

THE SOCIETY FOR OLD TESTAMENT STUDY

Minutes of the Business Meeting held on 9th Jan 2019 at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge under the presidency of Prof Susan Gillingham

1. Welcome and Apologies

The President invited new members attending for the first time to introduce themselves and welcomed them and the rest of the membership to the Business Meeting of the Society. The Secretary noted that apologies had been received from the following: Jennifer Andruska, Graeme Auld, Joseph Blenkinsopp, Carly Crouch, Nathan Eddy, Cheryl Exum, Janet Fyffe, Anthony Gelston, Alec Gilmore, Jo-Ping (Grace) Hsiao, Katia Kozlova, Andy Lie, Gordon McConville, Alan Millard, Walter Moberly, David Reimer, Joachim Schaper, Jonathan Stökl, Chris Thomson, Jim West, Hugh Williamson, Karen (Kai-Wen) Yuan.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the previous Business Meeting, which had been displayed and posted online, were approved by the meeting and signed by Prof Susan Gillingham. There were no matters arising which did not appear on the agenda.

3. Notification of Any Other Business

Paul Joyce noted that he had an announcement to make regarding the upcoming REF. Susan Gillingham noted that she had an announcement to make regarding a forthcoming event.

4. Reports from Officers

(a) The Retiring President, Prof Walter Moberly, reported as follows:

It has been a privilege to serve as President of this society. While I have presided, others have done the work; and I am especially grateful to David as secretary, James as hospitality secretary, and Alastair as treasurer for their help throughout the year. I find that outings to places of interest make a welcome change to learned papers, and are also a good way of getting to know colleagues better. I am glad that we have been able to have outings in the course of both the last two meetings: to the National Holocaust Centre in January, and to Vindolanda in July. Each seemed to be a real success, even if timings were tight. There has also been a high percentage of members giving papers for the first time in the last two meetings; and it was good to see that in, I think, all cases we would not have known that these were first-time presenters if we had not been told. A good sign for the future.

(b) The Treasurer, Dr Alastair Hunter, reported on the financial affairs of the Society as follows:

BANK & INVESTMENT ACCOUNT BALANCES at 1st January 2019

		(Jan 2018)
Barclays Current A/C	£15,128	£16,715
Barclays IAS (Business Premium) A/C	£72,342	£81,183

TOTAL	<u>£87,470</u>	<u>£97,898</u>
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The final figure includes as usual income in respect of the Winter Meeting which will be paid out in due course. The further decrease in the Premium account results from having paid out from the Porter Legacy in respect of Centenary projects. These are now drawing to a close.

AUDITED ACCOUNTS

The audited accounts have been available for scrutiny on the notice board. The auditors did not identify any significant issues.

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS 2018

In consultation with the Hospitality Secretary I have prepared a summary of the finances relating to our meetings in Nottingham in January 2018 and in St John's College, Durham in July 2018. These have been available for scrutiny on the notice board. We chose to hold two outings last year, and were faced with an unexpectedly high cost for the bus on the summer outing, both factors contributing to an overall deficit in the year.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

- 1 Approval of accounts for 2017-18
- 2 Appointment of Hardie Caldwell as auditors for 2018-19

THANKS

My thanks as usual to David Shepherd, James Patrick, and Janet Tollington.

The accounts were approved and the current auditors reappointed.

c) The Secretary, Dr David Shepherd, reported as follows:

Since our last meeting, our Society has lost two members of which I am aware: Sister Edmée Kingsmill an independent scholar remembered very fondly by many within the Society and John Rogerson, who joined SOTS in 1965 and served the Society as Secretary (1972-77), Foreign Secretary (1990-97), Archivist (1998-2004) and most notably as President for 1989. On a happier note, I was informed by one of our members that CR North's daughter, Margaret, whose husband was also a member of the Society has reached the venerable age of 100. CR North was President in 1949. I do also have the happy duty of letting the membership know that the British Academy's Burkitt Medal was awarded to Professor Takamitsu Muraoka 'for his outstanding contribution to the study of Hebrew grammar and syntax, and the Septuagint' (to which they might have added, Aramaic, I think). Finally, Prof Joachim Schaper has asked me to remind members of the IOSOT Congress in Aberdeen from 4-9 August this year and that his invitation is extended to all members of SOTS.

In response to a request from Heather McKay the Secretary offered a verbal report regarding the Society's first joint meeting with both the Oudtestamentisch Werkgezelschap (OTW) and the Old Testament Society of South Africa (OTWSA/OTSSA) held in Groningen, 22-24 August, 2018. He reported that the meeting focused on texts of violence in the Hebrew Bible, as well as their often problematic reception history, that the Society had been represented by 12 of its members, of which 6 presented papers and that the organizers of the meeting in Groningen were extremely generous with their hospitality. The general consensus amongst participants was that the meeting had been a great success.

(d) The Secretary for Honorary Members, Prof Lester Grabbe, reported as follows:

Martti Nissinen regrets not being able to attend the meeting but hopes to get to a SOTS conference in the near future. His most important recent publication is his book, *Ancient Prophecy: Near Eastern, Biblical, and Greek Perspectives*, published by Oxford University Press in 2017. Also, the second edition of his *Prophets and Prophecy in the Ancient Near East* (SBLWAW 12; Atlanta: SBL Press) will be out next autumn with more than 30 new texts included. Reinhard Kratz is also sorry for not being at the meeting but hopes to attend again soon. He reports the appearance of the first two volumes of the Göttingen Qumran lexicon. Vol 2 is in the press and was supposed to have appeared in December 2018. Although funding will end in 2019 and new funding has not yet been found, they are trying to continue to publish as far as possible. Kirsten Nielsen's main interest is now in modern Danish hymns. This summer she edited a Festschrift for one of the best Danish hymn writers, Holger Lissner, who celebrated his 80th birthday in July. More than 40 people contributed to his Festschrift: scholars, hymn writers, the present and two former Ministers of Ecclesiastical Affairs, two bishops, various ministers and a lot of friends who wished to honour him. She still gets invitations from people to deliver a lecture for their congregation on Old Testament themes or on modern hymns. She once asked her colleague Benedikt Otzen how she could know when it would be time to stop giving lectures. He answered, "That is no problem. When you don't get any invitations any more, you just have to stop."

(e) The Membership Secretary, Dr Janet Tollington, reported as follows:

The total membership now stands at 518, which is an increase of 2 since the Summer Meeting (*but a decrease of 1 since the beginning of the year*).

New Ordinary members in 2018: 23 (18M/5F)

Resignations in 2018: 7 (6M/1F) and **lapsed** 10 (8M/2F) for non payment of subscriptions.

Deaths in 2018: 7 (5M & 2F) [*exactly the same statistics as in 2017*]

Male/female ratio: 362M /156F, being 69.88%M/ 30.12%F.

(If Honorary members are disregarded the percentage of women is 30.2%)

Sadly the % of women is only increasing because we are losing male members (for all reasons) at a much higher rate than female members. The recruitment rate of women was only 21.7% this year.

Promoted to Life Membership in 2018: 5

Members by country of residence:

UK & Ireland	347 (67%)
Rest of the world	171 (33%)

Membership by type:

Ordinary members: 345 (66.6%)

Life members: 155

Honorary members: 18

Book list mailing: 437 were eventually sent out in the July mailing and a further 31 in the November mailing, which I hope have been received by now. A few of our overseas members report failing to receive the Book List and thus far Sage have agreed to resend a copy.

Postal receivers of mailings: Most members receive by email but now 96 paper copies are sent out to officers of the Society and those who have requested, as agreed. (This represents 18.5%) It is apparent that a desire to have a hard copy of the Membership List underlies most requests to remain on the 'Postal List' in the case of members who also receive electronically.

It was noted by Debbie Rooke that this seemed to be the first meeting programme (or at least the first in her memory) with an equal representation of gender amongst contributors.

(f) The Hospitality Secretary, Dr James Patrick, expressed his hope that Fitzwilliam College had served as a good venue for the meeting, but welcomed comments from members on the venue and would pass on comments to the College where suitable. He noted that use of the online booking/payment system was increasing (thanks to the Information Officer) and encouraged members to avail of this where possible. He noted that this will be his final year as Hospitality Secretary and that expressions of interest in the role were welcome. Finally, he offered his thanks to his fellow Officers and the Committee for their assistance.

(g) The Book List Editor, Dr John Jarick, reported as follows:

The 2019 edition of the *Book List* is now taking shape, and I am grateful to all members who have reviewed books so far, as well as those who have taken up books available here at the

Winter Meeting for prompt review. Members will be well aware of the extremely late distribution of the 2018 edition of the *Book List*, which was accomplished by our publishers, Sage Publications, only in August, despite the Editor having supplied the copy for the edition at the normal time in February and returned the corrected proofs at the normal time in March and thus anticipating distribution of the published work at the normal time in June. I have been told that the two-month delay in the 2018 distribution was connected with wider challenges that the publisher has had in relation to the production of the *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament*, in which the *Book List* is incorporated each year as issue 5 of the journal; and I have been assured that certain changes have been made which will hopefully result in a more timely distribution of the journal, and thus also of the *Book List*, from now on. Given that the September issue of the journal was distributed at the end of October, and the December issue has not yet been distributed by the time of this Winter Meeting, the situation may not yet be fully on track; nevertheless we must hope that it will be fully up to speed by the time of the next *Book List* distribution. In my capacity as Convener of the Publications Sub-Committee I am pleased to report the publication of the second volume in the new SOTS Monograph Series, namely Deryn Guest's *YHWH and Israel in the Book of Judges: An Object-Relations Analysis*; and a new volume by a member of SOTS that has just appeared in the Oudtestamentische Studiën series, namely Jennifer Andruska's *Wise and Foolish Love in the Song of Songs* (volume 75 in that series). We should also note a change in publication and distribution arrangements concerning the former SOTS Monographs Series that was published in the first decade of the 2000s under the editorship of Margaret Barker. The original publisher of the sixteen volumes in that series was Ashgate, a company that has more recently been acquired by Routledge. The latter publisher continues to make most of the volumes available for sale, some in newly-issued paperback and/or e-book form. A list of those volumes, and a link to the relevant part of the Routledge website, can be found on the SOTS website in the Publications information section. Finally, it must be noted that a less smooth transition is in process at present in regard to the Society's Wiki project. Members may be aware that our Wiki is not currently available online; this is due to the loss of the previous host server. I would like to assure members that the Editor of the Wiki, in consultation with the current and past Information Officers of the Society, is investigating new possibilities, and is confident that the situation can be rectified in the not too distant future.

(h) The Information Officer, Dr Jonathan Stökl, reported as follows (read on his behalf by the Secretary):

The Information Officer is happy to report that the website continues to be used well and is being updated to enable officers and members of the society to use it. I and a few other members of the Society are in the process of writing a social media policy for the Society.

(i) The Archivist, Professor Eryl Davies, reported (via the Secretary) that the Publications Sub-Committee recently updated the information concerning the Society's publication activities and in his capacity as the Society's archivist he was asked to check the extent to which the volumes listed were included in the Society's archive. He reported on this to the

Committee and the Publications Sub-Committee has now been commissioned to consider the best way to ensure that the publications of the Society (including monographs published under its auspices) are archived satisfactorily.

5. Proposals for New Members

The Business meeting elected the following into membership: Rev Dr Stefan Attard, Mr Rory Balfour, Dr Vasile Condrea, Dr Alinda Damsma, Rev Dr Melody Knowles, Dr Paul Kurtz.

6. Nominations

At the Committee's recommendation, the Meeting elected Sharon Moughtin-Mumby as an Ordinary member of the Committee.

7. AOB

Paul Joyce wished to make it known to members that it has recently been suggested that commentaries should be included as a permissible output for submission to the REF. He noted that the submission of commentaries in which the research is not self-evident should be accompanied by a 300 word statement offering clarification. In response to Charlotte Hempel's query, Paul Joyce confirmed that while this had not yet been agreed, it was likely to be so. Susan Gillingham announced that members interested in gathering to discuss Biblical reception studies would be doing so following the close of this meeting on Thursday morning after breakfast.

8. Future Meetings

The next Summer meeting will be held from the 22nd to the 25th of July 2019 at Worcester College, Oxford and the following Winter meeting will be held from the 6th to the 8th January 2020, at Jubilee Campus, University of Nottingham.

There being no further business, the President thanked the Secretary and Hospitality Secretary for their assistance – and Paul Joyce for stepping in for Walter Moberly – and declared the Business Meeting closed.

Signed: Date: