

2017

SOCIETY REPORT

Society of Biblical Literature



A LETTER TO BIBLICAL SCHOLARS

While scholars try to avoid generalization, it is hard not to observe in recent years a rise in worldwide sentiments toward nationalism, populism, isolationism, and xenophobia. We have also seen some grand, modern promises fail, for example, that technology will broaden participation in public conversations, will promote democratization, and will foster understanding and community. Instead, some modern tools have enabled us more easily to create echo chambers that dig social and political divisions deeper and wider or to give bullhorns to bullies. Tools are just tools, for good or for bad, and they depend on the hands that use them.

This year I reflected with colleagues in South Africa and Berlin on two questions SBL must regularly ask in order to challenge its institutional self:

- ◆ Is SBL a US-based learned society with international members or an international learned society based in the US?
- ◆ Is SBL's mission to foster SBL or to foster biblical studies?

Asking these questions signifies that SBL strives to be authentically international by fostering two-way streets of intellectual exchange and decentering the traditional hubs of the field, including its own.

One of SBL's seven [vision statements](#) asserts that "the Society offers its members opportunities for mutual support, intellectual growth, and professional development [by] ... promoting cooperation across global boundaries." As part of the mission statement adopted in 2004, that aspirational strategy encouraged members to start the International Cooperation Initiative in 2007. In less than a decade, the ICI has become a standing committee of Council and has helped alter the DNA of SBL.

At the inauguration of the ICI program, Gerald West [wrote](#) about how important it is for scholars to have the face-to-face interaction:

The human contact we have with one another in the Society is obviously a major resource, and this is why those of us who can afford it make the effort, often at great sacrifice, to attend an SBL Meeting. But most of us will never get to a Meeting.

To that end, this year the SBL Council doubled the budgeted amount for Travel Awards, expanded it for either the Annual or International Meetings, and moved the selection process to four regions (Asia and Pacific, Latin America and Caribbean, Africa, and Eastern Europe). The Travel Awards are for scholars who have not attended a meeting in the last five years and are intended to support underrepresented and underresourced scholars. You can read more about the Travel Awards on p. 23.

New Society policies, too, are recognizing SBL's commitment and responsibilities to an international membership. In the last two years, the development of new policies has foregrounded our broader context. For example, the policy on [The Role of the Society in Making Public Statements](#) notes:

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.

Council included this same consideration as it drafted a policy this year on [Academic Freedom, Critical Inquiry, and Participation in the Society of Biblical Literature](#) and a [Statement on Academic Boycotts](#) (see p. 8).

In 2018, SBL will begin putting all of the Annual and International Meeting Program books, from 1880 to the present, online for research purposes. The content of these meetings is a rich resource to evaluate the development of the field. By comparing SBL participation and sessions, members will see the virtual explosion of the Society's methods and reading interests over the last generation of biblical scholarship, a reflection of increasing scholarly interests beyond the traditional methods and outside the historical centers of Europe and North America.

To be sure, there are many reasons for these intellectual developments in SBL, but some of them are intentional and driven by Council's commitment over the last generation. Consider Ernest Saunders's comment on the very last page of [Searching the Scriptures: A History of the Society of Biblical Literature, 1880–1980](#) (1982) in a chapter called "Signs and Portents" (please appreciate the observation and expectation while pardoning the nomenclature):

Biblical and religious studies internationally have been dominated in the past by North Americans and Europeans. The next century may see a new global form of the discipline with scholars from the Orient, South America, and the Third World.

The year after the history of the Society was published, SBL held its first International Meeting. Now, a generation later, between 2015 and 2023 SBL will hold five of nine International Meetings outside of Europe, increasing the opportunity for scholars to participate, engage, and exchange their work and making Saunders's comment especially appropriate for the title of the chapter in which it is found.

SBL's international membership is growing. In 2015, SBL members were found in 95 countries. After a slight decrease in 2016 to 94 countries, by December of 2017 it was 96. We now have a total number of 449 members from 64 ICI countries, including two more than last year. While the majority of our members (65 percent) reside in the United States, this number is down 3 percent from last year, while overall membership has grown.

Biblical scholars accomplish many things in higher education. One of them is to influence their communities and the next generation by modeling ways we communicate, interact, and collaborate. We teach students to move beyond parochialism and [tribalism](#), consider new ideas, understand what was previously "other," and reason without rage.

The Society is engaged in this, too. While it feels like we are globally experiencing a diminished capacity to empathize and understand, I encourage you to recognize, celebrate, and continue the work we are doing together in SBL.

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 funding for travel to an SBL meeting.

- ◆ 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.

CREATE THE BEST VERSION OF SBL **with your gifts**



Change is constant and inevitable. It is also necessary in order to adapt to the evolving needs of society, in this case, our Society.

Many biblical scholars of years past helped pave the way for the Society of Biblical Literature, scholars like you today. Since then, needs in the field have grown and shifted in the way of jobs, technology, and expanding biblical scholarship. As we continue to face new challenges, we too must shift to the needs of both today and tomorrow's scholars. However, this journey of change and revision cannot be made without you. With your support, the growing needs of members can be met with increased Travel Grants, enhanced Bible Odyssey tools, and professional development resources. Will you consider a gift and join us in this revision? Help contribute to the change and create the best version of SBL with your support—a gift that will help advance the Society of today and herald the path of tomorrow's scholar.

Make your gift today!

<https://www.sbl-site.org/membership/donate.aspx>

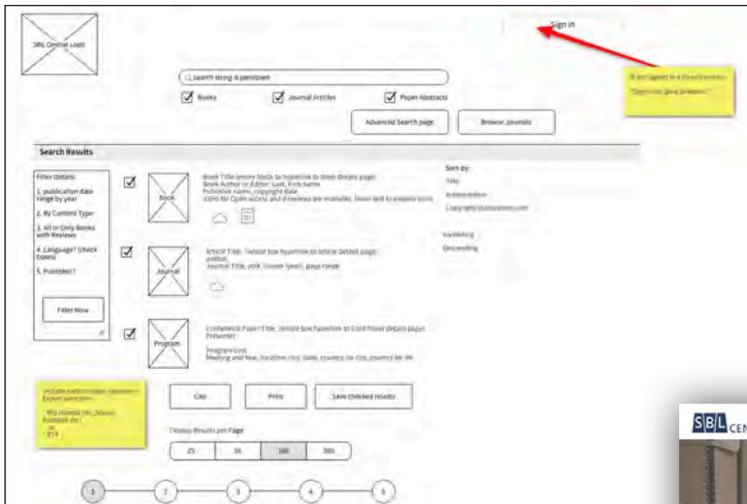


SBL has a long history of providing important tools and resources for its members, including the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, over two dozen book series, reference works, *The SBL Handbook of Style*, the SBL Unicode fonts, and, most recently, BibleOdyssey.org.

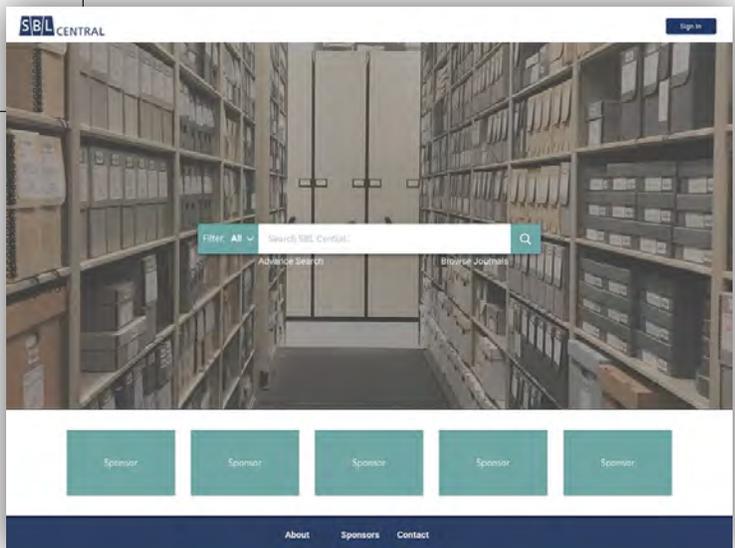
One of these tools, the [Review of Biblical Literature](#), was launched in 1998. Two decades ago, *RBL* responded to a field with a high publishing output and highly specialized subfields. It did so by building an online platform and editorial process that removed the limits on the number of books reviews that had been previously published in the *Journal of Biblical Literature* and decreased the time between a book's publication and the publication of its review. *RBL* is now used more than half a million times per year by scholars. It has published over 9,000 reviews, equal to about 33,000 pages of print.

Building on *RBL's* strengths and recognizing new challenges, three years ago SBL undertook a new phase in its evolution that will harness more technology, more content, and more community. This highly customized and automated research platform, called SBLCentral, will provide access to more scholarly communication—including books, book reviews, journal articles, and conference papers—and will deliver custom alerts to users when new subject-specific resources are published or produced. SBLCentral will be indispensable to scholarly research and writing by creating granular discovery of content keyed to the field's specializations. It will especially serve scholars in underresourced areas of the world as well as the growing number of contingent faculty and independent scholars who do not have access to the most up-to-date, subscription-based discovery tools.

Imagine a 24/7/365 book exhibit hall. Even better, imagine your own personal, digital research assistant who finds the books in that book exhibit hall for you. Imagine the SBL site helping you construct bibliographies, then format and save them. All content in SBLCentral will be tagged to member specializations. So imagine, too, being alerted to research—books, chapters of books, articles, and conference papers—newly available in your areas of interest. Besides searching and browsing, imagine these alerts delivered to your inbox—what, when, and how you want them.



Wireframe design work on the SBLCentral architecture (left)



One possibility for the finished SBLCentral interface (right)

You can also imagine that this cannot happen without support. While SBLCentral will be open to all academic publishers, as is *RBL*, the following publishers and organizations have become Foundation Sponsors to help us build SBLCentral:

ATLA
Baker Academic
Baylor University Press
Bloomsbury Publishing
Brill

Mohr Siebeck
Penn State University Press
Westminster John Knox Press
Wipf and Stock Publishers

We could not do this without them!

A fundamental role SBL plays is to facilitate the work of an entire ecosystem, supporting the delicate environment of scholars, publishers, libraries, and learned societies. SBLCentral will build a bridge between publishers and scholars, helping members stay up to date, find current research more comprehensively and efficiently, and facilitate the use of other specialized archives and databases, such as *ATLA Religion Database*® with *ATLASerials PLUS*™.

Please recognize the investment these organizations have made in you and in SBL. With their support, we are on our way. The development of SBLCentral began November 2017, and two decades after the launch of *RBL*, near the end of 2018, SBLCentral will be born. Stay tuned.



SBL TO PROVIDE A REVIEW AND UPDATE TO THE NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

At the 2017 SBL-AAR Annual Meeting, the National Council of Churches (NCC) announced an update of the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), an English translation of the Bible owned and licensed by the NCC. This update will be managed by the Society for Biblical Literature, following a partnership approved by Council earlier in 2017.

Scholars have produced a considerable amount of work in text criticism since 1989, the year the NRSV was published. The last three decades have provided significant new discoveries, including new manuscript witnesses, developments in text-critical methodology, and philological insights. A thirty-year review is not only necessary in the light of this scholarly work but will result in an English translation that is based, without exception, on the most up-to-date textual analysis.

The update will focus on three areas:

- ♦ **Text-Critical and Philological Advances:** The primary focus of the thirty-year review is on new text-critical and philological considerations that affect the English translation. The philological review will draw upon the fruits of historical-critical scholarship that affect expressions in English. For the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, text-critical developments in the last thirty years have been especially significant. The publication of the Judean Desert biblical texts and fragments has revealed a number of readings that differ from the medieval Hebrew traditions in the Masoretic Text, which was the basis of the NRSV.
- ♦ **Textual Notes:** SBL's initial review of the NRSV suggested that the current text-critical footnotes are neither complete nor consistent. There are cases when the translation silently adds words not conspicuously in the sources or does not indicate when a reading is not following the sources. To address this deficiency, reviewers will be asked to identify text-critical issues that should have been documented in the notes but were not.
- ♦ **Style and Rendering:** The translation philosophy of the NRSV will be maintained, including its overarching commitment to being "as literal as possible" in adhering to the ancient texts and only 'as free as necessary' to make the meaning clear in graceful, understandable English." That being said, when a reviewer judges a particular translation awkward, inaccurate, or difficult for general readers to understand, the reviewer may suggest a more elegant rendering.

The SBL editorial board includes Sidnie White Crawford (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), Ronald Hendel (University of California-Berkeley), Michael W. Holmes (Bethel University), Robert S. Kawashima (University of Florida), Jennifer W. Knust (Boston University), Judith H. Newman (University of Toronto), and Eugene Ulrich (University of Notre Dame). In addition to the editorial board, more than fifty scholars will contribute to the review, which will be conducted over the next three years.

Participants will draw upon new tools developed after the NRSV was published, including *The SBL Greek New Testament*, edited by Michael W. Holmes (2010); SBL Press's *The Hebrew Bible: A Critical Edition*, edited by Ronald Hendel (2015–); and the German Bible Society's *Biblia Hebraica Quinta* (2004–), *The Greek New Testament, Fifth Revised Edition* (2014), and twenty-eighth edition of Nestle-Aland's *Novum Testamentum Graece*, as well as volumes from GBS's *Editio Critica Maior* produced by the Institut für neutestamentliche Textforschung and based on recent New Testament methodological developments reflected in the INTF's Coherence-Based Genealogical Method (see Tommy Wasserman and Peter J. Gurry, *A New Approach to Textual Criticism: An Introduction to the Coherence-Based Genealogical Method* [SBL Press, 2017]).

SBL also wants to acknowledge and thank [Scribe](#), which provides publishing support services. Scribe is providing for this project an online, collaborative interface, and the technical support and service for file distribution, training, and quality control.

531 SECOND KINGS 8.16–9.3

Jehoram Reigns over Judah

16 In the fifth year of King Joram son of Ahab of Israel, Jehoram son of King Jehoshaphat of Judah began to reign. ¹⁷He was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. ¹⁸He walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for the daughter of Ahab was his wife. He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. ¹⁹Yet the Lord would not destroy Judah, for the sake of his servant David, since he had promised to give a lamp to him and to his descendants forever.

20 In his days Edom rebelled against the rule of Judah, and set up a king of their own. ²¹Then Joram crossed over to Zair with all his chariots. He set out by night and attacked the Edomites and their chariot commanders who had surrounded him; but his army fled home. ²²So Edom has been in revolt against the rule of Judah to this day. Libnah also rebelled at the same time. ²³Now the rest of the acts of Joram, and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Annals of the Kings of Judah? ²⁴So Joram slept with his ancestors, and was buried with them in the city of David; his son Ahaziah succeeded him.

Ahaziah Reigns over Judah

25 In the twelfth year of King Joram son of Ahab of Israel, Ahaziah son of King Jehoram

of Judah began to reign. ²⁶Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he began to reign; he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Athaliah, a granddaughter of King Omri of Israel. ²⁷He also walked in the way of the house of Ahab, doing what was evil in the sight of the Lord, as the house of Ahab had done, for he was son-in-law to the house of Ahab.

28 He went with Joram son of Ahab to wage war against King Hazael of Aram at Ramoth-gilead, where the Arameans wounded Joram. ²⁹King Joram returned to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds that the Arameans had inflicted on him at Ramah, when he fought against King Hazael of Aram. King Ahaziah son of Joram of Judah went down to see Joram son of Ahab in Jezreel, because he was wounded.

Anointing of Jehu

9 Then the prophet Elisha called a member of the company of prophets^a and said to him, "Gird up your loins; take this flask of oil in your hand, and go to Ramoth-gilead. ²When you arrive, look there for Jehu son of Jehoshaphat, son of Nimshi; go in and get him to leave his companions, and take him into an inner chamber. ³Then take the flask of oil,

^a Or: five Heb. msh. ^b Heb. msh. ^c Heb. msh. ^d Heb. msh. ^e Heb. msh. ^f Heb. msh. ^g Heb. msh. ^h Heb. msh. ⁱ Heb. msh. ^j Heb. msh. ^k Heb. msh. ^l Heb. msh. ^m Heb. msh. ⁿ Heb. msh. ^o Heb. msh. ^p Heb. msh. ^q Heb. msh. ^r Heb. msh. ^s Heb. msh. ^t Heb. msh. ^u Heb. msh. ^v Heb. msh. ^w Heb. msh. ^x Heb. msh. ^y Heb. msh. ^z Heb. msh. ^{aa} Heb. msh. ^{ab} Heb. msh. ^{ac} Heb. msh. ^{ad} Heb. msh. ^{ae} Heb. msh. ^{af} Heb. msh. ^{ag} Heb. msh. ^{ah} Heb. msh. ^{ai} Heb. msh. ^{aj} Heb. msh. ^{ak} Heb. msh. ^{al} Heb. msh. ^{am} Heb. msh. ^{an} Heb. msh. ^{ao} Heb. msh. ^{ap} Heb. msh. ^{aq} Heb. msh. ^{ar} Heb. msh. ^{as} Heb. msh. ^{at} Heb. msh. ^{au} Heb. msh. ^{av} Heb. msh. ^{aw} Heb. msh. ^{ax} Heb. msh. ^{ay} Heb. msh. ^{az} Heb. msh. ^{ba} Heb. msh. ^{bb} Heb. msh. ^{bc} Heb. msh. ^{bd} Heb. msh. ^{be} Heb. msh. ^{bf} Heb. msh. ^{bg} Heb. msh. ^{bh} Heb. msh. ^{bi} Heb. msh. ^{bj} Heb. msh. ^{bk} Heb. msh. ^{bl} Heb. msh. ^{bm} Heb. msh. ^{bn} Heb. msh. ^{bo} Heb. msh. 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^{vz} Heb. msh. ^{wa} Heb. msh. ^{wb} Heb. msh. ^{wc} Heb. msh. ^{wd} Heb. msh. ^{we} Heb. msh. ^{wf} Heb. msh. ^{wg} Heb. msh. ^{wh} Heb. msh. ^{wi} Heb. msh. ^{wj} Heb. msh. ^{wk} Heb. msh. ^{wl} Heb. msh. ^{wm} Heb. msh. ^{wn} Heb. msh. ^{wo} Heb. msh. ^{wp} Heb. msh. ^{wq} Heb. msh. ^{wr} Heb. msh. ^{ws} Heb. msh. ^{wt} Heb. msh. ^{wu} Heb. msh. ^{wv} Heb. msh. ^{wx} Heb. msh. ^{wy} Heb. msh. ^{wz} Heb. msh. ^{xa} Heb. msh. ^{xb} Heb. msh. ^{xc} Heb. msh. ^{xd} Heb. msh. ^{xe} Heb. msh. ^{xf} Heb. msh. ^{xg} Heb. msh. ^{xh} Heb. msh. ^{xi} Heb. msh. ^{xj} Heb. msh. ^{xk} Heb. msh. ^{xl} Heb. msh. ^{xm} Heb. msh. ^{xn} Heb. msh. ^{xo} Heb. msh. ^{xp} Heb. msh. ^{xq} Heb. msh. ^{xr} Heb. msh. ^{xs} Heb. msh. ^{xt} Heb. msh. ^{xu} Heb. msh. ^{xv} Heb. msh. ^{xw} Heb. msh. ^{xy} Heb. msh. ^{xz} Heb. msh. ^{ya} Heb. msh. ^{yb} Heb. msh. ^{yc} Heb. msh. ^{yd} Heb. msh. ^{ye} Heb. msh. ^{yf} Heb. msh. ^{yg} Heb. msh. ^{yh} Heb. msh. ^{yi} Heb. msh. ^{yj} Heb. msh. ^{yk} Heb. msh. ^{yl} 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^{di} Heb. msh. ^{dj} Heb. msh. ^{dk} Heb. msh. ^{dl} Heb. msh. ^{dm} Heb. msh. ^{dn} Heb. msh. ^{do} Heb. msh. ^{dp} Heb. msh. ^{dq} Heb. msh. ^{dr} Heb. msh. ^{ds} Heb. msh. ^{dt} Heb. msh. ^{du} Heb. msh. ^{dv} Heb. msh. ^{dw} Heb. msh. ^{dx} Heb. msh. ^{dy} Heb. msh. ^{dz} Heb. msh. ^{ea} Heb. msh. ^{eb} Heb. msh. ^{ec} Heb. msh. ^{ed} Heb. msh. ^{ee} Heb. msh. ^{ef} Heb. msh. ^{eg} Heb. msh. ^{eh} Heb. msh. ^{ei} Heb. msh. ^{ej} Heb. msh. ^{ek} Heb. msh. ^{el} Heb. msh. ^{em} Heb. msh. ^{en} Heb. msh. ^{eo} Heb. msh. ^{ep} Heb. msh. ^{eq} Heb. msh. ^{er} Heb. msh. ^{es} Heb. msh. ^{et} Heb. msh. ^{eu} Heb. msh. ^{ev} Heb. msh. ^{ew} Heb. msh. ^{ex} Heb. msh. ^{ey} Heb. msh. ^{ez} Heb. msh. ^{fa} Heb. msh. ^{fb} Heb. msh. ^{fc} Heb. msh. ^{fd} Heb. msh. ^{fe} Heb. msh. ^{ff} Heb. msh. ^{fg} Heb. msh. ^{fh} Heb. msh. ^{fi} Heb. msh. ^{fj} Heb. msh. ^{fk} Heb. msh. ^{fl} Heb. msh. ^{fm} Heb. msh. ^{fn} Heb. msh. ^{fo} Heb. msh. ^{fp} Heb. msh. ^{fq} Heb. msh. ^{fr} Heb. msh. ^{fs} 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NEW SBL POLICIES AND STATEMENTS IN 2017

In 2017, SBL implemented a new policy on the Scholarly Presentation and Publication of Ancient Artifacts, which was announced in late 2016. This policy will continue to be reviewed by the Artifact Advisory Board.

In addition to the implementation of that policy, the SBL Council drafted, approved, and published a number of new policies and procedures over the course of the last twelve months. These include:

- ◆ [Academic Freedom, Critical Inquiry, and Participation in the Society of Biblical Literature](#)
- ◆ [Academic Boycotts](#)
- ◆ [Policy and Guidelines for Selecting Host Institutions for SBL Regional and International Meetings](#)
- ◆ [Memorandum of Understanding between SBL and institutions hosting regional and international meetings](#)

These policies have been added to the 2018 SBL Policy Manual (updated December 2017). The Policy Manual is revised annually to reflect new policies and procedures developed for the Society.

In 2017, SBL also issued two statements:

- ◆ [Statement on the 27 January 2017 U.S. Executive Order “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States”](#)
- ◆ [Statement Opposing U.S. Proposal to Tax Tuition Waivers](#)

SBL INSTITUTIONAL ARCHIVE AND ARCHIVIST

SBL was founded in 1880 and is one of the oldest learned societies formed to support a scholarly discipline in higher education. SBL's institutional archive has been annually growing for 137 years. It is a rich repository for the history of the Society of Biblical Literature, and because of the early founding of the Society, the archive traces the history of the modern, humanistic study of the Bible, its origins, contexts, and history of interpretation. For the fullest statement of the work of the SBL Archive, see “Inventories of the Past, Intimations of the Future: The Archives of the SBL,” *SBL Forum*, vol. 3, no. 8 (August 2005) (online: <http://sbl-site.org/Article.aspx?ArticleID=440>). The SBL archive was first located at The Iliff School of Theology (1980–1984) and Regis University (1984–2000).

Since 2000, the archive has been housed in the special collections at Drew University. SBL is deeply grateful for the nearly two decades of extraordinary and generous service and support from Drew University, its faculty, administration, and library staff.

The support of Drew University has been especially effective through the long-standing service of SBL's Archivist, Andrew Scrimgeour, who served since 2000 as Drew's Dean of Libraries and is now Dean of Libraries Emeritus. Andy has been SBL's Archivist since 1980—thirty-seven years! Without exception, he has not only responded to researcher's requests for assistance and guidance but also organized and maintained the archive. His hands-on knowledge, personal commitment, and professional care for the archive have enabled scholars to dive into its files in order to research persons and projects associated with the Society and the field of biblical studies.

Many thanks to Drew University for its care for the archive and to the devoted service of Andrew Scrimgeour!



International Meeting

The 2017 International Meeting in Berlin, held in partnership with the European Association of Biblical Studies, was among the best attended international meetings in SBL's history. Held in a city of historic significance to biblical studies, it was truly an enormous success. Many thanks are due to the local programming committee and in particular its chair, Bernd Schipper of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (pictured to the right). SBL and EABS session totaled 324, organized by the 54 SBL and 49 EABS program units.



2017 International Meeting: Number of Attendees by Country

Germany	264	Ireland	4
United States	207	South Korea	4
United Kingdom	119	Taiwan	3
Israel	54	Greece	2
South Africa	42	Greenland	2
Netherlands	38	India	2
Canada	29	Lebanon	2
Switzerland	28	Myanmar	2
Italy	26	New Zealand	2
Australia	24	Nigeria	2
Austria	24	Phillippines	2
Finland	23	Slovakia	2
Norway	19	United Arab Emirates	2
Belgium	18	Argentina	1
Spain	16	Brazil	1
Sweden	16	Colombia	1
Poland	14	Croatia	1
France	12	Egypt	1
Japan	12	Estonia	1
Korea	11	Indonesia	1
Denmark	10	Iran	1
Russia	9	Jordan	1
China	6	Malaysia	1
Czech Republic	6	Malta	1
Bulgaria	5	Portugal	1
Hong Kong	5	Serbia	1
Romania	5	Singapore	1
Hungary	4	Tanzania	1

The 2018 International Meeting will again be held in partnership with the European Association of Biblical Studies, this time in Helsinki, Finland. The local programming committee, chaired by Outi Lehtipuu of the University of Helsinki, is hard at work developing special sessions and other organized events that will highlight some of the unique contributions of Helsinki and Finland to biblical scholarship.



Regions

In 2017, the eleven regional meetings were held in the United States and Canada in partnership with eight peer organizations. Regional meetings take place between February and May and are planned and executed by the regional coordinators and other volunteers. Regional meetings are intended to encourage participation at the local level. For more information, including links to regional meetings programs and participation directions, visit <https://www.sbl-site.org/meetings/regionalMeetings.aspx>.

2018 REGIONAL MEETING SCHEDULE

Region	Dates	Host Institution	Location
Central States	March 11–12	Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center	Columbia, MO
Eastern Great Lakes	March 15–16	Doubletree Hotel	Akron, OH
Mid-Atlantic	March 16–17	Hyatt Regency Hotel	New Brunswick, NJ
Midwest	February 2–4	Saint Mary's College	Notre Dame, IN
New England/E Canada	April 20	Yale Divinity School	New Haven, CT
Pacific Coast	March 11	Hope International University	Fullerton, CA
Pacific Northwest	May 11–13	Pacific Lutheran University	Tacoma, WA
Rocky Mountains – Great Plains	March 16–17	Brigham Young University	Provo, UT
Southeastern	March 2–4	Atlanta Marriott Perimeter Center	Atlanta, GA
Southwestern	March 9–11	Marriott Hotel DFW Airport North	Irving, TX
Upper Midwest	April 13–14	University of St. Thomas	St. Paul, MN

CONGRESSES

Annual Meeting

The 2017 Annual Meeting in Boston was also quite a success. Combined attendance topped 10,000. Yet despite the growth in attendance, proposals for the 2017 Annual Meeting, at 3,088, were down after two years at 3,227. There were 2,167 unique participants at the meeting, which also represents a decline from 2,245 in 2016.

Last year we noted that the number of program units had leveled off after seeing significant growth over the previous decade. This trend continued in 2017, as the number of program units dropped from 169 in 2016 to 161 in 2017. At the same time, the number of sessions rose to 490 from 437 the previous year. At least some of this rise can be attributed to a growing number of sessions hosted by multiple program units, a development that led to new avenues for collaboration at the Annual Meeting.



Each year the Press portion of the SBL Society Report highlights a different aspect of our mission. In 2015 we focused on the people who generate the works that we are privileged to publish: the authors and editors and volunteers and staff who pool their talents and time to produce works of scholarly integrity and academic excellence. The 2016 Society Report highlighted the SBL Press ecosystem, the multiple channels—both print and electronic, paid and freely available, traditional and recently developed—through which SBL members' insights and ideas are disseminated.

This year our attention turns to the diverse types of content that SBL Press publishes. We would like to think that every SBL member recognizes the breadth of subject matter and the specific interests covered in one or another SBL Press publication, but reminders are often helpful. It is in this spirit that we focus the spotlight on the varied subdisciplines and subjects that SBL Press publications seek to support.

SBL Book Series

We begin with our book series, whose variety represents well the breadth of content that all our book and serial publications cover.

Ancient Israel and Its Literature focuses on the history, culture, and literature of ancient Israel and Judah, including the social world of the biblical writings and the ancient Near Eastern context. 2017 editors: Thomas C. Römer (general editor), Mark G. Brett, Marc Brettler, Corrine L. Carvalho, Tom Dozeman, Cynthia Edenburg, Konrad Schmid.

Ancient Near East Monographs, a joint publication with the Centro de Estudios de Historia del Antiguo Oriente, publishes open-access works on the ancient Near East, including ancient Israel, from the early Neolithic to the early Hellenistic eras. 2017 editors: Alan Lenzi and Juan Manuel Tebes (general editors), Reinhard Achenbach, C. L. Crouch, Roxana Flammini, Esther Hamori, Christopher B. Hays, René Krüger, Graziela Gestoso Singer, Bruce Wells.

Archaeology and Biblical Studies volumes seek to illumine the Bible and its world through archaeological, sociological, and historical studies, including works that make an explicit connection with the Bible and those that addresses Israelite religion or the culture of biblical peoples. 2017 editors: Brian B. Schmidt (general editor), Aaron Brody, Annie Caubet, Billie Jean Collins, Israel Finkelstein, André Lemaire, Amihai Mazar, Herbert Niehr, Christoph Uehlinger.



Bible and Its Reception, our newest series, publishes monographs, collections of essays, and reference works that explore the ways that popular culture, media, politics, literature, film, music, and visual arts have adopted, adapted, and used biblical texts, themes, and figures. 2017 editors: Rhonda Burnette-Bletsch (general editor), Brennan Breed, Lesleigh Cushing, Cheryl Exum, Helen Lenehan, Rodney S. Sadler Jr., Robert Paul Seesengood

Bible and Women volumes, which are published simultaneously in German, English, Italian, and Spanish, present a reception history and cultural history of the Bible, focusing on gender-relevant biblical themes,

women in the text, and the women who throughout history have read, appropriated, and interpreted the Bible in text and image. Project coeditors Irmtraud Fischer, Mercedes Navarro Puerto, Christiana de Groot, and Adriana Valerio.

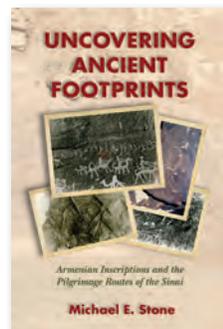
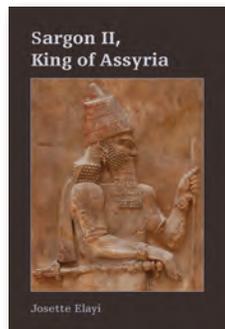
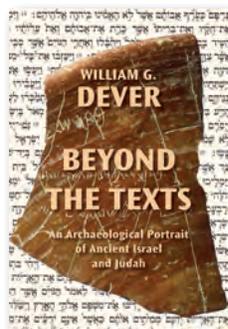
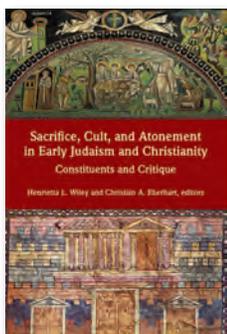
Biblical Scholarship in North America volumes explore the scholars, movements, and organizations that have shaped and continue to shape North American biblical scholarship. BSNA is currently managed by SBL Press staff.

Early Christianity and Its Literature publishes on the history, culture, and literature of the New Testament and early Christianity, normally within the pre-Constantinian period. ECL seeks to publish innovative work representing the range of methods and perspectives in contemporary New Testament and early Christian studies. 2017 editors: David G. Horrell (general editor), Amy-Jill Levine, Margaret Y. MacDonald, Dale B. Martin, Laura S. Nasrallah, Anders Runesson.

Early Judaism and Its Literature publishes works on the history, culture, and literature of Second Temple Judaism, including Hellenistic Jewish authors, the Dead Sea Scrolls, Jewish apocrypha and pseudepigrapha, and rabbinic literature that deals with Second Temple Judaism. 2017 editors: Rodney A. Werline (general editor), Esther Glickler Chazon, Kelley N. Coblenz Bautch, Maxine L. Grossman, Jan Joosten, James S. McLaren.

Emory Studies in Early Christianity volumes investigate early Christian literature within the context of Mediterranean literature, religion, society, and culture. ESEC authors use interdisciplinary methods informed by social, rhetorical, literary, and anthropological approaches to move beyond traditional literary-historical investigations. 2017 editors: Vernon K. Robbins and David B. Gowler (general editors), Bart B. Bruehler and Robert H. von Thaden Jr. (associate editors), Richard S. Ascough, Juan Hernández Jr., Susan E. Hylén, Brigitte Kahl, Mikeal C. Parsons, Christopher C. Rowland, Russell B. Sisson, Elaine M. Wainwright.

Global Perspectives on Biblical Scholarship provides a forum for biblical scholars from around the world to share research and to explore emerging methods, tools, and approaches to biblical scholarship with colleagues in the global village. GPBS is currently managed by SBL Press staff.



Hebrew Bible: A Critical Edition represents a new, eclectic model for developing a critical edition of the Hebrew Bible. HBCE volumes consist of critical texts that contain the best readings according to the judgments of the editors of the books of the Hebrew Bible, accompanied by extensive text-critical commentary and introductions to each volume. General editor: Ronald Hendel.



History of Biblical Studies makes available in English translation seminal biblical-studies resources from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries that have never before appeared in English in spite of their past and ongoing significance for biblical scholarship. 2017 editor: L. L. Welborn.

International Voices in Biblical Studies is an online, peer-reviewed, open-access book series that provides a platform for biblical critics and authors particularly from Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Pacific, and Eastern Europe.

The series publishes scholarly, creative, and compelling works that engage the biblical text and its history, reception, and interpretation. 2017 editors: Jione Havea and Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon (general editors), Musa W. Dube, David Joy, Andreas Kunz Lubcke, Aliou C. Niang, Nasili Vaka'uta.

New Testament in the Greek Fathers makes available the New Testament text as it is recoverable from the writings of the Greek Fathers. Each volume presents a critically reconstructed text of the New Testament of a given father and evaluates the data in terms of its reliability and of the relationship of the father's text to known textual groups. 2017 editor: Roderic L. Mullen.

Resources for Biblical Study volumes offer a variety of tools for teaching and research appropriate to biblical studies and cognate fields, including classroom texts, language tools, compilations of key articles in the history of research, collections of essays illustrating methodological issues, and reference works. 2017 editors: Marvin A. Sweeney (Hebrew Bible/Old Testament), Tom Thatcher (New Testament).

Rhetoric of Religious Antiquity uses insights from sociolinguistics, semiotics, rhetoric, ethnography, literary studies, social sciences, cognitive science, and ideological studies in programmatic ways that enact socio-rhetorical interpretation as an interpretive analytic. Using concepts and strategies of methods as an interactive interpretive analytic, socio-rhetorical interpretation juxtaposes and interrelates phenomena from multiple disciplines and modes of interpretation by drawing and redrawing boundaries of analysis and interpretation. 2017 editors: Vernon K. Robbins and Duane F. Watson (general editors), David B. Gowler (associate editor), Alicia Batten, L. Gregory Bloomquist, Rosemary Canavan, Alexandra Gruca-Macaulay, Roy R. Jeal, Harry O. Maier, B. J. Oropeza, Walter T. Wilson.

SBL Commentary on the Septuagint, co-sponsored by the International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies, is a new series of commentaries on the Septuagint based on the New English Translation of the Septuagint. Volumes in the series focus on the translation as it was made by the translator, in an attempt to determine what the translator was doing when he was translating. 2017 general editors: Cameron Boyd-Taylor, Robert J. V. Hiebert.

Semeia Studies volumes explore new and emerging areas that communicate the intersections and relationships between biblical and other related texts with critical contemporary issues. The series publishes scholarly monographs and collections of essays that represent the best of interdisciplinary biblical studies and advance the discipline through innovative and inventive inquiries. Expanding on its heritage to promote marginalized voices and perspectives as well as to center relevant issues for communities outside of the mainstream of power, the series supports studies that use critical analytical tools to explore questions such as colonialism, gender/sexuality, race/ethnicity, class/economic, ecological and environmental concerns. 2017 editors: Steed V. Davidson (general editor), Pablo Andiñach, Fiona Black, Denise K. Buell, Masiwa Ragies Gunda, Jacqueline Hidalgo, Yak-Hwee Tan.

Septuagint and Cognate Studies, co-sponsored by the International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies, is devoted to the study of the LXX, textual criticism, manuscript witnesses and other versions, as well as its literature, historical milieu, and thought. Cognate studies include the Jewish apocrypha and pseudepigrapha of the Hellenistic period as well as the subsequent development of this literature in Judaism and early Christianity. 2017 editors: Wolfgang Kraus (general editor), Robert J. V. Hiebert, Karen H. Jobes, Arie van der Kooij, Siegfried Kreuzer, Philippe Le Moigne.

Studia Philonica Annual is a scholarly serial devoted to furthering the study of Hellenistic Judaism, in particular the writings and thought of the Hellenistic-Jewish writer Philo of Alexandria (ca. 15 BCE to ca. 50 CE). Each year the *Annual* publishes the most current Philonic scholarship along with an extensive bibliography that is maintained by David Runia. 2017 editors: David T. Runia, Gregory E. Sterling.

Studia Philonica Monographs expands the scope of Philonic study beyond the essays contained in the *Annual*, publishing full-length monographs and collections of essays on specific aspects of Philo's thought, interpretive methods, and relation to his ancient social, political, and religious contexts. 2017 editor: Thomas H. Tobin.

Text-Critical Studies publishes monographs, reference works, and collections of essays related to the textual criticism of the Hebrew Bible, New Testament, and closely related works. Individual volumes may investigate methodological issues, individual manuscripts, or selected passages. 2017 editor: Michael W. Holmes.

Wisdom Literature from the Ancient World is the first series to present scholarly editions of a wide variety of wisdom texts from throughout the ancient world, including ancient Near Eastern, Greco-Roman, early Christian, and rabbinic wisdom. 2017 editors: Reinhard Gregor Kratz (general editor), Pancratius C. Beentjes, Katharine J. Dell, Edward L. Greenstein, John S. Kloppenborg, Michael Kolarcik, Manfred Oeming, Bernd U. Schipper, Günter Stemberger, Loren T. Stuckenbruck.

Writings from the Ancient World volumes provide teachers, literary critics, historians, general readers, and students direct access to key ancient Near Eastern writings from the beginning of the Sumerian civilization to the age of Alexander the Great. 2017 editors: Theodore J. Lewis (general editor), Edward M. Cook, Daniel Fleming, Theo P. J. van den Hout, Martti Nissinen, William M. Schniedewind, Mark S. Smith, Emily Teeter, Steve Vinson.

Writings from the Ancient World Supplements publishes monographs, collections of essays, and revised dissertations on authors, texts, and topics pertinent to the Near Eastern world. Subjects cover all aspects of Near Eastern culture, including art, architecture, economy, law, religion, society, literature, and history. This series complements *Writings from the Ancient World*, which is limited to texts and translations. 2017 editor: Amélie Kuhrt.

Writings from the Greco-Roman World makes available ancient texts from the time of Alexander to Justinian. Volumes, which typically include an introduction, the original text and/or English translation, explanatory or textual notes, a bibliography, and indices, are ideal for both scholars and students of religion, culture, and philosophy in late antiquity. 2017 editors: John T. Fitzgerald (general editor), Christopher A. Baron, Andrew Cain, Margaret M. Mitchell, Teresa Morgan, Ilaria L. E. Ramelli, Clare K. Rothschild, Karin Schlapbach, James C. VanderKam, L. Michael White.

Writings from the Greco-Roman World Supplements publishes monographs, collections of essays, and revised dissertations on authors, texts, and topics pertinent to the Greco-Roman world from the time of Alexander to Justinian. Subjects covered include pagan, Jewish, and Christian authors and writings, as well as all aspects of Greco-Roman culture, including art, the economy, education, law, philosophy, religion, rhetoric, social life, architecture, and values. 2017 editor: Clare K. Rothschild.

Writings from the Islamic World makes available original sources from the Arabic tradition, including translations of the Bible and commentaries, as well as texts, translations, and studies related to the cognate literature. Texts in Arabic will be the primary focus, but works produced in other languages will be included as well, especially Armenian, Hebrew, Persian, and Syriac. Volumes, which typically include an introduction, the original text with English translation, explanatory or textual notes, bibliography, and indices, are ideal for both scholars and students of religion, culture, and the history of exegesis during the medieval period. 2017 editors: James T. Robinson (general editor), John Lamoreaux, Sergio La Porta, Michael Sells, Shari Lowin, Samuel Thrope.

Journal of Biblical Literature

JBL offered a similarly expansive range of methods applied to a broad group of topics. Issue 1 began with Beverly Roberts Gaventa's Presidential Address from the SBL Annual Meeting in San Antonio: "Reading Romans 13 with Simone Weil: Toward a More Generous Hermeneutic." The issue also included a *JBL* Forum section titled "Black Lives Matter for Critical Biblical Scholarship," in which, General Editor Adele Reinhartz explains,

six scholars reflect on how racial violence and the movements that attempt to eradicate such violence intersect with the field of biblical studies, both as an area of research and teaching and as an academic guild, on the complex relationship between scholarship and the larger historical and social context within which we experience ourselves as scholars, as members of intersecting groups and communities, and as human beings.

The intersection of texts with historical and social contexts and with one another was a recurring theme with many of the remaining fifty-one articles of *JBL* volume 136. One article, for example, related Mary's Magnificat and the price of corn in modern-day Mexico; another viewed Mosaic torah against the background of the law of Ahura Mazda and Zarathustra; still another explored rabbinic traditions in Jerome's translation of Numbers. As usual, *JBL* also published focused examinations of discrete texts within the Hebrew Bible (twenty-six articles), Deuterocanon (two), New Testament (nineteen), and related ancient topics and works (five), including extracanonical psalms from Papyrus Amherst 63 and a reconstructed calendrical scroll from Qumran.

The articles and Forum pieces were authored by sixty-two scholars: fourteen women (23 percent) and forty-eight men (77 percent), a distribution that corresponds closely to the composition of the Society as a whole as well as the proposals for publication submitted to *JBL* (22 percent women and 78 percent men). These authors are located primarily in the United States, although 37 percent live and work elsewhere, including Australia (one), Belgium (one), Canada (one), Finland (two), France (one), Germany (four), Ireland (one), Israel (five), the Netherlands (one), Norway (one), Switzerland (one), and the United Kingdom (four).

All *JBL* articles are subject to rigorous peer review, which is primarily the responsibility of the forty-eight members of *JBL*'s editorial board: William Adler, Elizabeth Boase, Jo-Ann A. Brant, David M. Carr, Richard J. Clifford, Kelley Coblentz Bautch, Colleen Conway, Toan Do, Georg Fischer, Paula Fredriksen, Wil Gafney, Frances Taylor Gench, Shimon Gesundheit, Mark Goodacre, Martien A. Halvorson-Taylor, Rachel Havrelock, Else K. Holt, David G. Horrell, L. Ann Jervis, Jonathan Klawans, Jennifer Knust, Bruce W. Longenecker, Michael A. Lyons, Daniel Machiela, Christl M. Maier, John W. Marshall, Shelly Matthews, Naphtali Meshel, Christine Mitchell, Ken M. Penner, Pierluigi Piovanelli, Mark Reasoner, Annette Yoshiko Reed, Thomas Römer, Dalit Rom-Shiloni, Jean-Pierre Ruiz, Seth L. Sanders, Konrad Schmid, William M. Schniedewind, Claudia Setzer, Abraham Smith, Johanna Stiebert, John T. Strong, D. Andrew Teeter, Matthew Thiessen, Steven Tuell, Emma Wasserman, Lawrence M. Wills. The members of the editorial board,

under the leadership of General Editor Adele Reinhartz and with the assistance of Managing Editor Christopher Hooker and Editorial Assistant Caitlin J. Montgomery, provide the broad and expert coverage of our discipline that enables *JBL* to maintain its status as the flagship journal of the field.

Review of Biblical Literature

After a year of significant changes in 2016, *RBL* devoted itself in 2017 to broadening its coverage of the field by expanding its editorial board, as Alicia Batten, Greg Carey, Rachelle Gilmour, Rhiannon Graybill, Lee M. Jefferson, Davina C. Lopez, Mark A. Matson, and Carol Meyers were added to the existing editorial board of Rubén R. Dupertuis, Mark W. Hamilton, Lynn R. Huber, James Alfred Loader, Christoph Marksches, and General Editor Jan G. van der Watt. The more than doubling of the editorial board enables *RBL* to draw from a wider pool of reviewers and thus to cover a broader range of subjects with greater expertise.

During 2017, *RBL* published 457 reviews across thirty-three segments of the discipline. The number of reviews for each category provides an enlightening view of publishing trends within the field: Reference Works (5); Biblical Themes (13); Ancient Near East (7); Languages (10); Archaeology and History (20); Hebrew Bible/Old Testament: General (26); Pentateuch (19); Former Prophets (14); Latter Prophets (28); Writings (14); Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical and Other Jewish Writings (12); Septuagint (5); Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Theology (2); Judaism: General (2); Judaism: Dead Sea Scrolls (7); Judaism: Rabbinic and Medieval (8); Judaism and Christianity (4); Greco-Roman World and Hellenism (4); New Testament: General (9); Jesus (17); Synoptic Gospels (44); John (20); Acts (8); Paul and the Pauline Epistles (63); General Epistles and Hebrews (16); Revelation (6); New Testament and Biblical Theology (2); Early Christianity and Early Christian Literature (24); History of Interpretation (8); Hermeneutics and Methods (12); Textual Criticism and Translation (15); Bible and Culture (5); Reception History (8).

These 457 reviews were contributed by scholars from thirty countries: Argentina (1); Australia (14); Austria (7); Belgium (2); Canada (13); Finland (4); France (1); Germany (27); Hungary (1); Ireland (2); Israel (15); Italy (7); Japan (2); Kenya (1); Lithuania (1); the Netherlands (21); New Zealand (4); Norway (6); Puerto Rico (1); Romania (3); Russia (4); Singapore (1); Solomon Islands (1); South Africa (17); Sweden (2); Switzerland (5); Turkey (1); United Arab Emirates (1); the United Kingdom (38); and the United States (254). This year approximately 44 percent of *RBL* reviews were authored by scholars outside of the United States.

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TC: A Journal of Biblical Textual Criticism

The 2017 volume of *TC* demonstrated once again the journal's commitment to publishing the finest peer-reviewed scholarly articles and book reviews in the area of textual criticism. The focus of this year's publications was the Hebrew Bible either on its own (Ville Mäkipelto, Timo Tekoniemi, and Miika Tucker) or in relation to the Septuagint (Anneli Aejmelaeus, Emanuel Tov, and Raimund Wirth). Because *TC* is an open-access journal, all of 2017's articles and reviews, as well as those of its first twenty-one volumes, can be accessed by anyone at the following URL: <http://purl.org/TC>.

TC is able to thrive as an open-access journal thanks to the efforts of its editorial team: General Editor Jan Krans; Assistant Editors Tommy Wasserman, Juha Pakkala, and Anneli Aejmelaeus; Book Review Editors Thomas J. Kraus and Michael Sommer (assistant); Technical Editor Tim Finney; and editorial board members James R. Adair Jr., Johann Cook, Claude E. Cox, Sidnie White Crawford, Bart D. Ehrman, Leonard J. Greenspoon, Peter M. Head, Michael W. Holmes, L. W. Hurtado, Arie van der Kooij, Johan Lust, Tobias Nicklas, John W. Olley, Melvin K. H. Peters, Albert Pietersma, and Klaus Wachtel.

The storylines of the last three Society Reports are all elements of a single narrative: SBL Press draws upon the talents and efforts of the most esteemed body of biblical studies scholars in the world, who author and edit books, essays, journal articles, and reviews that are then distributed to scholars, students, and interested nonprofessionals through varied print and electronic media, all in order to foster biblical scholarship through the written word.

2017 BOOK PUBLICATIONS

- ◆ Shawn Zelig Aster, *Reflections of Empire in Isaiah 1–39: Responses to Assyrian Ideology* (ANEM)
- ◆ A. Graeme Auld, *Life in Kings: Reshaping the Royal Story in the Hebrew Bible* (AIL)
- ◆ José E. Balcells Gallarreta, *Household and Family Religion in Persian-Period Judah: An Archaeological Approach* (ANEM)
- ◆ Alicia J. Batten, *Friendship and Benefaction in James* (ESEC)
- ◆ Mark J. Boda, *Exploring Zechariah, Volume 1: The Development of Zechariah and Its Role within the Twelve* (ANEM)
- ◆ Mark J. Boda, *Exploring Zechariah, Volume 2: The Development of Zechariah and Its Role within the Twelve* (ANEM)
- ◆ Theodore S. de Bruyn, Stephen A. Cooper, and David G. Hunter, *Ambrosiaster's Commentary on the Pauline Epistles: Romans* (WGRW)
- ◆ Dirk Büchner, ed., *The SBL Commentary on the Septuagint: An Introduction* (SCS)
- ◆ Barry S. Crawford and Merrill P. Miller, eds., *Redescribing the Gospel of Mark* (ECL)
- ◆ R. Alan Culpepper and Paul N. Anderson, eds., *John and Judaism: A Contested Relationship in Context* (RBS)
- ◆ William G. Dever, *Beyond the Texts: An Archaeological Portrait of Ancient Israel and Judah*
- ◆ Josette Elayi, *Sargon II, King of Assyria* (ABS)
- ◆ Karina Martin Hogan, Matthew Goff, and Emma Wasserman, eds., *Pedagogy in Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity* (EJL)
- ◆ Gerhard Karner, Frank Ueberschaer, and Burkard M. Zapff, eds., *Texts and Contexts of the Book of Sirach / Texte und Kontexte des Sirachbuches* (SCS)
- ◆ Francisco Lozada Jr., *Toward a Latino/a Biblical Interpretation* (RBS)
- ◆ Stephen D. Moore, *Gospel Jesuses and Other Nonhumans: Biblical Criticism Post-poststructuralism* (SemeiaSt)
- ◆ Vaitusi Nofoaiga, *A Samoan Reading of Discipleship in Matthew* (IVBS)
- ◆ James D. Nogalski, *The Book of the Twelve and Beyond: Collected Essays of James D. Nogalski* (AIL)
- ◆ Andrew B. Perrin, Kyung S. Baek, and Daniel K. Falk, eds., *Reading the Bible in Ancient Traditions and Modern Editions: Studies in Memory of Peter W. Flint* (EJL)
- ◆ Robert R. Phenix Jr. and Cornelia B. Horn, *The Rabbula Corpus: Comprising the Life of Rabbula, His Correspondence, a Homily Delivered in Constantinople, Canons, and Hymns* (WGRW)
- ◆ Vernon K. Robbins, Walter S. Melion, and Roy R. Jeal, eds., *The Art of Visual Exegesis: Rhetoric, Texts, Images* (ESEC)
- ◆ Robert H. von Thaden Jr., *Sex, Christ, and Embodied Cognition: Paul's Wisdom for Corinth* (ESEC)
- ◆ Justin M. Rogers, *Didymus the Blind and the Alexandrian Christian Reception of Philo* (SPhiloM)
- ◆ David Runia and Gregory Sterling, eds., *The Studia Philonica Annual XXIX, 2017* (SPhiloA)
- ◆ Eileen Schuller and Marie-Theres Wacker, eds., *Early Jewish Writings* (BibleWomen)
- ◆ Nadav Sharon, *Judea under Roman Domination: The First Generation of Statelessness and Its Legacy* (EJL)
- ◆ F. Scott Spencer, ed., *Mixed Feelings and Vexed Passions: Exploring Emotions in Biblical Literature* (RBS)
- ◆ Michael E. Stone, *Uncovering Ancient Footprints: Armenian Inscriptions and the Pilgrimage Routes of the Sinai*
- ◆ Nicole L. Tilford, *Sensing World, Sensing Wisdom: The Cognitive Foundation of Biblical Metaphors* (AIL)
- ◆ Gillian Townsley, *The Straight Mind in Corinth: Queer Readings across 1 Corinthians 11:2–16* (SemeiaSt)
- ◆ Charlie Trimm, *Fighting for the King and the Gods: A Survey of Warfare in the Ancient Near East* (RBS)
- ◆ Tommy Wasserman and Peter J. Gurry, *A New Approach to Textual Criticism: An Introduction to the Coherence-Based Genealogical Method* (RBS); copublished with Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft
- ◆ Jan G. van der Watt, *Review of Biblical Literature* (RBL)
- ◆ Henrietta L. Wiley and Christian A. Eberhart, eds., *Sacrifice, Cult, and Atonement in Early Judaism and Christianity: Constituents and Critique* (RBS)

International Cooperation Initiative

In 2017 the ICI executive board changed structure, shifting from an executive board to a committee of SBL Council. The year 2017 also represented the final year of Louis Jonker's term as chair of the ICI executive board. Louis's tireless energy has been a vital part of ICI's success, and the successful transition to a committee of Council is due in no small part to his leadership.

Long-standing ICI programs continued their work throughout 2017. The ICI Newsletter continues to be a vital source of information for global biblical scholarship. A total of fifty SBL members have now volunteered to teach in an ICI country facilitated by the ICI Liaison Network. Forty-five new books were added to the ICI Repository, making them available to all users in ICI countries.

Another large shift has been the expansion and change in travel grants. In past years, travel grants were awarded by a single committee and were available only for the Annual Meeting. Beginning with the 2018 awards, recipients can now choose to apply the award to the Annual Meeting or the International Meeting. In addition, awards will now be granted by panels from four regions of the world (Africa and Middle East, Asia and Pacific, Eastern Europe, Latin America and Caribbean). Each panel will allot \$3,000 in the manner they determine most suitable. This represents a large increase in the funds available for these awards and a process that is better able to respond to the particular needs of each region. A member of the ICI committee will participate on each regional panel.



Biblical Studies Resources for Secondary School Teachers and Classrooms

In the past several years, SBL has been involved in a number of efforts to explore ways of teaching the Bible in US secondary schools, especially public schools, in ways that are up to date with contemporary scholarship, nonsectarian, and in line with constitutional law. For many years, this included the *Teaching the Bible* newsletter and other resources on the SBL website.

The task force charged with this work eventually evolved into the Educational Resources and Review Committee. With the help of a grant from the [First Amendment Center of the Newseum Institute](#), this committee has been working on the development of a number of modules that deal with aspects of the Bible, the ancient Near East, the Greco-Roman world, and other areas related to biblical studies. Each module, developed in collaboration between biblical scholars and high school teachers, provides structured lessons designed to be incorporated into larger English language arts, US history, and world history curricula.

To date, five modules have been completed:

- ◆ The Story of Joseph from Genesis (English Language Arts)
- ◆ Early Christian Martyrdom: The Passion of Perpetua (World History)
- ◆ Monotheism and Polytheism in the Ancient Near East (World History)
- ◆ Jesus and His Teachings (World History)
- ◆ Paul and the Spread of Christianity (World History)

Another ten modules are in development and scheduled for completion in 2018.

The next stage of this project is for the modules to be deployed in classrooms using them as part of the larger subject curricula. The [Georgia 3Rs Project](#), led by the Religious Freedom Center of the Newseum Institute, will be taking the lead in working with three public school systems in Georgia—one urban, one suburban, and one rural—to foster adoption and use of the modules.

The deployment of these modules represents a significant achievement and is the result of a tremendous amount of effort and labor by the committee charged with their creation. In particular, Mark Chancey, chair first of the taskforce and now of the committee, has been absolutely essential in their creation. Many thanks and congratulations are due to Mark and all of the members of the ERRC for their fine work.



Bible Odyssey

Bible Odyssey's transition to the Scholastica platform to track the peer review and editorial process is now complete. New articles are in production and starting to appear on the website. The editorial board has begun the process of examining how Bible Odyssey can expand with new features and content in a second phase of development.

Bible Odyssey continues to see remarkable traffic. On average, Bible Odyssey sees about 3,500 hits per day, and at peak times of year that swells to over 5,000 hits per day. Ask-a-Scholar continues to be heavily used by visitors to the site and provides a great way for scholars to connect with interested members of the public. SBL members who are interested in answering questions are encouraged to volunteer.

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Was the Gospel of Thomas Gnostic?

The origins of the Gospel of Thomas—and the accuracy of its classification as a Gnostic text—are enigmatic.

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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
Luke's Nativity

The Gospel of Luke's nativity story didn't indicate the date of Jesus's birth so the church assigned it a December date that people were already celebrating insuring that Christmas would never become fully Christian holiday.

Capernaum

Capernaum was a small Jewish fishing and agricultural community on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee that figures prominently in the Gospels' depictions of Jesus.

Jewish and Christian Interpretation of the Song of Songs

The Song of Songs contains no mention of God, so interpreters throughout the centuries have had to read it creatively in order to find any theological significance.

Daniel in Later Literature

Daniel was popular in Jewish and Christian literature, where he was seen as a prophet and a model of Jewish faith in a pagan world.

Jesus and Women

Jennifer Knust on the ways that Jesus included women but also reflected typical views of women of his times.

Browse by subject - click on a letter below.

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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. For information on presenting at a regional meeting or applying for a Regional Scholar Award, see the webpages of the individual regional meetings ([here](#)).

Courtney Friesen, Paul J. Achtemeier Award for New Testament Scholarship

Courtney, a member of SBL since 2010, has been teaching at the University of Arizona in Tucson since 2015, prior to which he was an Instructor of Greek at the University of Oxford. He completed his PhD from the University of Minnesota in 2013. In 2015, he published a book with Mohr Siebeck entitled *Reading Dionysus: Euripides' Bacchae and the Cultural Contestations of Greeks, Jews, Romans, and Christians*.

Edwina Murphy, De Gruyter Prize for Biblical Studies and Reception History

Edwina is Lecturer in Church History at Morling College, Sydney (affiliated with the Australian College of Theology and the University of Divinity). Her research interests revolve around Cyprian of Carthage and the early Christian interpretation of Scripture.

Carly Crouch, David Noel Freedman Award for Excellence and Creativity in Hebrew Bible Scholarship

Carly is Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible at the University of Nottingham (UK) and author of *War and Ethics in the Ancient Near East* (De Gruyter, 2009), *The Making of Israel* (Brill, 2014), *Israel and the Assyrians* (SBL Press, 2014), and *An Introduction to the Study of Jeremiah* (Bloomsbury, 2017). She is writing a monograph on Israelite and Judahite identities on the cusp of and in the aftermath of the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BCE, as well as an introduction to Isaiah for T&T Clark's Study Guides to the Old Testament.



Courtney Friesen



Edwina Murphy



Carly Crouch

Regional Scholars

CARRIE ELAINE DUNCAN is an assistant professor of Religious Studies at the University of Missouri, Columbia. She earned a BA in Archaeology from Tufts University in 2000; an MA in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations from Harvard University in 2004; and an MA and PhD in Religious Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2008 and

2012, respectively. She received both a Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation Fellowship and a UNC Royster Society Fellowship for her dissertation research on representations of gender in Late Antique Jewish funerary inscriptions. Carrie has participated in numerous archaeological projects in Italy, Greece, Israel, and Jordan. She is currently a senior staff member with the Petra North Ridge Project and Tall al-Umayri Excavations and is the assistant director of the Ayn Gharandal Archaeological Project. Her recent research investigates expressions of religiosity among Roman soldiers in southern Jordan during the fourth century.



Carrie Elaine Duncan

T. CHRISTOPHER HOKLOTUBBE (Th.D., Harvard Divinity School) is a Louisville Institute Postdoctoral Fellow and Postdoctoral Faculty Fellow in Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University. Before arriving at LMU, he served as a Visiting Assistant Professor of New Testament and Early Christian History at Andover Newton Theological School. His forthcoming book, *Civilized Piety: The Rhetoric of PIETAS in the Pastoral Epistles and the Roman Empire* (Baylor University Press, 2017), examines the multifaceted sociopolitical functions that “piety” served within various cultural fields of the ancient Mediterranean world. This study argues that ancient discourses on piety illuminate the Pastoral Epistles’ own strategies of negotiating imperial culture and brokering power among patrons and rival religious experts. Chris’s scholarship is driven by his interest in how early Christian constructions of identity, ethics, and theology reflect a dynamic engagement with the Roman Empire and philosophical traditions.



T. Christopher Hoklotubbe

The recipients of the 2018 Regional Scholar Award are Jill Hicks-Keeton (PhD, Duke University), Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, University of Oklahoma, Jennifer Elizabeth Singletary (PhD, Brown University), and Chontel Syfox (PhD Candidate, University of Notre Dame).

Status of Women in the Profession Committee Mentor Award

EILEEN SCHULLER is Professor (emerita) in the Department of Religious Studies at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, where she has held the Senator William McMaster Chair in the Study of Religion. She has edited various prayer and psalm manuscripts from the Dead Sea Scrolls for Discoveries in the Judaean Desert. She has written on women in the Dead Sea Scrolls and in early Judaism, and a more popular book *The Dead Sea Scrolls: What Have We Learned?* (2006).



Eileen Schuller

TRAVEL 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.

GREGORY THOMAS BASKER is a biblical scholar from South India, who has taught New Testament and Christian Origins for the past seven years at the Tamilnadu Theological Seminary, Madurai. Having had his initial theological education in India, Dr. Basker received his Dr. Theol. in biblical hermeneutics from the University of Heidelberg in 2014. His specific areas of interest include, but are not limited to, biblical hermeneutics in the postcolonial/postmodern perspective, comparative religious studies and intercultural, ethnic-specific interpretations of the Bible. Dr. Basker now joins the biblical studies department of the United Theological College, Bangalore, where he will continue to teach the New Testament.

TSHOKOLO J. MAKUTOANE is a senior lecturer in the Department of Hebrew at the University of the Free State (Bloemfontein, South Africa) where he teaches Biblical Hebrew and Bible translation. His research focuses on the oral-written interface of the Hebrew Bible in African contexts and on a typological approach to Biblical Hebrew grammar for African students and scholars. He obtained both an MA in Language Practice in 2003 and a PhD in Near Eastern Studies in 2011 at the University of the Free State.

VAITUSI NOFOAIGA, a graduate of the University of Auckland New Zealand, is currently a Head Lecturer of New Testament Studies at Malua Theological College in Samoa. He is the author of *A Samoan Reading of Discipleship in Matthew*, published in 2017 by SBL Press in the International Voices in Biblical Studies series.



Gregory Thomas Basker

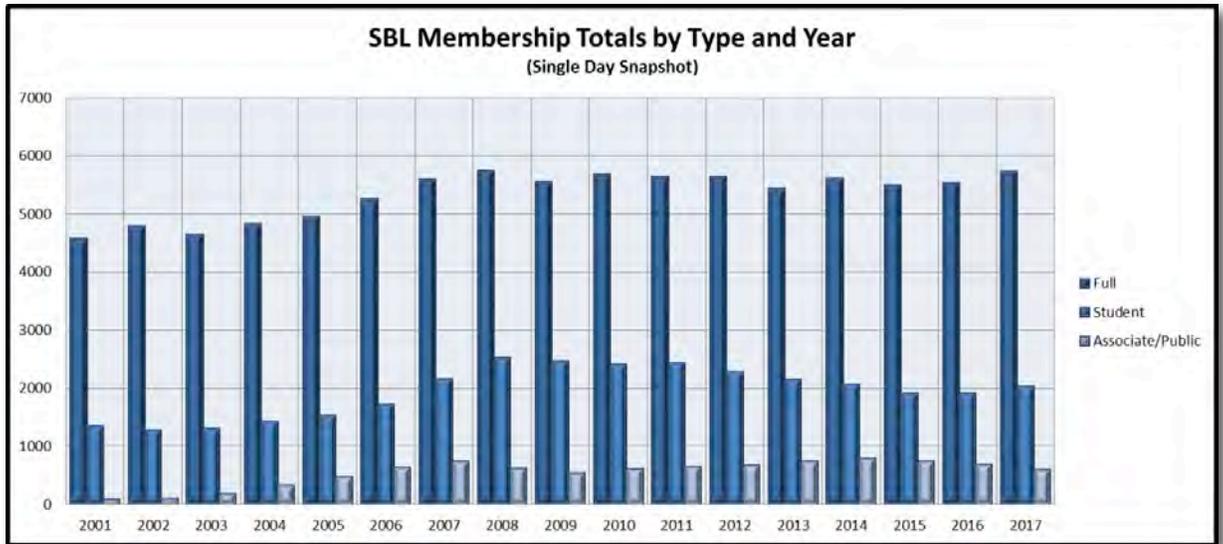


Tshokolo J. Makutoane



Vaitusi Nofoaiga

Membership in the Society has grown this year to record levels. We currently have 8,355 members from around the world and more members from outside the United States than ever before.



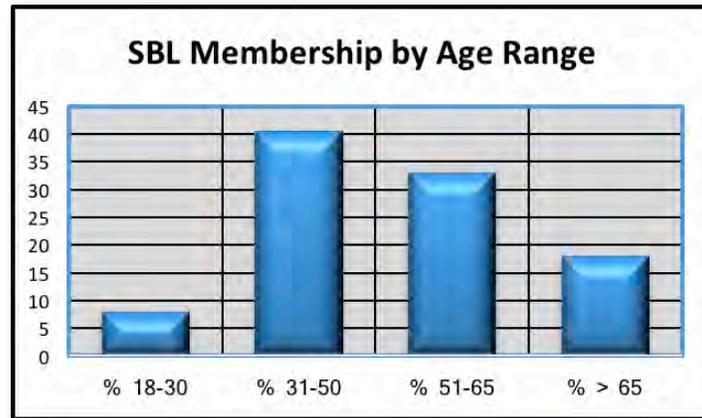
The majority of our members, 5,721, are full members. This is an increase of 200 members over last year’s full membership number. Our public members have decreased to 606, a decrease of 89 members from 2016. The Society continues to nurture student biblical scholars; our student membership now numbers 2,019, an increase of 103 members from last year’s figure.

The membership of the SBL has become more geographically diverse in 2017. The percentage of members from outside the U.S. has been increasing over the last eleven years. In 2001 non-US members made up only 23 percent of our total membership. Today 35 percent of our members live outside the U.S. SBL members live in 94 countries. Women make up 24.37 percent of our membership today, men make up 75.57 percent, and transgender members represent .06 percent. About 43 percent of SBL members identify an ethnicity as a part of their member profile. Of those, 90.1 percent identify as of European or Caucasian descent; 3.3 percent identify as of Asian descent; 3.3 percent identify as of African descent; 2.3 percent identify as of Latin American descent; 0.8 percent identify as of Native American, Alaskan Native, or First Nation descent; and 0.1 percent identify as of Native Hawaiian or Oceanian descent. These percentages generally correspond to those of 2016.



MEMBERSHIP

The majority of our members (42 percent) fall in the age range of 31-50 years of age, closely followed by the group between the ages of 51-65 (32 percent). This has not changed significantly from last year's demographic figures, but the 31-50 years of age category did increase by 1 percent from last year. The remaining members are divided: 19 percent of our membership is above the age of 65 (increase of 1 percent over last year) while 7 percent is below the age of 30 (a decrease of about 1%).



The Society of Biblical Literature now has members in 94 countries, compared to 92 last year. The distribution of members can be seen below. The darker blue areas of the map represent countries with at least one member.



The Society of Biblical Literature has 449 members from 64 International Cooperative Initiative (ICI) countries. There are 2 more countries represented than last year, and membership in ICI countries has gone up by 9 members. Large numbers of these members are concentrated in South Africa, the Philippines, and Poland. Many of the countries have only one or two members.

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION JUNE 30, 2017 AND 2016

	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>FY 2016</u>
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,762,171	\$1,595,269
Marketable securities	3,117,468	2,454,030
Accounts receivable	151,135	159,434
Prepaid expenses and other assets	70,621	49,710
Book inventories, net of valuation reserve	97,215	97,672
Furniture and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	30,485	51,424
Net share of Luce Center assets	<u>1,937,756</u>	<u>1,918,252</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$7,166,851</u>	<u>\$6,325,791</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$233,353	\$215,264
Deferred revenue		
Memberships and subscriptions	512,509	499,528
Annual meetings	917,488	807,817
International meeting	157,752	89,445
Other	<u>4,616</u>	<u>43,843</u>
Total Deferred Revenues	<u>1,592,365</u>	<u>1,440,633</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>1,825,718</u>	<u>1,655,897</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted net assets	4,521,267	3,953,974
Temporarily restricted net assets	525,236	421,290
Permanently restricted net assets	<u>294,630</u>	<u>294,630</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>5,341,133</u>	<u>4,669,894</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$7,166,851</u>	<u>\$6,325,791</u>

Comments:

1. SBL continues to grow, with eight consecutive years of increases in net assets. The increase for FY 2017 was \$671,239, as shown on the Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets.
2. SBL transferred \$181,315 from cash flow to investments in fiscal year 2017. 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. FY2017 revenues were under budget by \$52,037, while expenses were under budget by \$187,178.

FINANCES

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

BUDGET 2017–2018

	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>FY 2016</u>
REVENUES AND GAINS		
Congresses	\$1,425,860	\$1,367,273
Membership		
Membership fees	589,953	582,354
Marketing	43,894	43,475
Professions		
Employment Center	78,334	81,506
Grant Revenue	38,762	5,289
Fonts	500	150
Publications		
Book Sales	497,454	414,796
Subscriptions	256,340	269,129
Royalties	93,218	124,056
Marketing	26,025	20,000
Permissions	20,703	11,258
Membership	104,109	99,408
Contract Income	50,000	50,000
Fees	10,366	16,033
Development and fundraising	40,280	84,980
Investment income, net	454,634	10,933
Rental income, net	20,263	(1,079)
Total Revenues and Gains	\$3,750,695	\$3,179,561
EXPENSES		
Program expenses		
Congresses	\$1,087,905	\$940,162
Membership	193,682	190,421
Professions	274,651	360,723
Publications	1,177,409	1,104,791
Regions	67,644	123,155
Research and Technology	67,472	129,424
Total Program Expenses	2,868,763	2,848,676
Development and fundraising	34,056	54,002
General and administration	176,637	185,267
Total Expenses	\$3,079,456	\$3,087,945
Increase in Net Assets	671,239	91,616
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	4,669,894	4,578,278
Net Assets at End of Year	\$5,341,133	\$4,669,894

Revenues	
Congresses	\$1,446,500
Development	75,000
Membership	631,500
Professions	89,256
Publications	1,062,167
Total Revenue	\$3,304,423
Expenses	
Administration	\$124,617
Congresses	1,125,641
Development	33,435
Membership	179,062
Professions	333,540
Publications	1,301,388
Regions	47,326
Technology	67,244
Total Expense	\$3,212,253
Budgeted Increase in Net Assets	\$92,170

The financial information summarized here was derived from the Society's audited financial statements. The independent auditor's report by Mauldin & Jenkins, dated 12 October 2017, 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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Book of Daniel

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Reinhard Müller
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Book of Psalms

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Book of the Twelve Prophets

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Chronicles-Ezra-Nehemiah

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Paige Schmidt

Paige Schmidt joined SBL in March as the new Manager of Programs. Paige holds a B.S. from Kennesaw State University in Human Services, with a concentration in nonprofit management. Paige comes to SBL having previous worked in association management at Kellen. On Saturdays Paige can be found shouting "Go Blue!" while watching the University of Michigan play football.



Christopher Hooker

After nine years with SBL, both as the Font Coordinator and Serials and Digital Resources Manager, Chris brings his combined knowledge of biblical studies and technology into a new role as the Associate Director of Membership and Programs. Chris holds a BA in religion from Florida State University, master's degrees from Columbia Theological Seminary and Princeton Theological Seminary, and is finishing his PhD dissertation at Princeton Theological Seminary. His research interests include wisdom literature, textual criticism, and the digital humanities.



Jonathan M. Potter

Beginning in January of 2018, Jonathan M. Potter will join the SBL staff as Serials Manager. No stranger to the SBL family, Jonathan comes to us following his role as a volume editor for *Jesus and Mary Reimagined in Early Christian Literature* (SBL Press, 2015) and previous editor and contributor of *Bible Odyssey*. In addition to this, Jonathan served as a Digital Scholarship Specialist at the Emory Center for Digital Scholarship for five years and is a PhD candidate in New Testament in Emory's Graduate Division of Religion.



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