

## STUDIORUM NOVI TESTAMENTI SOCIETAS

### The 63<sup>rd</sup> GENERAL MEETING OF SNTS

MINUTES of the 63<sup>rd</sup> GENERAL MEETING held at Lund University, Lund, Sweden during 29<sup>th</sup> July – 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2008.

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#### TUESDAY 29<sup>th</sup> JULY 2008

18.00 A Reception was given in the *Universitetet* by the Rector Magnificus of Lund University and the Dean of the Theological Faculty in Lund. Participants were warmly welcomed to the University.

#### 20.30 BUSINESS MEETING I

The President, Professor Daniel Marguerat, was in the chair, and about 215 participants were in attendance. The meeting was held in the *Stadshallen*. The President warmly welcomed those present, and especially new members and guests, to the 63<sup>rd</sup> General Meeting of the Society.

#### BM2008/01 Apologies for Absence and Deaths of Former Members.

Apologies were received from a number of members, including the following former Presidents of the Society: Profs. Tjitze Baarda, C. K. Barrett, Francois Bovon, Marinus de Jonge, Morna Hooker, Hans-Josef Klauck, Graham N. Stanton, Robin McL. Wilson.

The Society received with regret news of the deaths of the following: Gottfried Fitzer, Benedict Green, Erhardt Güttgemanns, David M. Hay, Augustyn Jankowski, X. Léon-Dufour, Eduard Massaux, C. F. D. Moule, J. Müller-Bardorff, J. Reiling. Members observed a minute's silence in memory of these scholars.

Resignations of membership had been received from Per Bilde, Jean-Francois Collange, Eduard Cothenet, B. Frid, J. C. G. Greig, Jan Helderma, E. Lövestam, Michèle Morgan.

#### BM2008/02 The Minutes

The Minutes of the Business Meetings held in Sibiu, Romania in 2007 were approved and signed.

#### BM2008/03 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

#### BM2008/04 Arrangements for the 2008 Meeting

The Secretary announced some last-minute alterations to the programme. A record number of 18 offered short papers were included in the programme this year. He informed members that the Committee would welcome invitations from institutions to host the General Meeting for the years 2013 and beyond so that planning for future meetings can continue to take place at least five years in advance. Members were encouraged before the second Business meeting to check the sheet of nominations for new members that was posted and to pass any comments to the Assistant Secretary or other Committee members before the second Committee meeting. On behalf of the local organisers, Prof. Samuel Byrskog then welcomed participants to Lund.

#### BM2008/05 Nomination of Officers

Members confirmed their approval of Professor Dr Andreas Lindemann to become President-Elect of the Society (to become President at the 2009 meeting in Vienna).

The Committee intimated, and the Society approved, an invitation to Professor Adela Yarbrow Collins to become Deputy President-Elect, to take office at the 2010 meeting in Berlin.

The President reported that the Committee had carefully considered the new post of Assistant Secretary for International Initiatives. The Committee decided that it would best for the initial appointment to this new post to be for a period of three years instead of five as originally announced. Taking into account the exploratory nature of the venture, three years would provide a transitional period to create the structures upon which further initiatives might build. For example, the initial period might usefully foster new liaison committees in different geographical regions with a view to increasing membership from these regions (such as the Pacific Rim and South America). After also giving consideration to the criteria to be applied when choosing a holder of this post, the Committee proposed Prof. Bernard Lategan (South Africa) to serve as the first Assistant Secretary for International Initiatives. Members approved the appointment.

The President further noted that Dr Bruce Longenecker would complete his term as Treasurer of the Society at the end of 2008. Proposals from members and applications for the position had been canvassed in the autumn mailing. The Committee considered the applications that had been received and recommended to the Society the appointment of Dr Helen Bond (Edinburgh). Members approved the appointment.

#### BM2008/06 Nomination of Committee Members

Following the completion of the terms in 2007 of Profs. J.N.K. Mugambi and M. Sato as "co-opted members" of the Committee, the Committee had sought two new co-opted members to serve for a period of three years. Co-opted members have been chosen to represent geographical areas, such as Africa and Asia, which are under-represented in the Society. The Committee was pleased to recommend to the Society Prof. J. J. Kanagaraj (India) and Dr J.-C. Loba-Mkole (Kenya) to serve in this capacity for three years (2008-2011). The Society approved these nominations.

#### BM2008/07 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Dr B. W. Longenecker, circulated the draft financial statements for the year ended 31 May 2008. These covered the three funds of the Society: the General Fund, the International Fund and the Library Fund. Following his presentation, the accounts were formally accepted and approved by the Society. The points highlighted by the Treasurer included the following:

- As agreed previously, a change in the way that Journal subscriptions were being handled had been initiated. CUP now operates a direct-billing system for *NTS* subscriptions for members outside North America. This shift is reflected in the General Fund accounts of the Society, so that both receipts and payments for Journal subscriptions are now negligible.
- The reported decrease of £1,330 this year in Society membership subscriptions is a bookkeeping effect (due to a late payment that inflated the 2006-7 figures) rather than a cause for concern.
- In contrast to 2006-7, no legacy had been received in 2007-8, so the income of the General Fund was correspondingly lower this year.
- The apparent absence of an "honorarium" for the Monograph Editor in 2007-8 is because "honoraria" for the Society's editors do not pertain to their editorial duties but rather to conference attendance. Because the Monograph Editor was unable to attend the 2007 conference in Sibiu, no payment from the Society was made.

With respect to the International Fund, the apparent decrease in donations is again explicable as a bookkeeping effect that inflated the figures in 2006-7. The discrepancy between the high level of grants in 2006-7 and the low level of grants in 2007-8 is explained by (1) the increased travel costs of coming to the UK in 2006 relative to mainland Europe in 2007, particularly for Eastern European members; (2) two late cancellations at Sibiu in 2007 due to visa problems; and (3) the absence of a pre-conference meeting of the Eastern European committee at the 2007 conference.

All funds held by the Society in the Library Fund were turned over to the managers of the Eastern European libraries in 2006-7. There was no activity in this Fund in 2007-8, but a late donation will appear in next year's figures.

When considering the overall financial position of the Society, the Treasurer commented that:

- When extraordinary factors are excluded and when the new honorarium for the Assistant Secretary (International Initiatives) is included, the Society may well face expenditure in excess of income for the International Fund to a degree that is not sustainable.
- There are worrying signs that the General Fund may also not be able to continue to break even on account of foreseeable increased costs in the near future. The absence of any significant surplus generated by the General Fund in the past two years and reserves of slightly less than one-year's payments provides limited capacity to cope with such factors.

Accordingly, the Trustees on the Committee gave detailed consideration to the level of future membership subscriptions. In view of the last increase in fees (introducing the new tiered subscription structure) having been so recent and in view of the overall increase in the balances of both the General Fund and International Fund in 2007-8, no increase in subscription levels was recommended this year. The situation would be considered again next year, however, at which time the Trustees might have to propose an increase in fees for some or all tiers of subscription.

#### BM2008/08 Other Business

Eastern Europe Liaison Committee (EELC). Prof. Dr Karl-Wilhelm Niebuhr, the new President of the EELC, informed members of the activities and plans of the EELC, following which the presentation of a modern icon of St Matthew was made to Prof. Dr Ulrich Luz in recognition of his 12 years of outstanding previous service as the President of the EELC.

Prof. Niebuhr noted that at the meeting of the EELC on Monday, under its new leadership, reports were received on the progress of the Biblical Libraries in St Petersburg and Sofia, and a written report on the achievements of the EELC over the 12 years since its founding had been compiled. This report will be available on the EELC website. Thanks were expressed to all who contributed to the figure of over €270,000 that had been raised over these years. Many members had also donated books from their own libraries. In addition, publishers who had generously offered price reductions on books/journals and gifts were thanked, as was Princeton Theological Seminary for its generous support under the presidency of Thomas Gillespie.

Professor Niebuhr reported briefly on the successful symposium held last year in Romania, and he announced that the next East-West symposium would take place in Minsk, Belarus, in 2010. A project to translate into Russian scholarly texts for use in teaching was also proceeding well.

The first Business Meeting was then concluded.

21.45 Carrefour at Tegnér Restaurant

### **WEDNESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> JULY**

08.00 Morning Prayers (in English) were held in Lund Cathedral by the Revd Prof. Bengt Holmberg.

09.00 Professor Dr Andrie B. du Toit was inducted as President of the Society and delivered his Presidential Address entitled "*Paulus oecumenicus*. Interculturality in the Shaping of Paul's Theology" at a plenary session of the Society.

10.45 A photograph of Conference participants was taken.

11.15 The first session of the Seminar Groups was held, with the following subjects and formal leadership:

1. Christliche Literatur des späten ersten Jahrhunderts und des zweiten Jahrhunderts / Christian Literature of the Late First Century and the Second Century (Prof. F. Prostmeier and Dr H. van de Sandt)

2. Colossians (Prof. P. Müller)
  3. The Greco-Roman World of the New Testament: Language, Culture, Ideas (Assoc. Prof. L. Rydbeck and Prof. S. E. Porter)
  4. The Greek of the New Testament (Profs. C. C. Caragounis and J.W. Voelz)
  5. Inhalte und Probleme einer neutestamentlichen Theologie (Profs. U. Schnelle and M. Seifrid)
  6. The Johannine Writings (Prof. Dr R. Bieringer and Prof. C. R. Koester)
  7. The Septuagint and the New Testament (Profs. W. Kraus and W.R.G. Loader)
  8. New Challenges for New Testament Hermeneutics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Profs. B. McLean and O. Wischmeyer)
  9. The New Testament in History and Culture (Profs. R. Fowler, W. Kelber and B. Olsson)
  10. The New Testament, Oral Culture and Biblical Translation (Drs P. H. Towner and G. L. Yorke; advisory co-chair, Prof. J. D. G. Dunn). This seminar did not meet but brought its work to conclusion with a presentation by Eugene Botha as one of the offered short papers in order to give the wider SNTS membership the opportunity to view and react to the seminar's work.
  11. Paul and Rhetoric (Profs. P. Lampe and J. P. Sampley)
  12. The Reception of Paul (Profs. D. Moessner and D. Marguerat)
  13. Shaping Traditions about Jesus (Profs. I. Gruenwald and P. Pokorny)
  14. Textual Criticism (Profs. H.-G. Bethge and J. K. Elliott)
  15. History and Theology of Mission in the New Testament: Global Challenges and Opportunities (Profs. J. Ådna, J. Kanagaraj, S. Tofana)
  16. Pauline Theology in Galatians and Romans (Profs. B. Gaventa, J. M. G. Barclay, M. C. de Boer)
  17. The Acts of the Apostles and Ancient Historiography (Profs. K. Backhaus, J. Schröter, G. Sterling)
  18. Christian Apocryphal Literature (Profs. T. Nicklas, C. M. Tuckett, J. Verheyden)
- 14.15 A Main Paper was given by Prof. Dr Elian Cuvillier: "Obéissance à la Loi et radicalisation dans le premier Évangile: Contribution à la question du lien entre Matthieu et le Judaïsme du premier siècle".
- 19.00 A Reception was given by the Mayor of Lund in the Stadshallen.
- 22.00 Carrefour at Tegnér Restaurant

#### **THURSDAY 31<sup>st</sup> JULY**

- 08.00 Morning Prayers (in English/French) were held in Lund Cathedral, led by Assoc. Prof. Håkan Ulfgard.
- 09.00 A Main Paper was given by Prof. Adele Reinhartz: "Caiaphas' Post-Canonical Career".
- 11.15 The second session of Seminar groups was held.
- 14.15 A Main Paper was given by Prof. Dr Knut Backhaus: "Zwei harte Knoten. Todes- und Gerichtsangst im Hebräerbrief".
- 16.15 Six offered short papers were presented in simultaneous sessions:
- Norman H. Young: "Romans 14:5-6 and Colossians 2:16 in their Social Context".
  - Peter Arzt-Grabner: "Papyrologisches zur Frage der Einheitlichkeit des 2. Korintherbriefes".
  - Odette Mainville: "La paix messianique dans la perspective lucanienne: Quand et pour qui?".
  - Gerbens S. Oegema: "Non-Canonical Writings and New Testament Theology".
  - Jan Willem Van Henten: "Matthew 2:16 and Josephus' Portrayals of Herod".
  - Jean-Claude Loba-Mkole: "The Greek-Swahili Interlinear NT. A Case Study in Intercultural Mediations".
- 18.30 Participants were invited to a Dinner hosted by the Bishop of the Diocese of Lund at the Grand Hotel, Lund.

22.30 An Organ Concert was given in Lund Cathedral

## **FRIDAY 1<sup>st</sup> AUGUST**

08.00 Prayers (English/German) and Communion were held in Lund Cathedral, led by the Bishop of Lund.

09.00 A Main Paper was given by Prof. Troels Engberg-Pedersen: "The Material Spirit: Cosmology and Ethics in Paul".

11.15 The third session of Seminar groups was held.

14.15 Six offered short papers were presented in simultaneous sessions:

- William Campbell: "'I rate all things as loss': Paul's Rhetoric of Comparison".
- Eckhard Rau: "'Nicht einmal in Israel habe ich einen so großen Glauben gefunden': Die Boteninstruktion als Fokus der Logienquelle".
- Guy Bonneau: "Des loups féroces qui n'épargneront pas le troupeau: la fonction des conflits dans la communauté de Luc".
- James A. Kelhoffer: "Persecution, Persuasion and Power in the Revelation of John".
- Gesine Robinson: "The Gospel of Judas in Light of the New Testament and Early Christianity".
- Lars Rydbeck: "Albert Wifstrand's Views on the Distinctive Character of New Testament Metaphors".

16.00 Six offered short papers were presented in simultaneous sessions:

- David Instone-Brewer: "Rabbinic Reflections on Living Sacrifices at Romans 12:1".
- Delbert Burkett: "Q Material Unique to Matthew".
- Margaret Y. MacDonald: "Children in the Household Codes of Colossians and Ephesians: New Questions in Light of Recent Research on Families".
- Craig Blomberg: "The Structure of James".
- Michael Wojciechowski: "A Typology of Various Forms of Ancient Judaism according to their Attitudes to Hellenism".
- Eugene Botha: "The SNTS Orality Seminar: An Aural and Visual Presentation of its Work".

## **17.00 BUSINESS MEETING II**

The President, Professor Dr Andrie B. du Toit, was in the chair, and about 190 participants were present in the Stadshallen.

The Society was informed of the deaths of two additional members, Professor H. Riesenfeld and Professor K. Stendahl. A minute's silence was observed in memory of these scholars.

### **BM2008/09 Nomination and Election of Committee Members**

Prof. Margaret M. Mitchell and Prof. Dr Udo Schnelle were due to retire from the Committee after this meeting. The President expressed thanks for their important contributions to the work of the Society. The Committee was pleased to recommend as their successors Prof. Beverly Gaventa (Princeton) and Prof. Dr Max Küchler (Fribourg) to serve on the Committee for a period of three years (2008 to 2011). The Society approved these nominations.

### **BM2008/10 Editors' Reports**

Copies of the Editors' reports had been distributed to participants. Prof. Judith Lieu spoke to these reports.

#### **a. New Testament Studies**

(i) Circulation. Prof. J. Lieu noted that, whilst 2008 figures for circulation were not yet available on account of CUP improvements to the formatting of the data, the trends identified in the past were continuing. These included a continuing increase in consortia subscriptions and on-line access, both of which were to be welcomed, but a decrease in member

subscriptions. There may be several causes for the latter, including changing ways of accessing journals and/or deletion of subscriptions for which payments were not being received since the Society handed over responsibility for collection of member journal subscriptions to CUP Customer Services in 2006.

(ii) *On-Line Access to the Journal.* As noted above, the increase in on-line access to the Journal has been remarkable, and on-line access to abstracts of articles is particularly noteworthy. Carefully-worded abstracts can clearly be used to attract interest in one's work. Key words for each article were also introduced over the past year to help with readers' searches. The most frequently-accessed articles were posted on the conference noticeboard for perusal. The ability of readers to access older articles on-line as well as current ones highlighted the value for authors of publishing in the Journal above that of publishing in *Festschriften* or collections of essays.

(iii) *Subscription Rates.* The rates for Volume 55 (2009) had provisionally been set as follows (this year's figures in brackets):

Institutions (print & on-line):	£130 (124) / \$240 (216)
Print Only:	£122 (116) / \$220 (205)
Electronic only	£118 (111) / \$214 (194)
Individuals:	£46 (46) / \$76 (76)
SNTS Members:	£42 (40) / \$68 (64)*
Retired Members:	£22 (20) / \$40 (36)*
Students:	£20 (20) / \$36 (36)
Journal Donation Project (institutions)	£26 (26)
ABTAPL	£95 (95)

\* Plus membership subscriptions for those who are members.

Small increases in the rate for members (current and retired) were noted, but these were seen against a background of no increases in the previous six years.

Prof. Lieu noted that take-up of the special rate for the Journal Donation Project had been disappointing. Cambridge University Press (CUP) will circulate information on eligibility for this rate in order to encourage greater participation.

From 2009 SNTS members who subscribe to the Journal will receive on-line access as well as a hard copy. On-line access will include access to past issues and use of the CUP search facility. CUP will monitor the extent of on-line usage by subscribing members over the coming year. If on-line usage is substantial, then the possibility of an individual on-line only subscription for members will be considered for the future.

(iv) *Supply of articles.* Prof. Lieu reported that the queue for publication was still short, and submission of articles in any of the three languages of the Society was welcome. She reminded those present that one did not have to be a member of the SNTS in order to publish in the Journal.

(v) *European Science Foundation List of Research Journals.* Prof. Lieu reported that the European Science Foundation had compiled a list of peer-reviewed research journals of international standard in the Humanities and for each journal had undertaken an assessment of reputational strength. She was pleased to report that *NTS* had been designated in the "A" category. After being notified of the "A" rating for *NTS*, Prof. Lieu had received a request from the European Science Foundation for information about the Journal. She noted that there was some concern about this kind of exercise, but the Editorial Board agreed to co-operate with the request.

(vi) *Thanks.* Prof. Lieu expressed her gratitude to those members of the Editorial Board and other colleagues who have kindly read and reported on typescripts during the past year and

during her term of office. She noted the good relations that currently existed with Cambridge University Press, and particularly thanked Ms Martine Walsh and Ms Melanie Howe of CUP. Appreciation was also expressed for the copy-editing of Dr Duncan Burns.

b. Monograph Series

In the absence of Dr Court, Prof. Lieu also addressed some issues raised in his report and in the subsequent discussion at the Editorial Board.

(i) *New Publications.* Four monographs have been published since the report presented at the Sibiu meeting in 2007:

- 140 André Munzinger: *Discerning the Spirits*
- 141 Edward Klink: *The Sheep of the Fold*
- 142 Stephen Ahearne-Kroll: *The Psalms of Lament in Mark's Gospel*
- 143 Kenneth Schenck: *Cosmology and Eschatology in Hebrews*

The following works are currently in production:

- 144 Padilla: *The Speeches of Outsiders in Acts* (due 18 Sept. 08)
- 145 Walters: *The Assumed Authorial Unity of Luke and Acts* (due 30 Oct. 2008)

One further title of a study on Acts is under contract but being revised. Prof. Lieu noted that the clustering in the last three signings of titles within a single part of NT studies (Luke-Acts) is unusual, but this was coincidental and each was merited in its own right.

(ii) *Reprints and Digital Sales.* Volumes no longer automatically go out of print, so all volumes remain available unless the author withdraws availability. From 2005 onwards, monographs have been available electronically as well as in hard copy.

(iii) *Review.* The Press Syndicate reviewed the monograph series in March 2008, and it was agreed to continue publishing the series on the same terms for a further five years. This expression of confidence in the series was welcomed. Members, and particularly established scholars, were encouraged to support the series by publishing in it.

(iv) *Thanks.* The report prepared by Dr Court thanked Dr Katharina Brett (and her assistants) of CUP for facilitating a good working relationship this year and for her close attention to the Society's concerns, particularly in discussions of future projects. He also expressed his thanks to all (within and outwith the Society) who read and reported on manuscripts. He hoped that members would continue to offer such support in the future.

The Editors' Reports were approved by the Society, and the President expressed gratitude to both of the Editors for their valuable contributions. In addition, the President noted the imminent retirement of Prof. Lieu as Editor of the Journal after six years. He expressed on behalf of the Society appreciation for the splendid work that she had done and the high standards that she had upheld. For her part, Prof. Lieu thanked members of the Society for their support over the years.

c. Editor of the Journal

Prof. Lieu reported that Professor John M. G. Barclay (Durham) had been nominated by the Editorial Board to succeed her as Editor of the Journal for a term of five years. The Society approved the appointment.

d. New Members of the Editorial Board

Appreciation was expressed to Professors T. Engberg-Pedersen, W. R. G. Loader, J. Schröter, T. K. Seim, L. T. Stuckenbruck, and M. M. Thompson who are due to retire from the Board at the end of 2008. The Editorial Board nominated the following members to serve in their place, during the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011: Prof. Dr C. Gerber, Prof. C. Karakolis, Prof. L. McDonald, Prof. A. Reinhartz, Assoc. Prof. D. Sim and Prof. G. Steyn. Members of the Society gave their approval to these nominations.

BM2008/11 Election of New Members.

The election of 15 scholars as new members of the Society was confirmed:

Dr Charalambos Atmatzidis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece), Dr Sotiris Despotis (University of Athens, Greece), Dr Kathy Ehrensperger (University of Wales, Lampeter, UK), Dr Johan Ferreira (Bible College of Queensland, Australia), Ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr Konrad Huber (Universität Innsbruck, Austria), Prof. Dr Stephen J. Hultgren (Fordham University, New York, USA), Dr Thomas Jürgen Kraus (Willibald-Gluck-Gymnasium, Neumarkt, Germany), PD Dr theol. habil. Manfred Lang (Martin-Luther-Universität, Halle-Wittenberg, Germany), Prof. Dr Jean-Bosco Matand Bulembat (Catholic University of Kinshasa, Congo), Dr Alan Mitchell (Georgetown University, Washington DC, USA), Dr Andrei A. Orlov (Marquette University, Milwaukee, USA), PD Dr theol. habil. Enno Edzard Popkes (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München & Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, Germany), Asst. Prof. Dr Ioannis Skiadaresis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece), Dr Thomas Witulski (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Germany), Dr Konstantinos Th. Zarras (University of Athens, Greece).

#### BM2008/12 Future General Meetings.

**Vienna 2009 (4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> August)** Prof. Dr W. Pratscher and Susanne Pratscher gave a presentation about the arrangements for the meeting in Vienna and warmly invited members of the Society to attend. The conference will be hosted by the Institutes for New Testament Studies of the Protestant and Catholic Theological Faculties of the University of Vienna. The principal venue for sessions will be the main building of the University. A wide range of accommodation will be available and a choice of four Saturday excursions. For accompanying persons, excursions will be restricted to half-day rather than full-day options, giving opportunities for free time to explore the city. A five- or six-day post-conference excursion around Austria is also to be offered.

**Berlin 2010 (27<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> July)** Four years ago the Society accepted an invitation to hold its 2010 meeting at the Humboldt University of Berlin. This will coincide with the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University.

**Annandale-on-the-Hudson, New York 2011 (2-6 August)** Three years ago the Society accepted an invitation to hold its 2011 meeting at Bard College, Annandale-on-the-Hudson, New York. Dates for the conference have now been confirmed.

**Leuven 2012 (31<sup>st</sup> July – 4<sup>th</sup> August)** Last year the Society accepted an invitation from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven to host its 2012 meeting.

The Society is looking for invitations for 2013 onwards, as intimated at the first Business Meeting. Members with possible proposals are encouraged to contact the Secretary at any time throughout the coming year.

#### BM2008/13 Programme of Future Meetings.

##### **Vienna 2009**

a. *Main Papers and Short Main Papers.* The Secretary reported that the Presidential Address will be given by Prof. Dr Andreas Lindemann. Invited Main Papers will be given by Prof. Margaret Y. MacDonald, Fr Prof. Dr Vasile Mihoc, Prof. Dr Manabu Tsuji and Prof. Dr Samuel Vollenweider. Opportunities will again exist for members to offer short papers to be read in simultaneous sessions. Any member wishing to offer such a paper is asked to send a proposal to the Secretary before 1 February 2009. Members may give only one paper (of any kind) per General Meeting.

b. *Seminars.* The Secretary drew attention to the following:

- Eighteen seminars were held in Lund.
- Four seminars will terminate this year:
  - Colossians
  - The New Testament, Oral Culture and Bible Translation
  - The New Testament in History and Culture
  - Textual Criticism
- Two proposals had been received for new seminars to begin in Vienna 2009:
  - The Jewish World in New Testament Times (S. Freyne, J. W. Van Henten, W. Horbury)

The Dead Sea Scrolls in relation to Early Judaism & Early Christianity (J. J. Collins, J. Frey)

The question of overlap was discussed by the Committee, but it was accepted that quite different foci were intended. The new seminars were accordingly approved, subject to the seminar leaders contacting the Secretary to agree more precise titles.

Thus 16 seminars are expected to be held in Vienna.

BM2008/14 Any Other Business

- a. *Retiring Treasurer.* The President noted that Dr Bruce Longenecker (St Andrews) was completing his term of office as Treasurer of the Society at the end of 2008. The warm appreciation of the Society was expressed for the excellent work that he had done, and a gift was presented as a token of the Society's gratitude for his contribution to its activities.
- b. *Visa Difficulties.* The Society's attention was drawn to a problem that some participants from non-Western countries had in obtaining visas to attend conferences. It was confirmed that the local conference organisers had the major role in supporting participants in this regard, but sometimes evidence of financial support from the Society for a conference (when approved) was also required. The latter was regularly provided by the Treasurer. It was agreed the Secretary would discuss this further with future local organisers.

The President noted that the local organising committee for Lund would be thanked at the final dinner. The President then declared the 63<sup>rd</sup> General Meeting of the Society closed.

19.00 The closing **Conference Dinner** took place at the AF in Lund. The President expressed thanks on behalf of the Society to the local conference organisers, and especially to Prof. Samuel Byrskog, Prof. Chrys C. Caragounis, Prof. Bengt Holmberg, Assoc. Prof. Dieter Mitternacht, Prof. Birger Olsson, Assoc. Prof. Walter Übelacker and Mrs Kristina Ericsson (of MCI Scandinavia). The very efficient team of stewards and other helpers was also recognised and thanked by Prof. Byrskog.

21.30 Carrefour at Tegnér Restaurant

## **SATURDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> AUGUST**

Optional excursions included the following:

- (1) "Around the Sound" / Öresund, including stops at Danish Helsingør and Copenhagen.
- (2) South-East Skåne "Österlen", including stops at Ystad, Ales Stenar and "Backåkra".
- (3) "Castle, Pottery and Nature", including stops in North-West Skåne at Vallåkra, Sofiero, the Höganäs ceramic works and Kullaberg nature reserve.