Dear Friends,

The Society of Biblical Literature experienced a productive and exciting 2003. The membership and staff through their diligence strengthened the Society’s stature in and beyond the academy, creating a broader knowledge of the Society’s work and greater visibility through the Society’s website.

The SBL Font Foundation is becoming the authoritative source for Hebrew and Greek fonts. The fonts are based in Unicode and OpenType standards. These fonts allow users to transfer texts between computer systems. They are designed for ease of reading on screen and in print. The fonts are free for individual users worldwide. Commercial use requires membership in the Font Foundation. The Hebrew font is now available at www.sbl-site.org.


The Society’s dynamic new website, _SBL Forum_, developed during the year, now offers features and news about biblical scholarship and religious studies, plus up-to-date information about Society activities, all in a user-friendly environment.

SBL editors continue to acquire titles that foster biblical scholarship and enrich the lives of all who are interested in the critical investigation of the Bible—titles such as Borowski’s _Daily Life in Biblical Times_, which offers a glimpse of life in ancient Israel; Albertz’s _Israel in Exile_, which makes important German scholarship available to English readers; and Barr’s _Reading the Book of Revelation_, which is written to meet the needs of students.

SBL congresses held in Toronto, Canada, and Cambridge, England, had excellent attendance, reaching the broad constituency of the Society’s members. The International Meeting had a record breaking 500 in attendance and 25 book exhibits!

The year 2003 was a year of growth and development. Membership benefits continue to be expanded and improved. We continue to reach out to further our mission to foster biblical scholarship.

Cordially,

Kent Harold Richards
Executive Director
Professor of Old Testament
MISSION, VALUES, AND VISIONS

All organizations are challenged to periodically review the mission, values, and visions that are their foundation. In 2003, Council reviewed, analyzed, and simplified the mission statement of the Society of Biblical Literature to encompass everything the Society stands for and to facilitate broad and open discussion.

Mission
Foster Biblical Scholarship—A simple, comprehensive statement that encompasses the Society’s aspirations.

Values
At the same time that Council analyzed the mission statement, they deliberated over core values that exemplified the principles behind their governance. These core values are the essential enduring tenets that guide the work of SBL; they are so important as not to be compromised, no matter what the external pressures.

- Responsiveness to change
- Communication
- Efficiency
- Scholarly integrity
- Inclusiveness
- Tolerance
- Collegiality
- Leadership in biblical scholarship
- Commitment
- Collaboration
- Productivity
- Accountability

Strategic Visions
Strategic vision statements help carry out the Society’s mission. Vision statements are focused on achievable growth. SBL now has the following vision statements, developed by Council:

- Offer members opportunities for mutual support, intellectual growth, and professional development
- Facilitate broad and open discussion from a variety of perspectives
- Encourage study of biblical literature that attends to its cultural contexts
- Publish biblical scholarship
- Organize congresses for scholarly interchange
- Collaborate with educational institutions to support biblical scholarship

COUNCIL COMMITTEES
Council conducts its work through four committees of Council—Development, Finance, Nominating, and the Programs and Initiatives Committee. The new committee, Programs and Initiatives, evaluates established programs and reviews potential initiatives. It strengthens communications between committees and Council.

Thank You, Committees of Council
Development Committee
Harold W. Attridge, Yale University
Douglas A. Knight, Vanderbilt University
Ross S. Kraemer, Brown University, Chair

Finance Committee
Harold W. Attridge, Yale University, Chair
Eldon Jay Epp, Case Western Reserve University, Emeritus
Marty Stevens, Union Theological Southern Seminary

Nominating Committee
John T. Fitzgerald, University of Miami, Chair
Marvin A. Sweeney, Claremont School of Theology
Sidnie White Crawford, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Programs and Initiatives Committee
Eldon Jay Epp, Chair, Case Western Reserve University, Emeritus, Chair
Pamela Eisenbaum, Iliff School of Theology

Thank You, Council Members
Eldon Jay Epp, Case Western Reserve University, Emeritus, President
David L. Petersen, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Vice President
Harold W. Attridge, Yale University
Brian K. Blount, Princeton Theological Seminary
Pamela Eisenbaum, Iliff School of Theology
John T. Fitzgerald, University of Miami
Beverly R. Gaventa, Princeton Theological Seminary
Deirdre Good, General Theological Seminary
Christopher R. Matthews, Weston Jesuit School of Theology
Gail R. O’Day, Candler School of Theology, Emory University
Stephen Breck Reid, Bethany Theological Seminary
Linda S. Schearing, Gonzaga University
James C. VanderKam, University of Notre Dame
Gale A. Yee, Episcopal Divinity School

Gregory L. Glover, Southminster Presbyterian Church

Thanks to Paul J. Achtemeier, Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, for his able leadership with regard to Society investments.
MEMBERSHIP

The core of the Society of Biblical Literature is its 7500 members. Each time a member renews or joins the Society, opportunities are provided for intellectual growth and professional development. Constant vigilance regarding service to members must remain a top priority.

The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) survey found that over the last several years organizations like ours have retained significant strength, growth, and financial stability. However, we must continue to find ways to expand our membership and to strengthen member contributions to the life and work of the Society.

The survey questions below are the types of questions we must ask ourselves.

Questions for Members

How does SBL attract and retain new scholars to biblical studies?
How does SBL foster biblical scholarship?
How does SBL help members strengthen professional identity and meet others who work with the texts and traditions of the Bible?
How does SBL provide leadership in interpreting scholarship for the wider public?

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES

Mission statement: “The advancement of humanistic studies in all fields of learning in the humanities and social sciences and the maintenance and strengthening of relations among the national societies devoted to such studies.”

The ACLS consists of a 15-member Board of Directors, one delegate from each constituent society, and the executive directors of each organization. The 2003 Annual Meeting of the ACLS took place at the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel in Philadelphia, PA from May 9–10, 2003 and was attended by Kent Harold Richards, Executive Director and Adela Yarbro Collins, SBL’s ACLS delegate.

In the public discussion with Pauline Yu, the incoming President, the issue of the investigation of plagiarism on the part of professional scholars was raised. One speaker argued that investigations should be conducted by the colleges and universities in which the scholars are employed. The constituent societies were encouraged to draw up guidelines and standards, which could be collected by the ACLS and made available to investigating institutions. At this meeting, the American Historical Association made a press release available, which stated that the AHA, instead of adjudicating a small number of confidential cases, as they have for the last fifteen years, will mount a more visible campaign to educate historians, their students, and the public about appropriate standards for research and writing.

In the same forum, another speaker asked what the ACLS could do to help independent scholars. Others argued that faculty of the constituent societies should take a more active role in advocating the humanities in grades kindergarten through 12. A number of speakers noted that it is essential to reward professional activities, along with good teaching and research.

The 2004 Annual Meeting of the ACLS will take place May 6–8 in Washington, D.C.

Thanks to Adela Yarbro Collins, Yale University, who is ending her term as the SBL ACLS delegate in 2003.

HUMANITIES ADVOCACY DAY

SBL is a leading sponsor of Humanities Advocacy Day. The day provides a unique opportunity to communicate the value of the humanities to the U.S. Congress. Together with the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Jefferson Lecture, these two national events provide key opportunities for the humanities community to call special attention to the necessity of financial support for research, teaching, and publications.

The two-day event consists of updates on funding, congressional support, and an overview of policy initiatives and legislation impacting work in the humanities. Kristin M. Swenson, SBL member and a professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, visited congressional delegations to urge support of NEH funding. If you have an interest in working on this important project in 2004, please contact Susan Madara in the SBL office.

Humanities Advocacy Day will be held on March 15–16, 2004. We thank Kristin M. Swenson for volunteering to work on this important initiative.

Thanks to Member Donors

Thanks to the many member donors who have given this last year. Next year we will list all donors in the 2004 Society Report who have given a tax deductible contribution of $25 or more. Our goal is to have a list of 500 members who have given $25 or more. That is the challenge as we approach 125 years of fostering biblical scholarship.
COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE PROFESSION

This committee each year recognizes outstanding mentors from among the women members in the profession. This program not only honors these colleagues, but also gives an opportunity for the awardees to tell others about what they do to encourage those involved in biblical studies. The following individuals were honored at the 2003 Annual Meeting:

Susan Tower Hollis, SUNY Empire State College
Adele Reinhartz, Wilfrid Laurier University
Katharine Doob Sakenfeld, Princeton Theological Seminary

The committee is also working to increase the connections between women scholars around the world by providing travel grants to meetings.

COMMITTEE ON UNDER-REPRESENTED RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITIES IN THE PROFESSION

The recruitment and support of underrepresented scholars is the key focus of the committee. Biblical studies are enriched by the increasing perspectives of our diverse constituencies. This committee has played an essential role in keeping these issues before the membership. They are always open to member suggestions to develop more effective and enduring initiatives. Thanks to the committee’s organization of events at the Annual Meeting, underrepresented students and scholars are gaining better access to every dimension of the organization’s governance.

REGIONS

Eleven regions foster biblical studies by encouraging networking and professional development within their geographical areas. The regional annual meetings provide a convivial atmosphere for first time student/member presenters as well as for those more seasoned presenters who prefer a more intimate venue for scholarly exchange.

Regional Scholars

The Conference of Regional Coordinators recognized four 2003 Regional Scholars who will be presenting at the 2003 Annual Meeting.

David Casson (B.A., Colorado College; M.Div., Princeton Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Emory University) has served as adjunct instructor at Emory University and Columbia Theological Seminary. His research focuses on the institutional roles and theological rhetoric of Israel's sixth-century prophets. He will read “When Israel Loses Its Meaning: The Reconstitution of Language and Community in Ezekiel’s Prophecy.”

Mark A. Chancey (B.A., M.A., University of Georgia; Ph.D., Duke University) will read a revision of his paper “Greco-Roman Culture and the Galilee of Jesus.” He has taught at Duke and is a faculty member at Southern Methodist University. His book, The Myth of a Gentile Galilee (Cambridge University Press, 2002), integrates archaeological and literary evidence to demonstrate that first-century Galilee was overwhelmingly Jewish.

Dan W. Clanton, Jr. (M.A., Iliff School of Theology; Ph.D., University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology) teaches at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and presented “Queen Salome and the Girls: (Re) Dating the Story of Susanna,” at the Rocky Mountain/Great Plains Regional Meeting. His dissertation explored aesthetic Renaissance interpretations of the story of Susanna, and research interests include artistic, musical, and literary interpretations of biblical women as well as the intersections of Bible and culture.

Amy M. Donaldson (B.A., Wheaton College; M.A., University of Notre Dame) is a doctoral student in the University of Notre Dame’s Christianity and Judaism in Antiquity Program. She has studied at Duke Divinity School and has taught at North Central University in Minneapolis. Research from her paper “Blasphemy against the Spirit and the Historical Jesus,” presented at the 2002 Pacific Northwest Regional Meeting, will be introduced at the poster session.

Regional Coordinators

Central States: John Strong, Southwest Missouri State University
Eastern Great Lakes Region: Holly Toensing, Xavier University
Mid Atlantic Region: Christina Buchner, Elizabethtown College
Midwest: Troy Martin, Saint Xavier University
New England Region: Mary Joan Winn Leith, Stonehill College
Pacific Coast Region: Tammi Schneider, Claremont Graduate University
Pacific Northwest Region: Linda S. Schearing, Gonzaga University
Rocky Mountains-Great Plains Region: Ron Simkins, Creighton University
Southeaster Region: B. Diane Wudel, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Southwestern Region: James Thompson, Abilene Christian University
Upper Midwest: Mark Schuler, Concordia University

Thanks to the outgoing regional coordinators Terry Giles, Gannon University; John Clarbeaux, St. John’s Seminary College; Pamela Eisenbaum, Iliff School of Theology; and Richard Vinson, Averett College.
Volunteers and Institutions Celebrated

All the committees of the Society are made up of members who have volunteered their time and talents to foster biblical scholarship. Through this strong leadership the Society gains its vitality. Thanks to all of you who serve all of us in fostering biblical scholarship.

Thanks also to the members of the Nominating Committee for their continued dedication to finding strong candidates who exemplify the values of the organization and are willing to serve on committees. We thank all the institutions for encouraging faculty to contribute time and leadership to the Society.

American Council of Learned Societies
Adela Yarbrou Collins, Yale University

Archivist
Andy Scrimgeour, Drew University

Research & Publications Committee
Steven L. McKenzie, Rhodes College
Gail R. O'Day, Emory University
C. L. Seow, Princeton
James C. VanderKam, University of Notre Dame, Chair
Benjamin G. Wright, Lehigh University

Book Series Editors and Editorial Boards
Academia Biblica Series
Adele Berlin (OT/ HB), University of Maryland
Mark Allan Powell (NT), Trinity Lutheran Seminary

Archaeology and Biblical Studies
Andrew G. Vaughan, Gustavus Adolphus College

Early Judaism and Its Literature
David Frankfurter, University of New Hampshire
Menahem Kister, Hebrew University, Jerusalem
John C. Reeves, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Editor

New Testament in the Greek Fathers
Michael W. Holmes, Bethel College

Resources for Biblical Study
Steven L. McKenzie, Rhodes College (OT/ HB)
J. Ross Wagner, Princeton Theological Seminary (NT)

Semeia Studies
Roland T. Boer, Monash University
Elisabeth Castelli, Barnard College at Columbia University
Musa W. Dube, University of Botswana
David M. Gunn, Texas Christian University
Richard A. Horsley, University of Massachusetts, Boston
David Jobling, St. Andrews College, Saskatoon
Cheryl Kirk-Duggan, Graduate Theological Union
Stephen D. Moore, Drew University Theological School
Tina Pippin, Agnes Scott College
Ilona Rashkow, SUNY-Stony Brook

Septuagint & Cognate Studies
Melvin K. H. Peters, Duke University

Studies in Biblical Literature (and General Acquisitions)
Dennis T. Olson, Princeton Theological Seminary (OT/ HB)
Sharon H. Ringe, Wesley Theological Seminary (NT)

Symposium
Christopher R. Matthews, Weston Jesuit School of Theology

Text-Critical Studies
James R. Adair, Religion and Technology Center

Writings from the Ancient World
Billie Jean Collins, American Schools of Oriental Research and Emory University
Jerrold S. Cooper, The Johns Hopkins University
Edward L. Greenstein, Tel Aviv University
Jo Ann Hackett, Harvard University
Richard Jasnow, The Johns Hopkins University
Theodore J. Lewis, The Johns Hopkins University, Editor
C. L. Seow, Princeton Theological Seminary
Ronald J. Leprohon, University of Toronto
Nieke Veldhuis, University of California at Berkeley

Writings from the Greek-Roman World
David Armstrong, University of Texas, Austin
Elizabeth Asmis, University of Chicago
Brian E. Daley, S.J., University of Notre Dame
John T. Fitzgerald, University of Miami, Editor
David G. Hunter, Iowa State University
David Konstan, Brown University
Michael J. Roberts, Wesleyan University
Johan C. Thom, University of Stellenbosch
Yun Lee Too, Columbia University
James C. VanderKam, University of Notre Dame

Journal of Biblical Literature
Susan Ackerman, Dartmouth College
Janice Capel Anderson, University of Idaho
Michael L. Barre, St. Mary’s Seminary and University
Moshe J. Bernstein, Yeshiva University
Brian K. Blount, Princeton Theological Seminary
Athalya Brenner, University of Amsterdam
Marc Brettler, Brandeis University
Warren Carter, St. Paul School of Theology
Terence L. Donaldson, Wycliffe College
Paul B. Duff, George Washington University
Pamela Eisenbaum, Iliff School of Theology
Steven J. Friesen, University of Missouri-Columbia
Beverly R. Gaventa, Princeton Theological Seminary
A. Katherine Grieb, Virginia Theological Seminary
Jeffrey K. Kuan, Pacific School of Religion
Robert A. Kugler, Lewis & Clark University
Bernard M. Levinson, University of Minnesota Twin Cities
Judith M. Lieu, Kings College
Timothy H. Lim, University of Edinburgh
Theodore J. Lewis, The Johns Hopkins University
Richard D. Nelson, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University
Kathleen Mary O’Connor, Columbia Theological Seminary
Gail R. O’Day, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, General Editor
Stephen J. Patterson, Eden Theological Seminary
Todd Penner, Austin College, Book Review Editor
David L. Petersen, Candler School of Theology, Emory University
Adele Reinhartz, Wilfrid Laurier University
Alan F. Segal, Barnard College at Columbia University
C. L. Seow, Princeton Theological Seminary
Volunteers and Institutions Celebrated

Historical Jesus
Mark Allan Powell, Trinity Lutheran Seminary

History and Literature of Early Rabbinic Judaism
Michael L. Satlow, Brown University

History of Interpretation
Mark Granquist, St. Olaf College

Ideological Criticism
Jan William Tarlin, Millsaps College

Israelite Prophetic Literature
Terence E. Fretheim, Luther Seminary
Jacqueline E. Lapsley, Princeton Theological Seminary

Israelite Religion in Its West Asian Environment
Neal H. Walls, Candler School of Theology, Emory University

Johannine Literature
Francisco Lozada Jr., University of the Incarnate Word
Adele Reinhardt, Wilfrid Laurier University

John’s Apocalypse and Cultural Contexts Ancient and Modern
Paul B. Duff, George Washington University

Late Antiquity in Interdisciplinary Perspective
Leonard Victor Rutgers, University of Utrecht

Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew
Michael Patrick O’Connor, Catholic University of America
Barry L. Bandstra, Hope College

Matthew
Warren Carter, St. Paul School of Theology
Amy-Jill Levine, Vanderbilt University

Nag Hammadi and Gnosticism
Anne M. McGuire, Haverford College

New Testament Textual Criticism
Kim Haines-Eitzen, Cornell University

Paleographical Studies in the Ancient Near East
Jonathan Rosenbaum, Gratz College

Pauline Epistles
Judith M. Gundry-Volf, Yale University Divinity School
John M. G. Barclay, University of Glasgow

Pentateuch
James W. Watts, Syracuse University

Poster Session
Dexter E. Callender Jr., University of Miami

Pseudepigrapha
Randall D. Chesnutt, Seaver College, Pepperdine University
John C. Reeves, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Psychology and Biblical Studies
D. Andrew Kille, Santa Clara University
Q
Christoph Heil, Universität Frankfurt

Qumran
Esther Glickler Chazon, Hebrew University
Martin Abegg, Trinity Western University

Reading, Theory, and the Bible
Yvonne M. Sherwood, Roehampton Institute

Rhetoric and the New Testament
L. Gregory Bloomquist, Saint Paul University

Scripture in Early Judaism and Christianity
Esther Menn, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Semiotics and Exegesis
David Odell-Scott, Kent State University

Social History of Formative Christianity and Judaism
Hayim Lapin, University of Maryland

Social Sciences and the Interpretation of the Hebrew Scriptures
Ron Simkins, Creighton University
Patricia Dutcher-Walls, Knox College, Toronto

Social Scientific Criticism of the New Testament
Dennis C. Duling, Canisius College
Douglas Oakman, Pacific Lutheran University

Social-Scientific Studies of the Second Temple Period
Alice Hunt, Vanderbilt University
John M. Halligan, St. John Fisher College

Synoptic Gospels
Mark Goodacre, University of Birmingham, UK

Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible
Peter W. Flint, Trinity Western University
Russell Fuller, University of San Diego

Theology of the Hebrew Scriptures
Wonil Kim, La Sierra University
S. Tamar Kamionkowski, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Ugaritic Studies and Northwest Semitic Epigraphy
Steve A. Wiggins, Nashotah House Episcopal Seminary

Wisdom in Israelite and Cognate Traditions
Michael V. Fox, University of Wisconsin

Women in the Biblical World
Pamela Milne, University of Windsor

GROUPS

Ancient Fiction and Early Christian and Jewish Narrative
Judith B. Perkins, Saint Joseph College

Asian and Asian-American Hermeneutics
Frank Yamada, Seabury-Western Theological Seminary
Mary F. Fossett, Wake Forest University

Character Ethics and Biblical Interpretation
M. Daniel Carroll, Denver Seminary

Early Christian Families
Halvor Moxnes, University of Oslo
Margaret Y. MacDonald, St. Francis Xavier University

Early Jewish and Christian Mysticism
Andrea Lieber Merwin, Dickinson College

Formation of the Book of Isaiah
Patricia Tull, Louisville Presbyterian Seminary
Roy Melugin, Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian Univ.

Gender, Sexuality, and the Bible
Fiona Black, Mount Allison University

Lamentations in Ancient and Contemporary Contexts
Nancy C. Lee, Elmhurst College
Fred Dobbs-Allsopp, Princeton Theological Seminary

Literatures and History of the Persian Period Group
Daniel Smith-Christopher, Loyola Marymount University
John W. Wright, Point Loma Nazarene University

Mark
Tom Shepherd, Union College, Lincoln, NE

New Historicism and the Hebrew Bible
Harold Washington, St. Paul School of Theology

Paul and Politics
Richard A. Horsley, University of Massachusetts, Boston
Cynthia Kittredge, Episcopal Theological Seminary

Philo of Alexandria
Thomas Herbert Tobin, Loyola University

Prophetic Texts and Their Ancient Contexts
Ehud Ben Zvi, University of Alberta
Alice Ogden Bellis, Howard Divinity School
Ancient Myths and Modern Theological Perspectives on Cultures
Kevin Corrigan, Emory University
Ron Cameron, Wesleyan University
Merrill P. Miller, University of North Carolina at Pembroke

Constructions of Ancient Space
Jon Berquist, Chalice Press
James Flanagan, Case Western Reserve University

Josephus
Honora H. Chapman, California State University at Fresno
Steve Mason, York University

Manichaean Studies
Jason Beduhn, Northern Arizona University

Rethinking Plato's Parmenides and Its Platonic, Gnostic, and Patristic Reception
Kevin Corrigan, Emory University

Romans through History and Cultures
Laurence L. Welborn, United Theological Seminary

American Biblical Hermeneutics
Dora Rudo Mbuwayesango, Hood Theological Seminary

Assyriology and the Bible
Steven W. Holloway, University of Chicago

Bakhtin and the Biblical Imagination
Barbara Green, Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology

Bible and Visual Art
Elizabeth Struthers Malbon, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Heidi J. Hornik, Baylor University

Book of Acts
Thomas E. Phillips, Colorado Christian University
F. Scott Spencer, Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond

Didache in Context
Aaron Milavec, Center for the Study of Religion and Society

Thomas Louis Brodie, University of Limerick
Gregory E. Sterling, University of Notre Dame

John, Jesus, and History
Tom Thatcher, Cincinnati Bible College & Seminary

Meals in the Greco-Roman World
Dennis Smith, Phillips Theological Seminary
Hal Taussig, Union Theological Seminary

Midrash
Rivka B. Kern-Ulmer, Bucknell University
Lieve Teugels, Jewish Theological Seminary

Pauline Soteriology
A. Katherine Grieb, Virginia Theological Seminary
Francis Watson, University of Aberdeen

Penitential Prayer: Origin, Development, and Impact
Mark Boda, McMaster Divinity College

Qur'an and Biblical Literature
Brannon M. Wheeler, University of Washington

Violence and Representations of Violence among Jews and Christians
Leigh Gibson, Princeton, NJ
Shelly Matthews, Furman University

International Meeting Program Unit Chairs

Archaeology
Ann E. Killebrew, The Pennsylvania State University
Andrew G. Vaughn, Gustavus Adolphus College

Bible and Social Location
Jeremy Punt, University of Fort Hare

Fernando Segovia, The Divinity School, Vanderbilt University

Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Law
Reinhard Achenbach, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität
Gary Knoppers, The Pennsylvania State University

Biblical Studies and Technology
Patrick Durusau, Society of Biblical Literature

Synoptic Gospels
Glenna Sue Jackson, Otterbein College

Israelite Religion
Saul M. Olyan, Brown University

Johannine Literature
Francisco Lozada Jr., University of the Incarnate Word

Judaica
Mayer Gruber, Ben-Gurion University

Language and Linguistics
Meir Lubetski, Baruch College

Methods in Hebrew Bible Studies
Gregory L. Glover, Southminster Presbyterian Church

Old Testament Textual Criticism
Matthew Collins, Society of Biblical Literature

Paul and Pauline Literature
J. Thomas Sumney, Lexington Theological Seminary

Pentateuch (Torah)
Alan J. Hauser, Appalachian State University

Prophets
Martti Nissinen, University of Helsinki

Wisdom Literature
Michael V. Fox, University of Wisconsin

Working with Biblical Manuscripts (Text Criticism)
David Trobisch, Bangor Theological Seminary
Peter Arzt-Grabner, University of Salzburg

SEMINARS
Acts as a Window into Church History
Tobias Nicklas, University of Regensburg

Biblical Theology Group
Christine Helmer, Claremont School of Theology
Christof Landmesser, Universität Tübingen

Concept Analysis and the Hebrew Bible
Mignon Jacobs, Fuller Theological Seminary

Dead Sea Scrolls and Hebrew Bible
Armin Lange, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Kristin De Troyer, Claremont School of Theology

Graduate Biblical Studies: Ethos and Discipline
Kent Harold Richards, Society of Biblical Literature
Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, Harvard Divinity School

Hebrews
Gabriella Gelardini, University of Basel

Old Testament in the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature
Stephen Moyise, University College, Chichester

Perceptions of Social and Ethnic Identities in Antiquity
Ed Noort, University of Groningen
Eibert Tigchelaar, University of Groningen

Syriac Lexicography
Terry Falla, Whitley College, University of Melbourne

The Bible and Its Influence: History and Impact
Kenneth Newport, Liverpool Hope University College

Whence and Whither? Methodology and the Future of Biblical Studies
Todd Penner, Austin College
Caroline Vander Stichelen, University of Amsterdam

WORKSHOP
Pedagogy Workshop
Hugh Pyper, University of Leeds
JOSEPHUS STEVEN MASON


Press and attendees alike flocked to the lively and controversial session on the so-called “James Ossuary.” Historians, exegetes, theologians, archaeologists, and epigraphers presented the subtle issues involved and expressed their reservations and evidence about the context, origin, and exact dating of the ossuary. The ossuary itself was displayed nearby at the Royal Ontario Museum.

Jacques Derrida was the subject of several sessions and was present for a panel discussion where he held a cross-disciplinary audience in rapt attention. For the first time, SBL made available on its website audio recordings of these three popular sessions as downloadable audio files.

International Meeting

The 2003 International Meeting in Cambridge, England, July 20–25, was our largest ever, with over five hundred attendees. Meeting attendees enjoyed the opportunity to meet with members of two other organizations, Society for Old Testament Study and the Oudtestamentisch Werkgezelschap. Attendees from all organizations enjoyed browsing and buying books from twenty-five exhibitors.

Steve Mason, York University, opened the meeting with a lecture on the status of Josephus research. He provided a fascinating update and renewed reasons to study the writings of Josephus. On Tuesday evening, attendees from all organizations were treated to an excellent presentation by Peter Machinist on Julius Wellhausen and Assyriology, followed by a combined reception hosted by the Society.

Other highlights of the meeting included a tour of the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit and the opportunity to view several of the Genizah Manuscripts held at the Cambridge University Library; a workshop on the Masora conducted by the International Organization for Masoretic Studies; and tours of the new Faculty of Divinity building located adjacent to the meeting site.

SBL Annual Meeting Starting in 2008

SBL Council discussed at its meeting on April 25–27, 2003, the needs of members, students, publishers, and other constituencies following the AAR announcement to no longer hold joint meetings with SBL starting in 2008. Council has formulated strategic steps consonant with the SBL mission – Foster Biblical Scholarship and SBL strategic goals.

Council has told the universities and seminaries who have in many cases funded the participation of their faculty at our annual meeting that SBL will work with them to assure continued opportunities for building stronger resources for the entire range of biblical, theological, and religious studies. We want those who fund member attendance at the annual meeting to understand that their investment is money well spent. For our members who are unaffiliated or who must pay their own way to the various congresses, we will dedicate ourselves anew to keeping the costs of the annual meeting at reasonable levels. The Council pledges in cooperation with the membership to make the most of the new opportunities to foster biblical scholarship presented by this dramatic change of circumstances.

Council affirms a renewed commitment to students to provide an annual meeting that will not only help them gain a sense of biblical and religious scholarship and pedagogy but also provide venues for their advancement into many types of employment. Holding this commitment for students will assure a cadre of fresh ideas and creative scholarship into the future.

Council has assured the many publishers/exhibitors that have so faithfully exhibited at our national, international, and regional meetings that we will work with them to enhance their ability to show their products to our members.

Council affirmed that it understands the diversity of SBL’s constituencies and the many supporting entities that have forwarded our ability to carry out our strategic visions. Council is aware that our members, who study, teach, do research, and carry out their daily work in many types of educational institutions and other entities need the opportunity to see the latest research, technology, and teaching/learning strategies that have been so central to the annual meeting.

National and International Dialogue

FUTURE MEETINGS

Annual

2004 San Antonio
2005 Philadelphia
2006 Washington, D.C.
2007 San Diego
2008 Boston

International

2004 Groningen
2005 Singapore
UNICODE FONTS AND THE FONT FOUNDATION

SBL’s interest in resolving the ancient languages font problem began to come to fruition in 2003. Working with the type foundry, Tiro, and their designer John Hudson, SBL initiated the design of three Unicode fonts for Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. Unicode allows fonts to be read across all computer platforms. The already finished Hebrew font was designed in the Sephardic style, which is suited to the low-contrast readability of computer screen text and offers greater degrees of distinction between potentially similar letters in Hebrew.

The SBL fonts are available for non-commercial use at www.sbl-site.org. These are becoming the fonts of choice for publishing in biblical and related languages.

SBL also created a Font Foundation comprised of book and software publishers who contribute to the foundation. Publishers will distribute the fonts freely to their authors and editors so that text uniformity and accuracy is assured. The foundation will also set and maintain standards for any eventual additions to the biblical studies font library. The contributions of publishers to the foundation create reinvestment funds for new fonts or upgrades.

TEXT ENCODING STANDARDS

This past year SBL’s Director of Research and Development, Patrick Durusau, worked with and chaired various committees that set standards for the encoding and digitization of texts. The work of these committees ensures the availability of biblical texts for future study and use. It includes developing the technical standards for digitizing ancient manuscripts, forming XML standards, creating markup standards for office documents, developing the Open Scriptural Information Standard (OSIS), and filing requirements for the preservation of fair use, first sale, and the right of libraries to archive electronic resources.

We thank our many partners for their commitment to the collaborative process and their dedication to setting high standards within the field ensuring that the humanities stay on the forefront of developing technologies.

Thank You, Font Foundation Members

We thank the members of the Font Foundation for investing in the development and upgrading of font technology. We anticipate announcing in the very near future additional font foundation members.

Members

American Bible Society
American Schools of Oriental Research
Baker Book House
Brill Publishers
LOGOS Research Systems

RECOGNITION OF SBL HANDBOOK OF STYLE

The SBL Handbook of Style continues to set the standard as the authoritative source for biblical references. Recognized for years as the standard in the field of biblical studies, it is now distinguished in The Chicago Manual of Style, 15th edition, which cites, “Any scholarly writer or editor working extensively with biblical material should consult The SBL Handbook of Style, which offers excellent advice and numerous abbreviations.”

As we anticipate a new, revised edition, we are reminded of the editorial leadership David Petersen provided to the first edition and take this opportunity to once again say thank you.
We thank Editorial Director Rex Matthews and our Research and Publications Committee for their continuing endeavors to acquire titles that are on the leading edge of scholarly publishing. Through their dedication and diligence SBL continues to develop an extensive print and digital publication program that is unmatched among learned societies.

**Journal of Biblical Literature**

**A Tradition of Excellence**

Over the last two years:

- 238 articles submitted of which 74 were from individuals outside the U.S.
- 48 articles and 10 critical notes published
- 21 articles on the Hebrew Bible, 21 articles on the New Testament, 2 on general topics, and 2 on extra-canonical material

Thanks to Editor Gail O’Day and her dedicated editorial colleagues.

**Semeia**

**From Journal to Series**

Since 1974, the pioneering, cross-disciplinary journal *Semeia* has been a star in the SBL publishing program. In 2003, *Semeia* shed its identity as a journal, and was incorporated into the Semeia Studies book series. This change advances the outstanding intellectual accomplishments at the heart of the *Semeia* tradition, and frees editors to produce the volumes they envision, unencumbered by the limitations of a journal production schedule. These multi-author thematic volumes will be published under the SBL-Brill agreement, allowing editor royalties for the first time, and greater exposure overseas.

A very special thanks to the general editors of *Semeia*:

We also thank all those who have served on the editorial board.

**Review of Biblical Literature**

**One Million Hits!**

The *Review of Biblical Literature* (RBL) continued to establish itself as the premier source of biblical studies book reviews in the world. During the last fiscal year, RBL published 514 online reviews of 440 recently published books and electronic resources, a feat unmatched in terms of quantity and timeliness by any other biblical studies resource. In addition, RBL maintained its commitment to being international in focus, serving subscribers from around the globe; reviewing English, French, German, Spanish, and Italian works as well as publishing reviews in those same languages; and operating under the guidance of an Editorial Board representing eight different countries from nearly every continent. Moreover, since the launch of its new website in September 2002 (http://bookreviews.org), RBL has recorded over one million hits, for an average of over 3,400 per day. Finally, the print edition of RBL, which includes 160 of the best reviews published electronically during the year, offers users a more traditional source of book reviews and generates a reasonable profit to support the larger enterprise. Comprehensive, international, and timely—RBL plays a key role in the Society’s mission of fostering biblical scholarship.

Thanks to the work of website designer Ken Wells and SPIN Solutions for designing and developing the RBL website. We also thank the graduate student interns, Erika Fitz and Phillip Sherman, for helping with the data conversion of over 3,000 books. The RBL website has a new look that enables volunteers, staff, and reviewers to function together more smoothly, creating a dynamic site.

This year, the five best selling titles gave access to primary source materials relevant to biblical studies and facilitated the mastery of biblical languages:

- Landes, *Building Your Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary*
- Pardee, *Ritual and Cult at Ugarit*
- Roth, *Law Collections from Mesopotamia and Asia Minor*
- Kalter/McKenzie, *Beyond Babel*
- Van Voorst, *Building Your New Testament Greek Vocabulary*

Thanks to all the dedicated authors for their stellar contributions to the SBL publishing program. Their ability to write skillfully and eloquently embodies an important aspect of our mission.

**Recent and Forthcoming Titles**

**Academia Biblica**

Richard J. Bauth, *Developments in Genre between Post-Exilic Penitential Prayers and the Psalms of Communal Lament*


Andrew H. Wakefield, *Where to Live: The Hermeneutical Significance of Paul’s Citations from Scripture in Galatians 3:1–14*

Jane S. Webster, *Ingesting Jesus: Eating and Drinking in the Gospel of John*
Archaeology and Biblical Studies
Oded Borowski, Daily Life in Biblical Times
Milton Moreland, ed., Between Text and Artifact: Integrating Archaeology in Biblical Studies Teaching

Resources for Biblical Study
David L. Barr, ed., Reading the Book of Revelation: A Resource for Students
Frederick E. Greenspahn, An Introduction to Aramaic, Second Edition
Arthur W. Walker-Jones, Hebrew for Biblical Interpretation

Review of Biblical Literature
Marvin A. Sweeney, ed., Review of Biblical Literature 2003

Semeia Studies
Tamarra Eskenazi, Gary A. Phillips, and David Jobling, eds., Levinas and Biblical Studies
Jione Havea, Elusions of Control: Biblical Law on the Words of Women
Cheryl Kirk-Duggan, ed., Pregnant Passion: Gender, Sex, & Violence in the Bible

Seminar Papers
Matthew Collins, ed., SBL Seminar Papers 2003

Septuagint and Cognate Studies
Adrian Schenker, ed., The Earliest Text of the Hebrew Bible: The Relationship between the Mosaic Text and the Hebrew Base of the Septuagint Reconsidered

Studies in Biblical Literature
Rainer Albertz, Israel in Exile: The History and Literature of the Sixth Century B.C.E (translated by David Green)
Janet Howe Gaines, Forgiveness in a Wounded World: Jonah’s Dilemma
Stanley Isser, The Sword of Goliath: David in Heroic Literature

Symposium
Harold W. Attridge and Margot Fassler, eds., Psalms in Community: Jewish and Christian Textual, Liturgical, and Artistic Traditions
Todd Penner and Caroline Vander Stichele, eds., Contextualizing Acts:

Lukan Narrative and Greco-Roman Discourse
John C. Reeves, ed., Bible and Qur’an: Essays in Scriptural Intertextuality
Andrew G. Vaughan and Ann E. Killebrew, eds., Jerusalem in Bible and Archaeology: The First Temple Period

Text-Critical Studies
Alexander Kulik, Retroverting Slavonic Pseudepigrapha: Towards the Original of the Apocalypse of Abraham
Kristin De Troyer, Rewriting the Sacred Text: What the Old Greek Texts Tell Us about the Literary Growth of the Bible

Writings from the Ancient World
James M. Lindenberg, Ancient Aramaic and Hebrew Letters, Second Edition
Martti Nissinen, with contributions by C. L. Seow and Robert K. Ritner, Prophets and Prophecy in the Ancient Near East
Herman Vanstiphout, E Ipsis of Sumerian Kings: The Matter of Aratta

Writings from the Greco-Roman World
George A. Kennedy, Progymnasmata: Greek Textbooks of Prose Composition and Rhetoric
Emma C. Clarke, John M. Dillon, and Jackson P. Hershbell, Iamblichus: On the Mysteries

Print-on-Demand
SBL Publications foster biblical scholarship not only by publishing new works each year but also by keeping older works of enduring scholarly significance in print. To that end SBL established a print-on-demand program that digitizes works that would otherwise go out of print. The program benefits both the scholarly community, which has access to classic works at a reasonable price, and SBL, which generates sales without investing capital in inventory.

SBL Forum
SBL Forum is the new name of what used to be called Religious Studies News: SBL Edition. The new name describes a place for scholarly exchange and provocative ideas attuned to the interests and ideas of Bible scholars. SBL Forum now greets any visitor to the SBL homepage at www.sbl-site.org.

In 2003 the electronic newsletter continued to set high standards with published original essays of leading scholars such as Jack Miles, Elaine Pagels, Regina Schwartz, and Renita Weems. The April 2003 issue featured an essay by Alicia Ostriker on the Psalms, as well as poetry by Kathleen Norris and Czeslaw Milosz.

Brown Judaic Studies and the Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion
SBL’s partnerships with the Brown Judaic Studies publishing program and the Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion continue to add interest and diversity to the scholarship offered to our membership and to the public at large. SBL provides production, distribution, and subscription services for these endeavors within the framework of our own contractual relationships with vendors, allowing BJS and JFSR the benefit of our volume discounts. In return, SBL has the privilege of association with scholarly endeavors beyond the scope of our own programs and modest revenues gained from these relationships enhance our programs and initiatives.

Our thanks to our colleagues who make these partnerships possible:

Brown Judaic Studies
David Jacobson, Ross S. Kraemer, and Saul M. Olyan Co-editors

Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion
Elisabeth Shüssler Fiorenza and Kwok Pui-Lan, Co-editors
Deborah Whitehead and Sarah Sentilles, Managing Editors
Staff Changes

The Executive Director, following the leadership provided by Council, reviewed the structure of the executive office staff to ensure improved communications, productivity, efficiency, and accountability within the organization. To facilitate this goal there was a restructuring of staff. New staff includes two people on the recently formed executive administrative committee, a new person in publications, and a technology developer. The staff is dedicated to working as a team to help advance the mission of the Society to foster biblical scholarship.

Frank Ritchel Ames, Director of Programs and Initiatives, joined the staff in June 2003 to support congresses, publications, and technology. Prior to his appointment, he advanced higher education in the roles of professor, librarian, and dean, and helped establish a liberal arts college that now enrolls 1,800 students. He brings experience and expertise in information management, academic administration, and Hebrew Bible, with interests that range from gender and warfare in ancient Israel to academic freedom in confessional institutions.

Missy Colee, Director of Administrative and Technology Services, brings experience in meeting management, administrative oversight, and technology project management and testing. As co-owner of Spin Solutions she attended to all the details of running a very successful business, working with clients, including SBL, to help them understand how technology can help them operate more efficiently, move them forward much faster and provide more value to their customers. She is an excellent multi-task worker with a gift for listening to others and contributing creative solutions.

Susan Madara, Director of Development and Board Relations, brings to bear all the skills and knowledge she has gained in administrative management and accounting, while contributing a variety of expertise developed over the last three years working for the Society. In her new role she has assumed increased responsibilities for development and board relations while continuing with the oversight of accounting matters. Her experience in business and detailed understanding of SBL operations provides support to the daily running of the business, strategic planning, and growth of the organization.

Bob Buller, Production Associate, is new to the staff, but he is not a newcomer to the Society or to the field of biblical studies. Undergraduate and graduate degrees in Hebrew Bible complement his years of experience in freelance editing, typesetting, and manuscript preparation. Significant work as a college teacher and librarian also shape his understanding of Society members and academic books. His duties include book production and general oversight of the Review of Biblical Literature.

Lauren Hightower, Technology Manager, was a co-owner of Spin Solutions with Ms. Colee. She is an experienced technology developer who is directing a variety of technology solutions for SBL. She was one of the key developers for the new RBL site. It became obvious that the expertise of an in-house technology manager was needed to meet the challenges that the organization was facing to stay current with business technology and to provide services in a changing environment and Lauren aptly fills that role.

Change – Creates the Need to Change

Continuing changes in the SBL office have created the need for staff to adapt to an environment that is evolving. The Executive Director commends the SBL staff for their ability to respond effectively to the challenges. They have responded positively, taken on new responsibilities, achieved higher standards, worked more closely with volunteers, and have adapted to new governance structures. Thanks to the staff for its dedicated service to the work of the Society.

Thank You, SBL Staff

The Executive Director wishes to thank the staff for its dedicated service to the Society.

Frank Ritchel Ames
Leigh Andersen
Moira Bucciarelli
Bob Buller
Missy Colee
Matthew Collins
Patrick Durusau
Lauren Hightower
Sharon Johnson
Kathie Klein
Trista Krock
Susan Madara
Lorian Warrilow
“CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH” – ANNUAL AUDIT

On the recommendation of the Executive Director, the Finance Committee engaged a new external auditor for the 2002/2003 audit. The accounting world suggests that periodically a new external auditor be selected. We thank the external accounting firm of Brooks, McGinnis & Company, LLC, for the many excellent years of audit service they provided. Special appreciation is extended to Jack McGinnis who has assisted so ably in a variety of accounting matters.

The 2002/2003 audit by the firm of Cherry, Bekaert, and Holland, certified public accountants and consultants, has given SBL a “clean bill of health.” They have stated in their audit that: “In our opinion, the 2003 financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Society of Biblical Literature as of June 30, 2003, and 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 auditor’s statements of activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Changes in unrestricted net assets</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2002</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenues and gains</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book sales</td>
<td>$322,586</td>
<td>$297,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>36,084</td>
<td>29,738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership and fee income</td>
<td>398,130</td>
<td>302,813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscriptions</td>
<td>293,110</td>
<td>282,641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congresses</td>
<td>691,783</td>
<td>709,717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental income, net</td>
<td>50,302</td>
<td>64,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royalties</td>
<td>67,556</td>
<td>58,198</td>
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<tr>
<td>Openings</td>
<td>56,303</td>
<td>69,043</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>68,709</td>
<td>92,086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>151,136</td>
<td>61,645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>23,326</td>
<td>3,557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restriction</td>
<td>6,089</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total unrestricted revenues and gains</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,165,114</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,971,390</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
<td>861,507</td>
<td>817,596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congresses</td>
<td>707,409</td>
<td>553,642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>155,601</td>
<td>116,341</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professions</td>
<td>43,936</td>
<td>26,915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regions</td>
<td>42,484</td>
<td>39,094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and technology</td>
<td>235,633</td>
<td>140,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total program expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,046,570</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,694,313</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Development and fundraising</td>
<td>70,491</td>
<td>51,713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and administration</td>
<td>198,673</td>
<td>267,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,315,734</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,013,221</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Decrease in unrestricted net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>(150,620)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(41,831)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in temporarily restricted net assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income and change in market value</td>
<td>31,127</td>
<td>6,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restriction</td>
<td>(6,089)</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increase in temporarily restricted net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>25,038</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,636</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in net assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets at beginning of year</td>
<td>3,333,635</td>
<td>3,363,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer of cash from Scholars Press</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets at end of year</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,208,053</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,333,635</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>