



The Orion News Update

May 1999

The Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Scrolls and Associated Literature has hosted and participated in a number of important events this spring.

Visiting Lecturers on Second Temple Judaism and Early Christianity

The Orion Center was host on May 4-5, 1999 to a pair of internationally renowned scholars, Profs. John J. and Adella Yarbro Collins from the University of Chicago, for a series of lectures on Second Temple Judaism and early Christianity. The programs attracted an audience of nearly two hundred people at the Israel Museum and over one hundred at the Rothberg School for Overseas Students. The diverse topics of the presentations included 'Jesus and the Jerusalem Temple', 'Hellenization of Jerusalem in the Maccabean Era', 'First Christians: Why Did Some Jews Accept Jesus?', and 'Messianic Figures in Second Temple Judaism'. **Hebrew University rector, Prof. Menachem Ben-Sasson**, introduced the speakers at the Rothberg School with a double message. He stressed the timeliness of these lectures as the millennium approaches, and the importance of their investigation within the academic framework of the Hebrew University in which pluralistic approaches to this material can be advanced. This academic, pluralistic approach was mirrored by the diverse audience which included faculty and students from the Hebrew University, Bar Ilan University, Tel Aviv University, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Hebrew Union College, the Seminary of Judaic Studies of the Jewish Theological Seminary, the École Biblique et Archéologique Française, the Tantur Institute, the W. F. Albright Institute of Archeological Research, the Ratisbonne Institute, and the University of the Holy Land.

The Jerusalem Task Force for Science and Scrolls

The Jerusalem Task Force for Science and Scrolls, a joint venture of the Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Institute of Jewish Studies, and the Kuvim Center for the Study of Infectious and Tropical Diseases at the Hadassah Medical School, headed an Israeli delegation to the European Community Program on Micromethods in Analysis of Parchment held at the Czech National Library in Prague, April 14-16, 1999. The Israeli ambassador to the Czech Republic, Mr. Raphael Gvir,

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attended the Task Force's presentation on "The Role of Analytical Methods in the Study, Restoration, and Conservation of Manuscripts". The Hebrew University Scholars spoke on:

- ◆ Neutron Activation Analysis of the Pottery (Dr. Jan Gunneweg, Institute of Archeology),
- ◆ Forensic Examination of Encrustations and Stitching of the Dead Sea Scrolls (Dr. Azriel Gorski, Kuvin Center),
- ◆ Study of Early Animal Husbandry in Light of the Dead Sea Scrolls (Gila Kahila Bar-Gal, Kuvin Center)
- ◆ The Reconstruction of Scrolls by Morphological Analysis of their Fragments (Dr. Esther Chazon, Director, Orion Center).

This interdisciplinary approach is opening up new avenues of research on the population at Qumran, interregional trade, and other issues. The Jerusalem Task Force is co-chaired by Profs. Charles Greenblatt, Kuvin Center, and Michael E. Stone, Orion Center.

NEW BOOKS

Pseudepigraphical Perspectives: The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha in Light of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Proceedings of the Second Annual International Symposium of the Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Associated Literature, 12-14 January, 1997. Studies in the Texts of the Desert of Judah 31. Ed. E. G. Chazon and M. E. Stone with the collaboration of Avital Pinnick. Leiden: Brill, 1999.

This volume of papers, from the Second International Conference of the Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Associated Literature, examines the attribution of books to great figures in antiquity: Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Levi, Ezekiel, Daniel and others. Among the important issues addressed in this collection are the consequences of assigning the origins of evil to humans (Adam and Eve) or to demons (in the time of Enoch and Noah) and the significance of each author's choice of pseudepigraphical pseudonym for identifying his social context.

The publication of this book will be celebrated on June 14, 1999, at a ceremony in honor of Prof. Michael Stone, the founder and former director of the Orion Center. The evening will consist of a series of lectures related to issues raised in this volume. The speakers include Dr. David Satran of the Hebrew University, Dr. Adolfo Roitman, Curator of the Shrine of the Book at the Israel Museum, and Dr. Esther Chazon, Director of the Orion Center, followed by the response of Professor Stone.