

## **SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE ICI REPORT FOR JUNE-JULY 2016**

### **(a) THE SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN SEOUL 2016**

Both the Society of Asian Biblical Studies (SABS) meeting and the SBL International Meeting took place in Seoul during July this year. All of us who attended can witness to the excellent experiences we had. Not only was it great to be exposed to the work of more colleagues from the Asian regions, but the interaction of different approaches and emphases was enriching and exciting. Thank you very much for those who worked hard to organize these meetings, and particularly to Koog-Pyoung Hong of Yonsei University and his team who were the local hosts for SBL.

We had a very successful ICI forum meeting at the SBL conference in Seoul, attended by around 35 people. Some interesting points were brought into the discussion, and some valuable new suggestions were made that will be followed up by the ICI executive. Below follows a short summary of some of the main points that were discussed at this forum meeting:

- South Korea's position (and other similar countries such as Japan) of not being included on the ICI list (due to their strong economic positions compared to other developing countries), but nevertheless struggle with accessibility to good academic literature;
- SBL membership which is required for participating in SBL conferences (annual and international meetings); [a suggestion was made that membership of local societies of bible scholarship should be acknowledged by SBL – this will be further discussed in the ICI executive]
- Instead of live webcasting of annual meeting sessions, the posting of video recordings on the SBL website of a selection of relevant papers should be considered;
- Software should be used to cross the divide of English proficiency;
- SBL should revisit some of the formulations of programme units which sound very excluding;
- ICI could consider recruiting volunteer translators;
- The fact that internet access is not a (constant) given in all contexts should be considered in the roll-out of further book repository initiatives;
- More visibility of ICI publications (IVBS and ANEM) should be encouraged;
- It should be requested that RBL also be opened for including reviews on books in other languages than English;

- More information about SBL conventions of referencing in publications should be made available, and SBL style sheets should be made available to bibliographical data management software (such as Zotero).

Should you have input to make about any of the above points, please contact Louis Jonker at [LCJ@sun.ac.za](mailto:LCJ@sun.ac.za)

#### **(b) THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING 2016, SAN ANTONIO**

The SBL Annual Meeting will be held from November 19-22, 2016 in San Antonio, Texas. The Call for Papers is now closed.

Registration and accommodation reservations are still open. See: [http://sbl-site.org/meetings/meetings\\_registrationAM.aspx](http://sbl-site.org/meetings/meetings_registrationAM.aspx).

The online programme book is also available at:

[https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/Congresses\\_ProgramBook.aspx?MeetingId=29](https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/Congresses_ProgramBook.aspx?MeetingId=29)

An ICI **Forum discussion** will also be held at this meeting. Please attend the meeting to be updated on the work of ICI, but also to make your suggestions and give your input. In the past the forum meeting clashed with conference sessions, which resulted into poor attendance. **We have now moved the meeting to the lunch hour which will enable you to attend, without losing out on conference sessions!** The time slot and venue for the forum meeting are the following:

**Time:** Saturday 19 November at 12:00-13:00 PM

**Venue:** Bowie (2nd Level) - Marriott Riverwalk (MRW)

We hope to see you there!

#### **(c) PUBLICATION IN ANCIENT NEAR EAST MONOGRAPHS (ANEM) / MONOGRAFÍAS SOBRE EL ANTIGUO CERCAÑO ORIENTE (MACO)**

ANEM/MACO is a series that was established by the SBL at the request of the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI), and which is co-edited by Alan Lenzi and Juan Tebes. The series publishes volumes on the Ancient Near East (including ancient Israel) electronically and makes them freely available for download. (Paperback and hardback versions of the volumes are available too, for a reasonable price.) Any work published in ANEM/MACO is freely available in electronic version to anyone in perpetuity. To view the volumes published in the series, please go to [http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books\\_ANEmonographs.aspx](http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ANEmonographs.aspx)

The latest volume in ANEM/MACO is:

## **Priests and Cults in the Book of the Twelve**

Edited by Lena-Sofia Tiemeyer

This book discusses the depictions of the cult and its personnel in the twelve prophetic books commonly referred to as the Book of the Twelve or the Minor Prophets. The articles in the volume explore the following questions: How did these prophetic writers envision the priests and the Levites? What did they think about the ritual aspects of ancient Israelite faith, including not only the official temple cult in Jerusalem but also cultic expressions outside the capital? What, in their views, characterized a faithful priest and what should the relationship be between his cultic performance and the ways in which he lived his life? How does the message of each individual author fit in with the wider Israelite traditions? Finally, who were these prophetic authors, in which historical contexts did they live and work, and what stylistic tools did they use to communicate their message?

### *Features:*

- Essays investigate the ways in which key texts in the Book of the Twelve endorse, criticize, seek to reform, or seek to abolish the cult and clergy
- Articles focus on the books of Hosea, Joel, Amos, Zephaniah, Zechariah, and Malachi, but include other texts
- Exploration of how the attitudes towards cult and clergy in these key texts tie in with the attitudes found elsewhere in the Book of the Twelve

To download the book for free, paste the following link into your browser:

[http://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/pubs/9780884141532\\_OA.pdf](http://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/pubs/9780884141532_OA.pdf)

## **(d) PUBLICATION IN INTERNATIONAL VOICES IN BIBLICAL STUDIES (IVBS)**

IVBS is a series that was established by the SBL at the request of the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI), and which is co-edited by Monica Melanchthon and Jione Havea. IVBS encourages in particular submissions from scholars in the present seven international regions for which it has editorial boards: Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, Middle East-South Asia, Northeast Asia, Pacific, and Southeast Asia. Interregional collaborations are also welcome. IVBS publishes works in English and in any other language for which its editors can find qualified peer reviewers. Any work published in IVBS is freely available to anyone in perpetuity. The series publishes work generally in the area of reception history and criticism. The scope is not limited to any particular biblical text or historical timeframe. The works will mainly be published in

English and, wherever possible, also in primary languages of authors. For more information please go to <http://ivbs.sbl-site.org/home.aspx>. If you would consider publishing your work in this series, feel free to contact one of the two general editors, [Monica Melanchthon](#) or [Jione Havea](#).

The latest volume in IVBS is:

### **Reading Ruth in Asia**

Edited by Jione Havea and Peter Lau

This monograph contains readings of texts and themes from the Book of Ruth by scholars from Asia. There is a strong mix of postcolonial and contextual flavors in the essays, which together give readers a taste of Biblical Criticism in Asia. Special attention is given to the literary, cultural, gender and minoritized subjects in the Book of Ruth.

To download the book for free, paste the following link into your browser:

[http://ivbs.sbl-site.org/uploads/9780884141006\\_OA.pdf](http://ivbs.sbl-site.org/uploads/9780884141006_OA.pdf)

### **(e) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS – NEW BOOKS ADDED**

(For the full list, please go to [http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books\\_ICIbooks.aspx](http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ICIbooks.aspx))

#### **The Prophets Speak on Forced Migration**

Boda, Mark J., Frank Ritche Ames, John Ahn, and Mark Leuchter, eds. *The Prophets Speak on Forced Migration*. Ancient Israel and Its Literature 21. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2015.

In this collection of essays dealing with the prophetic material in the Hebrew Bible, scholars explore the motifs, effects, and role of forced migration on prophetic literature. Contributors focus on the study of geographical displacement, social identity ethics, trauma studies, theological diversification, hermeneutical strategies in relation to memory, and the effects of various exilic conditions in order to open new avenues of study into the history of Israelite religion and early Judaism.

*Features:*

- An introductory essay that presents a history of scholarship and an overview of the collection
- Ten essays examining the rhetoric of exile in the prophets
- Current, thorough approaches to the issues and problems related to historical and cultural features of exile in biblical literature

### **The Ancient Martyrdom Accounts of Peter and Paul**

Eastman, David I. *The Ancient Martyrdom Accounts of Peter and Paul*. Writings from the Greco-Roman World 39. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2015.

This book for the first time collects the various ancient accounts of the martyrdoms of Peter and Paul, which number more than a dozen, along with more than forty references to the martyrdoms from early Christian literature. At last a more complete picture of the traditions about the deaths of Peter and Paul is able to emerge.

*Features:*

- Greek, Latin, and Syriac accounts from antiquity
- Introductions and notes for each text
- Original texts are produced on facing pages for specialists

### **Jesus the Central Jew: His Time and His People**

LaCocque, André. *Jesus the Central Jew: His Time and His People*. Early Christianity and Its Literature 15. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2015.

In this book, LaCocque presents the case that Jesus was totally and unquestionably a Jew. He lived as a Jew, thought as a Jew, debated as a Jew, acted as a Jew and died as a Jew. He had no intention of creating a new religion; rather, he was a reformer of the Judaism of his day. True, his critique went far beyond an intellectual subversion. In fact, Jesus progressively thought of himself as the “Son of Man” inaugurating the advent of the Kingdom of God on earth.

*Features:*

- Focused attention given to the historical Jesus and not Christianity or Christology
- Addresses restricted sources, namely, the Synoptic Gospels
- Close examination of Jesus’s way of thinking, teaching, and behaving

### **Contextualizing Israel’s Sacred Writings: Ancient Literacy, Orality, and Literary Production**

Schmidt, Brian B. *Contextualizing Israel’s Sacred Writings: Ancient Literacy, Orality, and Literary Production*. Ancient Israel and Its Literature 22. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2015.

Situated historically between the invention of the alphabet, on the one hand, and the creation of ancient Israel’s sacred writings, on the other, is the emergence of literary production in the ancient Levant. In this timely collection of essays by an international cadre of scholars, the

dialectic between the oral and the written, the intersection of orality with literacy, and the advent of literary composition are each explored as a prelude to the emergence of biblical writing in ancient Israel. Contributors also examine a range of relevant topics including scripturalization, the compositional dimensions of orality and textuality as they engage biblical poetry, prophecy, and narrative along with their antecedents, and the ultimate autonomy of the written in early Israel. The contributors are James M. Bos, David M. Carr, André Lemaire, Robert D. Miller II, Nadav Na'aman, Raymond F. Person Jr., Frank H. Polak, Christopher A. Rollston, Seth L. Sanders, Joachim Schaper, Brian B. Schmidt, William M. Schniedewind, Elsie Stern, and Jessica Whisenant.

*Features:*

- Addresses questions of literacy and scribal activity in the Levant and Negev
- Articles examine memory, oral tradition, and text criticism
- Discussion of the processes of scripturalization

**EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENT: Other Publishers' Resources and Resources in Spanish**

Oxford University Press offers free and reduced rate access to dozens of countries. Learn more on their [website](#).

We are also very excited to announce that we have managed – through the facilitation of one of our ICI executive members (Juan Manuel Tebes) – to include some Spanish publications in our initiative. We thank the Instituto Multidisciplinario de Historia y Ciencias Humanas who is willing to make some direct links to free Spanish publications available on the ICI book repository page. See the following [link](#). Links are available there to the following books (in Spanish):

- Excavation reports of Tell el-Ghaba (Egypt)
- Study of Stela of Gebel Barkal (Egypt)
- Proceedings I institute workshop (includes articles on ANE)
- Proceedings II institute workshop (includes articles on ANE)
- Proceedings III institute workshop (includes articles on ANE)

There is also a link to the following Spanish journal:

- Journal of Egyptological Studies

**(f) ICI TEACHING COLLABORATION PROGRAM**

In order to facilitate the exchange of scholars and institutions in biblical studies across the globe, a teaching collaboration program is run by the ICI. The facility consists of lists

of scholars and institutions interested in exchanges that are made available on the SBL website. See: <http://sbl-site.org/educational/ICITeaching.aspx>. If you or your institution is interested in such collaboration, please visit the site and enroll yourself in these lists. For more information, contact [Tim Langille](#).

In order to see how scholars are already benefiting from this collaboration programme, see Kelley N. Coblenz Bautch's article on [How Videoconferencing with International Scholars Can Enliven Your Classroom](#)

#### **(g) JOURNAL OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE (JBL) ARCHIVE**

Take note that an archive with JBL articles from volume 122.1 of 2003 through volume 130.1 of 2011 is available online to people accessing the SBL website from any ICI country. See [http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/ICI\\_JBLarchive.aspx](http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/ICI_JBLarchive.aspx). All articles in those volumes can be downloaded for free!

#### **(h) THE SBL WEBSITE**

Please take note that the SBL website has a new look, reflecting the new corporate identity and logo of the organization. Check out the new functionality and discover all the wonderful resources available there.

The SBL website (on the SBL Press page) has a facility where one can search the full text of all SBL books! For this very convenient tool, see:

<http://sbl-site.org/publications/default.aspx>

For searching reviews of a vast number of academic publications, see the website of Review of Biblical Literature (RBL) at (you have to log in with your membership number):

<http://www.bookreviews.org/>

#### **(i) EVENTS**

The SBL maintains a significant list of events taking place anywhere in the globe. For the full list please go to <http://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/events.aspx>

A selection of events is listed below—mainly those taking place in ICI regions. Please provide information on conferences in your region, including calls for papers, to Sharon Johnson at [sharon.johnson@sbl-site.org](mailto:sharon.johnson@sbl-site.org).

**August 2-5, 2016****General Meeting of Studiorum Novi Testament Societas**

Society for New Testament Studies (SNTS) will hold their 2016 General Meeting in Montreal, Canada.

For updates and information, see <https://www.edugroepen.nl/sites/SNTS/default.aspx>

**August 9-11, 2016****Ethnicity/Race/Religion: Identities, Ideologies, and Intersections in Biblical Texts and Interpretation (Centre for Biblical Studies, University of Exeter, UK)**

How do ethnicity and race feature in constructions of identity in biblical texts? How have ideologies of race shaped biblical interpretation past and present? And how has the Bible and its interpretation contributed to racial ideologies and racist practices? These are the key issues to be explored in this international conference. Religion and ethnicity or race – the terms are contested and unavoidably loaded – are facets of identity that intersect and overlap in complex and varied ways. They are neither identical nor entirely separable, but clearly bound up in some of the most intractable and prominent conflicts in the contemporary world.

One of the aims of the conference is to explore and to problematize the extent to which the dominant models of biblical scholarship remain 'Western' in their assumptions, and to consider what breaking out of these might entail.

Speakers: Professor Musa Dube, University of Botswana Dr Ma. Marilou S. Ibita, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, and the Institute of Formation and Religious Studies, Quezon City, the Philippines. Dr Gregory Cuéllar, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, USA.

[More information.](#)

**August 26, 2016****Call for Papers: NTSSA Mini-Conference: Gender & Sexuality**

The New Testament Society of South Africa Mini-Conference on Gender & Sexuality will be held 26-28 October 2016 at University of Johannesburg; South Africa

Theme: Mothering Salvation? 1 Tm 2:15 - Gender and Class in early Christian Household Discourse

Please send your title and abstract not later than 26 August 2016 to: [Elna Mouton](#)

More information available at the following [link](#).



**September 4-9, 2016****2016 Meeting of the International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament (IOSOT)**

For the first time in its more than 50-years history the IOSOT will convene on African soil in 2016. The triennial meeting will take place at the University of Stellenbosch, Western Cape, South Africa. Updates and more information will be posted on the <http://www.iosot2016.co.za/> The Call for Papers is now closed. **Registration** is open, and will remain open until 31 August 2016. For further information, contact: [LCJ@sun.ac.za](mailto:LCJ@sun.ac.za)

**October 26-28, 2016****NTSSA Mini-Conference: Gender & Sexuality**

The New Testament Society of South Africa Mini-Conference on Gender & Sexuality will be held 26-28 October 2016 at University of Johannesburg; South Africa  
Theme: Mothering Salvation? 1 Tm 2:15 - Gender and Class in early Christian Household Discourse  
More information available at the following [link](#).

**October 27-28, 2016****Sacred Scripture in Ukrainian Culture**

The Ukrainian Catholic University's Faculty of Philosophy and Theology and Faculty of Humanities are are hosting the International Conference "Sacred Scripture in Ukrainian Culture: The Canonical and Extra-Canonical Writings and their Reception" that will be held in Lviv, Ukraine  
More information available at the following [link](#).

**November 19-22, 2016****2016 SBL Annual Meeting**

San Antonio, Texas

<http://sbl-site.org/meetings/Annualmeeting.aspx>

**(j) SBL EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FREELY AVAILABLE**

There are links to numerous educational resources on the SBL website. The following are freely available: (i) Resources on Teaching the Bible; (ii) Freely downloadable Hebrew, Greek and Transliteration fonts (amongst others); (iii) Resources on Bible translations and commentaries; and (iv) Research tool resources.

See <http://sbl-site.org/educational/default.aspx>

Also remember to check the newly-developed **Bible Odyssey** online portal. See [www.bibleodyssey.org](http://www.bibleodyssey.org). This portal offers wonderful educational resources, but also

resources for broader popular audiences. Use this site to popularize our academic studies in faith communities!

The following are the latest articles posted on Bible Odyssey:

- There is a new main article on the [Second Temple](#) from Lawrence Schiffman.
- Did you know that Eve appears in the New Testament? Linda Scheearing [delves into the history of interpretation](#) for the "first woman."
- How deep is your love? James E. Harding [explores the relationship between David and Jonathan](#).
- Mike Holmes answers the question, "[What are English translations of the Bible based on?](#)"

Any topics you would like to see Bible Odyssey address? Just send a message to: [bow@sbl-site.org](mailto:bow@sbl-site.org)

**(k) PLEASE PASS ON THE INFORMATION**

Please share this newsletter with your colleagues and students and become a liaison for your institution and SBL. (Please contact our liaison officer, [Tim Langille](#), if you would like to assist as contact person in your region.) Your advocacy for ICI strengthens biblical studies as a discipline and builds relationships in the global community. Thank you to those who have done so in the past—we also receive letters from people who received the newsletter from someone else.

With best wishes for your Bible scholarship!

Louis Jonker, SBL – International Cooperation Initiative