



A LETTER TO SBL MEMBERS

Though not originally intended as such, the name of the Society of Biblical Literature is a double entendre. Formed in the nineteenth century, SBL is one of the oldest learned societies, and it exists for scholars who study biblical literature, or more accurately, the texts and contexts related to the formation of the Bible, as well as the Bible's ongoing interpretation and impact on history and culture. However, the name might also be construed as suggesting that we live in a society of biblical literature. Because we do. Civilization has been immersed in biblical traditions—in art, music, literature, politics and political institutions, education and educational institutions, and social services. It is for this reason that E.D. Hirsch's *Dictionary of Cultural Literacy* places the Bible first in its list of subject areas necessary for a thorough education.

The mission of the Society of Biblical Literature is to foster biblical scholarship and to do so in several strategic areas, including in higher education (of course), but also among religious communities and with the general public. SBL also seeks to facilitate broad and open discussion from a variety of critical perspectives and promote cooperation across global boundaries. SBL's discipline is broad because biblical scholarship covers the full expanse of human history: ancient, medieval, and modern. The sheer diversity of peoples and cultures that have participated in the Bible and its traditions is vast. That fact makes biblical studies dizzyingly complex and varied, but also as exciting, generative, and vital.

The traditions and texts associated with the Bible belong to no one and to everyone. There is no single Bible. As complex as the world is and as diverse its cultures, so, too, is the Bible and the ways it is read. It has been enlisted to support and to resist racism, to oppose and to defend women's rights, to exclude and to include faiths and identities. The Bible has been a subtext for imperialism, crusades, and colonization, and equally a symbol for social justice, civil rights, and liberation movements. It is a sword and a ploughshare.

Recognizing the Bible's power in society and culture—one that continues to this very day—it is critical now more than ever to show both our academic compatriots and the broader societies in which we live how the text can be used in the service of religious, social, and political inclusion. Individual biblical scholars have often employed biblical texts and traditions to advance and promote ideologies and build communities in which the equality and rights of all humans—both as individuals and as members of a group—are respected and protected. The Society encourages its members to continue that important mission by working within their own traditions and contexts to promote free inquiry, respectful dialogue, mutual understanding, and an ethos of inclusion. The demand for this work is indeed great. May someday supply exceed demand.

Among the new policies the SBL Council recently approved and published, one pertains to the Role of the Society in Making Public Statements. That

document begins by acknowledging the diversity of SBL membership and encouraging its members to engage as individuals in the issues of the day:

The mission of the Society of Biblical Literature is to foster biblical scholarship. It is committed to its core values, including collegiality, respect for diversity, critical inquiry, inclusivity, and tolerance. As a society of scholars, we aspire to provide a model for engaging critically and respectfully all aspects of religious discourse in the context of civil society. Among a membership that is socially diverse and increasingly international, individual members may espouse intensely-felt opinions on ethical issues that can be diametrically opposed to the opinions of other members. This is a positive state of affairs and an opportunity to exercise the core values of the Society. As a learned society, its role is to encourage the expression of these opposing viewpoints in public fora (including digital, or social media), and to provide a safe space for discussion in which everyone is encouraged to put forward their reasoned opinions while being offered respect and collegiality, and being protected from all forms of hate

speech. The Society encourages its members to engage with the major issues that face them in their particular place and moment in history, and aims to provide resources to foster deep discussion of these issues, and critical engagement with them, from a variety of standpoints and perspectives.

We are a society of biblical literature. I encourage you to take up ploughshares in the public square.

John F. Kutsko, Executive Director



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ABOUT THE SBL

Founded in 1880, the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) is the oldest and largest international, interdisciplinary, learned society devoted to the critical investigation of the Bible. The Society has published the flagship journal of biblical scholarship, the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, since 1881 and has been a member of the American Council of Learned Societies since 1929. With a membership of nearly 8,200 scholars, teachers, students, religious leaders, and interested individuals from over one hundred countries, the Society is more diverse than ever before. The mission of the SBL, to “foster biblical scholarship,” is simple enough, but it could not be carried out without the more than 900 member volunteers who donate their time and talents to this mission.

The SBL offers its members diverse resources in order to accomplish our mission. Many of these are tangible, such as the diverse electronic resources that promote research and teaching. These include, but are by no means limited to, the entire backlist of the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, the *Review of Biblical Literature*, and the open-access books published in our Ancient Near East Monographs and International Voices in Biblical Studies book series. Members of the Society have access to the member directory and the program book for our Annual and International Meetings, allowing them to link with other scholars who share common interests in the field of biblical studies. We provide an annual job report tracking employment trends in biblical, religious, and theological studies. The SBL Font Foundation developed specialized fonts for biblical studies that are available to individual scholars at no cost. We support women and underrepresented racial and ethnic minorities in the profession with mentoring and recruiting programs. Special tools and sessions are provided for students and those outside the academy. The Society also fosters biblical scholarship through a variety of publishing partnerships.

For over a century SBL has provided, through a system of Congresses, a chance for its members to gather and exchange ideas, to network and form relationships. These dynamic meetings allow scholars to renew old relationships with colleagues and mentors and to meet and interact with the “great names” in biblical scholarship. The meetings are designed as forums to encompass the diverse needs of our members. They include smaller, intimate regional meetings, the diverse and growing International Meeting, and the largest gathering of scholars in a single place, our Annual Meeting. Over half of SBL’s members attend the Annual Meeting. SBL’s meetings keep scholars active and up to date, provide them access to the latest tools and resources, and expose members to diverse subjects and ideas. Special sessions are provided for students to help prepare them for their future in biblical studies. Members are provided training and resources for creating résumés and have an opportunity to apply for job postings listed on our website, as well as apply and be interviewed at the Annual Meeting at the career center and to network with other scholars to learn about other employment opportunities.

Members of SBL have opportunities to propose books for publication with SBL Press, to publish papers in the flagship *Journal of Biblical Literature*, to write for Bible Odyssey, and to write a review for the *Review of Biblical Literature*. Members receive substantial discounts on SBL Press books at the congresses and also receive substantial discounts from affiliate organizations on their journals and books. At this time these include De Gruyter, the Pennsylvania State University Press, Cambridge University Press, Sage Publications, Monash University Press, and many others.

The Society also offers its members opportunities to apply for awards and travel grants.

- ◆ Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship
- ◆ David Noel Freedman Award for Excellence and Creativity in Biblical Scholarship
- ◆ De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History
- ◆ Regional Scholar Awards
- ◆ Travel Grants

Besides these many tangible benefits of membership, SBL offers many other benefits that are no less important, if less concrete. The Society is the oldest academic organization dedicated to biblical scholarship, so any member of the biblical studies academy or interested individual needs to be a member of and represented by the SBL. Membership in the Society not only allows one to be counted as a colleague with peers in the guild but is also an important professional credential.

Membership also enables scholars and students to provide valuable data by completing an in-depth member profile survey. With this aggregated information, we assist departments and institutions in creating new positions or making the case for keeping faculty positions open. With this data we approach funding agencies to develop programs and services that strengthen the field and give new opportunities to biblical scholars. Through the member survey, we see trends more clearly, respond to them more quickly, and allocate SBL resources more effectively to help define and shape worldwide biblical scholarship. Please join, renew, participate, and fill out your member profile.

Most members are aware of the launch of our new membership model, which transitioned from a flat rate to an income-based model. The previous membership rates were \$60 for a student membership, \$105 for full, and \$55 for public—rates that were already comparatively low for a learned society. But the flat fee was hardest on scholars at the earliest stages of their careers, independent scholars, many in our global community, and contingent faculty—an ever-increasing part of the higher education workforce. Beginning 1 February 2016, the new rates became the following:

Total Personal Annual Income	Membership Type		
	Student	Full	Public
\$0–\$9,999	\$10	\$15	\$10
\$10,000–\$24,999	\$35	\$45	\$30
\$25,000–\$49,999	\$35	\$75	\$50
\$50,000–\$74,999	\$35	\$115	\$77
\$75,000–\$99,999	\$35	\$155	\$103
\$100,000 and over	\$35	\$210	\$140

Since implementation of the new membership rate, we have seen increased renewals for those expired 30–180 days, increased renewals for those expired for more than two years, and increased numbers of new members. For example, for the months of February through November, numbers of new members per month averaged 81.5 in 2014, 77.3 in 2015, and 126.2 in 2016. All of these factors indicate that the new rates have motivated members to renew their membership or join the organization when they otherwise may not have been able to. Moreover, 54 percent of members who have renewed since the implementation are paying less than they did last year.

When we constructed the new membership rates, we modeled them on income data provided by members and focused the outcome of this model on providing the lowest rates possible across equitable gradations. It was always understood that declaring a single membership rate for several dozen countries as a group accommodated neither each of these countries nor each of the members within any of the countries perfectly. To be sure, members within a single country are bound to have significantly different purchasing power relative to each other. The former model of “ICI rates,” which were extended to a group of countries with substantially less purchasing power relative to the United States and European Union, enabled access to many but often led, for example, to full professors who might be making wages comparable to professors in the US and EU paying the same rate as a new lecturer with minimal income. The former model also assumed that a given member in Southeast Asia, for example, had the same purchasing power as one in western Africa, which is not necessarily the case.

To show how necessary it was to move away from a country-based ICI membership rate, we calculated the mean salary for members by country. These data affirm the move to an income-based model and even affirm further discounted rates for students in particular. For example, Greece (not an ICI country) and Ghana (an ICI country) have the same mean salary. Or compare Italy (an EU member and not an ICI country) and South Africa (an ICI country): based on the records we have, full members in South Africa have mean incomes 38 percent higher than full members in Italy. These figures control for different types of employment (e.g., faculty, religious leader, independent scholar). A rates model based on individual income accommodates fluctuations based on type of employment, how different countries treat higher education positions, and many other factors. Member data also show that substantial disparities exist among member types, with student members consistently reporting substantially lower income.

54%

of members are paying less than they did before the rate change

25 YEARS AND COUNTING! REFLECTING ON THE PAST AND FUTURE OF SBL'S COMMITTEE ON UNDERREPRESENTED RACIAL/ETHNIC MINORITIES IN THE PROFESSION

This past fall SBL's Committee on Underrepresented Racial/Ethnic Minorities in the Profession celebrated twenty-five years of official existence. The Committee planned a panel with reflections from founding and crucial members over the years, a plenary address discussing the challenges minoritized scholars confront in our guild, a reception celebrating our twenty-five years of work, and a luncheon in which we invited minoritized members to think about plans and strategies for the years ahead, especially with regard to the cultivation of mentoring programs.

Yet we write this reflection in a moment of crisis, especially for racial/ethnic minorities in the US and migrants from the two-thirds world around the globe; in the US, racist, Christian supremacist, misogynistic, and anti-immigrant rhetoric played an important role in the presidential election. The US as a nation is in the midst of a demographic transformation that has impacted the student bodies of many colleges and seminaries but has yet to significantly transform the demographics or discursive commitments of many of the professors who teach those students. Most notably, last year's Society Report revealed the demography of its own membership, and the numbers of self-identified minoritized scholars were disproportionately small, even by the standards of the broader US academy. These numbers compel us as a Society to wonder about what kind of scholarship we are truly committed to; if we recognize that diversity is about both numbers of bodies as well as a substantive intellectual commitment to varying perspectives and approaches, then we do have to think strategically about what makes our Society and the field of biblical scholarship comparatively restraining of diversity.

Many of these challenges are similar to those that led to the formation of this committee in the wake of the landmark publication of the edited volume *Stony the Road We Trod: African American Biblical Interpretation* (1991).¹ The scholars involved with that project and their allies felt that one book publication was not enough, that more scholarship and support for the work of minoritized scholars must follow; these early scholars cared about forming spaces of solidarity that could enable self-recognition and coming into their own voices as minoritized critics. At the same time, the initial committee work targeted recruitment, hosting conferences, and working to convince minoritized students, especially seminary students, to pursue PhD degrees in biblical studies. The conferences worked to identify potentially interested students, then set up time to frame conversations, helping to nurture critical voice-giving capacities among participants. Beyond these early recruitment conferences, the committee saw itself as providing space for networking and voice cultivation among scholars who might otherwise feel quite isolated in their individual institutional contexts. Networking and combating institutional isolation remain central to the committee's work today.

While the recruitment conferences lasted only a few years, and it may be a good idea to revisit recruitment efforts in light of our numbers, the committee also spent time last fall examining all we have accomplished in the past quarter century. Two of the founding members of this committee have gone on to serve as SBL President (Vincent Wimbush and Fernando Segovia), and many members of the committee have also served the Society in a range of other leadership positions, most notably on Council. Publications, panels, and additional groups that provide voice to minoritized scholars and scholarship have proliferated. Students from those initial recruitment conferences have gone on to be scholars and to serve the fields of biblical studies and religion in varying capacities, including serving as academic and administrative leaders in their institutions. Our luncheons continue to be spaces for minoritized scholars to find each other, to combat isolation, to celebrate individual achievements, and to remind the broader SBL that we are also present and active participants in our guild.

When we came together to celebrate twenty-five years of service to the guild this fall, we also called on our membership to join us in thinking about what we can do differently and do better in the future. Minoritized scholars and scholarship remain statistically underrepresented in our Society, especially within the institutions that support and grant PhD's. Our current committee views the development and expansion of mentoring programs within the SBL as a crucial step forward in cultivating and supporting minoritized scholars from the start of graduate school and on into their middle and senior career

1. In addition to the volume edited by Cain Hope Felder, other anthologies were published around the same time or shortly after and were moved by the similar challenges, needs, and spirit, including the following: *Voices from the Margin: Interpreting the Bible in the Third World* (edited by R.S. Sugirtharajah, 1991); *Reading from This Place: Social Location and Biblical Interpretation in the United States* (edited by Fernando Segovia and Mary Ann Tolbert, 1995); *The Bible in Asian America* (edited by Tat-siong Benny Liew, 2002).

positions. Marking and representing difference still remains a challenge to the scholarship (and scholars) so often viewed as central to biblical studies. Our committee must continue to work with SBL's leadership and broader membership in transforming not only the demography but also the discourses and practices that have restrained demographic diversification.



In 2016, the Committee on Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession (CUREMP) celebrated twenty-five years of service as a committee of the Society of Biblical Literature. Since being constituted, CUREMP has raised awareness on issues surrounding underrepresented and minority scholars in the field and advocated for the participation of underrepresented racial and ethnic minorities in all areas of biblical studies. Though great work is in progress on these issues, much is left to be done as CUREMP and SBL work together to increase ethnic and minority representation in biblical professions and inclusivity within the Society.

Thank you to the following institutions for your support of such efforts and the CUREMP anniversary celebration events at the 2016 SBL Annual Meeting.



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In 2014, the Society of Biblical Literature, with the American Academy of Religion, began publishing reports on jobs posted in the jointly managed Employment Services. The first report provided a decade's worth of data, and subsequent reports have covered a year's listings. The 2016 Society Report includes a summary analysis of the 2015–2016 Jobs Report, which will be published in early 2017.

Summary of the 2015-2016 Jobs Report

Fewer institutions hiring fewer faculty spells a historic low for jobs in religion. The number of positions advertised through AAR-SBL Employment Services declined by over 10 percent from academic year 2015 to academic year 2016. Key findings are summarized immediately below, with fuller analysis of the data to follow. Although this information helps members track important indicators in a broad sample of job market data, it is important to bear in mind that this report is based on data from listings made through AAR-SBL Employment Services and does not necessarily reflect all positions in the field. For instance, Employment Services is primarily a pool of North American job listings and does not likely include most adjunct position postings. This fact may obscure conditions or trends, and the report will remark on some of these.

For previous reports, please click on the following links:

- ◆ [1 July 2014 through 30 June 2015](#)
- ◆ [1 January 2013 through 30 June 2014](#)
- ◆ [1 January 2011 through 31 December 2012](#)
- ◆ [1 January 2001 through 31 December 2010](#)

Key Findings by Academic Year (AY)

- ◆ Positions advertised in AY16 declined 10.2 percent compared to AY15.
- ◆ The discrete number of institutions posting a job in a given year declined each of the past five years from 311 in AY11 to 248 in AY16, a six-year decline of 20.1 percent.
- ◆ Doctoral institutions have been the most stable, while baccalaureate institutions have seen the greatest declines.
- ◆ Fewer than 300 faculty jobs were posted, the lowest number of faculty positions since AY02.
- ◆ Course loads, in contrast to AY15, declined markedly.
- ◆ The percentage of employers requiring or desiring interdisciplinary teaching or research abilities declined significantly.
- ◆ Publishing a journal article and publishing a book/monograph are now more important than interdisciplinary teaching or research abilities.
- ◆ Online course instruction experience continues to rise, up from 10.4 percent last year to 13.0 percent this year.

Data Analysis

Data available from the Society of Biblical Literature and the American Academy of Religion's database of job listings in the fields of biblical, religious, and theological studies indicate not only a declining number of positions overall but also a declining number of unique institutions posting jobs. The discrete number of institutions posting a job in a given year declined each of the past six years from 311 in AY11 to 248 in AY16, a decline of 20.1 percent. Both figures—number of jobs and discrete number of institutions—represent historic lows.

The number of institutions hiring has declined for all institution types but most substantially for baccalaureate institutions (see p. 7 for institution types). Compared with their historic high (AY07), the number of doctoral institutions posting jobs in AY16 was 77.0 percent (80 compared to 104). Doctoral institutions declined the least of all institution types. Greater declines are evident among

Academic Year	Job Postings
2001–2002	536
2002–2003	538
2003–2004	519
2004–2005	520
2005–2006	598
2006–2007	577
2007–2008	652
2008–2009	574
2009–2010	412
2010–2011	523
2011–2012	501
2012–2013	548
2013–2014	452
2014–2015	460
2015–2016	404

INSTITUTIONAL TYPES

Doctoral Universities. Includes institutions that awarded at least 20 research/scholarship doctoral degrees during the update year (this does not include professional practice doctoral-level degrees, such as the JD, MD, PharmD, DPT, etc.). Excludes Special Focus Institutions and Tribal Colleges.

Master's Colleges and Universities. Generally includes institutions that awarded at least 50 master's degrees and fewer than 20 doctoral degrees during the update year (with occasional exceptions). Excludes Special Focus Institutions and Tribal Colleges.

Baccalaureate Colleges. Includes institutions where baccalaureate or higher degrees represent at least 50 percent of all degrees but where fewer than 50 master's degrees or 20 doctoral degrees were awarded during the update year. (Some institutions above the master's degree threshold are also included.) Excludes Special Focus Institutions and Tribal Colleges.

Baccalaureate/Associate's Colleges. Includes four-year colleges (by virtue of having at least one baccalaureate degree program) that conferred more than 50 percent of degrees at the associate's level. Excludes Special Focus Institutions, Tribal Colleges, and institutions that have sufficient master's or doctoral degrees to fall into those categories.

Associate's Colleges. Institutions at which the highest level degree awarded is an associate's degree. The institutions are sorted into nine categories based on the intersection of two factors: disciplinary focus (transfer, career and technical or mixed) and dominant student type (traditional, nontraditional or mixed). Excludes Special Focus Institutions and Tribal Colleges.

Special Focus Institutions. Institutions where a high concentration of degrees is in a single field or set of related fields. Excludes Tribal Colleges.

Tribal Colleges. Colleges and universities that are members of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, as identified in IPEDS Institutional Characteristics.

For more information on these classifications, see the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education at http://carnegieclassifications.iu.edu/classification_descriptions/basic.php.

special focus institutions, with 57.1 percent of the number of such institutions posting jobs in AY16 compared to their high in AY08, 57.0 percent for master's institutions (high was AY11), and 51.5 percent for baccalaureate institutions (high was AY08). Only for baccalaureate institutions is the number of institutions posting jobs in AY16 not a historic low: in AY09 56 baccalaureate institutions posted a job, four fewer such institutions than in AY16. The low number of institutions hiring, moreover, is the most significant factor in the decline of overall jobs, especially considering that the number of jobs posted per institution in AY16 is quite close to the average for AY02–AY16.

The data also show the lowest number of faculty positions since AY02. Except for AY10, institutions posted well over 400 faculty jobs each academic year from AY02 through AY13. Institutions posted fewer than 400 faculty jobs during each of the past three years, but AY16 is the first year in which fewer than 300 faculty jobs were posted.

NEW POLICIES

Entry-level positions declined slightly in real numbers (229 to 223) for the third straight year, as did upper-level positions (63 to 49). Mid-level positions increased slightly (22 to 30). It is difficult to correlate these numbers to prior years, however, because for the first time employers were able to select multiple levels for a position. Thus, while employers last year could only mark a given position as entry level, for example, this year they could mark a position as both entry-level and mid-level, if both levels were applicable. This difference may account for the ostensible increase in mid-level positions.

In contrast to last year, course loads declined markedly. Fully 50 percent of positions teach fewer than five courses in AY16, compared to only 40 percent in AY15.

In a broad sense, the tools that candidates need remain consistent. Obtaining a PhD and teaching experience remain the most important pursuits for job candidates. The percentage of employers requiring or desiring interdisciplinary teaching or research abilities, however, declined significantly, from 35.5 percent to 23.3 percent. Publishing a journal article (30.4 percent) and publishing a book/monograph (23.7 percent) are now more important than interdisciplinary teaching or research abilities. Online course instruction experience continues to rise, up from 10.4 percent last year to 13.0 percent this year.

How rates of desire/require differ between levels of positions turns out to be an important factor for several skills. When differentiated by level, the data show that only one-tenth of entry-level positions desire or require book/monograph publication, compared to nearly two-thirds of upper-level positions. The same disparity is true of journal publications, though entry-level positions more highly desire/require such publications compared to books/monographs. While in AY15 the data showed that interdisciplinary teaching/research pertained far more significantly to upper-level positions, around one-third of entry-level and upper-level positions in AY16 required or desired it. Teaching experience is also more highly required for upper-level positions but only slightly.

NEW POLICIES IN 2016

The SBL Council has developed and published a number of policies during the last twelve months. During the November Council meeting held at the 2016 Annual Meeting, two additional policies were unanimously approved. The SBL Council announced and distributed these policies at the Annual Business Meeting in San Antonio. The first, Procedures for Requesting Governance and Policy Changes, provides a process for SBL members to petition the SBL Council to create a new policy or make changes to existing by-laws and policies. The second policy, Procedures for Making Public Statements, provides a process for SBL members to follow in requesting that the Society make an official public statement or resolution.

In addition to these two new policies and procedures, the following policies and practices became effective on the date they were announced, and most of these have already been incorporated into the SBL Policy Manual (updated April 2016):

- ◆ Social Media Policy for Volunteers (p. 68)
- ◆ Professional Conduct Policy (p. 79)
- ◆ Professional Conduct Investigation Procedures (p. 81)
- ◆ Role of the Society in Making Public Statements (p. 87)
- ◆ Policy on Scholarly Presentation and Publication of Ancient Artifacts (not yet added to the Policy Manual)

As the SBL Policy Manual is updated annually, all policies announced after April 2016 will be officially added to the manual in April 2017.





Between dealers, curators, and collectors, as well as researchers and scholars, many hands are involved from discovery through the cycle of ancient artifact possession, producing entangled and complicated histories. These complicated histories, as well as geopolitics, create what seems an all-too-familiar dimension to historical provenance, complicating the steps in assuring rightful ownership of critical pieces of history. As a result, numerous accounts exist that call into question the rightful possession of various artifacts. In the midst of many reports and claims of stolen artifacts, however, a few stories of repatriation have emerged in recent years, giving hope to strengthening an accountable community of provenance advocates.

For many years Codex 1424, a complete manuscript of the Greek New Testament handwritten in cursive script, lived at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC), where scholars and researchers in the field of biblical studies were allowed access to its rare content. In March of 2016 LSTC received a letter from a representative for the Kosintza Monastery in northern Greece requesting its return.

Many years before, in 1917, northern Greece monasteries were ransacked in response to Bulgaria's loss of the Balkan War. During this invasion, Codex 1424, was stolen from the Kosintza Monastery. Many other manuscripts were taken from the monastery at this time as well. Following the theft of Codex 1424, and an unknown timeline of transit, it landed in the hands of an antiquities dealer, who then sold it to Levi Franklin Gruber, former president of LSTC. Although the manuscript was left to Gruber's wife after his passing in 1946, the Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary received the manuscript from her in the following years. There it lived until 15 November 2016, when the manuscript was eagerly returned to the Greek Orthodox Church through the hands of Archbishop Demetrios, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the United States. LSTC provides an earnest example to fellow institutions holding other various manuscripts originating from the Kosintza Monastery in hopes that they, too, will be willing to return such a rare and treasured antiquity.

Another admirable story of repatriation involves Howard University and their return of Tweed MS150, a sacred manuscript of Ethiopian origin containing the Acts of Paul and the Acts of Serabamon. According to Gay Byron in *Womanist Interpretations of the Bible*, the manuscript was acquired by André Reynolds Tweed on one of his many trips to Ethiopia, during which he gained a significant appreciation for Ethiopian artifacts and manuscripts, resulting in a vast personal collection of such items (p. 189). In 1993 Tweed, an alumnus of Howard University, gifted the collection (including Tweed MS150) to Howard University School of Divinity. There it lived in exhibition as the André Tweed Collection of Sacred Ethiopian Artifacts and Manuscripts. Upon researching microfilm records containing further information about the manuscript, Byron discovered the Debre Libanos Monastery in Ethiopia to be the rightful owner (p. 192) and embarked on a journey of repatriation. After conducting significant research on the legal process in returning ancient artifacts, Byron and fellow HUSD colleagues traveled to Ethiopia and formally returned Tweed MS150 to its home at the Debre Libanos Monastery on 11 January 2016.

These are just two stories of artifact repatriation and provenance advocacy, and there are others. They model an expectation of new standards within the academic and antiquities community.

The SBL Press Ecosystem

SBL Press encompasses a variety of publications delivered in various formats. SBL Press publishes, of course, the Society's *Journal of Biblical Literature*, which is available to subscribers and SBL members in print and electronic formats. We are also the publisher of the *Review of Biblical Literature* (www.bookreviews.org), which publishes academic book reviews online throughout the year, then collects a variety of reviews across the discipline for inclusion in an annual print edition. A third serial publication of SBL Press is *TC: A Journal of Biblical Textual Criticism* (<http://rosetta.reltech.org/TC/>), a peer-reviewed electronic journal dedicated to study of the Jewish and Christian biblical texts.

In addition to publishing these print and online journals, SBL Press currently has twenty-six active book series, with several more under development (see the complete list with abbreviations on p. 17). There is no single series model or focus. Some of our series publish original texts and translations (WAW, WGRW, WIW); others seek to provide classroom and research resources (RBS). Some series publish monographs and collections of essays on wide swaths of our field (ABS, AIL, ECL, EJL, WAWSup, WGRWSup, WLAW), while others focus on more narrowly defined topics (BSNA, BW, ESEC, GPBS, HBS, NTGF, RRA, SBLCS, SCS, SPhilom, TCS). One of our series was actually launched by a journal devoted to experimental biblical studies and continues now stronger than ever long after the journal has ceased publication (SemeiaSt). Yet another series is producing a critical edition with commentary of the Hebrew Bible (HBCE), and two of our newest series began as strictly online open-access publications that are now also available as hardcover and paperback print editions (ANEM, IVBS).

It should be evident by now that the SBL Press ecosystem is multifaceted and diverse in terms of the subjects we cover, the types of publications we produce, and the readers we seek to reach and serve. That diversity is both exemplified and enabled by the 175+ members who contribute their time, energy, and expertise to our publications program. We join all SBL members in expressing our gratitude to them.

Social-Media Outreach

During 2016 SBL Press established a modest but meaningful social-media presence. The outcome thus far has been entirely positive, with improved communication with SBL members and a warm reception from those who follow us online. Who knows what 2017 might bring? We welcome member suggestions for how we might enhance or expand our social-media presence (please email your ideas to SBLPressS@sbl-site.org).

On 1 June 2016 we launched the *SBLHS 2* blog (sblhs2.com). This blog clarifies and notes corrections to the second edition of the *SBL Handbook of Style*, explains elements of SBL style, and expands the contents of *SBLHS 2* to adapt to the needs and interests of its users. Since the launch of the blog, we have averaged two blog posts a week, with a total of fifty-six posts as of 12 December 2016. Topics discussed include:

- ◆ when to write Gospel versus gospel or Epistle versus epistle
- ◆ how to cite URLs, films, specific printings, and titles with question marks
- ◆ revised abbreviations for mishnaic, talmudic, and related works
- ◆ how to format footnotes, author names, publication information

The screenshot shows the 'SBL HANDBOOK OF STYLE' website with a sub-header 'Explanations, Clarifications, and Expansions'. The main content is a blog post titled 'Citing a Specific Printing' dated 22 September 2016. The post discusses the importance of indicating specific printings in citations and provides a list of editions for Kurt Aland's *Synopsis quattuor evangeliorum*. A table lists the following editions:

1st-3rd editions:	1963-1966
4th edition:	1967
5th-8th editions:	1968-1973
9th edition:	1976
10th-12th editions:	1978-1982
13th edition:	1985
14th edition:	1995
15th edition, 1st printing:	1996; 2nd printing: 1997; 3rd printing: 2001; 4th printing: 2005

The page also features a sidebar with a 'SUBSCRIBE' section, a 'FOLLOW SBL Press' button, and a 'CATEGORIES' list including 'Abbreviations', 'General Style', 'Notes and Bibliography', and 'Uncategorized'. There are also 'TAGS' and a Creative Commons license notice at the bottom.

- ◆ preferred abbreviations for Plutarch's *Moralia*, inscriptions and papyri, Livy, Diodorus Siculus, and Thucydides
- ◆ the proper use of italics and scare quotes
- ◆ citation guidelines for series such as State Archives of Assyria, *Analecta Biblica*, *La Bible d'Alexandrie*, and *Brown Judaic Studies*
- ◆ capitalization rules for historical eras, program units, deities, hyphenated compounds, and titles

As of 12 December 2016, the blog has had 5,084 views by 2,436 visitors. Most of our readers are located in the United States, although we have also have regular visitors from Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

The same day that we launched the *SBLHS 2* blog, @SBLPress joined the Twitter world with the following tweet: "SBL style question? Check out <http://buff.ly/1TIk4QM> for explanations, clarifications, and expansions of the SBL Handbook of Style. #sblhs2." The official SBL Twitter and the Bible Odyssey Twitter accounts also announced the new Press account. Announcements were sent out via an SBL Press email and the SBL Newsletter encouraging people to follow the new twitter account and the handbook blog.



SBL Press staff began by tweeting about *JBL* articles, various "did you know" quick facts about staff and the Press, new and backlist books, editorial board information, editorial board members, and authors. Since then tweets have expanded to include links to *RBL* reviews, review quotes, editorial board member profiles, SBL Press books related to other organizations' conferences, preorder links for both e-books and physical copies, books by Bible Odyssey contributors, and a few relevant retweets from the SBL account and the Bible Odyssey account. The *SBLHS 2* blog links to the Press Twitter account, so a tweet is sent each time a blog post goes live. At both the International Meeting in Seoul and the Annual Meeting in San Antonio, times of book review sessions and author presentations as well as author and contributor photos were tweeted. In its first five months of existence, @SBLPress has grown from

an initial tweet going out to three staff members to 497 tweets being sent to 668 individuals, organizations, and publishing companies.

The two most popular tweets by retweets, click throughs, and potential reach were for a new release and an older title. The announcement that Gay Byron and Vanessa Lovelace's book *Womanist Interpretations of the Bible* reached number one on Amazon for feminist literary criticism was our most popular. A tweet about Florence Nightingale in the book *Recovering Nineteenth-Century Women Interpreters* was the second most popular @SBLPress. SBL Press will continue to tweet new releases as well as dig into its archives for interesting research that our members have contributed to the Society and the guild at large.

Global Connections

There are various ways one can think globally with regard to academic publications. On the one hand, our publications depend on the contributions of authors and editors from around the world. For example, 40 percent of all 2016 *JBL* articles were authored by someone from outside the United States,

40 percent of all 2016 *JBL* articles were authored by someone from outside the United States, and non-US authors and editors accounted for over 45 percent of SBL Press's 2016 book lineup

and non-US authors and editors accounted for over 45 percent of SBL Press's 2016 book lineup. Further, nearly 35 percent of the *JBL*, *RBL*, and book series editors reside outside the United States, making SBL Press a truly international enterprise.

Another element of global connectivity is ever-increasing accessibility to our books. Not only does SBL Press make 398 of its titles available to underresourced students and scholars via the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI) Online Books page, but we also participate in the Global Connect Distribution Program offered by Lightning Source, our primary printer. As a result of this initiative, SBL Press books are available for on-location printing not only in the United States but also in Australia, Germany, India, Poland, Russia, South Korea, and the United Kingdom. Book wholesalers and retailers in those regions can have copies printed locally and thus receive SBL Press books more quickly and less expensively, due to reduced shipping time and postage costs.

A final aspect of our international reach is evidenced by the publication of our first French-language volume: Anne-Françoise Loiseau's *L'influence de l'araméen sur les traducteurs de la LXX principalement, sur les traducteurs grecs postérieurs, ainsi que sur les scribes de la Vorlage de la LXX* (Septuagint and Cognate Studies). To make the results of this work as widely available as possible—even to those who do not read French—the volume includes an English translation of Anne-Françoise's fourteen-page conclusion.

E-book Expansions

SBL Press continues to expand our e-book presence in a number of ways, all to good effect: an 87 percent increase in e-book sales revenue for fiscal year 2016 over the prior fiscal year. Although we do not expect such significant growth every year, we do hope to maintain steady growth in this particular revenue stream.

All new SBL Press books (and an increasing number of older titles) are available in multiple formats designed for individual users and institutional subscribers. Our most popular e-book format for individual readers continues to be Amazon's Kindle. Thanks to Amazon's Print Replica format, in which both the layout of the typeset page and full searchability are retained, individual buyers can purchase 125 new and recent titles to read on a Kindle device or app (e.g., for iPad). If you prefer Google Books and the Play Books app, you have even more SBL Press titles from which to choose: 328.

Not unexpectedly, the *SBL Handbook of Style* continues to be the leading e-book seller. SBLHS's high ranking within several Amazon sales categories—number 13 in Bible Study and Reference Handbooks and number 41 in Writing, Research, and Publishing Guides: Research—is due in part to its strong e-book sales performance. Other titles with strong e-book sales include *The Quest for the Historical Israel: Debating Archaeology and the History of Early Israel*, by Israel Finkelstein and Amihai Mazar and edited by Brian Schmidt, and Oded Borowski's *Daily Life in Biblical Times*.

In addition to making e-books available to individuals, SBL Press also provides them to all the leading library vendors, such as NetLibrary (EBSCO), JSTOR, MyiLibrary, and ProQuest. Most academic libraries now use e-books as part of a careful and efficient acquisitions strategy, and our books are available in a variety of packages (short- or long-term loan or purchase for single or multiple users) to meet those needs. We also add new books to University Readers, so professors can select portions of our books for use in print or electronic course packs.

Conference Promotions

Once again a number of SBL titles were on display at variety of regional, national, and international meetings. The highlights for SBL Press, of course, are the Society's own International and Annual Meetings.

The book exhibit at the SBL International Meeting in Seoul provided a gathering place for SBL Press Sales Manager Heather McMurray to meet authors, editors, and other SBL members. The Seoul book booth also gave us a setting in which to take photographs of our authors with their books, which were then tweeted by @SBLPress.



The San Antonio Annual Meeting was noteworthy for several reasons. First, five SBL Press titles were the subject of review sessions:

- ♦ Gay Bryon and Vanessa Lovelace, eds., *Womanist Biblical Interpretation: Expanding the Discourse* (Semeia Studies)
- ♦ Laura Copier and Caroline Vander Stichele, eds., *Close Encounters between Bible and Film: An Interdisciplinary Engagement* (Semeia Studies)
- ♦ Jione Havea, Margaret Aymer, and Steed Davidson, *Islands, Islanders and the Bible: Ruminations* (Semeia Studies)
- ♦ Ronald Hendel, *Steps to a New Edition of the Hebrew Bible* (Text-Critical Studies)
- ♦ Tat-siong Benny Liew and Erin Runions, eds., *Psychoanalytic Mediations between Marxist and Postcolonial Readings of the Bible* (Semeia Studies)

Second, the San Antonio meeting debuted an attractive and functional new booth design, which led to the SBL Press booth receiving higher-than-normal traffic and on-site sales that exceeded the prior year's—in spite of us displaying fewer titles than in 2015. The on-site sales leader was, once again, the *SBL Handbook of Style*, with *Womanist Biblical Interpretation* close behind. Other top sellers included Elizabeth Boase and Christopher G. Frechette's coedited *Bible through the Lens of Trauma*, K. Lawson Younger Jr.'s *A Political History of the Arameans: From Their Origins to the End of Their Politics*, and Ronald Hendel's *Steps to a New Edition of the Hebrew Bible*.

Journal of Biblical Literature

During its 135th year of publication *JBL* continued to set the standard by which all other biblical studies journals are measured. In terms of breadth of coverage and number of readers, no other journal surpasses this flagship journal of the field.



Volume 135 offered fifty-one substantive articles across the discipline, with twenty related to Hebrew Bible, twenty-four to New Testament, and seven to cognate texts and topics. The fifty-three authors contributing to *JBL* included twelve women (23 percent) and forty-one men (77 percent), a distribution that tracks closely to the composition of the Society as a whole (24 percent women and 76 percent men) as well as the proposals for publication submitted to *JBL* (22 percent women and 78 percent men).

JBL's reputation as an international journal was once again on display, as 40 percent of its 2016 authors live

and work outside the United States, including Australia, Canada, Germany, Israel, Norway, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. *JBL*'s editorial board shows a similar diversity, with fifteen of forty-three editors hailing from non-US institutions.

At the risk of highlighting only some articles to the exclusion of others, we should nevertheless note *JBL*'s publication of Athalya Brenner-Idan's SBL Presidential Address, "On Scholarship and Related Animals: A Personal View from and for the Here and Now," as well as General Editor Adele Reinhartz's foreword "Snared by Words? (Proverbs 6:2): On the Perils of Editing," the first ever *JBL* article to make use of emojis—to good effect, we might add! Other topics addressed included 1 Kings 17:21 and ancient medical texts,

Qumran pesharim in light of Mesopotamian commentaries, demons in the Hebrew Bible and the ancient Near East, biblical food laws and their social function, John Hyrcanus's destruction of the Samaritan temple, the conception of Jerusalem in 1 Baruch 4:5–5:9, Semitic poetic techniques in the Magnificat, the personification of Scripture in Paul and the school of Rabbi Ishmael, halakic sayings in Romans 11:16–24, Papyrus Bodmer in New Testament textual criticism, and a Philological examination of ἀρπαγμός.

Review of Biblical Literature

The biggest news of 2016 is that *RBL* reviews are no longer openly accessible but are available only to SBL members. The January announcement was met with support from some, reluctant understanding from others, and mild to sharp disagreement from still others. The change gained additional acceptance once *RBL*'s readership became aware that a significant reduction in the Society's membership rate structure would put SBL membership, and thus *RBL*, within the reach of anyone who wishes to join.

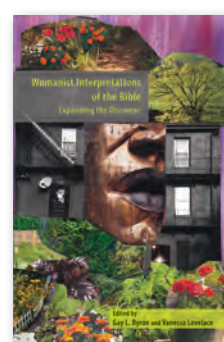
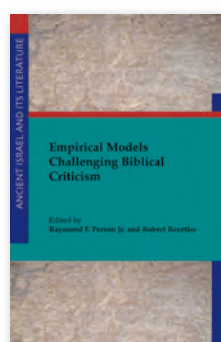
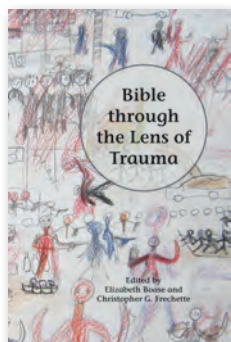
Not to be lost in the face of such a significant change are the many advances that *RBL* made and initiated. Once again *RBL*'s reviewers and editors enabled us to publish over 400 reviews, bringing the total number of reviews available at the end of 2016 to over 8,600—nearly 35,000 pages of material, if published in book form. Also noteworthy is the continued high use of the *RBL* website: each *RBL* weekly newsletter generates over 5,000 visits to the *RBL* website over the next four days.

We should also mention *RBL*'s continued efforts to build bridges between biblical scholarship from every region of the world. Over the last twelve months we published reviews by scholars from twenty-five different countries: Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Puerto Rico, Romania, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Venezuela. This year approximately 36 percent of *RBL* reviews were authored by scholars outside of the United States.

We also look ahead to several new developments. First, beginning in 2017 all book reviews published in the open-access, online journal *TC: A Journal of Biblical Textual Criticism* will be announced in an *RBL* newsletter and also added to the *RBL* database, so that users searching by author, title, or subject will have access to a larger body of reviews. Second, in addition to expanding our database of reviews, we are increasing greatly the size of the *RBL* editorial board through the addition of thirty new editors. These new editors will be subject specialists who take the lead in assigning review copies to qualified scholars in their particular fields of expertise.

On the Horizon

SBL Press's 2017 publication lineup includes William G. Dever's *Beyond the Texts: An Archaeological Portrait of Ancient Israel and Judah*. This highly anticipated work has already been the subject of a special session at the 2016 American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting. *Beyond the Texts* offers a much-needed perspective on ancient Israel and Judah that prioritizes the archaeological remains to render history as it was—not as the biblical writers argue it should have been. Drawing from recent archaeological data as interpreted from a nontheological point of view and supplementing that data with biblical material only when it converges with the archaeological record, Dever analyzes all the evidence at hand to provide a new history of ancient Israel and Judah that is accessible to all interested readers. Dever, a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and Professor Emeritus at the Arizona Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Arizona, is well-known for his more than fifty-five years of archaeological field experience and his authorship of over four hundred publications.



2016 BOOK PUBLICATIONS

- ◆ Paul N. Anderson, Felix Just, S.J., and Tom Thatcher, *John, Jesus, and History, Volume 3: Glimpses of Jesus through the Johannine Lens* (ECL)
- ◆ Elizabeth Boase and Christopher G. Frechette, eds., *Bible through the Lens of Trauma* (SemeiaSt)
- ◆ Suzanne Boorer, *The Vision of the Priestly Narrative: Its Genre and Hermeneutics of Time* (AIL)
- ◆ Gay Bryon and Vanessa Lovelace, eds., *Womanist Biblical Interpretation: Expanding the Discourse* (SemeiaSt)
- ◆ Alan Cadwallader, ed., *Stones, Bones, and the Sacred: Essays on Material Culture and Ancient Religion in Honor of Dennis E. Smith* (ECL)
- ◆ Laura Copier and Caroline Vander Stichele, eds., *Close Encounters between Bible and Film: An Interdisciplinary Engagement* (SemeiaSt)
- ◆ Nathaniel P. DesRosiers and Lily C. Vuong, *Religious Competition in the Greco-Roman World* (WGRWSup)
- ◆ Cynthia Edenburg, *Dismembering the Whole: Composition and Purpose of Judges 19–21* (AIL)
- ◆ Douglas Estes and Ruth Sheridan, eds., *How John Works: Storytelling in the Fourth Gospel* (RBS)
- ◆ Alexandra Gruca-Macaulay, *Lydia as a Rhetorical Construct in Acts* (ESEC)
- ◆ James R. Harrison and L. L. Welborn, eds., *The First Urban Churches 2: Roman Corinth* (WGRWSup)
- ◆ Ronald Hendel, *Steps to a New Edition of the Hebrew Bible* (TC)
- ◆ Teresa J. Hornsby and Deryn Guest, *Transgender, Intersex and Biblical Interpretation* (SemeiaSt)
- ◆ Jonathan Kline, *Allusive Soundplay in the Hebrew Bible* (AIL)
- ◆ Wolfgang Kraus, Michaël N. van der Meer, and Martin Meiser, eds., *XV Congress of the International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies: Munich, 2013* (SCS)
- ◆ Donna Laird, *Negotiating Power in Ezra–Nehemiah* (AIL)
- ◆ Lydia Lee, *Mapping Judah's Fate in Ezekiel's Oracles against the Nations* (ANEM)
- ◆ Tat-siong Benny Liew and Erin Runions, eds., *Psychoanalytic Mediations between Marxist and Postcolonial Readings of the Bible* (SemeiaSt)
- ◆ M. David Litwa, *Refutation of All Heresies* (WGRW)
- ◆ Anne-Françoise Loiseau, *L'influence de l'araméen sur les traducteurs de la LXX principalement, sur les traducteurs grecs postérieurs, ainsi que sur les scribes de la Vorlage de la LXX* (SCS)
- ◆ B. J. Oropeza, *Exploring Second Corinthians: Death and Life, Hardship and Rivalry* (RRA)
- ◆ Raymond F. Person and Robert Rezetko, eds., *Empirical Models Challenging Biblical Criticism* (AIL)
- ◆ Vernon K. Robbins, Robert H. von Thaden Jr., and Bart B. Bruehler, eds., *Foundations for Sociorhetorical Exploration: A Rhetoric of Religious Antiquity Reader* (RRA)
- ◆ William E. W. Robinson, *Metaphor, Morality, and the Spirit in Romans 8:1–17* (ECL)
- ◆ David Runia and Gregory Sterling, eds., *The Studia Philonica Annual XXVIII, 2016* (SPhiloA)
- ◆ Susanne Scholz and Pablo R. Andiñach, eds., *La Violencia and the Hebrew Bible: The Politics and Histories of Biblical Hermeneutics on the American Continent* (SemeiaSt)
- ◆ Elizabeth E. Shively and Geert Van Oyen, eds., *Communication, Pedagogy, and the Gospel of Mark* (RBS)
- ◆ Michael Stone, *Armenian Apocrypha Relating to Angels and Biblical Heroes* (EJL)
- ◆ Loren Stuckenbruck and Gabrielle Boccacini, eds., *Enoch and the Synoptic Gospels: Reminiscences, Allusions, Intertextuality* (EJL)
- ◆ Frederick S. Tappenden, *Resurrection in Paul: Cognition, Metaphor, and Transformation* (ECL)
- ◆ Lena-Sofia Tiemeyer, ed., *Priests and Cults in the Book of the Twelve* (ANEM)
- ◆ Jan G. van der Watt, *Review of Biblical Literature* (RBL)
- ◆ Adam Winn, ed., *An Introduction to Empire in the New Testament* (RBS)
- ◆ K. Lawson Younger Jr. *A Political History of the Arameans: From Their Origins to the End of Their Polities* (ABS)

SBL BOOK SERIES

Ancient Israel and Its Literature (AIL)
Ancient Near Eastern Monographs (ANEM)
Archaeology and Biblical Studies (ABS)
Bible and Women (BW)
Biblical Encyclopedia (BibEnc)
Biblical Scholarship in North America (BSNA)
Commentary on the Septuagint (SBLCS)
Early Christianity and Its Literature (ECL)
Early Judaism and Its Literature (EJL)
Emory Studies in Early Christianity (ESEC)
Global Perspectives on Biblical Scholarship (GPBS)
The Hebrew Bible: A Critical Edition (HBCE)
History of Biblical Studies (HBS)
International Voices in Biblical Studies (IVBS)
The New Testament in the Greek Fathers (NTGF)

Resources for Biblical Study (RBS)
Rhetoric of Religious Antiquity (RRA)
Semeia Studies (SemeiaSt)
Septuagint and Cognate Studies (SCS)
Studia Philonica Annual (SPhiloA)
Studia Philonica Monographs (SPhiloM)
Text-Critical Studies (TCS)
Wisdom Literature from the Ancient World (WLAW)
Writings from the Ancient World (WAW)
Writings from the Ancient World Supplement Series (WAW-Sup)
Writings from the Greco-Roman World (WGRW)
Writings from the Greco-Roman World Supplement Series (WGRWSup)
Writings from the Islamic World (WIW)



Regional Meetings

The 2016 regional meetings averaged 97 attendees, 45 participants, and almost 15 sessions. These meetings are organized between February and May annually by groups of members in SBL and other organizations, including a dedicated and remarkable group of Regional Coordinators.

International Meeting

Well received and strongly attended, the 2016 International Meeting in Seoul involved partnerships with the Society of Asian Biblical Studies, Korean Society of Old Testament Studies, and The New Testament Society of Korea. The importance of biblical scholarship for human history and culture—past, present, and future—was on display, and attendees felt honored by the opportunity to engage with and add to that history.

South Korea accounted for almost 30 percent of the 2016 International Meeting attendees, followed by the United States with 21 percent.

Next year's meeting in Berlin promises to bring in a large number of presenters and registrants, not only because of the location but also because we are partnering again with the European Association of Biblical Studies. The local programming committee, chaired by Bernd Schipper of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, has organized a series of sessions highlighting the context and history of Berlin and the five hundredth anniversary of the Reformation. SBL staff sent the following letter on behalf of the programming committee to program unit chairs.

The 2017 meeting between the European Association of Biblical Studies and Society of Biblical Studies will take place in a city that holds an important place in German and European history on a number of different levels. Whether in regard to the history of Berlin in all its different facets or the importance of the city as a hub between East and West, Berlin can serve as a point of departure for a wide variety of issues. What follows is a short list of the areas to which local program units can be connected and that you may wish to consider including in your call for papers.

Religion and Politics

European history becomes tangible in the once-divided city of Berlin. Besides topics such as the Cold War, the impact of the church in the so-called Peaceful Revolution in 1989, and the fall of the Berlin Wall, general questions about the relationship between religion and politics can be addressed.

500 Years of Lutheran Reformation

The year 2017 is also the five hundredth anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. Beyond the historical dimension and research on the Reformation during the sixteenth century itself, the question of the impact of the Reformation on European history and its importance today should also be addressed.

Artifacts, Papyri, and the Bible

With its world-famous museums and collections, Berlin has been a center for the study of the ancient world since the nineteenth century. The collection of oriental papyri and manuscripts in the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin contains treasures for biblical scholarship, such as the papyri from Elephantine. The Pergamon Museum and the Bode Museum—directly opposite the Faculty of Theology—host a rich collection of ancient Near Eastern artifacts, Greco-Roman architecture, and Islamic art.

The Bible and Its Reception in Eastern Europe

Since its beginnings, Berlin has been an important hub between East and West. Especially during the period of divided Germany, Berlin developed contacts with Eastern European countries. Thematic



Thanks to Dr. Koog-Pyoung Hong of Yonsei University for his work organizing the 2016 IM in Seoul!

sessions could focus on the Bible and its reception in eastern Europe, for example, in Poland, Russia, Bulgaria, and other countries.

Jewish Scholarship on the Bible

Since the nineteenth century Berlin has been also a center of Jewish scholarship, *Wissenschaft des Judentums*. Leopold Zunz and Abraham Geiger were among the leading figures who set in motion a process of integration which was slowed by rising anti-Semitism. Eighty years after the Nazi regime put an end to this flourishing Jewish scholarship, the newly opened School of Jewish Theology at the University of Potsdam, in conjunction with the Abraham Geiger College and the Zecharias Frankel College, can be seen as a historic corrective for the long-time exclusion of Jewish scholars from highest level participation in German biblical scholarship.

Berlin as a Multireligious City

During its nearly eight hundred years of history, Berlin shifted from a mainly Christian city to a multiethnic and multireligious metropolis. In addition to traditional Christian communities and the large group of nonreligious people, growing Muslim and Jewish communities can also be found. This has consequences for daily life as well as for academic education. Besides the Berlin Graduate School of Muslim Cultures and Societies at the Freie Universität, an Institute for Islamic Theology will be established in 2017/18 at the Humboldt-University.

Annual Meeting

For the 2016 Annual Meeting, we matched 2015’s record number of proposals (3,227) but eclipsed the number of unique participants these proposals represent. Unique participants grew from 2,166 to 2,245. Participation in the Annual and International Meetings is more gender equitable than membership. For paper presenters, the rate from 2011–2016 for the AM is 30.9 percent women and 69.1 percent men and for the IM 31.8 percent women and 68.2 percent men. Rates for respondents

2016 International Meeting: Number of Attendees by Country			
South Korea	182	Belgium	4
United States	132	Singapore	4
Australia	27	Sweden	4
Israel	26	Austria	3
South Africa	23	Finland	3
Germany	19	Indonesia	3
United Kingdom	19	Switzerland	3
Japan	16	Taiwan	3
India	14	France	2
China	13	Italy	2
Canada	12	Nigeria	2
Hong Kong	12	Poland	2
Myanmar	11	Czech Republic	1
New Zealand	8	Denmark	1
Philippines	8	Estonia	1
Malaysia	6	Hungary	1
Thailand	6	United Arab Emirates	1
Netherlands	5		

are roughly 35/65 and panelists 40/60 for both meetings. The difference in rates may relate to the degree to which invitations are extended. Panelists and respondents are typically invited positions and have slightly higher parity, while paper presenters are largely unsolicited (at least directly), although some are directly invited. Acceptance rates for paper proposals at the Annual Meeting average 80.6 percent for women and 75.4 percent for men (figures that represent invited and unsolicited proposals, since there is no way to distinguish them at this time). There is greater gender parity among program unit leaders as well. Over the past five years, Annual Meeting program unit chairs have averaged 40 percent women and 60 percent men and steering committee members 43.5 percent women and 56.5 percent men.

The Annual Meeting program has grown significantly over the preceding decade. The 2002 meeting involved 96 program units, 137 program unit chairs and steering committee members, and 190 sessions. Fourteen years later the meeting's 775 program unit chairs and steering committee members led 169 program units that organized 437 sessions. The number of sessions, while representing 130 percent growth, has decreased slightly since 2014, and the number of program units has leveled off. These factors bode well for the consistent concern raised by attendees concerning the fragmentation of the program. The Annual Meeting Program Committee is also taking steps to mitigate this concern. In addition to its general encouragement of co-sponsored sessions, the committee is making time during the Annual Meeting to meet with chairs of units renewing in following year. An invitation to attend this meeting with key questions about the proposal will be included in the correspondence sent from the Executive Office to renewing units. The committee will move its meeting to Friday and add formal time for reflection with other committees such as the Status of Women in the Profession, Student Advisory Board, and Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession about broad issues that affect meeting participation and matters such as fragmentation in the most constructive way.



International Cooperation Initiative

In line with the observation that member incomes vary substantially within countries, the ICI executive board has also observed that some countries excluded from the initiative are as disconnected from scholarly resources as ICI countries. This point was made during the ICI Forum at the 2016 International Meeting in Seoul, Korea. The board continues to discuss how the designation of ICI countries should occur, what metrics should be used, and how the program has evolved.

Specific projects within the initiative are also evolving. We continue to investigate the expansion of travel grants to include the International Meetings, consider new strategies for the teaching collaboration program, and work to enhance the content, discoverability, and publisher participation in the online book repository. Members of the board are exploring the needs of francophone scholarship. We will also organize video recording of select sessions at the 2017 Annual Meeting in Boston and make them available to members in ICI countries.

Teaching Modules

The Society’s Teaching Biblical Literature in Public Schools Project will provide teachers with educational resources for public school districts in the United States to prepare students to be religiously literate and culturally competent citizens. To achieve these goals, educators need constitutionally and academically sound resources for teaching, especially about topics such as religious liberty, religion in American life, biblical literature, and world religions. The study of religion and religious texts strengthens civic education and democratic citizenship by promoting an understanding of history and culture.

Curricula will be developed in 2016 and 2017 as teaching modules and lesson plans for introduction into classroom use by late 2017. Developed for three types of courses—(1) world history, (2) US history, and (3) English language arts—curricula will be reviewed and edited by the SBL’s Educational Resources and Review Committee (ERRC). Some world-history lesson plans will also be suitable for use in world-geography courses, and most plans from all three categories will be appropriate for use in electives in biblical studies and world religions. Although the plans will be written for use at the high-school level, many will be adaptable in part or in whole for middle-school environments. The lesson plans will be aligned with the NCSS C3 and CCSS English Language Arts.

Their individual topics and the guiding questions undergirding them have been selected to correlate with the content and approaches of Social Studies and English Language Arts courses across the country on the basis of examination of the curricular standards of Advanced Placement, the National Council for History in the Schools, and several states, including California and Texas, the standards of which have traditionally been regarded as being the most influential on textbook content in other states.

Bible Odyssey

Many of you will have noticed that Bible Odyssey has a new managing editor team. Heather McMurray and Nicole Tilford, both with SBL Press, are the site’s Managing Editors. They bring years of editorial experience to the project. In their first few months, they introduced the use of Scholastica, an online platform for managing the editorial and peer-review processes that *JBL* already uses. The tool has been well received by *JBL* editors and authors, and it has already started to help us track and report on Bible Odyssey content much more efficiently.

In 2016 we continued to see readership grow on Bible Odyssey. We now average 3,500 views per day, which is up nearly 106 percent from last year. **That adds up to over one million visitors over the past year!**

October 1–November 30, 2015					October 1–November 30, 2016								
The Basics		Summary	Visitors	Actions	Uniques	Time	The Basics		Summary	Visitors	Actions	Uniques	Time
👤	Visitors	Expand	119,890	-40%			👤	Visitors	Expand	211,067	+14%		
👉	Actions	Expand	205,299	+36%			👉	Actions	Expand	312,202	+10%		
👉	Average actions		1.7	-6%			👉	Average actions		1.5	0%		
🕒	Total time		341d 14h	+1%			🕒	Total time		538d 1h	+9%		
🕒	Average time per visit		4m 5s	+3%			🕒	Average time per visit		3m 40s	-4%		
👉	Bounce rate		26%	-3%			👉	Bounce rate		26%	+2%		

In just one year, Bible Odyssey has experienced a 30 percent increase in its international and US rankings, according to web traffic tracking site alexa.com.

Website	Global Rank		Year-over-year increase (decrease)	US Rank		Year-over-year increase (decrease)
	2015	2016		2015	2016	
Biblical Archaeology Society	113,954	75,070	34%	25,762	23,896	8%
Museum of the Bible	320,187	333,877	(4%)	44,847	73,720	(64%)
Bible Odyssey	630,256	409,962	34%	136,251	96,963	28%
Enter the Bible	739,530	573,961	22%	151,349	137,399	9%
TheTorah	1,097,137	654,227	40%	222,722	116,830	47%

As traffic continues to grow, we have been inundated with submissions to Ask a Scholar (AAS), which is a main source of reader engagement. We average about fifty questions per month and have answered over 75 percent of these questions. We invite you to volunteer to answer!

BIBLE ODYSSEY

Home People Places Passages Bibles Tools

Kathleen Kenyon
Do you really know the story of the battle of Jericho?
FIND OUT MORE =>

Bible Odyssey: People, Places, and Passages
Explore the fascinating origins of the Bible and its eventful history. On Bible Odyssey, the world's leading scholars share the latest historical and literary research on key people, places, and passages of the Bible.

ASK A SCHOLAR

Focus On
Apostles vs. Disciples
What is the difference between a disciple and an apostle?

Tree of Knowledge
The tree of knowledge of good and evil in Gen 2 has been interpreted to refer to sexual knowledge, amnesia, moral discernment, and divine wisdom.

How Has New Testament Scholarship Changed over Time?
Throughout the history of biblical scholarship from early Christianity to the present day, theological and secular interpretations have coexisted.

Who Was Eve Really and What Really Happened in the Garden?
Carol Meyers discusses who Eve was and what really happened in the Garden of Eden.

What is the ending to Mark's Gospel?
Helen Bond discusses the possible and points of the Gospel of Mark.

Browse by subject - click on a letter below:
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

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Contributors: Video Gallery Image Gallery Bible Basics
About Us: Browse A-Z Contact Us Partners
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AWARDS

Awards Open for Submission

Many of the award programs available to members of SBL opened for submissions on October 1. For more information, search for the following awards on the SBL website: De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History, the Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship, the David Noel Freedman Award for Excellence and Creativity in Hebrew Bible Scholarship, and Status of Women in the Profession Committee Mentor Award. Information on opportunities to present at regional meetings and applying for a Regional Scholar Award is available on the webpages of the individual regional meetings.

Michael B. Cover, Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship Recipient

Michael, a member of SBL since 2008, has been teaching at Marquette University since 2014. He is the author of *Lifting the Veil: 2 Corinthians 3:7–18 in Light of Jewish Homiletic and Commentary Traditions* (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2015). He received his PhD from the University of Notre Dame in 2013. Prior to his position with Marquette, Michael was a Lilly Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow at Valparaiso University.

Rebecca Scharbach Wollenberg, De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History

Wollenberg is an assistant professor of Judaic Studies at the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan and a fellow in the Michigan Society of Fellows. When she concludes her postdoctoral fellowship in 2018 she will continue at the University of Michigan as a tenure-track assistant professor of Judaic Studies with a specialization in Jewish biblical interpretation.

Alice Mandell, David Noel Freedman Award for Excellence and Creativity in Hebrew Bible Scholarship

Mandell, a member of SBL since 2006, is an Assistant Professor in the department of Classical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Her book *Cuneiform Culture and the Ancestors of Hebrew* is planned for publication in Routledge's *The Ancient World* series. She is co-authoring *Reconstructing Israelite and Judean Religions: Religion as Performance and Materiality* (London: Routledge, 2017), as well as a translation of the Amarna Letters for SBL's *Writings from the Ancient World* series.



Michael B. Cover



Rebecca Scharbach Wollenberg
Photograph courtesy of Leisa Thompson



Alice Mandell

Regional Scholars

SAMUEL (SAM) BOYD is assistant professor of the Bible and the ancient Near East at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He researches the Bible through various critical methods and in light of wider historical contexts to understand both the production of these documents as well as their history of interpretation. His particular areas of research include the development

of the Pentateuch, legal hermeneutics in the ancient Near East, language ideology in the ancient world, and ritual theory applied to biblical texts. He also has interests in archaeology, Semitic philology and linguistics, and Late Antiquity (Rabbinic biblical interpretation, Ethiopic Christianity, and the advent of Islam). Sam was a Martin Marty Junior Fellow at the Divinity School at the University of Chicago and was awarded a dissertation fellowship through the Chicago Center for Jewish Studies. He received his PhD from the University of Chicago in 2014.

G. ANTHONY (TONY) KEDDIE is a Ph.D. candidate in Ancient Mediterranean Religions at the University of Texas at Austin. His research engages with critical theory and material evidence in order to illuminate Jewish texts from the Hellenistic and Early Roman periods as ideological products of local political and socioeconomic landscapes. His dissertation, currently in progress, combines a materialist theoretical framework, archaeological interpretation, and textual analysis to examine the relationship between nonsectarian apocalyptic texts and socioeconomic change in Early Roman Judaea. His scholarly publications have appeared in *Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha*, *Journal for the Study of Judaism*, and *Journal for the Study of the New Testament*, among other places. He is also serving as co-author with L. Michael White for a forthcoming volume on *Jewish Fictional Letters from Hellenistic Egypt* (SBL Press, Writings from the Greco-Roman World Series). During summers, he works at the Ostia synagogue excavations.

The recipients of the 2017 Regional Scholar Award are Carrie Elaine Duncan (Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, University of Missouri–Columbia, and T. Christopher Hoklotubbe (Th.D., Harvard Divinity School), a Louisville Institute Postdoctoral Fellow and Postdoctoral Faculty Fellow in Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University. They will be profiled in next year's report.

Status of Women in the Profession Committee Mentor Award

GALE A. YEE is currently Nancy W. King Professor of Biblical Studies at Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, MA. She is the author of *Poor Banished Children of Eve: Woman as Evil in the Hebrew Bible; Jewish Feasts and the Gospel of John*; "The Book of Hosea" commentary in *The New Interpreters Bible*. Vol. VII, as well as many articles and essays. She is the editor of *Judges and Method: New Approaches in Biblical Studies*, which is now in its second edition, a co-editor for the Texts@Context series and the Fortress Bible Commentary for Fortress Press (forthcoming), and former General Editor of *Semeia Studies*. She was recently awarded the honor of *qianbei* (respected elder) by the 2014 International Congress of Ethnic Chinese Biblical Scholars and the Krister Stendahl Medal in Biblical Studies from the Graduate Theological Foundation (2015).



Samuel (Sam) Boyd



G. Anthony (Tony) Keddie



Gale A. Yee

GRANTS

The SBL Travel Grants offer opportunities to SBL members to attend the Annual Meeting, participate in the program, enhance their professional development, and build their network with fellow scholars. These grants support the work of the International Cooperation Initiative, Status of Women in the Profession Committee, Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee, and other SBL committees representing scholars in the field.

DEBBIE ADEGBITE is a graduate of the University of Wales in Cardiff, UK, University of London, and Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria. She is also the co-founder and Registrar of Bethel Institute of Theology & Biblical Research, Gbongan an affiliate of Olabisi Onabanjo University, Nigeria. Deborah is an editorial member of Nigeria Association for the Study of Religions (NASR), Editor of Nigeria Association for Christian Studies (NACS), and the Author of a fast selling book *A Concise Theological and Philosophical Dictionary*. She has contributed to both national and international Journals.



Debbie Adebite

DAVID CASTILLO is a postgraduate student in the program of Biblical Studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. He obtained his MTh. in Biblical Studies in 2015 at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and is currently a Lecturer in the department of Biblical Studies at the Universidad Biblica Latinoamericana. David has published articles on the Joseph story in economic perspective as well as on the structural oppression on the Primeval History. His areas of interest include Pentateuchal Studies, Ideological Criticism, Literary Readings of the Bible, Liberation Hermeneutics and Contextual Bible Studies.

ABIR MITRA is currently pursuing a joint PhD degree in Theology and Religious Studies at the Université catholique de Louvain and the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium. His research focuses on the metaphors of prostitution, adultery, and “illegitimate” amorous relationships in the Hebrew Bible using metaphor theories developed within the field of Cognitive Linguistics. Mr. Mitra holds degrees in English Literature from Jadavpur University (India), Biblical Studies from the Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium), and Jewish Studies from the University of Oxford (UK). His areas of interest include Metaphor Theory, Jewish Bible Exegesis, and Targum Studies.

CARLOS SOSA SILIEZAR, a member of SBL since 2014, is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor of New Testament at Wheaton College, Chicago. His monograph *Creation Imagery in the Gospel of John* was published by T&T Clark Bloomsbury in 2015. Carlos is authoring *Dios y Jesús en la creación según el Evangelio de Juan* (Salamanca: Ediciones Sígueme). He is also the co-editor of *Lecturas bíblicas desde América Latina*, along with M. Daniel and Carroll R. (Guatemala: Seminario Teológico Centroamericano, 2016).



David Castillo

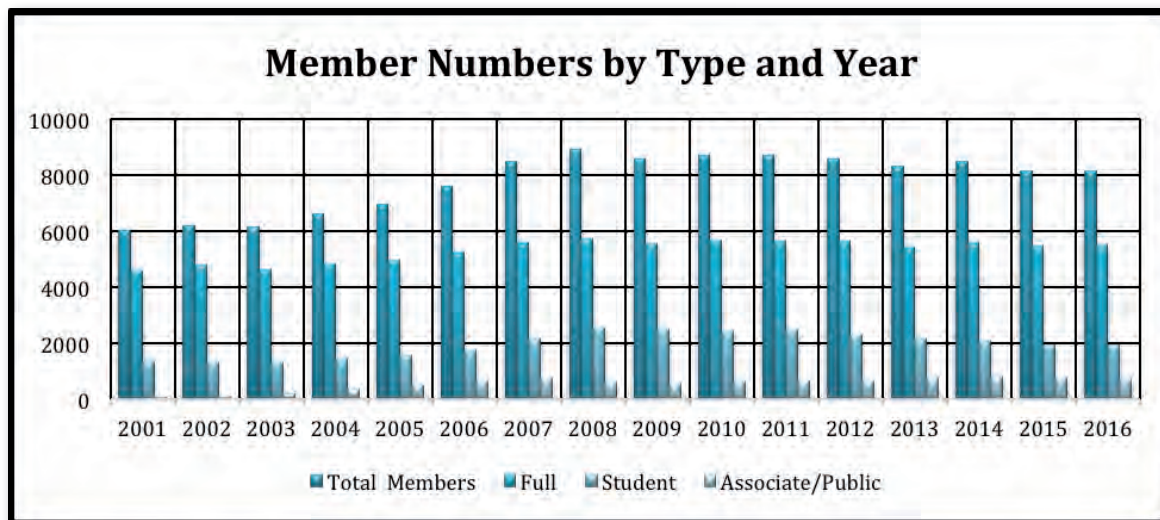


Abir Mitra



Carlos Sosa Siliezar

Society membership remained stable this year. As of 1 December 2016, we had 8,183 members—a slight decrease compared to last year. Full and student memberships are up in real numbers, while public memberships have decreased slightly.



By 11 July 2016, a total of 7,315 members (including expired members) responded to at least one member profile question. Just over half of respondents identify as faculty (55.7 percent), while nearly 16 percent identify as students. Museum staff, librarians, archivists, publishing employees, and primary and secondary school teachers are among members, but each makes up less than one percent of profile respondents. Of faculty, 29.2 percent are employed contingently (adjunct, FTT-NT) and 6.7 percent are employed part-time. Less than half (47.0 percent) are employed full-time on the tenure track or are tenured. Nearly 9 percent are emeriti.

Members remain concentrated in North America and northwestern Europe, but the organization continues to grow in terms of the number of countries represented among its members. Last year's member profile report noted that the Society's members represent 108 unique countries. A marked increase in the number of new countries of birth has pushed this number to 123. Using designations from the United Nations, we classified countries by region and subregion. In terms of country of birth, Africa represents 4.0 percent of members across 20 countries, with South Africa and Nigeria predominating. The Americas represent 71.0 percent across 28 countries: Canada (4.4 percent) and the United States (63.4 percent) account for nearly all records here (one record for Bermuda). The Caribbean and Central and South America account for 3.1 percent. Asia represents 6.7 percent of members across 31 countries. Europe represents 15.3 percent of members across 33 countries. Oceania represents 3.0 percent of members across 5 countries.

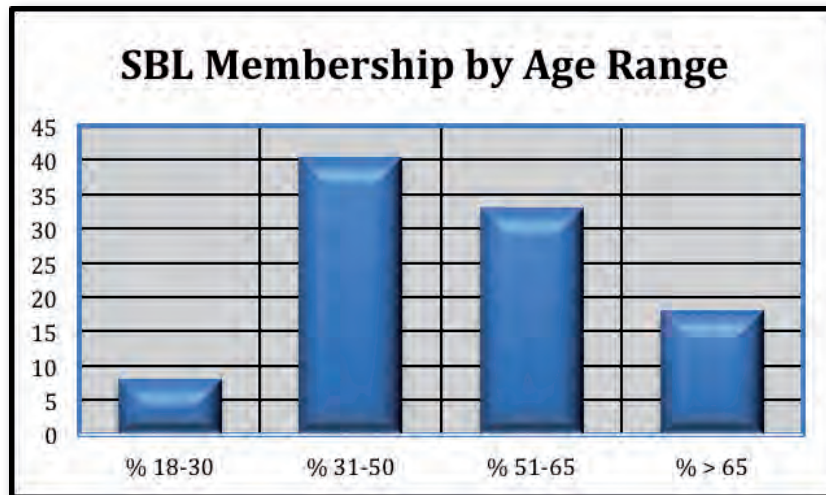
Of all respondents who provided ethnicity data, 3.5 percent are multiethnic. 87.9 percent are of European descent, and 5.3 percent are of African descent. Members of Asian descent account for 5.1 percent, Latina/o descent totals 3.6 percent, and Native American, Alaska Native, or First Nation descent is 1.7 percent. Native Hawaiian or Oceanian descent is 0.2 percent.

Three percent of members state that they have an impairment that affects their participation in SBL functions, whether that is cognitive, emotional, or physical. Slightly less than 3 percent of members identify as a person with a disability.

Last year's member profile report noted that the Society's members represent 108 unique countries. A marked increase in the number of new countries of birth pushed this year's total to

123.

MEMBERSHIP



Current students are mostly doctoral candidates (762 out of 1,167, or 65.3 percent). Master's degree candidates constitute 24.0 percent, and undergraduate students less than 3 percent. Of the 4,804 members with an earned doctorate degree, 1,559 provided the number of years of active study it took them to attain it. The first quartile ranged from 1 to 5.5 years, the second to 10.5, the third to 15.5, and the final to 20 years. The median years of active years of study to earn the doctorate for this pool of members was 10.5.

A plurality of our members (42 percent) fall in the age range of 31–50 years; 32 percent of members are between the ages of 51 and 65; 19 percent are above the age of 65; and 7 percent are 30 or younger.

The gender distribution of respondents remains at three quarters male, one quarter female, and less than 1 percent transgender.



2017 REGIONAL MEETING SCHEDULE

Region	Dates	Host Institution	Location
Central States	March 12–13	Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center	Columbia, MO
Eastern Great Lakes	March 16–17	Doubletree Akron	Akron, OH
Mid-Atlantic	March 16–17	Hyatt Regency New Brunswick	New Brunswick, NJ
Midwest	February 10–12	Saint Mary's College	Notre Dame, IN
New England/E Canada	March 31	Yale Divinity School	New Haven, CT
Pacific Coast	March 12–13	Hope International University	Fullerton, CA
Pacific Northwest	May 5–7	St. Mary's University	Calgary, AB, Canada
Rocky Mountains – Great Plains	March 24–25	University of Colorado	Boulder, CO
Southeastern	March 3–5	Marriott Raleigh Crabtree Valley	Raleigh, NC
Southwestern	March 10–12	Marriott Hotel DFW Airport North	Irving, TX
Upper Midwest	March 31–April 1	Luther Seminary	St. Paul, MN

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION JUNE 30, 2016 AND 2015

	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2015</u>
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,595,269	\$1,376,646
Marketable securities	2,454,030	2,397,368
Accounts receivable	159,434	304,205
Pledges receivable, net	—	4,100
Prepaid expenses and other assets	49,710	43,407
Book inventories, net of valuation reserve	97,672	80,780
Furniture and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	51,424	38,250
Net share of Luce Center assets	<u>1,918,252</u>	<u>1,975,871</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$6,325,791</u>	<u>\$6,220,627</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$215,264	\$188,997
Deferred revenue		
Memberships and subscriptions	499,528	529,269
Annual meetings	807,817	861,518
International meeting	89,445	53,252
Other	<u>43,843</u>	<u>9,313</u>
Total Deferred Revenues	<u>1,440,633</u>	<u>1,453,352</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>1,655,897</u>	<u>1,642,349</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted net assets	3,953,974	3,925,898
Temporarily restricted net assets	421,290	357,750
Permanently restricted net assets	<u>294,630</u>	<u>294,630</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>4,669,894</u>	<u>4,578,278</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$6,325,791</u>	<u>\$6,220,627</u>

Comments:

1. SBL continues to grow, with seven consecutive years of increases in net assets. The increase for FY 2016 was \$91,616 as shown on the Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets.
2. SBL transferred \$180,000 from cash flow to investments in calendar year 2016. SBL continues to grow the investment account to provide for organizational stability and a Net Operating Reserve.
3. SBL staff continue to manage operations within budget. FY2016 revenues were under budget by \$32,124, while expenses were under budget by \$163,257.

FINANCES

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

BUDGET 2016–2017

	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2015</u>
REVENUES AND GAINS		
Congresses	\$1,367,273	\$1,465,898
Membership		
Membership fees	582,354	585,805
Marketing	43,475	38,835
Professions		
Employment Center	81,506	94,682
Grant Revenue	5,289	55,430
Fonts	150	4,500
Publications		
Book Sales	414,796	552,365
Subscriptions	269,129	278,663
Royalties	124,056	128,099
Marketing	20,000	33,550
Permissions	11,258	11,991
Membership	99,408	103,377
Contract Income	50,000	8,333
Fees	16,033	10,303
Development and fundraising	84,980	42,123
Investment income, net	10,933	119,916
Rental income, net	(1,079)	12,352
Total Revenues and Gains	\$3,179,561	\$3,546,222
EXPENSES		
Program expenses		
Congresses	\$940,162	\$1,129,998
Membership	190,421	164,421
Professions	360,723	349,416
Publications	1,104,791	1,105,105
Regions	123,155	106,212
Research and Technology	129,424	122,122
Total Program Expenses	2,848,676	2,977,274
Development and fundraising	54,002	57,184
General and administration	185,267	182,551
Total Expenses	\$3,087,945	\$3,217,009
Increase in Net Assets	91,616	329,213
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	<u>4,578,278</u>	<u>4,249,065</u>
Net Assets at End of Year	<u>\$4,669,894</u>	<u>\$4,578,278</u>

Revenues	
Congresses	\$1,518,950
Development	45,000
Membership	612,792
Professions	98,672
Publications	1,066,858
Total Revenue	\$3,342,272
Expenses	
Administration	\$115,253
Congresses	1,114,719
Development	28,075
Membership	224,519
Professions	302,930
Publications	1,298,444
Regions	39,340
Technology	61,903
Total Expense	\$3,185,183
Budgeted Increase in Net Assets	<u>\$157,089</u>

* The financial information summarized here was derived from the Society's audited financial statements. The independent auditor's report by Mauldin & Jenkins, dated 26 October 2016, states that the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Society. Please see the full audit report at the SBL website.

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Christopher Hooker began on 2 January 2017 as Serial and Digital Resources Manager, a joint position with SBL Press and the Information Technology department. Starting with SBL initially as a technology intern in 2008, Chris has served as the Font Coordinator for a number of years and has assisted in many IT-related projects. He holds a BA in religion from Florida State University, master's degrees from Columbia Theological Seminary and Princeton Theological Seminary, and is completing his PhD dissertation in Hebrew Bible at Princeton Theological Seminary. His research interests include wisdom literature, textual criticism, and the digital humanities. Join us as the SBL family welcomes Chris into this new role.



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