

The Orion Newsletter

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

מרכז אוריון לחקר מגילות מדבר יהודה והמספרות הקרובה להן

Jerusalem, Winter 1998

Third Issue

Editorial

Professor Michael Stone, Director of the Orion Center, is spending his sabbatical as a Fellow-in-Residence at the Netherlands Institute of Advanced Studies in Wassenaar, Holland. He is devoting a substantial portion of his research time to an ongoing project concerning the Adam and Eve tradition in Jewish and Christian literature and thought. He continues to be active in Orion Center affairs, by the electronic mail, which keeps him in close touch with the office in Jerusalem. During this year he will speak about the Orion Center in various European centers.

Orion Developments: Shortcuts

♦ **Appointments:** Orion's Associate Director Dr. Esther Chazon has been appointed as Program Chair, Qumran Section, of the *Society of Biblical Literature* and to the Editorial Board of *Dead Sea Discoveries*. The Orion Center wishes to congratulate her on these important positions.

♦ **Science:** In the summer of '97 the Orion Center established a Scientists Working Group to explore research opportunities for studying the physical aspects of the Scrolls. DNA analysis, parasitology and the study of animal bones are among the research topics which will add greatly to further understanding the production of the Scrolls and perhaps even reveal information about diseases that affected ancient herds and people.

♦ **Bibliography:** In February the Orion Center will implement its Bibliography Search Service on a trial basis for a one month period. (See pg. 2)

Breaking News: Essene Site found at En-Gedi?

Hebrew University archaeologist and Orion Center grant recipient, Dr. Yitzhar Hirschfeld, says that a cluster of stone huts which he unearthed in Ein-Gedi was a settlement built by the Essenes, the sect most closely associated with the Dead Sea Scrolls. This discovery has aroused great international interest, both among scholars and laypeople, and has been reported by CNN, Nando and the Jerusalem Post.

Exclusive photographs of the archaeological site, together with explanatory notes of the excavator, will soon be published on the Orion web site, <http://orion.mscc.huji.ac.il>.

On March 19, 1998, Dr. Hirschfeld will present his recent discoveries at the Orion Centers' Greenfield Scholars Seminars, 12.15-13.45, in room 5411, Humanities Building, Mount Scopus, Hebrew University. For more information on the Orion Programs, see page 4.

Light on Orion's Scholars' Seminar

Angela Kim

This fall semester, the Orion Center hosted 2 prominent Hebrew University professors at the Greenfield Scholars' Seminar: Professor Daniel Schwartz and Professor Joseph Dan.

On December 4, Professor Schwartz of the Jewish History Department presented a paper on the letters in 2 Maccabees, in which he argued for a date of 143/2 BCE for the book's final composition. According to Schwartz, 2 Macc. was composed in Jerusalem, from an abridged book by Jason of Cyrene, to which was added chapter 10:1-8 and the two letters which open the book. Schwartz explained that the first letter was sent in 143 BCE inviting the Jews of Egypt to participate in the feast of Tabernacles because at that time, the Seleucid governor relinquished taxation on Judea, thereby creating a cause for celebration. The seminar was chaired by Prof. Y. Gafni; distinguished participants included Prof. Yom-Tov Asis, Head of the Institute of Jewish Studies, Mrs. Bella Greenfield, wife of the late Prof. Jonas Greenfield, and Rector Prof. Menahem Ben-Sasson.

When asked about the Orion Center and its impact on the study of Dead Sea Scrolls at the Hebrew University, Schwartz said, "The Orion Center has given new life and energy to the study of Scrolls here at the Hebrew University. It has served to promote the study of Scrolls in a real way by providing much needed funding for students in the form of grant assistance." He also commented that as a subscriber to the electronic Orion Discussion List, he is impressed by the extent of the readership and participation in the dialogue. Prof. Schwartz is on the Center's Academic Committee, and is presently writing a Hebrew commentary on 2 Maccabees, soon to be published by Yad Ben-Zvi. The translation from Greek was prepared with Ms. Emmanuelle Main, a Ph.D. candidate at the Hebrew University. The English version will be published by de Gruyter press. (continued on page 3)

Spotlight on Orion Interns.....

Janie Brown

The internship program offers graduate students the opportunity to be actively involved in the many programs conducted by the Orion Center and grants them access to all research facilities available at the Center's Scholars Room. Internships complement a program of study at the Rothberg School for Overseas Students. The Orion Interns for 1997-98 are:

- ◆ Adam Oded, an Inter university Fellowship Recipient and student of Professor Lawrence Schiffman at New York University, has aided in the promotion of the Center by preparing attractive brochures. With staff member Ariella Amir, Adam has produced the Center's Hebrew brochure. Further responsibilities include production of the program for the Third Orion International Symposium on the Damascus Document.
- ◆ Angela Kim, an Honorary Inter university Fellow and a Fulbright Research Grant recipient, begins a research project analyzing 4QpHos^{a, b} with noted Hebrew University Professors Emanuel Tov and Menachem Kister. After completing her program in Israel, Angela will continue her Ph.D. course work with Prof. James VanderKam at University of Notre Dame. With staff member Brian Kvasnica, Angela has initiated new programs and access features on the Orion Internet site.
- ◆ Janie Brown continues research at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on a M.A. thesis with advisors Prof. Craig Evans and Dr. Martin Abegg, Jr. at Trinity Western University. Prof. Evans, Dr. Peter Flint, and Dr. Martin Abegg, Jr. recently established the Dead Sea Scrolls Institute at TWU in Langley, Canada. With staff member Avital Pinnick, Janie updates the weekly acquisitions for the Dead Sea Scrolls On-line Bibliography.

Candidates for Orion Internships should apply to Prof. M.E. Stone or Dr. E. Chazon at the Orion Center.

The On-Line Bibliography Project

Avital Pinnick

The Complete On-line Dead Sea Scrolls Bibliography Project is expanding rapidly with contributions coming in from scholars in Europe, North America, Australia and Israel. They are added weekly, every Monday, to our web site and monthly to an authors index on the same site. At the end of three years, they will be edited and published in hard copy as a resource to scholars and interested readers in the field of the Scrolls.

In February, 1998, the Orion Center will implement its Bibliography Search Service on a trial basis for a one month period, to ascertain the interest in such a service and to determine whether to maintain it as a permanent service to the public. Users will be able to request secondary bibliography by author, date, subject or keywords, drawn from our database of nearly 1300 entries on Dead Sea Scrolls (mostly after 1995) or nearly 5000 entries dealing with Second Temple Judaism, early Christianity and the Ancient Near East.

<http://orion.mscc.huji.ac.il>

The First Symposium Volume in Press !!

The papers from the first Orion International Symposium on the Dead Sea Scrolls, *Biblical Perspectives*, will be published by E.J. Brill in early spring. Papers from the second symposium are being prepared for the next volume in the same series.

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

Room 6310, Humanities Building,
Hebrew University,
Mount Scopus
Jerusalem 91905, ISRAEL
Tel: (972) 2 5882063
Fax: (972) 2 5883584
E-mail:
msdss@mscc.huji.ac.il

Stellar Scholar Professor Lawrence H. Schiffman (New York University):
Structures in the Inner Courtyard according
to the Temple Scroll

Adam Oded

The Jubilee year of the Scrolls' discovery culminated with Tel Aviv University's conference dedicated to the memory of Jacob Licht (December 28-29, 1997). The evening session, which was co-sponsored by the Orion Center and open to the public, featured Professor Lawrence H. Schiffman from New York University. Schiffman delivered a lively lecture on *Structures in the Inner Courtyard according to the Temple Scroll*. He came equipped with color slides and a lazer pointer, which allowed him to explain the layout of the Temple as it is conceptualized in the Temple Scroll. Schiffman's presentation, in Hebrew, was lighthearted and at the same time very clear and informative. Using a combination of wit and visual aids, Schiffman brought the architecture described in the Temple Scroll to life. Even the lay observer could get a clear picture of the intentions of the author of the Temple Scroll as explained by Schiffman.

I had a chance to talk with Professor Schiffman about some of his current work. It seems the Professor has his hands full. He is writing a commentary on the Temple Scroll, editing the *Encyclopedia of the Dead Sea Scrolls*, preparing a halachic text for the *Discoveries in the Judean Desert* series, and working on other projects. Schiffman also participated in the Orion Center's Third International Symposium, *The Damascus Document: A Centennial of Discovery*. There he presented his popular *It Shall Come to Pass in the End of Days* during the opening session and *The Relationship of the Zadokite Fragments to the Temple Scroll* during the Friday morning session. On the night before the conference, he joined Prof. Stefan Reif of Cambridge University in a special program at the Israel Museum called *From Qumran to Cairo: The Relationship Between the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Cairo Genizah*. The program is part of the public lecture series co-sponsored by the Orion Center and the Shrine of the Book. Schiffman had good things to say about the Orion Center, praising the successful conferences the Center has sponsored in the past. "The Orion Center has gotten on the map successfully, people are definitely visiting the Web Site, but the question remains, will it have a curricular effect?"

Orion's Scholars' Seminar (continued from page 1)

Professor Joseph Dan, this year's Israel Prize recipient and the Gershom Scholem Professor of Jewish Mysticism, addressed the seminar on January 8, chaired by Dr. Esther Chazon. According to Professor Dan, "It is natural to inquire into the relationship between the Hekhalot and Qumran literature since both emerged during proximal points in antiquity from Jewish spiritual communities which identified themselves as distinct from the larger Jewish culture." Professor Dan's lecture focused on a key text, the *Sar Shel-Torah* which "emphatically demonstrates the continuity of speculation and inquiry into the tradition of Ezekiel's Chariot. Because of its chronological proximity to Hekhalot mysticism, it is unusual to discover that there are particular elements of the Merkavah tradition which are absent from this text." Merkavah descriptions and related traditions found in the *Books of Enoch*, the *Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice*, *Hekhalot Rabbati*, and other works were also compared. Responses to the paper by Dr. Hananel Mach, Dr. Magen Boshi, Dr. Hanan Eshel and Prof. Rachel Elior focused on the resurgence of ancient Merkabah, midrashic and other traditions in the Byzantine period.

Professor Dan remarked that there is additional room for interdisciplinary studies in Jewish Mysticism and Qumran studies. "Not enough has been done to compare the terminology, vocabulary and syntax of the Hekhalot texts and Dead Sea literature.

In my opinion, an intense linguistic investigation could lead to important conclusions with regard to the development of the Hebrew Language and of its religious symbolic terminology." He added, "Although the Orion Center has been in existence for a short time, the greater awareness of Dead Sea Scrolls at the Hebrew University is manifest already. The programs sponsored by the Orion Center are worthwhile and an effective means for interdisciplinary dialogue between scholars."

The Orion Center would like to thank publicly Professors Dan and Schwartz for participating in the Greenfield Scholars' Seminar and for their contribution to scholarship in Dead Sea Scrolls and its related literature.

SCROLL NEWS

Orion Program Winter 1998

January

Greenfield Scholars' Seminars*

8/1 *The Relationship Between the Dead Sea Scrolls and Jewish Mysticism: Selected Issues*
Prof. Yosef Dan (Hebrew University, Jewish Thought).

Orion Center Lectures at the Pontifical Biblical Institute

9/1 *The Origin of Evil in Ancient Jewish Thought*, Dr. Adolfo Roitman (Shrine of the Book).

Weekly Discussion and Coffee Hour****

22/1 *Purity Laws in MMT*, Eyal Regev.

February

Orion International Symposium

Febr. 4-8:
"The Damascus Document: A Centennial of Discovery".

Orion Center/Shrine of the Book Public Lecture Series**

3/2 *From Qumran to Cairo: The Relationship Between the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Cairo Genizah*, Dr. Adolfo Roitman, Prof. Lawrence H. Schiffman, Prof. Stephan C. Reif, Prof. Michael E. Stone, Dr. Esther G. Chazon.

March

Weekly Discussion and Coffee Hour****

5/3 to 25/6 *Reading Ben Sira in Hebrew, Greek and Syriac*

Greenfield Scholars' Seminars*

19/3: *Recent Discoveries in the Archaeology of Qumran*, Dr. Yizhar Hirshfeld (Hebrew University, Archaeology Dept.)

April/ May

Greenfield Scholars' Seminars*

07/5: *Concepts of Sacrifice in Post-Biblical Judaism*, Prof. Michael Swartz (Ohio State University, Orion Center Visiting Scholar).

Weekly Discussion and Coffee Hour****

23/4: *Pesharim and the Problem of Genre*, Angela Kim, Orion Intern and Grant Recipient.
21/5 *The Akedah at Qumran*, Prof. Marc Bregman (Hebrew Union College, Jerusalem).

Orion Center/Tel Aviv University Lecture Series***

27/5: *How Can we Learn Political History from the Dead Sea Scrolls?* Dr. Hanan Eshel. Hall 14, Life Sciences Bldg, Tel Aviv University.

*The Greenfield Scholars' Seminars are held in Rm. 5411, Hum. Bld, Mt. Scopus, from 12.15 -13.45.

**The Orion/Shrine of the Book Lectures are given in Hebrew on Tuesdays at the Israel Museum.

***The Orion/Tel Aviv University lectures are given in Hebrew at the Bnei Zion Auditorium, Diaspora Museum, Ramat Aviv.

****The Coffee Hour meets on Thursdays during term, 12.15-13.00, in the Scholars' Room of the Orion Center, Rm. 6115, Hum. Bld, Mt. Scopus.

Orion Associates Program

The Orion Associates Program was created to give people the opportunity to receive current information about the Dead Sea Scrolls while supporting the Orion Center. We would like to thank everyone who has so generously given us the support we need. By becoming an Associate, you have joined a growing circle of people committed to realizing the full potential of the Dead Sea Scrolls in their historical context and their contemporary implications for Judaism and Christianity.

A special thanks to our new Associates:

Mr. and Mrs. S. Brettler (US)
Ms. Marianne Dacy (Australia)
Dr. M. Eisenberg (Australia)
Rabbi Dr. A. Landes (US)
Dr. G. Levi (France)