

ICI REPORT FOR MAY 2013

(a) SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN ST. ANDREWS, SCOTLAND & ICI SESSION

The meeting will be held from July 7 to July 11. The call for papers has closed.

The meeting will include an informal ICI session to exchange ideas, provide feedback and the like. The session is scheduled for July 8, 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM and it will take place at Meeting Room 10 - MBS (17). Please let me know if you plan to participate.

For [more information about the I-SBL](#).

Future I-SBL meetings:

- Vienna, Austria; July 6-10, 2014
- Buenos Aires, Argentina, July 20-24, 2015

(b) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS – WELCOMING A NEW PUBLISHER TO OUR PROJECT

We are glad to announce that Fortress Press has joined our project. A volume from Fortress has already been added to our depository.

(c) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS – NEW BOOKS ADDED

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

- (1) Collins, John J. *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004.

In this balanced and thorough introduction to the Hebrew Bible, John J. Collins takes his students on a historical-critical journey through biblical texts. With an accessible yet authoritative tone, he identifies the complex ethical issues raised by the text and challenges his students to understand the responsibilities of interpretation. Drawing on his many years of expert teaching, Collins produces a clear and concise tool for undergraduate, graduate, and seminary settings with maps, images, and suggestions for further reading to guide students along the way. and corruption, a place attracting judgment; but equally it is the focus for eschatological anticipations of a renewed community that does fulfil the ideal.

- (2) Joynes, Christine E. and Christopher C. Rowland, eds. *From the Margins 2: Women of the New Testament and Their Afterlives*. Bible in the Modern World 27. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2009.

Despite half a century of biblical interpretation that has sought to put women back on the agenda of ancient texts (written largely if not wholly by men), the dominant threads of narrative and doctrine have—with the notable exception of Mary the mother of Jesus—been focused on the lives and actions of men. Reception history tells a different story. It is not the case that there is a recovery of the lives of women hidden behind the pages of the New Testament, for our information remains as sparse and tantalizing as ever. Rather, the study of biblical women's 'afterlives' allows the imaginative engagement of artists and writers to broaden the horizon of interpretative expectations. Whether it is through historical imagination or the grasp of different portrayals of familiar biblical women (like Mary the mother of Jesus or Mary Magdalene), the creative genius of these interpreters, neglected by mainstream biblical textual scholars, only underlines the importance of the biblical women, viewed in the light of their afterlives.

This volume has its origins in a project entitled 'Biblical Women and their Afterlives' conceived and developed by the Centre for Reception History of the Bible at the University of Oxford and organized together with colleagues from the Luce Program in Scripture and Literary Arts at Boston University, USA. This project resulted not only in the present interdisciplinary collection of 21 essays (with their 66 illustrations) but also its companion volume *From the Margins 1: Women of the Hebrew Bible and their Afterlives*, edited by Peter S. Hawkins and Lesleigh Cushing Stahlberg.

The present volume includes the specially commissioned poem 'To Cast a Stone' by the acclaimed Irish poet John F. Deane.

- (3) Kim, Seong Hee. *Mark, Women and Empire: A Korean Postcolonial Perspective*. Bible in the Modern World 20. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2010.

As Mark's Gospel moves toward its climax, four stories of women challenge Jesus in his mission to establish the empire of God against the backdrop of the Roman Empire: those of the poor widow (12.41-44), the anointing woman (14.1-11), the women at the cross and the burial (15.40-41, 47), and the women at the empty tomb (16.1-8). They are stories that would seem to demand both a feminist and a postcolonial perspective on the part of their readers—yet Kim's is the first reading of the Gospel that has taken an explicitly postcolonial feminist stance.

In addition to the feminist and the postcolonial themes, the third strand in Seong Hee Kim's approach arises from her Korean context, which provides her with the

concept of Salim interpretation, that is, ‘making things alive’. Starting from the reader’s context, she develops a Salim hermeneutics for each of the four stories by engaging in a dialogue between the biblical story and the reader’s use of her or his own imagination. The goal of her interpretation is such a making things alive, a mending of broken things, and an opening up of meaning—in contrast to the tendency of historical criticism, which has striven to identify a single, correct meaning in the biblical text.

- (4) Schuller, Eileen M. and Carol A. Newsom. *The Hodayot (Thanksgiving Psalms: A Study Edition of 1QHa)*. Early Judaism and Its Literature, 36. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2012

1QHodayot is recognized as one of the most important of the Dead Sea Scrolls and key to understanding the specific worldview and piety of its author(s). It contains a collection of psalms giving thanks for deliverance, salvation, knowledge, and divine mercy. This volume contains the text of 1QHodayot published in the definitive Discoveries in the Judaean Desert volume 40 and the English translation from that volume, lightly revised. It provides the most up-to-date, accessible, and inexpensive access to the text, translation, and official numbering of the columns and lines of 1QH.

- (5) Runia, David T. and Gregory E. Sterling, eds. *The Studia Philonica Annual: Studies in Hellenistic Judaism, Volume XXIV*. Studia Philonica. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2012.

This volume assesses past, theoretically engaged work on Israelite religion and presents new approaches to particular problems and larger interpretive and methodological questions. Topics of interest to the contributors include gender, violence, social change, the festivals, the dynamics of shame and honor, and the relationship of text to ritual. The contributors engage theory from social and cultural anthropology, sociology, postcolonial studies, and ritual studies.

- (6) Singer, Itamar. *The Calm before the Storm: Selected Writings of Itamar Singer on the Late Bronze Age in Anatolia and the Levant*. Writings from the Ancient World Supplement, 1. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2011.

In a career that has spanned nearly four decades, more than thirty of them as Professor of Hittitology in the Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures at Tel Aviv University, Itamar Singer has had a profound impact on

the field of ancient Near Eastern studies, and Hittite studies in particular. His wide-ranging contributions have nowhere been more deeply felt than in the historical reconstruction of the international affairs of the thirteenth century B.C.E.—the end of the Bronze Age in the eastern Mediterranean. The essays collected in this volume are a testament to the impact of his research on understanding Hatti's diplomatic relations with the other great powers in this critical period of human history and on elucidating the complex dynamics that led to the disintegration of the Hittite Empire.

(d) ONLINE PROJECT OF THE BAYERISCHE STAATSBIBLIOTHEK

Many of you would be interested to know that the *Bayerische Staatsbibliothek* has digitized about 6,400 books (many of them published fairly recently). It allows everyone to download the full PDFs. These PDFs are fully searchable. The website is at <http://digi20.digitale-sammlungen.de>. (For those who prefer English, just click on the tiny British flag in the upper right corner of your screen.)

(e) JSTOR INITIATIVE

ASOR encourages you to sign up for free access to the latest issue of Near Eastern Archaeology (NEA) through JSTOR
<http://www.jstor.org/token/NEA761QbVkdZ9K6Vi9SV5V24Mx/mark.asor.org>

(f) ICI LIAISON NETWORK

For questions about the liaison network, please contact Tim Langille (tim.langille@gmail.com).

(g) ICI MEMBERSHIP

There are currently 270 SBL members who have joined at the special ICI rate. This represents 64.5% of the total membership from ICI countries. We are all pleased that many scholars in ICI countries who have the means have paid full membership dues, and are encouraged to realize a steady, although slow, uptick in the number of ICI members. Please encourage your students and colleagues to consider becoming members of SBL. For the special ICI membership form, go to <http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/onlinebooks.aspx>.

(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>

Please provide information on conferences in your region, including calls for papers, to Sharon Johnson at sharon.johnson@sbl-site.org.

May 30- June 2

St. Ambrose Conference on Bible and Justice

St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa will bring together scholars, clergy, and students from around the world to explore how the ancient texts of the Bible might address a variety of modern justice concerns, with a focus on gender, empire, poverty, and the environment. Along with our keynote speakers, Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, Richard Horsley, Elsa Tamez, and David Horrell, this conference will work to consider the relevance of the Bible to modern justice issues, while promoting bridges between biblical studies and various endeavors for a just world. A call for abstracts is now open for both professional and undergraduate sessions. For more information, please visit the conference website at: [http://www.sau.edu/Bible and Justice Conference.html](http://www.sau.edu/Bible_and_Justice_Conference.html)

July 7-11

SBL International Meeting

To be held in St. Andrews, Scotland. (As mentioned above, the meeting will include an informal ICI session to exchange ideas, provide feedback and the like). [More information](#)

July 30- Aug 2

EABS Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting of the European Association of Biblical Studies

Hosted by the University of Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany

[More information](#)

August 4-9 International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament (IOSOT)

The 21st Congress of the International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament (IOSOT) will take place at the University of Munich, Germany. As usual it will be joint with the Congresses of the International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies (IOSCS, 1.-3. of August), of the International Organization for Qumran Studies (IOQS), the International Organization for Masoretic Studies (IOMS), the International

Organization for Targum Studies (IOTS) and the International Syriac Language Project (ISLP). [More Information](#)

September 10-13 New Testament Society of Southern Africa

The annual conference of the New Testament Society of Southern Africa will take place from Tuesday 10 until Friday 13 September 2013 at UNISA in Pretoria, South Africa.

The Gender sub-group will host the conference with the theme “Interconnecting Discourses: Gender, Bible, Publics”. Paper proposals for the sessions of the Gender as well as other sub-groups can be submitted directly to sub-group leaders, and in the case of short papers, to the chairperson, until Friday, 28 June 2013. Enquiries can be directed to the secretary, Michael Sokupa (sokupam@hbc.ac.za) or the chairperson, Jeremy Punt (jpunt@sun.ac.za). More information is available at <http://www.newtestament.co.za>

November 23-26 SBL Annual Meeting

The SBL Annual Meeting is the largest gathering of biblical scholars in the world. Each meeting showcases the latest in biblical research, fosters collegial contacts, advances research, and focuses on issues of the profession. The Annual Meeting will be held in Baltimore, Maryland. [More information](#)

(i) 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.

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Ehud Ben Zvi, SBL - International Cooperation Initiative