



About the BSCBA Series

Queries or submissions are encouraged and may be sent to Sheila E. McGinn, General Editor, at bscba@cba-sites.org.

Why the BSCBA Series?

The series *Biblical Studies from the Catholic Biblical Association of America* (BSCBA) seeks to bridge the gap between the technical exegetical work of the academic community and the educational and pastoral needs of the ecclesial community. Taking its initial inspiration from the Cerf *Cahiers Évangile* series (which has been translated into several languages), BSCBA volumes deal with biblical texts and themes that are important and vital for the life and ministry of the Church. Some focus on specific biblical books or collections of texts, while others are concerned with important theological themes with archaeological and geographical issues, and still others with questions of interpretation. Through the BSCBA series, CBA members present the results of their research in a way that is relevant to an interested audience that goes beyond the confines of the academic community.

Combining careful exegesis with a theological understanding of the text, members of the Catholic Biblical Association of America (CBA) have written these volumes in a style that is accessible to an educated, nonspecialized audience, without compromising academic integrity. The series serves as a resource for those who seek to deepen their knowledge of Scripture and/or who are engaged in the church's mission to proclaim the gospel.

Audience

The ideal readers of this series are students, those engaged in pastoral ministry, and educated readers interested in the work of contemporary biblical scholarship. Although the volumes of this series will not be written as text books, they could be helpful supplements to course work. They also may serve as resource guides for the personal reading of scripture, for parish bible studies, and for the pastoral work of the church.

Subject Matter

The volumes of this series focus on biblical texts and key biblical themes that readers will find relevant and useful. For example, individual volumes might deal with topics such as:

- A theme (or set of themes) of an individual book of the Bible (e.g., the Book of Genesis, the Gospel according to Mark), or a section of biblical writings (e.g., the Deuteronomistic History, the Passion Narratives), providing an overview of background, structure, and theology.

- Theological themes such as Creation, Covenant, Priesthood, the Kingdom of God, Justification, and the Moral Life.
- Issues of archeology, the geography of the Bible, the origins of Israel, the city of Jerusalem, the journeys of Saint Paul.
- Hermeneutical themes such as interpreting the Word of God, the use of Narrative Analysis,
- Lectio Divina, the Nature of Exegesis.

Treatment of the Subject Matter

Since this series is intended for a non-expert audience, authors present their findings in a way that is clear and accessible to a general educated audience. Academic jargon is avoided and, when it is necessary to use technical terms, they are explained for the reader. When helpful and necessary, BSCBA authors provide readers with the necessary background to understand more technical issues. They also introduce readers to key features of the contemporary discussion of the text or theme, making them aware of alternative interpretations.

Policy Governing the BSCBA Series

The BSCBA Series is understood to be an organ of The Catholic Biblical Association of America. Its editorial board is elected and delegated by the CBA to act in its name. The members of the board are not individually responsible for the series, but are corporately responsible to the CBA.

The official title of the series is *Biblical Studies from the Catholic Biblical Association of America*. The official abbreviation is BSCBA.

The purpose of the series is to facilitate the publication of books that bridge the gap between the technical exegetical work of the academic community and the educational and pastoral needs of the contemporary church.

The biblical field is understood in a broad sense, to include manuscripts dealing with the exegesis of books or themes in the Old and/or New Testaments. Whether the manuscript focuses on exegesis of a particular biblical book or addresses a topic of biblical theology, it should reflect competence in contemporary exegetical methods but expressed in a way that can be understood by non-specialists.

Prospective Authors of the Monographs

- The BSCBA series is intended mainly to encourage members of the Catholic Biblical Association to publish works that will assist in catechesis and pastoral education relating to the Bible and biblical theology. Typically, the Editorial Board looks for submissions from full members of CBA. Submissions are made to the General Editor at bscba@cba-sites.org.

The Editorial Board

History

This series began in 2015 under the initiative of the Rev. Prof. Frank Matera. Initial members of the BSCBA Editorial Board included Profs. José Enrique Aguilar Chiu, Joseph Atkinson, Richard Bautch, Angela Kim Harkins, and Peter Spitaler. Father Matera stepped down at the end of 2022, and Prof. Sheila E. McGinn was elected as the new General Editor (2023–2026). The current Editorial Board includes Profs. Matthew Goff (2026–28), Elaine James (2026–28), Angela Kim Harkins (2015–26), and Peter Spitaler (2015–26). Profs. Harkins and Spitaler will rotate off the Board at the end of 2026. New members of the Editorial Board, elected at the 2026 CBA annual meeting, are Dierdre Dempsey (2027–29) and Timothy Milinovich (2027–29).

Governance

The CBA *Constitution*, Article V, Section 8 stipulates the following duties for the BSCBA General Editor:

The duties of the General Editor of the Biblical Studies from the CBA shall be:
(a) *To serve as Chair of the BSCBA Editorial Board;*
(b) *To accept, after due consultation with members of the Editorial Board, manuscripts for the BSCBA and to prepare them for publication.*

CBA *Constitution*, Article VI, Section 4, specifies that:

Members of the BSCBA Editorial Board shall be duly elected as specified in the By-laws and serve under the direction of the General Editor of BSCBA; their function shall be to assist the General Editor in planning and developing the series.

The CBA *By-Laws* stipulate terms of office for both the BSCBA General Editor and the members of the BSCBA Editorial Board:

3.5.7. The General Editor of BSCBA shall be elected by the majority vote of the Full Members for a term of four years and may be re-elected once.

3.5.10. At each annual general meeting at least two Associate Editors of the BSCBA, upon recommendation by the Editorial Board, shall be elected by the majority vote of the Full Members for a term of four years. Associate Editors may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

Role of the Editorial Board

The editorial board functions in two major ways, first in the judgment of manuscripts submitted, and second in their production. At present, each manuscript is vetted by two members of the board who report on it to the General Editor (who may function also as a judge in case of a tie). If the two judges agree in accepting or rejecting a manuscript, it is accordingly accepted or

rejected. If the two judges disagree, a third judge is sought. A judge may be sought from outside of the editorial board, especially in the case of a work where special competence not covered sufficiently by the membership of the current board is required. In difficult cases, the judgment of the full board may be canvassed.

The General Editor is responsible for the overseeing the copy-editing and print-production of manuscripts accepted in the series. The General Editor may seek the assistance of a board member in preparing a manuscript for publication.

The General Editor is nominated by the CBA Nomination Committee in consultation with the BSCBA Editorial Board and the CBA Executive Director.

Finances

The funds for financing the series are supplied by the CBA, through the CBA Office. In principle, no financial contribution would be asked from the author of a manuscript that is accepted. However, this might be done if the manuscript requires an extraordinary amount of copy-editing or poses difficulties in printing. At the time of publication, authors receive four free copies and the right to purchase additional copies at 50% discount.

Ordinary expenses (stationary, postage, telephone calls, etc.) of the members of the board, when engaged in the monograph series work, will be reimbursed. The General Editor receives an annual stipend (at present, \$2000) for work on the series. Expenses incurred for work for the CBQMS are to be reimbursed to the Chairperson.

Contract and Copyright

In consultation with the BSCBA General Editor, the CBA Executive Director arranges a contract between CBA and the author of each volume accepted for the BSCBA series. CBA holds the copyright for the work, and pays to the author a stipend for all rights of publication; the stipend amount will be stipulated in the author's contract (presently \$250.00 payable when galley proofs are completed by the author/editor to the satisfaction of the BSCBA General Editor). If CBA notifies the author that it has elected to discontinue printing the work, all rights will revert to the author.

Printing and Distribution

CBA is the [proprietor](#) of the BSCBA series, currently [published](#) in collaboration with Wipf & Stock Press under their Cascade Books imprint. ~~CBA has negotiated a Memorandum of Agreement with Wipf & Stock to print and distribute the series.~~ Pre-publication tasks and printing are overseen by the BSCBA General Editor.



Guidelines for BSCBA Authors

Preliminary conversations with the General Editor are welcome as you consider how to shape your potential submission. (Feel free to email her at bscba@cba-site.org.) Please note that the final manuscript will not be considered by the editorial board until it has been edited to conform with these series guidelines.

General Parameters

Voice

Authors are expected to present their work in a way that is clear and accessible to an educated non-specialist audience. Please avoid academic jargon and explain technical terms when used. When helpful and necessary, provide readers with the background needed to understand more technical issues and make readers aware of other interpretations.

Language, Translation, and Transliteration

Manuscripts should be composed using Standard American English and follow American spelling and punctuation conventions. Foreign-language terms should be used sparingly, and then transliterated according to the instructions for contributors to the *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* (available for download at assets.noviams.com/novi-file-uploads/cba/PDFs/CBQ-Instructions-for-Contributors-2016-ecf7b068.pdf).

The default English translation for the series is the NRSVue. Authors may wish to introduce other translations (including their own) in order to clarify a point they are making. In that case, please simply specify the translation in the citation (e.g., Matt 21:1–11; NABRE *or* Matt 21:1–11; AT [for author's translation]).

While authors will work from the Hebrew and/or Greek text(s), references to the original language should be few and used judiciously so as not to overwhelm readers who are unfamiliar with the original languages. Hebrew, Greek, or other terms in a non-Roman alphabet should be transliterated following the *CBQ* Style Sheet.

Use of Original Texts

When a text is important for readers to follow the argument, authors should quote them in full rather than simply referencing them. For example, if *Psalms of Solomon* 17 is important to the argument about the Messiah, reproduce the entire psalm—or at least those parts that are relevant to the argument—since most readers will not have access to it.

Reader Aids

Instead of using content footnotes, additional information can be provided in text boxes. Such “call out” boxes can be used for various purposes: summarize ideas; suggest connections with other fields (e.g., pastoral work, spirituality); provide synopses of books or other works related to the theme under discussion; or display a series of biblical texts related to a theme. For example, in a discussion of the Messiah, a text box might indicate where the word “Messiah” appears in the Bible.

Tables, diagrams, and illustrations provide other options for summarizing important ideas.

Each chapter in the volume should include a brief (1–2-page) “study guide” that may include key terms, key persons of note, discussion and/or reflection questions, and other such resources that would be helpful when using the book in a parish study group or similar environment. A sample of this feature is available upon request from the General Editor (bscba@cba-site.org).

Authors should provide a brief select bibliography with the resources cited and perhaps a few additional recommended readings. This listing should include classic works (ideally, with links to online texts) as well as contemporary works that may be more accessible to the average reader.

References

Employ footnotes judiciously. Citations should follow the short note model typically used for subsequent references. The full bibliographic information for each reference then will be included in the Select Bibliography section. E.g.,

Footnote: Rad, *Holy War*, 15–18.

Bibliographic Reference: Rad, Gerhard von. *Holy War in Ancient Israel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1991.

Since we are aiming these volumes for non-specialists and we are not including a list of abbreviations in the volume, please provide the full name of journals and reference materials in the bibliographic listing (e.g., *The Catholic Biblical Quarterly* rather than merely *CBQ*).

Length

Since the BSCBA series is envisaged as providing an entrée to contemporary biblical studies for non-specialists, manuscripts should be kept to a modest length with necessary but not extensive footnotes and a brief (1–2-page) Select Bibliography. The overall length of the manuscript, including boxes, bibliography, and study guides, should be ≤ 40,000 words.

Imprimatur

If the author determines that the subject of the monograph requires an *imprimatur* and/or *imprimi potest*, the author needs to pursue that permission directly. Please submit documentation that such permission(s) has/have been acquired when submitting the complete manuscript to the BSCBA General Editor.

Copyright and Royalties

The CBA retains the copyright to the volumes in the BSCBA series and royalties accrue to the CBA to offset publication costs and support future publishing initiatives. BSCBA Authors are

provided a modest stipend upon approval of the final proofs of their work, and they receive 4 complimentary copies of the published volume. They also receive a 50% author's discount when purchasing additional copies of their own books.

Formatting Your Manuscript

In matters not covered by the specific instructions given below, the prescriptions of *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 17th ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017) and *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed. (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, 2004), supplemented by *Webster's Third New International Dictionary Unabridged* (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, 2000), are normative. American spelling is used. When a word has two or more spellings, the first spelling in *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* is the one to be used.

Wipf & Stock's Author's Guide provides additional guidance for those unfamiliar with recent style updates. This is available upon request from the BSCBA General Editor (bscba@cba-site.org).

Guidelines for Works Cited

Generally speaking, *CBQ* guidelines apply to the text of BSCBA volumes. The following guidelines are intended to clarify the format for your Works Cited listing.

1. The format of the bibliography follows the *CBQ* format for footnotes as closely as possible. Presently, that means the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 17th edition, Humanities style notes with dates at the end of the listing.
2. The footnote abbreviations for the names of series and journals are to follow *CBQ* format. Series and journals not covered by *CBQ* are to be spelled out. To assist neophyte readers, any footnote sources that were abbreviated should be spelled out when they appear in the Select Bibliography.
3. Provide full names of authors, not simply their first and middle initials. Some authors consistently list their initials on the title page of their books or articles. In such cases, include the full names in square brackets after the initials (e.g., C. [Clive] S. [Staples] Lewis. If you do not know the author's full name (or are unsure under which section of the author's name to alphabetize it), consult the Harvard University Library Hollis database at hollis.harvard.edu/discovery/search?vid=01HVD_INST:HVD2.
4. The editor for a volume is to be indicated by the name followed by a comma and "ed." (not "Edited by..."). The same applies to a translator.
5. Current style does not require a publisher location. If you choose to include locations, ensure that you do so for *every* publication you list.
6. Volumes with a single publisher in multiple locations are to be entered as follows: "Oxford/New York: Oxford University Press, 2000" (not "Oxford and New York: Oxford University, 2000"). Entries with "University" as the publisher should have "Press" included in the name (e.g., Oxford University Press); trade presses should not (e.g., Fortress).

7. Translations of ancient authors are to be listed under the name of the ancient author, e.g.:
 - a. Aeschines. *The Speeches of Aeschines*. C. [Charles] D. [Darwin] Adams, trans. Loeb Classical Library 106. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1919.
 - b. Apuleius. *Metamorphoses* (Or: The Golden Ass). J. Arthur Hanson, trans. Loeb Classical Library 44 and 453. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1989.
 - c. Epictetus. *Enchiridion*. W. [William] A. [Abbott] Oldfather, trans. Loeb Classical Library 218. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1961.
 - d. Suetonius [C. Suetonius Tranquillus]. *The Lives of the Twelve Caesars*. John C. Rolfe, trans. Loeb Classical Library 31 and 38. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1913.
8. Other Samples:
 - a. Bassler, Jouette M. "The Galileans: A Neglected Factor in Johannine Community Research." *The Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 43 (1981): 243–57. [Please note the n-dash between page numbers.]
 - b. Horgan, Maurya P. *Pesharim: Qumran Interpretations of Biblical Books*. CBQMS 8. Washington: Catholic Biblical Association of America, 1979.
 - c. Olsson, Birger. *Structure and Meaning in the Fourth Gospel: A Text-Linguistic Analysis of John 2:1–11 and 4:1–42*. Jean Gray, trans. CBNT 6. Lund: Gleerup, 1974. [Please note the n-dashes between verse numbers.]
 - d. Pitt-Rivers, Julian A. "Honour and Social Status." In *Honour and Shame: The Values of Mediterranean Society*. J. [John] G. [George] Peristiany, ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1966. Pp. 19–77.
 - e. Rad, Gerhard von. *Holy War in Ancient Israel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1991. [Please note that "Rad" is his surname, not the honorific "von."]
 - f. Schüssler Fiorenza, Elisabeth. *In Memory of Her: A Feminist Theological Reconstruction of Christian Origins*. Tenth Anniversary Edition. New York: Crossroad, 1994. [Please note that "Schüssler Fiorenza" is her correct surname, not "Fiorenza."]

Manuscript Submission and Publication Timeline

Submissions are made by emailing the file to the General Editor at BSCBA@cba-site.org. Please send the text in both DOCX and PDF formats, in case a formatting problem makes the document file unreadable. Authors are encouraged to submit individual chapters for feedback as the work progresses, although it is acceptable to submit the entire project at once.

Authors are asked to complete a Proposal form at the outset of the project (downloadable from the BSCBA website at <https://www.catholicbiblical.org/bscba#contribute>). Three additional forms (noted as EQ, MQ, and XQ) should be submitted with the proposal. If the project is accepted, these

three forms will assist Wipf & Stock in promotion and sales of the volume. Please submit all four items to the General Editor, who will forward necessary materials to the appropriate parties.

Upon receipt of the complete project, the General Editor will review the manuscript and make any suggestions for improvements. Once those changes have been completed and the revised manuscript received, the General Editor will consult with the Editorial Board to confirm acceptance of the project. A minimum of two members of the Editorial Board will review the final submission. Once the project is approved, the Author will receive a contract for the work and a prospective publication schedule.

When a manuscript is accepted, it goes through a copy-editing and text-production process with the staff of the H.K. Scriptorium, Inc. (HKS). The General Editor will forward to the Author the copy-edited files created by HKS, and the author will reply to any questions or concerns raised at that phase. Once both the General Editor and Author have approved the copy-edited file, HKS will create proofs and send them to the General Editor and Author for review. The General Editor and Author will identify any necessary corrections, and the General Editor will return the corrected proofs to HKS, which will create a second round of proofs. Once the General Editor and Author confirm that the proofs are correct, the General Editor will forward the project to Wipf & Stock for publication. This overall process typically takes 9–12 months.

While the proofs are in process with HKS, staff of Wipf & Stock will seek endorsements for the volume (based on a list of contacts provided by the Author in the aforementioned EQ, MQ, and XQ forms) and will design the book cover. The cover design follows a similar process as mentioned above for the book content, with proofs being sent to the General Editor and Author for review and approval.

Every effort will be made to publish each volume within a year of submission. If conditions arise such that more time is needed, the General Editor will notify the author of the situation and provide a revised publication date.