

Jewish and Biblical Studies in Central Europe (JBSCE)

On March 6th 2007, scholars from Austria, Hungary, and Romania met at Pázmány Péter Catholic University in Piliscsaba close to Budapest to launch an international society for Jewish and Biblical Studies in Central Europe (JBSCE). In this volume of *Biblische Notizen*, the three lectures held at the 2007 meeting will be published.

The JBSCE wants to facilitate and enhance communication and cooperation between specialists in Jewish and Biblical studies in the region of central Europe by biannual meetings. To achieve this goal a board was elected and a statement of purposes was phrased.

The first conference of the JBSCE will be held at Pázmány Péter Catholic University in Piliscsaba, Hungary, on February, 1st - 2nd, 2009. The conference will be dedicated to the topic of "The Stranger in Judaism and Other Concepts of Jewish Tradition". The conferences' main lectures series will be grouped around the topic of the stranger. In addition to the main lectures, scholars can present papers in various areas of Jewish and Biblical studies (for a list of areas and field chairs, see below). Scholars are invited to apply for presentations by emailing a title and an abstract to the respective field chairs.

Statement of Purpose

The JBSCE is an interdisciplinary society which wants to enhance communication and scholarly interaction between specialists in the fields of Biblical and Jewish Studies in Central Europe. The JBSCE advocates religious tolerance among its members as by the range of its topic the JBSCE addresses both Jewish and Christian scholars.

The society is interested in various fields of study: Tanakh / Old Testament, New Testament, ancient, rabbinic, medieval, and modern Judaism, as well as Jewish history in general and Yiddish studies. Early Christianity will be recognized in so far as it is still rooted in its Jewish origins. Islamic studies are also included in so far as they further the understanding of Judaism.

To achieve its purpose, the JBSCE will organize scholarly meetings on a regular basis. For the time being a biannual scheme is envisioned. These conferences will consist of plenary sessions with main lectures (on invitation only) as well as other program units which might run parallel to each other (contributions by application). The main lectures will be grouped around a conference topic. Meeting participants will cover all costs themselves (including a conference fee). It is not envisioned that organizers of the respective meetings will

raise funds. At the moment, a publication of conference proceedings is not intended.

For each of its meetings, the JBSCE will elect an honorary president. The presidency is intended to recognize and honour the achievements of outstanding scholars in the different fields of study covered by the society. As this is intended to be an honorary title, no responsibilities in administering the society or organizing its meetings will be involved.

The JBSCE will be administered by a secretariat which is elected for a tenure of six years. Among other things the secretary will be responsible for the organization of the society's meetings. The individual fields of studies covered by the JBSCE will be headed by field chairs. The field chairs will be involved with the organization of the society's regular meetings (organization of main lectures and other program units) and serve as advisors to the secretariat in other matters of the society. Field chairs will also be elected for a tenure of six years but will rotate on an alternate scheme from the society's secretary.

The society will not ask for special membership fees. But the conference fees of the periodical meetings will contribute also to funding the administrative costs of the JBSCE.

The Board of the JBSCE

- President of the 2009 meeting: Ida Fröhlich, Pázmány Péter, Catholic University (frohlich@btk.ppk.e.hu)
- Secretaries (6 years): Felicia Waldman, University of Bucharest (fwaldman@gmail.com)
Armin Lange, University of Vienna (armin.lange@univie.ac.at)
- Field chairs (4 years):
 - Tanakh/OT: Jože Krašovec, University of Ljubljana (joze.krasovec@guest.arnes.si),
Eckart Otto, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich (eckart.otto@lrz.uni-muenchen.de)
 - Ancient Judaism: Jan Dušek, Charles University Prague (dusek@etf.cuni.cz)
Géza G. Xeravits, Reformed Theological Academy Pápa (xeravitsabris@yahoo.com)
 - Rabbinic Judaism: Gerhard Langer, University of Salzburg (Gerhard.Langer@sbg.ac.at)
József Zsengeller, Reformed Theological Academy Pápa (zsengeller@t-online.hu)
 - Medieval Judaism: Mauro Perani, University of Bologna (mauro.perani@unibo.it)
David Biernot, University of Prague (Biernot@seznam.cz)
 - Modern Judaism: Klaus Davidowicz, University of Vienna (klaus.davidowicz@univie.ac.at)
 - Jewish History: Anca Ciuciu, University of Bucharest (anca1789@gmail.com)
 - Yiddish Studies: Armin Eidherr, University of Salzburg (armin.eidherr@sbg.ac.at)
 - NT and Early Christianity: Hermann Lichtenberger, University of Tübingen (hermann.lichtenberger@uni-tuebingen.de)
Zlatko Pleše, University of Zagreb (plese@email.unc.edu)
 - Islamic Studies: Gyongyi Hegedüs, St. Francis Xavier University (ghegedus@stfx.ca)