



# 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

November 2017

Twenty-Third Issue

## Letter from the Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The Hebrew University's relationship with the Dead Sea Scrolls began seventy years ago, shortly after the first discovery by Bedouin shepherds. On November 29, 1947—the day that the United Nations passed the resolution to partition Palestine—Prof. Eleazar Lipa Sukenik paid a secret visit to an antiquities dealer in Bethlehem and purchased three scrolls for the Hebrew University. Following decades of limited scholarly access to most of the Scrolls, Prof. Emanuel Tov's 1990 appointment as Editor-in-Chief of the Dead Sea Scrolls Publication Project, with the Hebrew University at its hub, enabled the publication of all the Scrolls by 2010.

Prof. Michael E. Stone founded the Orion Center in 1995, envisioning the next stage of research years before the publication project was completed. From its inception, the Center's aim has been to foster groundbreaking Scrolls research, particularly the integration of the new data from the Scrolls with "associated literature," thereby achieving a better understanding of ancient Judaism and nascent Christianity. The Center works toward this goal through its comprehensive, up-to-date Online Bibliography; its scholarly seminars, which highlight current research; and its international symposia, which have focused on such topics as biblical interpretation, apocrypha and pseudepigrapha, Wisdom texts, Jewish history, Hebrew language, prayer, rabbinics, and early Christianity.

The overarching "wilderness" theme of the upcoming Sixteenth International Orion Symposium promises to maximize integrative research across a broad range of ancient texts, artefacts, and academic fields from the vantage point of "The Dead Sea Scrolls at Seventy." The Orion Center is proud to convene this spring symposium, marking seventy years since the initial Scrolls discoveries, together with four prestigious institutions: New York University, the University of Vienna, the Israel Antiquities Authority, and the Shrine of the Book. I am grateful to my co-conveners for their wise counsel, hard work, and dedication of resources, as well as to The Hebrew University and the Orion Foundation for their ongoing support.

This year's rich program of Scholars seminars and discussion hours is already underway. I thank all of the presenters who graciously share their research and wisdom with us.

I extend special thanks to our expert Orion staff who shoulder the Center's ongoing activities: Administrative Manager, Ariella Amir; Head of Orion Publications, Dr. Ruth Clements; Webmaster, Yael Bezalel-Eliahoo; Bibliography Assistant, Shiran Shevah; and the interns from the Rothberg International School.

Best wishes for a fruitful and peaceful year,

Esther Chazon

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

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## The Sixteenth International Orion Symposium The Dead Sea Scrolls at Seventy: "Clear a Path in the Wilderness"

To mark seventy years since the initial discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Orion Center, with the support of the Orion Foundation and the Hebrew University, is holding an international symposium in Jerusalem, April 29–May 3, 2018. The five-day event is being cosponsored by the University of Vienna's Institute for Jewish Studies, New York University, the Israel Antiquities Authority, and the Israel Museum; dedicated financial support is also being supplied through the University of Vienna by the Austrian Ministry for Europe Integration and Foreign Affairs, and the Austrian Embassy (Tel-Aviv); and through NYU by donor George S. Blumenthal, founder of [jewishhistory.com](http://jewishhistory.com).

The symposium takes its theme from Isa 40:3: "Prepare a way in the wilderness." This verse, particularly by way of its use in the *Community Rule* (1QS 8:12–16), has been understood in various ways as programmatic for the self-identity of the Qumran community. The wilderness itself may be seen as a biblical staging area for formative episodes in Israel's history; as a conceptual framework, based on biblical language and narrative, that itself constitutes a formative element in Second Temple literature; and as a geographical locale, the location of the Qumran group's activity and a theater for contemporary archaeological exploration. Thus, the upcoming symposium explores "the wilderness" from multiple angles, as these relate to Qumran, other Judean Desert sites, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and relevant late antique literatures, cultures and religions.

The wilderness theme has proven a fruitful way to highlight and explore the interdisciplinary nature of scrolls study, seventy years on. In addition to papers assessing areas specific to the Qumran community (e.g., the nature of the Qumran collection, aspects of history and identity, theological, ethical, and sociological themes), a number of presentations will examine, through this thematic lens, such topics as the significance of the Qumran texts for biblical text criticism; and points of contact (theological, liturgical, and other) between Qumran, other Second Temple texts, and the New Testament writings. The third day of the symposium will take place at the Israel Museum and is to be devoted to new Judean Desert archaeological discoveries; technological advances in Scrolls research and new research initiatives; scientific studies of the impact of the desert environment on the ancient materials and their state of preservation; and (re)assessments of some of the implications of the texts and material finds. Scholars from North America, South Africa, Europe, and Israel are scheduled to share their research.

The symposium program is now being finalized. In addition to the topical scholarly sessions taking place throughout the days of the symposium, a public evening program (in Hebrew) will be held at the Israel Museum. A schedule of symposium sessions will be posted on the Orion website when it becomes available. We are excited to be able to showcase, through this rich scholarly gathering, the distance traversed over the past seventy years.

## Center News

◆ *Greenfield Scholar's Seminars:* The seminar series of 2016–2017 opened with a thought-provoking exploration by Prof. Paula Fredriksen (Boston University and Hebrew University) of “divine ethnicity” in the letters of Paul. Prof. Gary Anderson (University of Notre Dame) looked at the development of legal piety in Second Temple Judaism through the lens of the book of Tobit. Dr. Nadav Sharon (Golda Meir Postdoctoral Fellow at Hebrew University and former Orion bibliographer) lectured on the “Vision of the Four Kingdoms” at Qumran. Prof. Ruth Langer (Boston College; Hebrew University Lady Davis Fellow) rounded off the Greenfield series with an exploration of the development of obligatory Jewish prayer in antiquity. Thanks to all for a stimulating year! For this year’s lineup, see the **Calendar**, page 4.

◆ *Orion Scholarship Recipients and Graduate Researchers:* This past year, Michael Brooks Johnson, a doctoral candidate in McMaster University’s Department of Religious Studies, came to Orion as a Matlow scholar to research the genres of the psalms in *IQHodayot*. He set out some of the results of his research in a presentation and discussion hour in April. Oded Essner, an M.A. student in Tel-Aviv University’s Department of Hebrew Culture, also received an Orion scholarship. In May, he presented his work on the compositional history of the Song of Songs manuscripts from Qumran. This year, Rebekah Haigh, a master’s student from Emory University is in residence at the Center as a Fulbright Scholar, under the sponsorship of Prof. Chazon; she is researching *IQSerekh* (the *Community Rule*) and related texts. We welcome Rebekah and look forward to hearing about her research.

◆ *Kudos:* To Prof. Paula Fredriksen on conferral of an honorary doctorate by the Hebrew University; to Prof. Michael Stone, on the presentation of a *Festschrift* at November’s Society of Biblical Literature meeting: *The Embroidered*

*Bible: Studies in Biblical Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha in Honour of Michael E. Stone*, ed. L. DiTommaso, M. Henze, W. Adler (Brill);

◆ *New Publications from Orion Associates:* Prof. Michael Stone’s new study, *Secret Groups in Ancient Judaism* (Oxford), has been hailed as a ground-breaking reexamination of Second Temple societies and their literature as conduits of esoteric knowledge. Dr. Nadav Sharon has published a monograph, *Judea under Roman Domination: The First Generation of Statelessness and Its Legacy* (SBL Press).

◆ *Bibliography Update:* Shiran Shevah, the Orion Bibliography research assistant, has been working on the addition of pre-1995 items to the Online Bibliography. The Hebrew bibliography update list is now finished; work has proceeded apace on the rest of the list, with the help of Rothberg interns Sharlin Decorato (Sicily and Venezuela), back from last year; and Matheus Grillo (Brazil), who has joined us again this fall. Thanks to the interns for all their help! AND A REMINDER—please check for your own work from time to time and send us information on missing items.

◆ *World Congress of Jewish Studies Plenary Session:* “70 Years of Discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls.” This evening session, organized by the Orion Center, was the opening plenary session of this year’s World Congress, held in August 2017 at the Hebrew University. The session was chaired by Esther Chazon; lectures by Devorah Dimant (Haifa University), Hindy Najman (Oxford University), Michael Segal (Hebrew University), and Emanuel Tov (Hebrew University) gave a multifaceted picture of advances in biblical and Second Temple studies made possible by scrolls research. A video recording of the session may be accessed at: <https://youtu.be/NM6s1eM1fkU>.

## Recent Scrolls News from the Israel Antiquities Authority

IAA Staff

*We asked the IAA for a brief summary of current Scrolls-related projects. Three are highlighted here; in addition, see the article on the facing page on other recent electronic initiatives.*

◆ *New fragments:* Over the last year there have been some new fragments identified in the IAA scroll storeroom. The most notable new discovery was made when examining a box of unsorted fragments. It is one of several such boxes that probably originated in Cave 11. For the most part, these boxes have never been systematically examined by scholars and the fragments have never been imaged. Oren Ableman set out to conduct a close examination of one particular box, in order to see if anything significant could be found. The box contains a few hundred small fragments and petrified wads in very poor condition, mixed together with dirt and other debris. Ableman removed eighty-two fragments from the box and examined them with the aid of new imaging devices available at the IAA scroll lab. Although no script was visible to the naked eye, many traces of ink were found under infrared light. In some cases, enough script could be deciphered to read full words and even to identify the manuscripts to which the fragments probably belonged. New fragments from the following manuscripts were identified with varying degrees of certainty: 11Q2, 11Q3, 11Q5, 11Q8, 11Q11, 11Q12, 11Q17, and 11Q21. Another fragment, written in paleo-Hebrew script, does not seem to belong to any of the known manuscripts of Cave 11. The results of this study were presented last April at the



Box 1032a: Fragments Attributed to Cave 11  
Photo: Shai Halevi, IAA

[Qumran Caves Publication Project 11Q Workshop \(Lugano, April 2017\)](#). The fragments will be published in the upcoming final archaeological report on Cave 11, edited by Marcello Fidanzio.

◆ *New archeological initiative:* This year, the IAA, together with the Hebrew University, has launched the largest survey and excavations project of the caves of the Judean Desert to date. The project is supported by public contributions and by the Heritage Division at the Office of the Prime Minister of Israel. The project is planned for a three-year period. Five months of each year will be devoted to surveys as well as excavations of selected caves. In this first season (2017–2018) extensive surveys will be carried out in the environs of Qumran and at Nahal Hever. We hope that this operation will lead to the discovery of unknown caves where “new” Dead Sea Scrolls will be uncovered in situ.

◆ *New exhibition:* A new Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit will be mounted from March 16, to September 3, 2018, at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science in Denver, Colorado. The exhibit will include a total of twenty scrolls that will be displayed in two three-month rotations due to conservation considerations. See <http://www.dmns.org/exhibitions/upcoming-exhibitions/the-dead-sea-scrolls/> for more details.

## Digital Qumran: New Projects and Reflections

*The seventieth anniversary year seems like a good time to consider some of the new research initiatives being developed by scholarly teams in Israel and elsewhere. We offer a brief report on two of the new initiatives and a student's reflection on the use of new methods.*

### Recent Initiatives in Collaborative Scrolls Research

Seventy years on, it is both timely and interesting to reflect on the changes that scrolls research has undergone—from infrared photography to multispectral imaging; from cellophane tape to digital reconstruction; to ever more sophisticated methods of determining the age and provenance of physical artefacts. New methods and the increasing sophistication of electronic tools have created the opportunity for innovative venues of interdisciplinary and cross-institutional research. We highlight here two recent, ongoing initiatives.

#### *Scripta Qumranica Electronica*

The SQE project, which began in 2016 and is slated to run through 2021, is funded through the Deutsch-Israelische Projektkooperation. SQE draws on the expertise of scholars based primarily in Haifa, Israel and Göttingen, Germany; the Israel Antiquities Authority's Leon Levy Digital Scrolls Library and cataloguing expertise; and the database of the Qumran-Wörterbuch (Qumran Dictionary) Project (housed in the Göttingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities). The multiple aims of the project include, first and foremost, new editions of specific scrolls, produced in a digital environment that allows for the presentation and comparison of multiple copies. These editions are to be facilitated by the linkage of the IAA database and the Qumran Dictionary database, a task that has been taken on by a computer science team based at Tel-Aviv University, where a new module for the study of the Qumran biblical scrolls is also being developed. An important end result is to be the development of an accessible online platform and tools for further collaborative work on the scrolls.

In May 2017, the SQE project staff, including representatives from the universities of Göttingen, Haifa, and Tel-Aviv, the EPHE (École pratique des hautes études) Paris, and the IAA, met in Göttingen, to consider "Advances in the Material Reconstruction of Scrolls." The various teams of the project are making progress in the production of a work space for scholars that combines textual data with advanced images.

For an initial report on the aims and work of the group see Bronson Brown-deVost, "Scripta Qumranica Electronica (2015–2021)," *HeBAI* 5 (2016): 307–15, accessible here: <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/contentone/mohr/hebai/2016/00000005/00000003/art00008;jsessionid=3drlmh4b9cg12.x-ic-live-03>.

#### *Groningen Initiatives:*

"The Hands that Wrote the Bible: Digital Paleography and Scribal Culture of the Dead Sea Scrolls" is a cooperative project funded by the ERC (European Research Council) and involving the IAA and an interdisciplinary team of scholars, mainly at the University of Groningen. The project draws on the IAA's sophisticated imaging technology; artificial intelligence tools; new Carbon-14 analytical techniques; and traditional manuscript analysis to evolve a method of "digital paleography" that can enable the use of quantitative methods for paleographic assessments of the images in the IAA database. Several related subprojects will use the data generated by these tools to investigate aspects of the developments of scribal practice and culture that the new analyses bring to light.

A second initiative, a joint project of Groningen and the University of Leuven, is called "Models of Textual Communities and Digital Palaeography of the Dead Sea Scrolls." The project is headed by Profs. Mladen Popović of Groningen and Eibert Tigchelaar of Leuven and jointly funded by the NWO/FWO ([Cooperation Flanders](#)); it makes use of the data and tools developed for the "Hands" project to investigate the heterogeneity of the Qumran manuscripts, from the point of view of scribal culture, in order to refine scholarly perceptions of continuities and discontinuities between them.

### Some Reflections on the Intersection between Conventional and Digital Approaches to Scrolls Research

*Michael Brooks Johnson* (Orion Matlow Scholar, 2016–2017)

Over the last seventy years, Dead Sea Scrolls research has carried on in a constant state of revolution, with new methods, technologies, and bodies of evidence overturning or qualifying old consensuses. To current PhD students like myself, many of the recent advances in digital approaches and tools appear to be changing the face of the discipline; however, to seasoned scholars this revolutionary change is nothing new—change and adaptation have always been the norm. The key consideration for early-career Scrolls scholars is how to follow in the footsteps of earlier generations in usefully integrating new tools and approaches without abandoning the conventional. In my current research on *IQHodayot*<sup>a</sup>, which I carried out this summer with the support of the Orion Center, I frequently found myself combining the old with the new to address pressing research questions.

IQH<sup>a</sup> is a particularly challenging scroll to study because, unlike many of the rest of the Dead Sea Scrolls, new high-quality images, using such techniques as high-resolution multispectral imaging or RTI (reflectance transformation imaging), are not yet available. Even if they were, however, the plates in the *Dead Sea Scrolls of the Hebrew University*, the Shrine of the Book images, and the plates in DJD 40 would still be indispensable. The older images document the state of the manuscript in the years after its discovery and in the process of its unrolling—a resource that new digital images cannot replace. Thus, I find myself drawing heavily on conventional editions and photographs, even as I am making digital reconstructions of columns in Photoshop or three-dimensional models of scrolls in digital modeling suites like Blender. I have found that when creating a three-dimensional model of a scroll, it is best to use these early images so that any modern shrinkage, decay, or damage are not baked into the model. Thus, even digital Scrolls research is forever anchored to those initial images and to the accounts of the first generation of Scrolls scholars.

In addition, when working on problems of material reconstruction, there are questions that cannot be answered by relying solely on either editions or digital tools. Scrolls are three-dimensional objects, and certain aspects are not fully captured by existing images; e.g., texture, thickness, and the extent of delamination. What appear in photos to be patterns of repeating damages or potential joins between fragments might be ruled out upon first-hand inspection of the fragments themselves, especially with the help of conservators who are intimately familiar with the causes of damage in the manuscripts.

Furthermore, a visit to the Shrine of the Book, the IAA, and other Jerusalem institutions with ties to the scrolls (e.g., the Hebrew University, the École Biblique, and the Albright Institute) allows one to tap into the institutional memory of the discovery of the Scrolls and their changing condition over the course of the last seventy years.

For Scrolls research, implementing the new digital approaches is best accompanied by a thorough consideration of conventional resources, tools, and institutional memories. This combination of innovation and convention is nothing new—it is business as usual for Scrolls scholarship in making use of every available means to yield new insights into the Dead Sea Scrolls.

## Orion Center Calendar 2017/2018\*

**November 8.** Jonas C. Greenfield Scholars' Seminar 12:30–14:00. Prof. David Lambert, Dept. of Religious Studies, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: "Between Philology and Philosophy: Problems in the History of the Self and Bible Translation" (in English)

**December 5.** Jonas C. Greenfield Scholars' Seminar 14:30–16:00. Prof. Steven Fraade, Department of Religious Studies, Yale University: "Reflections on Writing a Dead Sea Scroll Commentary to the *Damascus Document*" (in English)

**January 10.** Jonas C. Greenfield Scholars' Seminar 10:30–12:00. Dr. Yakir Paz, Buber Society of Fellows, The Hebrew University: "The Torah of Moses? The Torah as an Authorless Text in Tannaitic Literature in Light of Second Temple Literature" (in Hebrew)

**April 29–May 3. The Sixteenth International Orion Symposium: "The Dead Sea Scrolls at Seventy: 'Clear a Path in the Wilderness'"**

Where: The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Israel Museum

**May 23.** Presentation and Discussion Hour 10:30–12:00. Hillel Mali, Ph.D. Student, Department of Talmud, Bar-Ilan University: "Three Parties and one Paschal Sacrifice: Offering the Passover Sacrifice in the Temple, from *Jubilees* to the Tannaitic Literature" (in Hebrew)

**June 6.** Presentation and Discussion Hour 12:30–14:00. Rebekah Haigh, M.A., Emory University; Fulbright scholar: "Orality and Performance in the *Serakhim* Rule Texts: A Methodological Approach" (in English)

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.mssc.huji.ac.il/educate/fellowships.shtml>

for application information, deadlines, and forms.

### In Appreciation

We want 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, including the recent symposium; to the University of Vienna and the Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe Integration and Foreign Affairs for their assistance with both the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Orion symposia; to New York University and Mr. George Blumenthal for their support of the Sixteenth Symposium; and to the many individuals in Israel and abroad who make up the Orion Associates.

**TO OUR READERS:** If you would like to receive the electronic version of the *Newsletter* please let us know by email: [orioncenter@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:orioncenter@mail.huji.ac.il)  
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## Orion Publications

### Just out!

*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. The volume may be purchased through <http://www.bialik-publishing.com/> for a discounted price.

### 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.

### Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibitions 2017–2018

**March 16 to September 3, 2018**

**Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Denver, CO**  
<http://www.dmns.org/exhibitions/upcoming-exhibitions/the-dead-sea-scrolls/>

**Spring 2018 (Dates TBA)**

**The Israel Museum, Jerusalem**  
*The Faces behind the Scrolls*

<http://www.imj.org.il/en/wings/shrine-book/dorot-information-and-study-center>

For information on upcoming venues, please visit:

<http://orion.mssc.huji.ac.il/resources/boardExhibits.shtml>

### DSS at 70—Other Recent and Future Events

**October 25–26, 2017**

"The Dead Sea Scrolls Seventy Years Later: Manuscripts, Traditions, Interpretation, and Their Biblical Context"

John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland

<http://ocs.academicon.pl/index.php/test/DSS2017/schedConf/program>

**November 16–17, 2017**

"The Dead Sea Scrolls at 70," Rose-Marie Lewent Conference

New York University, Center for Ancient Studies

<http://as.nyu.edu/ancientstudies/events/fall-2017/the-rose-marie-lewent-conference---the-dead-sea-scrolls-at-70.html>

**April 19–20, 2018**

Groningen–Leuven Encounter on the Dead Sea Scrolls:

"Judaean Literacy in the Ancient Mediterranean"

University of Groningen, Qumran Institute

<http://www.rug.nl/research/centre-for-religious-studies/qumran-institute/research/groningen-leuven/>

**April, 2018 (Date TBA)**

Haifa Scrolls Workshop

University of Haifa

<http://megillot.haifa.ac.il/index.php/en/events>

### Become an Orion Associate—

and help the Center foster innovative research on the scrolls! Visit <http://orion.mssc.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"). **A special thanks to our current Associates—**your interest and support are vital to the work of the Center!