

BIBLICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL NEWS

Report of the Sixteenth General Meeting of the Catholic Biblical Association of America

Many factors conspired to make the sixteenth General Meeting of the Association a highly memorable one. The attendance of active members was gratifying and perhaps constituted a record. Almost all the active members visiting Ottawa had the good fortune to reside in the fine and spacious St. Paul's Seminary of the University of Ottawa, where the sessions, except the public one, were held. All have good reason to remember the generous fraternal hospitality which was extended to all by the Rector of the Seminary, the Very Reverend Jean-Charles Laframboise, O.M.I., and the other Oblate Fathers. And the weather played its part too. Those members who were surprised, a few years ago, to learn how delightfully cool St. Louis can be towards the end of August were surprised once more, this time to learn how delightful Ottawa can be at the same time of year, and even without being cool.

His Excellency, the Most Rev. Maxime Tessier, Vicar-Capitular of Ottawa, offered the Mass which opened the meeting, at 9:00 a.m., August 25, and at the first session, which began at 10:00, His Excellency was introduced to the members and welcomed them most graciously to the archdiocese. The text of this address is printed in full at the end of this report. Since the *CBQ* expects to print practically all of the papers given at the meeting, they are not described in detail here.

In his Presidential Address the Rev. Joseph S. Considine, O.P., taking as his theme the recent momentous discoveries in the Dead Sea region, summarized the available information. The Rev. David M. Stanley, S.J., in his paper, *St. Paul's Original Treatment of the "Suffering Servant" Theme, and the Authorship of the Hymn in Phil. 2, 5-11*, found a sufficient difference between St. Paul's use of the Servant theme and that of the primitive Christian preaching to enable him to conclude that Phil. 2, 5-11 was a non-Pauline hymn quoted by St. Paul as suiting his special purpose in the context of the letter. From the discussion it was evident that some were reluctant to admit such a distinctively Pauline Christology as that outlined by Father Stanley.

The afternoon session opened at 2:30 with a paper on *Public Bible Readings* by the Rev. Sebastiano Pagano, O.M.I., describing his absorbing and very successful adventures in promoting artistic recitations of Biblical passages. This paper was illustrated by a magnificent recorded reading of Lam 2 (RSV) by Mrs. Lucille Mayer with Tschaiikowsky's Pathétique Symphony as background music. Father Pagano's experience was so new to the members that it caused no public discussion.

A Survey of Recent Literature on the Canticle of Canticles by the Rev. Roland E. Murphy, O. Carm., lived up to the title. Father Murphy gave considerable attention to Robert's recent translation in the Jerusalem Bible. Robert's

new weapons, it seemed to him, could not do more than give the allegorical interpretation a slightly longer lease on life. The discussion revealed the interest aroused by the Robert-Feuillet approach to the Canticle. It also afforded Father Murphy the opportunity to explain that he did not underestimate the value of the anthological method, but merely thought that it had proved less successful in this instance than in others, e.g., the first part of Proverbs.

The paper of the Rev. Patrick W. Skehan on *The Textual Affinities of the Dead Sea Scroll of Isaiah* shared with the members the results of the intensive study Father Skehan has been making in this field. To him all the evidence that can be gathered from a comparison of the text of the scroll with that of the other witnesses seems to point to a date somewhere around the beginning of our era. In answer to a question he stated that he did not think there was a single case in which the Massoretic text would need to be emended on the strength of the scroll alone.

The last paper of the afternoon session was given by the Rev. William L. Moran, S.J., on *The Canaanite Background of the Hebrew Cohortative*. Father Moran offered what seemed to him conclusive evidence that the cohortative is a survival of the earlier Hebrew (Canaanite) "subjunctive," thus vindicating the essential correctness of Joüon's view as proposed in his grammar. A mimeographed sheet with Canaanite parallels to Biblical passages made it much easier for the audience to grasp the import of the evidence.

The evening session, which began at 8:00, was devoted to an informal discussion of methods of teaching Scripture, the discussion leaders being the Revs. Eugene H. Maly, Edward F. Siegman, C.P.P.S., and John F. Whealon. A synthesis of this discussion will appear in an early issue of *CBQ*.

At 9:00 on Wednesday, August 26, a Mass for deceased members was offered by the President, Father Considine. At the morning session, which began at 10:00, the first paper was a discussion of *The Language and Date of Psalm 47 (48)* by Mitchell Dahood, S.J. New and illuminating translations were offered for a few passages of the Psalm. Some of these formed part of the evidence which Mr. Dahood presented as his reason for looking to the late sixth century as the most probable date for the composition of the Psalm.

The second paper of this session was *An Application of the Form-Critique Method to the Anointings in Galilee (Lk 7, 36-50) and Bethany (Mt 26, 6-13; Mk 14, 3-9; Jn 12, 1-8)* read by the Rev. André Legault, C.S.C. Father Legault made a plea for the recognition of the high value of certain of the literary postulates of Form-Criticism. Applying these to the narratives in question (the Greek text of these was in the hands of the members in convenient form), he concluded that Lk 7, 36ff is the account of a scene distinct from that of Bethany, from which, however, popular tradition had borrowed a certain number of details. Luke's already modified narrative in its turn exercised an influence on the account of the anointing at Bethany as given in St. John's Gospel. This paper might have been the occasion of animated discussion, but time was running out.

Wednesday afternoon was given over to a conducted tour of Ottawa and the neighboring city of Hull, P. Q. The members were given plenty of time to see the sights of Canada's beautiful capital, especially the splendid Parliament Buildings.

The public session, which began at 8:30 in the evening, was held in the Academic Hall of the University of Ottawa on the main campus. The Rev. Lucien Dozois, O.M.I., of the University Seminary, introduced the speakers. After addresses of welcome by His Excellency, the Most Rev. Ildebrando Antoniutti, Apostolic Delegate to Canada (who had to rearrange a busy schedule to be present in Ottawa for this occasion), and by the Very Rev. Rodrigue Normandin, O.M.I., Rector of the University, both of whom spoke in French and English, Father Considine read a short paper on *Reading the Bible*. The program proper consisted of dramatic readings from the book of Job by professional reciters. The first readings were selected from the speeches of Job and his three friends and were recited in French (Larcher's translation in the Jerusalem Bible) by René Salvator Catta, the introductory explanations being given by Rosario Bélisle. After an interlude, the final readings, a selection from the Elihu discourses, the hymn to Wisdom and the first speech of God, were recited in English (CCD version) by Roland McNicoll, the introductions being read by Emmet O'Grady. While Mr. McNicoll was reciting God's apostrophe to Job from the wing, where the audience could not see him, M. Catta took the center of the stage to enact in silence the reactions of the listening Job. Then M. Catta gave Job's brief replies (in French), and the curtain fell as Job lay repentant and prostrate in the dust. The stage setting, lighting effects, and musical background were superb. Several times the audience burst into spontaneous applause. If Father Pagano, whose expert direction was the dominant factor in the success of the venture, had any misgivings about the outcome, these must have disappeared before M. Catta had finished the first reading. Incidentally, it was gratifying to observe how smoothly and forcefully the English CCD text of Job reads.

The business session began at 9:00 on Thursday morning. The first business taken up was the adoption of the new constitution which had been adopted for one year at the last general meeting. The Executive Secretary, the Rev. Louis Hartman, C.S.S.R., stated that the new constitution had proved satisfactory during the year. No objections or suggestions were forthcoming, and the constitution was definitively adopted by a unanimous vote.

The reports of the Treasurer, the Rev. Francis Crump, O.M.I., and of the President of the Board of Trustees, the Rev. Charles O'C. Sloane, were accepted as read.

Before giving his report the Executive Secretary read a cordial letter from Bishop Edwin V. O'Hara. He referred to the members the recommendations of the Executive Committee concerning grants of \$100.00 each to be made to Father Pohl, S.J., of the Biblical Institute, to assist him in the publication of *Orientalia*, and to Father Allegra, O.F.M., editor of the Chinese translation of the Bible now being published in Hongkong, to assist in that project. Father Hartman also gave us some information about Bible Week, and reported the

cordial and even pressing invitation extended by the Rev. Daniel Martin, C.M., to the Association to meet at Perryville, Mo., next year. By a unanimous vote Father Hartman's report was accepted as read.

Mother Kathryn Sullivan, R.C.S.J., chairman of the Committee on Visual Aids, reported consistent and increasing use of the facilities made available by the committee. The sale of the film strip on Palestine has been gratifying. A second edition is already on the market, but new film strips are needed. Additional slides are also needed, and Mother Kathryn appealed to the members to assist the committee in obtaining them. In answer to a question Mother Sullivan agreed to explore the field of Biblical recordings, interest in which had been aroused by the experiences of Father Pagano.

Father Hartman, substituting for the Rev. Stephen Hartdegen, O.F.M., read the report of the editorial board for the OT translation. He was able to announce that Vol. 3, the Sapiential books, is now being type-set, and should be published at an early date.

In the course of the report of the editor of *CBQ* the Rev. Edward Siegman, C.P.P.S., the Association by a majority vote decided to reverse its decision of last year and retain the name, *The Catholic Biblical Quarterly*, at least for the present. It was decided to keep the Survey of Periodicals and to improve it by supplying periodicals, when necessary, to the surveyors.

The Rev. Ernest Lussier, S.S.S., chairman of the Credential Committee, submitted the names of the following candidates for election to active membership: Raymond E. Brown, S.S., M. G. Bulteau, S.S., William V. E. Casey, S.J., John de Marchi, I.M.C., M. J. Gendron, Mitchell J. Dahood, S.J., Charles Henkey, C.O., Ralph Kuehner, Robert D. Luckhart, O.M.I., John Huesman, S.J., Revs. Neil J. McEleney, C.S.P., Justin Pierce, S.D.S., Kenneth O'Brien, Eamonn O'Doherty, Kevin O'Sullivan, Francis Rozsaly, Anthony L. Rubsys, Gerard S. Sloyan, David M. Stanley, S.J., Edward S. Stanton, S.J. These candidates were elected unanimously.

The Rev. Thomas A. Collins, O.P., acting for the Nominating Committee, nominated the following for office: Rev. Sebastiano Pagano, O.M.I., *President*; Rev. Daniel Martin, C.M., *Vice-President*; Rev. Louis Hartman, C.S.S.R., *Executive Secretary*; Rev. Francis Crump, O.M.I., *Treasurer*; Rev. John T. Curran, S.J., to serve four years on the *Nominating Committee*; Rev. Patrick Cummins, O.S.B., to replace Father W. Barry as *Consultor*; *Editorial Board*: Rev. Edward F. Siegman, C.P.P.S., *Editor*; Very Rev. Francis S. Rossiter, *Publishing Editor*; Rev. John L. McKenzie, S.J., *Book Review Editor*; Revs. Bernard F. LeFrois, S.V.D., Roderick MacKenzie, S.J., Alan Smith, O.P., Roland E. Murphy, O. Carm., and Charles Heupler, O.F.M. Cap., *Associate Editors*. They were elected by a unanimous vote.

Motions were made and carried to convey to Archbishop Albert Meyer, charter member of the Association, Archbishop-elect of Milwaukee, the congratulations and best wishes of the Association, and to the Oblate Fathers the Association's deep appreciation.

The business session was long, and there was too little time left for the final papers, a lively plea, off as well as on the record, for the *Preparation of*

Scripture Manuals for High School Students, by Sister Mary Julienne, S.S.J., and an original analysis of the *Progress of Thoughts and Actions in Ps 118 (119)*, by the Rev. Michael Urbanowich, M.I.C. The sixteenth general meeting closed with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the Seminary chapel.

The following active members were present:

Ahern, Barnabas M., C.P.	MacKenzie, Roderick, S.J.
Balducelli, Roger, O.S.F.S.	Maly, Eugene H.
Benson, Alphonsus, M.S.Ss.T.	Mattingly, John F., S.S.
Boucher, Robert G., C.S.S.R.	May, Eric, O.F.M. Cap.
Brown, Raymond E., S.S.	Masoulf, Isidore, O.F.M. Cap.
Brunet, Achille, S.J.	McEvoy, John A., S.J.
Brunet, Adrien, O.P.	McConnell, John F., M.M.
Bulteau, M. Georges, P.S.S.	McCool, Francis J., S.J.
Burke, Callaghan, C.S.S.R.	McDonnell, J. F., O.P.
Bushinski, Leonard A., C.S.Sp.	McGough, Columban, O.C.D.
Casey, William, S.J.	McKenzie, John L., S.J.
Considine, J.S., O.P.	Melançon, Raymond, C.J.M.
Crowley, Edward J., C.S.S.R.	Mercurio, Roger, C.P.
Crump, Francis J., O.M.I.	Moran, William, S.J.
Cummins, Patrick, O.S.B.	Murphy, Roland, O. Carm.
Collins, Thomas A., O.P.	O'Connell, John Patrick
Curran, John T., S.J.	O'Doherty, Eamonn
Dahood, Mitchell, S.J.	O'Donnell, Msgr., Joseph P.
Dannemiller, J. L., S.S.	Ouellette, Lucien, C.S.V.
Denzer, George	Pagano, Sebastiano, O.M.I.
DeVault, Joseph J., S.J.	Pickar, Charles H., O.S.A.
Dobell, Richard J.	Pierce, Justin, S.D.S.
Dozois, Lucien, O.M.I.	Roets, Philip G., C.S.S.R.
Ellis, Peter, C.S.S.R.	Rooney, Gerard, C.P.
Geis, Norbert P., C.M.	Rossiter, Msgr., Francis S.
Grassi, Joseph A., M.M.	Schoenberg, Martin, O.S.C.
Griffin, James, S.J.	Schroeder, Francis J., S.S.J.
Hanley, J. G.	Siegman, Edward F., C.P.P.S.
Hartdegen, Stephen, O.F.M.	Skehan, Patrick W.
Hartman, Louis, C.S.S.R.	Sloane, Charles O'Connor
Heupler, Charles, O.F.M. Cap.	Stanley, David, S.J.
Huesman, J. E., S.J.	Stanton, Edward S., S.J.
Julienne, Sister M., S.S.J.	Steinmueller, Msgr. John E.
Kuehner, Ralph	Sloyan, Gerard S.
Legault, André, C.S.C.	Sullivan, Mother Kathryn, R.S.C.J.
LeHoullier, Alban, O.M.I.	Temple, Msgr., Patrick J.
Louis, Conrad, O.S.B.	Vawter, Bruce, C.M.
Lussier, J. E., S.S.S.	Whealon, John F.
Luckhart, Robert, O.M.I.	

JOHN F. McCONNELL, M.M.
Recording Secretary

**Address of His Excellency, the Most Reverend Maxime Tessier,
Vicar-Capitular of Ottawa**

It is with a feeling of deep pleasure that I welcome you to the diocese of Ottawa. I assure you, at the outset, that we are honored to have the Catholic Biblical Association of America meet here in Convention.

Your Association is housed at the seat of the great Catholic University of America. Today, your sessions are being held in the Theological Department of the Catholic University of Canada's capital. Hence, by this meeting, another link of sanctity and scholarship is being forged to bind us and our two countries even more firmly together in the pursuit of sacred science, thus uniting us to God, Who is the Lord of that learning, "Deus scientiarum Dominus est," as is the motto of the University wherein we meet.

Reverend Fathers, you, as experts in the field of biblical knowledge, play a role that cannot be exaggerated in sacred scholarship. The Word of God has always been of paramount concern to the Church's solicitude. And you are privileged laborers in this part of the vineyard of the Lord.

Your mission takes on a new meaning in our times. Not that the task has assumed new intrinsic worth for that is an impossibility, inasmuch as its concern has always been the changeless infinite importance of God's revealed truth. But it has fallen heir to a much wider field of activity in our times. To seek confirmation of this, we need but recall that the amount of reading done now has reached a degree never dreamed possible when the first printing press of 1450 ushered in a new era in man's learning. We have travelled far since those distant days when, in the words of Ruskin, "The walls of the Church became the poor man's Bible, and a picture was more easily read than a chapter."

And still, it must be admitted that, in this age of reading, men will read a major and a minor, but never draw a conclusion. It is the age of reading, but hardly the age of thought. Information has replaced education.

In the light of that, it is all the more gratifying to discover to what cause your proposed Constitution dedicates you. It bespeaks your vocation, which is to devote yourselves to the scientific study of Scripture—the traditional task of the scholar—but goes beyond that, and happily meets the demands of our times in rallying your support to the cause of expounding and defending its teachings with a view to promoting love for and deeper knowledge of Holy Writ.

Through an arduous training, and more particularly by your grace of state, you are constantly approaching that ideal.

You, more than anyone else, have the means at your disposal to realize that desire so close to the heart of the Church, the Church of the Bible, the Church

which framed its Canon and revered and taught it for eleven centuries before the seamless robe of Christian biblical science was rent.

Inspired by an active and ardent love of the Bible, sincerely devoted to Holy Mother Church, do not be deterred from grappling again and again with the so many difficult problems, hitherto unsolved, in order to find a satisfactory solution.

Your edition of the Bible, inasmuch as it is already published in part, is a monumental contribution towards the objective of bringing the faithful to read intelligently and to understand the Sacred Scriptures. The happy change, from the decision to make the revision from the Vulgate to the present plan of using the original texts, is a result of the decision of the Pontifical Commission *de Re Biblica* and of the Encyclical *Divino Afflante Spiritu*. It is always a source of edification to see those who are, and rightly so, in the vanguard of ecclesiastical scholarship, still maintain great docility to the Teaching Church, which your organization exemplifies. Your humility, in the long and arduous task of preparing this work, is not the least element of its true beauty. Small wonder that God has blessed it with such success.

It would be presumption for me to attempt a technical evaluation of its worth, in present company at least. But may I say that, apart entirely from the obvious external features, which of themselves lend clearer understanding of the text, as one critic has written: "These premises of the work are a promise and a guarantee of the excellence of the work. In every respect, the new translation is incomparably superior to the old text."

Such acclaim has been echoed by the Apostolic Delegate to the United States, when Archbishop Cicognani stated: "This is a contribution to the work of the Church in the United States that will be enduring and most fruitful."

This, then, is the import to Holy Mother Church of the work that your Association has achieved. You are meeting here in Ottawa to further the cause of that organization, to ratify your new Constitution. Your association is a necessity, an indispensable auxiliary in the pursuit and diffusion of scriptural knowledge. In the field of biblical studies, each day brings to light new material relative to the understanding of Scripture. It is for you to weigh the evidence and to separate the wheat from the chaff. There is literally no end to your work for the Church, as you seek to trace the facts to their Source, for, in the words of George Lavington, "Let the chain of second causes be ever so long, the first link is always in God's hands." After your lengthy and exacting training, through years of loyal service in the expounding of the Divine Word embodied in the Scriptures, may your entire life have pursued that chain of causes till you reach the first link. For then, you also will be in the hand of God.

