



The Orion Newsletter

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

מרכז אוריון לחקר מגילות מדבר יהודה והספרות הקרובה להן

November 2021

Twenty-Seventh Issue

Letter from the Incoming Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The Orion Center has been part of my academic life almost from the very beginning. I came to the Hebrew University in the mid-1990s, a period of hectic activity in editing and publishing the Dead Sea Scrolls. Every year featured lectures, conferences, and corridor talks on new texts, previously unpublished fragments, and captivating theories about the significance of all these new findings for our understanding of the Second Temple period. In 1995/96, the Orion Center was launched, led by Prof. Michael Stone; and in this stimulating intellectual atmosphere my own research interests gradually crystallized, as I eagerly listened to the eye-opening presentations of the illustrious scholars who attended the early Orion Symposia.

I was privileged to receive the Orion Center prize for my master's thesis (2002/3), as well as a Jean Matlow scholarship for subsequent doctoral studies (2007/8). It is fitting and satisfying to be able now recommend and to mentor current graduate students for such support, carrying on the Center's mission to foster innovative research by promising young scholars.

It is thus with sense of tremendous responsibility that I assume the role of Center Director. The Center's staff, presently comprising Dr. Ruth Clements (Director of Publications), Ms. Ruchama Roth (administrator) and Mr. Shlomo Brand (Bibliography research assistant), is our greatest asset, and I am indebted to their thoughtful and devoted work. I am also grateful to the Center's Academic Committee for their trust and support in allowing me the opportunity to contribute to this joint venture into the future of Qumran studies.

Last, but by no means least, I am in particular debt to Prof. Esther Chazon. It was in her classes that I first read Qumran prayers and religious poetry; thanks to her guidance that I ventured into the mysterious world of the *Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice*; and it was her masterful dissertation on the *Words of the Luminaries* (which I first read as a student) that gave me the courage to think that sense can be made of fragmentary and enigmatic poetical texts. Since then, I have also come to appreciate her outstanding talent as the academic leader of the Orion Center. For me, therefore, this is not a simple case of receiving the baton; it is a transformative moment in which a former student finds himself in the position of becoming a mentor for a new generation. I am grateful to Esther for her mentoring and leadership for so many years, and I am particularly thankful for her consent to remain part of the Center's Academic Committee, which will allow us to continue benefitting from her advice and experience.

I look forward to greeting you all in Jerusalem (and online) as participants in our activities and partners to our ongoing quest to explore new discoveries and uncharted aspects of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Second Temple literature.

Noam Mizrahi

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

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Parting Words

Prof. Esther Chazon

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Upon completion of my final term as Director of the Orion Center this September, I am most pleased to welcome Prof. Noam Mizrahi, Chair of the Hebrew University Bible Department, a renowned Scrolls scholar, and co-editor of the journal *Meghillot*, as the new Orion Director. I am certain that Prof. Mizrahi will run the Center expertly and will lead research and researchers—students and senior scholars alike—to path-breaking contributions in our academic field.

I would like to extend my thanks to all those who have participated in the Center's academic life and who have lent us



a hand during the twenty-six years since the Center's foundation. First and foremost, I wish to express my most sincere appreciation to my mentor, Prof. Michael E. Stone, who founded the Center and guided it during its early, formative years as the first Orion Director. Special thanks to Profs. Steven Fassberg and Menahem Kister for their fruitful terms as Orion directors; to Profs. Noah Hacham and Michael Segal for serving as acting directors during my sabbaticals; to Prof. Emanuel Tov, Editor-in-Chief of the Dead Sea Scrolls Publication Project, for his constant advice and updates; and to all the members of the Orion Academic Committee since the Center's foundation, who have shared their wisdom and devoted precious time to putting the Orion Center at the forefront of international Scrolls scholarship.

I am deeply grateful to our generous donors over the years; in particular, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Orion Foundation, and the Sir Zelman Cowen Universities Fund, which have ensured the Center's operation and academic activities since its inception. I owe thanks to the Center's dedicated permanent staff: our long-time administrator, Ms. Ariella Amir, and our current administrator, Ms. Ruchama Roth; our webmaster, Ms. Yael Eliahoo; Dr. Ruth Clements, head of Orion academic publications, and her predecessor in this important position, Dr. Avital Pinnick. The Orion Symposium Proceedings, published by Brill Academic Publishers, and the Orion Online Bibliography of the Dead Sea Scrolls, professionally edited over the years by Drs. Pinnick and Clements with the assistance of graduate students, have contributed greatly to advancing research and to the Orion Center's renown.

We have been privileged to partner with many academic institutions in Israel and abroad for the Orion International Symposia and joint research projects: The Israel Antiquities Authority; the Israel Museum and Shrine of the Book; the Schechter Institute for Jewish Studies; Tel Aviv University; the University of Haifa; the University of Vienna; New York University. We have also benefitted greatly through partnerships with other institutes at the Hebrew University: The Rothberg International School; the Kuvim Center for (continued on p. 2)

Center News

◆ **SAVE THE DATE** for the Seventeenth International Orion Symposium: “(Con)textual Perspectives on the Dead Sea Scrolls,” February 28–March 3, 2022. See box this page.

◆ *Greenfield Scholars’ Seminars*: This past year’s schedule again featured cutting edge research by younger scholars. Once again, the seminars were online. Dr. Hila Dayfani (Hebrew University), this past year’s Matlow Scholar, shared her material reconstruction and text-critical evaluation of the biblical scroll, 4QpaleoGenEx¹. Dr. Asaf Gayer, of the University of Haifa, another Orion Research Scholar, was part of the Isaiah scrolls project run by Prof. Noam Mizrahi (see p. 3) and shared his reconstructions of 4QIsaiah^c (4Q57). Prof. Mizrahi himself spoke about the “Cycle of Tongues” in the *Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice*. Although we missed the opportunity of seeing one another in person, the programs drew truly international audiences, featuring great feedback and lively discussion. For this year’s lineup, see the **Calendar**, page 4.

◆ *Orion Center International Colloquium*: “Beyond the Fall: Fallen Beings in Ancient and Medieval Literature.” On June 1, 2021, the Center held an international scholarly colloquium, in English, on Zoom. The presenters were Prof. Michael Stone (Hebrew University), Orion Center founder, and Prof. Matthias Henze (Rice University), Lady Davis Visiting Professor, and Orion Visiting Scholar. The presentations highlighted the links between interpretive traditions found in Second Temple literature and in medieval Jewish and Christian texts. It constituted a fitting celebration of the Center’s twenty-five-year history and the conceptual innovations the Center has helped to nurture.

◆ *Orion Scholarship Recipients*: We are happy to welcome Jonathan Darby (PhD candidate at University of Manchester) as this year’s Matlow Scholar. His research explores the role of song in the *Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice*. Noam Eisenstadt, a masters’ student at Bar-Ilan University, is researching the laws of tithes in Second Temple and rabbinic literature. We welcome our new researchers, and we hope you will join us on Zoom for their presentations (see the **Calendar**, p. 4).

◆ *Orion Visiting Scholars*: Dr. Michael Johnson, Azrieli International Postdoctoral Research Fellow, continues his association with the Center as an Orion Visiting Scholar. He continues to work on the material reconstruction of the *Hodayot* materials from caves 1 and 4; he will be presenting some of his work on the cave 4 materials later this semester. Prof. Matthias Henze (Rice University) who was associated with Orion this past year, but had to postpone his actual Jerusalem stay due to the COVID situation, plans to be in residence from January through March. He continues his work on 2 Baruch, some of which he will present at the spring symposium.

◆ *Orion Bibliography News*: Bibliography manager Oz Tamir left the Center in April 2021 to complete his masters’ thesis. THANKS, Oz, for all your good work on the Biblio! In his stead we welcome Shlomo Brand, a masters’ student in Jewish history at Hebrew University.

◆ *Interns Update*: In 2020–2021, since much of the Rothberg program took place via distance learning, we did not bring any new interns on board; however, several interns from prior years continued to contribute new entries to the database; thanks to Glory Choi (South Korea), Inaki Marro (Spain), and Daniele Minisini. This academic year we are excited to welcome back a crew of interns to in-person work at the Center, on the Bibliography and on the Symposium.

◆ *Congratulations*: To Prof. Emanuel Tov—In honor of his eightieth birthday, the Israel Academy of Humanities and Sciences organized a [conference on textual criticism](#) featuring the work of eight of his students; to Prof. Steven Fassberg, on the publication of *Hebrew Texts and Language of the Second Temple Period*, proceedings of the Eighth International Symposium on the Hebrew of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Ben Sira, held in January 2016 in Jerusalem.

The Seventeenth International Orion Symposium: “(Con)textual Perspectives on the Dead Sea Scrolls”

The Seventeenth International Orion Symposium, “(Con)textual Perspectives on the Dead Sea Scrolls,” will take place from February 28 to March 3, 2022, based at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Mount Scopus campus. The Symposium was originally planned for last spring, to coincide with the Center’s twenty-fifth anniversary. Time and COVID have moved us on: Given the continuing uncertainties around the pandemic we are entertaining a variety of options, in person and virtual, for hosting the Symposium; we will keep you posted!

Scholars from Israel, North America, and Europe will share aspects of their current research, relating their topic to broader contexts (literary, cultural, social, and/or historical). Papers will examine a diverse group of texts and writing practices from an equally diverse range of perspectives, using a variety of traditional and innovative methodological frameworks.

From the first Orion Symposium in 1996 (“Biblical Perspectives”) to this seventeenth symposium, the Center has aimed to foster innovative research on the scrolls, and to encourage integration of that research into the larger body of knowledge about Jewish literature, history, and religion from the Second Temple period through to the early Christian and rabbinic corpora. The upcoming symposium, in person and virtual, will be a fitting celebration and continuation of the Center’s work.

Chazon, Parting Words (cont. from p. 1)

the Study of Infectious and Tropical Diseases; the Institute for Advanced Studies; the Ben-Yehuda Center for the Study of the Hebrew Language; and the Center for the Study of Christianity. These prized cooperative ventures are at the heart of Orion’s work to advance interdisciplinary and integrative Scrolls research.

It has been a great honor for me to have played a role in the Center’s foundation, to have served as its director for many years, and to have represented Orion in Israel and internationally during the past twenty-six years since the Center opened its doors at the Hebrew University. I have proudly accepted Prof. Mizrahi’s offer to continue to serve on the Orion Academic Committee and to continue to play an active role in the Center. I wish my colleague, Prof. Mizrahi, great success in his role as Orion Director.

My best wishes to the Center and to all of you, for many more fruitful years of Scrolls scholarship.

Spotlight on Noam Mizrahi

Professor Noam Mizrahi, who has come on board this fall as Orion’s new director, was born in Jerusalem in 1975. As a child, he was fascinated by the ancient world, though originally, he was determined to study Egyptology, and it was only much later that this interest was transformed into the geographically and chronologically adjacent culture of ancient Israel. He earned all his academic degrees in the Department of Bible of the Hebrew University, and wrote his PhD dissertation, “The Lexicon and Phraseology of the *Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice*,” under the supervision of Professor Avi Hurvitz of the Departments of Bible and Hebrew Language (summa cum laude, 2009). (Continued on p. 3)



Current Research at Orion

As noted in **Center News**, the Orion Center is as usual hosting both graduate/postgraduate researchers and Visiting Scholars this year. They will be presenting their work via Zoom in the course of the year; see the **Calendar**, p. 4, and stay tuned to the Orion website for links.

Jon Darby

PhD Candidate, Manchester University
Orion Matlow Scholar

Mr. Darby's project explores the role of singing and music within the *Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice*, as part of a wider thesis concerned with singing and textual transmission in the Dead Sea Scrolls. The overarching aim is to explore the role that singing as a performative medium may have played within processes of textual production and transmission in the late Second Temple Period, and the *Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice* constitute a major example for such a study. He will give attention to the liturgical performance of the Songs, close linguistic analysis of key terms associated with music and singing, and consideration of material characteristics that may offer hints as to function. These issues will be considered within the context of the self-understanding of communities associated with the Scrolls, and in particular, concepts of angelic communion, revelation, and transcendent experience. These liturgical experiences are presented as influential factors within scribal culture, which may play a role in shaping the composition, interpretation and variation of texts.

Dr. Michael Johnson

Orion Center Research Scholar; SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Canada; Azrieli International Postdoctoral Fellow

Dr. Johnson is in the third year of a three-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Hebrew University (2019–2022). The objectives of his project are to examine: 1) the material reconstructions of 1QHodayot^a and 4QHodayot^a; 2) how any improvements to the material reconstructions change the contents and/or sequence of the psalms in each manuscript; and 3) the possibility that these two manuscripts have "liturgical orientations," as has been suggested by Esther Chazon and Eileen Schuller. His focus is how new proposals for fragment placements affect the location of liturgical elements in each collection. During the current year, he is working on the 4QH^a phase

of the project. He is working with Hartmut Stegemann's material reconstruction of the 4Q materials, using a 3D model of 4QH^a to reverse-engineer Stegemann's repeating patterns of damage and the measurements between them by digitally rolling the reconstruction. He is also exploring the possibility of alternative fragment placements and placements of previously unplaced fragments belonging to 4QH^a. He looks forward to sharing preliminary observations from this 3D model of 4QH^a in the Greenfield Scholar's Seminar.

Prof Matthias Henze

Department of Religion, Rice University
Lady Davis Visiting Professor

Prof. Henze teaches courses in Bible and early Judaism and directs the program in Jewish Studies at Rice University. He is currently working on a commentary on 2 Baruch, an early Jewish apocalypse, written in the late first or early second century CE, a generation or two after the fall of Jerusalem. The commentary is to appear in the series, Commentaries on Early Jewish Literature series (de Gruyter). He will be in residence from January through March, 2022. His research here will mainly focus on the commentary-in-progress, and he is excited to be able to present aspects of his work in person at the upcoming Orion Symposium.

Prof. Noam Mizrahi

Department of Bible, The Hebrew University
Orion Center Director

Prof. Mizrahi has launched a research group to investigate the Isaiah scrolls from Qumran Cave 4, with the support of the Israel Science Foundation. The group includes Drs Asaf Gayer, Adi Amsterdam, and Nevo Vaknin, along with graduate students Beatriz Riestra, Chananya Rothner and Tomer Shani. "Our joint study of the material properties, linguistic traits and textual characteristics of the fragments is leading to new insights about their nature and function, and it is a real pleasure to be able to conduct this kind of collaborative brain storming." A sample of the group's results was presented in the conference honoring Prof. Emanuel Tov at the Israel Academy of Sciences and the Humanities, and they hope to present additional material in the spring at an Orion Workshop.

Mizrahi (cont. from p. 2)

Following postdoctoral stints at Harvard (2008/9) and Georg-August-Universität Göttingen (2010–2012), Noam joined Tel Aviv University as an Allon Fellow in the Department of Hebrew Culture Studies (2012/13). Following the reconstitution of an independent Department of Biblical Studies at Tel Aviv, he served as its Chair (2017/18–2018/19). In the fall of 2020, he returned to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he now serves as the Chair of the Department of Bible.

By training, Noam is a Hebrew philologist. His research explores the interconnections and convergences between textual criticism, historical linguistics, and the literary and cultural history of biblical and post-biblical literature. His first monograph, *Witnessing a Prophetic Text in the Making: The Literary, Textual and Linguistic Development of Jeremiah 10:1-16*, BZAW 502 (Berlin: de Gruyter, 2017) demonstrates his long-time fascination with the complicated history of biblical prophetic works. His second book, *Pesher Habakkuk: A Key to Prophecy from the Dead Sea Scrolls* (forthcoming with the Israel Museum, Jerusalem in cooperation with Arta Scritta) is an attempt to render this ancient commentary of a prophetic book more accessible to the broader public. He is also engaged in a long-term project of preparing a new commentary on the *Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice* for the Oxford Commentaries on the

Dead Sea Scrolls. He has also been participating in a [project](#), in cooperation with the geneticist Professor Oded Rechavi (Faculty of Life Sciences, Tel Aviv University) that studies the DNA of the animal hides of which the Dead Sea Scrolls are made. Here at Hebrew University, he runs a project that investigates the material and textual aspects of the Isaiah Scrolls from Qumran Cave 4 (see description above).

Mizrahi is no stranger to the Orion Center. He was awarded the Orion Center Prize for Best MA Thesis in the Field of Dead Sea Scrolls and Associated Literature (2002/3), and was an Orion Matlow Scholar in (2007/8). Mizrahi notes that he, in his turn, is "proud and thankful for the Orion Center's support" of his own graduate students and is happy to more directly participate in "the Center's mission to foster new and exciting research by promising young Scrolls scholars."

Orion Center Academic Committee

Prof. Steven Fassberg, Chair; Prof. Noam Mizrahi;
Prof. Noah Hacham; Prof. Esther Chazon;
Prof. Paula Fredriksen; Prof. Menahem Kister;
Prof. Michael Segal; Prof. Emanuel Tov.

Orion Center Calendar 2021/2022*

- November 17.** Jonas C. Greenfield Scholars' Seminar
19:00 Israel time; 12:00 pm EST
Prof. Devorah Dimant, University of Haifa: "Tobit and the 'Torah for Exile' in Light of the Qumran Texts"
- December 22.** Jonas C. Greenfield Scholars' Seminar
19:00 Israel time; 12:00 pm EST
Dr. Michael Johnson, Azrieli International Fellow and Orion Visiting Scholar: "Generating Data for the Material Reconstruction of 4QH^a: A 3D Modeling Approach"
- January 12, 2022.** Jonas C. Greenfield Scholars' Seminar
19:00 Israel time; 12:00 pm EST
Prof. Jean-Sebastien Rey, University of Lorraine: Title TBA

February 28–March 3. The 17th International Orion Symposium:
“(Con)textual Perspectives on the Dead Sea Scrolls.”
Schedule and venue to be posted.

- March 16.** Jonas C. Greenfield Scholars' Seminar
19:00 Israel time; 12:00 pm EST
Prof. Marcello Fidanzio, Facoltà di Teologia di Lugano: "The Material Context of The Dead Sea Scrolls: The Qumran Caves Publication Project"
- March 30.** Jonas C. Greenfield Scholars' Seminar
19:00 Israel time; 12:00 pm EST.
Dr. Jonathan Darby, PhD candidate, University of Manchester, Orion Matlow Scholar: "Singing, Performance and Textuality in the *Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice*"

Stay tuned to the Orion website for additions and updates.
*Please note: All Greenfield Seminars will be hosted on **Zoom**, in English. Registration information will be posted on the website and links sent out to the Orion mailing list in advance of each event. Stay tuned!

Haifa Scrolls Workshop

May 22, 2022
University of Haifa—check their website for updates on the venue—<http://megillot.haifa.ac.il/index.php/en/events>

Orion Research Scholarships

The Orion Center awards research scholarships to young scholars once a year. Priority is given to research that can be done uniquely in Jerusalem or at the Hebrew University, and that integrates the new information gleaned from the Dead Sea Scrolls into the broader picture of Second Temple Judaism. Please see

<http://orion.mscc.huji.ac.il/educate/fellowships.shtml>

for application information, deadlines, and forms.

Become an Orion Associate—

and help the Center foster innovative research on the scrolls! Visit <http://orion.mscc.huji.ac.il/orion/associates.shtml> for a printable associates form. A special thanks to our current Associates—your interest and support are vital to the work of the Center!



The Orion Center Newsletter, ed. Ruth A. Clements
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Orion Publications

In Press

The Textual History of the Bible from the Dead Sea Scrolls to the Biblical Manuscripts of the Vienna Papyrus Collection: Papers from the Fifteenth International Symposium of the Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Associated Literature. Cosponsored by The University of Vienna Institute for Jewish Studies and The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, 10–13 April, 2016. Edited by Ruth A. Clements, Russell E. Fuller, Armin Lange, Paul D. Mandel. Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah 137. Leiden: Brill, forthcoming January 2022.

In Preparation:

The Dead Sea Scrolls at Seventy: "Clear a Path in the Wilderness": Proceedings of the Sixteenth International Symposium of the Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls, Cosponsored by the University of Vienna, New York University, the Israel Antiquities Authority, and the Israel Museum, 29 April–2 May, 2018. Edited by Esther G. Chazon, Ruth A. Clements, Armin Lange, Adolfo Roitman, Lawrence H. Schiffman, and Prina Shor. Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah. Leiden: Brill.

Orion books online:

All Orion volumes published by [Brill Academic Publishers](http://www.brill.com) are now available as E-books (as well as through the inexpensive MyBook softcovers program). Volumes published in 2007 and later are available as full-access downloads, with institutional or individual subscription; individual chapters from these volumes may now be accessed online through the Brill site. Check it out!

Other New and Forthcoming Titles:

Hebrew Texts and Language of the Second Temple Period: Proceedings of an Eighth Symposium on the Hebrew of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Ben Sira. Edited by Steven E. Fassberg. Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah 134. Leiden: Brill, 2021.

Studies in Qumran Law and Thought, by Joseph M. Baumgarten. Edited by Ruth A. Clements and Daniel R. Schwartz, with an Introduction by Lawrence H. Schiffman. Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah 138. Leiden: Brill, forthcoming, February 2022.

The Temple Scroll: 11Q19, 11Q20, 11Q21, 4Q524, 5Q21 with 4Q365a, by Lawrence H. Schiffman and Andrew Gross. Dead Sea Scrolls Editions 1. Leiden: Brill, 2021.

The Damascus Document, by Steven D. Fraade. Oxford Commentary on the Dead Sea Scrolls 2. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021.

Dead Sea Scrolls Online

In light of the pandemic, we invite you to "visit" the scrolls online, at the Israel Museum, Israel Antiquity Authority (Leon Levy Library), and Cambridge University Library websites:

Israel Museum Scrolls Online

<http://dss.collections.imj.org.il/>

The Leon Levy Dead Sea Scrolls Digital Library

<http://www.deadseascrolls.org.il/home>

Cambridge University Digital Library (*Damascus Document*)

[Cairo Genizah : Halaka \(cam.ac.uk\)](http://www.cam.ac.uk); [Cairo Genizah : Halaka \(cam.ac.uk\)](http://www.cam.ac.uk)

The Orion Bibliography Needs YOU!

The [Orion Online Bibliography](http://www.orioncenter.org), begun in 1995, now stands at over 25,000 items. [Shlomo Brand](http://www.orioncenter.org), Bibliography Manager, and the Orion Interns are hard at work on the Current Bibliography and on adding pre-1995 items to the database. We appeal to you, our colleagues, to check for your own publications, especially the earlier ones, and send us a list of what is missing. Abstracts are welcome, as are full text links. (Please note: we cannot post links to Academia and similar personal websites; we **can** post links to subscription sites, publishers' sites, JStor, etc.) Thanks in advance for your help!