

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE ICI REPORT FOR JUNE 2014

(a) SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA

and

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION INITIATIVE (ICI) FORUM MEETING

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 is available on the SBL-website. See the following link:

http://sbl-site.org/meetings/Congresses_ProgramBook.aspx?MeetingId=24

An ICI forum meeting will be held at the Vienna 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 MONDAY 7 JULY at 01:30-02:30PM in ROOM HS45 – HAUPTGEBÄUDE. We look forward to meeting you there!

(b) SBL ANNUAL MEETING IN SAN DIEGO, CA

and

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT ACCOMMODATION AT ANNUAL MEETING

The SBL Annual Meeting will take place in San Diego, California, from 22-26 November. The Call for Papers is closed now, and the program director is busy scheduling the sessions. The program will be made available soon. Registration and accommodation bookings are open. See the following link:

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

An ICI forum meeting will be held at the San Diego conference as well, so you will be welcome to join us to share your ideas and views. The time and venue will be communicated to you later.

More affordable accommodation in San Diego? Following up on a suggestion by one of our ICI-members, we looked into the possibility of making available the ICI liaison network to members and non-members from ICI countries to find somebody who would be interested in sharing a room in San Diego to make accommodation costs more

affordable. We are happy to announce that you may send a message to Tim Langille (tim.langille@gmail.com), our liaison officer who will then distribute your request through the ICI network. Mention in your e-mail from when till when you will need accommodation, your gender, and contact details. Further contact can then be established directly.

(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

The latest volume in ANEM/MACO is still hot of the press! See the further information below, as well as the link where it can be downloaded for free.

Divination, Politics, & Ancient Near Eastern Empires

Edited by Alan Lenzi and Jonathan Stökl

This collection examines the ways that divinatory texts in the Hebrew Bible and the ancient Near East undermined and upheld the empires in which the texts were composed, edited, and read. Nine essays and an introduction engage biblical scholarship on the Prophets, Assyriology, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the critical study of Ancient Empires.

Features:

- Interdisciplinary approaches include propaganda studies
- Essays examine how biblical and other ancient Near Eastern texts were shaped by political and theological empires
- Index of ancient sources

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

http://sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/pubs/9781589839984_OA.pdf

(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](#).

(e) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS – NEW BOOKS ADDED

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

Time and Astronomy in Past Cultures

Soltysiak, Arkadiusz. *Time and Astronomy in Past Cultures*, Gorgias Précis Portfolios 6. Piscataway: Gorgias Press, 2009.

The volume contains selected papers presented at the conference "Time and Astronomy in Past Cultures" which was held in Torun, Poland early spring 2005. The meeting was organised as a commemoration of the late Andrzej Wiercinski (1930-2003) who in mid-1970s initiated in Poland the scholarly research on astronomy in culture and ancient calendars. Among 12 papers published in the present book, five concern Near Eastern calendars and sky-watching, three are devoted to European archaeoastronomy (including a paper on Stonehenge), two represent ethnoarchaeological research in the Baltic area.

Constructing the Other in Ancient Israel and the USA

Miles, Johnny. *Constructing the Other in Ancient Israel and the USA*, Bible in the Modern World, 32. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2011.

Always spoken for, never speaking. Always the object of discourse, never the subject. Constant focus upon Israel in the biblical texts by the interpretative tradition in the modern context has resulted, whether consciously or not, in the eclipse of voices of Israel's Palestinian neighbors. Interpretations reinforce the liminality of ethnic groups like the Edomites, Moabites, Ammonites, and Samaritans effected initially through re-presentation. Stereotyping becomes an ethno-typing strategy that establishes the presumed superiority of 'Israel', the identity construction of the 'others' as anything but superior, and the placement of each group stereotyped on the 'border'.

A postcolonial perspective, however, reveals that the focus of the commentary tradition extends liminality beyond the temporal. This study brings to speech the constructed voices of marginalized ethnic groups by juxtaposing those of fifth-century Yehud with those of nineteenth-century America placed there by stereotypic re-presentations. The examination of these re-presentations, though they intend to establish separation through an identity of difference, reveal instead a reflection of the identity of 'self' within 'other' despite efforts by an ethnic group identifying itself as 'Israel'.

Sacred Texts and Sacred Meanings: Studies in Biblical Language and Literature

Sawyer, John F.A. *Sacred Texts and Sacred Meanings: Studies in Biblical Language and Literature*, Hebrew Bible Monographs, 28. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2011.

John Sawyer has been known for over 40 years as one of the finest British biblical scholars, always alert to new perspectives in biblical criticism and a pioneer in fruitful applications of new, often interdisciplinary, research methods. He has been an inspiring teacher to generations of students in Glasgow (1964-65), Newcastle upon Tyne (1965-94), Lancaster (1994-2002) and Oxford (2005-2008). From the very beginning he saw the need to apply sound linguistic theory to the study of the Bible, with the fundamental insight that all texts can have, and very often have had, more than one meaning. No one meaning can claim priority over the others, he argues. The 'original meaning', more or less convincingly reconstructed by modern scholarship, can claim chronological priority, but that is all. What the text has meant to its Jewish and Christian readers down the centuries should be as much the subject of scholarly attention as any 'original' meaning.

Wisdom from the Late Bronze Age

Cohen, Yoram. *Wisdom from the Late Bronze Age . Writings from the Ancient World*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2013.

This volume presents the original texts and annotated translations of a collection of Mesopotamian wisdom compositions and related texts of the Late Bronze Age (ca. 1500-1200 B.C.E.) found at the ancient Near Eastern sites of Hattusa, Emar, and Ugarit. These wisdom compositions constitute the missing link between the great Sumerian wisdom corpus and early Akkadian wisdom literature of the Old Babylonian period, on the one hand, and the wisdom compositions of the first millennium B.C.E., on the other. Included here are works such as the Ballad of Early Rulers, Hear the Advice, and The Date-Palm and the Tamarisk, as well as proverb collections from Ugarit and Hattusa. A detailed introduction provides an assessment of the place of wisdom literature in the ancient curriculum and library collections.

The Bible as Christian Scripture: The Work of Brevard S. Childs

Seitz, Christopher R. and Kent Harold Richards, eds. *The Bible as Christian Scripture: The Work of Brevard S. Childs*. Biblical Scholarship in North America. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2013.

This memorial volume both displays and evaluates the canonical approach of Brevard S. Childs, whose attention to history through time animated his interest in the Bible's use in the church through the ages up to and including the present. Just as Childs wrote on a wide range of topics canonical and theological both Testaments, Isaiah and Exodus, the Pauline letters, the history of biblical interpretation, biblical theology, and historical, theological, and methodological questions the contributors to this volume, seasoned colleagues as well as younger scholars who studied with Childs, offer an international collection of historical, theological, and New Testament essays as well as contributions focused on the Old Testament. The contributors are Stephen B. Chapman, Brevard S. Childs, Don Collett, Daniel R. Driver, Mark W. Elliott, Leonard G. Finn, Mark Gignilliat, Bernd Janowski, Jörg Jeremias, Leander E. Keck, Neil B. MacDonald, David L. Petersen, Murray A. Rae, C. Kavin Rowe, and Christopher R. Seitz.

(f) 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.

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 and 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](mailto:Rev_Agus_Santoso) or via ICI liaison [Martin Harun](mailto: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. Registration is now open. See information above.

July 7-11, 2014**MATS**

The biennial conference of the Melanesian Association of Theological Schools will be held at the Christian Leaders’ Training College, Mt. Hagen, Papua New Guinea, from 7-11 July 2014. The conference theme is Gospel Responses to Vital Issues Facing the Melanesian World in the 21st Century: Biblical, Theological, Missiological.

For more information email Dr. Doug Hanson at:

graduate_studies@cltc.ac.pg and douglas.david.hanson@gmail.com

or phone (675) 73565595.

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

Keynote Speakers: Andrew Louth, Durham University and Robin Darling Young, The Catholic University of America

The Christian Churches in the West and East have been seeking new approaches to interpreting the nature of the knowledge of God to reengage the reciprocal relation between theology and spirituality and to balance theological academic education with missionary practices of evangelization of the Church. It is commonly believed that the depth of the knowledge of God is found in the living experience of communicating with God. But how are we to articulate it theologically and implement it practically in the face of secularist challenges of the postmodern era? This conference proposes to become a theological forum, in which we will discuss different ways to attain the knowledge of God in the context of secularization and globalization.

Conference Focus: 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.

Conference Details: The Conference will take place on October 9-10, 2014, at the Faculty of Philosophy and Theology of the Ukrainian Catholic University, L’viv, Khutorivka St. 35a. It will have plenary sessions in the morning and three thematic sessions in the afternoon: (i) Dogmatic Foundations of the Knowledge of God; (ii) Church Fathers on the Knowledge of God; (iii) Spiritual Life, Askesis, and the Knowledge of God.

Submit your proposal in Ukrainian, Russian, Polish or English. Participants interested in submitting a proposal and presenting at conference in Ukrainian, Russian, Polish or English may submit their proposals (see the form below) until June 30, 2014 to the following email address: theologia@ucu.edu.ua

Full texts in a form of articles will be considered for publication.

The organizers will pay for food, accommodation and publications.

Conference sessions will be held at the Faculty of Philosophy and Theology (Khutorivka St 35a, Lviv, Ukraine) **with lodging at the University Residence Building** (Kozelnytska St 2A, Lviv, http://studyukrainian.org.ua/en/about-lviv/accommodation_in_lviv).

The participants will pay for transportation (the organizers will arrange individual pick ups from the Lviv airport LWO for free).

Registration fee: 100 USD or 80 Euros (payable in cash at the registration desk in Lviv)

For further information please visit us at <http://www.theologia.ucu.edu.ua/kontakty>, email: theologia@ucu.edu.ua, or call + 38 032 240 99 55.

Submission Form

<http://theologia.ucu.edu.ua/en/component/content/article/7-anonsy/345-mizhnarodna-naukova-bogoslovska-konferencija-qbogopiznannja-shid-zahid-dogmatychni-ta-duhovni-vymiryq>

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.)

(g) 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>

(h) 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