

## ICI REPORT FOR JUNE 2012

### (a) SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING

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) from July 22-26.

We are fully aware that most of you will not (be able to) be at the meeting. Yet some of you will. So we are planning an ICI informal meeting Tuesday, July 24, at 9:00 am. Please let me ([ehud.benzvi@ualberta.ca](mailto:ehud.benzvi@ualberta.ca)) or Leigh ([leigh.andersen@sbl-site.org](mailto:leigh.andersen@sbl-site.org)) know if you plan to attend the ICI meeting.

### (b) 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))

The following books were added since the last report:

- (1) Donker, Gerald J. *The Text of the Apostolos in Athansaium of Alexandria*. New Testament in the Greek Fathers, 8. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2011.

This text-critical study of the Apostolos (all of the New Testament apart from the Gospels) of the fourth-century Greek Father Athanasius of Alexandria has two aims in view: one analytical and one methodological. An initial review of Athanasius' life and writings and a survey of the Alexandrian text-type precede an analysis of Athanasius' text to determine its classification within the major New Testament text-types, and particularly its suspected Alexandrian character. The book also compares the results of methods traditionally used on the texts of the Fathers with the use of an alternative and advanced method, multivariate analysis. Unlike quantitative and group profile analyses, multivariate analysis utilizes not just a single dimension but the full dimensionality of the source data.

- (2) Mclver, Robert K. *Memory, Jesus, and the Synoptic Gospels*. Resources for Biblical Study, 59. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2011.

Before they were written in the Gospels, the teachings and deeds of Jesus were preserved in human memory—with all its frailties and strengths—for perhaps as long as 30 to 60 years. Much can happen to traditions preserved in memories for so long, and this groundbreaking work addresses the impact that the qualities of human memory would have had on the traditions of the historical Jesus found in the Synoptic Gospels. It uses the insights gained from over a century of psychological experimentation to investigate the qualities and potential reliability of individual and collective memories underlying the various elements that make up the Gospel traditions.

- (3) O'Brien, Julia M. *Nahum (Second Edition)*. Readings: A New Biblical Commentary. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix, 2009.

In its wanton celebration of violence, the book of Nahum poses ethical challenges to the modern reader. O'Brien offers the first full-scale engagement with this dimension of the book, exploring the ways in which the artfulness of its poetry serves the book's violent ideology, highlighting how its rhetoric attempts to render the Other fit for annihilation. She then reads from feminist, intertextual and deconstructionist angles and uncovers the destabilizing function of the book's aesthetics. Finally, she demonstrates how mining Nahum's ambiguities and tensions can contribute to an ethical response to its violence. This is a reprint of the 2002 edition.

- (4) Porter, Stanley E. and O'Donnell, Matthew Brook, eds. *The Linguist as Pedagogue: Trends in the Teaching and Linguistic Analysis of the Greek New Testament*. New Testament Monographs, 11. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix, 2009.

This volume of important essays from recent Society of Biblical Literature annual meetings covers two related and vital topics—linguistic pedagogy and linguistic analysis. The essays on pedagogy discuss current trends and perspectives on how to approach the teaching of a dead language in the vibrancy of the electronic age. Experienced teacher-scholars give insights into how they draw upon linguistic theory and marshal technology to help reinforce pedagogical technique.

- (5) Rindge, Matthew S. *Jesus' Parable of the Rich Fool*. Early Christianity and Its Literature, 6. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2011.

Rindge reads Luke's parable of the Rich Fool (12:16–21) as a sapiential narrative and situates this parable within a Second Temple intertextual conversation on the interplay of death and possessions. A rich analysis of Jewish (Qoheleth, Ben Sira, 1 Enoch, Testament of Abraham) and Greco-Roman (Lucian, Seneca) texts reveals a web of disparate perspectives regarding how possessions can be used meaningfully, given life's fragility and death's inevitability and uncertain timing. Departing from standard interpretations of Luke's parable as a simple critique of avarice, Rindge explicates the multiple ways in which the parable and its immediate literary context (12:13–34) appropriate, reconfigure, and illustrate this contested conversation, and shows how these themes are chosen and adapted for Luke's own existential, ethical, and theological concerns.

(c) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE, OPEN ACCESS SERIES (ICI)

For information on IVBS and ANEM/MACO please go to

<http://ivbs.sbl-site.org/home.aspx>

[http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books\\_ANEmonographs.aspx](http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ANEmonographs.aspx)

(d) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE VOLUME

Prof. Erhard S. Gerstenberger has been involved in ICI projects since the ICI was established. Now, a volume consisting of a large collection of his essays in German and English, written over more than 50 years, has been published electronically and is available as an open access volume. The editors of the volume are his colleagues Ute E. Eisen and Christl M. Maier. The publisher is the University of Giessen, Germany. The volume is entitled, Erhard S. Gerstenberger: *Die Hebraeische Bibel als Buch der Befreiung. Ausgewahlte Aufsätze* and can be downloaded fully and freely at

<http://geb.uni-giessen.de/geb/volltexte/2012/8601/>

(e) INFORMATION ABOUT JSTOR

Although JSTOR is independent from the SBL, I thought some of us would be interested in knowing that in addition to free access to African institutions JSTOR has

been offering a Developing Nations Access Initiative. It is a three-tiered program in which tier 1 has free access, tier 2 had free access and now pays a small amount, and tier 3 pays reduced access fees. For more information please go to <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/libraries/developing-nations-access-initiative-0>

The *Journal of Biblical Literature* is available through JSTOR.

(f) MENTORING PROGRAM

Please draw the attention of your students to the ICI Mentoring Program and its opportunities. Please go to <http://www.sbl-site.org/educational/ICIScholarList.aspx>

(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>. Events that may be of interest to you include:

July 9 – July 20 Polemos/Pulmus: Ways of Confrontation in Judaism, Paganism and Christianity in Late Antiquity

A summer course offered by the Central European University (CEU) in Budapest, Hungary. The course aims at exploring the nature and various ways of confrontation between and within Early and Rabbinic Judaism, the Early Church, and Pagan religions and schools of thought. The sessions discuss how these movements coped with conflicts within and without; what their strategies were in confronting and accommodating foreign ideas, competing religions, worldly powers or internal subversion; and what role these external and internal confrontations played in shaping them. Course faculty include Daniel Boyarin, Shaye J. D. Cohen, John M. Dillon, Mark Edwards and Guy G. Stroumsa. For more information <http://www.summer.ceu.hu/polemos-2012>

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

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Werkgezelschap in Nederland en België (OTW) and the Society for Old Testament Study (SOTS).

August 15-17 GENDER STUDIES AT THE INTERFACE OF THE *HUMANIORA* University of Johannesburg is hosting the conference to provide a forum for interdisciplinary dialogue on the status of gender research within the Humanities. The intention is to bring together academics, researchers, students, and activists, to explore how women's experiences in South African society have been structured, impacted, controlled or ignored. For more information please go to <http://www.uj.ac.za/EN/FACULTIES/HUMANITIES/DEPARTMENTS/RELIGIONSTUDIES/Pages/genderstudiesattheinterfaceofthehumaniora.aspx>

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](mailto:OBSAMail@gmail.com)

September 6–9 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW TESTAMENT SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

The NTSSA will meet at the University of North West in Potchefstroom, South Africa.

For further information, please visit <http://www.newtestament.co.za/>

December 20-21 BIENNIAL CONFERENCE THE SOCIETY FOR BIBLICAL STUDIES IN INDIA (SBSI)

The Society for Biblical Studies in India (SBSI) will hold its biennial conference in Bangalore, Whitefield at the Ecumenical Christian Center. The Theme for this conference is: Biblical Jubilee: Indian Liberation Hermeneutics. For more information contact [Rev. Dr. K. Jesurathnam](#), Secretary, SBSI.

**Note:**

Please submit basic information about events to Sharon Johnson at [sharon.johnson@sbl-site.org](mailto:sharon.johnson@sbl-site.org).

(h) 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