

ICI REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2011

First of all, from all of us to all of us, best wishes for 2012!

(a) ICI MEETING/S AT THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING and ICI NEWS

We had a very good ICI meeting in late November 2011. There was much appreciation for the different ICI programs and some new ideas. There were some comments that we should improve some pages in the website. We will try to do something, but we have to keep in mind that the entire SBL site is in the process of being revamped.

I would like to encourage those who participated in the meeting to share their comments in this list.

(b) ICI Liaison Network

An important item of news: Nathaniel Levtow has asked to be relieved from managing the ICI Liaison Network due to his many other commitments. I want to express the SBL's and my own appreciation for all his work for ICI and I am sure that you will join me in doing so. Leigh Andersen and Tim Langille will take care of the ICI Liaison Network from January 2012. Please let them settle in their tasks during this month.

(c) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS

We are continuing our efforts to add new publishers to our program and we hope to announce additional participants in the coming months.

(d) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS – NEW BOOKS ADDED

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

The following books were added since the last report:

- (1) Hidary, Richard. *Dispute for the Sake of Heaven: Legal Pluralism in the Talmud*. Brown Judaic Studies 351. Providence: Brown Judaic Studies, 2010.

This book explores how the rabbis of the Talmud thought about and dealt with pluralism in Jewish law. The rabbis remembered the terrible consequences of Second Temple sectarianism and strove for unity and even uniformity of practice; they also had thousands of legal disputes and were not always willing to compromise. This volume analyzes dozens of talmudic passages dealing with the balance between peace within the community, on the one hand, and the need for each rabbi to follow his vision of truth, on the other. The Talmud Yerushalmi and the Talmud Bavli present two significantly different models for dealing with such legal pluralism based on their respective cultural and political contexts within the Roman and Sasanian Empires.

- (2) O’Hare, Daniel M. *“Have You Seen, Son of Man?”: A Study in the Translation and Vorlage of LXX Ezekiel 40–48*. Septuagint and Cognate Studies 57. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2010.

This work examines the *Vorlage* of LXX Ezekiel 40–48, arguing that it represents a reworking of these chapters in light of the book as a whole. The author applies *Skopostheorie*, a modern functional theory of translation, to understand the goals of translation in LXX Ezekiel 40–48, which include highlighting the distance and hence authority of the source text, suggesting solutions to problems posed by the text, and updating elements of the vision in light of Hellenistic culture. The goal of the translation was both to preserve the authority and to heighten the persuasive power of these chapters for Hellenistic readers of LXX Ezekiel.

- (3) Reymond, Eric D. *New Idioms within Old: Poetry and Parallelism in the Non-Masoretic Poems of 11Q5(=11QP^s^a)*. Early Judaism and Its Literature 31. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2011.

This volume explores the language and poetic structure of the seven non-Masoretic poems preserved in the Dead Sea Scroll labeled 11Q5 or 11QP^s^a. It presents fresh readings of the Hebrew poems, which were last studied intensively almost fifty years ago, stressing their structural and conceptual coherence and incorporating insights gained from the scholarship of recent decades. Each chapter addresses a single poem and describes its poetic structure, including its use of parallelism and allusion to scripture, as well as specific problems related to the poem’s interpretation. In addition, the book considers these poems in relation to

what they reveal about the development of Hebrew poetry in the late Second Temple period.

- (4) Rollston, Christopher A. *Writing and Literacy in the World of Ancient Israel: Epigraphic Evidence from the Iron Age*. Archaeology and Biblical Studies 11. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2010.

Ancient Northwest Semitic inscriptions from Israel, Phoenicia, Syria, Moab, Ammon, Edom, and Philistia enlighten and sharpen our vision of the Old Testament world in various ways. *Writing and Literacy in the World of Ancient Israel* focuses on this epigraphic evidence in order to broaden our understanding of the techniques and roles of writing, education, and literacy during this biblical period. To that end, the volume systematically covers scribal education; scribal implements; writing media such as stones, potsherds, and plaster; and the religious, administrative, and personal uses of writing. Its “handbook” format makes it easily accessible, including for use as a textbook in courses addressing the cultural context of ancient Israel.

This book is the winner of the 2011 Frank Moore Cross Award.

- (5) Runia, David T. and Gregory E. Sterling, eds. *The Studia Philonica Annual: Studies in Hellenistic Judaism, Volume XXII (2010)*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2010.

The *Studia Philonica Annual* is a scholarly journal devoted to furthering the study of Hellenistic Judaism, and in particular the writings and thought of the Hellenistic-Jewish writer Philo of Alexandria (circa 15 B.C.E. to circa 50 C.E.).

ARTICLES

Ekaterina Matusova, Allegorical Interpretation of the Pentateuch in Alexandria: Inscribing Aristobulus and Philo in a Wider Literary Context

Tatjana Alekniené, L’«extase mystique» dans la tradition platonicienne: Philon d’Alexandrie et Plotin

SPECIAL SECTION: PHILO’S *DE AGRICULTURA*

Gregory E. Sterling, Philo’s *De Agricultura*: Introduction

David T. Runia, The structure of Philo’s allegorical treatise *De Agricultura*

James R. Royse, Some Observations on the Biblical Text in Philo's De Agricultura
David Konstan, Of Two Minds: Philo On Cultivation

SPECIAL SECTION: PHILO'S *THE HYPOTHETICA*

Gregory E. Sterling, The Hypothetica: Introduction
Dulcinea Boesenberg, Philo's Descriptions of Jewish Sabbath Practice
Horacio Vela, Philo and the Logic of history
Michael Cover, Reconceptualizing Conquest: Colonial Narratives and Philo's Roman Accuser in the Hypothetica

BIBLIOGRAPHY SECTION

D. T. Runia, K. Berthelot, E. Birnbaum, A. C. Geljon, H. M. Keizer, J. Leonhardt-Balzer, J. P. Martín, M. R. Niehoff, T. Seland,
 Philo of Alexandria: An Annotated Bibliography 2007
 Supplement: A Provisional Bibliography 2008–2010

BOOK REVIEW SECTION

Reviews by Pieter W. van der Horst, James R. Royse, Manuel Alexandre Jr, Gregory E. Sterling, René Bloch, Katell Berthelot, Craig Keener, John T. Conroy, Jr, Harold W. Attridge, Alison G. Salvesen, and David T. Runia

- (6) Schüssler Fiorenza, Elisabeth and Kent Harold Richards, eds. *Transforming Graduate Biblical Education: Ethos and Discipline*. Global Perspectives on Biblical Scholarship 10. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2010.

This unique collection of essays, originating in seminars held at SBL's Annual and International Meetings, explores the current ethos and discipline of graduate biblical education from different social locations and academic contexts. It includes international voices of well-established scholars who have urged change for some time alongside younger scholars with new perspectives. The individual contributions emerge from a variegated set of experiences in graduate biblical studies and a critical analysis of those experiences. The volume is divided into four areas of investigation. The first section discusses the ethos of biblical studies and social location, and the second explores different cultural-national formations of the discipline. The third section considers the experiences and visions of graduate biblical studies, while the last section explores how to transform the discipline. All the contributions offer ways to transform graduate biblical education so that it

becomes a socializing power that, in turn, can transform the present academic ethos of biblical studies. The contributors are Cynthia M. Baker, Athalya Brenner, Philip Chia, Thomas Fabisiak, Wil Gafney, Gabriella Gelardini, Melanie Johnson-DeBaufre, Nyasha Junior, Brigitte Kahl, Cynthia Briggs Kittredge, Archie C. C. Lee, Kyung Sook Lee, Joseph A. Marchal, Roberto Mata, Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon, Kent Harold Richards, Susanne Scholz, Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, Abraham Smith, Yak-hwee Tan, Hal Taussig, Elaine M. Wainwright, and Vincent L. Wimbush.

(e) ONLINE PUBLICATIONS: ANEM/MACO & IVBS

The recent volumes published in ANEM/MACO and IVBS drew a lot of attention at the meeting. We anticipate that excellent additional volumes will be published through both series in 2012. To download these volumes, please click on the links below:

<http://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/9781589835962.pdf>

(Lenzi, Alan, ed. *Reading Akkadian Prayers and Hymns: An Introduction*)

<http://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/9781589835993etext.pdf>

(Grabbe, Lester L., and Martti Nissinen, eds. *Constructs of Prophecy in the Former and Latter Prophets and Other Texts*)

<http://ivbs.sbl-site.org/uploads/Reading%20Tu'a-wise.pdf>

(Vaka'uta, Nāsili. *Reading Ezra 9–10 Tu'a-wise: Rethinking Biblical Interpretation in Oceania*)

<http://ivbs.sbl-site.org/uploads/JONKER~1.PDF>

(Holter, Knut, and Louis Jonker, eds. *Global Hermeneutics?: Reflections and Consequences*)

(f) ICI TEACHING COLLABORATION

Please keep in mind the multiple ways open for teaching collaboration and mentoring. For more information, go to

<http://www.sbl-site.org/educational/ICITeaching.aspx>

(g) FUTURE SBL WEBSITE

With the support of an NEH grant, the SBL will be building an interactive website (Bible Odyssey) that invites general audiences to engage with biblical scholarship. The site will begin production immediately, with a planned launch in 2013.

(h) EVENTS

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

March 30-April 1 EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF BIBLICAL STUDIES GRADUATE SYMPOSIUM, Hamburg, Germany. For information contact Frauke Uhlenbruch [F.Uhlenbruch@derby.ac.uk]

June 13-15, 2012 SOCIETY OF ASIAN BIBLICAL STUDIES (SABS)

The next meeting of the Society of Asian Biblical Studies will be held in Sabah, Malaysia from the 13-15 June 2012. Arrival the 12th and departure on the 16th. Kindly block these dates in your calendar and look for updates on the SABS website. <http://www.sabs-site.com>

July 22-26 SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING (I-SBL)

The Universiteit van Amsterdam will host the 2012 SBL International Meeting. This meeting is in conjunction with the 2012 annual meeting of the European Association of Biblical Studies (EABS) and the triennial joint meeting of the Oudtestamentisch Werkgezelschap in Nederland en België (OTW) and the Society for Old Testament Study (SOTS).

August 28-30 OCEANIA BIBLICAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION (OBSA) ANNUAL MEETING

The meeting will be held at the Sia'atoutai Theological College in Tonga.

For more information please go to

<https://sites.google.com/site/wavesofthemoana/about-obsa>

or send an e-mail to OBSAMail@gmail.com

Note:

Please submit basic information about events to Sharon Johnson at sharon.johnson@sbl-site.org.

(g) PLEASE PASS THE INFORMATION

You are encouraged to distribute this report among all those you think might find it helpful. If you are a member of other professional organizations related to biblical studies, we urge you to send our newsletters to those responsible for communication within those groups as well.

Ehud Ben Zvi, SBL - International Cooperation Initiative