From the publisher—

I’m writing this note in early August, just after the close of my last official conference on behalf of Eisenbrauns/PSU Press, the IOSOT in Aberdeen. By the time you read this, I will have entered “full retirement.” Some of you have told me that my retirement is the end of an era; it certainly is for me. It’s been an incredible, mostly unplanned, and wonderful “ride” from early graduate school days in Ann Arbor until the present. Along the way, we encountered some very difficult times and have had many deeply enjoyable times.

Eisenbrauns began as a book service, a way to provide difficult-to-access books for graduate students at a time when mail-order bookselling was a novel idea. We soon added a prepress component. The publishing industry was going through major changes as typesetting moved into what was called “cold type” (later followed by the “desktop publishing” revolution), and Ann Arbor was home to multiple printers that serviced the academic publishing world. I learned many of the skills and processes involved in publishing from the late David Noel Freedman, who was perhaps the best editor of all time. Within three years we were printing books under the Eisenbrauns imprint, with a logo based on the image of an ibex from an Early Dynastic Sumerian cylinder seal, redrawn by Merna. We began without ever having had a business plan; we learned as we went along. Why it succeeded for more than four decades is difficult to determine. We did have to adapt to change in technologies, markets, and many other areas, but one thing we always believed: we thrived on personal contact with our customers, and our customers were our colleagues.

Forty-four years and more than 650 books later (as I like to say, many of them quite good!), the company has ended as an independent entity. My prime spirit is one of gratitude. I’m grateful for the dozens of employees we’ve had through the years; for the many authors we’ve had the honor to publish; for the editorial boards who’ve helped me sort through what to publish and what to avoid; for the presence of fellow student, polymath, and dear friend Michael Patrick O’Connor, who advised for many years; and for the partnership and wisdom provided by my wife of fifty years, Merna Zimmerman Eisenbraun. (She owned half of the stock in Eisenbrauns—hence the “s,” the plural of our last name!)

I’m grateful, too, that the imprint continues under the PSU Press aegis. The staff at PSU Press will see to the ongoing life of Eisenbrauns, and a new acquisitions editor will guide the ship. This is a good thing.

But for now, to all of you: thank you for the privilege of knowing you and serving you. It’s been a profound honor.

—JIM EISEN BRAUN

What’s inside

2019

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Harlot or Holy Woman?
A Study of Hebrew Qedešah
Phyllis A. Bird

Harlot or Holy Woman? presents an exhaustive study of qedešah, a Hebrew word meaning “consecrated woman” but rendered “prostitute” or “sacred prostitute” in Bible translations. Reexamining biblical and extrabiblical texts, Phyllis A. Bird questions how qedešah came to be associated with prostitution and offers an alternative explanation of the term, one that suggests a wider participation for women as religious specialists in Israel’s early cultic practice.

Bird’s study reviews all the texts from classical antiquity cited as sources for an institution of “sacred prostitution,” alongside a comprehensive analysis of the cuneiform texts from Mesopotamia containing the cognate qadištu and Ugaritic texts containing the masculine cognate qdi. Through these texts, Bird presents a portrait of women dedicated to a deity, engaged in a variety of activities from cultic ritual to wet-nursing, and sharing a common generic name with the qedešah of ancient Israel. In the final chapter she returns to biblical texts, reexamining them in the light of new evidence from the ancient Near East.

Considering alternative models for constructing women’s religious roles in ancient Israel, this wholly original study offers new interpretations of key texts and raises questions about the nature of Israelite religion as practiced outside the royal cult and central sanctuary.

Phyllis A. Bird is Professor Emerita of Old Testament Interpretation at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. She is the author of Missing Persons and Mistaken Identities: Women and Gender in Ancient Israel; Faith, Feminism, and the Forum of Scripture; Feminism and the Bible; and The Bible as the Church’s Book.

“Assumptions concerning this institution, derived in part from the very texts under consideration here, have exerted a profound influence on interpretation of the term.”

— from Harlot or Holy Woman?
A Concise History of Ancient Israel
From the Beginnings Through the Hellenistic Era
Bernd U. Schipper
Translated by Michael Lesley
The history of biblical Israel, as it is told in the Hebrew Bible, differs substantially from the history of ancient Israel as it can be reconstructed using ancient Near Eastern texts and archaeological evidence. In A Concise History of Ancient Israel, Bernd U. Schipper presents a critical revision of the history of Israel and Judah from the late second millennium BCE to the beginning of the Roman period. Considering archaeological material as well as biblical and extrabiblical texts and giving equal attention to the oft-neglected Persian and early Hellenistic periods, this brief history provides a new outline of the historical development of ancient Israel that will appeal to students, scholars, and lay readers alike.

Bernd U. Schipper is Professor of Hebrew Bible and Old Testament at the Humboldt University of Berlin.

Baal, St. George, and Khidr
A Study of the Historical Geography of the Levant
Robert D. Miller II
In Western tradition, St. George is known as the dragon-slayer. In the Middle East, he is called Khidr (“Green One”). In this book, Robert D. Miller II untangles these complicated connections and reveals how, especially in his Middle Eastern guise, St. George is a reincarnation of the Canaanite storm god Baal, another “Green One” who slays dragons in Ugaritic texts. Tracing the origins of this figure in Arabic and Latin texts, Miller explores the possibility that Middle Eastern shrines to St. George lie on top of ancient shrines of Baal and makes the convincing case that direct continuity exists from the Baal of antiquity and early Christianity to the St. George/Khidr of Christian lore.

Robert D. Miller II is Ordinary Professor of Old Testament and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in the School of Theology and Religious Studies at the Catholic University of America, as well as Research Affiliate at the University of Pretoria and a member of the Secular Franciscan Order.

Son of God
Divine Sonship in Jewish and Christian Antiquity
Edited by Garrick V. Allen, Kai Akagi, Paul Sloan, and Madhavi Nevader
In antiquity, “son of god”—meaning a ruler designated by the gods to carry out their will—was a title used by the Roman emperor Augustus and his successors as a way to reinforce their divinely appointed status. This interdisciplinary volume explores what it means to be God’s son(s) in ancient Jewish and early Christian literature through close readings of relevant texts from multiple ancient corpora, including the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, the Dead Sea Scrolls, Greco-Roman texts and inscriptions, early Christian and Islamic texts, and apocalyptic literature.

Garrick V. Allen is Lecturer in New Testament at Dublin City University and Research Associate at the Department of Ancient and Modern Languages and Cultures at the University of Pretoria.

Kai Akagi is Lecturer of New Testament Studies at Japan Bible Academy.

Paul Sloan is Assistant Professor of Theology at Houston Baptist University.

Madhavi Nevader is Lecturer in Hebrew Bible at St. Mary’s College, University of St. Andrews.

The Earth Is the Lord’s
Essays on Creation and the Bible in Honor of Ben C. Ollenburger
Edited by Ryan D. Harker and Heather L. Bunce
This volume brings together a diverse group of scholars with specializations across the Christian canon to address creation in the Bible, God as Creator, and God’s relationship with creation. Moreover, while previous studies have focused on the Hebrew Bible, this volume gives equal weight to the New Testament as a vital source for approaching the Bible’s theologies of creation. The Earth Is the Lord’s advances the scholarly and ecclesial conversations surrounding creation and will be an indispensable resource for biblical studies scholars, seminary students, and Christian congregational leaders and teachers.

Ryan D. Harker is an independent scholar and the pastor of West Clinton Mennonite Church in Wauseon, Ohio. He is a coeditor of Rooted and Grounded: Essays on Land and Christian Discipleship.

Heather L. Bunce is Professor of Hebrew and Director of Library Services at Great Lakes Christian College in Lansing, Michigan. She is a coeditor of Real Christian Fellowship.

Heather L. Bunce is Professor of Hebrew and Director of Library Services at Great Lakes Christian College in Lansing, Michigan. She is a coeditor of Real Christian Fellowship.

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Benjamin J. Noonan is Associate Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at Columbia International University. He is a coeditor of “Where Shall Wisdom Be Found?” A Grammatical Tribute to Professor Stephen A. Kaufman, also published by Eisenbrauns.

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Joseph L. Malone is Professor Emeritus of Linguistics at Barnard College and Columbia University and the author of *Tiberian Hebrew Phonology*, also published by Eisenbrauns.

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Mary L. Conway

The book of Judges is full of characters of ambivalent moral integrity and acts of dubious propriety. In this trailblazing interdisciplinary study, Mary L. Conway models a new approach to biblical interpretation that lays bare the ethics of the book of Judges. Employing the concepts of narrative perspective alongside appraisal theory, Conway evaluates the judges within their historical context in order to determine whether their actions are normative or aberrant. The lexicogrammatical and ideational evidence produced by this methodology reveals contrasts and trajectories within and across the narratives that, Conway argues, give insight into the character and actions of the Israelites and YHWH and the relationship between them. This study will be of interest to biblical studies scholars, in particular Old Testament scholars, as well as seminary students and pastors.

Mary L. Conway is Assistant Professor of Old Testament at McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton, Ontario.

392 pages | 6 x 9 | November
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“It is not until hundreds of years after the completion of the Hebrew Bible that the first evidence for an interest in loanwords appears in the Jewish community.”

—from *NON-SEMITIC LOANWORDS IN THE HEBREW BIBLE*
Death and Divine Judgment in Ecclesiastes
Kumiko Takeuchi

In this book, Kumiko Takeuchi proposes that the book of Ecclesiastes may have served as a catalyst to the emergence of apocalyptic eschatology and later sectarian conflicts within Judaism in the mid–Second Temple period. Situating Ecclesiastes in the postexilic era, when some Israelites began to question traditional views of death, Sheol, and divine judgment, Takeuchi reveals the book’s hidden arguments in favor of posthumous divine judgment as a means to rectify premortem injustices. Challenging both traditional interpretations of Ecclesiastes and conventional wisdom about when the belief in divine justice began to take hold in Israelite society, this innovative interpretation is a must-read for biblical scholars, particularly those whose work focuses on the concept of justice.

Kumiko Takeuchi is a fellow with Global Scholars in Olathe, Kansas.

You Shall Know that I Am Yahweh
An Inner-Biblical Interpretation of Ezekiel’s Recognition Formula
John F. Evans

Biblical scholars and students interested in the theology of exile and the theological reaction to the destruction of the Judean state in 586 BCE will find this book enlightening and useful.


A New Look at Atonement in Leviticus
The Meaning and Purpose of Kipper Revisited
James A. Greenberg

A New Look at Atonement in Leviticus recalibrates our understanding of kipper and furthers our knowledge of the priestly cult in ancient Israel. It will interest scholars of Biblical Hebrew and the Old Testament in particular.

James A. Greenberg is an associate faculty member at Denver Seminary.

Signs of Continuity
The Function of Miracles in Jesus and Paul
Greg Rhoea

For more than a century, scholars have debated whether Paul the apostle was a faithful follower of Jesus or a corruptor of Jesus’s message and the true founder of Christianity. Signs of Continuity intervenes in this debate by exploring a largely overlooked element of similarity between the two men: the place of miracles in their ministries.

Greg Rhoea is Senior Pastor at Grace Bible Chapel in Grand Rapids, Minnesota.
Life and Mortality in Ugaritic
A Lexical and Literary Study
Matthew McAffee

While topics such as death, funerary cult, and the netherworld have received considerable scholarly attention in the context of the Ugaritic textual corpus, the related concept of life has been relatively neglected. *Life and Mortality in Ugaritic* takes as its premise that one cannot grasp the significance of *mwt* (“to die”) without first having wrestled with the concept of *ḥyy* (“to live”). In this book, Matthew McAffee takes a lexical approach, identifying and analyzing the Ugaritic terms most commonly used to talk about life and mortality in order to construct a more representative framework of the ancient perspective on these topics.

Matthew McAffee is Provost at Welch College, where he teaches Biblical Studies in the School of Theology.

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Ruled Reading and Biblical Criticism
Matthew T. Bell

Modern prejudice holds that ancient Christian interpretation was relatively unconcerned with history and concomitantly determined to foist extrascriptural doctrinal commitments onto scripture, silencing those layers of scripture’s meaning that modern criticism has been most concerned with uncovering. In this book, Matthew Bell contends that the gulf in interpretive priorities between ancient and modern readers has been exaggerated and that careful study of early Christian reading practices suggests possibilities for recontextualizing “ruled reading” for a postmodern setting. This book will be welcomed by academics who study early Christianity and scripture as well as scholars interested in reconsidering Christian hermeneutical questions for a postmodern age.

Matthew T. Bell is an independent scholar and a bivocational pastor who lives in Spokane, Washington.

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Distant Impressions
The Senses in the Ancient Near East
Edited by Ainsley Hawthorn and Anne-Caroline Rendu Loisel

Building on recent scholarship that focuses on the social aspects of sensation in history, *Distant Impressions* brings this approach to bear on ancient Near Eastern studies for the first time. The essays in this book approach the question of sensory experience in ancient Near Eastern societies from philological, literary, art–historical, and archaeological perspectives. They address the means of sense perception (such as vision, hearing, and smell) and the objects of perception (such as light, noise, and odor) within religious, political, and social frameworks.

Ainsley Hawthorn is an affiliate of Distant Worlds Munich Graduate School for Ancient Studies.
Anne-Caroline Rendu Loisel is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Strasbourg.

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Volume 1: ṭ – ḫ
Joaquín Sanmartín

*A Glossary of Old Syrian is the first of two volumes aimed at the completion of a lexicographical index of the Old Syrian linguistic continuum. This glossary gives a picture, or map, of the Old Syrian lexicon as it can be extracted and reconstructed from the available sources, from the (Old Akkadian-)Eblaite through the Old and Middle Babylonian corpora. The first volume offers a clear picture of the current state of this field and is intended to serve as a reference work in support of future study.

Joaquín Sanmartín is Professor Emeritus at the University of Barcelona. He is the author of a number of books and studies in Akkadian, Hurrian, and Old Syrian lexiography and grammar, including *A Dictionary of the Ugaritic Language in the Alphabetic Tradition*, coauthored with Gregorio del Olmo."
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Alan Lenzi

This book initiates the reader into the study of Akkadian literature from ancient Babylonia and Assyria. The first part of the book presents introductory discussions of major critical issues, organized under four key rubrics: tablets, scribes, compositions, and audiences. The second part surveys the corpus of Akkadian literature defined inclusively, canvassing a wide spectrum of compositions. Extensive footnotes and a generous bibliography guide readers who wish to continue their study.

Alan Lenzi is Professor of Religious Studies at the University of the Pacific. He is the editor of Reading Akkadian Prayers and Hymns: An Introduction and author of Secrecy and the Gods: Secret Knowledge in Ancient Mesopotamia and Biblical Israel.

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Javier Álvarez-Mon is Associate Professor of Near Eastern Archaeology and Art at Macquarie University in Australia.
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F. Rachel Magdalene, Cornelia Wunsch, and Bruce Wells

This book reassesses the governmental systems of the Late Babylonian period—specifically those of the Neo-Babylonian and early Persian Empires—and provides evidence demonstrating that these are among the first to have developed an early form of administrative law.

Cornelia Wunsch is Research Associate at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Her most recent book, Documents of Judean Exiles and West Semites in Babylonia in the Collection of David Sofer (CUSAS 28), is coauthored with Laurie Pearce and published by Eisenbrauns.
Bruce Wells is Associate Professor of Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas, Austin. He is the author of The Law of Testimony in the Pentateuchal Codes and coeditor, along with F. Rachel Magdalene, of Law from the Tigris to the Tiber: The Writings of Raymond Westbrook, the latter also published by Eisenbrauns.

744 pages | 51 b&w illus. | 7 x 10 | October
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Christopher Metcalf
The first in a series of volumes publishing the Sumerian literary texts in the Schøyen Collection, this book makes available, for the first time, editions of seventeen cuneiform tablets, dating to ca. 2000 BCE that contain fourteen songs composed in praise of the various gods of the Mesopotamian pantheon. Edited, translated, and annotated by Christopher Metcalf, these poems shed light on the interaction between cult, scholarship, and scribal culture in Mesopotamia in the early second millennium BCE. Each text is provided in transliteration and translation and accompanied by hand-copies and images of the tablets themselves. This thoroughly competent editio princeps will prove a valuable tool for scholars interested in the literary and religious traditions of ancient Mesopotamia.

Christopher Metcalf is Associate Professor and Tutorial Fellow in Classical Languages and Literature and Associate Researcher at the Center for Ancient Languages at Queen’s College, Oxford. He is the author of The Gods Rich in Praise: Early Greek and Mesopotamian Religious Poetry.

Tablets from the Iri-Sagrig Archive
Marcel Sigrist and Tohru Ozaki
The archives from Iri-Sagrig present an extraordinary range of new sources, depicting a cosmopolitan Sumerian/Akkadian city unlike any other from this period. In this two-volume publication, Marcel Sigrist and Tohru Ozaki present more than two thousand newly identified tablets, mostly from Iri-Sagrig. This unique and extensive corpus elucidates the importance that Iri-Sagrig represented politically, militarily, and culturally in Sumer. Volume 1 contains a catalog and classification of the texts by provenance, a list of month names and year formulas, another of inscriptions, a chronological listing of the texts, and extensive indexes of personal names, deities, toponyms, and selected words and phrases. Volume 2 presents the texts in transliteration with substantial commentary.

Marcel Sigrist is Professor Emeritus of the École Biblique et Archéologique in Jerusalem.

Tohru Ozaki is a leading Japanese Sumerologist and Assyriologist, retired from the University of Shizuoka.

Old Babylonian Texts in the Schøyen Collection, Part Two
School Letters, Model Contracts, and Related Texts
Andrew R. George and Gabriella Spada
In ancient Mesopotamia, men training to be scribes copied model letters in order to practice writing and familiarize themselves with epistolary forms and expressions. Similarly, model contracts were used to teach them how to draw up agreements for the transactions typical of everyday economic life. This volume makes available a trove of previously unknown tablets and fragments that were produced in the training of scribes in Old Babylonian schools. Each text is presented in transliterated form and in translation, with appropriate commentary and annotations, and photographs of the cuneiform. The material is made easily navigable by a catalogue, bibliography, and indexes.

A. R. George is Professor of Babylonian at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

Gabriella Spada is Instructor of Assyriology in the Department of Oriental Studies at the University of Rome.

Tell el-Borg II
Excavations in North Sinai
Edited by James K. Hoffmeier
This is the second and final volume of scientific and interdisciplinary reports on the excavations and research conducted at Tell el-Borg between 1998 and 2008. Written by the scholars and specialists who worked on the site, it focuses on the cemetery areas, including more than a dozen mud-brick tombs and a “public” space that contains a temple and a well. Also presented here are a study of the nearby ancient Ballah Lakes and specialty reports on the faunal and botanical remains, the clay coffins, and elite stones. A concluding chapter offers a synthesis of the decade of work and ties together the finds published in both volumes.

In addition to the editor, the contributors to this volume include Stephen Moshier, Bahaa Gayed, Gregory D. Mumford, Scott D. Haddow, Mark Janzen, Thomas W. Davis, Rexine Hummel, Hesham M. Hussein, Carole McCartney, Michelle A. Loyet, Louise Bertini, and Salima Ikram.

James K. Hoffmeier is Professor Emeritus of Old Testament and Ancient Near Eastern History and Archaeology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

CUSAS 43: Cornell University Studies in Assyriology and Sumerology Series
The 2002 Season at Tall al-ʿUmayri and Subsequent Studies
Edited by Larry G. Herr, Douglas R. Clark, and Lawrence T. Geraty

Accompanied by more than two hundred illustrations, this eighth volume of the Madaba Plains Project’s excavations at Tall al-ʿUmayri includes a summary of the cumulative results of all excavation seasons from 1984 through 2002, with a detailed description of the various levels that have been discovered. The contributions discuss at length the results of the 2002 season, specifically in fields B, H, and L, which helped to clarify the stratigraphy of the site and contributed to the long-term objectives of the excavation—in particular, the goal of elucidating the cycles of intensification and abatement of habitation and land use at and around the site, with a view to understanding how ʿUmayri influenced and participated in these processes.

Larry G. Herr is Professor of Religion at Canadian University College.
Douglas R. Clark is Director of the Center for Near Eastern Archaeology at La Sierra University.
Lawrence T. Geraty retired as President of La Sierra University.

Ashkelon 8
The Islamic and Crusader Periods
Tracy Hoffman

Bringing together contributions from specialists on architecture, fortifications, ceramics, small finds, and organic remains, Ashkelon 8 opens a window onto everyday life during a period when Ashkelon was one of the most important cities in the southern Levant. The first chapters survey the city’s architecture and fortifications, including a detailed analysis of the history of Ashkelon’s walls. The copiously illustrated chapters on ceramics cover both local and imported goods, including an unparalleled collection of Chinese ceramics. Essays on glass, metals, and coins shed light on the economy and trade practices, while the chapters on organic material provide valuable insight into the site and serve as a model for similar studies at Islamic- and Crusader-period sites throughout Israel. Together these studies detail daily life, reconstruct vast trade networks, and illuminate cultural events previously known only from textual sources.

Tracy Hoffman is an archaeologist and specialist in Islamic ceramics in the southern Levant. She was a senior staff member for the Leon Levy Expedition to Ashkelon and is the Head of Islamic Period Research at Tel Shimron.
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