

## SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE ICI REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2015

### (a) THE NEXT SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING

The 2015 International Meeting will take place in Buenos Aires from July 20-24. This meeting will be hosted by the Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina. We are very excited about this meeting. It would be good to see scholars from all over the world attending this meeting, in order to deliberate and interact with our colleagues from Latin-America!

For more information, see: <http://sbl-site.org/meetings/Internationalmeeting.aspx>

**Take note that the Call for Papers is now closed and the program book will be made available in due time.**

#### **Housing at the Meeting**

Please note that there will be a small number of rooms available at the headquarters hotel, the Hilton Buenos Aires. You will have the option of booking this hotel when registration opens. We will also try to give advice on more affordable accommodations.

Watch this space in the next newsletters for more information on the ICI meetings at the Buenos Aires conference!

### (b) THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING, ATLANTA – TRAVEL GRANTS AVAILABLE

The SBL Annual Meeting will be held from November 21-24, 2015 in Atlanta, Georgia. Please note that the deadline for paper proposals is 11:59 PM (23:59) Eastern Standard Time (UTC -5) on Wednesday, March 4, 2015. Go to the following page to submit a paper proposal:

[http://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/Congresses\\_CallForPapers.aspx?MeetingId=27](http://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/Congresses_CallForPapers.aspx?MeetingId=27)

Some travel and participant grants are available for the Annual Meeting (**for more information, see <http://www.sbl-site.org/membership/AMtravelgrant.aspx>**). Please note the following message, and particularly **the deadline of MARCH 1, 2015** for submitting applications for the travel grant:

A change to the deadline schedule and application process for the Annual Meeting Travel Grants has been put in place to bring the process in line with dates for Annual Meeting paper acceptance dates.

#### **Deadlines:**

1 March 2015: Deadline – E-mail with Intention to submit and CV.

5 April 2015: Deadline – Application form and recommendation letter.

1 May 2015: Award decisions will be announced.

### (c) BIBLICAL SCHOLARS IN FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES

We are very glad to announce that a decision was taken at the ICI Executive meeting in San Diego in November 2014 that ICI will provide more support to francophone biblical scholars in terms of the following:

- Encouraging **mentoring** relationships (including preparation of manuscripts for publication) between “experts” and younger scholars in francophone countries. This will be facilitated through the existing mentoring channel which is available on the ICI web page (see <https://www.sbl-site.org/educational/ICITeaching.aspx>).
- Providing links to useful French biblical **scholarly resources** through the monthly ICI newsletter. (This will become a regular entry in our newsletter soon. One useful link which can be made available already is the well-known scholar, Thomas Römer’s classes at the College de France (see <http://www.college-de-france.fr/site/thomas-romer/#course>).
- Including **French publications** in the ICI book depository. We are in negotiation with some French publishers to get them on board for this initiative. (The same will happen for Spanish scholarship.)

### (d) 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 Ehud Ben Zvi and Roxanna Flammini. 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](http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ANEmonographs.aspx)

The latest volume in ANEM/MACO is:

#### **Historical Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew: Steps Toward an Integrated Approach**

Authored by Robert Rezetko and Ian Young

This book seeks to break fresh ground in research on the history of ancient Hebrew. Building on theoretical and methodological concepts in general historical linguistics and in diachronic linguistic research on various ancient Near Eastern and Indo-European

languages, the authors reflect critically on issues such as the objective of the research, the nature of the written sources, and the ideas of variation and periodization. They draw on innovative work on premodern scribally created writings to argue for a similar application of a joint history of texts and history of language approach to ancient Hebrew. The application of cross-textual variable analysis and variationist analysis in various case studies shows that more complete descriptions and evaluations of the distribution of linguistic data advances our understanding of historical developments in ancient Hebrew.

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

[https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/pubs/9781628370461\\_OA.pdf](https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/pubs/9781628370461_OA.pdf)

#### **(e) 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:

#### **Migration and Diaspora: Exegetical Voices of Women in Northeast Asian Countries**

Edited by Hisako Kinukawa

The third meeting of the Society of Asian Biblical Studies was held at Sabah in June 2012, addressing the theme of Migration and Diaspora. This book contains five essays written by women from Northeast Asian countries for this occasion. Three are on Hebrew Scriptures and two are on the Christian Testament. All writers used a cultural analysis of

their own social locations, and literary, historical, and postcolonial criticism as their methods of reading the texts, even though they may not explicitly mention which criticisms are used.

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

<http://ivbs.sbl-site.org/uploads/IVBS%20PAPERS1.pdf>

**(f) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS – NEW BOOKS ADDED**

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

**The One Who Sows Bountifully: Essays in Honor of Stanley K. Stowers**

Hodge, Caroline Johnson, Saul M. Olyan, Daniel Ullucci, and Emma Wasserman, eds. *The One Who Sows Bountifully: Essays in Honor of Stanley K. Stowers*. Brown Judaic Studies, 356. Providence: Brown University, 2013.

This festschrift honors the work of Stanley K. Stowers, a renowned specialist in the field of Pauline studies and early Christianity, on the occasion of his sixty-fifth birthday and retirement from Brown University. The collection includes twenty-eight essays on theory and history of interpretation, Israelite religion and ancient Judaism, the Greco-Roman world, and early Christianity, a preface honoring Stowers, and a select bibliography of his publications.

Contributors include: Adriana Destro, John T. Fitzgerald, John G. Gager, Caroline Johnson Hodge, Ross S. Kraemer, Saul M. Olyan, Mauro Pesce, Daniel Ullucci, Debra Scoggins Ballentine, William K. Gilders, David Konstan, Nathaniel B. Levtow, Jordan D. Rosenblum, Michael L. Satlow, Karen B. Stern, Emma Wasserman, Nathaniel DesRosiers, John S. Kloppenborg, Luther H. Martin, Arthur P. Urbano, L. Michael White, William Arnal, Pamela Eisenbaum, Troels Engberg-Pedersen, Karen L. King, Christopher R. Matthews, Erin Roberts, and Richard Wright.

**Beauty and the Bible: Toward a Hermeneutics of Biblical Aesthetics**

Bautch, Richard J. and Jean-François Racine, eds. *Beauty and the Bible: Toward a Hermeneutics of Biblical Aesthetics*, Series, 73. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2013.

These seven essays offer fresh perspectives on beauty's role in revelation. Each essay features a hermeneutical approach informed by the contemporary study of aesthetics. Covering a series of texts in the Hebrew Bible and New Testament, from Adam and Eve

in the garden to Jesus on trial in the Fourth Gospel, the authors engage beauty from three overarching perspectives: modern philosophy, contextual criticism, and the postcritical return to beauty's primary qualities. The three perspectives are not harmonized but rather explored concurrently to create a volume with intriguing methodological tensions. As this collection highlights beauty in the narratives of scripture, it opens readers to a largely unexplored dimension of the Bible. The contributors are Richard J. Bautch, Jo-Ann A. Brant, Mark Brummitt, David Penchansky, Antonio Portalatín, Jean-François Racine, and Peter Spitaler.

### **Gods In Dwelling: Temples and Divine Presence in the Ancient Near East**

Hundley, Michael B. *Gods In Dwelling: Temples and Divine Presence in the Ancient Near East*. Writings from the Ancient World Supplement Series, 3. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2013.

In this book devoted exclusively to temples and perceptions of the divine presences that inhabit them, Michael B. Hundley focuses on the official religions of the ancient Near East and explores the interface between the human and the divine within temple environs. Hundley identifies common ancient Near Eastern temple systems and examines issues that include: what temple structures communicate, how temples were understood to function, temple ideology, the installation of divine presence in a temple, the connection between presence and physical representation, and human service to the deity. Drawing on architectural and spatial theory, ritual theory, theories of language, art history, archaeology, sociocultural anthropology, and comparative studies, Hundley offers a single interpretive lens through which to view temple worship.

Features:

- A close examination of temples in Egypt, Mesopotamia, Hittite Anatolia, and Syria-Palestine;
- An interdisciplinary treatment of architecture, language, ritual, and art;
- A dual focus on how a deity's divine presence connects to space and art and how human service to the deity maintains the deity's active presence.

### **Early Christian Reader**

Mason, Steve and Tom Robinson. *Early Christian Reader*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2013.

This dual sourcebook and textbook from Mason and Robinson provides a broad yet detailed introduction to early Christian literature including not only the canonical books

of the New Testament but also non-canonical letters and the Didache. The authors examine each writing in its historical and cultural context, and common themes are traced across texts. Introductions to each book include: probable date, place of composition, authorship, audience, basic themes, and literary features.

Articles cover ancient letter-writing, the relationships among the Gospels, meaning in texts, and early church leadership structures. Helpful appendixes cover Jewish leadership, festivals, and the use of Jewish Scripture in the early church.

Features:

- The complete NRSV translation of the New Testament presented in the order the books were most likely written;
- Translations of the Didache, the Letter of Barnabas, 1 Clement, and the letters of Ignatius;
- Maps, charts, and timelines;
- Notes highlighting critical interpretive issues;
- Suggestions for further reading.

#### **(g) SBL MEMBERSHIP IN ICI COUNTRIES**

Please take note that scholars living and working in ICI countries (for a list of these countries, see <http://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/ICICountries.pdf>) pay a reduced membership fee for SBL. See the membership accompanying this newsletter which should be used to apply for or renew reduced membership.

#### **(h) 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 now available online to people accessing the SBL website from any ICI country. See [http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/ICI\\_JBLarchive.aspx](http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/ICI_JBLarchive.aspx). All articles in those volumes can be downloaded for free!

#### **(i) 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](mailto:sharon.johnson@sbl-site.org).

### **March 15, 2015**

#### **Call for Papers Deadline: European Association of Biblical Studies Annual Meeting**

Cordoba, Spain. July 12- July 15.

More information is available at <http://www.eabs.net/site/>

Information for students is available <http://www.eabs.net/site/student-zone/>

### **May 7-9, 2015**

#### **East-West Theological Forum**

The 4th conference of the East-West Theological Forum will be held on 7-9 May 2015 at Sogang University, Seoul, Korea.

The 2015 conference has been called for on the theme: "Crisis and Hope: The Church in a Changing World". We cordially invite you to our coming conference and to submit papers for EWTF Prize (10,000 US\$) or proposals for parallel session.

For more information, see <http://www.ewtfr.org/>

### **May 21-24, 2015**

#### **Holiness: On the Holy, the Holy One, Sanctification and Saints: The Bi-annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality**

Saint Augustine College, Johannesburg, South Africa

Announcing its second biannual conference, the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality (SSCS), in collaboration with the Spirituality Association of South Africa (SPIRASA), warmly welcomes researchers on Spirituality to a meeting at the campus of St. Augustine College in Johannesburg, South Africa. Submissions on any topic of current interest within the field of Spirituality are invited. Particularly welcome are proposals for papers, panels and workshops on topics related to the specific theme of holiness. (See above.)

### **July 12-15, 2015**

#### **European Association of Biblical Studies Annual Meeting**

Cordoba, Spain. July 12- July 15.

More information is available at <http://www.eabs.net/site/>

Information for students is available <http://www.eabs.net/site/student-zone/>

**July 20-24, 2015**

**2015 SBL International Meeting**

Buenos Aires, Argentina

[More information](#)

**September 11-13, 2015**

**Oceania Biblical Studies Association**

Conference will be held at Piula Theological College, Upolu, Samoa, in the beautiful South Pacific.

Email the Secretary for OBSA: [Nasili Vaka'uta](#) for more information.

**(j) 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](http://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!

**(k) 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