

ICI REPORT FOR JULY 2012

(a) ICI Informal Meeting at the SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING

We had a very productive informal meeting. Several suggestions made at the meeting are now being considered for implementation and, among them, a reduced registration fee for members in ICI-qualifying countries, appointment of an SBL visa officer to advise members who may need a visa to participate in a meeting, and various, promising ideas to improve communications, some of them involving the SBL Website (disclaimer: as the website is now being re-developed, some of these ideas will be implemented at some point next year when the new website is functional.)

(b) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS – NEW BOOKS ADDED

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

The following books were added since the last report:

- (1) Hagelia, Hallvard. *The Dan Debate. The Tel Dan Inscription in Recent Research.* Recent Research in Biblical Studies, 4. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2009.

The Tel Dan inscription was found in three fragments on Tel Dan in northern Israel in 1993 and 1994. It is one of the most controversial textual archaeological finds since the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Most scholars agree that the text, which is written in Old Aramaic, is to be dated to the late ninth century BCE. It refers to a war between the Aramaeans and the northern kingdom of Israel. The text is apparently represented as authored by King Hazael of Damascus, and many scholars have discerned the names of the kings Jehoram and Ahaziah of Israel and Judah in the fragmented text.

There has been an extremely lively, and even heated, debate over both its language and its content, and it is time that a full survey of the debate should be undertaken. In his previous book, *The Tel Dan Inscription: A Critical Investigation of Recent Research on its Palaeography and Philology* (2006)--now distributed by Sheffield Phoenix Press--Hallvard Hagelia has examined those more technical aspects of the debate. In the present corollary volume, *The Dan Debate: The Tel*

Dan Inscription in Recent Research, Hagelia analyses the debate on all the other more general aspects of the inscription. His own view is to support the joining of the fragments as it is done by the editors, Biran and Naveh, and to translate the controversial term *bytdwd* as 'House of David'.

The debate on the Tel Dan is interesting and significant in itself, but it can also be viewed as a case study of the wider debate between the so-called 'minimalists' and 'maximalists' in Hebrew Bible scholarship.

- (2) Hawkins, Peter S. and Lesleigh Cushing Stahlberg, eds. *From the Margins 1. Women of the Hebrew Bible and their Afterlives*. Bible in the Modern World, 18. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2009.

Biblical women who are given only a few lines in the Bible, who are named only as the wife or sister or child of a man, can nonetheless play pivotal roles and cast long shadows. This volume brings together scholars, writers and art historians, who probe texts and trace reception history in exegesis, midrash, literature and the visual arts as they breathe life again into these biblical characters.

- (3) Cameron, Ron and Merrill P. Miller, eds. *Redescribing Paul and the Corinthians*. Early Christianity and Its Literature, 5. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2011.

This second volume of studies by members of the SBL Seminar on Ancient Myths and Modern Theories of Christian Origins reassesses the agenda of modern scholarship on Paul and the Corinthians. The contributors challenge the theory of religion assumed in most New Testament scholarship and adopt a different set of theoretical and historical terms for redescribing the beginnings of the Christian religion. They propose explanations of the relationship between Paul and the recipients of 1 Corinthians; the place of Paul's Christ-myth for his gospel; the reasons for a disinterest in and rejection of Paul's gospel and/or for the reception and attraction of it; and the disjunction between Paul's collective representation of the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians and the Corinthians' own engagement with Paul in mythmaking and social formation, including mutual (mis)translation and (mis)appropriation of the other's discourse and practices. The contributors are Ron Cameron and Merrill P. Miller, Jonathan Z. Smith, Burton L. Mack, William E. Arnal, Stanley K. Stowers, Richard S. Ascough, and John S. Kloppenborg.

- (4) Mason, Eric F. and Kevin B. McCrudden, eds. *Reading the Epistles to the Hebrews. A Resource for Students.* Resources for Biblical Study, 66. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2011.

Reading the Epistle to the Hebrews: A Resource for Students addresses major issues in the interpretation of this important but complex biblical text and provides an introduction to contemporary scholarship on Hebrews. With contributions from an international team of leading scholars on Hebrews and related fields, this volume reflects the most recent trends in the study of Hebrews and is designed for classroom use by students in both undergraduate and graduate programs. The various chapters emphasize the importance of interpreting Hebrews in light of its ancient Jewish, Christian, and Greco-Roman contexts and address major interpretive issues, including genre, conceptual backgrounds, Hebrews' use of Scripture and biblical themes, the theology of the letter and major theological issues in its reception, emerging interpretive approaches, and the use of the book in the history of Christian thought and worship.

(c) LIAISON NETWORK

Tim Langille (tim.langille@gmail.com) continues to work on developing the Liaison Network. SBL members in ICI countries for which there is already a member in the Liaison Network are still encouraged to contact Tim to volunteer to further ICI and its goals. All SBL members, regardless of their country of domicile, are asked to suggest colleagues in ICI countries who might be willing to participate in this initiative. The goal of the Liaison Network is to establish open lines of communication that will promote awareness of the resources and opportunities made available through the ICI to scholars, teachers, and students and to communicate and develop an awareness of the scholarly work done in ICI countries.

The current roster of member of the network includes:

Argentina: Juan Manuel Tebes

Bolivia: Teofilo Correa

Brazil: Marcos Paulo Monteiro da Cruz Bailao

Cameroon: Ernest van Eck

Caribbean: Garnett Roper

Central Africa Republic: Joseph Nzita Mavinga

China: Jeremiah Meng

Croatia: Igor Lorencin
Czech Republic: Jan Roskovec
Ethiopia: Grant LeMarquand
Estonia: Thomas Richard Kämmerer
Egypt: Willem J. de Wit
India: David Joy
Indonesia: Martin Harun
Malaysia: Kar-Yong Lim
Nigeria: Berekiah Olugbemiro
Pacific Islands: Younis Sadiq Masih
Peru: Teofilo Correa
Philippines: Galen Hertweck
Poland: Lukasz Niesiolowski-Spano
Romania: Mihai Valentin Vladimirescu
Russia: Valeriy Alikin
South Africa: Jaqueline (Jackie) du Toit
Taiwan: Yak-hwee Tan
Ukraine: Taras Khomych

An updated roster (with e-mail addresses) will be added to the SBL website soon.

(d) 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>

(e) 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.

Events that may be of interest to you include:

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

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.

(f) 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.