

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE ICI REPORT FOR MARCH 2015

(a) THE NEXT SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING

The 2015 International Meeting will take place in Buenos Aires from July 20-24. This meeting will be hosted by the Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina. We are very excited about this meeting. 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>

Take note that the REGISTRATION is now open and the program book will be made available in due time.

ICI meeting in Buenos Aires

Instead of having an ICI forum meeting in Buenos Aires, a panel discussion on the work of the ICI will be held. More information will follow shortly.

Housing at the Meeting

Please note that there will be a small number of rooms available at the headquarters hotel, the Hilton Buenos Aires. You have the option of booking this hotel during registration. **There is also a list of more affordable options available on the IM website.** All these are within walking distance of the conference hotel. See:

https://www.eiseverywhere.com/file_uploads/430811d76ad38027cfc12bbfad767330_I_MHotels.pdf).

Student Volunteers

The SBL is now offering student members the opportunity to volunteer at the International Meeting. Volunteer benefits include free conference registration and a complimentary 1-year SBL membership. Please contact [Samantha Spitzner](#) for more information on how to volunteer.

(b) THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING, ATLANTA

The SBL Annual Meeting will be held from November 21-24, 2015 in Atlanta, Georgia. Please note that the deadline for paper proposals has passed now. Registration and accommodation options are coming soon. For more information, see:

<http://sbl-site.org/meetings/AnnualMeeting.aspx>

(c) BIBLICAL SCHOLARS IN FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES

We are very glad to announce that a decision was taken at the ICI Executive meeting in San Diego in November 2014 that ICI will provide more support to francophone biblical scholars in terms of the following:

- Encouraging **mentoring** relationships (including preparation of manuscripts for publication) between “experts” and younger scholars in francophone countries. This will be facilitated through the existing mentoring channel which is available on the ICI web page (see <https://www.sbl-site.org/educational/ICITeaching.aspx>).
- Providing links to useful French biblical **scholarly resources** through the monthly ICI newsletter. (This will become a regular entry in our newsletter soon. One useful link which can be made available already is the well-known scholar, Thomas Römer’s classes at the College de France (see <http://www.college-de-france.fr/site/thomas-romer/#course>).
- Including **French publications** in the ICI book depository. We are in negotiation with some French publishers to get them on board for this initiative. (The same will happen for Spanish scholarship.)

(d) PUBLICATION IN ANCIENT NEAR EAST MONOGRAPHS (ANEM) / MONOGRAFÍAS SOBRE EL ANTIGUO CERCAÑO ORIENTE (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

The latest volume in ANEM/MACO is:

Historical Linguistics and Biblical Hebrew: Steps Toward an Integrated Approach

Authored by Robert Rezetko and Ian Young

This book seeks to break fresh ground in research on the history of ancient Hebrew. Building on theoretical and methodological concepts in general historical linguistics and in diachronic linguistic research on various Ancient Near Eastern and Indo-European languages, the authors reflect critically on issues such as the objective of the research,

the nature of the written sources, and the ideas of variation and periodization. They draw on innovative work on premodern scribally created writings to argue for a similar application of a joint history of texts and history of language approach to ancient Hebrew. The application of cross-textual variable analysis and variationist analysis in various case studies shows that more complete descriptions and evaluations of the distribution of linguistic data advances our understanding of historical developments in ancient Hebrew.

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

https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/pubs/9781628370461_OA.pdf

(e) PUBLICATION IN INTERNATIONAL VOICES IN BIBLICAL STUDIES (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>

(f) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS – NEW BOOKS ADDED

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

A Latin-Greek Index of the Vulgate New Testament

Bergren, Theodore A. *A Latin-Greek Index of the Vulgate New Testament*. Resources for Biblical Study, 26. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1991.

This work provides a tool for easily determining the range of Greek equivalents for a given Latin word. Based on the Greek-Latin index by Alfred Schmoller, *Handkonkordanz zum griechischen Neuen Testament*, this Latin-Greek index lists, in alphabetical order, each Latin word or phrase in the Vulgate New Testament, followed by that word's full range of Greek equivalents. Page references to Schmoller's *Handkonkordanz* are provided for each Greek word listed so that its context in the Greek New Testament can be consulted. An appendix contains an index of Latin lexical equivalents characteristic of "African" and "European" Old Latin versions of the New Testament.

Aristaenetus, Erotic Letters

Bing, Peter and Regina Hoschele, translators. *Aristaenetus, Erotic Letters*. Writings from the Greco-Roman World, 32. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2014.

The first complete English translation of Aristaenetus in nearly three centuries. Through allusion and adaption of earlier authors, Aristaenetus recounts tales that are the stuff of comedy, erotic poetry, and ancient novel. Here we read of lovers who use every trope of erotic literature to praise their beloveds in over-the-top speeches. Aristaenetus amazes us with tales of paramours hatching complicated schemes to achieve their desires, while wily go-betweens help smooth their way. He presents us with accounts of unfaithful spouses who barely avoid capture in the midst of hair-raising and amusing infidelities. This sixth century collection is perfect for anyone interested in classical and postclassical literature.

Features:

- English translation and Greek text on facing pages
- Introduction with history of the text
- Discussion of intertextual connections with Greco-Roman authors

Bible, Borders, Belonging(s): Engaging Readings from Oceania

Havea, Jione, David J. Neville, and Elaine M. Wainwright, eds. *Bible, Borders, Belonging(s): Engaging Readings from Oceania*. Semeia Studies, 75. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2014.

In this collection of essays, scholars from Oceania open a new dialog regarding the vast, complex, and slippery nature of the Bible and the fluid meanings of borders and belongings. From belonging in a place, a group, or movement to belongings as material and cultural possessions; from borders of a text, discipline, or thought to borders of nations, communities, or bodies, the authors follow the currents of Oceania to the shores of Asia and beyond. Scholars contributing essays include Jeffrey W. Aernie, Marilyn Clark, Jione Havea, Gregory C. Jenks, Jeanette Mathews, Judith E. McKinlay, Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon, David J. Neville, John Painter, Kathleen P. Rushton, Ruth Sheridan, Nasili Vaka'uta, and Elaine M. Wainwright. Michele A. Connolly, David M. Gunn, and Mark G. Brett provide responses to the essays.

Features:

- Discussion of the impacts of natural disasters and political and ecological upheavals on biblical interpretation and theological reflection
- Fourteen essays on texts in the Hebrew Bible and New Testament
- Three responses to the essays provide a range of views on the topics

Neo-Babylonian Trial Records

Holtz, Shalom E., translator. *Neo-Babylonian Trial Records*. Writings from the Ancient World, 35. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2014.

This collection of sixth-century B.C.E. Mesopotamian texts provides a close-up, often dramatic, view of ancient courtroom encounters shedding light on Neo-Babylonian legal culture and daily life. In addition to the legal texts, Holtz provides an introduction to Neo-Babylonian social history, archival records, and legal materials. This is an essential resource for scholars interested in the history of law.

Features

- Fifty new English translations
- Transliterations for use in advanced Akkadian courses
- Background essays perfect for courses dealing with ancient Near Eastern history and law
- Explanatory essays preceding each text and its translation

The Bible and Posthumanism

Koosed, Jennifer L., ed. *The Bible and Posthumanism*. Semeia Studies, 74. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2014.

In this collection of essays, scholars place the philosophies and theories of animal studies and posthumanism into conversation with biblical studies. Authors cross and disrupt boundaries and categories through close readings of stories where the human body is invaded, possessed, or driven mad. Articles explore the ethics of the human use of animals and the biblical contributions to the question. Other essays use the image of lions—animals that appear not only in the wild, but also in the Bible, ancient Near Eastern texts, and philosophy—to illustrate the potential these theories present for students of the Bible. Contributors George Aichele, Denise Kimber Buell, Benjamin H. Dunning, Heidi Epstein, Rhiannon Graybill, Jennifer L. Koosed, Eric Daryl Meyer, Stephen D. Moore, Hugh Pyper, Robert Paul Seesengood, Yvonne Sherwood, Ken Stone, and Hannah M. Strømme present an open invitation for further work in the field of posthumanism.

Features:

- Coverage of texts that explore the boundaries between animal, human, and divinity
- Discussion of the term posthumanism and how it applies to biblical studies
- Essays engage Derrida, Foucault, Wolfe, Lacan, Žižek, Singer, Haraway, and others

Qumran Hebrew: An Overview of Orthography, Phonology, and Morphology

Reymond, Eric D. *Qumran Hebrew: An Overview of Orthography, Phonology, and Morphology*. Resources for Biblical Study, 76. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2014.

In *Qumran Hebrew*, Reymond examines the orthography, phonology, and morphology of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Short sections treat specific linguistic phenomena and present a synopsis and critique of previous research. Reymond's approach emphasizes problems posed by scribal errors and argues that guttural letters had not all "weakened" but

instead were “weak” in specific linguistic environments, texts, or dialects. Raymond illustrates that certain phonetic shifts (such as the shift of yodh > aleph and the opposite shift of aleph > yodh) occur in discernible linguistic contexts that suggest this was a real phonetic phenomenon.

Features:

- Summary and critique of previous research
- Discussion of the most recently published scrolls
- Examination of scribal errors, guttural letters, and phonetic shifts

(g) SBL MEMBERSHIP IN ICI COUNTRIES

Please take note that scholars living and working in ICI countries (for a list of these countries, see <http://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/ICICountries.pdf>) pay a reduced membership fee for SBL. See the membership form accompanying this newsletter which should be used to apply for or renew reduced membership.

(h) JOURNAL OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE (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!

(i) 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.

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.

For more information, see <http://www.ewtfr.org/>

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.)

July 12-15, 2015**European Association of Biblical Studies Annual Meeting**

Cordoba, Spain. July 12- July 15.

More information is available at <http://www.eabs.net/site/>

Information for students is available <http://www.eabs.net/site/student-zone/>

July 20-24, 2015**2015 SBL International Meeting**

Buenos Aires, Argentina

[More information](#)

September 11-13, 2015**Oceania Biblical Studies Association**

Conference will be held at Piula Theological College, Upolu, Samoa, in the beautiful South Pacific.

Email the Secretary for OBSA: [Nasili Vaka'uta](#) for more information.

September 4-9, 2016

2016 Meeting of the International Organization for the Study of the Old Testament (IOSOT)

Stellenbosch, South Africa

To register for updates, go to the news page on www.iosot2016.co.za

(j) 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>

Also remember to check the newly-developed **Bible Odyssey** online portal. See www.bibleodyssey.org. This portal offers wonderful educational resources, but also resources for broader popular audiences. Use this site to popularize our academic studies in faith communities!

(k) PLEASE PASS ON THE INFORMATION

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 to 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