

It is my pleasure to distribute the ICI REPORT for March 2011.

(a) SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN LONDON

If you plan to come to the meeting, please let me or Leigh Andersen (leigh.andersen@sbl-site.org) know. If enough of us are to be present at the IM, we will have an ICI meeting. Please let me know if you are coming and would be interested in such a meeting. Needless to say, I would do my best to meet with anyone who wishes to share new ideas about ICI or to provide feedback about what we are doing. Just let me know.

(b) PUBLICATIONS: ONLINE BOOKS – ONGOING EFFORTS

We continue looking at expanding the list of publishers that have joined our project. I anticipate at least one more in the coming months.

(c) 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) Dillon, John M. and Wolfgang Polleichtner, eds. Iamblichus of Chalcis: *The Letters*. Writings from the Greco-Roman World 19. Atlanta, Society of Biblical Literature, 2009.

Iamblichus is the only Platonist philosopher whose philosophical letters have survived from the ancient world. These nineteen letters, which are translated into English here for the first time, address such topics as providence, fate, concord, marriage, bringing up children, ingratitude, music, and the cardinal virtues, with some letters addressed to students and others to prominent members of Syrian society and the imperial administration. The letters reflect the concerns of popular moral philosophy and illustrate the more public aspects of Iamblichus's philosophy. This volume provides a useful complement to Iamblichus: *On the Mysteries*, and *On the Pythagorean Way of Life*, both published by the Society of Biblical Literature, and will be of interest to students of late antiquity, of Neoplatonic philosophy, and of early Christianity.

(2) Ramelli, Ilaria. *Hierocles the Stoic: Elements of Ethics, Fragments, and Excerpts*.

Translated by David Konstan. *Writings from the Greco-Roman World* 28. Atlanta, Society of Biblical Literature, 2009.

Hierocles, the Stoic philosopher of the early imperial age, is a crucial witness to Middle and Neo-Stoicism, especially with regard to their ethical philosophy. In this volume, all of Hierocles' surviving works are translated into English for the first time, with the original Greek and a facing English translation: the *Elements of Ethics*, preserved on papyrus, along with all fragments and excerpts from the treatise *On Duties*, collected by Stobaeus in the fifth century C.E. and dealing mainly with social relationships, marriage, household, and family. In addition, Ramelli's introductory essay demonstrates how Hierocles was indebted to the Old Stoa and how he modified its doctrines in accord with Middle Stoicism and further developments in philosophy as well as his personal views. Finally, Ramelli's extensive commentary on Hierocles' works clarifies philosophical questions raised by the text and provides rich and updated references to existing scholarship.

(3) Thomas, Samuel I. *The "Mysteries" of Qumran: Mystery, Secrecy, and Esotericism in the Dead Sea Scrolls*. *Early Judaism and Its Literature* 25. Atlanta, Society of Biblical Literature, 2009.

This volume provides a new interpretation of the functions of "mystery" language and secrecy in the Qumran scrolls. The texts preserved and composed at Qumran by the apocalyptic group known as the Yahad display an interest in revelation, interpretation, and ritual practice, and attest to the active cultivation of esoteric arts such as astrology and astronomy, physiognomy, and therapeutic "magic." Much like its Babylonian priestly-scribal counterparts, the Yahad fostered and guarded its "mysteries"—its store of special knowledge available only to the elect—and used "mystery" terminology (especially *raz*) to claim authority and to erect social boundaries around themselves as the "men of the vision" and the "house of holiness." The "Mysteries" of Qumran offers an in-depth semantic analysis of relevant terminology and integrates social-scientific and intellectual-history approaches in focusing on an important motif in the Dead Sea Scrolls.

(4) Ritner, Robert K, trans. *The Libyan Anarchy: Inscriptions from Egypt's Third Intermediate Period* *Writings from the Ancient World* 21. Atlanta, Society of Biblical Literature, 2009.

Contemporary with the Israelite kingdom of Solomon and David, the Nubian conqueror Piye (Piankhy), and the Assyrian Assurbanipal, Egypt's Third Intermediate

Period is of critical interest not only to Egyptologists but also to biblical historians, Africanists, and Assyriologists. Spanning six centuries and as many dynasties, the turbulent era extended from approximately 1100 to 650 B.C.E. This volume, the first extensive collection of Third Intermediate Period inscriptions in any language, includes the primary sources for the history, society, and religion of Egypt during this complicated period, when Egypt was ruled by Libyan and Nubian dynasties and had occasional relations with Judah and the encroaching, and finally invading, Assyrian Empire. It includes the most significant texts of all genres, newly translated and revised. This volume will serve as a source book and companion for the most thorough study of the history of the period, Kitchen's *The Third Intermediate Period in Egypt*.

(5) Runia, David T. and Gregory E. Sterling, eds. *The Studia Philonica Annual: Studies in Hellenistic Judaism, Volume XXI, 2009*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2009.

The *Studia Philonica Annual* is a scholarly journal devoted to furthering the study of Hellenistic Judaism, in particular the writings and thought of the Hellenistic-Jewish writer Philo of Alexandria (circa 15 B.C.E. to circa 50 C.E.). Articles in this issue are David T. Runia, "The Theme of Flight and Exile in the Allegorical Thought-World of Philo of Alexandria"; Scott D. Mackie, "Seeing God in Philo of Alexandria: The Logos, the Powers, or the Existent One?"; Tzvi Novick, "Perspective, Paideia, and Accommodation in Philo"; Gregory E. Sterling, "How Do You Introduce Philo of Alexandria? The *Cambridge Companion to Philo*."

(d) OPEN ACCESS PUBLICATIONS: ANEM/MACO

We anticipate the publication of two substantial volumes in the coming months.

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

June 21-24/2011 MELANESIAN ASSOCIATION OF THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS (MATS) INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

Offers of papers are now invited. Abstracts of 250 words should be sent by post, fax, or email (as Word attachments) to: Ms. Sandra Iga, Secretary - School of Theology, Pacific Adventist University, Private Mail Bag, Boroko NCD, Papua New Guinea. Tel:

(675) 328 0324/328 0342 Fax: (675) 328 1257 Email: sandra.iga@pau.ac.pg Papers will be accepted in four broad areas of theological enquiry – Old Testament, New Testament, Theology (Systematic and Historical), and Applied Theology (Ministry, Ethics, Missiology) – and presenters will be encouraged to submit expanded versions of their papers for publication in the *Melanesian Journal of Theology*. The last day for receipt of abstracts is 30 April 2011. It is envisaged that the MATS conference will become an annual gathering of educators and postgraduate students from the theological schools of Melanesia and the wider South Pacific. A meeting to reconstitute the association will be held on the last day of MATS 2011. From 2012 the conference will be hosted by other theological schools in Papua New Guinea and the South Pacific islands. For details and further information please contact Scott Charlesworth at sdchar@gmail.com

July 1-2 EMPIRE, MIGRATION AND OCEANIC BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

A conference of the Oceania Biblical Studies Association (OBSA) to be held at Malua Theological College in Samoa. The deadline for all paper proposals is May 31st, 2011. For further information, please contact Dr Nasili Vaka'uta (n.vakauta@auckland.ac.nz) or send an email to OBSAMail@gmail.com.

July 4-8/ 2011 SBL INTERNATIONAL MEETING, London, England (see above)

August 8-11 THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF BIBLICAL STUDIES (EABS), Thessaloniki, Greece.

For information <http://www.eabs.net/conf.aspx>

Note:

Please submit basic information about events to Sharon Johnson at sharon.johnson@sbl-site.org.

(f) SBL MEMBERSHIP

Please renew your membership and encourage your colleagues and students to join the Society and to contribute to shaping its future. Students from ICI qualifying countries have to pay only US \$ 10 and scholars from the same countries only US \$ 15 to become full members. Anyone who wishes to become a member, and for whom this amount represents undue hardship, is encouraged to contact Leigh Andersen (leigh.andersen@sbl-site.org). Please contact also Navar Steed (navar.steed@sblsite.org) with any question related to this program.

(g) PLEASE PASS THE INFORMATION

Feel free 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.

Best wishes,
Ehud

Ehud Ben Zvi, SBL - International Cooperation Initiative