

## ICI REPORT FOR JUNE 2013

### (a) SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN ST. ANDREWS, SCOTLAND & ICI SESSION

The meeting is just a few days from now (July 7 to July 11). If you will be there, you are encouraged to come to the informal ICI session. It is meant to exchange ideas, provide feedback and the like. The session is scheduled for July 8, 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM and it will take place at Meeting Room 10 - MBS (17). Please let me know if you plan to participate. If you are unable to be in St. Andrews (and I assume most of the recipients of this report are in this category), please let me know of any issues you wish to be raised and discussed at the meeting. Just send me a note and I will be glad to voice your comments, ideas, concerns and the like to the group.

For [more information about the I-SBL](#).

Future I-SBL meetings:

- Vienna, Austria; July 6-10, 2014
- Buenos Aires, Argentina, July 20-24, 2015

### (b) 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))

- (1) Ben Zvi, E., Diana V. Edelman & Frank Polak, eds. *A Palimpsest: Rhetoric, Ideology, Stylistics, and Language Relating to Persian Israel*. Perspectives on Hebrew Scriptures and its Contexts 5. Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2009.

This volume contains revised versions of papers presented at the 2006, 2007, and 2008 meetings of the European Association of Biblical Studies as part of the activities of a Research Programme devoted to the study of “Israel and the Production and Reception of Authoritative Books in the Persian and Hellenistic Periods,” and some additional contributions. The basic question that the volume explores through the different approaches and questions raised by the authors is what can we learn by looking into the matters of biblical Hebrew linguistics, rhetoric, style, and ideology about the producers and readers of these books. What do they teach us about these literati’s world of knowledge and imagination, about the issues they had in mind and the ways in which they came to deal with them through authoritative literature? The inclusion of perspectives drawn from linguistics in this conversation is particularly valuable, since they are often absent from this type of conversation. Thus, the book includes essays on such issues as whether linguistic theories can solve literary-critical problems, on what is “late

biblical Hebrew,” on parallelism and noun groups in biblical poetry, and the communicative meaning of some linguistic choices. There are studies on aspects of language, style, rhetoric, or ideology in the books of Genesis (in particular ancestor ideology), Samuel, Jeremiah, Nahum, Esther, Ezra (1-6), and Nehemiah, as well as on the reconceptualization of YHWH Sebaot as YHWH Elohim. Philippe Guillaume, Jean-Daniel Macchi, Robert Rezetko, Dalit Rom-Shiloni, Francesca Stavrakopoulou, Ian Young and the three editors contributed essays to this volume.

- (2) Jones, F. Stanley Jones, ed. *The Rediscovery of Jewish Christianity: From Toland to Baur*. History of Biblical Studies, 5. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2012.

This focused collection of essays by international scholars first uncovers the roots of the study of ancient Jewish Christianity in the Enlightenment in early eighteenth-century England, then explores why and how this rediscovery of Jewish Christianity set off the entire modern historical debate over Christian origins. Finally, it examines in detail how this critical impulse made its way to Germany, eventually to flourish in the nineteenth century under F. C. Baur and the Tübingen School. Included is a facsimile reproduction of John Toland’s seminal *Nazarenus* (1718), which launched the modern study of Jewish Christianity. The contributors are F. Stanley Jones, David Lincicum, Pierre Lurbe, Matt Jackson-McCabe, and Matti Myllykoski.

- (3) Lee, Bernon P. *Between Law and Narrative: The Method and Function of Abstraction*. Gorgias Biblical Studies 51. Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2010.

Aside from being the content of speeches by characters in narrative, how do passages of laws in the Pentateuch interact with the surrounding narratives? This book proposes that certain passages of law in Leviticus and Numbers offer direction for the interpretation of adjacent segments of narrative. This 'direction' may serve to emphasize select themes and concepts in narrative. Alternatively, it may misdirect readers, or suggest alternative options to more accessible interpretations for a stretch of narrative.

A rigorous literary and syntactical analysis of six passages of narrative and law (Lev 10:1-20; 24:10-23; Num 15:1-41; 27:1-11; 36:1-13) reveals networks of laws in each passage, often on disparate topics, that share common themes and concepts. The reader's ability to recognize these common themes and concepts in each passage is the act of abstraction. Consequently, the reader is moved to search for these themes and concepts in an adjacent narrative, which is shown to be amenable to

these acts of ideation. Thus, law and narrative collaborate to inform the reader of important themes in certain passages.

Martin, Michael W. *Judas and the Rhetoric of Comparison in the Fourth Gospel*. New Testament Monographs, 25. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2010.

Why is Judas repeatedly contrasted in the Fourth Gospel with other characters, and why is he repeatedly depicted in these comparisons as the consummate defector? The answer to these questions, Martin argues, lies in the ancient rhetorical theory and practice of ‘syncrisis’, the formal, rhetorical comparison of persons or things.

Surveying the Graeco-Roman textbooks of composition that taught this device and the ancient authors who used it, Martin shows that syncrisis was often used to juxtapose ‘genera’ or ‘groups’ via their ‘outstanding’ or ‘extreme’ members. In such comparisons, a two-level drama unfolds, with the verdict of superiority being applicable both to the individuals being compared and to the groups they represent. The Johannine Judas, Martin argues, is featured in this manner of comparison over against Peter, and his portrayal in the Gospel as the consummate defector points, along with several other clues, to his identity as a representative of the schismatics who seceded from the Johannine community and who are described in 1, 2 and 3 John.

- (4) Payne, Annick. *Iron Age Hieroglyphic Luwian Inscriptions*. Writings from the Ancient World, 29. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2012.

Hieroglyphic Luwian belongs to the Anatolian group of ancient languages and was inscribed primarily on stone, using an indigenous Anatolian pictorial writing system. These Hieroglyphic Luwian inscriptions were written over a period of centuries in the region of Anatolia and northern Syria. Their authors were primarily the rulers of the so-called Neo-Hittite states, contemporaries and neighbors of early Israel. This volume collects some of the most important and representative of the inscriptions in transliteration and translation, organized by genre. Each text is accompanied by relevant information on provenance, dating, and other points of interest that will engage specialist and nonspecialist alike.

- (5) Rooke, Deborah W., ed. *Embroidered Garments: Priests and Gender in Biblical Israel*. Hebrew Bible Monographs, 25. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2009).

This collection of essays, the proceedings of an international conference held at King's College London in 2008, explores issues in the construction of gender that appear in the Hebrew Bible both in relation to priesthood itself and in literature with a priestly world-view (the P source, Chronicles, Ezra–Nehemiah, Ezekiel). Topics covered include female religious functionaries and their absence from the Hebrew Bible, masculinity and femininity as seen through the lens of priestly purity legislation, priestly genealogies as an expression of Jacques Derrida's 'archive fever', the definition of masculinity that is evidenced by priests' clothing, and the marginalization of women in priestly ideologies of nationality and kinship.

This is the second volume in the sub-series King's College London Studies in the Bible and Gender. The first was *A Question of Sex: Gender and Difference in the Hebrew Bible and Beyond* (2007).

(c) PUBLICATIONS – ONLINE BOOKS - REQUESTS

We have received some requests that particular books be included in the depository. We welcome these requests and try accommodating them as much as possible. If you have such a request please contact me or Leigh Andersen ([leigh.andersen@sbl-site.org](mailto:leigh.andersen@sbl-site.org)).

(d) SBL OPEN ACCESS SERIES: IVBS and ANEM/MACO

Please encourage your colleagues to submit manuscripts to these two series.

For IVBS please go to <http://ivbs.sbl-site.org/home.aspx>

For ANEM/MACO please go to

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

New volumes will be published in the coming months.

(e) TEACHING COLLABORATION INITIATIVE

Please remind students, including graduate students (and their supervisors), of the opportunities created through this initiative, which range from mentoring to actually taking courses on areas of specialization that may not be available in their home institution, without ever leaving town. For more information:

<http://www.sbl-site.org/educational/ICITeaching.aspx>

If you are present at the I-SBL meeting, then this may be a good place to engage in conversations with colleagues about practical projects involving collaboration in teaching.

(f) ICI LIAISON NETWORK

For questions about the liaison network, please contact Tim Langille ([tim.langille@gmail.com](mailto:tim.langille@gmail.com)).

(g) ICI MEMBER HANDBOOK

The ICI Member Handbook has been posted to the [ICI web page](#) or you may [download it from here](#).

(h) 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>

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).

July 7-11

SBL International Meeting

To be held in St. Andrews, Scotland. (As mentioned above, the meeting will include an informal ICI session to exchange ideas, provide feedback and the like). [More information](#)

July 30- Aug 2

EABS Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting of the European Association of Biblical Studies

Hosted by the University of Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany

[More information](#)

August 2-4

Oceania Biblical Studies Association (OBSA) 2013 meeting

The meeting will be held at the Pacific Theological College in Suva, Fiji. The Call for papers is now open and information for OBSA 2013 is available online at <https://sites.google.com/site/wavesofthemoana/>.

The main conference theme is “What Is Oceanic Biblical Interpretation?” The deadline for all paper proposals is June 30th, 2013. For further information, please contact Dr. Nasili Vaka’uta ([n.vakauta@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:n.vakauta@auckland.ac.nz)) or send an email to [OBSAMail@gmail.com](mailto:OBSAMail@gmail.com).

August 4-9

International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament (IOSOT)

The 21st Congress of the International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament (IOSOT) will take place at the University of Munich, Germany. As usual it will be joint with the Congresses of the International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies (IOSCS, 1.-3. of August), of the International Organization for Qumran Studies (IOQS), the International Organization for Masoretic Studies (IOMS), the International Organization for Targum Studies (IOTS) and the International Syriac Language Project (ISLP). [More Information](#)

September 10-13

New Testament Society of Southern Africa

The annual conference of the New Testament Society of Southern Africa will take place from Tuesday 10 until Friday 13 September 2013 at UNISA in Pretoria, South Africa.

The Gender sub-group will host the conference with the theme “Interconnecting Discourses: Gender, Bible, Publics.” Paper proposals for the sessions of the Gender as well as other sub-groups were due by Friday, 28 June 2013. Enquiries can be directed to the secretary, Michael Sokupa ([sokupam@hbc.ac.za](mailto:sokupam@hbc.ac.za)) or the chairperson, Jeremy Punt ([jpunt@sun.ac.za](mailto:jpunt@sun.ac.za)). More information is available at <http://www.newtestament.co.za>

November 23-26  
SBL Annual Meeting

The SBL Annual Meeting is the largest gathering of biblical scholars in the world. Each meeting showcases the latest in biblical research, fosters collegial contacts, advances research, and focuses on issues of the profession. The Annual Meeting will be held in Baltimore, Maryland. [More information](#)

(i) PLEASE PASS THE INFORMATION

You are encouraged 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.

Ehud,  
Ehud Ben Zvi, SBL - International Cooperation Initiative