

ICI REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2013

(a) ICI MEETING AT THE SBL ANNUAL MEETING IN BALTIMORE

Date: Saturday, November 23, 2013

Time: 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Room: Camden - Sheraton Inner Harbor

Current ICI participants, which include anyone receiving this report, and those who are interested in knowing more about the program are invited to attend this Advisory Board discussion.

We are aware that many of us will not be able to come to Baltimore. If you wish to share concerns, new ideas, and/or feedback on any aspect of the collaboration with us at the meeting, but you cannot do that in person, please send your comments by e-mail to me or to [Leigh Andersen](#) at the SBL and your note will be read at the meeting.

(b) LISTENING AND ENGAGING SESSIONS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SBL

In 2012, SBL experimented with broadcasting two Annual Meeting sessions to two ICI countries via Skype. The participants in Chicago, Hong Kong, and Warsaw, were all very pleased with the opportunity to be part of the sessions and to engage in conversations from their distinct vantage points. Even with some technical glitches, the experiment was deemed a success.

Lessons were learned from the experiment, and with better technology and equipment, we will be transmitting six sessions from the Baltimore meeting in November. We have been working through the ICI Liaison Network to identify groups of students and scholars who are interested in participating in one of the sessions. Groups in Bolivia, Brazil, Central Africa Republic, Egypt, Ghana, India, Nigeria, Peru, Poland, South Africa, and Ukraine will be participating.

(c) TRAVEL GRANTS FOR THE 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

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 (\$2,500.00 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.

(d) NEW PUBLICATION IN ANEM/MACO

ANEM/MACO is a series that was established by the SBL at the request of the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI). 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. I am glad to announce the publication of a new volume in the series. Three more volumes will be published in the coming months.

New Volume

Israel Finkelstein, *The Forgotten Kingdom: The Archaeology and History of Northern Israel*. ANEM/MACO. Atlanta: SBL, 2013.

(to download the book click [here](#))

Although Israel was dominant for most of the time the kingdoms of Israel and Judah coexisted, it has remained in Judah's shadow in both the Hebrew Bible and consequently in the attention of modern scholarship. This book presents the first comprehensive history of the northern kingdom and description of the archaeology of northern Israel from the Late Bronze Age (ca. 1350 B.C.E.) until the kingdom's fall in 720 B.C.E. and beyond. It tells the story of the northern kingdom primarily in its formative phases. The narrative is based in archaeology and makes use of the most updated field research, with the addition of what is known from ancient Near Eastern and biblical texts. Finkelstein's thirty years of fieldwork in the northern kingdom have paved the way for a new understanding of the history and archaeology of ancient Israel.

Israel Finkelstein is Professor of Archaeology at Tel Aviv University. He has conducted numerous field projects, including excavations at biblical Shiloh and Megiddo. He is the author of many books, notably *The Archaeology of the Israelite Settlement* (Israel Exploration Society) and *Living on the Fringe* (Sheffield Academic Press), the co-author, with Neil A. Silberman, of *The Bible Unearthed* and *David and Solomon* (both

from Free Press), and was awarded the prestigious Dan David Prize in the Past Dimension in 2005.

To view the other volumes published in the series, please go to http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/Books_ANEmonographs.aspx

(e) NEW PUBLICATION IN IVBS

IVBS is a series that was established by the SBL at the request of the International Cooperation Initiative (ICI). 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>

New 2013 volumes

Michael Avioz, Elie Assis, and Yael Shemesh (eds.) *ZER RIMONIM Studies in Biblical Literature and Jewish Exegesis Presented to Professor Rimon Kasher*. IVBS. Atlanta: SBL, 2013.

The present volume is a collection of original papers written in honor of Professor Rimon Kasher, emeritus professor of Bible at Bar-Ilan University, where he taught for nearly forty years. All the papers included in this volume were written in modern Hebrew. They are the fruits of ongoing research done in Israel by Israeli scholars. The authors whose papers are presented here teach at Bar-Ilan University and at other Israeli universities: Tel Aviv University; Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Haifa University, Ben Gurion University of the Negev. (The volume has been published in Modern Hebrew.)

Mercedes García Bachmann, *Women at Work in the Deuteronomistic History*. IVBS. Atlanta: SBL, 2013.

The Deuteronomistic History includes a host of workers who harvest and glean, fetch water and cook, spin and weave, heal the sick and much more. The mostly anonymous women who performed this work for others are sometimes mentioned only in a single verse. Consequently, they often are as unrecognized in modern scholarship as they seem in the biblical text. To help readers appreciate the place that these workers played in their ancient socio-economic and literary contexts, this work examines the key texts in the Deuteronomistic History that mention women in service occupations: slaves and dependents, cooks, wet nurses, childcare givers, prostitutes, and scribes. In the process, readers will discover, perhaps surprisingly, that these women were honored not in relation to matters such as sexual purity or marital faithfulness but on account of the valuable service that they provided.

(f) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS – NEW BOOKS ADDED

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

- (1) Leneman, Helen. *Love, Lust, and Lunacy: The Stories of Saul and David in Music*. The Bible in the Modern World, 29. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2010.

This is Leneman's second foray into the interdisciplinary study of the Bible and music, following her *The Performed Bible: The Story of Ruth in Opera and Oratorio* (2007).

In *Love, Lust, and Lunacy* she shows how these themes have captured the imagination of librettists and composers of many eras to set the narratives of the books of Samuel to music. Leneman convincingly illustrates music's ability to suggest emotions and character traits that can only be read between the lines of a text, through an in-depth discussion of 16 operas and oratorios from the eighteenth to the late twentieth century—including works of Handel, Nielsen, Parry, Honegger, Milhaud and lesser-known composers. The musical analyses can be understood on different levels by both specialists and non-specialists, providing a new perspective for biblical scholars along with a new appreciation of the biblical texts for musicians and music lovers.

Librettists and composers working with the Saul and David stories were alert to the complexity and ambivalence of the biblical portraits, and filled in the blanks left by the biblical writer in stirring and compelling ways. Their gap-filling may sometimes contradict traditional versions or interpretations of the biblical text, but their musical creativity often makes the words and actions of the biblical characters more convincing and compelling. In the musical works reviewed here there are portrayed

three-dimensional figures—not only David and Saul, but also Samuel, Michal, Bathsheba, the Woman of Endor and others, personages barely glimpsed between the lines of the biblical text but imagined in different ways by readers in every generation.

- (2) Putnam, Frederic Clarke. *A New Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2010.

This is a Hebrew grammar with a difference, being the first truly discourse-based grammar. Its goal is for students to understand Biblical Hebrew as a language, seeing its forms and conjugations as a coherent linguistic system, appreciating why and how the text means what it says—rather than learning Hebrew as a set of random rules and apparently arbitrary meanings.

Thirty-one lessons equip learners for reading the biblical text in Hebrew. They include sections on biblical narrative, poetry, and the Masora—as well as of the text of the Hebrew Bible, lexica, and concordances. The examples and exercises are all taken directly from the biblical text, so that students can check their work against any relatively literal version of the Bible. The vocabulary lists include all of the words that occur fifty times or more in the Hebrew Bible.

Special also to this Grammar are the ‘enrichments’: brief sections at the end of each chapter encouraging students to apply their grammatical knowledge to specific questions, issues, or passages in the biblical text. Appendices include a Vocabulary of all Hebrew words and proper names that occur fifty times or more, and a Glossary and index of technical terms—as well as complete nominal, pronominal, and verbal paradigms, and an annotated bibliography.

The learner-friendly design of this Grammar has been endorsed by faculty and by students who have used pre-publication versions to teach themselves Biblical Hebrew, both individually and in classes and informal groups.

- (3) Dube, Musa, Andrew Mbuvi, Dora Mbuwayesango, editors. *Postcolonial Perspectives in African Biblical Interpretations*. Global Perspectives on Biblical Scholarship, 13. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2012.

This volume foregrounds biblical interpretation within the African history of colonial contact, from North Atlantic slavery to the current era of globalization. It reads of the prolonged struggle for justice and of hybrid identities from multifaceted

contexts, where the Bible co-exists with African Indigenous Religions, Islam, and other religions. Showcasing the dynamic and creative approaches of an emerging and thriving community of biblical scholarship from the African continent and African diaspora, the volume critically examines the interaction of biblical texts with African people and their cultures within a postcolonial framework. While employing feminist/womanist, postcolonial, Afrocentric, social engagement, creative writing, reconstruction, and HIV/AIDS perspectives, the authors all engage with empire in their own ways: in specific times, forms, and geography. This volume is an important addition to postcolonial and empires studies in biblical scholarship. The contributors are David Tuesday Adamo, Lynn Darden, H. J. M. (Hans) van Deventer, Musa W. Dube, John D. K. Ekem, Ernest M. Ezeogu, Elelwani B. Farisani, Sylvester A. Johnson, Emmanuel Katongole, Malebogo Kgalemang, Temba L. J. Mafico, Madipoane Masenya (ngwan'a Mphahlele), Andrew M. Mbuvi, Sarojini Nadar, Elivered Nasambu-Mulongo, Jeremy Punt, Gerrie Snyman, Lovemore Togarasei, Sam Tshehla, Robert Wafawanaka, Robert Wafula, Gerald West, Alice Y. Yafeh-Deigh, and Gosnell L. Yorke.

- (4) Boda, Mark, Carol J. Dempsey, Leann Snow Flesher, editors. *Daughter Zion: Her Portrait, Her Response*. Ancient Israel and Its Literature, 13. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2012.

This volume showcases recent exploration of the portrait of Daughter Zion as “she” appears in biblical Hebrew poetry. Using Carleen Mandolfo’s *Daughter Zion Talks Back to the Prophets* (Society of Biblical Literature, 2007) as a point of departure, the contributors to this volume explore the image of Daughter Zion in its many dimensions in various texts in the Hebrew Bible. Approaches used range from poetic, rhetorical, and linguistic to sociological and ideological. To bring the conversation full circle, Carleen Mandolfo engages in a dialogic response with her interlocutors. The contributors are Mark J. Boda, Mary L. Conway, Stephen L. Cook, Carol J. Dempsey, LeAnn Snow Flesher, Michael H. Floyd, Barbara Green, John F. Hobbins, Mignon R. Jacobs, Brittany Kim, Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan, Christl M. Maier, Carleen Mandolfo, Jill Middlemas, Kim Lan Nguyen, and Lena-Sofia Tiemeyer.

(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>

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

November 23-26, 2013

[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 2013 Annual Meeting will be held in Baltimore, Maryland. [More information.](#)

January 27-29, 2014

International Conference on New Research in Hebrew Language and Culture

Hosted by the New Department of Hebrew, Faculty of the Humanities, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa

The conference will deal with a variety of topics, including: Hebrew Language and Culture in Africa; The Bible and Its Commentaries; Ancient and Modern Translations of the Bible in Africa; Linguistic Approaches to Hebrew; Comparative and Typological Approaches to Hebrew; Rabbinical Literature; Philosophical Sources in Hebrew; Comparative Study of Hebrew Language; Literature and Religion; Hebrew Language and Science; Hebrew Language and Politics; Hebrew Language and Law. Paper proposals for 25 minute talks related to the conference themes should be sent by the 15th November 2013. The primary and preferred language of the conference is English. Papers in Hebrew may be accepted provided that the full text in English is supplied for conference participants. Abstracts [in English or Hebrew] should be emailed to Dr. Gudrun Lier gelier@uj.ac.za.

Conference organizers:

Prof. Cynthia L. Miller-Naudé, University of the Free State (millercl@ufs.ac.za)

Prof. Jacobus A. Naudé, University of the Free State (naudej@ufs.ac.za)

Dr. Gudrun Eli Lier, University of Johannesburg (gelier@uj.ac.za)

Prof. Yosef Rivlin, Bar-Ilan University (joseph.rivlin@biu.ac.il)

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 6-10, 2014

[SBL International Meeting](#) &
[European Association of Biblical Studies Meeting](#).

To be held in Vienna. Call for papers opens in October.

(h) NEW FREE FONT – SBL BibLit

The Society of Biblical Literature is pleased to announce the newest font in the SBL fonts series, SBL BibLit. This font contains Latin, Greek, and Hebrew characters, including the characters suitable for the transliteration of Ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean languages. When combined with appropriate software keyboards, SBL BibLit allows for the use of one font for all biblical languages. For more information, please go to <http://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/2013FontAnnouncement.pdf>

(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.

Ehud

Ehud Ben Zvi, SBL - International Cooperation Initiative