



# 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 2018

Twenty-Fourth Issue

## Letter from the Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As the academic year begins, we are embarking on an exciting new initiative at the Orion Center—a young scholars' research group formed by this year's six Orion scholarship recipients. The six scholars—Dr. Hillel Mali, Adam Lloyd-Alfia, Joshua Matson, Richard Medina-Ramos, Anna Shirav, and Ari Silbermann—have started their own email group and will meet regularly at the Center. Their research interests range from Bible and Hebrew language to wisdom literature, halakha, and demonology. Their diverse interests and academic backgrounds will undoubtedly enhance and advance each recipient's research. We wish them a productive year and look forward to their presentations during the year (see facing column and **Calendar**, p.4).

This past year we were graced with a stellar program of lecturers, both in the ongoing Orion scholar's seminars and at the spring international symposium marking seventy years since the initial discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Our symposium, hosting more than sixty scholars from all over the globe, stimulated a lively, interdisciplinary conversation covering all aspects of Scrolls study, and opened up new perspectives in the field (see articles facing column and p. 2). Clearly, a symposium of this magnitude is a collaborative effort, and I wish to duly recognize my co-conveners: Prof. Armin Lange, University of Vienna; Dr. Adolfo Roitman, Shrine of the Book, Israel Museum; Prof. Lawrence Schiffman, New York University; Pnina Shor, the Israel Antiquities Authority. We also appreciate the tangible support provided by each of their institutions, together with that received from the Austrian Ministry for Europe Integration and Foreign Affairs, Mr. George S. Blumenthal, and our constant supporters—the Hebrew University and the Orion Foundation.

I extend special good wishes and our deep gratitude to Prof. Michael E. Stone, founder of the Orion Center, as he enters his eightieth year. I would like to sincerely thank the Orion Academic Committee members—Prof. Steven Fassberg, Paula Fredriksen, Menahem Kister, Michael Segal, Emanuel Tov, and Dr. Noah Hacham—for sharing their wisdom and for their ongoing involvement in the Center's life.

Due credit goes to the Orion Staff for meticulous attention to every detail in running the Center's office and manifold activities—to Ariella Amir, office manager; Dr. Ruth Clements, Chief of Publications; Yael Bezalel-Eliahoo, webmaster; Shiran Shevah and Efrat Ben-David, research and office assistants; and the interns from the Rothberg International School.

Best wishes to all 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 16th International Orion Symposium: Preparing Paths for 21st Century Scrolls Scholarship

The Sixteenth Orion Symposium, held from April 29 to May 2 in Jerusalem, celebrated seventy years of Dead Sea Scrolls research following the initial scrolls discoveries in 1947. Titled, "The Dead Sea Scrolls at Seventy: 'Clear a Path in the Wilderness,'" the symposium offered both retrospective looks at past research and innovative directions for future research. More than forty presenters from Israel, Europe, South Africa, and North and South America, along with additional participants, convened at the Hebrew University for the four-day gathering. The wilderness theme furnished the lens through which presenters examined such diverse topics as: the self-identification of the Qumran group; the spiritual and psychological dimensions of religious experience reflected in the Dead Sea writings; biblical interpretation in those writings as a shaper and conveyor of that experience; and the place of the Qumran texts in relation to critical biblical scholarship (textual criticism, the history of biblical Hebrew, the history of interpretation). One session looked explicitly at Enoch traditions (Ethiopic Enoch seen in the light of the Qumran Enoch manuscripts); two back-to-back sessions reexamined the question of connections between the Dead Sea documents and the New Testament writings (for the full program and abstracts, see the [Orion website](#)).

The third day of the conference was held at the Israel Museum. Convened jointly by the Museum and the Israel Antiquities Authority, these sessions covered an array of scientific and archaeological topics, ranging from the geography of the Qumran caves, to IAA excavation expeditions, to the discovery of new texts among the IAA collections, to the development of new electronic resources to assist scholars in their textual research (for more on these presentations and on the evening program that followed, see the separate article, p. 2).

A common thread running through the presentations on all days was an appreciation of the distance we have travelled since those initial scroll discoveries. Both the publication of virtually all the Dead Sea fragments, and the development of new imaging technologies in the last decade or so, have led to new readings for many manuscripts, and the possibility of reeditions of some of the earliest published texts, which can now be incorporated much more fully into the more extensive "knowledge base" of the rest of the published scrolls. (*cont. p. 3*)

## Orion Welcomes Young Scholars' Research Group, 2018–2019

The Orion Center is pleased to be able to welcome a group of six young researchers as scholars in residence for this coming academic year. The six scholars, from both Israel and abroad, include two masters' students, three doctoral candidates, and one postdoctoral researcher. All will be pursuing their research this year at the Center. In addition to sharing their work with the larger Hebrew University scrolls community through the regular framework of Orion presentations, the researchers will be meeting throughout the year as a self-contained group, to share insights and experiences in a less formal way.

We asked the group to share something about their backgrounds, their work, and what excites them about their research—here are some of their answers and insights. (*cont. p. 3*)

## Center News

◆ The Sixteenth International Orion Symposium: “*The Dead Sea Scrolls at Seventy: ‘Clear a Path in the Wilderness’*” (April 29-May 2, 2018) was clearly a high point of last spring’s programming. See the articles on page 1 and below for some highlights.

◆ *Greenfield Scholar’s Seminars*: The lineup of Greenfield seminars for 2017–2018 featured three very different and stimulating presentations. In the fall semester, Prof. David Lambert (UNC Chapel Hill) looked at issues in Bible translation through the lens of the history of the self; Prof. Steven D. Fraade (Yale University) discussed some of the issues faced in writing commentaries to the scrolls. In January, Dr. Yakir Paz (Buber Society of Fellows, Hebrew University) spoke about the Torah of Moses as an “authorless text,” in light of Second Temple literature. Thanks to all for a great year! For this year’s lineup, see the **Calendar**, page 4.

◆ *Scholarship Recipients*: This past spring, Rebekah Haigh, Emory University Ph.D. student, and Fulbright scholar, shared some of her research on orality and performance theory as a methodology for analysis of the Serekh texts. This year we will welcome a record six Orion scholarship recipients: Adam Lloyd-Alfia, a master’s student in the Bible Department at Tel Aviv University; Dr. Hillel Mali, a postdoctoral researcher from Bar-Ilan’s Department of Talmud; Joshua Matson, a Ph.D. student in Florida State University’s Department of Re-

ligion; Richard Medina-Ramos, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Hebrew Language at Hebrew University; Anna Shirav, a master’s student in the Department of Jewish History and Biblical Studies at the University of Haifa; and Ari Silbermann, a Ph.D. candidate in Bar-Ilan University’s Department of Bible. See pp. 1 and 3 for more about their Orion projects.

◆ *Kudos*: To Prof. Elisha Qimron, Ben-Gurion University, awarded the Israel Prize in May, 2018; to Prof. Paula Fredriksen, Orion Academic Committee, awarded an honorary doctorate from Hebrew University in June, 2018; to Prof. Michael Segal, former head of the Academic Committee, named Dean of the HU Faculty of Humanities in October 2018; and to Prof. Steven Fassberg, present chair of the Academic Committee, incoming head of the Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies.

◆ *In Memoriam*: Prof. Aharon Shemesh of Bar-Ilan University, noted Scrolls scholar and colleague in many Orion enterprises, passed away in January 2018. In May, the Center offered a program in his memory, with a lecture by his student, Dr. Hillel Mali. In June 2018, Dr. Ada Yardeni, master epigrapher, another longtime Orion colleague, also passed away. We are grateful to these colleagues for their insightful contributions, which will continue to enrich Scrolls scholarship for the years to come.

### Same Link, New Look—Orion Center to Get a New Homepage

**Coming Soon**—The Orion Center website is undergoing a transformation! Webmaster and site designer Yael Bezalel Eliahoo has produced a stunning new site design for the Orion home page and for its internal pages. More to the point, the new site is fully responsive and should work well with all devices (mobile, iPad, desktop), and with any web browser. The new home page should be up and running within the next weeks.

Director of Publications Ruth Clements and research assistant Efrat Ben David have been working to update website content; an additional task ahead of us will be to “bootstrap” the Virtual Qumran site (which is separate from the main Orion site) to bring it into sync with the new site; both of these tasks will continue through the next few months.

In the meantime, we invite you to explore the new site when it goes up (<http://orion.mscc.huji.ac.il/>)—play with the links, send us feedback, suggestions, and updates—Enjoy!

### “Museum Day” at the Orion Symposium

*Pnina Shor, Israel Antiquities Authority*

The Sixteenth International Orion Symposium (see p. 1) included a special day hosted by the Israel Museum and the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA), primarily devoted to recent archaeological activities in the Judean Desert.

The archeological presentations were framed by two papers covering other scholarly projects in which the IAA has had a role. In the day’s first paper, Prof. Reinhard Kratz, of the University of Göttingen, detailed the progress made in constructing the [Scripta Qumranica Electronica](#) platform for online Scrolls research. The final paper of the day, presented by Prof. Marcello Fidanzio (Theological Faculty of Lugano), gave a comprehensive review of Qumran Cave 11 scholarship: recent archaeological assessments; the present state of scholarship on the texts; and the significance of “new” Cave 11 fragments, rediscovered through the use of the IAA’s multispectral imaging system.

Following Prof. Kratz’s paper, Prof. Amos Frumkin (Hebrew University) delineated the different geological settings of the excavated Judean Desert caves. He also outlined a project in which the micro-climate at the bottom of Qumran Cave 4 was measured during the winter months to help evaluate the appropriate conditions needed to preserve the scrolls. Dr. Eitan Klein and Amir Ganor reviewed the activities of the IAA’s Antiquities Looting Prevention Unit over the last few years, including both artifact confiscations and salvage excavations. Dr. Uri Davidovich (with Roi Porat) and Dr. Oren Gutfeld described excavations carried out in the large cave complex of Nahal Tze’elim and in Cave 53, respectively. While neither of these excavations yielded written material,

new information has been gathered which sheds light on the use and history of these caves. Prof. Guy Stiebel (Tel Aviv University) reviewed recent excavations at Masada; the new findings may indicate that members of the Qumran community found refuge at the fortress during the First Jewish Revolt.

The afternoon sessions included a tour of the new National Campus for the Archaeology of Israel and the IAA Dead Sea Scrolls Center there, and a visit to two new exhibitions at the Shrine of the Book, one on the Genesis Apocryphon and one called, “The Faces behind the Scrolls.”

The day concluded with a well-attended evening symposium in Hebrew, hosted by the Israel Museum and open to the public. Prof. Esther Chazon of the Orion Center extended opening greetings and also chaired the event. Austrian Ambassador Martin Weiss addressed the audience, lauding the symposium as an Austrian-Israeli cooperative venture. Pnina Shor (IAA) presented the role of the IAA in conserving and preserving the DSS; she stressed the importance of multispectral imaging, not only for the creation of an open-access online database, but also for the long-term monitoring of the scrolls. Prof. Lawrence Schiffman (NYU) provided a look at the Temple as envisioned in the Temple Scroll, and its importance to the Qumran community; while Dr. Adolfo Roitman (Israel Museum) spoke about “The Religious Meaning of Wilderness in Ancient Judaism.” In closing, Rotem Arieli and Prof. Noam Mizrahi (TAU) discussed the work of the Shrine of the Book in presenting the Dead Sea Scrolls to the public through outreach and education programs.

**Adam Lloyd-Alfia** lives in Tel Aviv with his wife and young son. He is a graduate of the Ofakim Teacher Training Program based in Tel Aviv University, with a B.A. in Biblical Studies and Jewish Philosophy as well as a Teaching Certificate. He is currently an M.A. student in TAU's Department of Bible; his thesis-in-progress (under Prof. Noam Mizrahi) is to be a critical edition of the Psalms Peshet from Qumran (4Q171). In addition to his M.A. studies, he teaches part time at the Herzliya Hebrew Gymnasium high school in Tel Aviv and works as a research assistant for the Qumran-Wörterbuch project of the Göttingen Academy of Sciences.

Adam is pursuing three main issues this year: the precise nature of the scroll's *Vorlage* of Psalm 37; the interpretive relation between the Peshet and the verses it quotes; and the ideological nuances of the work. He is "looking forward to interacting with scholars and peers, and learning from their experience in investigating the scrolls."

**Hillel Mali** was raised in the Golan Heights, but has felt a strong connection to Jerusalem since coming here as a student for archeological excavations. He wrote his Ph.D. dissertation on "Descriptions of the Temple in the Mishnah," at Bar-Ilan University, under the supervision of Prof. Aharon Shemesh (א'ר), from whom he learned "to see the hidden connections and developments in the halakhic literature from Qumran to rabbinic times." Now he shares similar insights with his own students at Herzog College and the Schechter Institute. As a post-doctoral researcher this year at Hebrew University, he will be taking his earlier research several steps further, looking at connections between law and liturgy in selected Qumran texts.

Hillel performs with a band that plays old Jerusalemite music on ancient musical instruments. He has found that playing the ancient melodies excavates "old layers of sound that in turn becomes a meeting between ages, religions, and beliefs." He sees his research as a way to reveal "surprising connections between different cultures that may help make the language we speak richer and more transparent."

**Joshua M. Matson** is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Religion at Florida State University. He grew up in Idaho and pursued biblical studies at Brigham Young University and Trinity Western University. He is writing his dissertation under the supervision of Prof. Matthew Goff. The purpose of his project, "Digging up the Bones of the Twelve Prophets: Re-Evaluating the Manuscripts and Reception of the Hebrew Bible Minor Prophets in the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Second Temple Period," is to construct a reception and textual history of the Hebrew Bible Minor Prophets during the latter part of the Second Temple Period.

Josh first learned about the Dead Sea Scrolls when he was sixteen, from a popular account of the Scrolls. He knew then that Scrolls research would provide the way to combine his love for ancient religious history and his obsession with assembling puzzles. Throughout his academic studies, he has

been able to work with Scrolls scholars who have helped refine his interests and skills. Josh looks forward to forging relationships with scholars here at HU, "who are on the cutting edge of research today."

**Richard W. Medina-Ramos** comes to us from Lima, Peru. He has studied Hebrew Bible and ancient Semitic languages in Argentina, the U.S., Italy, and Israel. He is presently a doctoral candidate in the HU Department of Hebrew Language, working under Prof. Steven Fassberg.

Richard became interested in the Scrolls "because their language and literature show dynamic processes of change and innovation, which are important for understanding the Hebrew Bible and other works of the Second Temple period." His dissertation, in keeping with his interest in the way language works, is on, "Word Order in Qumran Hebrew Verbal Clauses." Among the questions he is exploring is the extent to which word order in Qumran Hebrew is an indicator of continuity with or innovation from earlier (biblical) Hebrew. During his time at the Center, he will particularly focus on the word order of the nominal direct object.

**Anna Shirav** was raised in Haifa; both her B.A. (in Bible and Philosophy) and her M.A. (in Bible) are from Haifa University, under the supervision of Prof. Jonathan Ben-Dov. She also spent one year of the masters' program at the University of Salzburg, and she is now about to start doctoral studies in the University of Birmingham. Anna's thesis focuses on a passage from 4QInstruction that combines priestly terminology, an eschatological worldview, and a deterministic outlook.

On her current academic work, Anna remarks, "The study of the scrolls combines two topics that I enjoy: textual criticism of the Bible and physical work with the material ... 4QInstruction describes how every person has a נחלה, that is, a predestined lot that touches all aspects of one's life, and can't be avoided. I suppose the Dead Sea Scrolls are my lot ..."

**Ari Silbermann** is a doctoral candidate at Bar-Ilan University, and is this year's Matlow Scholar. Originally from Australia, he has lived in Israel for the past thirteen years. He wrote his M.A. thesis on Peshet Tehillim under Prof. James Kugel, and is currently writing his dissertation on נחם in Second Temple Judaism under Prof. Esther Eshel and Prof. Michael Avioz at BIU. The main focus of his research is on the interaction between language and sociology. During the period of the fellowship, he wants to apply the semantic method used in the dissertation to understanding the interaction between the figures of the harlot, demons, and opponents of the sect, both in Qumran literature and more broadly. "I am certain that sharing insights with the other members of our group will lead to a productive year for all."

We welcome Ari, Anna, Richard, Josh, Hillel, and Adam and look forward to getting to know them. We hope you will get to know them, too, as they present their work over the course of the academic year.

### 16th Orion Symposium Prepares the Way (cont. from p. 1)

Interdisciplinary study has become the norm rather than the exception, both among scrolls scholars and outside the discipline; the data of the scrolls has been increasingly integrated into the fabric of what we know about Second Temple Judaism, the history of the biblical text, and related subjects. Some of the insights put forward at the symposium, emerging from this more comprehensive scholarly matrix for scrolls study, would scarcely have

been possible even a quarter-century ago.

From its inception, the Orion Center has sought to foster the type of scholarship that has become the "new norm" for scrolls study. We are grateful to those who supported this special anniversary symposium,\* and we appreciate the insightful contributions of our colleagues, who demonstrated how far we have advanced in this past seventy years.

\*Cospponsored by the Orion Foundation, the Hebrew University, the University of Vienna's Institute for Jewish Studies, New York University, the Israel Antiquities Authority, and the Israel Museum; also supported by the Austrian Ministry for Europe Integration and Foreign Affairs and the Austrian Embassy (Tel Aviv); and by NYU donor George S. Blumenthal, founder of jewishhistory.com.

## Orion Center Calendar 2018/2019\*

**November 27.** Jonas C. Greenfield Scholars' Seminar 14:30–16:00. Prof. Timothy H. Lim, School of Divinity, New College, University of Edinburgh: "A New Reading in the Habakkuk Peshet and its Implications for the Practices of the Kittim" (in English)

**December 11.** Presentation and Discussion 16:30–18:00. Anna Shirav, M.A., Department of Jewish History and Biblical Studies, University of Haifa; Orion scholarship recipient: "Wisdom, Priesthood, and Inheritance: The Pericope in 4Q418 frg. 81 and its Parallels in Sectarian Literature" (in Hebrew)

**January 15.** Jonas C. Greenfield Scholars' Seminar 12:30–14:00. Adam Lloyd-Alfia, Master's student, Department of Bible, Tel Aviv University; Orion scholarship recipient: "4QpPs<sup>a</sup> (4Q171) in its Exegetical Context" (in Hebrew)

**March 26.** Jonas C. Greenfield Scholars' Seminar 12:30–14:00. Richard W. Medina, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Hebrew Language, Hebrew University; Orion scholarship recipient: "The Order of the Direct Object in Qumran Hebrew" (in Hebrew)

**April 4.** Jonas C. Greenfield Scholars' Seminar 12:30–14:00. Joshua M. Matson, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Religion, Florida State University; research associate, *Scripta Qumranica Electronica*, University of Haifa; Orion scholarship recipient: "Joining Bones to Fragments: Evaluating the Status of the Hebrew Bible Minor Prophets in the Second Temple Period" (in English)

**May 14.** Jonas C. Greenfield Scholars' Seminar 12:30–14:00. Ari Silbermann, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Bible, Bar-Ilan University; 2018 Orion Matlow Scholar: Title TBA (in English)

**June 12.** Jonas C. Greenfield Scholars' Seminar 12:30–14:00. Dr. Hillel Mali, Post-doctoral researcher, Department of Talmud, Bar-Ilan University; Orion scholarship recipient: Title TBA (in Hebrew)

Stay tuned to the Orion website for additions and updates.

\*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 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 assistance with designated projects; 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 comprise the Orion Associates.

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!

*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 Ruth A. Clements, Menahem Kister, and Michael Segal. Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah 127. Leiden: Brill, 2018.

### In preparation:

*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, 2016*. Edited by Armin Lange, Russell Fuller, Paul Mandel, Ruth A. Clements. Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah. Leiden: Brill.

### Orion books online:

All Orion volumes published by [Brill Academic Publishers](#) are now available as E-books (as well as through the inexpensive MyBook softcovers program). Volumes published in 2007 and later are available as full-access downloads, with institutional or individual subscription; individual chapters from these volumes can now be accessed online through the Brill site. Check it out!

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### Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibitions 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/>

**March 15 to June 16, 2018**

**The Israel Museum, Jerusalem**

*Genesis Retold: An Exceptional Dead Sea Scroll*

<https://www.imj.org.il/en/exhibitions/genesis-retold-0>

For information on upcoming venues, please visit:

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

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### Other Recent and Coming Events

**October 8, 2018**

"The Dead Sea Scrolls and Digital Scholarly Editions"

Haifa University, Port Campus

<http://megillot.haifa.ac.il/index.php/en/events/127-digital-scholarly-editions-of-the-dead-sea-scrolls-08-10-10-18-haifa-israel>

**May, 2019 (Date TBA)**

Haifa Scrolls Workshop

University of Haifa

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

**June 4, 2019**

Groningen–Leuven–Oxford Encounter on the Dead Sea Scrolls: "Philology: Textuality and Materiality"

Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, KU Leuven

Contact: Prof. Eibert Tigchelaar

[eibert.tigchelaar@kuleuven.be](mailto:eibert.tigchelaar@kuleuven.be)

**August 4–8 2019**

**International Organization for Qumran Studies (IOQS), Aberdeen, Scotland**

For the call for papers, please see:

<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/events/conferences/iosot/ioqs-942.php>

### Become an Orion Associate—

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. A special thanks to our current Associates—your interest and support are vital to the work of the Center!