter Zion Talks Back to the Prophets: A Dialogic Theology of the Book of Lamentations*. *Semeia Studies* 58. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2006. (160 pages, 1.2 MB)

*Daughter Zion Talks Back to the Prophets* offers a new theological reading of the book of Lamentations by putting the female voice of chapters 1–2 into dialogue with the divine voice of prophetic texts in which God represents the people Israel as his wife and indicts them/her for being unfaithful to him. In Lamentations 1–2 we hear the "wife" talk back, and from her words we get an entirely different picture of the conflict showcased through this marriage metaphor. Mandolfo thus presents a feminist challenge to biblical hegemony and patriarchy and reconstrues biblical authority to contribute to the theological concerns of a postcolonial world.

Neufeld, Dietmar, ed. *The Social Sciences and Biblical Translation*. *Symposium Series* 41. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2008.

The Bible is an ancient book, written in a language other than English, describing social and cultural situations incongruent with modern sensibilities. To help readers bridge these gaps, this work examines the translation and interpretation of a set of biblical texts from the perspectives of cultural anthropology and the social sciences. The introduction deals with

methodological issues, enabling readers to recognize the differences in translation when words, sentences, and ideas are part of ancient social and cultural systems that shape meaning. The following essays demonstrate how Bible translations can be culturally sensitive, take into account the challenge of social distance, and avoid the dangers of ethnocentric and theological myopia. As a whole, this work shows the importance of making use of the insights of cultural anthropology in an age of ever-increasing manipulation of the biblical text. The contributors are Alicia Batten, Zeba A. Crook, Richard E. DeMaris, John H. Elliott, Rob Kugler, Carolyn Leeb, Dietmar Neufeld, John J. Pilch, Richard L. Rohrbaugh, and John Sandys-Wunsch.

Peters, Dorothy M. *Noah Traditions in the Dead Sea Scrolls: Conversations and Controversies of Antiquity*. Early Judaism and Its Literature 26. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature 2008.

As father of all humanity and not exclusively of Israel, Noah was a problematic ancestor for some Jews in the Second Temple period. His archetypal portrayals in the Dead Sea Scrolls, differently nuanced in Hebrew and Aramaic, embodied the tensions for groups that were struggling to understand both their distinctive self-identities within Judaism and their relationship to the nations among whom they lived. Dually located within a trajectory of early Christian and rabbinic interpretation of Noah and within the Jewish Hellenistic milieu of the Second Temple period, this study of the Noah traditions in the Dead Sea Scrolls illuminates living conversations and controversies among the people who transmitted them and promises to have implications for ancient questions and debates that extended considerably beyond the Dead Sea Scrolls.

We continue looking at possibilities to expand this program.

#### (e) EVENTS

Please let submit basic information about events to Sharon Johnson at [sharon.johnson@sbl-site.org](mailto:sharon.johnson@sbl-site.org). There are a number of other events that may be of interest to this group.

#### June 2010

6/14-6/16 The Society of Asian Biblical Studies (SABS) will hold its next meeting at the Divinity School, Chung Chi College, Chinese University of Hong Kong.

SABS seeks to bring together scholars interested in and committed to Biblical Studies in various contexts of Asia/Oceania, including those in diaspora. For further information, please contact Monica Melanchthon at [styofabs@gmail.com](mailto:styofabs@gmail.com) or Tat-siong Benny Liew at [bliew@psr.edu](mailto:bliew@psr.edu)

#### July 2010

Zoroastrians ARAM Society for Syro-Mesopotamian Studies is organizing its Thirtieth Ninth International Conference on the theme of The Zoroastrians, to be held at the University of Oxford, 08-10 July 2010. The conference aims to study Zoroastrian

religion and culture, and it will start on Thursday 08 July at 9am, finishing on Saturday 10 July at 1pm. Each speaker's paper is limited to 30 minutes, with an additional 10 minutes for discussion. If you wish to participate in the conference, please contact our Oxford address: ARAM, the Oriental Institute, Oxford University, Pusey Lane, Oxford OX1 2LE, England. Tel. ++1865-514041. Fax ++1865-516824. Email: [aram@aramsociety.org](mailto:aram@aramsociety.org)

July 25-29 SBL International Meeting - Meeting of the European Association of Biblical Studies in Tartu, Estonia (this is joint meeting)

For information go to <http://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/Internationalmeeting.aspx>

July 27-29

Indonesian Biblical Scholars Meeting in Jakarta The theme is The Development of the Wisdom's Tradition in the Bible. For more information e-mail Yonky Karman [ykarman@cbn.net.id](mailto:ykarman@cbn.net.id)

August 1-6

The 20th Congress of IOSOT (International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament) in Helsinki, Finland. For more information and for information about the joint congresses of IOSCS, IOMS, IOQS and IOTS please go to

<http://www.helsinki.fi/teol/pro/iosot/abstracts/index.htm>

(f) MEMBERSHIP

Please keep encouraging your colleagues and graduate students to join the Society and to contribute to shaping its future. Students from ICI qualifying countries have to pay only US \$ 10 and scholars from the same countries only US \$ 15 to become full members. Anyone who wishes to become a member and for whom this amount represents undue hardship is encouraged to contact Leigh. Please contact also Josey Snyder ([josey.snyder@sbl-site.org](mailto:josey.snyder@sbl-site.org)) with any question related to this program.

(g) PLEASE PASS THE INFORMATION

Feel free to distribute this report among all those you think might find it helpful. If you are a member of other professional organizations related to biblical studies, we urge you to send our newsletters to those responsible for communication within those groups as well. There is still a significant number of colleagues who have not heard about the initiative.

Best wishes,  
Ehud

Ehud Ben Zvi, SBL - International Cooperation Initiative