

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE ICI REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2014

(a) THE NEXT SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING

We are very excited about the fact that the next SBL International Meeting will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 20-24 July 2015. It would be good to see scholars from all over the world attending this meeting, in order to deliberate and interact with our colleagues from Latin-America!

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

(b) SBL ANNUAL MEETING IN SAN DIEGO, CA

The SBL Annual Meeting will take place in San Diego, California, from 22-26 November. The Call for Papers is closed, and the online program book is available now.

See: http://sbl-site.org/meetings/Congresses_ProgramBook.aspx?MeetingId=25

Registration and accommodation bookings are open. See the following link:

http://sbl-site.org/meetings/meetings_registrationAM.aspx

A list of lower budget **accommodation** options in San Diego is available on request from Louis Jonker (lcj@sun.ac.za).

An **ICI forum meeting** will be held at the San Diego conference, where any interested person will be welcome to join us to share their ideas and views on how the work of the ICI can be expanded/improved. The meeting will take place on SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER at 09:30-10:30AM in San Diego Ballroom Salon A (Lobby level) - Marriott Marquis (MM). We look forward to meeting you there! *(If you can't attend, but nevertheless would like make a suggestion or propose something, feel free to send an e-mail in advance to Louis Jonker lcj@sun.ac.za).*

Some sessions will again be **webcast through WebEx video conferencing** to groups in other locations around the globe. The goal of this project is to make some of the scholarship and discussion that is presented at the Annual Meeting available to students and scholars who would not have an opportunity to participate otherwise. In 2013, we successfully transmitted six sessions via Webex conferencing over the internet to eleven ICI countries on three continents. We are using what we learned to improve the process for the 2014 meeting. The sessions below will be involved this year, and if you and a group in your context would still like to join this initiative, you should contact Leigh Andersen (leigh@sbl-org.org) as soon as possible. It is no longer possible to select

another session to be webcast to your institution, but it is still possible if your group would like to join one of the three following sessions:

S23-104 African Biblical Hermeneutics, 11/23/2014, 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

S24-149 Synoptic Gospels, 11/24/2014, 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

S24-210 Chronicles-Ezra-Nehemiah, 11/24/2014, 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM

(c) PUBLICATION IN ANEM/MACO

ANEM/MACO is a series that was established by the SBL at the request of the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI), and which is co-edited by Ehud Ben Zvi and Roxanna Flammini. The series publishes volumes on the Ancient Near East (including ancient Israel) electronically and makes them freely available for download. (Paperback and hardback versions of the volumes are available too, for a reasonable price.) Any work published in ANEM/MACO is freely available in electronic version to anyone in perpetuity. To view the volumes published in the series, please go to http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ANEmonographs.aspx

(d) PUBLICATION IN IVBS

IVBS is a series that was established by the SBL at the request of the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI), and which is co-edited by Monica Melanchthon and Jione Havea. IVBS encourages in particular submissions from scholars in the present seven international regions for which it has editorial boards: Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, Middle East-South Asia, Northeast Asia, Pacific, and Southeast Asia. Interregional collaborations are also welcome. IVBS publishes works in English and in any other language for which its editors can find qualified peer reviewers. Any work published in IVBS is freely available to anyone in perpetuity. The series publishes work generally in the area of reception history and criticism. The scope is not limited to any particular biblical text or historical timeframe. The works will mainly be published in English and, wherever possible, also in primary languages of authors. For more information please go to <http://ivbs.sbl-site.org/home.aspx>. If you would consider publishing your work in this series, feel free to contact one of the two general editors, [Monica Melanchthon](#) or [Jione Havea](#).

The latest volume in IVBS is:

MIGRATION AND DIASPORA: Exegetical Voices of Women in Northeast Asian Countries

Edited by Hisako Kinukawa

The third meeting of the Society of Asian Biblical Studies was held at Sabah in June 2012, addressing the theme of Migration and Diaspora. This book contains five essays written by women from Northeast Asian countries for this occasion. Three are on Hebrew Scriptures and two are on the Christian Testament. All writers used a cultural analysis of their own social locations, and literary, historical, and postcolonial criticism as their methods of reading the texts, even though they may not explicitly mention which criticisms are used.

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

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

(e) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS – NEW BOOKS ADDED

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

Reading the Dead Sea Scrolls: Essays in Method

Brooke, George J., *Reading the Dead Sea Scrolls: Essays in Method*. Early Judaism and Its Literature, 39. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2013.

The Dead Sea Scrolls, which have long captured the public imagination, are now all available in principal editions and accessible translations. This book addresses the next stage in their analysis by raising questions about how they should be read and studied. The essays collected here illustrate two approaches. First, some essays argue that traditional methods of studying ancient texts need to be refined and broadened in the light of the Scrolls. The volume thus contains studies on text criticism, literary traditions, lexicography, historiography, and theology. Second, the book also argues that innovative methods of study, applied fruitfully in other areas, now also need to be applied to the Scrolls, such as studies that consider the relevance for the Scrolls of deviance theory, cultural memory, hypertextuality, intertextuality, genre theory, spatial analysis, and psychology. Many of the examples in these studies relate to how authoritative scripture was handled and appropriated by the groups that gathered the Scrolls together in the caves at and near Qumran, so some of the same texts are analyzed from several different perspectives.

The Matter of the Text: Material Engagements between Luke and the Five Senses

Elvey, Anne F., *The Matter of the Text: Material Engagements between Luke and the Five Senses*. Bible in the Modern World, 37. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2011.

When the Lukan Jesus stands up to read in the Nazareth synagogue, he unrolls and rolls up a scroll. At this moment—which scholars have read as programmatic for the Gospel of Luke—the material text frames the written and spoken word. Here reading is an engagement with the senses of touch, sight and hearing. The organs of sense—skin, eyes, ears and mouth—function as mediators of the material text.

By contrast, our contemporary practices of reading as biblical scholars and critics commonly ignore the underlying materiality that is given to writing. In an ecological context where the mass production of Bibles is part of a consumerist economics that does not walk lightly on the Earth, and in an Australian postcolonial context where Bibles arrived as material artefacts of European colonizers, this book asks what modes of reading might best be suited to the materiality of the text.

Engaging with the Gospel of Luke and the five senses, *The Matter of the Text* enacts a mode of reading that attends to the underlying materiality of the text. Reading with the senses offers a way of imagining the mutual touching of artefact and writing and the absent presence of the material text, where matter is given to the word as a visible voice.

Through the 'I'-Window: The Inner Life of Characters in the Hebrew Bible

Leung Lai, Barbara. *Through the 'I'-Window: The Inner Life of Characters in the Hebrew Bible*. Hebrew Bible Monographs, 34. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press.

It is often said that the inner life of characters in the Hebrew Bible is inaccessible to us, and that we can know little or nothing about how they felt and thought. In this study, original in both its scope and its method, Barbara Leung Lai shows how wrong that assumption is. She directs our attention to the many places where her chosen characters, Daniel, Isaiah, and Yahweh, speak of themselves, using the first-person 'I' voice, and finds those to be a unique point of entry, or window, into the interiority of the characters.

To construct an interior profile of these characters, Leung Lai develops an integrated methodology of psychological exegesis, drawing upon psychological perspectives of personality, Bakhtinian views of polyphony and dialogism, current studies of emotion,

self and selfhood, and the empirics of reading under the rubric of reader-response literary criticism.

From these perspectives, Leung Lai can identify in Daniel two primary realms in his inner identity-seeing and emotive experiencing -- and can characterize Daniel's interior world as a world of paradoxes, of seeing without comprehending, hearing without the capacity to respond. Isaiah, on the other hand, exhibits a broad spectrum of emotions, from love, intimacy, joy and empathy to a sense of being under divine constraint, and to mourning, lament, doubt, distress, helplessness and despair. The prophet exhibits a profound sense of selfhood and subtle inner depths. The character of Yahweh is found to be most striking for its inner conflicts, with its frustrations, disappointments, pain and suffering.

This groundbreaking book will stimulate many readers to a new appreciation of characterization in the Hebrew Bible.

The Studia Philonica Annual: Studies in Hellenistic Judaism, Volume XXV, 2013

Runia, David T. and Gregory E. Sterling, eds. *The Studia Philonica Annual: Studies in Hellenistic Judaism, Volume XXV, 2013*. Studia Philonica Annual 25. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2013.

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

Content includes:

M. Jason Reddoch, Enigmatic Dreams and Onirocritical Skill in De Somniis

Nicole L. Tilford, "After the Ways of Women": the Aged Virgin in Philo's Transformation of the Philosophical Soul

Olivier Munnich, Dorypherein, doryphoros: l'image de la «garde» chez Philon d'Alexandrie

David Lincicum, Aeschylus in Philo, Anim. 47 and QE 2.6

SPECIAL SECTION: PHILO'S ANCIENT READERS

Gregory E. Sterling, Introduction

James R. Royse, Did Philo Publish His Works?

Gregory E. Sterling, "A Man of the Highest Repute": Did Josephus Know the Writings of Philo?

Jennifer Otto, Philo, Judaeus? A Re-evaluation of Why Clement Calls Philo "the Pythagorean"

INSTRUMENTA

David Lincicum, A Preliminary Index to Philo’s Non–Biblical Citations and Allusions

BIBLIOGRAPHY SECTION

BOOK REVIEW SECTION

A User’s Guide to the Nestle-Aland 28 Greek New Testament

Trobisch, David. *A User's Guide to the Nestle-Aland 28 Greek New Testament*. Text Critical Studies, 9. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2013.

This guide introduces the complex new edition of the Nestle-Aland Novum Testamentum Graece, 28 Edition, explaining its structure, the text-critical apparatus and appendices, and the innovations of the new edition.

(f) JBL ARCHIVE

Take note that an archive with JBL articles from volume 122.1 of 2003 through volume 130.1 of 2011 is now available online to people accessing the SBL website from any ICI country. See http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/ICI_JBLarchive.aspx. All articles in those volumes can be downloaded for free!

(g) BIBLE ODYSSEY

We have received the following message from the Executive Director of SBL, John Kutsko about the Bible Odyssey website:

“Dear Colleagues,

It has been just two months since SBL launched the [Bible Odyssey](#) website, and we are receiving a regular and enthusiastic flow of thoughtful questions from visitors. We are grateful to the NEH for supporting SBL’s public humanities’ initiative. This is exciting work—bringing biblical scholarship to the general public.

Here is just a snapshot of Bible Odyssey statistics:

- Besides many visitors in North America and Europe, we have strong traffic from Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, and Israel.

- The site is averaging more than 200 visitors per day—and rising.
- Visitors are especially drawn to video content.
- People are very interested in “life in first century Galilee” and “how the Hebrew Bible relates to the ancient Near East,” as well as “the binding of Isaac” and “the woman caught in adultery.” Folks find their way to big questions, such as “how the Bible was written and transmitted.”
- Top visits from academic institutions include Baylor, Notre Dame, Belmont, College of the Holy Cross, Emory, Catholic University of America, and Duke.

Cooler of all, however, is the “Ask the Scholar” button. Some of the questions sent in are

- Why does God speak in the plural in Genesis?
- Was John the Baptist an Essene?
- How many scholars believe that Q existed as a source for Matthew and Luke?
- Has the biblical figure of Satan evolved?
- Why is *’almah* in Proverbs 30:19 translated differently?
- How does domestic architecture vary in the Second Temple period?

I’d like to ask again for your help. If you are involved in religious education, I hope you will share this site with instructors and students. If you are a professor, I hope you’ll link to us from your home page and share the site in and out of your classroom. If you use it in the classroom, tell us how. And if you tweet, blog, facebook, or reddit, I hope you will put in a good word for us. It’s proof of the power of social media that most people find Bible Odyssey via Facebook and other referrals.

It is our hope that this site will be an advocate for you by showing the complexity, relevance, and hard work that goes into biblical scholarship.

Thank you for your efforts to foster Bible Odyssey.

Sincerely

(Signed) John Kutsko”

Those who have used Bible Odyssey will surely be able to confirm how great a resource this is! Please spread the message to students, colleagues, and church leaders. In this way responsible Bible scholarship can reach those who find a need for deeper reflection on the Bible.

(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>

A selection of events is listed below—mainly those taking place in ICI regions.

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

October 9-10, 2014**International Theological Conference “The Knowledge of God: East and West. Dogmatic and Spiritual Dimensions“**

The Conference intends to be a theological forum for Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Ukrainian Greek Catholic and Protestant theologians to discuss different approaches to the “knowledge of God” based on Western and Eastern traditions. The Conference will take place at the Faculty of Philosophy and Theology of the Ukrainian Catholic University, L’viv, Khutorivka St. 35a.

[More information](#)

November 22-25, 2014**[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 San Diego, California. (See note above about accommodation sharing.)

December 15, 2014**Call for Papers Deadline: Holiness: On the Holy, the Holy One, Sanctification and Saints**
Proposals due for “Holiness: On the Holy, the Holy One, Sanctification and Saints”

The Bi-annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality to be held at Saint Augustine College, Johannesburg, South Africa on 21-24 May of 2015 (see below). Submissions on any topic of current interest within the field of Spirituality are invited. Particularly welcome are proposals for papers, panels and workshops on topics related to the specific theme of holiness. The conference will explore holiness through a range of questions: What is “the holy”? How have understandings of holiness developed; how are they critiqued? How have people in various contexts expressed and embodied their desire to grow in holiness, and how do they—or others—evaluate its fruits?

Proposals are especially encouraged in the following tracks:

- (1) Analytical, historical, or comparative studies, for instance on the notion of holiness, of holy figures, and of artistic depictions of holiness;
- (2) Studies of holiness, including case studies, from interdisciplinary perspectives, for instance from the vantage point of Psychology or Spiritual Direction;
- (3) Studies of the relationship between holiness and social engagement;
- (4) Contextual studies of “the holy” in indigenous spiritualities, particularly in African contexts and underrepresented groups;
- (5) Studies of the Christian experience of the “the holy”, including practices of sanctification, within the natural world.

Proposals for papers should include contact information of the proposer/s, a title and an abstract of not more than 150 words, sent to spirasa@gmail.com. Proposals for panels, sessions and workshops should include contact information of the proposer/s, a title, a proposal of 1,000 words, with an abstract of not more than 150 words for each individual paper, sent to spirasa@gmail.com. For questions about the conference and this call for papers, please contact Pieter de Villiers at pgdevilliers@mweb.co.za.

May 7-9, 2015

East-West Theological Forum

The 4th conference of the East-West Theological Forum will be held on 7-9 May 2015 at Sogang University, Seoul, Korea. The 2015 conference has been called for on the theme: "Crisis and Hope: The Church in a Changing World". We cordially invite you to our coming conference and to submit papers for EWTF Prize (10,000 US\$) or proposals for parallel session. [More information](#)

May 21-24, 2015

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

Saint Augustine College, Johannesburg, South Africa

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

(i) SBL EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FREELY AVAILABLE

There are links to numerous educational resources on the SBL website. The following are freely available: (i) Resources on Teaching the Bible; (ii) Freely downloadable Hebrew, Greek and Transliteration fonts (amongst others); (iii) Resources on Bible translations and commentaries; and (iv) Research tool resources.

See <http://sbl-site.org/educational/default.aspx>

The exciting news was also received recently that the newly-developed **Bible Odyssey** online portal had been launched now. See www.bibleodyssey.org. (See article above.)

(j) PLEASE PASS THE INFORMATION.

It is surprising that we continue to have correspondence from scholars in ICI countries that are just learning about the ICI programs. Please share this newsletter with your colleagues and students and become a liaison for your institution and SBL. (Please contact our liaison officer, [Tim Langille](#), if you would like to assist as contact person in your region.) Your advocacy for ICI strengthens biblical studies as a discipline and builds relationships in the global community. Thank you for those who have done so in the past—we also receive letters from people who received the newsletter from someone else.

With best wishes for your Bible scholarship!

Louis Jonker, SBL – International Cooperation Initiative