

The Orion Center Newsletter

Issue 1, Winter 1997

Jerusalem, Israel

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



A Letter From Michael E. Stone, Director, The Orion Center

The Dead Sea Scrolls are coming into their own. It has taken half a century of patient assembly of fragments and careful decipherment of tatters of text. In a few years it will all be over, all the texts will be published. The sensational rumours will finally be put to rest. The Scrolls neither prove nor disprove Christianity; nor do they, as one popular newspaper claimed, contain a cure for AIDS. Now the true sensation of 800 ancient Jewish manuscripts in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek will come to bear and their implications for all aspects of our knowledge of ancient Judaism will shine forth.

The Orion Center has been in existence for a year and a half. It is devoted to stimulating this process of assimilation and integration of the new data. The impact of the Center's public programs—lectures, seminars, and symposia—has been remarkable, at the University, in Israel and throughout the scholarly world. Now we face the challenge of organizing, stimulating and funding a range of research projects which will deepen our understanding of this crucial crossroads of the human spirit. A start has been made; plans are in place and we are beginning.

The Center's work has been made possible first and foremost by the Orion Fund Ltd. The Geneva Friends of the Hebrew University held a symposium last February the proceeds of which were dedicated to the Center. The Shagra Young Leadership group of the Friends of the Hebrew University in Sydney purchased the microfiche set of the photographs of the Dead Sea Scrolls for the Center's Scholars Room. The Yad HaNadiv Foundation has made a grant to support the Symposia and the Internet Site. This essential support is acknowledged gratefully.

My thanks are expressed to all our staff, and the Interns from the Overseas School. Their devotion and hard work have made the success possible.

Staff of the Orion Center:

- Director: Michael E. Stone, Ph.D. (Harvard University); D.Litt. (University of Melbourne)
- Associate Director: Esther Chazon, Ph.D. (Hebrew University)
- Internet Site Manager: Brian Kvasnica, B.A. (Houghton College)
- Orion-net Moderator; Avital Pinnick, Ph.D. (Harvard University)
- Secretary: Hagit Tusia-Cohen, M.A. (Hebrew University)
- Interns: Heather Murphy, B.A. (University of South Florida)
Erika Meitner, B.A. (Dartmouth College)

Cover image: The War of the Sons of Light with the Sons of Darkness, from The Dead Sea Scrolls of The Hebrew University edited by E. L. Sukenik (Plate 34). Courtesy of The Hebrew University.



Prof. Rachel Eilior, Prof. Eileen Schuller, Dr. Esther Chazon, and Dr. Annette Steudel at the site of the newly discovered Qumran caves, Winter 1996-97 excavation by Dr. Magen Broshi and Dr. Hanan Eshel. (Photo by M. Broshi)

Professor Eileen Schuller Returns to McMaster

The Orion Center bid farewell to visiting Professor Eileen M. Schuller at a reception held in her honor on July 31. Hebrew University faculty joined with scholars from the W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research and the *Ecole Biblique et Archeologique Française* in paying tribute to Prof. Schuller for her work in Jerusalem. The reception was also an occasion for welcoming special summer visitors, such as Prof. Eugene Ulrich, Chief Editor of *Qumran Biblical Scrolls*, Notre Dame University; Prof. Hartmut Stegemann and Dr. Annette Steudel of Goettingen University; Prof. Gary Anderson, Harvard Divinity School; Dr. Joseph Sievers, Pontifical Bible Institute; Prof. John Kampen, Payne Theological Seminary; Prof. Adele Reinhartz, McMaster Univer-

sity; Prof. Jodi Magness, Tufts University.

Professor Schuller was associated with the Orion Center during the 1995-96 academic year, and contributed much to the Center's development during its first year of operation. Faculty and students benefited from her insights at the weekly coffee hour, the presentation of her current research on the *Hodayot* hymns at the January Scholars Seminar, and her major paper on "The Terminology of Prayer in the Bible and the Dead Sea Scrolls" at our First International Symposium on "Early Use and Interpretation of the Bible in Light of the Dead Sea Scrolls" (May, 1996). Professor Schuller has returned to Canada to her home institution, McMaster University, from where she remains in touch with the Orion Center and its activities.



1997 Calendar Of Upcoming

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
<p>•Tuesday, January 7 "The Question of Qumranic Dualism", by Dr. Adolf Roitman (Israel Museum/Orion Center Lecture Series) Time: 4:00 P.M. Place: Israel Museum Language: Hebrew</p>	<p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ Please join us for our Weekly Discussion and Coffee Hour, Every Thursday (During Term) Time: 12:00-1:00 P.M. Place: Orion Center Scholars' Room, Rm. 6115, Humanities Bldg., Hebrew University—Mt. Scopus campus (Please note the day and time change from last term.) ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○</p>	<p>•Thursday, March 13 "The Sacrifices of The Days of Consecration (<i>Yemei Ha-miluim</i>) in the Temple Scroll: Biblical Cult or Independent Ceremony?", by Prof. Haim Milikovsky (Greenfield Scholars Seminar) Time: 12:15—1:45 P.M. Place: Humanities Bldg., Hebrew University— Mt. Scopus campus Language: Hebrew</p> <p>•Sunday, March 16 "Scribal Activity in the Dead Sea Scrolls", by Prof. Emanuel Tov (Orion Center/Tel Aviv University Lecture Series) Time: 6:00 P.M. Place: Bnai Zion Auditorium, Diaspora Museum, Ramat Aviv Language: Hebrew</p>
<p>Notes on the Lectures Listed Above:</p> <p>◆The Greenfield Scholars Seminars: These seminars relate to the Dead Sea Scrolls, and are presented by the Orion Center in memory of Professor Jonas C. Greenfield. They are intended for researchers and graduate students.</p> <p>◆The Israel Museum/Orion Center Lecture Series: This Hebrew lecture series is a joint project of the Shrine of the Book and the Orion Center; all lectures will be in Hebrew.</p> <p>◆The Orion Center/Tel Aviv University Lecture Series: These lectures are all given in Hebrew at Bnai Zion Auditorium, in the Diaspora Museum in Ramat Aviv.</p>		

Upcoming Orion Center Events



MARCH	APRIL	MAY
<p>• Thursday, March 13 "The Sacrifices of The Days of Consecration (<i>Yemei Ha-miluim</i>) in the Temple Scroll: Biblical Cult or Independent Ceremony?", by Prof. Haim Milikovsky (Greenfield Scholars Seminar) Time: 12:15—1:45 P.M. Place: Humanities Bldg., Hebrew University—Mt. Scopus campus Language: Hebrew</p>	<p>• Tuesday, April 1 "Prophets and Prophecy in the Dead Sea Scrolls", by Prof. Devorah Dimant (Israel Museum/Orion Center Lecture Series) Time: 4:00 P.M. Place: Israel Museum Language: Hebrew</p>	<p>• Wednesday, May 7 "The Plethos of Jesus' Disciples", by Prof. Justin Taylor, s.m. (Greenfield Scholars Seminar) Time: 12:15—1:45 P.M. Place: Humanities Bldg., Hebrew University—Mt. Scopus Language: English</p>
<p>• Sunday, March 16 "Scribal Activity in the Dead Sea Scrolls", by Prof. Emanuel Tov (Orion Center/Tel Aviv University Lecture Series) Time: 6:00 P.M. Place: Bnai Zion Auditorium, Diaspora Museum, Ramat Aviv Language: Hebrew</p>	<p>○▼○▼○▼○▼○▼○▼○▼ Register for a Mini-Course on the Dead Sea Scrolls! (A joint project of the Martin Buber Institute & the Orion Center) To Register, call the Buber Institute: +972-02-588-2660 Fax: +972-02-532-2268</p> <p>• Friday, May 16: A morning of intensive lecture and study, at Hebrew University's Givat Ram Campus. • Friday, May 23: A morning tour and lecture at the Israel Museum's Shrine of the Book.</p>	<p>• Sunday, May 18 "Monasteries in the Judean Desert", by Dr. Joseph Patrick (Orion Center/Tel Aviv University Lecture Series) Time: 6:00 P.M. Place: Bnai Zion Auditorium, Diaspora Museum, Ramat Aviv Language: Hebrew</p>

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

מרכז אוריון לחקר מגילות מדבר יהודה והספרות הקרובה להן

is proud to announce our

❖ SECOND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ❖

12th — 14th January, 1997

PSEUDEPIGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVES: THE APOCRYPHA AND
THE PSEUDEPIGRAPHA IN LIGHT OF THE DEAD SEA
SCROLLS

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Mt. Scopus Campus, Israel

Recent decades have seen a remarkable renaissance of the study of pseudepigraphical literature (such as The Books of Enoch, The Testament of Levi, and Pseudo-Ezekiel). This was fueled both by the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls and by developments in the study of New Testament and early Judaism. It is only in the last few years, however, that the Discoveries in the Judean Desert (DJD) volumes containing the definitive texts of known and unknown pseudepigraphic writings have started to appear. The Dead Sea Scrolls present us with an abundance of known and previously unknown pseudepigrapha. The purpose of this year's symposium is to assess what the contribution of the Dead Sea Scrolls is to the study of this literature, and which questions have been resolved and which others created by these new discoveries.

☉ SPOTLIGHT ON 1996-97 ORION CENTER INTERNS ☉

- **Brian Kvasnica, Director of the Orion Web:** Brian is in his second year of an M.A. in Religious Studies at Hebrew University, and is concentrating on the area of Second Temple Literature. After working at the Orion Center last year as an intern, Brian has become part of the staff, overseeing the web site and working on the symposia.
- **Heather M. Murphy, Intern:** Hailing from the University of South Florida where she is doing graduate work in Religious Studies and Archaeology, Heather is currently on the Graduate Year Program at Hebrew University, and is particularly interested in studying the Dead Sea Scrolls. Heather is the Orion staff Bibliographer, accumulating new entries for the Orion Web page.
- **Erika Meitner, Intern:** Erika is currently at Hebrew University on a fellowship from Dartmouth College, doing graduate work in Jewish mysticism. She is in charge of this newsletter and does other odd jobs for the Center, while she explores connections between pseudepigrapha and early mysticism.
- **Martine van den Berg:** The Orion Center would like to take this opportunity to thank Martine for all her hard work. Martine was with the Center since October 1995, and remained for a full year regularly updating the web site bibliography, handling correspondence and library acquisitions. Martine hails from Holland, and is working on an M.A. in Religious Studies at Hebrew University, but has currently taken a hiatus to Bangkok, Thailand.

HELP SUPPORT THE ORION CENTER!

We need your help to continue fostering research of the Dead Sea Scrolls and related areas, and disseminating information to both scholars and the general public about the Qumran fragments and their significance for the study of the history of Judaism and early Christianity.

Donations can be earmarked to any of three funds:

- *The Endowment Fund:* This fund is used to build up the Orion Center's endowment, to enable it to become financially independent.
- *The Library Fund:* Donations to this fund help the Center build up the library collection located in its Scholars' Room.
- *The Fellowship Fund:* Fellowship money goes to assist scholars in their research in the field of Qumran.

(For more information on donating to the Orion Center, please see page 8.)

Research Grants awarded for 1996-97: Esther Eshel, *The Belief in Demons in the Land of Israel in the Second Temple Period*; Torleif Elgvin, *Edition of Some Eschatological Writings from Qumran*; Noah Hacham, *The Third Book of Maccabees*; Matthew Morganstern, *The Edition of the Previously Undeciphered Columns of the Genesis Apocryphon from Cave 1*; Dr. Yizhar Hirschfeld, *The Excavation Finds at Qumran: An Architectural and Chronological Analysis*; Dr. David Rothstein, *Phylactery and Mezuzah Texts from Qumran*.

❖ Spotlight on Esther Eshel ❖

Esther Eshel, one of our scholars at the Orion Center, is working on the decipherment and interpretation of an ostrakon (a broken piece of pottery with writing on it) found at Qumran last year by archaeologist Dr. James F. Strange. According to Eshel, the ostrakon is a deed of gift which lists property including a house, a slave and fruit trees (figs and olives) apparently given by a

novice to the Yahad (the Qumran community) upon the completion of the first (or second) year of candidacy. The ostrakon further links the archaeological site with the scrolls found in the caves (compare *The Rule of the Community* 1QS 6:18-23). The ostrakon will soon be published by Frank Moore Cross and Esther Eshel in *The Israel Exploration Journal*.

To Contact Us...

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