

BIBLICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL NEWS

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

When it was announced that the 1954 meeting of the CBA would be held on August 24 and 25 at St. Mary's Seminary, Perryville, Missouri, there was some fear that the difficulty of traveling to Perryville—eighty miles south of St. Louis—and the prospect of very hot weather there this time of the year would discourage many members from attending the meeting. But happily these gloomy forebodings proved to be unfounded. A relatively large number of the members came to enjoy the interesting papers and discussions of this two-day meeting. Perryville was found to be not quite as inaccessible as some had imagined, and the generous hospitality of its Vincentian community did much to mitigate the temperature of the high nineties. Even apart from the meeting itself, a visit to this historical seminary (The cornerstone of its large church was laid in 1827!) with its beautiful campus and magnificent new library building was well worth the trip to Perryville.

The meeting was opened on Tuesday, August 24th, at 9:00 A.M. with a Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. Charles H. Helmsing, Auxiliary Bishop of St. Louis. After the Mass, Bishop Helmsing welcomed the members of the CBA in the name of the Archbishop of St. Louis, the Most Rev. Joseph E. Ritter, who was unable to be present at the occasion.

The first session began with the Presidential Address of the Rev. Sebastian Pagano, O.M.I., who spoke on "Readings from the Bible and Exegesis." In his address Fr. Pagano developed the theme that is dear to his heart and on which he read a paper at the Ottawa meeting in 1953, namely, that the Bible is a fit subject for dramatic readings and that it is both interesting and intelligible to the average person when properly presented. "Scriptural readings," he said, "presuppose exegesis and stem from it; they depend on it for the interpretation's general mood and all its shades. The introduction to the text is itself a short exegesis, while the musical background takes its inspiration from it. Dramatic art is the tool used to convey the thousand nuances of thought and feeling inherent in the inspired word of God. Art thus becomes an allurement by which men are drawn to the divine truth, that it may penetrate their hearts and souls and bring forth in them the fruits of spiritual light, courage, consolation and life."

The presidential address was followed by a scholarly paper by the Rev. Mitchell J. Dahood, S.J., on "Two Pauline Quotations from the Old Testament." Fr. Dahood showed how St. Paul, in citing from Prv 25, 21-22 in Rom 12, 20, and from Ps 115, 1 (116, 10) in 2 Cor 4, 13, seems to give to these passages a meaning different from that of the original author. He then offered a new translation of these OT passages as based on the recent progress in Hebrew philology.

The afternoon session of the first day was devoted to a panel discussion on the methods of teaching Scripture and on the proper interpretation of the decrees of the Pontifical Biblical Commission. The Rev. David M. Stanley, S.J., acted

as moderator of the board and was assisted by the Rev. Richard R. Murphy, O.P., and the Rev. Barnabas Mary Ahern, C.P. A synthesis of this discussion, which elicited a lively response from the floor, will appear in an early issue of the *CBQ*.

The second day of the meeting began with a Mass for the deceased members, offered by the Most Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, Archbishop-Bishop of Kansas City, Mo., and Chairman of the Episcopal Committee of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. Immediately after his Mass, Archbishop O'Hara gave a deeply moving talk on the early history of the CBA and its close bonds with the C.C.D. The members were happy to have this founder and former and ever loyal friend of their association present at all the sessions of the first day.

The morning session of the second day was taken up by a learned paper on "The Canaanite Background of Genesis 49" by the Rev. F. Bruce Vawter, C.M., and by a "Review of the Kleist-Lilly New Testament" by the Rev. John L. McKenzie, S.J. After some general remarks on the relationship between Gn 49 and the Ugaritic texts, Fr. Vawter examined in detail the Joseph blessing of Gn 49, 22-26, and offered, in the light of the Ugaritic material, several corrections and new interpretations of the Hebrew text of this ancient poem. In order to give more time to the subsequent discussion, Fr. McKenzie read only portions of his review of the Kleist-Lilly NT and promised that his full review would soon appear in the *CBQ*. The lively discussion showed that not all are agreed on what type of "modern English" constitutes the best vehicle for a new American version of the Scriptures.

Because many of the members had to leave Perryville on the four o'clock bus in order to make their travel connections in St. Louis, the afternoon business session, which had been scheduled for 2:30 P.M., was begun immediately after lunch. The reports of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the Rev. Charles O'Connor Sloane, and of the Treasurer, the Rev. Francis J. Crump, O.M.I., showed that the CBA was in a healthy financial state. In her report as Chairman of the Committee on Visual Aids Mother Kathryn Sullivan, R.S.C.J., observed that there was a steady growth of interest in visual aids for teaching the Bible as evidenced not only by the large number of requests for loan of this CBA material but also by the frequent purchase by members and non-members alike of the slides and film strips which her Committee offers for sale.

The floor was next given to the Rev. Edward F. Siegman, C.P.P.S., who as editor of the *CBQ* explained its editorial policy. He stressed the need of suitable articles and urged the active members to put the results of their studies into writing and submit them for publication either in the *CBQ* or in other periodicals which are glad to publish an occasional Scripture article. Fr. Siegman also appealed for more assistance in reviewing current periodicals for the survey of these in the *CBQ*. He likewise requested all those who contribute material to observe the style sheet for abbreviations, punctuation etc., as drawn up by the editors. Even though this may seem arbitrary, perfect conformity to it greatly lessens the work of the editors in preparing the material for printing.

Following this there were reports from the Committees for the translation of the Old and the New Testaments. As Secretary of the Committee on the Old

Testament translation, the Rev. Stephen J. Hartdegen, O.F.M., assured the members that Volume III, containing the seven Sapiential Books (Job to Sirach), is now almost all set up, at least in galleys, and should be ready for distribution within the next few months. The Rev. Barnabas Mary Ahern, C.P., of the NT translation committee, read the report of its Chairman, the Rev. John F. McConnell, M.M., which recounted the steady progress being made on this project. A resolution was made and duly executed to thank the superiors of his Order for freeing Fr. Hartdegen from all other duties, so that he may devote himself entirely to the task of preparing the new translation of the OT for publication.

The next report was that of Rev. Louis F. Hartman, C.Ss.R., Executive Secretary. He announced that the Executive Board had voted unanimously to make the following grants: at the request of Rt. Rev. Msgr. John E. Steinmueller a grant of \$500.00 to the Pontifical Biblical Institute toward defraying the cost of a new edition of Fr. Merk's Greek New Testament; at the request of Prof. Merrill M. Parvis of the University of Chicago a grant of \$200.00 toward paying about one third the cost of a microfilm reader for Father Bonifatius, editor of the Beuron *Vetus Latina*. Fr. Hartman called attention to the fact that the project of microfilming the complete card file of the Old Latin Version at the Beuron Archabbey has now been finished and that the members of the CBA are invited to use freely the set of positive microfilm prints that has been entrusted to the CBA and the Institute of Christian Oriental Research at the Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Before the reading of the final reports on new active members and on nominations, under the heading of New Business a motion of Msgr. Steinmueller was carried to send the congratulations of the CBA to Msgr. Ermenegildo Florit, Consultor of the Pont. Bibl. Commission, on the occasion of his elevation to the position of Coadjutor Archbishop of Florence. Likewise, a motion of Fr. Hartdegen was carried to convey the felicitations of the CBA to the Most Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, Bishop of Kansas City, on the occasion of his elevation to the rank of a titular Archbishop. A motion of Fr. Achille Brunet, S.J., was carried to send the congratulations of the CBA to Msgr. Patrick W. Skehan on his appointment as Annual Professor of the American Schools of Oriental Research in Jerusalem.

Because Pope St. Pius X had done so much for Scripture studies, Fr. Hartdegen made a motion to amend the clause in the Preamble of the Constitution of the CBA which now reads, "under the patronage of Saint Jerome," to be changed to read, "under the patronage of Saint Jerome and Saint Pius X." This motion was unanimously carried and the Executive Secretary was instructed to send official notice of this proposed amendment to all the active members at least one month before the next general meeting according to the provisions of Art. VIII, Sect. 1 of the Constitution.

Fr. Conrad Louis, O.S.B., then raised the question of re-establishing the Biblical Summer Schools of the CBA, such as were held at Niagara University in August 1946 and at St. Thomas Seminary, Denver, Colo., in August 1947.

After some discussion of the question a motion was carried instructing the President to appoint a committee to study the question and to report on the matter at the next general meeting, with a view toward holding such a summer school in August 1956.

Fr. Hartman announced that the Executive Board had accepted the kind offer brought by Rev. Thomas Aquinas Collins, O.P., to hold the next general meeting at Providence College, Providence, R.I., on August 22-24, 1955.

After other points of new business had been discussed but not voted on, Rev. Roger J. Mercurio, C.P., read the report of the Committee on Credentials and submitted the names of the following candidates for election to active membership: Revs. Xavier G. Arce, S.J.; Gaetan Bourbonnais, S.S.S.; J. Edgar Bruns; Fidelis Buck, S.J.; Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B.; Neal Flanagan, O.S.M.; George S. Glanzman, S.J.; Joseph A. Grispino, S. M.; Eugene Kevane; Philip F. King; Arthur L. Leen; Robert Marrer; William J. Moran, S.J.; Frederick L. Moriarty, S.J.; Bernard Murray, S.J.; John J. O'Rourke; Meinrad J. Rouck; Norman R. Senski; Joseph O. Shibutani; Augustine Stock, O.S.B. The candidates were elected unanimously. By an unfortunate oversight the name of Rev. Michael P. Urbonavicius, M.I.C., was omitted from the list of candidates elected to active membership in the report of the 16th general meeting.

The Rev. John A. McEvoy, S.J., Chairman of the Committee on Nominations nominated the following for office: Very Rev. Daniel W. Martin, C.M., *President*; Rev. Thomas Aquinas Collins, O.P., *Vice-President*; Rev. Louis F. Hartman, C.Ss.R., *Executive Secretary*; Rev. Francis J. Crump, O.M.I., *Treasurer*; Rev. Edward F. Siegman, C.P.P.S., *Editor*; Rev. Edward A. Cerny, S.S., *Consultor* for a term of two years; Rev. John F. Whealon, *Member of the Committee on Nominations* for a term of four years; Rev. John L. McKenzie, S.J., and Very Rev. Msgr. Francis S. Rossiter, *Associate Editors* for a term of three years. They were all elected by unanimous vote. Announcement was made that the Episcopal Committee of the CCD had reappointed Very Rev. Msgr. Matthew P. Stapleton as *Consultor* for a term of two years.

Immediately before the motion to adjourn, a motion was made and carried to thank the Vincentian community of Perryville for the gracious hospitality shown to the members of the CBA at this meeting.

The following members were present at the Perryville meeting:

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| Ahern, Barnabas Mary, C.P. | Coyle, Thomas W., C.SS.R. |
| Benson, Alphonsus, M.S.Ss.T. | Crowley, Edward J., C.SS.R. |
| Bokowsky, John, S.V.D. | Crump, Francis J., O.M.I. |
| Boucher, Robert G., C.SS.R. | Cummins, Patrick, O.S.B. |
| Brunet, Achille, S.J. | Curran, John T., S.J. |
| Ceroke, Christian P., O.Carm. | Dahood, Mitchell J., S.J. |
| Cerny, Edward A., S.S. | Ellis, Peter F., C.SS.R. |
| Collins, John J., S.J. | Fischer, James A., C.M. |
| Collins, Thomas A., O.P. | Flanagan, Neal M., O.S.M. |
| Considine, Joseph S., O.P. | Fournelle, Geron G., O.F.M. |

- Grassi, Joseph A., M.M.
 Griffin, James T., S.J.
 Grispino, Joseph A., S.M.
 Guyot, Gilmore H., C.M.
 Hartdegen, Stephen J., O.F.M.
 Heupler, Charles G., O.F.M.Cap.
 Hill, William F., S.S.
 Kenneally, William J., C.M.
 Kutchera, Alvin
 Louis, Conrad, O.S.B.
 Luckhart, Robert D., O.M.I.
 Lussier, Joseph E., S.S.S.
 Mahoney, John Joseph, O.P.
 Maly, Eugene H.
 May, Eric E., O.F.M.Cap.
 Mercurio, Roger J., C.P.
 Montalbano, Francis J., O.M.I.
 Murphy, Richard R., O.P.
 Murphy, Roland E., O.Carm.
 McCool, Francis J., S.J.
 McEvoy, John A., S.J.
 McGrath, Brendan, O.S.B.

- MacKenzie, Roderick A., S.J.
 McKenzie, John L., S.J.
 O'Doherty, Eamonn, S.S.C.
 Olinger, Eberhard, O.S.B.
 Pagano, Sebastiano, O.M.I.
 Pansini, Francis D., C.M.
 Roets, Philip G., C.S.S.R.
 Rouck, Meinrad J.
 Schoenberg, Martin W., O.S.C.
 Schroeder, Francis J., S.S.J.
 Siebeneck, Robert T., C.P.P.S.
 Siegman, Edward F., C.P.P.S.
 Sloane, Charles O'Conor
 Smith, Allan, O.P.
 Stanley, David M., S.J.
 Stapleton, Very Rev. Msgr. Matthew P.
 Steinmueller, Rt. Rev. Msgr. John E.
 Stock, Augustine, O.S.B.
 Sullivan, Mother Kathryn, R.S.C.J.
 Vancik, Vladimir G.
 Vawter, Francis Bruce, C.M.
 Whealon, John F.

MARTIN W. SCHOENBERG, O.S.C.
Recording Secretary