



The Orion Newsletter

The Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Associated Literature

מרכז אוריון לחקר מגילות מדבר יהודה והספרות הקרובה להן

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Twenty-Second Issue

Letter from the Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

2016 has been a banner year for the Orion Center. The Fifteenth International Symposium, held in conjunction with the University of Vienna Institute for Jewish Studies and the Schechter Institute for Jewish Studies, set a new benchmark for our collaboration with other academic institutions, as well as for the breadth and depth of coverage of the symposium topic: "The Texts of the Bible from the Dead Sea Scrolls to the Biblical Manuscripts of the Vienna Papyrus Collection." Exciting new discoveries and publications were unveiled, among them: virtual images of the charred Ein Gedi Leviticus Scroll; an armband amulet inscribed with a Byzantine Greek translation of the rabbinic Shema; medieval Masoretic manuscripts from the Vienna Papyrus Collection; and the first volume of Brill's new *Textual History of the Bible*, edited by Armin Lange and Emanuel Tov.

The Austrian Ambassador to Israel, His Excellency Martin Weiss, opened the symposium with a moving address expressing the personal, international, and historic importance of the Vienna-Jerusalem cooperation. The Symposium was the third conference organized under the cooperation agreement between the Hebrew University and the University of Vienna, and the first held in Jerusalem. The four-day event was made possible through the ongoing, generous support of the Hebrew University and the Orion Foundation, as well as by special, significant grants from the three co-sponsoring institutions, the Federal Ministry for Europe Integration and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria, and the Sir Zelman Cowen Universities Fund.

Looking ahead, we have a rich program of scholars' seminars on this year's academic calendar; in addition, an Orion-sponsored plenary session at the World Congress of Jewish Studies, featuring Profs. Emanuel Tov, Devorah Dimant, Michael Segal, and Esther Eshel, will mark the seventieth anniversary of the discovery of the scrolls (see facing column). And, as befits such an anniversary year, the Orion website will undergo a major renovation!

To close, I wish to thank our inspiring colleagues, the Orion Academic Committee, and our dedicated staff: Administrative Manager, Ariella Amir; Webmaster, Yael Bezalel-Eliahoo; Head of Orion Publications, Dr. Ruth Clements, and the student research assistants and interns from the Rothberg International School who work under Dr. Clements's capable direction.

Best wishes to all for a fruitful and peaceful year,

Esther Chazon

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Looking Towards 70: On Seventy Years of Scrolls Discovery and Research

2017 will usher in the seventieth anniversary of the initial discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. That year, the first seven scrolls from what became known as Qumran Cave 1—the two Isaiah scrolls, the *Peshar on Habakkuk*, the *War Scroll*, the *Genesis Apocryphon*, the *Thanksgiving Hymns*, and the *Community Rule*—came to light, discovered by Bedouin tribesmen. In the subsequent decade, hundreds more scroll fragments were unearthed, some in systematic excavations, some through less certain means.

Those seven scrolls were published over the course of the 1950s. In 1955, the first volume of the series Discoveries in the Judaean Desert featured the additional fragmentary manuscripts that had been discovered in Cave 1. The texts from the "minor caves"—Caves 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 10—were published in 1962, in DJD 3 and 3a. However, the myriad fragmentary texts from Cave 4 were slower to emerge. The controversy over the publication history of the scrolls is well known; what is important is that by 2002, the bulk of the texts in the collection of the Israel Antiquities Authority had either been published or were being readied for publication. The last volume in the DJD series, on the Cave 1 Isaiah scrolls, came out in 2010; the Cave 3 *Copper Scroll*, held by Jordan, was published separately in 2006.

The years since those first discoveries have seen great advances in both analytical technology (radiocarbon dating, DNA testing, etc.) and imaging technology. With the help of special digital imaging techniques, it is now possible to examine the manuscripts in ways not to be thought of before the 1990s. Both the Israel Museum (<http://dss.collections.imj.org.il/>) and the Israel Antiquities Authority (<http://www.deadseascrolls.org.il/home>) have made the scrolls digitally accessible to the scholarly and the general public, in new online initiatives. These online databases make it possible for anyone to see and read the scrolls "up close"; in addition, they allow scholars to utilize the new, enhanced images in their own work, to check accepted readings of texts and perhaps to discover new ones.

An interesting recent development in scrolls studies is the publication, just a few months ago, of two volumes of scrolls materials that have come to light since 2002 (see articles p. 3). Scrolls discoveries are never free of controversy, and these are no exception; the new publications promise to spark a wealth of scholarly debate in the coming year.

In Jerusalem, two special programs will mark this anniversary:

- ◆ The Orion Center is planning a plenary session, "Seventy Years since the Discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls: Biblical and Parabiblical Texts in Light of the Scrolls," for the Seventeenth World Congress of Jewish Studies, to be held August 6–10 at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (see Calendar, p. 4).

- ◆ The Israel Museum will mount two new exhibitions, opening at the end of May. A special display on the *Genesis Apocryphon*, which has not been shown since the late 1960's, is to be installed in the Museum's main exhibit hall. The Dorot Information and Study Center in the Shrine of the Book will house an exhibit devoted to the discovery and history of the four scrolls originally acquired in 1947 by Metropolitan Mar Athanasius Samuel, Archbishop of the Syriac Orthodox Church in Jerusalem.

We will post updates as information becomes available. Stay tuned to the Orion website—and keep us in the know!

Center News

The 2015–2016 academic year featured both exceptional academic seminars by individuals and the dynamic meeting of scholarly minds that constituted the Fifteenth International Orion Symposium (see accompanying article). Prof. Menahem Kister led off the fall semester with a seminar on connections between Qumran, *Jubilees*, and 2 Cor 6:14–7:1. Matlow scholar Simcha Gross continued with a multifaceted reevaluation of the potential connections between early Judaism and Syriac Christianity. In a research seminar cosponsored with the Israel Antiquities Authority, former Orion bibliography researcher Oren Ableman, who currently serves as research associate for the IAA’s Leon Levy Digital DSS Library, gave a fascinating rundown of some of the yet unpublished scroll fragments that have emerged as a consequence of his work with the IAA. And Dr. Shira Golani completed the seminar series with a lecture on the literary function of scribal lists in the Dead Sea scrolls.

◆ Dr. Dwight Swanson, of Nazarene Theological College and the University of Manchester, returned to Orion in January through March as a visiting scholar, to work on a volume of studies on the biblical Qumran scrolls. We were delighted to welcome him back and are looking forward to adding the book to the bibliography.

◆ *Orion Scholarship Recipients*: Last year’s Matlow scholar was Simcha Gross from Yale University; we also hosted Orion

postdoctoral fellow Shira Golani, who divided her time between Orion and the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium). This year, Michael Brooks Johnson, from McMaster University’s Department of Religious Studies, was selected as the Orion Matlow scholar; he is researching the genres of the psalms in *IQHodayot*. In addition, Orion scholarships were awarded to Amanda Michelle Davis Bledsoe, of the Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich’s Jewish Studies Department, who is finishing a doctorate on Danielic traditions at Qumran; and Oded Essner, an M.A. student in Tel-Aviv University’s Department of Hebrew Culture, who is studying the Song of Songs manuscripts from Qumran. We look forward to welcoming them and hearing about their research.

◆ Michal Drori-Elmalem, Orion bibliography researcher, has left us to concentrate on her studies; her post has been ably filled by Shiran Shevach, an MA student in the Department of Bible.

◆ *Interns*: Once again, the Rothberg International School sent us a number of great student interns: Rob Brier (Australia); Amanda Brown (Utah); Sharlin Decorato (Sicily and Venezuela); Antony Hylton (Kenya and London); and UnSung Kwak (South Korea). All made great strides this past year in helping us continue to add older publications to the Bibliography Search. Thanks for all your good work! We look forward to working again with Amanda and Sharlin in the coming year.

The Fifteenth International Orion Symposium

The Texts of the Bible from the Dead Sea Scrolls to the Biblical Manuscripts of the Vienna Papyrus Collection

The most recent Orion Symposium, “The Texts of the Bible from the Dead Sea Scrolls to the Biblical Manuscripts of the Vienna Papyrus Collection” (April 10–13, 2016) constituted a historic conjunction of academic disciplines, institutions, and cultures. The four-day convocation was cosponsored by the University of Vienna’s Institute for Jewish Studies, the Schechter Institute for Jewish Studies, and the Sir Zelman Cowen Universities Fund, with the participation of the Federal Ministry for Europe Integration and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria, the Austrian Embassy (Tel-Aviv), the Israel Museum, and Brill Academic Publishers. Scholars from



Austrian Ambassador Martin Weiss at the opening session. Israel, Europe, and North America—from biblical and scrolls scholars, to specialists in rabbinic literature and medieval manuscripts—lectured, listened, and contributed their insights to a fascinatingly broad picture of the development of the textual tradition of the Bible. The Austrian Ambassador, His Excellency Martin Weiss, gave one of the opening addresses, underscoring the historic significance of this venture in Israeli–Austrian cooperation. The launch of Brill’s *Textual History of the Bible* (vol. 1), coedited by Armin Lange and Emanuel Tov, evidenced another venue of Jerusalem–Vienna collegiality. The symposium itself moved between the Hebrew University, the Schechter Institute, and the Israel Museum, embodying

through its diverse locations the interdisciplinary and intercultural scholarly dialogue that the meeting was intended to foster.

The First International Symposium of the Orion Center (1996) focused on the early use and interpretation of the Bible in light of the scrolls. In the intervening twenty years, more than two hundred biblical DSS manuscripts have been identified and published. These publications have fundamentally changed our understanding of the biblical text and its history, as well as our sense of the possibilities inherent in the study of the ancient materials. The presentations at the April symposium addressed diverse facets of the nexus between interpretation or translation and textual development, with Hebrew University’s Emanuel Tov providing a sweeping picture of the development of the text of the Torah, built upon the wealth of philological observations gleaned from the Dead Sea manuscripts.

Another striking feature of this gathering, twenty years on, was the impact of recent developments in innovative technologies for the study of the scrolls and other ancient manuscripts. One of the most technologically exciting talks, by Michael Segal and Emanuel Tov, chronicled the “digital unrolling” of a charred, sixth-century CE scroll of Leviticus, found at Ein Gedi. The project was carried out under the auspices of the Israel Antiquities Authority, assisted by computer science researchers at the University of Kentucky. Digital imaging and other scientific analytic tools proved invaluable for other sessions as well, particularly those that presented the mostly medieval Vienna manuscripts.



Michael Segal presenting the Ein Gedi Leviticus scroll.

All in all, the symposium surpassed its goals as a unique opportunity for scholars across the spectrum to chart new directions in the study of the textual history of the Bible.

New Scrolls Publications

Summer 2016 saw the publication of two collections of previously unpublished scroll fragments. We have asked Emanuel Tov and Torleif Elgvin, the editors of the two volumes, to describe the new publications.

Dead Sea Scrolls Fragments in the Museum Collection. Edited by Emanuel Tov, Kipp Davis and Robert Duke. Publications of Museum of the Bible 1. Leiden: Brill, 2016.

Emanuel Tov

The collection of ancient Jewish texts held by the Museum of the Bible contains thirteen small fragments of scrolls from the Judean Desert. These fragments were purchased on behalf of Mr. Steven Green in four lots from four private collectors, between 2009 and 2014. The collection of Dead Sea Scroll fragments published in this volume joins several other collections and individual texts that have become known at the end of the twentieth century and in the beginning of the twenty-first century. The history of these discoveries, not including the Museum of the Bible collection, has been reviewed in detail by Hanan Eshel in his posthumous contribution to the publication of The Schøyen Collection (see facing column). The other major private collections of Dead Sea Scroll fragments are The Schøyen Collection, the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary collection, and the Azusa Pacific University collection.

Some of these fragments must have come from Qumran, probably Cave 4, while the others may have derived from other sites in the Judean Desert. Unfortunately, little is known about the provenance of these fragments because most sellers did not provide such information at the time of the sale. Those that were purchased from the antiquities dealer Kando came with the label “Qumran Cave 4,” but scholars often do not attach much value to such claims. As a rule, no certainty can be obtained with regard to any unprovenanced fragments.

Carbon-14 and chemical examinations have been applied to several fragments found in the Judean Desert, but rarely in the case of tiny fragments since they provide too little surface for the examinations. In very few cases may an unprovenanced fragment be linked with a Qumran composition, when its text overlaps with such a composition. This suggestion is considered for fragment 13, A Fragment of *Instruction*, but rejected. The nomenclature used for the collection follows the system devised by Eibert Tigchelaar in 2010 to indicate unprovenanced fragments; e.g., dss F.Exod6 (Exod 17:4–7).

Twelve of the Museum fragments contain parts of biblical books, while one comprises a fragment of a manuscript of the composition named *Instruction*. The fragments are published in accordance with the system of DJD, accompanied by advanced photographs and digital reconstructions by Bruce Zuckerman and Marilyn Lundberg of the surroundings of the fragments. The publication includes an analysis of paleography and physical features. The fragments display some variants in spelling and content vis-à-vis the Masoretic Text, but not any major deviations.

The special feature of this publication is that the work on these fragments was conducted under the auspices of the Museum of the Bible Scholars’ Initiative. “The ultimate goal [of the Initiative] is to provide students with the opportunity to develop as scholars under the guidance of their scholars-mentors” (from the publisher’s description).

Ongoing discussion of the new fragments may be found on academia.edu (see especially the pages of E. Tigchelaar and K. Davis); is forthcoming in DSD; and will continue at the ISBL Qumran section meetings in 2017.

Gleanings from the Caves: Dead Sea Scrolls and Artefacts from The Schøyen Collection. Edited by Torleif Elgvin, with Kipp Davis and Michael Langlois. LSTS 71. London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2016.

Torleif Elgvin

This volume presents twenty-three Judean Desert texts, most of them acquired from the Kando family between 1999 and 2010. Five of these texts were previously published, but appear here in improved editions.

A *novum* in the volume is the presentation of each text in two stages. In the first stage, the fragment is transcribed and presented only according to what the editors can actually see on the fragment, without any attempts at restoration. Uncertain letters are indicated by open circles. Only at the second stage do the editors attempt to reconstruct the text, in conversation with other textual witnesses. At this stage, uncertain letters may be tentatively indicated, using supralinear circlets. This two-stage process makes the editorial process more transparent to the reader.

Further, all texts have been digitally reconstructed to suggest the most plausible readings for the *lacunae*. If a fragment comes from the middle of a column, the digital reconstruction aims to find a placement between the margins that will lead to a vertical right column margin and a relatively straight left margin. At times, the digital reconstruction may suggest, in conversation with ancient witnesses, a “hidden” textual variant to the right or the left of the preserved text.

Michael Langlois’ palaeographical chapter utilizes digital tools more than previous text editions, working with photographic captures of the letters rather than the scholars’ handwritten drawings. The discussion of each letter is accompanied by photographic captures of the letter in question in its (slightly) diverse forms. In the case of ligatured letters, the join with the neighboring letter is also pictured.

For the first time in DSS research, the text editions have been prepared in conjunction with mineral analysis of the skin and the sediments from the sojourn in the caves. Mineral and palaeographical analyses have led to the reassignment of five texts to Bar Kokhba caves. The four biblical texts in this group were copied with remarkably high and narrow columns; according to Kipp Davis, this seems to reflect a scribal custom used for high-quality scrolls from the mid-first century C.E. onwards.

The Schøyen Collection also houses a number of artefacts from the Judean Desert, including a cylindrical jar and the wrapper of the Temple Scroll. Joan Taylor’s petrographic analysis suggests that the jar, likely found in Cave 1 or Cave 2, was made from clay originating in the northern Negev.

In the introduction to the volume, I discuss the provenance and authenticity of this remarkably high number of recently surfaced fragments. Only one “recent” fragment in this volume can be matched with a scroll published in DJD, 4QRP^b. Another represents a second copy of a 4Q document, 4QComGen A, while eight fragments display conspicuous nonuniformity in letter sizes, letter forms, line spacing, and word spacing. Nine fragments in the collection were excluded from the volume, due to a number of suspicious factors.

They have been subjected to a battery of additional physical tests, the results of which will be presented in a forthcoming issue of *Dead Sea Discoveries*.



Genesis fragment from the Museum Collection

Orion Center Calendar 2016/2017*

December 7. Jonas C. Greenfield Scholars' Seminar 12:30–14:00. Prof. Paula Fredriksen, Dept. of Religion, Boston University, and Distinguished Visiting Professor, Hebrew University: "How Jewish is God? Divine Ethnicity in Paul's Theology" (in English)

January 17. Jonas C. Greenfield Scholars' Seminar 12:30–14:00. Prof. Gary Anderson, Dept. of Theology, University of Notre Dame: "The Place of the Commandments in the Book of Tobit and the World of Legal Piety in Second Temple Judaism" (in English)

March 22. Jonas C. Greenfield Scholars' Seminar 16:00–17:30. Dr. Nadav Sharon, Lady Davis Postdoctoral Fellow: "The 'Vision of the Four Kingdoms' at Qumran? A Reexamination" (in Hebrew)

April 26. Jonas C. Greenfield Scholars' Seminar 12:30–14:00. Prof. Ruth Langer, Dept. of Theology, Boston College, Lady Davis Fellow: "New Perspectives on the Antiquity of Obligatory Prayer in Israel" (in Hebrew)

May 15. Presentation and Discussion 12:30–14:00. Michael Brooks Johnson, Ph.D. Student, Dept. of Religious Studies, McMaster University; Orion Matlow Scholar: "An Assessment of the Genres of Psalms in *IQHodayot*" (in English)

June 14. Presentation and Discussion 12:30–14:00. Oded Essner, M.A. Student, Dept. of Hebrew Culture, Tel Aviv University; Orion Scholarship Recipient: "The Canticles Scrolls from Qumran: Language, Text, and Compositional History" (in Hebrew)

August 6–10. *Seventeenth World Congress of Jewish Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

- Orion Center Plenary: "Seventy Years since the Discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls: Biblical and Parabiblical Texts in Light of the Scrolls" (in English)
- Speakers: Profs. Emanuel Tov, Devorah Dimant, Hindy Najman, Michael Segal
- Chairperson: Prof. Esther Chazon

Stay tuned to the Orion website for updates and additions.

*Please note: Unless otherwise specified, Orion programs are held in the Mandel World Center of Jewish Studies (Rabin Building), the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Mt. Scopus.

Orion Research Scholarships

The Orion Center awards research scholarships to young scholars once a year. Priority is given to research that can be done uniquely in Jerusalem or at the Hebrew University, and that integrates the new information gleaned from the Dead Sea Scrolls into the broader picture of Second Temple Judaism. Please see

<http://orion.mscc.huji.ac.il/educate/fellowships.shtml>

for application information, deadlines, and forms.

In Appreciation

We would like to express our gratitude to the Orion Foundation and the Hebrew University for their ongoing support; to the Sir Zelman Cowen Universities Fund for assisting with designated projects in the past as well as the recent symposium; to the University of Vienna, the Schechter Institute, the Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe Integration and Foreign Affairs, and Brill Academic Publishers for their assistance with the symposium; and to the many individuals in Israel and abroad who make up the Orion Associates.

In Memoriam

The Orion Center joins our colleagues in Israel and North America in honoring the memories of Zipora Talshir (1946–2016), and Peter Flint (1952–2016).

Prof. Talshir was a member of the Department of Bible at Ben-Gurion University and a leading scholar of the textual criticism of the Hebrew Bible. Her research on the Septuagint (especially 1 Esdras) and on the textual history and canonization of the Hebrew Bible in general was enriched by work on the biblical Qumran manuscripts, particularly 4QSam^a. We have appreciated her collegial participation in Orion programs, most recently the April Symposium.

Prof. Flint was Professor of Religious Studies at Trinity Western University, where he held the Canada Research Chair in Dead Sea Scrolls Studies and served as Co-Director of the Dead Sea Scrolls Institute. He was a member of the DJD editorial team, publishing, with Eugene Ulrich, the *editio princeps* of the Isaiah scrolls from Qumran; and he wrote and edited many other studies that integrated scholarship on the biblical Dead Sea Scrolls with the text critical study of the Hebrew Bible and the Septuagint. He is perhaps best known for his work on the Qumran Psalms scrolls; his research serves as a foundation for all subsequent studies.

We are grateful to these colleagues for their legacies of scholarly insights as well as for their less tangible contributions to the field, which will continue to enrich scrolls scholarship, particularly work on the biblical scrolls, for the years to come.

Orion Publications in Preparation

The Religious Worldviews Reflected in the Dead Sea Scrolls: Proceedings of the Fourteenth International Symposium of the Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Associated Literature, 28–30 May, 2013. Edited by Menahem Kister, Michael Segal, and Ruth A. Clements. Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah. Leiden: Brill.

The Texts of the Bible from the Dead Sea Scrolls to the Biblical Manuscripts of the Vienna Papyrus Collection: Proceedings of the Fifteenth International Symposium of the Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Associated Literature, 10–13 April, 2015. Edited by Esther Chazon, Armin Lange, Paul Mandel, Michael Segal, Ruth Clements. Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah. Leiden: Brill.

Meghillot: Studies in the Dead Sea Scrolls 13. Edited by Jonathan Ben-Dov and Menahem Kister. Haifa: The University of Haifa; Jerusalem: Bialik Institute and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

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and help the Center foster innovative research on the scrolls!

Visit <http://orion.mscc.huji.ac.il/orion/associates.shtml> for a printable associates form; mail this form to the Center with your check (made out to "The Orion Center, Hebrew University"). Gifts may be general or designated for specific purposes (e.g., the Bibliography Project). **A special thanks to our current Associates**—your interest and support are vital to the work of the Center!

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