

STUDIORUM NOVI TESTAMENTI SOCIETAS

The 70th GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES of the 70th General Meeting of the Society held at the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, the Netherlands during 28th – 31st July, 2015

TUESDAY 28th JULY, 2015

17.00 BUSINESS MEETING I

The *President*, Prof. Udo Schnelle, was in the chair, and about 185 participants were in attendance. The meeting was held in the Aula. The *President* warmly welcomed those present, and especially new members and guests, to the 70th General Meeting of the Society.

BM2015/01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from a number of members, including the following former *Presidents* of the Society: Profs Marinus de Jonge and Wayne Meeks.

BM2015/02 Deaths of Former Members and Resignations

The Society received with regret news of the deaths of the following: Profs Marcus Borg, Hai Taik Chung, Settimio Cipriani, Charles Cousar, Fred B. Craddock, Charles Cranfield, J.T. Forestell, Douglas R.A. Hare, Jacob Jervell, Eduard Lohse (*President*, Göttingen 1987-88), J. Louis Martyn, Benedetto Prete, Hartwig Thyen, Dan Otto Via, Walter Wink. Members observed a minute's silence in memory of these scholars.

Resignations from the Society were received from the following scholars: Drs John Drury, David Mealand, Calvin Porter, Walter Rebell.

BM2015/03 Minutes of the 2014 General Meeting in Szeged, Hungary

The Minutes of the 2014 General Meeting held in Szeged were approved and signed.

BM2015/04 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

BM2015/05 Arrangements for the 2015 General Meeting in Amsterdam

The *Secretary*, Prof. Martin de Boer, warmly welcomed delegates to the city and University, and announced that 350 participants had registered for the General Meeting, 224 of whom were members of the Society and 32 were invited guests.

The *Secretary* announced that those convenors seeking to extend their seminars beyond their scheduled termination at the close of the 2015 General Meeting, and any wishing to propose a new seminar, should submit their proposals to the *Secretary* before Friday.

The *Secretary* announced that Profs Otto Kaiser and Jesús Peláez, who were scheduled to present Seminar Papers, were unable to attend. Alternate papers would be presented instead.

Dr Arie Zwiep, *Local Organizer*, added his own welcome.

BM2015/06 Nomination and Election of Officers

Members formally elected Prof. Carl Holladay (Atlanta, USA) to the post of *President* at the 71st General Meeting in Montreal, Canada, in 2016 (until which time he assumes the office of *President-Elect*).

The Committee intimated the nomination of Prof. Michael Wolter (Bonn, Germany) to the post of *President* at the 72nd General Meeting in Pretoria, South Africa, in 2017. As nominee, he becomes *Deputy President-Elect* until the Montreal General Meeting (2016), when his nomination will be voted on by the Society.

Prof. Chris Tuckett (*Past President*) was warmly thanked for his services to the Society over the past 4 years.

The Society was reminded that Prof. Martin de Boer will retire as Secretary on 31st December, 2015, and at the Szeged General Meeting (2014), Dr Andrew Clarke (*Assistant Secretary*) had been elected to succeed Prof. de Boer as *Secretary* on 1st January, 2016, for a term of five years.

The Committee intimated the nomination of Prof. Todd Still (Baylor University, Waco, TX, USA) as *Assistant Secretary*. Members formally elected him to take office on 1st January, 2016, for a term of five years.

BM2015/07 Nomination of New Members

The *Assistant Secretary*, Dr Andrew Clarke, reported that the Committee had approved 14 nominations of new members for consideration. This list of names would be displayed on the Conference notice board, and members were asked to pass any comments on these nominations to the *Assistant Secretary* or other Committee members before the Second Committee meeting.

BM2015/08 International Initiatives

The *Assistant Secretary for International Initiatives*, Prof. Bill Loader, had circulated a concise report covering the year to June 2015. The report included the following details:

The goals continue to include working with Liaison Committees to promote New Testament scholarship in areas beyond those where such research has traditionally been well represented within the Society, and to identify potential new members and mentor their development. The role of the *Assistant Secretary for International Initiatives* is also to seek to maintain and develop resources for people in these regions, including the Electronic Library, and to explore meaningful synergies to the same end with international organisations and institutions.

a. *Eastern European Liaison Committee (EELC)*

1. *Pre-Conference at Szeged (2014)*

A pre-conference for younger scholars had been held in Szeged on 4-5 August, 2014.

2. *EELC Meeting in Szeged (2014)*

Special concerns had been raised about:

- further developing the biblical libraries in St Petersburg and Sofia as well as at other places in Eastern Europe (e.g. Cluj Napoca, Minsk, and Belgrade)
- recognising the important value of publications in the languages of under-represented countries, as well as efforts with regard to Bible translation, education projects, and the writing of textbooks and reference works
- The Biblical Libraries website had been re-launched: (www.unige.ch/theologie/bibliothecabiblica/)

3. *Publication of the Belgrade Symposium*

The publication of the 6th International East-West Symposium of Biblical scholars, held in Belgrade, 25-31 August, 2013, was progressing. The volume was expected to be published with Mohr Siebeck in the WUNT series by the end of 2015.

4. *Belgrade Biblical Conference*

A conference on 'Christ of the Sacred Stories' was scheduled to be held in Belgrade at the Faculty of Orthodox Theology (10-13 September, 2015). The programme will include the opening of a Biblical Institute, which will include a book collection donated by Prof. Ulrich Luz from his private library.

b. *African Liaison Committee (ALC)*

1. *Publications*

Papers on the Biblical Foundations of Peace were published in 2014 in the first volume of the *Review of Biblical Interpretation in Africa (RIBA)*.

The 10th Meeting of ISS encouraged senior members to involve and mentor younger scholars, and encouraged all members to make use of the current African theological paradigms in their research (e.g. inculturation/intercultural, liberation, postcolonial,

reconstruction), as well as the insights from early African Christian scholars such as Clement, Athanasius, Origen, Tertullian, St Augustine, to translate the New Testament (or Bible) into their first languages and to seek publication for their works in both local and international, reputable journals and publishing houses.

2. *Upcoming events include*

- Conference on 'Engaging Scripture and Transforming Culture' (Society of Biblical Scholars / Institute for Biblical Preaching, St Paul's University, Limuru, Kenya, 24-28 September, 2015)
- A conference on 'Knowledge or Wisdom? Theological Approaches in Africa' (Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Nairobi/Kenya, 24-25 September, 2015)
- 11th Bi-annual Meeting of the ISS (Hekima University College, Nairobi, Kenya, 3rd October, 2015)

3. *Future Plans*

- Preparing an International Symposium on Peace in Africa (2016)
- Preparing a pre-SNTS conference for both Francophone and Anglophone New Testament scholars (2017)

c. *Latin America Caribbean Liaison Committee (LALC)*

An inaugural regional conference had been held in Bogotá, 2012. With regard to constituency it became clear that the LC needs also to include the Caribbean nations. It is envisaged that the APLC will host a pre-conference before the General Meeting in Montreal (2016).

d. *Asia/Pacific Liaison Committee (APLC)*

Manila Regional Conference. A regional conference had been held in Manila, Philippines, co-organized and hosted by the Catholic Biblical Association of the Philippines (27th February to 1st March, 2015).

e. *Sponsorships*

For the Amsterdam General Meeting twelve sponsorships had been taken up by scholars from Russia (3), Bulgaria, Romania (3), Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Jamaica/Zambia, Myanmar. Of these two were for approved guests and 7 were sponsorships without a travel component. The budget framework is based on twelve £1,200 sponsorships.

f. *Pre-Conferences*

The pattern proposed for pre-conferences for the coming two years is as follows: Montreal (2016): Latin America Caribbean LC pre-conference (unconfirmed); Pretoria (2017): Africa LC.

g. *SNTS Electronic Library (EL)*

By special arrangement with Stellenbosch University the SNTS Electronic Library facility had made it possible for scholars to become Research Associates of the Discipline Group Old & New Testament (DONT) of the Faculty of Theology. This has been in operation since 2011. The Research Associates are obliged to 'endeavour to publish on average at least one article per year in an accredited journal in the field of Old or New Testament studies'. There is an annual fee for registration of R200 (ca US\$20) which is currently still able to be covered by sponsorship fees through the Department.

There has been a significant expansion of on-line resources in recent years, including through SBL International Cooperation Initiative (ICI) offering open access for people in 'countries with a *per capita* GDP that is substantially lower than the average *per capita* GDP of the United States and the European Union', holding books from some significant publishers; and JSTOR which has a tiered approach to costs in relation to accessing on-line material with zero costs for those identified as the poorest countries (but with limited offerings). The Theological Book Network channels donated books from libraries and publishers (including Brill, Eerdmans, Westminster John Knox, Augsburg, University of Notre Dame Press) to theological teaching and learning institutions in the 'Majority World'.

The *Assistant Secretary for International Initiatives* was thanked for his contributions.

BM2015/09 Treasurer's Report

The *Treasurer*, Dr Kathy Ehrensperger, circulated the draft Financial Statements of the Society Accounts for the year ended 31st May, 2015. It was noted that the 'Financial Statements' were prepared by an Independent examiner (PJE, Chartered Accountants, 23 College Street, Lampeter, Ceredigion, SA48 7DY) and are filed on the Society website in Excel format as 'SNTSAccounts2015'. From this report, the *Treasurer* drew attention to the following:

a. CUP Collection of SNTS Membership Fees

The collection of membership fees through CUP had been approved by the Committee in September 2014, based on a memorandum of agreement between the Press and the Society.

All members were informed of the change together with instructions to register their membership via the CUP website and pay their fees electronically. Overall the transition was reasonably smooth but there were a few problems with passwords and out of date e-mail addresses. The option of making donations had been subsequently added.

The *Treasurer* urged members to keep the *Secretary* updated as to changes in email addresses.

CUP charges an administrative fee for top tier and second tier membership fees of currently £6.00 (no fee is charged for the third tier).

No clear indication had yet emerged as to whether more income would be generated through the electronic collection of fees. This is due both to the fact that the collection process started on 1st October, and therefore not all membership fees for 2015 had been received, and the accountants' annual report for 2014-15 concerns the financial year ending 31st May.

It was suggested that in order to assess the introduction of the electronic payment of membership fees through CUP and the impact this has on the financial situation of the Society, a full annual cycle needs to be evaluated.

b. Surplus from General Meetings

It was noted that General Meetings occasionally generate a surplus, and that each Local Organising Committee is free to decide whether to donate all or part of a surplus to the Society or to use it as they deem appropriate. The Committee approved a proposal to introduce a clause stating that it is normally expected that any surplus be donated to the Society.

c. Eastern European Library Fund

The Eastern European Library Fund (previously managed on behalf of the Society by Prof. James Dunn) had now been fully transferred into the Society's Current account (£7,069). It was suggested that, since the purpose for which this fund was established had been realised, the remaining funds should be available for use by the Eastern European Liaison Group.

d. The General Fund (GF)

Society Subscriptions for 2014/15 had been £11,346 (cf. £14,246 in 2013/14). This Fund had a balance on 31st May 2015 of £25,915 (cf. £26,210 in 2014).

e. The International Fund (IF)

'incoming resources' is largely comprised of subscriptions (the top tier is divided 60:40 between the GF and IF; all income from the two lower tiers goes to the GF). This Fund had a balance on 31st May 2015 of £18,130 (cf. £22,177 in 2014).

'Conference sponsorships/grants' represents payments to about twelve members/guests from under-represented countries. Six of these guests have their conference/accommodation/excursion costs covered by the Society and the other six have them covered by the Local Organising Committee. The Society usually pays the travel expenses for all twelve members. The 2014/15 sponsorship amounted to £6,244.

For its part, the General Meeting of the Society approved the financial statements for the year ended 31st May, 2015.

The *Treasurer* thanked the *Regional Treasurers* and local organisers for their help. The *Treasurer* was thanked for her work.

BM2015/10 Any Other Business

Future Meetings:

Marburg 2019: Profs Lukas Bormann and Angela Standhartinger delivered a presentation, inviting the Society to the Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany.

There was no further business, and the First Business Meeting was then concluded.

18.00 The Society was welcomed by Profs F.A. van der Duyn Schouten, *Rector Magnificus* of VU University, and E.A.J.G. van der Borght, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, at a Reception in the Foyer

WEDNESDAY 29th JULY, 2015

08.00 Morning Prayers (Rev. Prof. L.C.A. Alexander – English) was held in the Filmzaal

08.45 Prof. Judith Lieu was inducted as *President* of the Society and delivered her Presidential Address entitled 'Letters and the Topography of Early Christianity' at a plenary session of the Society in the Aula

10.15 A photograph of Conference participants was taken outside the Main Building

11.15 The first session of the Seminar Groups was held

The Seminar Groups at the General Meeting included the following chairs, themes and papers (papers 'a' were presented at the first session of Seminar Groups; papers 'b' at the second session on Thursday; and papers 'c' at the third session on Friday):

1. Apostolic Fathers, Apologists and the History of Early Christianity (C. Breytenbach, C. Rothschild). Terminates in 2017
 - a. James Carleton Paget (Cambridge), '1 Clement, Judaism, and a Covenant'; respondent: Johan Thom (Stellenbosch); b. Laurence Welborn (Fordham University), "'The Young against the Old": Inter-generational Conflict in First Clement'; respondent: Johan Thom (Stellenbosch); c. Clare K. Rothschild (Lewis University), '1 Clement and the Legacy of Paul'; respondent: Johan Thom (Stellenbosch)
2. The Greek of the New Testament (J.W. Voelz, J. Peláez, P. Danove). Terminates in 2019
 - a. Gilbert Van Belle (Leuven), 'Repetitions, Variations and Amplifications: John's Art of Writing and the Literary Unity of the Fourth Gospel'; b. Chrys Caragounis (Lund), 'The Use of the term 'Greco-Roman' in Biblical scholarship'; c. Paul L. Danove (Villanova), 'The Conceptualizations of Transference Grammaticalized by New Testament Verbs'
3. Inhalte und Probleme einer neutestamentlichen Theologie (C. Landmesser, M. Seifrid). Terminates in 2019
 - a. Athanasius Despotis (Bonn; guest), 'Das Ethos der Liebe und das Zum-Glauben-Kommen bei Paulus / The Ethic of Love and "Coming to Faith" in Paul'; b. Jörg Frey (Zürich), 'Glaube und Liebe im Johannesevangelium'; c. Christina Hoegen-Rohls (Münster), 'Ist Gott Liebe? Das johanneische Liebeskonzept im Vergleich mit Paulus'
4. The Johannine Writings (M. Gruber, Ch. Karakolis). Terminates in 2015
 - a. Dennis MacDonald (Claremont), 'Semeia-Narratives without a Semeia Source'; respondent: Michael Labahn (Halle); b. Uta Poplutz (Wuppertal), 'Die johanneischen

- Semeia in literarischer und narratologischer Lesart'; respondent: Gudrun Nassauer (München; guest); c. Margareta Gruber (Vallendar), 'Was hat der Lieblingsjünger in Kana zu suchen? Eine intratextuelle Lektüre des ersten Semeions Joh 2,1-11'; respondent: Marijke de Lang (Leiden; guest)
5. The Rise and Development of Jesus Traditions (T. Holmén, S.E. Porter). Terminates in 2017. This seminar met jointly with Seminar 15
 - a. Francis Watson (Durham, UK), 'Social Memory and Writing in the Early Jesus Tradition'; b. Chris Keith (Twickenham), 'The Kerygmatic Narratives of the Gospels and the Historical Jesus: The Criteria Approach and the Memory Approach'; c. Christine Jacobi (Guest; Berlin), 'Memory and Discourse: What Has Paul to Contribute to the Debate about Jesus and Memory?'
 6. The Mission and Expansion of Earliest Christianity (E. Eung-Chun Park, P. Trebilco, G. Yorke). Terminates in 2015
 - a. Peter-Ben Smit (Amsterdam), 'Mistakes and Mission: The Dynamics of Intercultural Encounter and Ritual Failure in Early Christian Mission'; respondent: TBA; b. Vadim Wittkowsky (Berlin; guest), 'Mission of the Seventy-Two (Luke 10,1-24): History of Interpretation'; respondent: Eugene Eung-Chun Park (San Francisco); c. Paul Trebilco (Otago), 'Contrasting Constructions of Outsiders in the New Testament'; respondent: Gosnell Yorke (Mandeville, Jamaica)
 7. Christian Apocryphal Literature (T. Nicklas, C.M. Tuckett, J. Verheyden). Terminates in 2015
 - a. Gregor Wurst (Augsburg), 'Towards a New Critical Edition of Codex Tchacos'; b. Enno Edzard Popkes (Freiburg), 'Glaube und Erkenntnis: die Soteriologie des Johannesevangeliums und des Thomasevangeliums als Kontrast- und Konkurrenzkonzepte'; c. Philipp Augustin (Heidelberg; guest), 'Die Juden im Petrus-evangelium'
 8. Social History and the New Testament (H. Löhr, M. Öhler, A. Runesson). Terminates in 2017
 - a. Peter Oakes (Manchester, UK), 'Roman Housing and Religion'; respondent: Magnus Zetterholm (Lund); b. Ferdinand Prostmeier (Freiburg, Germany), 'Early Christian House Religion'; respondent: Wilhelm Pratscher (Vienna); c. Gabriele Fassbeck (Alabama; guest), 'Being Jewish at Home: A Glance at Interpretations of Ancient Palestine's Material Record'; respondent: Anders Runesson (Oslo)
 9. Early Jewish Theologies and the New Testament (J. Herzer, G. Oegema). Terminates in 2019
 - a. Karl-Wilhelm Niebuhr (Jena), 'Die Sapientia Salomonis im Kontext hellenistisch-römischer Philosophie'; b. Greg Sterling (Yale), "'A Law to Themselves": Universalism in Philo and Paul'; c. Thomas Tobin (Chicago), 'Reconfiguring Apocalyptic Imagery: The Examples of Philo of Alexandria and Paul'
 10. Reconsidering *Literarkritik* of the Pauline Letters and its Impact on their Interpretation (E-M. Becker, R. Bieringer). Terminates in 2015. Theme: '1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians and Philipians'
 - a. Manuel Vogel (Jena), 'Der Papyrologische Kommentar zum 2. Korintherbrief von Peter Arzt-Grabner: Literarkritische Einsichten'; b. Lars Aejmelaes (Helsinki), 'The Making of 2 Corinthians: The Consequences of the Main Solutions'; c. Thomas Schmeller (Frankfurt), "'Sail on Silver Girl": Zum Aufbau des zweiten Korintherbriefs'
 11. Matthew in Context: an Exploration of Matthew in Relation to the Judaism and Christianity of its Time (M. Konradt, W. Kraus, W. Loader). Terminates in 2015. Theme: 'What light might three other works (James, 1 Peter, Didache) throw on the issue of Matthew's context?'
 - a. Paul Foster (Edinburgh), 'What Light Might James Throw on the Issue of Matthew's Context?'; respondents: Roland Deines (Nottingham) and David Sim (Australia); b. Lutz Doering (Münster), 'What Light Might 1 Peter Throw on the Issue of Matthew's Context?'; respondent: Bernardo Estrada (Rome); c. Huub van de Sandt (Tilburg),

'What Light Might Didache Throw on the Issue of Matthew's Context?'; respondent: Jonathan Draper (Pietermaritzburg)

12. Papyrology, Epigraphy and the New Testament (P. Arzt-Grabner, J.S. Kloppenborg). Terminates in 2018
 - a. Josephine K. Dru (Green Collection, USA; guest), 'The Comparative Significance of Radiocarbon Results for Nine Internally Dated Documentary Papyri and P39'; respondent: Klaus Wachtel (Münster); b. AnneMarie Luijendijk (Princeton), 'A Transitional Period: Religious Experts at Oxyrhynchus from Decius to Theodosius'; respondent: Giovanni Bazzana (Harvard); c. Christfried Böttrich (Greifswald), 'Codex Sinaiticus and the Use of Manuscripts in the Early Church'; respondent: Christina M. Kreinecker (Salzburg) – this session met jointly with Seminar 14
13. Reading Paul's Letters in Context: Theological and Social-Scientific Approaches (W. Campbell, M. Bachmann). Terminates in 2016
 - a. Edward Adams (King's College, London), 'The Social Formation of the Pauline Church: Questioning the Household Theory'; respondent: Jerry Sumney (Lexington, Kentucky); b. Lukas Bormann (Marburg), 'Elite oder Nicht-Elite? Die autobiographischen Aussagen des Paulus als Schlüssel zu seiner sozialen Stellung im Judentum'; respondent: Robert Brawley (Durham, North Carolina); c. Todd Still (Baylor), 'The Coming of the Gospel and of the Lord Jesus as Epiphanic Phenomena in 1 (and 2) Thessalonians'; respondent: Kathy Ehrensperger (Lampeter)
14. New Testament Textual Criticism (C. Clivaz, U. Schmid, T. Wasserman). Terminates in 2018
 - a. Juan Chapa (Pamplona), 'Book Format and Patterns of Reading: The Impact of the Codex'; respondent: Claire Clivaz (Lausanne); b. Jan Krans (Amsterdam; guest), 'Harmonization as Enemy of Textual Criticism': Harmonization in Scribal and Critical Practice'; respondent: Jennifer Knust (Boston; guest); c. Christfried Böttrich (Greifswald), 'Codex Sinaiticus and the Use of Manuscripts in the Early Church'; respondent: Christina M. Kreinecker (Salzburg) – this session met jointly with Seminar 12
15. Memory, Narrative, and Christology in the Synoptic Gospels (S. Byrskog, J. Schröter, S. Hultgren). Terminates in 2018. This seminar met jointly with Seminar 5
 - a. Francis Watson (Durham, UK), 'Social Memory and Writing in the Early Jesus Tradition'; b. Chris Keith (Twickenham), 'The Kerygmatic Narratives of the Gospels and the Historical Jesus: The Criteria Approach and the Memory Approach'; c. Christine Jacobi (Guest; Berlin), 'Memory and Discourse: What Has Paul to Contribute to the Debate about Jesus and Memory?'
16. The Book of Revelation (D. Aune, D. Hellholm, Th. Witulski). Terminates in 2017
 - a. Konrad Huber (Mainz) and Jarl Henning Ulrichsen (Trondheim), 'Review and Discussion of *Kaiserkult in Kleinasien: Die Entwicklung der kultisch-religiösen Kaiserverehrung in der römischen Provinz Asia von Augustus bis Antoninus Pius*'; respondent: T. Witulski (Billerbeck, Germany); b. Håkan Ulfsgard (Linköping), 'Sharing with the Divine in the Apocalypse: Meals as Metaphors – Concepts and Contexts'; c. David Hellholm (Oslo), 'Aliments of Immortality in the Afterlife: Apocalyptic and Eschatological Notions of Eternal Life'

14.15 A Main Paper was given by Prof. Jean-Daniel Dubois (Paris), 'Vous avez dit docétisme? Les christologies gnostiques revisitées'

16:00 *Quaestiones Disputatae* were presented in the Aula – 'Are John's Ethics Apolitical?'; Prof. J. Lieu (*President* and Chair); panelists: Profs Harry Attridge (Yale University Divinity School, New Haven, CT), Warren Carter (Brite Divinity School, Fort Worth, TX), and Jan van der Watt (Radboud University, Nijmegen, the Netherlands).

17.30 Participants were invited to dinner, followed by a boat tour of Amsterdam

THURSDAY 30th JULY, 2015

08.00 Morning Prayers (Prof. J. Zumstein – français) were held in the Filmzaal

09.00 A Main Paper was given by Prof. David G. Horrell (Exeter), 'Ethnicisation, Marriage, and Early Christian Identity (1 Cor 7; 1 Pet 3)' in the Aula

11.15 The second session of Seminar Groups was held

14.15 A Main Paper was given by Prof. Amy-Jill Levine (Vanderbilt), 'The Gospel and the Land Revisited: Exegesis, Hermeneutics, and Politics' in the Aula

16.30 Six Short Papers were presented in simultaneous sessions:

- Cornelis Bennema (Wales), 'Mimetic Ethics in the Johannine Literature'
- Kathy Ehrensperger (Wales), 'Peculiarities of Cultural Translation: The Holiness 1.3 Discourse and the Absence of *Eusebeia* in Paul'
- John Ekem (Ghana), 'Teaching New Testament Studies in Ghanaian Tertiary Institutions: Challenges and Prospects'
- Camille Focant (Belgium), 'La portée de la formule τὸ εἶναι ἴσα θεῶ en Philippians 2.6'
- Philip Harland (Canada), '"Stand by me": Mutual Aid, Loans, and Burial in the Associations (200 BCE -150 CE)'
- Michael Winger (USA), 'What Led to the Creation of Gospels?'

18.00 Participants enjoyed a Gala Dinner and Musical Programme at De Nieuwe Poort Restaurant at the Zuidas

FRIDAY 31st JULY, 2015

08.00 Morning Prayers (Prof. Margareta Gruber OSF – Deutsch) were held in the Filmzaal

09.00 A Main Paper was given by Prof. Tobias Nicklas (Regensburg), 'Neutestamentlicher Kanon, christliche Apokryphen und antik-christliche Erinnerungskulturen' in the Aula

11.15 The third session of Seminar Groups was held

14.15 Six Short Papers were presented in simultaneous sessions:

- Luc Devillers (Switzerland), 'À propos d'Emmaüs et des disciples qui s'y rendent (Luc 24,13-35): Une nouvelle approche pour une solution ancienne'
- Eberhard W. Güting (Germany), 'Print Editions and Online Editions of the *Novum Testamentum Graece* Facing New Challenges'
- James Kelhoffer (Sweden), '2 Clement and Gnosticism: The *Status Quaestionis*'
- Jean-Claude Loba-Mkole (South Africa), 'New Testament Canons: Views from Intercultural Mediations'
- Iliaria Ramelli (Italy), 'Paul's Use of Scripture in 1 Corinthians 15:24-28'
- Jerry Sumney (USA), 'An Exploration of Paul's Place in the Development of the First-Century Church's Christology'

16.15 Six Short Papers were presented in simultaneous sessions:

- Helen Bond (UK), 'Paragon of Discipleship or Parody of Kingship? Simon of Cyrene in Mark's Gospel'
- J. Albert Harrill (USA), 'Ephesians as an Epistolary Threshold to Paul'
- Stephen Hultgren (Australia), 'ἰλαστήριον in Romans 3:25: The Convergence of Cultic and Martyr Theologies'
- Markus Öhler (Austria), 'Der Beitrag der "Kleinasiatischen Beichtinschriften" zum Verständnis des 1. Johannesbriefs'
- Michal Wojciechowski (Poland), 'The Difference between Healing Stories from Epidaurus and from the Gospels'
- Eric Wong (Hong Kong), 'Opening the Greek World to All: Creating a Chinese-Greek Lexical Database of the New Testament'

17.15 BUSINESS MEETING II

The *President*, Prof. Judith Lieu, was in the chair, and about 180 participants were present in the Aula.

BM2015/11 Nomination and Election of Committee Members

Profs Clare Rothschild and Jens Schröter were due to retire from the Committee after the Amsterdam General Meeting. The *President* expressed thanks for their valued contributions to the work of the Society. The Committee was pleased to recommend as their successors, Profs Judith Gundry and Tobias Nicklas to serve on the Committee for a period of three years (2015-18). The Society duly elected these members.

BM2015/12 Announcement of New Members

Dr Andrew Clarke (*Assistant Secretary*) announced the names of the 14 scholars whose nomination had been approved by the Committee (their names had been published for comment by Members during the course of the General Meeting), and confirmed that, according to the Constitution, their membership was now approved:

Prof. Pieter J.J. Botha (Professor of New Testament & Early Christian Studies, University of South Africa)

Prof. Ayodeji Adewuya (Professor of Greek and New Testament, Pentecostal Theological Seminary, Cleveland, TN, USA)

Prof. Per Jarle Bekken (Professor at Faculty of Professional Studies, University of Nordland, Bodø, Norway)

Prof. Martina Böhm (Universitätsprofessorin für Biblische Exegese und antikes Judentum am Fachbereich Evangelische Theologie der Universität Hamburg, Germany)

Prof. Régis Burnet (Professeur de Nouveau Testament, Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium)

Prof. Santiago Guijarro (Professor of New Testament Studies, Pontifical University of Salamanca, Spain)

Dr Hugh Houghton (Senior Research Fellow and Deputy Director of the Institute for Textual Scholarship and Electronic Editing, University of Birmingham, UK)

Dr Sandra Hübenal (Teaching Fellow, University of St Andrews, UK)

Prof. Alan Kirk (Professor, Department of Philosophy & Religion, James Madison University, Harrisonburgh, VA, USA)

Prof. Delano Palmer (Deputy President and Associate Professor of New Testament, Jamaica Theological Seminary, West Indies)

Dr David Trobisch (Director of the Collection of the Museum of the Bible, Washington, DC, and the Green Collection, Oklahoma City, USA)

Dr Christina Tuor-Kurth (PD für Neues Testament, Universität Basel, Switzerland)

Dr Annette Weissenrieder (Assistant Professor of New Testament, San Francisco Theological Seminary, USA)

Prof. Jason Whitlark (Associate Professor of New Testament, Baylor University, USA)

Prof. Karin Zetterholm (Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Linnæus University, Sweden)

The *Assistant Secretary* was thanked for all his work over the past year.

BM2015/13 Editors' Reports

1. *New Testament Studies*

Prof. Francis Watson (*Secretary to the Editorial Board and Journal Editor*) briefly highlighted some elements of a report on the Journal.

- It was reported that 135 articles had been submitted to the Journal over the past year. 30 had been accepted for publication. This represents an acceptance rate of about 27%.
- The *Editor* had selected a collection of articles from the Journal's archives celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Journal. Other articles, selected by theme (e.g. the Historical Jesus) may also be published.
- It was noted that the *Journal Editor* had begun to invite individual scholars to submit articles to the Journal. In particular, authors of forthcoming volumes in the Monograph Series would be invited to submit an article on a topic related to their

monograph. Additionally, the *Journal Editor* had also commissioned articles from a few established scholars. It was further noted that some issues of the journal would include 2-3 articles addressing a prescribed theme. These articles would be subject to the usual review process.

2. *New Members of the Editorial Board*

It was noted that the Editorial Board serves both the Journal and the Monograph Series. Thanks were expressed to all those on the Board, and in particular to Dr Carleton Paget, Profs Chapa, Nicklas, Rowe, Standaert and Yarbrow Collins, who were due to retire from the Board at the end of 2015. Prof. Mathews had resigned from the Board during the course of the year.

To replace these members, the Editorial Board nominated the following members to serve in their place, during the period January 2016 – December 2018: Profs Loveday Alexander (Sheffield), Lutz Doering (Münster), Bernardo Estrada (Rome), Scott Hafemann (St Andrews), Judith Hartenstein (Landau), Bruce Longenecker (Waco) and Peter-Ben Smit (Amsterdam). Members of the Society (for their part) duly elected these members to the Board.

3. *Monograph Series*

Prof. Paul Trebilco (*Editor of Monograph Series*) briefly highlighted some issues raised in a distributed report on the Monograph Series. It was noted that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Series.

New Publications: the following monographs had been published since the report presented at the General Meeting in Szeged (2014):

159 Brookins: *Corinthian Wisdom, Stoic Philosophy, and the Ancient Economy* (Jul 2014)

160 Easter: *Faith and the Faithfulness of Jesus in Hebrews* (Dec 2014)

161 Whittle: *Covenant Renewal and the Consecration of the Gentiles in Romans* (Dec 2014)

162 Wheaton: *The Role of Jewish Feasts in John's Gospel* (Mar 2015)

163 Bitner: *Paul's Political Strategy in 1 Corinthians 1-4* (Jun 2015)

The following works have been delivered and are in production:

164 *Last: The Pauline Church and the Corinthian Ekklesia*

165 *Joseph: Jesus and the Temple*

The following title has been placed under contract:

166 Hamilton: *The Death of Jesus in Matthew*

4. *Thanks*

Thanks were expressed to Profs Watson and Trebilco, to members of the Editorial Board, and to Laura Morris (*Religious Studies Books Editor, CUP*) and Martine Walsh (*Senior Commissioning Editor, CUP*).

BM2015/14 Future General Meetings

- *Montreal, Canada (2016)*

The meeting was reminded that in 2012 the Society had accepted an invitation from McGill University to host its 2016 meeting.

- *Pretoria, South Africa (2017)*

The meeting was reminded that in 2014 the Society had accepted an invitation from the University of Pretoria to host its 2017 meeting.

- *Athens, Greece (2018)*

The meeting was reminded that in 2014 the Society had accepted an invitation from the University of Athens to host its 2018 meeting.

- *Marburg, Germany (2019)*

The invitation extended by the University of Marburg was accepted.

The *Secretary* noted that the Committee looks forward to receiving invitations for the years 2020-22.

BM2015/15 Programme of 71st General Meeting

71st General Meeting: Montreal, Canada, 2-5 August, 2016

The *Secretary* reported the following:

1. *Presidential Address*

The Presidential Address will be given by Prof. Carl Holladay (USA)

2. *Main Papers, Short Papers, Quaestiones Disputatae*

Main Papers will be given by Profs Guy Bonneau (French); Jens Herzer (Germany), Paula Frederiksen (USA), and Risto Uro (Finland)

18 Short Papers can be scheduled, and any members wishing to offer a paper were asked to send a proposal to the *Secretary* before 1st February, 2016. Members were reminded that they may give only one paper (of any kind) at a General Meeting.

Details of the topic and panellists for the *Quaestiones Disputatae* were scheduled to be announced in the February/March Newsletter.

3. *Seminars*

- The term of five seminars expired in Amsterdam, of which three had applied for continuation:

'The Johannine Writings' – approved to continue for 5 years, convened by M. Gruber, Ch. Karakolis and J. Frey

'The Mission and Expansion of Earliest Christianity' – approved to continue for 3 years, convened by E.E-C. Park, P. Trebilco, G. Yorke

'Christian Apocryphal Literature'

'Reconsidering *Literaturkritik* of the Pauline Letters and its Impacts on their Interpretation' – approved to continue for 3 years

'Matthew in Context: an Exploration of Matthew in Relation to the Judais and Christianity of its Time'

- Two proposals for new seminars to begin in Montreal (2016) had been approved by the Committee:

'Hebrews' (C. Eberhart and W. Kraus). The proposal was approved, for 5 years

'The Development of Early Christian Ethics within its Jewish and Greco-Roman Contexts' (W. Loader and M. Konrad). The proposal was approved, for 5 years

It was noted that one seminar had been terminated: 'The Origins and Development of Jesus Traditions'

This means that there will be 15 Seminars at the Montreal General Meeting (2016).

Seminar leaders were asked to send to the *Secretary* by 1st February the names of those giving papers and the titles of their papers, so that these may be included in the general information about the General Meeting, which is sent out to all Society members in the February-March Newsletter. The *Secretary* expressed deep gratitude to the convenors of the Seminars for all their work, as well as to those who chaired short papers at the General Meeting.

Prof. Ulrich Luz recognised and expressed appreciation for the 20th Anniversary of the Eastern European Liaison Committee (Prague), and described something of the history of this and other Liaison Committees of the Society. The work of all the Liaison Committees was recognised with appreciation.

BM2015/17 Any Other Business

The *President* expressed thanks on behalf of the Society to the Committee and to the Officers of the Society, including: Prof. Martin de Boer (*Secretary*), who was especially thanked for his service and innovative developments over the past 10 years; Dr Andrew Clarke (*Assistant Secretary*), who was thanked for his service over the past 6 years; Dr Kathy Ehrensperger (*Treasurer*), Prof. William Loader (*Assistant Secretary for International Initiatives*).

Gratitude was also expressed to the local conference organisers, stewards and volunteers for a very successful General Meeting at the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, and especially to Dr Arie Zwiep (Chair of the Local Organising Committee, which included Prof. Martinus C. de Boer, Dr Jan Krans, Prof. Bert Jan Lietaert Peerbolte, André Poortman, Jacob Schneider and Prof Peter-Ben Smit).

The *President* then declared the 70th General Meeting of the Society formally concluded.

18.30 Participants were invited to an Organ Recital, followed by a barbecue.

SATURDAY 1st AUGUST 2015

There were optional excursions to Hoorn and the Westfriesch Museum; the Kröller-Müller Museum and Van Gogh Exhibition; and The Delta Works: 'The Eighth Wonder of the World'.