

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE ICI REPORT FOR AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2016

(a) THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING 2016, SAN ANTONIO

The SBL Annual Meeting will be held from November 19-22, 2016 in San Antonio, Texas. The Call for Papers is now closed.

Registration and **accommodation reservations** are still open. See: http://sbl-site.org/meetings/meetings_registrationAM.aspx.

The online programme book is also available at:

https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/Congresses_ProgramBook.aspx?MeetingId=29

An ICI **Forum discussion** will be held at this meeting. Please attend the meeting to be updated on the work of ICI, but also to make your suggestions and give your input. In the past the forum meeting clashed with conference sessions, which resulted into poor attendance. **We have now moved the meeting to the lunch hour which will enable you to attend, without losing out on conference sessions!** The time slot and venue for the forum meeting are the following:

Time: Saturday 19 November at 12:00-13:00 PM

Venue: Bowie (2nd Level) - Marriott Riverwalk (MRW)

We hope to see you there!

(b) PUBLICATION IN ANCIENT NEAR EAST MONOGRAPHS (ANEM) / MONOGRAFÍAS SOBRE EL ANTIGUO CERCAÑO ORIENTE (MACO)

ANEM/MACO is a series that was established by the SBL at the request of the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI), and which is co-edited by Alan Lenzi and Juan Tebes. The series publishes volumes on the Ancient Near East (including ancient Israel) electronically and makes them freely available for download. (Paperback and hardback versions of the volumes are available too, for a reasonable price.) Any work published in ANEM/MACO is freely available in electronic version to anyone in perpetuity. To view the volumes published in the series, please go to http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ANEmonographs.aspx

The latest volume in ANEM/MACO is:

Priests and Cults in the Book of the Twelve

Edited by Lena-Sofia Tiemeyer

This book discusses the depictions of the cult and its personnel in the twelve prophetic books commonly referred to as the Book of the Twelve or the Minor Prophets. The articles in the volume explore the following questions: How did these prophetic writers envision the priests and the Levites? What did they think about the ritual aspects of ancient Israelite faith, including not only the official temple cult in Jerusalem but also cultic expressions outside the capital? What, in their views, characterized a faithful priest and what should the relationship be between his cultic performance and the ways in which he lived his life? How does the message of each individual author fit in with the wider Israelite traditions? Finally, who were these prophetic authors, in which historical contexts did they live and work, and what stylistic tools did they use to communicate their message?

Features:

- Essays investigate the ways in which key texts in the Book of the Twelve endorse, criticize, seek to reform, or seek to abolish the cult and clergy
- Articles focus on the books of Hosea, Joel, Amos, Zephaniah, Zechariah, and Malachi, but include other texts
- Exploration of how the attitudes towards cult and clergy in these key texts tie in with the attitudes found elsewhere in the Book of the Twelve

To download the book for free, paste the following link into your browser:

http://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/pubs/9780884141532_OA.pdf

(c) PUBLICATION IN INTERNATIONAL VOICES IN BIBLICAL STUDIES (IVBS)

IVBS is a series that was established by the SBL at the request of the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI), and which is co-edited by Monica Melanchthon and Jione Havea. IVBS encourages in particular submissions from scholars in the present seven international regions for which it has editorial boards: Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, Middle East-South Asia, Northeast Asia, Pacific, and Southeast Asia. Interregional collaborations are also welcome. IVBS publishes works in English and in any other language for which its editors can find qualified peer reviewers. Any work published in IVBS is freely available to anyone in perpetuity. The series publishes work

generally in the area of reception history and criticism. The scope is not limited to any particular biblical text or historical timeframe. The works will mainly be published in English and, wherever possible, also in primary languages of authors. For more information please go to <http://ivbs.sbl-site.org/home.aspx>. If you would consider publishing your work in this series, feel free to contact one of the two general editors, [Monica Melanchthon](#) or [Jione Havea](#).

The latest volume in IVBS is:

Reading Ruth in Asia

Edited by Jione Havea and Peter Lau

This monograph contains readings of texts and themes from the Book of Ruth by scholars from Asia. There is a strong mix of postcolonial and contextual flavors in the essays, which together give readers a taste of Biblical Criticism in Asia. Special attention is given to the literary, cultural, gender and minoritized subjects in the Book of Ruth.

To download the book for free, paste the following link into your browser:

http://ivbs.sbl-site.org/uploads/9780884141006_OA.pdf

(d) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS – NEW BOOKS ADDED

(For the full list, please go to http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ICIbooks.aspx)

Was There a Wisdom Tradition? New Prospects in Israelite Wisdom Studies

Sneed, Mark R. *Was There a Wisdom Tradition? New Prospects in Israelite Wisdom Studies*. Ancient Israel and Its Literature 23. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2015.

This collection of essays explores questions that challenge the traditional notion of a wisdom tradition among the Israelite literati, such as: Is the wisdom literature a genre or mode of literature or do we need new terminology? Who were the tradents? Is there such a thing as a “wisdom scribe” and what would that look like? Did the scribes who composed wisdom literature also have a hand in producing the other “traditions,” such as the priestly, prophetic, and apocalyptic, as well as other non-sapiential works? Were Israelite sages open to non-sapiential forms of knowledge in their conceptualization of wisdom?

Scripturalizing Revelation: An African American Postcolonial Reading of Empire

Darden, Lynne St. Clair. *Scripturalizing Revelation: An African American Postcolonial Reading of Empire*. Semeia Studies 80. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2015.

Darden's reading of Revelation examines John the Seer's rhetorical strategy, in general, and imperial cult imagery in chapters 4 and 5, in particular, through the lens of an African American scripturalization supplemented by postcolonial theory. The scripturalization proposes that John the Seer's signifyin(g) on empire demonstrated that he was well aware of the oppressive nature of Roman imperialism on the lives of provincial Asian Christians. Yet, ironically, John reinscribed imperial processes and practices. Darden argues that African American biblical scholarship must now attend adequately to these complex cultural negotiations lest it find itself inadvertently feeding the imperial beast.

Island, Islanders, and the Bible: RumInations

Jione Havea, Margaret Aymer and Steed Vermyl Davidson (eds.) *Island, Islanders, and the Bible: RumInations*. Semeia Studies 77. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2015.

In this collection, the authors focus on contextual, cultural, and postcolonial criticisms. This work seeks to move beyond simply reacting to rejecting, or recasting, biblical interpretations that misunderstand or mischaracterize island space. Instead it serves as an entry point to thinking biblically through the island. Additional contributors are Randall C. Bailey, Roland Boer, Hisako Kinukawa, Grant Macaskill, Mosese Ma'ilo, J. Richard Middleton, Althea Spencer Miller, Aliou C. Niang, Andrew.

Keeping the Feast: Metaphors of Sacrifice in 1 Corinthians and Philippians

Patterson, Jane Lancaster. *Keeping the Feast: Metaphors of Sacrifice in 1 Corinthians and Philippians*. Early Christianity and Its Literature 16. Atlanta, Society of Biblical Literature, 2015.

Patterson uses cognitive metaphor theory to trace the apostle Paul's use of metaphors from the Jewish sacrificial system in his moral counsels to the Philippians and the Corinthians. In these letters, Paul moves from the known (the practice of sacrifice) to the unknown (how to live in accord with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ). Patterson illustrates that the significant sacrificial metaphors in 1 Corinthians and Philippians are not derived from Jewish sacrifices of atonement, but rather from the Passover and sacrifices of thanksgiving. Attention to these metaphors demonstrates that imagery drawn from these sacrifices shapes the overall moral counsel of the letters, reveals more varied and nuanced interpretations of sacrificial references in Paul's letters, and sheds light on Paul's continuity with Jewish cultic practice.

The First Urban Churches 1: Methodological Foundations

Harrison, James R. and L. L. Welborn (eds.) *The First Urban Churches 1: Methodological Foundations*. Writings from the Greco-Roman World Supplement Series 7. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2015.

This collection of essays examines the urban context of early Christian churches in the first-century Roman world. A city-by-city investigation of the early churches in the New Testament clarifies the challenges, threats, and opportunities that urban living provided for early Christians. Readers will come away with a better understanding of how scholars assemble an accurate picture of the cities in which the first Christians flourished.

Worship, Women, and War: Essays in Honor of Susan Niditch

Collins, John J., T. M. Lemos, Saul M. Olyan (eds.) *Worship, Women, and War: Essays in Honor of Susan Niditch*. Brown Judaic Studies 357. Providence: Brown Judaic Studies, 2015.

This volume of essays honors Susan Niditch, author of *War in the Hebrew Bible: A Study in the Ethics of Violence* (1993), “My Brother Esau Is a Hairy Man”: Hair and Identity in Ancient Israel (2008), and most recently, *The Responsive Self: Personal Religion in Biblical Literature of the Neo-Babylonian and Persian Periods* (forthcoming), among other influential publications. Essays touch on topics such as folklore, mythology, and oral history, Israelite religion, ancient Judaism, warfare, violence, and gender.

A Most Reliable Witness: Essays in Honor of Ross Shepard Kraemer

Harvey, Susan Ashbrook, Nathaniel DesRosiers, Shira L. Lander, Jacqueline Z. Pastis, and Daniel Ullucci (eds.) *A Most Reliable Witness: Essays in Honor of Ross Shepard Kraemer*. Brown Judaic Studies 358. Providence: Brown Judaic Studies, 2015.

Ross Kraemer is Professor Emerita in the Department of Religious Studies at Brown University. This volume of essays, conceived and produced by students, colleagues, and friends bears witness to the breadth of her own scholarly interests. Contributors include Theodore A. Bergren, Debra Bucher, Lynn Cohick, Mary Rose D’Angelo, Nathaniel P. DesRosiers, Robert Doran, Jennifer Eyl, Paula Fredriksen, John G. Gager, Maxine Grossman, Kim Haines-Eitzen, Susan Ashbrook Harvey, Jordan Kraemer, Robert A. Kraft, Shira L. Lander, Amy-Jill Levine, Susan Marks, E. Ann Matter, Renee Levine Melammed, Susan Niditch, Elaine Pagels, Adele Reinhartz, Jordan Rosenblum, Sarah Schwarz, Karen B. Stern, Stanley K. Stowers, Daniel Ullucci, Arthur Urbano, Heidi Wendt, and Benjamin G. Wright.

EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENT: Other Publishers' Resources and Resources in Spanish

Oxford University Press offers free and reduced rate access to dozens of countries. Learn more on their [website](#).

We are also very excited to announce that we have managed – through the facilitation of one of our ICI executive members (Juan Manuel Tebes) – to include some Spanish publications in our initiative. We thank the Instituto Multidisciplinario de Historia y Ciencias Humanas who is willing to make some direct links to free Spanish publications available on the ICI book repository page. See the following [link](#). Links are available there to the following books (in Spanish):

- Excavation reports of Tell el-Ghaba (Egypt)
- Study of Stela of Gebel Barkal (Egypt)
- Proceedings I institute workshop (includes articles on ANE)
- Proceedings II institute workshop (includes articles on ANE)
- Proceedings III institute workshop (includes articles on ANE)

There is also a link to the following Spanish journal:

- Journal of Egyptological Studies

(e) ICI TEACHING COLLABORATION PROGRAM

In order to facilitate the exchange of scholars and institutions in biblical studies across the globe, a teaching collaboration program is run by the ICI. The facility consists of lists of scholars and institutions interested in exchanges that are made available on the SBL website. See: <http://sbl-site.org/educational/ICITeaching.aspx>. If you or your institution is interested in such collaboration, please visit the site and enroll yourself in these lists. For more information, contact [Tim Langille](#).

In order to see how scholars are already benefiting from this collaboration programme, see Kelley N. Coblenz Bautch's article on [How Videoconferencing with International Scholars Can Enliven Your Classroom](#)

(f) JOURNAL OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE (JBL) ARCHIVE

Take note that an archive with JBL articles from volume 122.1 of 2003 through volume 130.1 of 2011 is available online to people accessing the SBL website from any ICI country. See http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/ICI_JBLarchive.aspx. All articles in those volumes can be downloaded for free!

(g) THE SBL WEBSITE

The SBL website (on the SBL Press page) has a facility where one can search the full text of all SBL books! For this very convenient tool, see:

<http://sbl-site.org/publications/default.aspx>

For searching reviews of a vast number of academic publications, see the website of Review of Biblical Literature (RBL) at (you have to log in with your membership number):

<http://www.bookreviews.org/>

(h) EVENTS

The SBL maintains a significant list of events taking place anywhere in the globe. For the full list please go to <http://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/events.aspx>

A selection of events is listed below—mainly those taking place in ICI regions. Please provide information on conferences in your region, including calls for papers, to Sharon Johnson at sharon.johnson@sbl-site.org.

October 26-28, 2016**NTSSA Mini-Conference: Gender & Sexuality**

The New Testament Society of South Africa Mini-Conference on Gender & Sexuality will be held 26-28 October 2016 at University of Johannesburg; South Africa

Theme: Mothering Salvation? 1 Tm 2:15 - Gender and Class in early Christian Household Discourse

More information available at the following [link](#).

October 27-28, 2016**Sacred Scripture in Ukrainian Culture**

The Ukrainian Catholic University's Faculty of Philosophy and Theology and Faculty of Humanities are are hosting the International Conference "Sacred Scripture in Ukrainian Culture: The Canonical and Extra-Canonical Writings and their Reception" that will be held in Lviv, Ukraine

More information available at the following [link](#).

November 18, 2016**Voices of Israel: Isaiah and Micah**

A biblical studies conference jointly sponsored by St. Edward's University and the Katholischen Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt will be held at the St. Edward's campus in Austin. The conference will focus on the books of Isaiah (1-39) and Micah to examine issues in the religious life of ancient Israel and specifically Judah in the eighth century. A

key issue across the papers will be the relationship between Isaiah and Micah, both literarily and historically. Invited speakers and respondents include Richard Bautch (Austin), Joachim Eck (Eichstätt-Ingolstadt), Michael Floyd (Austin), Christopher B. Hays (Pasadena), J. Todd Hibbard (Detroit), Ndikho Mtshiselwa (Pretoria), James Nogalski (Waco) and Burkard Zapff (Eichstätt-Ingolstadt).

There will be a concurrent exhibit of art by Jenn Hassin that allows conference participants to engage questions that arise in biblical text from another perspective, that of the creative arts. Ms. Hassin is renowned for a style of art that features rolled paper. During the luncheon portion of the conference, Ms. Hassin will speak about her work and her experiences creating art inspired by accounts from Israel as well as her own experiences there.

The Austin conference is one hour by car from the SBL Annual Meeting in San Antonio, which begins the next day.

See more at: <https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/events.aspx#sthash.AeouBaY0.dpuf>

November 19-22, 2016

2016 SBL Annual Meeting

San Antonio, Texas

<https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/Annualmeeting.aspx>

August 7-11, 2016

2017 SBL International Meeting

Berlin, Germany

<https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/Internationalmeeting.aspx>

(i) SBL EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FREELY AVAILABLE

There are links to numerous educational resources on the SBL website. The following are freely available: (i) Resources on Teaching the Bible; (ii) Freely downloadable Hebrew, Greek and Transliteration fonts (amongst others); (iii) Resources on Bible translations and commentaries; and (iv) Research tool resources.

See <http://sbl-site.org/educational/default.aspx>

Also remember to check the newly-developed **Bible Odyssey** online portal. See www.bibleodyssey.org. This portal offers wonderful educational resources, but also resources for broader popular audiences. Use this site to popularize our academic studies in faith communities!

Any topics you would like to see Bible Odyssey address? Just send a message to: bow@sbl-site.org

(j) PLEASE PASS ON THE INFORMATION

Please share this newsletter with your colleagues and students and become a liaison for your institution and SBL. (Please contact our liaison officer, [Tim Langille](#), if you would like to assist as contact person in your region.) Your advocacy for ICI strengthens biblical studies as a discipline and builds relationships in the global community. Thank you to those who have done so in the past—we also receive letters from people who received the newsletter from someone else.

With best wishes for your Bible scholarship!

Louis Jonker, SBL – International Cooperation Initiative