

## **SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE ICI REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2014**

### **(a) SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

The SBL is joining forces with the EABS (European Association of Biblical Studies) again for the International Meeting which will take place in Vienna, Austria, from 6-10 July. The Call for Papers is closed now, and the program director is busy scheduling the sessions. The program, registration and accommodation information links will go live soon. Keep an eye on <http://sbl-site.org/meetings/Internationalmeeting.aspx>.

### **(b) TRAVEL GRANTS FOR THE 2014 ANNUAL MEETING IN SAN DIEGO**

#### **Urgent call**

The SBL Travel Grants offer opportunity to four current SBL members to attend the Annual Meeting, participate in the program, enhance their professional development, and network with fellow scholars. These grants help facilitate the work of Program Units and the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI). Two of the four awards (\$2,000.00 each)\* are made to members who have submitted accepted proposals to a Program Unit and have demonstrated that the work of the unit and the field will be enhanced by the person's participation. The Society will provide lodging (one room, single or shared) for four nights and complimentary meeting registration. Preference is given to members from ICI countries. The other two awards (\$1,000 each) will be granted to members participating in the ICI who have never attended an Annual Meeting. The grants defray transportation, hotel accommodations, and other expenses incurred for the Annual Meeting. Applications for the 2014 Annual Meeting will be accepted **until March 1, 2014**. For more information on applying for an SBL Travel Grant, please contact Beth Tracy [beth.tracy@sbl-site.org](mailto:beth.tracy@sbl-site.org).

\*Take note that the amount for this category is \$2,000 and not \$2,500 as communicated in an earlier newsletter. We apologize for the inconvenience of this error.

### **(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](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>

**(e) NEW JOURNAL ON THE KARAITES OF EASTERN EUROPE**

The ICI received the following message, and since this initiative tunes in very well with the aims of the SBL-ICI, we gladly share it with our readers:

The *Karaite Archives* journal was founded in 2013 by a group of European and Israeli scholars. It is dedicated to the languages, literature and history of the Karaites in Poland, Ukraine, Russia and other East-European countries. Detailed information on the contents of the first issue and subscription is available on the following website: [www.karaitearchives.amu.edu.pl](http://www.karaitearchives.amu.edu.pl).

**(f) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS – NEW BOOKS ADDED**

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

**Philo of Alexandria's Exposition on the Tenth Commandment**

Svebakken, Hans. *Philo of Alexandria's Exposition on the Tenth Commandment*. Studia Philonica Monographs, 6. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2012.

In his comprehensive exposition of the Tenth Commandment (Spec. 4.79–131), Philo considers the prohibition “You shall not desire”: what sort of desire it prohibits (and why) and how the Mosaic dietary laws collectively enforce that prohibition. This volume offers the first complete study of Philo’s exposition, beginning with an overview of its

content, context, and place in previous research. In-depth studies of Philo's concept of desire and his concept of self-control provide background and demonstrate Philo's fundamental agreement with contemporary Middle-Platonic moral psychology, especially in his theory of emotion (pathos). A new translation of the exposition, with commentary, offers a definitive explanation of Philo's view of the Tenth Commandment, including precisely the sort of excessive desire it targets and how the dietary laws work as practical exercises for training the soul in self-control.

### **Text, Image, and Otherness in Children's Bibles: What is in the Picture?**

Vander Stichele, Caroline; Hugh S. Pyper, eds. *Text, Image, and Otherness in Children's Bibles*. Semeia Studies, 56. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2012.

Children's Bibles are often the first encounter people have with the Bible, shaping their perceptions of its stories and characters at an early age. The material under discussion in this book not only includes traditional children's Bibles but also more recent phenomena such as manga Bibles and animated films for children. The book highlights the complex and even tense relationship between text and image in these Bibles, which is discussed from different angles in the essays. Their shared focus is on the representation of "others"—foreigners, enemies, women, even children themselves—in predominantly Hebrew Bible stories.

### **Miracle Discourse in the New Testament**

Watson, Duane F. *Miracle Discourse in the New Testament*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2012.

This volume explores the rhetorical role that miracle discourse plays in the argumentation of the New Testament and early Christianity. The investigation includes both the rhetoric within miracle discourse and the rhetorical role of miracle discourse as it was incorporated into the larger works in which it is now a part. The volume also examines the social, cultural, religious, political, and ideological associations that miracle discourse had in the first-century Mediterranean world, bringing these insights to bear on the broader questions of early Christian origins.

### **The Sentences of Sextus**

Wilson, Walter T. *The Sentences of Sextus*. Wisdom Literature from the Ancient World, 1. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2012.

Described by Origen as a writing that "even the masses of believers have read," The Sentences of Sextus offers unique insights into popular Christian thought during the late

second century C.E. Although it draws extensively on canonical texts for the composition of its sayings, it is especially fascinating for the manner in which it integrates these texts with material derived from two generically similar collections of Pythagorean maxims. This volume provides a critical edition including evidence from the Greek, Latin, Syriac, and Coptic versions; a new translation; and the first commentary for the Sentences, an important document for investigating the history of early Christian wisdom, asceticism, and ethics.

### **(g) 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](mailto:sharon.johnson@sbl-site.org).

#### **May 31, 2014**

##### **Call for Papers Deadline: Biblical Exegesis between East and West**

*Review of Ecumenical Studies* issue 3/2014 invites authors of various confessions to discuss the differences and similarities in the field of Biblical studies and to illustrate the extent to which they have mutually learned from one another. How can an Orthodox Bible scholar employ the historical-critical method? What could a Protestant theologian learn from the Orthodox Biblical exegesis? Is there an Orthodox Biblical exegesis at all? What would be its characteristics and what is the opinion of the rather critical Bible scholars on this approach?

[More information](#)

#### **June 22-25, 2014**

##### **[Meeting of Society of Asian Biblical Studies \(SABS\)](#)**

The next meeting of the SABS will be held from the 22nd to the 25th of June 2014 (arrival 22nd and departure 26th) in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The meeting is jointly hosted by the Church of Christ in Thailand and the McGilvary College of Divinity, Payap University. The theme of the conference is “Violence in the Human and Earth Community—Asian Biblical Response.” For more information regarding this conference go to <http://www.sabs-site.com/>. Please write to [the Secretary](#) for any queries.

**July 1-4, 2014****Meeting of the Society of Indonesian Biblical Scholars (ISBI)**

The next meeting of the ISBI will be held from the 1-4 July 2014 in Manado, North Celebes. The meeting is jointly hosted by STAKN Manado dan STFK Pineleng. The theme of the conference is “Monotheism in Bible and Local Religions.” For more information regarding this conference please write to ISBI’s President [Rev Agus Santoso](#) or via ICI liaison [Martin Harun](#).

**July 6-10, 2014****[SBL International Meeting](#) &  
[European Association of Biblical Studies Meeting](#)**

To be held in Vienna. Call for papers is closed now. See information above.

**(h) 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>

**(i) 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. 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.

**(j) A WORD OF THANKS**

The ICI gets tremendous support from the Executive Director, John Kutsko, as well as the SBL staff. They—together with us at ICI—do not consider the ICI to be just another add-on to the SBL, but see it as part of the fibre of the organization. We therefore would like to extend a word of great appreciation to John and his staff—on behalf of all biblical scholars in ICI regions!

With best wishes for your Bible scholarship!

Louis Jonker, SBL – International Cooperation Initiative