

SBL

Society of Biblical Literature



**SOCIETY REPORT
2002**



Society of Biblical Literature

Dear Friends and Members,

The SBL is taking great strides as it moves towards its 125th year in 2005. None of this would be possible without your support and willingness to devote your time to the greater good of biblical scholarship and the Society. I will highlight some of the developments from this past year, but please take a moment and read through the Society Report. See what your organization is accomplishing with your help.

The SBL-Brill copublication agreement has given both institutional and individual members anywhere in the world the ability to purchase SBL titles in either paperback from SBL or hardback from Brill, allowing the Society's increasingly international membership greater access to SBL scholarly resources.

The Annual and International Meetings continue to meet the diverse needs of membership and provide a forum for the organization to grow. None of this would be possible without the members who chair program units and devote their time and energy throughout the year.

The Society continues to move forward in the electronic information age. Our attention is focused on important work on fonts, markup standards, and electronic resources and rights. Our desire to provide members with high-quality, digitized, primary source material is fast becoming reality through partnerships with museums and related institutions.

The *Review of Biblical Literature* had a major overhaul that will make it easier to use and more searchable for editors and readers. *RBL* sends members reviews weekly by e-mail and also provides an enormous online archive of over 1450 reviews. *RBL* has become a popular stopping point on the SBL website and its value to members is reflected in our continued investment in its upkeep.

Religious Studies News: SBL Edition is now produced 12 months a year on the SBL website, thanks to increased membership involvement. *RSN: SBL* now has an advisory board to help develop feature content and writers.

I want to thank all the current volunteers for their contributions and encourage others to volunteer. The strength of the Society depends on the vitality of the members. This vitality gives us the drive to build a learned society that is ever relevant and vibrant to both our members and those outside our guild. Colleagues, together we are making a difference.

Cordially,

Kent Richards
Executive Director
Professor of Old Testament



Congresses

SBL has been running congresses since 1880; yet putting on two “shows” a year is far from old hat. Thanks to the leadership of Matthew Collins, SBL now utilizes a powerful tool, the SBL Congresses Data System, to streamline all aspects of congresses— from calls for papers to paper napkins.

ANNUAL MEETING

In comparison with 2001, this year’s registration (at press) is up 1600 registrants. Likewise revenues from the 2002 Annual Meeting are up, even after tallying an increase in congresses spending for 2002. We have the work of our volunteers and staff to thank for their efforts at outreach and congress management.

The 2002 Annual Meeting is one to be proud of for several other reasons: 1) SBL now uses an external registration and housing service, Conferon, for both annual and international meetings. 2) The Canadian Society of Biblical Studies joins us with their session featuring the Canadian “religious rivalries” seminar. We are thankful for their collaboration. 3) The Annual Meeting shows vitality through high senior member participation, and sessions and services tailored to the next generation of scholars. 4) A first-time advance brochure on the meeting breaks down SBL sessions by topic to give registrants a convenient way to navigate the meeting. 5) 2002 introduced a new Annual Meeting sponsorship program. We are grateful to Abingdon Press for their Gold level sponsorship.

A slice through the different “layers” of the Annual Meeting shows the SBL mission in action: to further the best in scholarship of the Bible and to enhance professional development and public awareness. Some highlights include:

- *Other Testaments: An Interview with Jacques Derrida “On Religion”*
- *The Bible and the Legitimation of Violence*, Presidential Address by John J. Collins
- *Strategic Teaching to Enhance Learning*, by the American Bible Society-Nida Institute

Sessions with international scholars such as François Bovon, Daniel

Boyarin, Walter Brueggemann, Elizabeth Clark, Shaye J. D. Cohen, Mohammad Dandamaev, Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, Wayne Meeks, Joel Weinberg, and many others.

Several new program units were introduced in 2002 including:

- African Biblical Hermeneutics Consultation
- Manichean Studies Seminar
- Rethinking Plato’s Parmenides and Its Platonic, Gnostic, and Patristic Reception Seminar
- Formation of Luke-Acts Consultation
- Bible and Visual Art Consultation

Next year in Atlanta!

The following future locations and dates have been contracted for the Annual Meetings:

2003	Atlanta, GA, November 22–25
2004	San Antonio, TX, November 20–23
2005	Philadelphia, PA, November 19–22
2006	Washington, DC, November 18–21
2007	San Diego, CA, November 17–20

Preregistration Trends

This chart shows how the Annual Meeting has experienced slow growth over the past 10 years. The number of persons attending the meeting seems to be dependent on geography. Two reasons are plausible: 1) the attractiveness of a destination, and 2) the number of colleges, universities, and academic institutions within driving distance. The 2001 Annual Meeting in Denver was down slightly due to the events of September 11. At press, final numbers for October 2002 are not available.

While large numbers alone do not make a quality meeting, we do seek greater participation by members, associate members, journalists, and the general public. In this way we thrive as an active learned society and enrich each other's knowledge of the field.

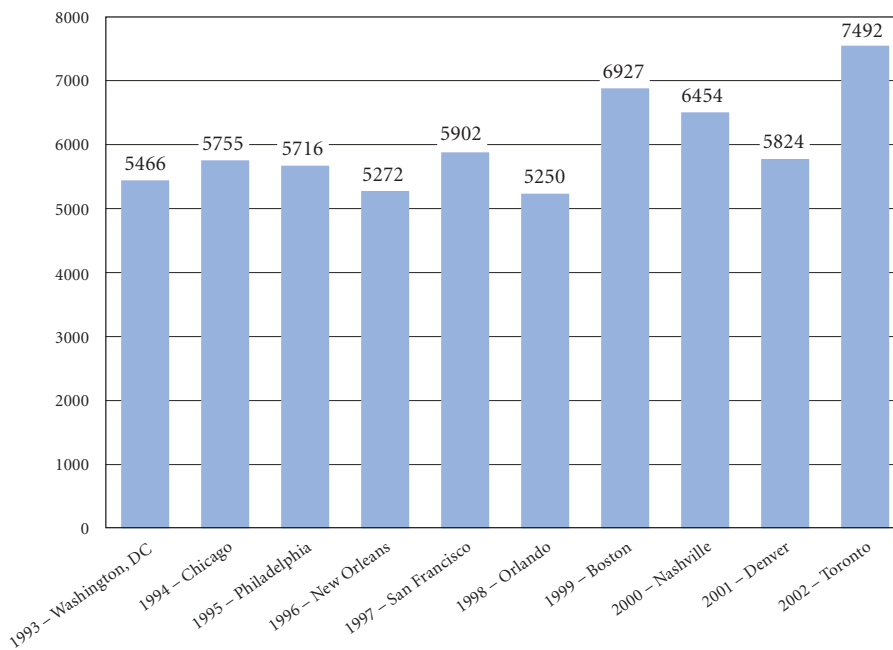
Annual Meeting Program Committee

The Society thanks the members of the Program Committee for their dedication and hard work, which provide the foundation for the continued excellence of the Annual Meeting Program. The SBL is particularly grateful for the many years of service given by Calvin J. Roetzel, Macalester College, who will be retiring from the Committee at the end of 2002. During 2002, the Committee welcomed a new chair, Brian K. Blount of Princeton Theological Seminary, and a new member, Margaret S. Odell of St. Olaf College.

The Program Committee consists of the following members:

- Brian K. Blount, Chair
- Gregory E. Sterling
- Carol Meyers
- Calvin J. Roetzel
- Margaret S. Odell

Preregistration through October of Each Year



Thank you, Program Unit Chairs

We are grateful to all of the individuals who give their time and expertise as Program Unit Chairs for the Annual Meeting. Without you, the Annual Meeting would not happen. Thank you for your continuing hard work.

A special word of thanks to the following persons who have completed their "tour of duty" as Program Unit Chairs:

- Samuel E. Balentine
- Roland T. Boer
- Peter R. Burton
- Elizabeth Castelli
- Stephen L. Cook
- Russell Fuller
- James Nogalski
- Douglas E. Oakman
- Kenneth Pomykala
- John T. Strongh
- Sarah J. Tanzer
- Patrick A. Tiller
- Duane F. Watson
- Richard D. Weis
- Richard E. Whitaker

The Society welcomes the following new Program Unit Chairs:

- Thomas Louis Brodie
- Kevin Corrigan
- John A. Darr
- Mary F. Foskett
- Kim Haines-Eitzen
- Heidi J. J. Hornik
- David M. Howard
- Ann E. Killebrew
- Elizabeth Struthers Malbon
- Dora Rudo Mbuwayesango
- Charles William Miller
- Judith B. Perkins
- John C. Reeves
- Stephen Breck Reid
- Michael Satlow
- Dennis E. Smith
- Mark S. Smith
- Gregory E. Sterling
- Hal Taussig
- Tom Thatcher
- John D. Turner
- Andrew G. Vaughn
- Arthur Walker-Jones
- Frank Yamada

INTERNATIONAL MEETING

For 20 years the Society has held an International Meeting to broaden the dialogue partners in scholarly exchange on biblical studies. In this period, we have had meetings in Europe, Africa, and Australia and have had over 4,000 attendees from more than 40 countries. We will hold the 20th SBL International Meeting in Cambridge, England, July 19–25, 2003.

As a part of the ongoing evolution of the International Meeting, the Society is pleased to announce the appointment of Kristin De Troyer, Claremont School of Theology, as Chair of the International Meeting Task Force. Prof. De Troyer brings significant international experience and a great deal of energy to the task of developing the SBL International Meeting. We are grateful for her leadership, effort, and determination.

Thanks to Trista Krock, Projects Assistant, for her able coordination of staffing, arrangements, and exhibits at the Berlin International Meeting, as well as the preparations for Cambridge.

New Program Unit Structure, International Meeting

The International Meeting Task Force has implemented a program unit structure similar to that used for the Annual Meeting each fall. The new program unit types are: Sections, Seminars, and Workshops. Sections will focus on a major area of the discipline, defined by text(s) or methods, and will be rather broad in nature. They will have an open call for papers. Seminars will be more limited in scope or subject. They may consist entirely or partially of invited papers. Workshops are meant to be practical, hands-on, learning experiences dedicated to the advancement of professional skills.

The Society is pleased to announce that the following persons will provide leadership as the first International Meeting Program Unit Chairs. As Chairs, they will have a role similar to that of the Annual Meeting Program Unit Chairs in helping to ensure a quality program.

James R. Adair
Patrick Durusau
Michael V. Fox
Gabriella Gelardini
Gregory L. Glover
Alan J. Hauser
Christine M. Helmer
Glenna Sue Jackson
Christof Landmesser
Francisco Lozada, Jr.
Meir Lubetski
Stephen Moyise
Martti Nissinen
Ed Noort
Todd C. Penner
Jeremy Punt
Hugh S. Pypier
Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza
Fernando F. Segovia
Eibert J. C. Tigchelaar
Andrew G. Vaughn
Caroline Vander Stichele

Highlights from 2002 International Meeting in Berlin

Berlin provided an unparalleled venue for the 19th International Meeting. The outstanding museums that house the Pergamon altar, the Ishtar Gate, a special Hittite exhibit, Egyptian artifacts, and the more contemporary reminders in the Jewish Museum were within a stone's throw of Humboldt University where the meetings were hosted.

Meeting highlights included reports from the Bethsaida Excavations Project of the University of Nebraska at Omaha; involvement of the Berliner Arbeitskreises für koptisch-agnostische Schriften and the European Association of Biblical Studies; and a moving tribute to Robert Carroll organized by Philip Davies, "Wolf in the Sheepfold: Robert Carroll and the Bible."

Next year, the Society will initiate new partnerships at the International Meeting. We are pleased to collaborate with:

American Bible Society–Nida Institute
for Biblical Scholarship

European Association of Biblical
Studies

International Organization for
Masoretic Studies

*Join us for the
20th SBL International Meeting*



CAMBRIDGE, ENGLAND

July 20–25, 2003



Publications & Technology

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAM

The publications program has grown in productive partnerships this past year, most notably with our groundbreaking agreement with Brill Academic Publishers. Rex Matthews, Editorial Director, worked long and hard on this agreement, and we are grateful for his patience and foresight. SBL authors should experience wider readerships through this and other distribution channels established this year.

The publications program also continues to move journal content online (see Technology section). We have updated the look and organization of our book catalog thanks to Kathie Klein. We feel we are publishing the best quality in academic biblical scholarship.

We also keep in mind our goal to reach beyond the upper echelons of the academy. We believe it is possible, and beneficial to the Society and our authors, to publish some titles of broader appeal without any compromise in scholarship. While we cannot compete with trade publishers, we encourage manuscript ideas or drafts from members. We want members to come to SBL with their works-in-progress, and we can promise careful editing and development, expanded promotional force, and an unmatched understanding of the subject.

Copublication Agreement with Brill Academic Publishers

In January 2002, SBL signed a copublication agreement with Brill Academic Publishers. Under this agreement, SBL has shifted its book publication program exclusively to paperback editions, and Brill has begun simultaneously publishing hardback editions of SBL titles. The first volumes to be published under this agreement came off press in the summer of 2002.

The SBL-Brill agreement is unique in scholarly publishing as it redraws the traditional territorial lines between North American and European publishers. Both institutional and individual customers anywhere in the world may now purchase SBL titles either in paperback editions from SBL or in hardback editions from Brill.

SBL's partnership with Brill will ensure our increasingly international membership greater access to the scholarly resources that we publish. The added marketing muscle of a first-class European academic publisher will help boost the sales of SBL titles in Europe and around the world.

Distribution Arrangement with Ingram Book Group

SBL titles are now on the important Ingram Book Group title information database. Ingram is one of the world's largest wholesalers of books and related products and serves a wide range of wholesale, retail, institutional, and library customers around the world, including such major retailers as Amazon.com and Borders Books & Music. Our rela-

tionship with Ingram will enable book buyers to deliver SBL titles to their customers quickly and easily.

"Print on Demand" Initiatives

Recent advances in digital printing technology have made it virtually impossible to distinguish a book digitized and printed on demand from a book produced through traditional offset printing. SBL now uses digital technology to print many of its new books and journals and to print titles with continuing scholarly significance but small annual sales. In this way SBL is able to publish books more cost effectively and is able to keep important books from going out of print.

SBL is also actively exploring a cooperative arrangement with the Pontifical Biblical Institute through which a number of important PBI publications that are now out of print can be digitized and once again made available to biblical scholars on a print on demand basis.

Affiliation with Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Cokesbury

SBL has concluded affiliation agreements with two major online retailers (Amazon and Barnes & Noble), and has a similar agreement pending with Cokesbury. Under these agreements, SBL receives a commission on *any* purchase made when someone enters the vendor's site from our SBL site—a book reviewed on *RBL*, an SBL publication, a Tom Clancy novel, etc!

The amount of the commission varies, but the financial benefits to SBL are not insignificant. This is an easy way to generate additional rev-

enue to support the many program areas. Please make a practice of linking to these vendors from our site. This year's sales have generated commissions of close to \$2,000. We thank you for helping generate this revenue.

Online Content Distribution Agreements

SBL currently has non-exclusive electronic content distribution agreements for its serial publications with several major delivery services, including Gale Research, H. W. Wilson, EBSCO Media, and ProQuest (the successor to University Microfilms and Bell & Howell Media Services). SBL also participates in the American Theological Library Association Serials (ATLAS) project.

These firms serve various library and institutional markets, aggregating the content of SBL serials with those of many other scholarly publishers. SBL receives modest royalties from these firms for access to and use of its serials content. To date the income produced by these payments has been negligible, but we anticipate that these income streams will grow in future as libraries turn more and more to electronic content delivery services and mechanisms.

Royalty Payments to Authors and Editors

The goal of our publications program is not financial profit; it is intellectual profit for all interested in critical study of the Bible and its related literature, history, and religion. The publications program actively seeks titles that meet this goal; seeking good authors and editors is vital to the program. A small way of showing appreciation for the long hours of hard work is through royalties to our authors and volume editors. SBL paid nearly \$20,000 in royalties in fiscal year 2002.

American Association of University Presses

In June 2002 the Society submitted an application for associate membership in the American Association of University Presses (AAUP). The application process requires several months of review by the Admissions and Standards Committee and the Association's board; the review is followed by presentation of the application to the voting membership. Membership in this association will provide our staff with access to many resources, including workshops and professional development programs, and valuable marketing and publicity information.

Society for Scholarly Publishing

In 2002 the Society became a member of the Society for Scholarly Publishing (SSP), one of the premier associations of scholarly and technical publishers in the world. The SSP provides the opportunity for interaction among members in all aspects of scholarly publishing, including journal and book publishers, librarians, manufacturers, and web editors. The SSP is an association primarily comprised of publishers of scientific, medical, and technical materials, some of whom are university presses. This publishing community excels in its adoption and utilization of cutting-edge electronic publishing technologies. Through our association with the SSP, SBL will gain knowledge of those technologies and their applications, with real benefit to our own publishing programs.

Brown Judaic Studies and the *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*

The SBL has continued its production services and distribution relationships under the leadership of Leigh Andersen with both the Brown Judaic Studies publishing program and the *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion (JFSR)*. Both programs bring additional scholarly dimensions to

the SBL publications program while reducing the costs for these publications and also providing modest revenues to the Society that help to facilitate its mission. We gratefully acknowledge the individuals who make these partnerships possible:

Brown Judaic Studies:
David Jacobson, Ross Kraemer, and
Saul Olyan, Co-editors

Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion:
Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza and
Kwok Pui-lan, Co-editors
Deborah Whitehead, Managing
Editor

2002 Research and Technology Grants

In April 2002 the Research and Publications Committee approved funding for the following research and technology grant proposals:

Religion and Technology Center, c/o James R. Adair, Jr., and Timothy J. Finney, "The Biblical Manuscripts Project"—to support the production and dissemination of high-quality digital images of important biblical manuscripts (e.g. Sinaiticus, Alexandrinus, et al.) from photographic facsimile editions held in the library system of Emory University.

James A. Kelhoffer (Saint Louis University), "Defining the Past: Debates concerning Origins in Earliest Christianity"—to support travel to and research in major library collections which are otherwise inaccessible, with the goal of producing a full-length book manuscript for submission to the SBL publications program.

The funds for these individual grants starting in 2003 will be devoted to projects to improve the level and diversity of research in SBL publications. It was determined that SBL can more effectively foster biblical scholarship, our primary mission, through a closer integration of funds for research and the growing excellence of our book and serial publications program.

Thank You, Editors

Without our series and journal editors, our publications list would not be as strong and credible as it is. Their voluntary work includes identifying publishing opportunities, reading and reviewing book proposals and manuscripts, and consulting with our Editorial Director, Rex Matthews, about recommendations. We deeply appreciate the time and energy that our editors put into this work, for without it, our publications program would be severely limited.

Many of our editors serve SBL in diverse ways.

Thanks to the following individuals who are completing terms of service as editors or members of editorial boards (some are continuing to serve in other roles).

David M. Carr
Danna Nolan Fewell
John S. Kselman
Ronald J. Leprohon
Steven L. McKenzie
Gregory McMahon
Saul M. Olyan
John C. Reeves
R. S. Sugirtharajah
Sarah J. Tanzer
Stephen Westerholm

For those of you continuing to serve as editors or members of editorial boards, some of you in more than one capacity, we are grateful for your efforts.

Susan Ackerman
James R. Adair
Yairah Amit
Janice Capel Anderson
David Armstrong
Elizabeth Asmis
Michael L. Barré
Bob Becking
Ehud Ben Zvi
Moshe Bernstein
Brian K. Blount
Roland Boer
Athalya Brenner
Marc Brettler
Warren Carter
Elisabeth Castelli
Jerrold S. Cooper
Brian E. Daley, S. J.
Musa W. Dube
Paul Duff
Pamela Eisenbaum
John T. Fitzgerald
David Frankfurter
Beverly R. Gaventa

Edward L. Greenstein
David M. Gunn
Jo Ann Hackett
Michael W. Holmes
Wayne Horowitz
Richard Horsley
David G. Hunter
Richard Jasnow
David Jobling
Anne D. Kilmer
Cheryl Kirk-Duggan
Menahem Kister
David Konstan
Jeffrey Kah-Jin Kuan
Robert Kugler
Archie Chi-Chung Lee
Bernard M. Levinson
Theodore J. Lewis
Judith Lieu
Timothy Lim
Steven L. McKenzie
Daniel Marguerat
Christopher R. Matthews
Stephen D. Moore
Kirsten Nielsen
Kathleen O'Connor
Gail R. O'Day
Dennis T. Olson
Stephen Patterson

Todd C. Penner
Melvin K. H. Peters
Tina Pippin
Mark Allan Powell
Ilona Rashkow
Jonathan Reed
Adele Reinhartz
Rolf Rendtorff
Sharon H. Ringe
Thomas Römer
Michael J. Roberts
Alan F. Segal
Fernando Segovia
C. L. Seow
Yvonne Sherwood
Abraham Smith
Naomi Steinberg
Gregory E. Sterling
Marvin A. Sweeney
Johan C. Thom
Yun Lee Too
James C. VanderKam
Jan G. Van Der Watt
Andrew G. Vaughn
Sze-Kar Wan
J. Ross Wagner
Gerald Oakley West
Vincent Wimbush
Gale A. Yee

Thank You, Research & Publications Committee

Through your dedication and diligence the SBL continues to develop an extensive print and digital publication program that is unmatched among learned societies, producing 25–30 monographs a year as well as serial publications. Thank you for your dedication to serving all of us.

Steven L. McKenzie
Gail R. O'Day
David L. Petersen
C. L. Seow
Benjamin G. Wright

Special thanks are due to David Petersen, who steps down at the end of 2002 as Chair of the R&P Committee. David has provided invaluable leadership and guidance for the SBL publications program during a period of extraordinary transition, change, and development. Thank you, David; the Society is deeply in your debt.

WEBSITE

In the past year we witnessed an increase in the number of visitors to the website: book orders, membership renewals, donations, and meeting registrants were transacted in high numbers through our SBL Store. We would like to remind members that they can update their own member information whenever necessary by visiting the membership section of the SBL Store.

SBL is currently engaged in the slow process of moving data off one server onto another, for long-term benefits to the user. During this process, we ask for member patience with any difficulties they encounter with the website. We hope that visitors to www.sbl-site.org have taken note of the very professional redesign done by our full-time web person, Sharon Johnson.

Additions to the website over the coming years will include a "Volunteers" section to help our numerous volunteers quickly find the information they need for their roles. Archived editions of *Journal of Biblical Literature* are now available to members on the site.

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS

Review of Biblical Literature

The electronic *Review of Biblical Literature* is a timely, international review of books published in biblical and related studies. It has soared in popularity and expanded in its vision with every passing year. This year was no exception, and we are extremely proud of the recent redesign of the *RBL* website. With the great new look comes a robust structure to streamline the review process and a revamped search engine to help visitors navigate the constantly growing database of reviews according to their interests. Managing Editor Dave Garber has worked for many months with freelance programmers to develop a site that offers enhanced capabilities to editors, reviewers, and readers.

We would like to thank Dave for his hard work both on the site and with reviewers. In addition, we thank Marvin Sweeney, Editor of *RBL*, and his editorial team; and Todd Penner, book review editor for *Journal of Biblical Literature*. Many *JBL* reviews get a second life in the print version of *RBL*. All involved have given hard work, resulting in quality reviews of such depth and scope that the SBL book reviews program is now unparalleled in the field.

Religious Studies News: SBL Edition

Our electronic newsletter, *Religious Studies News: SBL Edition* is sent monthly via e-mail to all members and additional subscribers. It is also freely available on the SBL website. Under the direction of editor Moira Bucciarelli, *RSN: SBL* provides features on broad topics of disciplinary interest, as well as important news and announcements for the guild.

With the establishment of a new advisory board, comprised of members and experts in publishing and journalism, we hope to expand the role and sharpen the content of *RSN: SBL*. A much desired return to a simultaneous print edition requires funding this coming year. We invite all members with a talent for journalistic writing and a broadly relevant topic to submit their ideas and essays to *RSN:SBL*.

Thanks to the new RSN:SBL Advisory Board! We look forward to your input over the coming year.

Henry Carrigan
James Charlesworth
Kristin De Troyer
Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza
Gregory L. Glover
Leonard Greenspoon
Leander Keck
John Kutsko
Amy Jill Levine
Tod Linafelt
Thomas G. Long
Vincent Wimbush

TECHNOLOGY

The SBL has for some years now operated on the idea that early involvement in behind-the-scenes technical infrastructure will ultimately ensure the needs of scholars are met, not limited. We are lucky indeed to have staff member Patrick Durusau, whose knowledge of both biblical and electronic worlds is broad and deep, and who leads us into these important new frontiers. Through his work, the SBL continues its role in the development of technology standards, electronic resources, the protection of scholars' electronic rights, and in forging productive partnerships.

The efforts described below highlight some of the important digital and electronic work in which the Society engages. We welcome your contribution to and sponsorship of these resources.

Standards Development

The SBL is a member of the InterNational Committee for Information Technology Standards (INCITS), an organization that runs committees on information standards and serves as a U.S. delegate to meetings of the International Standards Organization (ISO).

The SBL is a member of the V1 Text Processing: Office and Publishing Systems Interface committee of INCITS, and Patrick Durusau was recently appointed to a three-year term as the V1 International Representative. This appointment means that Patrick will be the leader of the U.S. delegation to the SC/34 meetings of the ISO. (This committee is responsible for such standards as: SGML, HyTime, Topic Maps, and other emerging information technology standards.)

The SBL is also a member of the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS), which allows it to pursue its founding role in the development of topic map technology (TopicMaps.org) and to represent the interests of its

members in new digital rights management technologies and rights language.

The Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) numbers the SBL among its earliest organizational members. The SBL participated in a recent revision of the TEI Guidelines (P4) for markup systems and continues to work on the committee for character sets and on the next edition of the Guidelines (P5).

Electronic Resources

Of all the problems that biblical scholars face in their day-to-day work, none has been more persistent or vexing than the lack of fonts that work across computers and software. The SBL, with the support of many commercial and academic groups, and in conjunction with font company Tiro, will begin to construct workable fonts. Fonts for Biblical Hebrew and Greek are underway, and other character sets will be made freely available to all individuals engaged in biblical studies. The SBL is creating a font foundation to insure that not only are these fonts maintained in the face of changing technology, but that additional fonts can be developed for universal use.

Access to bibliographic reference material tailored to biblical studies on the WWW is another issue the SBL seeks to address. We have taken the first steps in making *Elenchus* freely available on the SBL website. At present the 1998 issue is in preparation for availability in early 2003, and future issues will follow. Patrick Durusau's book, *High Places in Cyberspace*, is slated to become an electronic searchable interface for resources in biblical studies suitable for the SBL website.

Another exciting development in how SBL provides important primary resources to members via the WWW

is our partnership with the Smithsonian Freer Gallery in Washington, DC. The Freer collection contains many seminal primary texts—such as one of the oldest witnesses to the Gospel text—that are currently being digitized. Other projects of this nature are underway.

Scholarly Partnerships

The SBL is aware that other organizations are interested in biblical studies, and that by partnering with credible organizations we benefit from our combined unique strengths and resources. Our ongoing relationships with the American Bible Society–Nida Institute, Institute for the Study and Preservation of Ancient Religious Texts (ISPART) at Brigham Young University, and the Oriental Institute (OI) at the University of Chicago are fine examples.

The relationship with the American Bible Society began with the joint sponsorship of the Bible Technologies Group, which is primarily responsible for the Open Scriptural Information Standard (OSIS) effort. The OSIS initiative has resulted in a system for encoding texts that can be shared among scholars, translators, and publishers. With the Nida Institute, the SBL has begun development of a pedagogically sound electronic Hebrew Grammar, which will serve as the basis for other biblical language instructional software.

The Freer manuscript images would not be publicly available except for the partnership with ISPART (BYU) and the Freer Gallery. ISPART brings years of expertise and resources for digital imaging that the SBL would be hard pressed to duplicate. The Freer Gallery has helped to shape the agreements that will make these images the cornerstone of col-

laborative sharing among institutions making similar resources available to scholars.

Projects underway with the OI include an archaeological database project (XSTAR) as well as discussions on the Akkadian and Hittite dictionary projects at the OI. The SBL is interested in collaborating with the OI so that resources developed there will work with other resources for biblical scholars.

We are grateful to those on the forefront of these agreements, who have kept the ultimate goal of accessible, quality scholarly resources front and center:

Robert Althann, Pontifical Biblical Institute

Steve Booras, Brigham Young University

David Burke, American Bible Society–Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship

Missy Colee, SPIN Solutions

Steve DeRose, Open Scriptural Information Standard

Carl Griffin, Brigham Young University

Adina Hamik, American Bible Society–Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship

Lauren Hightower, SPIN Solutions

Robert Hodgson, American Bible Society–Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship

Gary Hooper, Brigham Young University

Charles Jones, Oriental Institute–University of Chicago

James Mason, ISO/IEC JTC/SC34, Chairman

Robert O'Toole, Pontifical Biblical Institute

Mike Perez, American Bible Society–Interactive

John Walters, American Bible Society–Interactive



Profession

SBL's longstanding partnership with the American Academy of Religion and more recent partnerships with the Nida Institute–American Bible Society, the Oriental Institute, the Pontifical Biblical Institute, and the Freer Gallery all feed into our work to develop and support the professions, especially teaching, of those with degrees in biblical and related studies.

Specific projects underway are mentioned elsewhere in this report (see Technology section, page 9). The Society will offer at the 2002 Annual Meeting several sessions that address professional development. A few examples are:

- *Fall Bible Technologies Conference*. Co-sponsored with the Nida Institute–American Bible Society
- *Engaging the Text: Strategic Teaching to Enhance Learning*. Co-sponsored with the Nida Institute–American Bible Society
- *Academic Teaching and Biblical Studies Section*
- *Future Directions for the Society: Identifying the Next Generation of Leaders*
- *Where and How to Publish? A Practical Forum on Getting Your Work in Print*. Co-sponsored by the AAR and *Publisher's Weekly*

Committee on Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession

SBL's work to advance the participation of racial and ethnic minorities continues at local, national, and international levels. The committee is to be commended for attracting a growing number of new members into SBL. In addition, the efforts made to mentor new persons pursuing advanced degrees are extraordinary given the limited resources available. The pursuit of funding for increasing the voices of underrepresented persons who are not pursuing their work simply for professions in religious institutions is in crisis. We are establishing some new conversations with organizations in the business community who are supporting the widening of voices in

other fields such as accounting and MBA programs. We urge you to suggest additional funding agencies that are committed to the goals and pursuits of the SBL and especially the Committee on Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession who have played important leadership roles over the last decade or more.

Thanks to the Committee on Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession for your leadership.

Efrain Agosto
Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder
Lai-Ling E. Ngan
Stephen Breck Reid
Jean-Pierre Ruiz
Joseph Scrivner
Sze-Kar Wan

Travel Grant Awards

The Society awards travel grants to non-North America scholars who would otherwise be unable to attend the Annual Meeting in an effort to broaden the conversation on biblical scholarship with the voices of those not traditionally heard. The 2002 travel grant recipients include:

- Najia [last name withheld for security reasons], Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan, *Afghani Women's Lament Songs in Recent Context*
- Mordechai Aviam, Bar Ilan University, *Jewish-Christian Relationships in the Galilee in the Byzantine Period in the Light of Archaeological Excavations and Surveys*
- Nicolas Foerster, Georg-August Universitat, *The Ideal of the Praying Community among Christians, Jews, and Pagans*
- Andrianjatovo Rakotoharintsifa, Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar, *Peace in the Epistle to the Romans and in the Malagasy Culture*
- Alexander Rofe, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, *A Predecessor of Duhm: Kuenen on Isaiah 40–66*

Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession

The project of drawing in more women to the profession and expanding the ways in which their scholarship influences the terms and content of debate continues under the leadership of co-chairs Sarah Tanzer and Jane Webster. They will be working nationally with a group of ACLS organizations concerned to improve the conditions of adjunct and part-time faculty. We are grateful for their contributions to this important aspect of building the profession.

At the 2002 Annual Meeting, a breakfast for women in the profession will honor those who have given their time and energy to mentoring other women academics. We thank them here as well for their commitment to the profession:

Athalya Brenner, University of Amsterdam
Adela Yarbro Collins, Yale University
Joanna Dewey, Episcopal Divinity School
Ross Kraemer, Brown University
Phyllis Trible, Wake Forest University

We thank the entire Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession for their efforts to expand the discipline:

Kathleen Corley
Nyasha Junior
Heather McKay
Lori Rowlett
Sarah Tanzer
Jane Webster

Partnership with the American Academy of Religion

Our most important ongoing relationship—that with AAR—allows our two organizations to push the profession forward through our

combined strengths and resources. The SBL and AAR Executive Offices have worked together to produce the Annual Meeting for over 30 years, and this working relationship has never been better. SBL and AAR have worked out equitable agreements on a range of issues: from meeting graphics and colors to placement of each society's information in the program book. Each organization prepares and administers its own meeting program, and then these programs are carefully compared to avoid conflicts and potential problems.

We thank AAR executive director, Barbara DeConcini, for her continued collaboration and her understanding of the needs of the profession. We thank the AAR staff and external organizations we encounter through our joint work in putting on the Annual Meeting and the Employment Information Services.



2002 REGIONAL SCHOLARS

Serge Frolov was nominated by the Pacific Coast region for a paper entitled *Saul's (Quasi)-Biography and Its Literary Background: Synchronic and Diachronic Perspectives*. Serge is an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and holder of the Nate and Ann Levine Endowed Chair in Jewish Studies at Southern Methodist University. Serge received an M.A. in Religion from Claremont Graduate University and is currently completing his dissertation on 1 Samuel 1–8 under the direction of Marvin Sweeney. He also holds an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Modern History from Leningrad University.

James A. Kelhoffer was nominated by the Midwest region for a paper entitled *Appeals to Authority in References to Miracles in the Writings of Paul and Justin Martyr*. James holds the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago and B.A. and M.A. degrees from Wheaton College (IL) and is Assistant Professor of New Testament and Early Christian Literature at Saint Louis University. His dissertation on Mark 16:9–20 was published as *Miracle and Mission* (2000) by Mohr Siebeck in Tübingen, Germany.

Armin Siedlecki was nominated by the Pacific Northwest region for a paper entitled *The Empire Writes Back: Diplomatic Correspondence in*

Ezra 4–6. Armin is a doctoral student in Hebrew Bible at Emory University. Before coming to Emory University, he earned an M.A. in Religion and Culture from Wilfrid Laurier University and a B.A. in Religious Studies from the University of Saskatchewan. He currently works as catalog librarian for rare books at Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

Diane Wudel was nominated by the Southeastern region for a paper entitled *The Seduction of Self Control: The Shepherd of Hermas and the Problem of Desire*. Diane is a doctoral student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has a B.A. and M.A. in English literature from the University of Alberta,

Canada, and spent a number of years working as a writer, editor, and teacher of writing. Her fields of interest are literary theory, ancient and modern, and literary and rhetorical interpretation of early Christian texts. In Fall 2002 she moved to Wake Forest University as Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies in the Divinity School.



Membership

Thank You, Regional Coordinators

Thanks to the Regional Coordinators who work at the grassroots level in advancing biblical scholarship. Throughout the year you keep the regions active and up-to-date on the latest biblical research and teaching methods.

Christina Bucher
John J. Clabeaux
Pamela Eisenbaum
Terry Giles
Troy W. Martin
Linda S. Schearing
Tammi J. Schneider
Mark Schuler
John T. Strong
James W. Thompson
Richard B. Vinson

Membership in the Society continued to grow in 2002. This is due in part to the general health of the academic discipline, and (we hope) SBL's ability to engage members and meet their needs. The recent "affiliate" membership level also contributes to the rise. These members bring the voices and interests of religious leaders, secondary level educators, and general enthusiasts to SBL. Expanding the membership in these directions is in step with SBL's mission to encourage study of the Bible in its cultural contexts and to make the results of scholarship widely understood. As a whole, SBL remains a solidly academic learned society that supports the profession.

SBL's active involvement in the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) has led to greater awareness of student concerns, academic freedom debates, politics and the state of humanities funding, and administrative and academic trends. The SBL co-sponsorship of events like Jefferson Day in 2002 put membership in touch with issues in humanities funding and education; we will continue to help sponsor such events. We thank Adela Yarbro Collins for her role as liaison between SBL and ACLS, as well as Kent Richards who serves on the ACLS conference of administrative officers executive committee.

It is worth mentioning the recent ACLS census on membership trends in learned societies *in general*. While it is difficult to apply specific lessons from the census to SBL, some points are informative: 88% of respondents said that the reason they join a professional society (such as SBL) is to

keep abreast of research and methods; 83% responded that they join for personal interactions they want to maintain. In a nutshell, there lie the two main branches of SBL's member services: the publications program and the Annual Meeting. We are always working to improve these two major elements and welcome your thoughts and efforts.

Needless to say, while topics like "help in finding employment" or "improving pedagogical skills" ranked in the lower 20-30th percentile in reasons to join, SBL leadership takes those respondent needs seriously. SBL membership may also be demographically skewed toward an age group that is less concerned with employment or teaching technique!

Susan Madara, Assistant Executive Director, will take the lead on a series of issues directly related to membership services. Her responsibilities range from membership services to the coordination with our most important external vendors. A special thanks to Susan for the long hours she works to help us be a more effective, efficient, and responsive organization.

An SBL-specific survey on membership is in the works, as is a more useful membership form, so that we can improve our connections with members, between members, and between media people and scholars.

This Society Report sums up some of our past achievements, but there are many exciting plans for the future. Please contact us and let us know of your specific skills and interests, and we will find a match for you.



Administration & Development

SBL continued to sustain a solid financial foundation at the close of fiscal year 2001/2002 on 30 June. As we look toward the 125th year of SBL in 2005 we must:

- provide greater resources for members,
- increase participation in our programs,
- improve our publications,
- continue technological innovation.

To make these improvements we will need to identify increased revenues. We will seek new levels of tax-deductible contributions from members, grants from major donors, and efficiencies in all phases of our operations.

Luce Center Building

The first full year of operating the Luce Center has shown that we, along with our co-owner the American Academy of Religion, can manage the property efficiently and effectively. The acquisition of the building adds to our total assets and has not in any way negatively impacted our financial position. The original \$500,000 building endowment is being managed in relatively conservative investments so that the amount is increasing without risk in a volatile economic market. The endowment increases provide a fund should any emergencies arise in operating the building. That was the purpose of the fund given by the Luce Foundation. We continue to recognize appreciatively the forethought of this gift.

Program Areas

Publication costs increased slightly but have remained far below the amounts spent during 1999/2000. This demonstrates that a carefully managed professional publication program that is open to innovative solutions can produce the finest in biblical scholarship. Our book revenues were essentially level from the previous fiscal year. Subscription revenues have increased substantially. The modest increase in subscription rates accounts for a portion of the additional revenue, but more importantly members, institutions, and resellers (a significant number supply libraries) continue to value our serial publications, and this results in new subscription purchases.

Congresses continue as one of our primary sources of revenue, and not surprisingly since it is the major event where our membership gathers for the exchange of ideas and to renew friendships. The costs of doing the meetings more effectively and with a greater use of technological innovations have increased. However, the percentage of increased revenues has more than offset the increased costs. The changes we implemented two years ago have been validated.

Our greatest increase in expenditures has come in technological investments in research, participation in world standards committees, time, and personnel. Some of the increases in expenditures for development and fund raising have been committed to the cultivation of those interested in technology. We anticipate and have begun already in the new fiscal year to see a return on these investments.

Investments

The only surprise in our investment income this year has been that it did not totally disappear. Few organizations are able to post the kind of return on investment that SBL has seen during fiscal year 2001/2002. Over the last two years when the portfolios of other organizations were rapidly declining we have had the good fortune of sound advice from our investment advisor, Robert Gibson of Ingalls and Snyder. Thank you to him and to our investment team headed up by Paul Achtemeier.

The Society Fund

SBL has established a framework to move ahead in several areas of fund raising related to institutional giving. However, we have not been able to designate enough staff time to the important activity of asking members to contribute to their full ability. Our strategy has been to seek tax-deductible contributions from members and not to increase dues. In fact, many members had a decrease in dues when we discontinued the graduated dues schedule and went to a single full member rate. The separation of dues from subscriptions has been financially successful in that membership revenues have remained essentially unchanged, and subscription revenues have increased.

We need your tax-deductible gifts and will be asking more frequently for donations so that we can begin to show that the donations strategy works better than dues increase.

AUDIT

The 2001/2002 audit by the external accounting firm of Brooks, McGinnis & Company, LLC, has again given SBL a “clean bill of health.” They have stated in their audit that

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Society of Biblical Literature as of June 30, 2002 and 2001, and the results of the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Below you will find a summary report from the independent auditors statements of activities.

Revenues and gains	2002	2001
Congresses	709,717	677,763
Membership	302,813	307,575
Book sales	297,673	301,158
Subscriptions	282,641	168,959
Rental income	121,588	—
Investment income	92,086	261,483
Openings	69,043	53,004
Royalties	58,198	67,812
Contributions	29,738	56,454
Other	65,202	62,134
TOTAL revenues and gains	2,028,699	1,956,342

Expenses

Programs		
Publications	817,596	765,625
Congresses	553,642	510,228
Research and Technology	140,725	94,131
Membership	116,341	87,239
Regions	39,094	35,213
Professions	26,915	83,233
Programs subtotal	1,694,313	1,575,669
General and administration	324,504	238,875
Development and fund raising	51,713	44,995
TOTAL expenses	2,070,530	1,859,539
Net assets, end of year	3,333,635	3,363,830

Thank You, Council Members

The SBL Council met in September 2002 to review the SBL mission statement and to analyze where the Society has been and what are the goals for the future. John Collins, 2002 President of the Society of Biblical Literature, along with an organizational consulting service, provided strong leadership for this meeting.

The outcome will be a redefined Council, with greater leadership roles in steering the direction of the Society. More information on this will be forthcoming as these relationships become defined.

All of us in SBL are grateful for our governing board, Council, that gives the time and energy needed to do strategic planning and to move the Society forward. Their efforts to build on our common interests and to ensure financial security for years to come is much appreciated.

Thank you to those who are serving on the 2002 Council.

Harry Attridge
 Brian K. Blount
 John J. Collins
 Eldon J. Epp
 Beverly R. Gaventa
 Deirdre Good
 Christopher R. Matthews
 Gail R. O’Day
 Saul M. Olyan
 David L. Petersen
 Stephen Breck Reid
 Calvin J. Roetzel
 Linda S. Schearing
 Gale A. Yee

Thanks to the administrative committees of Development, Finance, Investment

Paul Achtemeier	Doug Knight
Harold W. Attridge	Ross Kraemer
Eldon J. Epp	Marty E. Stevens

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