



Society of Biblical Literature



**SOCIETY REPORT
2003**



Society of Biblical Literature

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 Chicago Manual of Style, The Essential Guide for Writers, Editors, and Publishers cited *The SBL Handbook of Style* as the authoritative source for biblical references. It directs readers to the *SBL Handbook* for "excellent advice and numerous abbreviations."

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



Leadership with New Vision

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.

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Katharine Doob Sakenfeld, Princeton Theological Seminary

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

Thank You, Council Members

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Professional Development and Service

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

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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.

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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

Methods in New Testament Studies

Matthew Collins, Society of Biblical Literature

Paul and Pauline Literature

Jerry L. 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 Stichele, University of Amsterdam

WORKSHOP

Pedagogy Workshop

Hugh Pyper, University of Leeds



National and International Dialogue

CONGRESSES

Annual Meeting

The 2002 Annual Meeting held in Toronto, November 23–26, topped 8,600 attendees; a close second to the 8,900 at the 1999 Boston meeting.

John Collins' Presidential Address on the Bible and the legitimization of violence presented a "genealogy of the concept of 'the wrath of God.'" Collins' lecture became the basis of an ongoing discussion in an issue of *Religious Studies News: SBL Edition*.

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 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.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Annual

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

International

2004	Groningen
2005	Singapore

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.



Collaboration Sets Standards

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.

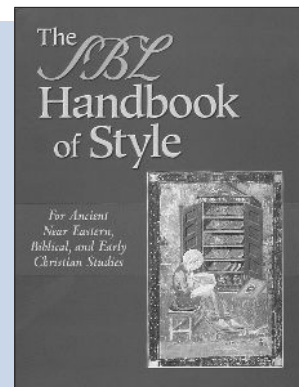
TEXT ENCODING STANDARDS

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.

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.

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



Books and Journals of Distinction

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*:

- Robert W. Funk (1974–1980)
- John Dominic Crossan (1981–1987)
- Robert C. Culley (1988–1992)
- Daniel Patte (1993–1998)
- David Jobling (1998–2003)

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 design-

ing 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. Bautch, *Developments in Genre between Post-Exilic Penitential Prayers and the Psalms of Communal Lament*

Lawrence J. Mykytiuk, *Identifying Biblical Persons in Northwest Semitic Inscriptions of 1200–539 B.C.E.*

Matthew L. Skinner, *Locating Paul: Places of Custody as Narrative Settings in Acts 21–28*

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

Randall C. Bailey, ed., *Yet With a Steady Beat: Contemporary U.S. Afrocentric Biblical Interpretation*

Tamara 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*

Stephen D. Moore and Janice Capel Anderson, eds., *New Testament Masculinities*

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 Masoretic 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. Vaughn 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. Lindenberger, *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, *Epics 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 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



Responsive, Accountable Administration

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

Maira Bucciarelli

Bob Buller

Missy Colee

Matthew Collins

Patrick Durusau

Lauren Hightower

Sharon Johnson

Kathie Klein

Trista Krock

Susan Madara

Lorian Warrillow

“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.

<i>Changes in unrestricted net assets</i>	2003	2002
Revenues and gains		
Book sales	\$ 322,586	\$ 297,673
Contributions	36,084	29,738
Membership and fee income	398,130	302,813
Subscriptions	293,110	282,641
Congresses	691,783	709,717
Rental income, net	50,302	64,279
Royalties	67,556	58,198
Openings	56,303	69,043
Investment income	68,709	92,086
Marketing	151,136	61,645
Other	23,326	3,557
Net assets released from restriction	6,089	—
Total unrestricted revenues and gains	2,165,114	1,971,390
Expenses		
Publications	861,507	817,596
Congresses	707,409	553,642
Membership	155,601	116,341
Professions	43,936	26,915
Regions	42,484	39,094
Research and technology	235,633	140,725
Total program expenses	2,046,570	1,694,313
Development and fundraising	70,491	51,713
General and administration	198,673	267,195
Total expenses	2,315,734	2,013,221
Decrease in unrestricted net assets	(150,620)	(41,831)
<i>Changes in temporarily restricted net assets</i>		
Investment income and change in market value	31,127	6,636
Net assets released from restriction	(6,089)	—
Increase in temporarily restricted net assets	25,038	6,636
<i>Changes in net assets</i>	(125,582)	(35,195)
Net assets at beginning of year	3,333,635	3,363,830
Transfer of cash from Scholars Press	—	5,000
Net assets at end of year	\$ 3,208,053	\$ 3,333,635

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