



**Society of Biblical Literature**

*Fostering biblical scholarship since 1880*

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**Society Report**  
**November 2006**

# SBL celebrates 125 Years of JBL Editors



1880–1883 Frederic Gardiner	1943–1947 Robert H. Pfeiffer
1883–1889 Hinckley G. Mitchell	1948–1950 J. Philip Hyatt
1889–1894 George Foot Moore	1951–1954 Robert C. Dentan
1894–1900 David G. Lyon	1955–1959 David Noel Freedman
1901–1904 Lewis B. Paton	1960–1969 Morton S. Enslin
1905–1906 James Hardy Ropes	1970 John Reumann
1907 Benjamin W. Bacon	1971–1976 Joseph A. Fitzmyer
1908–1909 Julius A. Bewer	1977–1982 John H. Hayes
1910–1913 James A. Montgomery	1983–1988 Victor Paul Furnish
1914–1921 Max L. Margolis	1989–1994 John J. Collins
1922–1929 George Dahl	1995–1999 Jouette M. Bassler
1930–1933 Carl H. Kraeling	2000–2005 Gail R. O'Day
1934 George Dahl	2006– James C. VanderKam
1935–1942 Erwin R. Goodenough	



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## 125 Years of SBL Publications

Attentive readers will no doubt notice that this edition of the SBL Society Report focuses on SBL Publications more than has been the case in years past. The reason for this is simple: 2006 marks the 125th year of the Society’s publishing program, which gives us cause not only to celebrate but also to reflect about all that our many authors, editors, members, and staff have achieved since the first issue of the *Journal of Biblical Literature* was published in 1881.

Although the SBL’s early leaders no doubt entertained high hopes for both the Society and its journal, few could have imagined the growth or the phenomenal success set in motion by that first 72-page issue of *JBL*. For example, since its inception *JBL* has published 397 separate issues comprising over 53,000 pages. Further, nearly 2,000 different authors have published over 3,200 articles or critical notes within the pages of *JBL*—not to mention the over 5,200 published book reviews. Add the hundreds of articles published by various authors in the 88 issues of *Semeia* (1974–2002), and one begins to appreciate the remarkable contribution that the Society’s journal publications have made to the shape and direction of the field. But this is merely the tip of the iceberg.

Since publishing C. C. Torrey’s *Lives of the Prophets* as its first monograph in 1946, the Society has also released over 600 individual titles in 21 different book series—well over 100,000 pages of the finest of biblical scholarship. By publishing vital classroom resources, important collections of ancient texts, exemplary dissertations from emerging scholars, the mature reflections of seasoned academics, and jointly authored works on a wide variety of topics, SBL Publications has not only played a formative role in the development of biblical studies as a discipline but has also provided a forum for scholars from diverse settings and locations to share the fruits of their labors with colleagues around the world. But the story does not end even here.

In recent years SBL Publications has broken free from the confines of paper and ink and joined the world of online publishing. Leading the way was the *Review of Biblical Literature*, which to date has published

# The Year in Review

reviews of nearly 3,300 different books—all available for free online viewing by members and nonmembers alike. *SBL Forum* has also taken its place as a vital component of the SBL's online publications program. Each month *SBL Forum* offers a number of timely, informed, and thought-provoking articles on a wide variety of topics, such as biblical studies in the arts, the classroom, the public sphere, popular culture, and the profession. Finally, SBL Publications has just welcomed two new additions to its program: *TC: A Journal of Biblical Textual Criticism* and the Online Critical Pseudepigrapha. Together with the SBL's other print and online publications, these resources are certain to shape and inform biblical studies significantly in the years to come.

In addition to publishing its own journals, books, and online resources, SBL Publications also has formed fruitful alliances with various partners, all with a view to fostering biblical scholarship (see page 4). For example, every SBL book is co-published by Brill Academic Publishers, and a growing number of Brill titles are available as SBL paperback editions. Further, the SBL distributes titles published in the Brown Judaic Studies series and now serves as the North American distributor for Sheffield Phoenix Press. Last but certainly not least, the SBL has partnered with HarperCollins in years past to produce a number of indispensable reference volumes, including the recently released revised edition of the HarperCollins Study Bible.

In short, through its own publications and its many partnerships (see page 4), the SBL has set itself apart from other learned societies by maintaining a vital, vigorous publications program for 125 years. We invite you to join our celebration as we reflect on past achievements, especially as we honor and give thanks for the contributions of our various authors, editors, and volunteer leaders, and as we dare to imagine what exciting, discipline-shaping developments lie just over the horizon.

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## Three New Book Series

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Three new series have been added to the SBL lineup within the last fifteen months.

### *History of Biblical Studies*

Under the leadership of editors Leo G. Perdue (Old Testament/Hebrew

Bible) and Laurence L. Welborn (New Testament), SBLHBS will make available in English translation seminal biblical-studies resources from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries that have never before appeared in English in spite of their past and ongoing significance for biblical scholarship. However, the series will also consider the publication of monographs devoted to a history of biblical scholarship and may, in some circumstances, publish translations of more recent works important for the history of biblical studies.

The first two volumes that will appear in the series have already been commissioned: (1) Julius Wellhausen, *Israelitische und jüdische Geschichte* (6th ed.; Berlin: de Gruyter, 1921); and (2) a combined volume containing Albert Eichhorn, *Das Abendmahl im Neuen Testament* (Leipzig: Mohr Siebeck, 1898), and Hugo Greßmann, *Albert Eichhorn und die religionsgeschichtliche Schule* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1914).

### *Studia Philonica*

The SBL has also welcomed the *Studia Philonica Annual* and the *Studia Philonica Monograph Series* into its publication program. The *Studia Philonica Annual* is a scholarly journal devoted to advancing the study of Hellenistic Judaism, in particular of the writings and thought of the great Hellenistic-Jewish writer Philo of Alexandria (ca. 15 B.C.E.–ca. 50 C.E.). The first SBL edition of the *Studia Philonica Annual* appears at this year's Annual Meeting with a striking new cover design. The Society also looks forward to publishing the new *Studia Philonica Monograph Series* in the near future.

### *Society of Biblical Literature Commentary on the Septuagint*

In conjunction with the International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies (IOSCS), the SBL will publish a new series of commentaries on the Septuagint based on the Greek text as articulated in the New English Translation of the Septuagint (NETS). The SBLCS will differ from other Septuagint commentary series by focusing on the translation at its point of origin. That is, the SBLCS will take the Septuagint seriously as a translation in order to attempt to determine what the translator was doing when he was translating.

To that end, commentaries in the SBLCS will adhere to five guiding principles: the original text as the basis for interpretation; the original meaning of the text as the goal of

interpretation; the parent text as the primary context for interpretation; the text itself as the only source for determining a translator's intent; and the wider Greek-language corpus as the sole basis for identifying normal (and abnormal) Greek constructions. In keeping with

Longest serving *JBL*  
editor = Morton S. Enslin,  
1960–1969

these five principles, each SBLCS volume will, in addition to addressing standard introductory issues, offer a detailed commentary on individual pericopes, including a summary of a pericope's contents, discussion of interpretive questions pertaining to the entire passage, bibliography, a critical edition of the Greek text, a Hebrew text, the NETS translation, and a verse-by-verse commentary on the pericope.

## Journal of Biblical Literature

Under the leadership of editors Gail R. O'Day (2000–2005) and James C. VanderKam (2006–), as well as members of the SBL Publications staff, *JBL* experienced its most exciting year ever. The 125th year of *JBL* publication began with the unveiling of a beautiful new cover: gone are the days of the flat cream cover; now *JBL* sports a blue and white glossy cover that gives *JBL* the up-to-date look that its contents deserve (see page 1). In addition, *JBL* marked its 125th year of publication with several retrospective pieces about the key developments that *JBL* has undergone, including fascinating reminiscences from a number of former editors.

*JBL* also “celebrated” its 125th year of publication by making the flagship journal of the field far more accessible than ever before. For example, in January 2006 the SBL gave members free online access to every available past issue of *JBL* (vols. 1–121) via the JSTOR Arts and Sciences archive. As a result, members from around the world have nearly 52,000 pages of classic *JBL* articles

at their fingertips with the click of a mouse. In addition, Publications staff recently announced that *JBL* will soon become both a print and an online publication. Beginning in 2007, the SBL will offer online subscriptions to *JBL* through

MetaPress, the world's largest scholarly content host and home to nearly 3,500 journals from 67 different publishers. Online access will be offered free to all SBL members and by subscription to nonmembers and institutions such as libraries.

With pride in all that we have achieved in the past 125 years and eager anticipation of the exciting developments that await in the future, the Society offers its profound thanks to our many

editors, authors, and readers for enabling us to foster biblical scholarship by publishing the leading journal in the field.

## Review of Biblical Literature

The *Review of Biblical Literature* (*RBL*) remains not only the SBL's most widely distributed online publication but also the premier source of biblical studies book reviews in the world. Since the 2005 Annual Meeting, *RBL* has published 475 new reviews of recently published books and electronic resources, a feat unmatched in terms of quantity and timeliness by any other biblical studies resource. In addition, *RBL* maintains its commitment to being international in focus, serving approximately 7,200 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 ten different countries from nearly every continent. During a typical month, *RBL* records roughly 200,000 hits to its website as our many readers survey the most recently published reviews or use our search engine to locate a review of an older volume of interest. Finally, the print edition of *RBL*, which includes nearly 200 of the best reviews published electronically during the year, offers users a more traditional source of book reviews and thus offers many librarians a reliable resource for their new acquisitions. Comprehensive, international, and timely, *RBL* plays a crucial role in the Society's mission of fostering biblical scholarship. For all our successes, we thank our editors, our many reviewers, and our thousands of dedicated readers.

## The SBL Forum

The *Forum Romanum* was the social, religious, and intellectual heart of ancient Rome. In a similar way, *The SBL Forum* provides a focal point for SBL members; a meeting place where biblical scholars can share information and experiences and, conversely, where they can go to learn about the latest advances in teaching technology and classroom instruction, hear about the most recent discoveries or Bible translations, or engage in an exchange about the Bible in popular culture. The heir to *Religious Studies News*, *SBL Edition*, *The SBL Forum* is much more than a newsletter. Since 2000, more than six hundred feature articles, reviews, news items, and letters on a wide range of topics have appeared. We are committed to providing quality articles on topics of interest to our members, with more articles, for example, that provide expert insight into Bible-related discoveries making the news. Toward this end, note



## Society Report

the recent articles by Stefan C. Reif, University of Cambridge, “A Fresh Set of Genizah Texts” (Oct. 2006) and Martin McNamara, Milltown Institute of Theology and Philosophy, Dublin, Ireland, “A Recently Discovered Irish Book of Psalms in its Setting” (Sept. 2006). Occasionally we have devoted an issue to a single theme: the March 2005 issue focused on forgeries and the antiquities market, a topic that engendered a lively dialog among members. Is it any wonder that the articles published in *Forum* drive more visitors to SBL’s website than any other feature? In the coming year, *The SBL Forum* will be receiving a facelift. We trust that the planned enhancements will meet with the approval of our members.

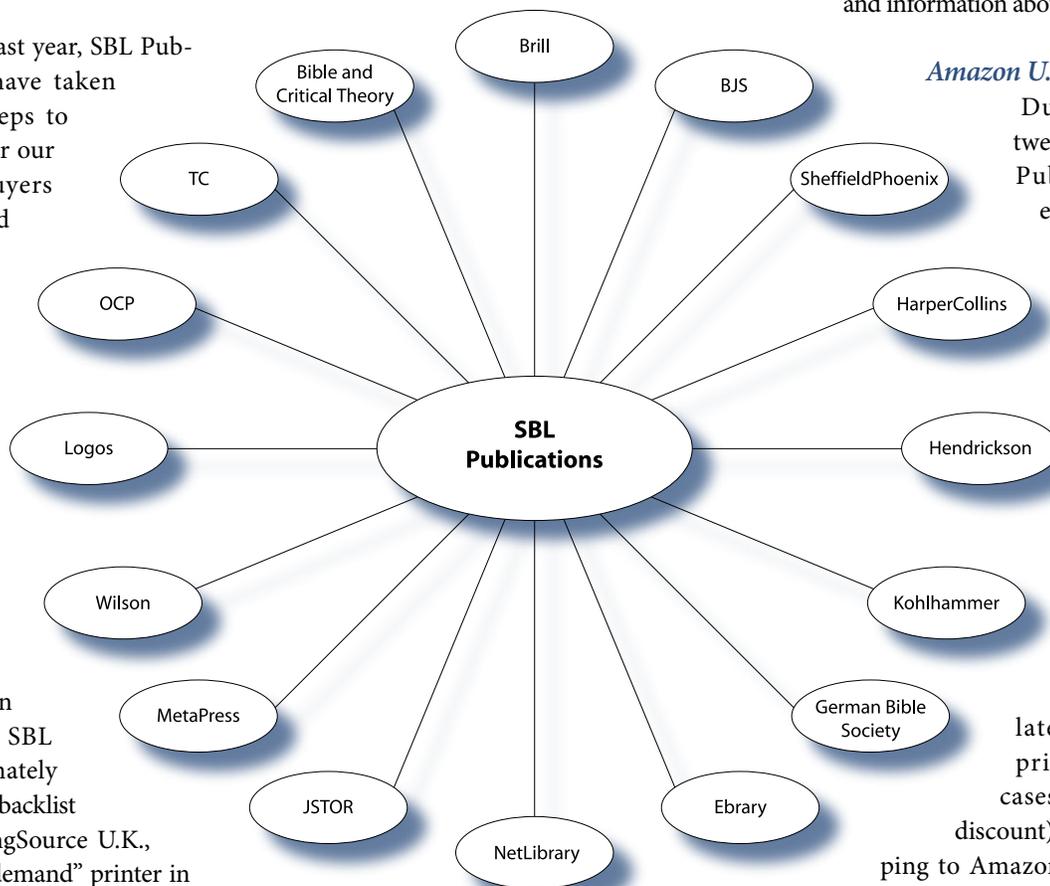
### Marketing SBL Books

During the past year, SBL Publications staff have taken a number of steps to make it easier for our readers and buyers to have easy and inexpensive access to all our titles.

#### Expanded European Service

To improve the availability of SBL titles in the United Kingdom and the European continent, the SBL added approximately 275 frontlist and backlist titles to LightningSource U.K., the leading “on-demand” printer in that region. This arrangement ensures that all SBL titles are entered into Nielsen BookData (the U.K.’s premier supplier of book data to wholesalers and retailers), so that both wholesalers and retailers have quick and easy access to the greater part of our lineup. For example, Amazon U.K. buyers no longer have to wait three weeks or more for books purchased to arrive or pay overseas shipping charges but can expect prompt and reasonably priced shipping for these books.

### Key Partnerships/Associations (product development and/or delivery)



### Google Book Search

SBL Publications also joined Google Books, an online marketing program designed to help publishers and authors promote their books by making available a limited number of sample pages for free online viewing. Using Google Book Search, users can search for specific words, phrases, or topics in all books, then view sample pages from the books collected in the search results or even search further within one of the books identified in the search. The SBL expects to have 72 books added to the program, which will not only increase sales (a potential buyer is more likely to purchase a book if he or she can first browse it) but also provide scholars and students around the world with greater access to and information about SBL titles.

### Amazon U.S.

During the past twelve months SBL Publications has enhanced significantly its presence on the Amazon.com website. For example, we are now an Amazon.com Advantage member, which translates into better prices (in many cases, a 30 percent discount) and faster shipping to Amazon customers. In addition, a number of SBL titles to

have been added to Amazon’s “Search inside the Book” program, a useful means of allowing potential buyers to view a select portion of a book prior to purchase and thus stimulate sales. Both of these developments are expected not only to increase the visibility of SBL Publications in the broader world of academic publishing but also to result in increased sales, which benefits the Society and our authors.

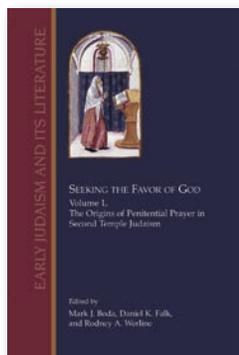
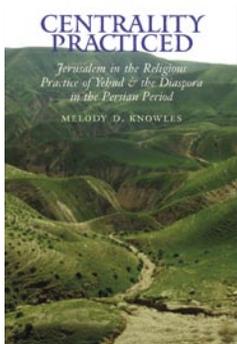
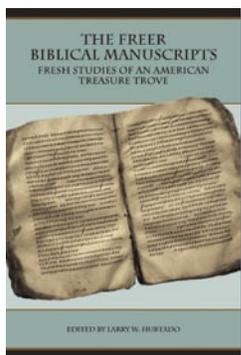
### E-books

The SBL has also recently signed contracts with Ebrary and NetLibrary to make a number of our recent works available in e-book format. Both organizations are leaders in the developing field of e-book delivery, so the SBL is happy to join the ranks of publishers such as Oxford University Press, Brill, Harvard University Press, and Princeton University Press (to name just a few) offering titles via this new medium. Ebrary offers 30,000 titles in its Academic Complete collection, while NetLibrary provides nearly 14,000 customers access to an astounding 110,000 titles.

Libraries subscribing to individual titles or entire collections through either company are able to offer all their authorized users online access to full texts of these titles. Not only does this eliminate the irritation of waiting on a desperately needed book to be returned, but users can search the text of e-books to find exactly what they are looking for. SBL Publications encourages members to recommend subscriptions to either or both of these services. Not only will this make our titles more readily accessible to faculty and students alike, but the SBL will benefit financially with each subscription.

### New and Recent Titles from SBL Publications

- ◆ Wolfgang Kraus and R. Glenn Wooden, eds., *Septuagint Research: Issues and Challenges in the Study of the Greek Jewish Scriptures* (SBLSCS 53)
- ◆ Robert C. Hill, *Theodore of Mopsuestia: Commentary on Psalms 1–81* (SBLWGRW 5)
- ◆ Robert C. Hill, *Theodoret of Cyrus: Commentary on Daniel* (SBLWGRW 7)
- ◆ Thomas B. Dozeman and Konrad Schmid, eds., *A Farewell to the Yahwist? The Composition of the Pentateuch in Recent European Interpretation* (SBLSymS 34P)
- ◆ Claire Mathews McGinnis and Patricia K. Tull, eds., *“As Those Who Are Taught”: The Interpretation of Isaiah from the LXX to the SBL* (SBLSymS 27)



### SBL's Top Ten Best-Selling Titles of All Time

- 1 David Rice and John E. Stambaugh, *Sources for the Study of Greek Religion*
  - 2 Martha T. Roth, *Law Collections from Mesopotamia and Asia Minor*
  - 3 George M. Landes, *Building Your Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary*
  - 4 Robert E. Van Voorst, *Building Your New Testament Greek Vocabulary*
  - 5 Harry A. Hoffner Jr., *Hittite Myths*, 2nd ed.
  - 6 Oded Borowski, *Daily Life in Biblical Times*
  - 7 Odil Hannes Steck, *Old Testament Exegesis*
  - 8 Simon Parker, *Ugaritic Narrative Poetry*
  - 9 Frederick E. Greenspahn, *An Introduction to Aramaic*
  - 10 Douglas A. Knight and Gene M. Tucker, eds., *The Hebrew Bible and Its Modern Interpreters*
- ◆ Mark S. Smith, *The Rituals and Myths of the Feast of the Goodly Gods of KTU/CAT 1.23: Royal Constructions of Opposition, Intersection, Integration, and Domination* (SBLRBS 51)
  - ◆ David L. Barr, ed., *The Reality of Apocalypse: Rhetoric and Politics in the Book of Revelation* (SBLSymS 39)
  - ◆ Fiona C. Black, ed., *The Recycled Bible: Autobiography, Culture, and the Space Between* (SemeiaSt 51)
  - ◆ Joseph A. Marchal, *Hierarchy, Unity, and Imitation: A Feminist Rhetorical Analysis of Power Dynamics in Paul's Letter to the Philippians* (SBLAcBib 24)
  - ◆ Harold W. Attridge and James C. VanderKam, eds., *Presidential Voices: The Society of Biblical Literature in the Twentieth Century* (SBLBSNA 22)
  - ◆ Mark J. Boda, Daniel K. Falk, Rodney A. Werline, eds., *Seeking the Favor of God, Volume 1: The Origins of Penitential Prayer in Second Temple Judaism* (SBLEJL 21)
  - ◆ Byron G. Curtis, *Up the Steep and Stony Road: The Book of Zechariah in Social-Location Trajectory Analysis* (SBLAcBib 25)
  - ◆ April D. DeConick, ed., *Paradise Now: Essays on Early Jewish and Christian Mysticism* (SBLSymS 11)
  - ◆ Christine Helmer, ed. with the assistance of Charlene T. Higbe, *The Multivalence of Biblical Texts and Theological Meanings* (SBLSymS 37)

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- ◆ Richard Horsley, ed., *Oral Performance, Popular Tradition, and Hidden Transcript in Q* (SemeiaSt 60)
- ◆ Larry W. Hurtado, ed. *The Freer Biblical Manuscripts: Fresh Studies of an American Treasure Trove* (SBLTCS 6)
- ◆ Douglas A. Knight, *Rediscovering the Traditions of Israel*, 3rd ed. (SBL SBL 16)
- ◆ Melody D. Knowles, *Centrality Practiced: Jerusalem in the Religious Practice of Yehud and the Diaspora in the Persian Period* (SBLABS 16)
- ◆ Jonathan D. Lawrence, *Washing in Water: Trajectories of Ritual Bathing in the Hebrew Bible and Second Temple Literature* (SBLAcBib 23)
- ◆ Francisco Lozada Jr. and Tom Thatcher, eds., *New Currents through John: A Global Perspective* (SBLRBS 54)
- ◆ Melvin K. H. Peters, ed., *XII Congress of the International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies, Leiden, 2004* (SBLSCS 54)
- ◆ David T. Runia, Gregory E. Sterling, and Hindy Najman, eds., *Studia Philonica Annual, XVIII, 2006* (Studia Philonica Annual 18)
- ◆ Jan van der Watt, ed., *RBL 8* (2006 edition)

### Brown Judaic Studies

- ◆ Jeffrey C. Geoghegan, *The Time, Place, and Purpose of the Deuteronomistic History: The Evidence of "Until This Day"* (BJS 347)
- ◆ Gary Beckman and Theodore J. Lewis, eds., *Text, Artifact, and Image: Revealing Ancient Israelite Religion* (BJS 346)

### Reprint Initiative

Within the past year we have brought nearly every SBL Monograph Series title back into print; approximately twenty volumes priced so that they are affordable for everyone. SBL has also reprinted a number of other formerly out-of-print titles in our other series, such as SBLDS, SBLEJL, SBLSCS.

SBL has contracted to publish paperback editions of select Brill titles and currently has fourteen Brill titles available in paperback:

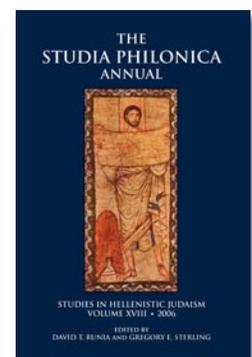
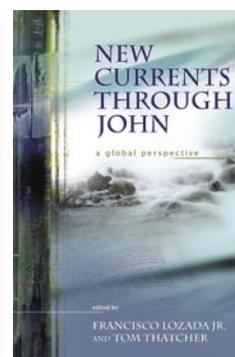
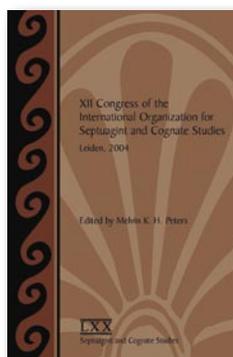
- ◆ Albert I. Baumgarten, *The Flourishing of Jewish Sects in the Maccabean Era: An Interpretation*
- ◆ Pancratius C. Beentjes, *The Book of Ben Sira in Hebrew: A Text Edition of All Extant Hebrew Manuscripts and a Synopsis of All Parallel Hebrew Ben Sira Texts*
- ◆ Peder Borgen, *Philo of Alexandria, An Exegete for His Time*
- ◆ R. Alan Culpepper, ed., *Critical Readings of John 6*

Number of new SBL titles published in the last five years = 120

- ◆ E. Earle Ellis, *History and Interpretation in New Testament Perspective*
- ◆ Dietz Otto Edzard, *Sumerian Grammar*
- ◆ Louis H. Feldman, *Studies in Josephus' Rewritten Bible*
- ◆ John T. Fitzgerald, Thomas H. Olbricht, and L. Michael White, eds., *Early Christianity and Classical Culture: Comparative Studies in Honor of Abraham J. Malherbe*
- ◆ Charlotte Hempel, *The Laws of the Damascus Document: Sources, Tradition, and Redaction*
- ◆ Pieter Willem van der Horst, *Philo's Flaccus: The First Pogrom*
- ◆ Alison Lo, *Job 28 as Rhetoric: An Analysis of Job 28 in the Context of Job 22–31*
- ◆ Johannes C. de Moor, ed., *The Elusive Prophet*
- ◆ Rolf Rendtorff and Robert A. Kugler, eds., *The Book of Leviticus: Composition and Reception*
- ◆ David T. Runia, *On the Creation of the Cosmos according to Moses*
- ◆ Gregory E. Sterling, *Historiography and Self-Definition: Josephus, Luke-Acts and Apologetic Historiography*
- ◆ Emanuel Tov, *The Greek and Hebrew Bible: Collected Essays on the Septuagint*

SBL has also begun to reprint out-of-print works from other publishers:

- ◆ Rainer Albertz, *Persönliche Frömmigkeit und offizielle Religion: Religionsinterner Pluralismus in Israel und Babylon*
- ◆ Patrick D. Miller Jr., *The Divine Warrior in Early Israel*
- ◆ Roy Melugin and Marvin Sweeney, eds., *New Visions of Isaiah*
- ◆ George J. Brooke, *Exegesis at Qumran: 4Q Florilegium in Its Jewish Context*
- ◆ Roland Boer, *Novel Histories: The Fiction of Biblical Criticism*



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## Edinburgh Retrospective

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This year's International Meeting in Edinburgh Scotland featured 109 sessions with 423 program participants. These compare with 95 sessions and 390 program participants in 2004 (the last European meeting in Groningen), and represent increases of 14.7 percent and 8.5 percent respectively. Four new seminars were added to the program. More than fifty percent of those registered attended sessions on Monday and Tuesday.

Registrations totalled 571, a 15-percent increase over the 2003 meeting in Cambridge, our previous high. Registrations from the United States more than doubled from those of 2005 and 2004 and thirty-five countries were represented. Registrations over the web continue to outnumber other methods by over sixty percent.

Twenty-four publishers exhibited in Edinburgh. This number has increased by 20 percent since 2004, while the number of tables sold has increased by 27 percent.

The six plenary lectures by distinguished colleagues were extremely well received with excellent attendance (150 or more at each session). The paper by Rolf Rendtorff, "What happened to the 'Yahwist'? Reflections after Thirty Years" appeared in *The SBL Forum's* summer issue along with the response by David Clines (and a letter to the editor from John van Seters). This exchange will be used in least one future program unit as well. The paper by Patrick Miller in the session "Truth or Consequences" and that of Adele Berlin ("Sex and the Single Girl in Deuteronomy 22") have been referred to in publications such as the *Christian Century*. John Dart published a piece entitled "Taking God to the Mat" on Hugh Pypers' paper "Wrestling the Bible" in the recent *Christian Century* (September 19, 2006).



**Above:** A view from inside Roslyn Chapel, made famous by *The DaVinci Code*. The chapel was a tourist destination for participants in the Edinburgh international meeting. **Below:** A record number of vendors turned out for the book exhibit in Edinburgh, which was located in Teviot House at Edinburgh University. SBL Publications saw vigorous sales, with Ann E. Killebrew's book, *Biblical Peoples and Ethnicity* topping the list in sales.



### SBL Regional Scholars

#### *John Byron, Eastern Great Lakes Region*

John Byron is assistant professor of New Testament at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio. He completed his undergraduate studies at Elim Bible Institute in NY, his M.A. at Regent University in VA and his Ph.D. at the University of Durham, UK. He also completed one year of postgraduate studies in Second Temple history and literature at Jerusalem University College in Israel. Previously he has taught at the University of Durham. He is the author of *Slavery Metaphors in Early Judaism and Pauline Christianity* (WUNT II: 162; Mohr Siebeck: 2003) and several articles. His research interests include the New Testament and Christian origins, slavery, Cain and Abel traditions in late antiquity, and the use of death type-scenes in ancient historiography. He is currently working on a new translation of Judith and Ben Sira for the Fairhaven Septuagint Project. His paper, "Living in the Shadow of Cain: Echoes of a Developing Tradition in James 5:1-6" was presented at the 2004 AAR/SBL annual meeting in San Antonio and at the 2005 meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature's Eastern Great Lakes Region.



#### *Kelley Coblentz Bautch, Southwest Region*

Kelley Coblentz Bautch is an assistant professor of Religious Studies at St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas and teaches in the area of Judaism and Christianity in Antiquity. Coblentz Bautch holds degrees from the University of Notre Dame (Ph.D.), Harvard Divinity School (M.T.S.), and Indiana University (B.A.). She is the author of *A Study of the Geography of 1 Enoch 17-19* (Brill, 2003) and her research interests include apocalyptic literature, pseudepigrapha, and gender and religion. Her paper, "What Becomes of the Angels' 'Wives'?"

A Text Critical Study of 1 En. 19:2," was delivered at the 2005 meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature's Southwest Region.



#### *John A. Cook, Midwest Region*

John A. Cook is an editor at Eisenbrauns, Inc., a publisher and bookseller specializing in ancient Near Eastern and biblical studies. He holds a Ph.D. in Hebrew and Semitic languages from the University of Wisconsin and has taught Semitic languages and Jewish studies at the University of Wisconsin in Madison and Milwaukee, at Trinity International University in Illinois, and at Asian Theological Seminary in the Philippines. John's research interests lie in the application of linguistic theory and data to the study of Biblical Hebrew and Northwest Semitic languages. His dissertation focused on the semantics of the Biblical Hebrew verbal system in the context of the development of the West Semitic verbal systems, and it is currently being revised for publication in Eisenbrauns' series Linguistic Studies in Ancient West Semitic. John's paper, "Generic Distinctions, Verbal Forms, and the Interpretation of Biblical Proverbs," was delivered at the 2005 Society of Biblical Literature's Midwest Regional Meeting. This paper was based on research for an article that appeared under the title "Genericity, Tense, and Verbal Patterns in the Sentence Literature of Proverbs" in *Seeking Out the Wisdom of the Ancients: Essays Offered to Honor Michael V. Fox on the Occasion of His Sixty-Fifth Birthday* (ed. R. L. Troxel, K. G. Friebel and D. R. Magary. Winoona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2005) 117-33.



#### *Paul Evans, Upper Midwest Region*

Paul Evans is a Ph.D. candidate (Old Testament Studies) at Wycliffe College at the Toronto School of Theology. He is also an adjunct faculty at Tyndale University College, in Toronto, teaching Biblical Hebrew and also serves as a part-time pastor at a church in Mississauga, Ontario. He earned a Bachelor of Christian Studies at Taylor University College, in Edmonton, AB and a Masters in Theological Studies at Wycliffe College at the Toronto School of Theology. He was awarded the Society of Biblical Literature Regional Scholar Award (Upper Midwest) for his paper entitled "The Scripture Consciousness of the Chronicler," given at the 2005 meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature's Upper Midwest Region.



### C. Kavin Rowe, Southeastern Region

C. Kavin Rowe is Assistant Professor of New Testament at Duke University Divinity School. His first monograph, entitled *Early Narrative Christology: The Lord in the Gospel of Luke*, was recently published by Walter de Gruyter in the BZNTW series. His next book will focus on some of the theological implications of the intersection between the Acts of the Apostles and ancient culture. In addition to these larger projects, Rowe has published articles that deal with a variety of topics such as the Roman Imperial cult, Pauline interpretation, Graeco-Roman iconography, reception history of the NT, and the relationship between biblical studies and systematic theology.



### College and University Partnerships

To increase cooperation among universities and colleges and support faculty in a wider range of higher education institutions, SBL has become an affiliate of several organizations.

- ◆ Council of Independent Colleges (CIC)
- ◆ Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U)
- ◆ American College Personnel Association (ACPA)
- ◆ American Association of University Professors (AAUP)
- ◆ Coalition of Adjunct Workforce (CAW)

These relationships give us access to the programs and conferences that are organized and held by these institutions. We will be completing a study of the number of our members who are associated with the higher-education institutions in these groups. The initial result of the study shows a significant number of our members are at the institutions in these organizations.

### 2007 SBL Regional Meetings

**Pacific Northwest Region**  
May 4–6  
University of Lethbridge,  
Alberta, Canada

**Upper Midwest Region**  
April 13–14  
Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN

**New England Region**  
April 20 (tentative)  
Andover Newton Theological  
Seminary

**Rocky Mountains – Great Plains Region**  
March 23–24  
Hosted by Creighton University, Omaha

**Eastern Great Lakes Region**  
April 12–13  
Deer Creek Resort and Conference Center,  
Mt. Sterling, Ohio

**Pacific Coast Region**  
March 24–26  
Graduate Theological Union

**Midwest Region**  
February 16–18  
The Weber Center, Olivet Nazarene  
University, Bourbonnais, IL

**Mid Atlantic Region**  
March 1–2  
Radisson Hotel at Cross Keys,  
Baltimore

**Southwestern Region**  
March 3–4  
The Westin, Dallas Fort Worth Airport

**Southeastern Region**  
March 16–18  
Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2006	2005
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 911,936	\$ 611,554
Marketable securities	951,262	1,172,855
Accounts receivable	61,038	79,445
Pledges receivable, net	31,598	53,725
Prepaid expenses and other assets	119,792	52,391
Book inventories, net of valuation reserve	43,804	43,128
Books in production	8,178	396
Furniture and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	21,278	15,195
Net share of Luce Center assets	2,165,066	2,181,250
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 4,313,952</b>	<b>\$ 4,209,939</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 153,757	\$ 136,233
Deferred revenue		
Memberships and subscriptions	398,078	352,651
Annual meetings	468,650	415,137
International meeting	83,380	-
Other	2,557	2,854
Total Liabilities	1,106,422	906,875
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted net assets	2,784,176	2,867,988
Temporarily restricted net assets	173,354	185,076
Permanently restricted net assets	250,000	250,000
Total Net Assets	3,207,530	3,303,064
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 4,313,952</b>	<b>\$ 4,209,939</b>

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

### Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets

Revenues and gains		
Congresses	\$ 767,160	\$ 784,360
Membership and fee income	385,459	399,826
Book sales	357,067	338,514
Subscriptions	334,107	333,422
Investment income	143,512	308,424
Marketing	172,583	176,792
Royalties	91,545	99,461
Contributions	52,248	90,472
Other	7,319	57,093
Grant income	48,750	38,750
Rental income, net	33,571	34,414
Openings	43,982	18,283
Net assets released from restriction	36,758	-
Total Unrestricted Revenues and Gains	2,474,061	2,679,811
Expenses		
Program expenses		
Publications	778,769	715,096
Congresses	962,082	913,564
Membership	154,195	149,831
Professions	71,427	47,624
Regions	57,989	42,582
Research and technology	223,881	310,922
Total Program Expenses	2,248,343	2,179,619
Development and fundraising	127,616	123,413
General and administration	181,914	179,420
Total Expenses	2,557,873	2,482,452
Increase (Decrease) in Unrestricted Net Assets	(83,812)	197,359
<b>Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</b>		
Investment income and change in market value	2 5,036	23,204
Contributions	-	53,725
Net assets released from restrictions	(36,758)	-
Increase (Decrease) Temp. Restricted Net Assets	(11,722)	76,929
Change in Net Assets	(95,534)	274,288
<b>Net Assets at Beginning of the Year</b>	<b>3,303,064</b>	<b>3,028,776</b>
<b>Net Assets at End of the Year</b>	<b>\$ 3,207,530</b>	<b>\$ 3,303,064</b>

## Clean Audit and Financial Strength FY2005-2006

The audit for fiscal year 2005-2006 (July 1-June 30) was completed and presented to the Finance/Audit Committee and SBL Council in October. As every previous year the external audit done by Cherry, Bekaert & Holland, LLP, gave the opinion that our financial statements were presented fairly and in conformity with accepted accounting principles. SBL's financial position continues to be solid as is evidenced by the Statement of Financial Position where our total liabilities and net assets increased from \$4,209,939 to \$4,313,952. Our total liabilities of \$1,106,422 are far under our total net assets of \$3,207,530.

The Statement of Activities shows some variations between 2005 and 2006. We had an operating deficit. However, in the first quarter of 2006-2007 we are operating in the black and believe that we have made some positive corrections. In the first quarter book sales were up 18 percent, membership revenues by 11 percent, and subscriptions by 7 percent. From 1 July to 30 September 2006 we have decreased membership expenses by 34 percent in part because of increased efficiency owing to memberships being handled inhouse. Publications expenses are up 12 percent but with the 18 percent increase in sales we are still in the black. Administration and development costs are up 10 percent in the current quarter, so we will keep a watchful eye.

We remind members that dues cover less than 30 percent of our operating budget. This is typical of organizations in the American Council of Learned Societies, our most comparable group of organizations. We will increase full and associate member dues in 2007. All of the discounts for *JBL* and our meetings will continue. We have been adding a number of digital resources for members as well as other services. We want to give more support to our students, the next generation who are coming forward to lead. Full member dues will be \$65 and associate member dues \$45. We will also discontinue joint membership category. To encourage more student membership we are reducing student dues to \$25. In part the additional subsidy of these student member rates will come from the slightly increased full and associate member dues. Thank you for your financial support to foster biblical scholarship.

13 November 2006

**Humanities  
Advocacy Day,  
2007**



The SBL and AAR are sending one hundred members to Capitol Hill during the annual meeting to meet with congressional staff. Their goal is to encourage support for federal funding of humanities programs, such as the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Fulbright program.

The advocacy efforts continue in the spring, when SBL members will join with scholars from other humanistic disciplines on March 26–27 to lobby congress during Humanities Advocacy Day 2007. The event is organized by the National Humanities Alliance, of which SBL is an active member. Anyone interested in joining the delegation to Washington in March should contact [sblexec@sbl-site.org](mailto:sblexec@sbl-site.org).



*Colleagues and friends,*

Thanks to the nearly 1,000 individuals and institutions that have supported the 125th Anniversary Campaign, we have surpassed our goal of \$250,000. In fact, as of this writing we are above \$275,000. The exact amount will be announced at the Annual Meeting reception and then reported in early January 2007.

Establishing regular patterns of giving is essential for learned societies, since on average the dues of organizations such as the SBL produce less than 30 percent of the revenues needed to operate the organizations. Our 2007 Society Fund will continue to use tax-deductible contributions for four integrally related areas:

- Inclusion of new and diverse voices
- Support for advancing publications
- Enhancements to the Annual Meeting
- Initiatives in technology

To ensure that our current momentum is not lost, we need to increase the number of members who give annually. If you have not given in the past, start in 2007 with whatever you can give. Remember that every time you give a tax-deductible contribution equal to what you pay for dues, we can give a complimentary membership to a colleague from a country whose monthly, or even annual, salary may be little more than the total amount of your dues and the tax-deductible gift.

Your gifts of money and time support the core values of SBL. These values continue to drive the organization during its second century.

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

Thank you for your support of time, energy, and money.

Cordially,

Kent Harold Richards  
Executive Director  
Professor of Old Testament

## SBL Anniversary Campaign Donors

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SBL is pleased to announce that it has exceeded its Anniversary Campaign goal of \$250,000! Our sincere thanks to all of our members who contributed so generously.



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##### *In Memory Of*

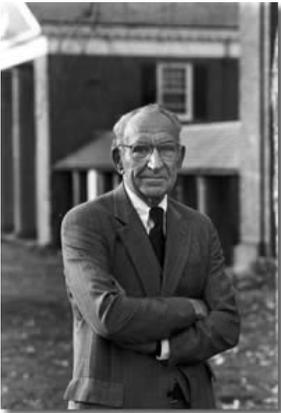
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The society encourages gifts of any amount in honor or memory of friends and colleagues.

## Celebrating 100 Years — Paul Minear



Paul S. Minear

The Society of Biblical Literature takes great joy in letting all members know that Paul S. Minear, Winkley Professor of Biblical Theology, emeritus, at Yale Divinity School, celebrated his one-hundredth birthday on February 17, 2006.

Having received his Ph.D. at Yale in 1932, he began his remarkable career as a teacher of New Testament (Garrett, 1934-1944; Andover Newton, 1944–1956; Yale Divinity School, 1956–1971). He is a prolific author (more than twenty-five books and nearly 150 articles),

translator (NRSV Committee, 1967–1988), and ecumenical leader (FAITH and ORDER Commission of the World Council of Churches, cofounder with Theodore Hesburgh of the Ecumenical Institute for Advanced Theological Study at Tantur). In 1964–1965 he was President of SNTS. In 2002 Abingdon Press published a collection of his essays, *The Bible and the Historian*. In 2005, Westminster John Knox republished two of his well-known books, *The Kingdom and the Power and Images of the Church in the New Testament* (which includes a biographical essay by L. E. Keck). He still lives in his own home in Guilford, Connecticut together with his wife Gladys, whom he married 75 years ago.

## From a Victim of Hurricane Katrina

*After Hurricane Katrina, the Society offered complimentary memberships to those members affected for 2006. In September of this year, we extended the offer for 2007, and one member replied as follows:*

“Dear SBL,

Thank you for your e-mail and the expression of concern. Our home is practically back to normal. I also have full employment as before. Since the hurricane situation looks hopeful for the Gulf coast this season, I do not anticipate any further losses. We were among the less fortunate persons who received no help from FEMA or Red Cross. However, we did get some compensation from our insurance. Right now we do not feel it is appropriate to request any further help from SBL as there may be many other members in the south who might have fared worse off than we did. So thank you very much, and we certainly appreciate the offer. ”

*Basil Davis, Notre Dame Seminary*

## Member Comments

“Thank you very much for the time and effort you gave to get my original SBL Member ID reinstated. I am very appreciative of your work in fulfilling this request. ”

“Thanks so much! I didn’t expect any reply at all, much less a form tailored according to my suggestions! Truly a work of supererogation. ”

“Thank you, that is very kind of you. And kind to let me know. I am not concerned about the delay, I am just happy my set will be complete. ”

“I want to tell you how very special Theresa Lesnik is as a counselor with SBL. Through the mail she has guided me through registration for 2005, housing, and even a donation because of her good work.

I am 86, been all over the world with SBL, but more recently have had trouble with so many forms and use of internet. I e-mailed and Theresa immediately answered.

She recalled my meeting her at 2004 Conference at San Antonio which made me feel very good. She had guided me through 2005 Conference step by step – I have enjoyed the Conference mainly because of her care and kindness to me. ”

“Dear Friends,

I have never pressed the reply button [on an *RBL* email notice] to thank you for your work. This time I did it. Let me say again, this is very helpful as I decide what books to buy, to place in the library, and to assign to the classes. ”

“Dear Matthew [Collins],

I just thought to write to let you know that I received the [regional scholar] check from the SBL. Thank you very much! I am honored by the award and also appreciate the generosity of the SBL in offsetting conference expenses.

I appreciate also, Matthew, your assistance along the way. I think the SBL is an outstanding professional society which I am very happy to support. I am grateful that the SBL gives junior scholars like myself encouragement to develop our work, to participate and aim high. ”

The mission of the Society of Biblical Literature, to foster biblical scholarship, is accomplished through seven strategic goals, as follows:

- ◆ Offer members opportunities for mutual support, intellectual growth, and professional development as teachers and scholars
- ◆ Organize congresses for scholarly exchange
- ◆ Facilitate broad and open discussion from a variety of perspectives
- ◆ Encourage study of biblical literature and its cultural contexts
- ◆ Collaborate with educational institutions and other appropriate organizations to support biblical scholarship and teaching
- ◆ Develop resources for diverse audiences, including students, religious communities and the general public.
- ◆ Publish biblical scholarship

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## SBL Programs and Initiatives

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### *Annual Meeting*

The North American Annual Meeting is the largest international gathering of biblical scholars in the world. Each meeting

- ◆ showcases the latest in biblical research
- ◆ fosters collegial contacts
- ◆ advances research
- ◆ highlights a wide range of professional issues

The world's largest exhibit of books and digital resources for biblical studies is on display at this congress. Members benefit from the meetings of other organizations that meet at the same time.

### *International Meeting*

The International Meeting is held annually outside North America. It provides a unique forum for scholarly discourse across continents and invites attention to the regional interests of biblical scholarship. The meeting usually takes place between the beginning of July and the middle of August.

### *Publications and Technology*

The print and digital publication program includes works for specialists and those interested in biblical and religious studies. Monographic publications include major reference works, commentaries, text editions and translations, scholarly monographs, collections of essays, doctoral dissertations, and tools for teaching and research. The *Journal of Biblical Literature* is one of the oldest and most distinguished journals in biblical scholarship. The *Review of Biblical Literature* is the most comprehensive and up-to-date review of publications in biblical studies and is updated weekly online and publishes a print collection of reviews annually.

The Society continues to provide leadership for font development, markup standards, and digitization of primary sources through partnerships with museums and related institutions.

### *The Profession*

The **Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession** encourages the participation of women in all areas of biblical studies. In pursuit of this mandate, the committee continues its efforts in the areas of mentoring, networking, and opening biblical studies to greater participation by women. Funding is given for a limited number of non-North American women to attend congresses.

The **Committee on Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities** in the Profession has long supported the recruitment and mentoring of racial and ethnic minority students from among the African American, Asian, Hispanic, and Native American populations.

**Employment Information Services (EIS)** encompasses *Openings* and an employment center at the Annual Meeting. *Openings: Employment Opportunities for Scholars of Religion* is published electronically each month and is available through the SBL website at no cost to members. The EIS Center operates each year at the Annual Meeting and offers a central location for job candidates and institutions to meet, along with other helpful events such as panel reviews of pertinent topics that focus on the “how to” of the application and job interview process.

### *Regions*

Throughout the academic year, the regions coordinate lectures and conferences that keep the regions active and up-to-date in the latest biblical research and teaching. These meetings provide an intimate setting for scholarly exchange.

### *Regional Scholars Program*

The eleven regions identify exemplary new scholars, particularly women and underrepresented minorities. Regional scholars are given stipends to cover a portion of the cost of attending the Annual Meeting, and senior scholars are designated as mentors to assist the award recipients with their paper presentations.

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## Student Advisory Group

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### *Current Status*

Over the past nine months, the Student Advisory Group (SAG) has enjoyed a successful launch. There are currently seven committee members working with Diane E. Curtis, SAG Coordinator and SBL staff member, under the direction of Matthew Collins, Director of Congresses and Professions. Currently there are forty-nine On-campus Student Representatives (OSR) serving at institutions in eleven foreign countries and in eighteen states. In April, we went live with the Discussion Groups including the Student Advisory Group forum. There are currently 317 registered members/users of the Discussion Groups.

### *Future Direction*

The SAG Coordinator recently launched an OSR recruiting campaign, which will reach faculty members at 1,676 institutions in the United States, 138 institutions in Canada, and 177 in the United Kingdom and Northern Europe. Phase II will involve Mexico, South America, and Western Europe. Please see supplemental materials for the letter being sent to faculty members asking for OSR recommendations. To date about a third of the institutions in the United States have been contacted, several faculty members have responded, and two new OSR's have been brought onboard.

### *Sustainability and Transitions*

SAG has already experienced several changes in OSR and SAG member assignments, and the transitions have been handled well with little fanfare or upheaval. In July we lost Susan Haver, a valuable and much loved member of our team. A successor for her has not yet been named, but her OSR's were well-informed and have been able to continue their work in a self-directed manner. We have approached one of her OSR's with an offer to take over as the SAG member overseeing Canada, and he is working on finding an OSR to replace him at McGill University along with the assistance of a faculty member there.

Recently a larger US territory was divided among three people as the responsibilities in that territory grew. Ellen White, who originally oversaw New England, parts of the Mid-Atlantic and the Midwest will now be the SAG member for the Midwest and Upper Midwest as she has had tremendous success motivating and mobilizing the student members in those regions, and has established a strong student presence at the Midwest and Upper Midwest Regional Meetings. David Eastman, formerly the OSR for Yale University, has been approved as a new SAG Member to oversee New England. Erin Vearncombe, the SAG Member who oversees the Central States and part of the Mid-Atlantic took on

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## Future Annual Meetings

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- 2007 ♦ San Diego, CA, Nov 17–20
- 2008 ♦ Boston, MA, Nov 22–25
- 2009 ♦ New Orleans, LA, Nov 21–24
- 2010 ♦ Atlanta, GA, Nov 20–23
- 2011 ♦ San Francisco, CA, Nov 19–22
- 2012 ♦ Chicago, IL, Nov 17–20
- 2013 ♦ Baltimore, MD, Nov 23–26

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## International Meetings

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- 2007 ♦ Vienna, Austria, July 22–26
- 2008 ♦ Auckland, July 6–10

the other Mid-Atlantic states (Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey) that were in Ellen's territory.

A system of naming successors for both SAG committee members and OSR's was included in the Mandate, and building upon, and learning from, our recent experiences we anticipate smooth transitions through the mentoring of succeeding SAG Members and OSR's. This is in keeping with the spirit of establishing a friendly, supportive, and collegial atmosphere for SBL student members, with our eyes ever focused on the goal of retaining them as full members and active volunteers in the Society. Because our student members are quite literally the future of SBL, we can say with confidence that the future looks bright.

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## SBL Continues to Grow

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### *Membership*

SBL Memberships have consistently been on the increase over the past two years. Overall current individual membership as of November 14, 2006 was 7,814 compared to 7,092 twelve months ago; an increase of 9 percent. SBL's efforts to increase its membership, begun when the membership and subscription management were brought in-house, are clearly beginning to pay off. The strategies to increase membership began in earnest in mid-2005 with the targeting of specific groups. First, we have obtained membership lists from related organizations (CBA is one example) and offered membership to those who are not SBL members; this practice continues with modest success. We have also collected the names of individuals whose membership in

SBL have lapsed with a view to inviting them back. Beyond this, our initiatives have focused on three groups of people. First, we are targeting groups like the translation leaders of the United Bible Society (see report below) and those that have met under the rubric “additional meetings” at the Annual Meeting. Second, the Student Advisory Group [SAG] is working to increase SBL’s visibility on America’s campuses (see report below). Third, explicit programming and publications directed at religious leaders and the wider public has contributed to the increase in membership. While we are reviewing the increases in all membership categories, we have noted a sizeable increase in Associate Memberships (nearly 25 percent over the past twelve months). In concert with our efforts to increase memberships, SBL’s technology staff is working on a project, partially funded by the Louisville Institute, that will permit us to retain information in our database about the demographics of our membership. In addition to obtaining data on gender and ethnicity, we will be better informed about the types and level of employment of our members (e.g., the types of institutions in which they serve). This project will help us to develop programs and initiatives that will better serve our constituency.

### *Annual Meeting*

As of November 6 we have 10,093 total registrations for the Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. This represents an increase in attendance from last year’s meeting in Philadelphia and thus a second consecutive year of record attendance numbers. Meetings management is adding hotels to the room blocks even at this point.

Looking beyond 2008 when the SBL and AAR meeting will no longer be held in conjunction with one another, we are in the process of developing registration software that will interface with our new membership database. We estimate that the new streamlined system will mean a savings over a three- to five-year period of approximately one million dollars. The system will be employed for the first time at the 2007 International Meeting in Vienna.

### *Web Redesign*

The first steps have been taken to totally redesign and upgrade the SBL website. Those steps have included an analysis of needs and wants within each of the areas (publications, professions, congresses, membership, and development). It is anticipated that a redesign can be concluded by mid-2007.

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### **New Annual Meeting Sessions in 2006**

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Since 2003 fifty-two new Program Units have been added to the Annual Meeting program. Nine additional Units are currently

under consideration. The total number of sessions has increased from approximate two hundred to four hundred. New units for 2006 are as follows:

#### *Bible and American Popular Culture Section*

Program Unit Chair: Linda Scheearing, Gonzaga University

#### *Bible, Myth, and Myth Theory Consultation*

Program Unit Chairs: Dexter Callender, University of Miami, and Neal Walls, Wake Forest University

#### *Europe and the Mediterranean in Late Antiquity Group*

Program Unit Chairs: David Frankfurter, University of New Hampshire

#### *Hebrew Bible and Political Theory Consultation*

Program Unit Chairs: Steven Grosby, Clemson University, and Joshua Berman, Bar-Ilan University

#### *LGBT/Queer Hermeneutics Consultation*

Program Unit Chair: Holly Toensing, Xavier University

#### *New Testament Mysticism Project Seminar*

Program Unit Chairs: April DeConick, Illinois Wesleyan University, and Andrei Orlov, Marquette University

#### *Orality, Textuality, and the Formation of the Hebrew Bible*

Program Unit Chairs: David McLain Carr, Union Theological Seminary (NY), and Susan Niditch, Amherst College

#### *Recovering Female Interpreters of the Bible Consultation*

Program Unit Chair: Nancy Calvert-Koyzis, McMaster University

#### *Rethinking the Concept and Categories of “Bible” in Antiquity Consultation*

Program Unit Chair: James Bowley, Millsaps College

#### *Scripture as Artifact Consultation*

Unit Chair: Brian Malley, University of Michigan

#### *Teaching Biblical Literature in an Undergraduate Liberal Arts Context*

Program Unit Chair: Jane Webster, Barton College

#### *Use of Cognitive Linguistics in Biblical Interpretation Consultation*

Program Unit Chair: Bonnie Howe, Dominican University of California

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### **United Bible Societies Triennial Translation Workshop**

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Mombasa, Kenya, 13–22 June

The executive director was asked to participate in the UBS translation workshop that brings together approximately 135 UBS translation leaders from virtually every continent. These leaders work with around 4,000 translators in many parts of the world.

One of the major goals of attendance was to urge greater SBL participation from this large constituency. Almost half of the leaders are not members of SBL, although a group of about twenty are actively engaged in SBL and have formed at least one program unit. Another dozen of the translation leaders were at one point SBL members. Discussions are underway to begin even more translation program units, and UBS is entertaining the idea of having the triennial meeting done in proximity to the SBL International Meeting.

We have offered complimentary memberships to those who have never been SBL members, while those who have been SBL members were urged to renew. We have had an excellent response and will continue to follow up. Several have written emails of appreciation for the membership. One who is moving from Taiwan to Vancouver was grateful for our contact and expressed a hope to attend the San Diego Annual Meeting.

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### The Bible and Religious Leadership in the Twenty-First Century

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The Louisville Institute has made a grant to SBL to convene conferences to gather religious leaders to study and reflect on the Bible and its use in their professional, congregational, and intellectual lives. Each session will introduce the latest techniques, publications (print and digital), and other resources focusing on the most effective use of these resources for personal enrichment and professional responsibilities such as writing, preaching, teaching, participating in the public arena, and reaffirming the importance of biblical values.

The sessions will employ lecture, panel, and workshop techniques to address the various learning styles of those convened. Each gathering will include at least one public lecture. Attendees will be required to register for the workshops but the public lecture will be open to the wider public. These events will serve as pilots for a continuing SBL program.

11–12 February 2007

Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis  
*Engaging the Bible on Marriage* (see below)

25–26 February 2007

Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC  
*The Use of Scripture in Politics*

2–3 April 2007

Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University, Atlanta, GA  
*Through the Museum with the Bible*

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### Announcement for “Engaging the Bible on Marriage”

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How do we use the Bible to assist our congregations in better discerning the biblical perspectives on marriage? How do those perspectives illuminate the political issues before us today regarding the rights of gay and lesbian couples? Can the Bible only serve to divide people or can it serve a positive role in civil discourse? The Society of Biblical Literature is partnering with Christian Theological Seminary in a two day event to discuss the resources the Bible brings to one of the contentious debates in America life today. Funded in part with a grant from the Louisville Institute and by the Society for Biblical Literature.

The event begins with a “Public Panel with Biblical Scholars on the Bible and the Marriage Debate, Sunday, February 11, 2007, 5–7 pm, Shelton Auditorium, CTS. The panelists are Victor Furnish, Kent Richards, and Marti Steussy.

Four biblical seminars will take place the following day, February 12, 2007, from 9.00 AM to 3.00 PM. The \$50 registration fee includes lunch and complementary membership in SBL. Religious leaders, ordained and lay, are invited to register for two of the four biblical seminars. A concluding plenary will give everyone an opportunity to share reflections.

#### *Preaching on Marriage, Ronald J. Allen*

A consideration of issues related to preaching on marriage including the selection of biblical texts, theological considerations, and seasons in the Christian year. Developing qualities of sermons that will engage the congregation in ways that are thoughtful, critical and respectful will be considered.

#### *Marriage and the Bible in Faith Communities, Gregory L. Glover*

The pastor is expected to preach and teach about God’s view of marriage, counsel couples who have already decided to marry, and troubled teens who sometimes rush toward marriage. So what is the Bible’s role in these varied pastoral conversations? And how can the pastor lead the congregation into a creative encounter with the Bible about the gift of marriage and the perils of the human condition?

#### *New Testament Resources on Marriage, Victor Furnish*

Understanding marriage as portrayed in the New Testament and the way these ancient texts relate to the 21st century require thoughtful perspectives. Is there a definition of marriage in the New Testament? Is it stated or implied? What are the values at work?

#### *Old Testament Resources on Marriage, Marti Steussy*

Understanding marriage as portrayed in the Old Testament and the way these ancient texts relate to the 21st century require thoughtful perspectives. Is there a definition of marriage in the Old Testament? Is it stated or implied? What are the values at work?

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### New Online Initiatives

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#### *Online Critical Pseudepigrapha*

The SBL is delighted to welcome a dynamic and significant online resource into its Publications program: the Online Critical Pseudepigrapha (<http://www.purl.org/net/ocp>). The OCP offers free access to electronic critical texts of the Old Testament pseudepigrapha and related literature. In addition to providing multilingual texts of select works, allowing users to view the evidence in all the extant languages simultaneously and side by side, the OCP presents textual variants through a dynamic interface that allows readers not only to view the textual variants for any section of text but also to view the running text of a given manuscript. The OCP also provides annotated listings of the textual witnesses to and printed editions of the pseudepigraphal texts included on the site.

The OCP was conceived in 2004 under the leadership of its current project directors and general editors: Ian W. Scott (Tyndale Seminary, Toronto, Canada); Ken M. Penner (Acadia Divinity College, Wolfville, NS, Canada); and David M. Miller (Briercrest College and Seminary, Caronport, SK, Canada). The OCP is also served well by a distinguished project review board, whose members include James H. Charlesworth, Craig A. Evans, and Robert Kraft.

In the short time since its inception, the OCP has posted a considerable number of critical texts. Pseudepigraphical texts presented with critical apparatus include: Testament of Job; 1 Enoch (in process); and Testament of Adam (in process). Twenty-four additional texts are currently offered without a critical apparatus:

Testament of Abraham • Life of Adam and Eve • Letter of Aristeas • Aristeas the Exegete • Aristobulus • Artapanus • 2 (Syriac Apocalypse of) Baruch • 3 (Greek Apocalypse of) Baruch • 4 Baruch (*Paraleipomena Jeremiou*) • Cleodemus Malchus • Eldad and Modad • Eupolemus • Apocryphon of Ezekiel • Ezekiel the Tragedian • History of the Rechabites • Jubilees • Lives of the Prophets • 3 Maccabees • 4 Maccabees • Philo the Epic Poet • Pseudo-Eupolemus • Psalms of Solomon • Testament of Solomon • Theodotus

Finally, several other documents are currently under preparation: Ben Sira; Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs; Sibylline Oracles; and the nonsectarian Aramaic pseudepigrapha from Qumran.

The process of creating an electronic text is relatively simple but extremely demanding in terms of the time, expertise, and attention to detail required. For example, editors, typically (1) digitize a base-form of the text; (2) collate and tag manuscript variants into a single XML (Extensible Markup Lan-

guage) document; (3) prepare additional resources, including a description of the document's textual history, a bibliography of scholarship on the document, and a list of other online resources relevant to the study of the document; and, in some cases, (4) prepare a new eclectic text for the document. The job is not finished even then, however, since each document is examined by a member of the project review board and carefully proofread against the print edition of the standard text being reproduced. Helpful "Text Status" descriptions with each pseudepigraphal text allow users to monitor the progress of each document and ensure that they are using completely reliable texts.

The SBL applauds the initiative and devotion of all those involved with making the OCP the best online resource for critical pseudepigraphal texts and takes great pride in adopting the OCP as an electronic publication of the Society. We invite members and nonmembers alike to visit the OCP website in the very near future and to welcome this resource as an important part of the SBL Publications program. For further information, please contact Ian W. Scott <[iscott@tyndale.ca](mailto:iscott@tyndale.ca)>, Ken Penner <[ken.penner@acadiau.ca](mailto:ken.penner@acadiau.ca)>, David Miller <[dmiller@briercrest.ca](mailto:dmiller@briercrest.ca)>, or Bob Buller <[bob.buller@sbl-site.org](mailto:bob.buller@sbl-site.org)>.

#### *Textual Criticism Online*

The SBL takes great pleasure in announcing a "new" addition to its Publications program: *TC: A Journal of Biblical Textual Criticism* (<http://purl.org/TC>). As most readers will already recognize, *TC* itself is not new but has already established its place as a well-respected electronic journal devoted to the study of the Jewish and Christian biblical texts. The adoption of *TC* as an official online publication of the SBL is, however, both new and noteworthy.

First established in 1996, *TC* was one of the first (if not the first) e-journals devoted to the field of biblical studies. Since then *TC* has demonstrated that the melding of first-rate scholarship and freely accessible online publication is not only possible but in many cases preferable. Each article in *TC* is fully peer-reviewed by one or more members of the editorial board (see below), then posted on the *TC* website, where it can be freely accessed by any scholar or student anywhere at any time. In addition to standard scholarly articles (both full-length and of the critical-note type), *TC* also publishes a number of project reports and book reviews.

Although the focus of *TC* is on textual criticism of the biblical texts, the range of subjects covered is broad, as indicated in the *TC* mission statement: "Articles on any aspect of the textual criticism of the Jewish and Christian scriptures (including extracanonical and related literature) are welcome, and contributions that transcend the traditional boundary between textual criticism of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and New Testament textual criticism are especially encouraged. We also invite

articles discussing the relationship between textual criticism and other disciplines.” In addition, the *TC* editorial board and SBL Publications staff plan to collaborate so that together we can provide additional resources, such as links to other resources of interest to biblical textual critics, including text-critical projects, original language texts, and interactive interfaces to offer information about sigla used in different editions.

Given our belief in textual criticism as an important sub-discipline of biblical studies (see the SBL’s Text-Critical Studies book series), the SBL gladly welcomes *TC* and the following members of its internationally esteemed editorial board into the SBL Publications program:

James R. Adair, Religion and Technology Center, Editor • Tobias Nicklas, Radboud University of Nijmegen, Book Review Editor • Johann Cook, University of Stellenbosch • Claude E. Cox, McMaster Divinity College • Sidnie White Crawford, University of Nebraska • Bart D. Ehrman, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill • Leonard J. Greenspoon, Creighton University • Michael W. Holmes, Bethel College • L. W. Hurtado, University of Edinburgh • Arie van der Kooij, Leiden University • Johan Lust, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven • Melvin K. H. Peters, Duke University • William L. Petersen, Pennsylvania State University • Klaus Wachtel, Institut für neutestamentliche Textforschung

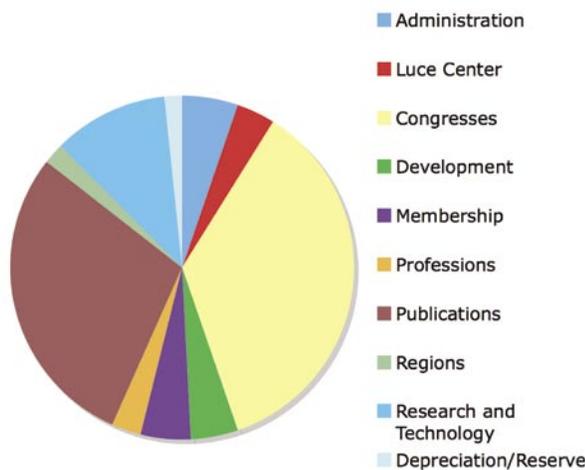
We encourage readers to visit *TC* in the very near future and to welcome *TC* as an important part of the ever-growing SBL Publications program. For further information about *TC*, please contact Jimmy Adair <jadair@bua.edu> or Bob Buller <bob.buller@sbl-site.org>.

**2006–2007 Budget**

<b>Revenues</b>	
Book Sales	\$ 415,000
Contributions/grants	\$ 135,000
Membership fees	\$ 410,000
Subscriptions	\$ 399,000
Congresses	\$ 860,000
Rental Income	\$ 110,000
Royalties	\$ 95,000
Openings	\$ 50,000
Fee Income	\$ 25,750
Investment Income	\$ 72,000
Marketing	\$ 215,000
Other	\$ 5,000
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 2,791,750</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	
Administration	\$ 145,000
Luce Center	\$ 100,000
Congresses	\$ 1,000,000
Development	\$ 130,000
Membership	\$ 125,000
Professions	\$ 80,000
Publications	\$ 810,000
Regions	\$ 50,000
Research and Technology	\$ 300,000
Depreciation/Reserve	\$ 50,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,790,000</b>

**Expenses**



**Revenues**



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## Administrative Committees

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### *Council*

The Council consists of fourteen members of the Society and the Executive Director. This board approves general policies and program initiatives.

Robert A. Kraft, University of Pennsylvania, President • Katharine Doob Sakenfeld, Princeton Theological Seminary, Vice President • Loveday C.A. Alexander, University of Sheffield • Bruce C. Birch, Wesley Theological Seminary • Brian K. Blount, Princeton Theological Seminary • Kristin De Troyer, Claremont School of Theology • Pamela Eisenbaum, Iliff School of Theology • John T. Fitzgerald, University of Miami • Jo Ann Hackett, Harvard University • Kathleen M. O'Connor, Columbia Theological Seminary • Kent Harold Richards, Society of Biblical Literature • Fernando F. Segovia, Vanderbilt University • James C. VanderKam, University of Notre Dame • L. Michael White, University of Texas at Austin

### *Nominating Committee*

The Nominating Committee nominates the President, Vice-President, and Council members for election by the Society, and members of standing committees and other representatives for election by Council.

Bruce C. Birch, Wesley Theological Seminary • Carolyn Osiek, Texas Christian University • Mikeal C. Parsons, Baylor University

### *Development Committee*

The 125th Anniversary Campaign is the major activity of the Development Committee. It also reviews and recommends fundraising activities for the Society.

Donald Dale Walker, University of Wyoming, Chair • Harold W. Attridge, Yale University • Pamela Eisenbaum, Iliff School of Theology • Robert A. Kraft, University of Pennsylvania • Andrew G. Vaughn, Gustavus Adolphus College • L. Michael White, University of Texas at Austin

### *Finance Committee*

The Finance Committee advises the Executive Director in preparing the annual budget for recommendation to the Council and oversees the societal investments.

Harold W. Attridge, Yale University, Chair • Paul J. Achtemeier, Union Theological Seminary, Richmond (Emeritus) • Eldon Jay

Epp, Case Western Reserve University (Emeritus) • Joel B. Green, Asbury Theological Seminary

### *Program Committee*

The Program Committee approves program units and program unit chairs, evaluates the Annual Meeting program, and recommends strategic directions for the growth and improvement of the program.

Brian K. Blount, Princeton Theological Seminary, Chair • Karen L. King, Harvard University • Francisco Lozada Jr., University of the Incarnate Word • Carol Meyers, Duke University • Margaret S. Odell, St. Olaf College • Gregory E. Sterling, University of Notre Dame

### *Research and Publications Committee*

The Research and Publications Committee works with the Editorial Director, reviews publishing activities, recommends policies, and approves editors and editorial boards.

Benjamin G. Wright, Lehigh University, Chair • Ellen Aitken, McGill University • Kristin De Troyer, Claremont School of Theology • Steven L. McKenzie, Rhodes College • Adele Reinhartz, University of Ottawa • James VanderKam, University of Notre Dame

### *Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession*

The Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession works in areas of mentoring and networking, opening the Society to greater participation by women, and calling attention to the ways in which the Society speaks to and about women through its various activities.

Risa Levitt Kohn, San Diego State University, Chair • Barbara E. Bowe, Catholic Theological Union • Nyasha Junior, Princeton Theological Seminary • Heather A. McKay, Edge Hill College • Jane S. Webster, Barton College

### *Committee on Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession*

The Committee on Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities encourages the participation of minorities in all areas of biblical studies through mentoring, networking, and other forms of support.

Jeffrey Kuan, Pacific School of Religion, Chair • Cheryl B. Anderson, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary • Gay Byron, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School • Mary F. Foskett, Wake Forest University • Leticia Guardiola-Sáenz, Drew University • Joseph F. Scrivner, Samford University

*Conference of Regional Coordinators*

The Conference of Regional Coordinators consists of liaisons from the eleven regions in North America. Coordinators oversee regional activities and award Regional Scholar grants.

Linda Schearing, Gonzaga University, Chair • Karen A. Barta, Seattle University - Pacific Northwest Region • Stephen L. Cook, Virginia Theological Seminary - Mid Atlantic Region • Tammi J. Schneider, Claremont Graduate University - Pacific Coast Region • Mark T. Schuler, Concordia University - Upper Midwest Region • Ronald A. Simkins, Creighton University - Rocky Mountains-Great Plains Region • John T. Strong, Missouri State University - Central States Region • James W. Thompson, Abilene Christian University - Southwestern Region • Holly Toensing, Xavier University - Eastern Great Lakes Region • Mark Whitters, Detroit, MI - Midwest Region • B. Diane Wudel, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill - Southeastern Region

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**Editors and Editorial Board Members**


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*Journal of Biblical Literature*

James C. VanderKam, University of Notre Dame, Editor  
Christine Roy Yoder, Columbia Theological Seminary, Book Review Editor  
Todd C. Penner, Austin College, Associate Book Review Editor

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• Benjamin D. Sommer, Northwestern University • Richard C. Steiner, Yeshiva University • Loren T. Stuckenbruck, University of Durham • Patricia K. Tull, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary • Sze-kar Wan, Andover Newton Theological School • Vincent L. Wimbush, Claremont Graduate University

*Review of Biblical Literature*

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- Textual Criticism of the Hebrew Bible*  
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- The Book of the Twelve Prophets*  
Barry Jones, Campbell University

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Paul Joyce, University of Oxford

### *Theology of the Hebrew Scriptures*

Tamar Kamionkowski, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Juliana Claassens, Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond

### *Ugaritic Studies and Northwest Semitic Epigraphy*

Steve Wiggins, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh

### *Violence and Representations of Violence among Jews and Christians*

Shelly Matthews, Furman University  
Laura Nasrallah, Harvard University

### *Wisdom and Apocalypticism in Early Judaism and Early Christianity*

Ellen Aitken, McGill University

### *Wisdom in Israelite and Cognate Traditions*

Richard Clifford, Weston Jesuit School of Theology

### *Women in the Biblical World*

Teresa Hornsby, Drury University  
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### *Asian and Asian-American Hermeneutics*

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### *Early Christian Families*

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### *Lament in Sacred Texts and Cultures*

Carleen Mandolfo, Colby College

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### *Papyrology and Early Christian Backgrounds*

David Martinez, University of Chicago

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Joel Green, Asbury Theological Seminary

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### *Manichaean Studies*

Jason BeDuhn, Northern Arizona University

### *Meals in the Greco-Roman World*

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Caroline Vander Stichele, University of  
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*Working with Biblical Manuscripts (Textual  
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August den Hollander

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*Concept Analysis and the Hebrew Bible*

Mignon Jacobs, Fuller Theological Seminary

*Dead Sea Scrolls and Hebrew Bible*

Armin Lange, University of Vienna

Kristin De Troyer, Claremont School of  
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*Genesis 18-19*

Diana Lipton, Newnham College

*Graduate Biblical Studies: Ethos and Discipline*

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University

Kent Richards, Society of Biblical Literature

*Pericope: Scripture as Written and Read in  
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Raymond de Hoop, Theological Seminary,  
I. S. Kijne

Stanley Porter, McMaster Divinity College

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Terry Falla, University of Melbourne

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