

BIBLICAL NEWS

Report of the Twenty-Third General Meeting of the Catholic Biblical Association of America

The Twenty-Third General Meeting of the Catholic Biblical Association of America was held under the patronage of the Most Reverend Urban J. Vehr, D.D., Archbishop of Denver, on August 30-31 and September 1, 1960 at St. Thomas Seminary, Denver, Colorado. The opening Mass of the Holy Spirit was celebrated by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. David M. Maloney, Chancellor of the Archdiocese, and a brief welcome was extended to the members present by the Very Rev. John J. Danagher, C.M., Rector of St. Thomas Seminary, and by Msgr. Maloney, representing His Excellency, Archbishop Vehr.

Tuesday Sessions—August 30

The first session began with the presidential address of John J. Collins, S.J. As a theme for his paper Father Collins chose the recent work of Johannes Munck, *Paul and the Salvation of Mankind*, which he subjected to a critical examination. Summarizing the synthesis in which Munck attempts to re-interpret the work of St. Paul, Fr. Collins pointed out the value of his construction, while at the same time drawing attention to numerous points which do not readily command assent.

The next paper was delivered by Thomas Aquinas Collins, O.P., who spoke on *Johannine Greek Style Characteristics in Jn 6,51-58*. After reviewing the method of E. Schweizer for determining Johannine literary characteristics, Fr. Collins treated of four arguments which have been advanced by J. Jeremias against the authenticity of the passage in question and showed that they are not conclusive. He then advanced seven positive stylistic arguments favoring authenticity. Prompted by questions from Gerald T. Kennedy, O.M.I and Louis F. Hartman, C.Ss.R., a brief discussion ensued regarding the original order of the Fourth Gospel.

Louis F. Hartman, C.Ss.R. then gave a report upon the past year, which he spent in Palestine as annual professor at the American Schools of Oriental Research. After thanking the association for the grant which had been voted him at the last general meeting, Fr. Hartman explained the organization of the American Schools and gave a brief account of the excursions in which he had taken part while in the Near East. He then described the excavations which had been in progress during his stay, particularly that of Teleilat Ghassul, where he had personally assisted the excavator, Robert North, S.J.

The President then read a telegram from Msgr. Matthew P. Stapleton, who was unable to be present, and named Walter H. Peters to replace Msgr. Stapleton on the nominating committee, and Gerald T. Kennedy, O.M.I. to replace Richard Kugelman, C.P., who likewise was not present at the meeting.

At the afternoon session Mitchell J. Dahood, S.J. began with the presentation of *Textual Notes on Isaia*. Fr. Dahood confined his discussion to three

texts, Is 15,4b; 23,2-3a; and 65,3b, for which he proposed new translations, based principally upon Ugaritic texts. An extended discussion followed.

The second paper of the afternoon session was read by Barnabas M. Ahern, C.P., on *The Christian's Union with the Body of Christ in Cor, Rom, Gal*. Summarizing the recent trend toward realism in the interpretation of St. Paul's expressions regarding the Body of Christ, Fr. Barnabas explained the reasons for this development. Passing in review a number of texts from the great epistles, he declared that these already implicitly contain the doctrine which later appears in Col and Eph. A brief discussion followed.

The next paper was by George S. Glanzman, S.J., who spoke about *Hoyadah 3,6-18*. Fr. Glanzman explained that the principal difficulties concern the translation of this Qumrân psalm, uncertain because of an incomplete and mutilated text, and its interpretation, alleged by some to be Messianic. Pointing out the structure of the psalm, he discussed various difficulties of translation, and concluded that it is extremely hazardous to base a Messianic interpretation upon a text which cannot be translated with certainty. In the discussion that followed, Msgr. Patrick W. Skehan proposed a translation for some of the critical verses of the Hoyadah.

The afternoon session closed with the announcement by the President that Gerard S. Sloyan was appointed to serve on the Credentials Committee. In the evening Louis F. Hartman, C.Ss.R. showed slides of some of the sites he had visited during his stay in the Near East.

Wednesday Sessions—August 31

A Requiem High Mass was sung at 9:00 by Msgr. John F. Whealon, Vice-President, for the deceased members of the association, with the assistance of a schola under the direction of James Solari, O.S.B. The first paper, *Pauline Allusions to Jesus' Teaching*, was delivered by David M. Stanley, S.J. Fr. Stanley specified that his paper concerned not literary parallels between Paul and the Synoptics, but rather doctrinal parallels. The principal part of his exposition treated of various Pauline texts in which there seems to be an allusion to the parables of Jesus. An extended discussion followed, in which various members expressed opinions regarding the observations of Fr. Stanley and added other suggestions along the same lines.

The second paper was given by Raymond E. Brown, S.S. on *Sections That Are Units in the Synoptics but Dispersed in St. John*. Fr. Brown treated of three Gospel episodes: the agony in the garden, the Caiphas trial, and the temptation of Jesus, noting that while these are not contained as such in the Fourth Gospel, John nevertheless includes allusions to them in other places. He pointed out the significance of these cases for the problem of the formation of the Synoptic and Johannine traditions, noting that while no single episode is probative, the mass of evidence has a cumulative effect. A lively discussion followed.

Roland E. Murphy, O.Carm. delivered the final paper, entitled *The Strength of God (g^ebûrâ) in the Qumrân Writings*. Analyzing the concept of the

g^ebûrôth Jahweh, the powerful deeds of God, Fr. Murphy showed how God's power is almost personified in Qumrân, a step later taken in the Rabbinic literature. He then treated of the verbal form *gbr* in the Qumrân literature, and compared the teaching of the sectaries to St. Paul's concept of the *dynamis Theou*, showing that there is no relationship of dependence, but that both drew upon a common Old Testament theme. A brief discussion followed.

The afternoon was devoted to a business meeting. In the absence of Msgr. John E. Steinmueller, the report of the board of trustees which he had prepared was read by George A. Denzer. Both this and the following report of the treasurer, Joseph E. Fallon, O.P., were promptly accepted by the members.

In his report as Executive Secretary, Louis F. Hartman, C.Ss.R. explained the nature of the extraordinary expenses which had been incurred in the past year. On behalf of the executive board, he proposed that the following grants be made: \$500.00 to Bernadin Schneider, O.F.M., director of the Japanese Bible translation project, for the education of two Franciscan clerics in Japanese literature, with a promise of an additional \$500.00 later; \$200.00 to Frank Moore Cross, Jr., and George Ernest Wright for the William F. Albright Fund, to provide an Albright fellowship in the Jerusalem school of the American Schools of Oriental Research; \$100.00 to Mother Kathryn Sullivan, R.S.C.J., in recognition of her work on the decennial index of the *CBQ*. These grants were unanimously approved.

In his report as editor of the *CBQ*, the Rev. Roland E. Murphy, O.Carm. announced that 2100 copies of the journal are now being printed, and that it is beginning to spread widely both territorially and denominationally. He asked the members to contribute articles and also to send in news items. Since 1963 will be the 25th anniversary of the *CBQ*, it is hoped that an extra size anniversary volume may be published, if the material for it is forthcoming.

The discussion then turned to the program for the next general meeting, which is being prepared by Roland E. Murphy, O.Carm., Edward F. Siegman, C.P.P.S., and George S. Glanzman, S.J. The committee hopes to have as many as thirty papers, some to be given in general sessions, others divided into Old and New Testament sections. An extended discussion followed, some members proposing that the division be made on a different basis or that the length of the meeting be extended.

In the absence of Mother Kathryn Sullivan, R.S.C.J., no report was forthcoming from the Visual Aids Committee; likewise absent was the Rev. Myles M. Bourke, chairman of the Confraternity New Testament editorial board. A written report on the Old Testament translation, prepared by Stephen J. Hartdegen, O.F.M., was read by Msgr. Patrick W. Skehan, together with some remarks of his own. In regard to Volume IV, which will contain the prophetic books, Fr. Hartdegen reported that minor improvements in the English rendering and corrections of the page proofs were still being made as late as the beginning of August. All page proofs have now been returned corrected to the publisher and the volume is in press. The date of publication,

however, cannot be predicted with certainty, though the publisher has given the volume priority over all other work.

Msgr. Skehan made public acknowledgement of the contribution of F. Bruce Vawter, C.M. to the volume on the prophets, and of the work of Louis F. Hartman, C.Ss.R. in preparing the textual notes. He then informed the members of the recent decision of the Episcopal Committee regarding Isaia 7,14, and of the memorandum sent to the Bishops by the Old Testament editorial board regarding a uniform Bible translation. An extended discussion of these matters followed, during which Edward F. Siegman, C.P.P.S. paid tribute to the efforts of Msgr. Skehan on behalf of the Old Testament translation.

The report of the Pamphlets Committee was presented by James A. Fischer, C.M., who revealed that only two pamphlets have been published so far, and that it has been very difficult to find a publisher who is willing to publicize the series. The President appointed Fr. Fischer and Gerard S. Sloyan to investigate this matter. An extended discussion followed on whether the Association should stress pamphlet writing or rather concentrate upon some other kind of work.

Neil J. McEleney, C.S.P., explained the nature and purpose of the *Pamphlet Bible Series* published by the Paulist Press. Kilian McDonnell, O.S.B., and Barnabas M. Ahern, C.P., spoke of the *New Testament Reading Guide* now being published by the Liturgical Press and of the future plans of the editorial committee for this project.

Peter F. Ellis, C.Ss.R., presented the following names which had been approved by the Committee on Credentials, and the association voted to accept them for membership: Rev. Fathers Anselm Amadio, O.S.B., Canon City, Colorado; Robert P. Barrett, S.M.A., Washington, D. C.; Robert Belanger, O.M.I., Natick, Mass.; Paul C. Berg, Detroit, Mich.; Matthias Burger, O.S.B., St. Benedict, Oregon; John M. Dougherty, S.S., Kenmore, Wash.; Sister Consuela Maria Ford, S.N.J.M.; Rev. Fathers Robert J. Fox, S.J., Chicago, Ill.; Edward P. Joyce, C.P.P.S., Carthage, Ohio; Sister Mary Jude, S.C.L., Xavier, Kansas; Rev. Fathers William J. King, Convent Station, N. J.; Joseph Lachowski, C.M., Erie, Penn.; Bernard A. Lazor, O.S.A., Washington, D. C.; Columban Lesquirit, O.S.B., Benet Lake, Wisc.; Oswald Loretz, Chicago, Ill.; William Lynch, C.M.; Daniel J. O'Hanlon, S.J., Los Gatos, Cal.; Gregory O'Kelly, S.J., Mundelein, Ill.; Sister M. Francis de Sales McGarry; Rev. Fathers James M. Reese, Hyattsville, Md.; Robert L. Russell, S.S., Baltimore, Md.; Ildefonso Simon, O.E.S.A., Kansas City, Kans.; Richard Sneed, O.S.B., Shawnee, Oklahoma; James Solari, O.S.B., Belmont, N. C.; Brother C. Stephen Sullivan, F.S.C., Riverdale, N. Y.; Rev. Fathers Earl A. Weis, S.J., West Baden, Ind.; John E. Wrigley, Philadelphia, Penn.; George Zahn, San Diego, Cal.; Albert A. Zabala, S.J., San Francisco, Cal.

The following officers, presented by the Rev. John J. Mahoney, O.P. of the nominating committee, were unanimously elected by the members: *Pres.*, Msgr. Robert H. Krumholz; *Vice-Pres.*, F. Bruce Vawter, C.M.; *Exec. Sec.*, Louis F. Hartman, C.Ss.R.; *Treas.*, Joseph E. Fallon, O.P.; *Editor-in-chief CBQ*,

Roland E. Murphy, O.Carm.; *Consultor* (1960-1962), Msgr. John F. Whealon; *Member of Committee on Nominations* (1960-1964), Walter H. Peters.

The report of the Bible Week Committee was presented by Joseph E. Fallon, O.P., who reported that permission has been received from His Excellency, Most Rev. Charles P. Greco to change the date for 1960 to the week of November 6-13. Fr. Fallon noted that the publishers with whom he has conferred wish to expand the Bible Week program, but that little will be prepared for this year. An extended discussion followed, during which some members expressed the opinion that the association should terminate its participation in Bible Week, as an outmoded institution, while others thought that it retains its value and should be continued. The matter was left to the discretion of the executive board and the committee.

By way of new business, Louis F. Hartman, C.Ss.R. announced that the place for the 1961 meeting has not yet been chosen, and asked the members to empower the executive board to decide upon a location. At the suggestion of John L. McKenzie, S.J., a resolution was unanimously adopted expressing the gratitude of the association to F. Bruce Vawter, C.M. and the Vincentian Fathers of St. Thomas Seminary for their generous hospitality.

On Thursday, September 1, a large group of the members enjoyed a bus trip through the magnificent Colorado scenery to Mt. Evans.

Those in attendance were as follows:

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| Abbott, Walter M., S.J. | Ford, Sister Consuela Maria, S.N.J.M. |
| Ahern, Barnabas M., C.P. | Fox, Robert J., S.J. |
| Arce, Francis Xavier G., S.J. | Geis, Norbert F., C.M. |
| Ballman, Everett A. | Glanzman, George S., S.J. |
| Barbieri, Amedeo L., P.I.M.E. | Grassi, Joseph A., M.M. |
| Barrosse, Thomas O., C.S.C. | Gripkey, Sister M.V., S.C.L. |
| Berg, Paul C. | Grispino, Joseph A., S.M. |
| Blatz, Peter M., O.M.I. | Hartman, Louis F., C.Ss.R. |
| Boucher, Robert G., C.Ss.R. | Henkey, Charles H. |
| Brown, Raymond E., S.S. | Hill, William F., S.S. |
| Brunet, Achille, S.J. | Hodous, Edward J., S.J. |
| Burger, Matthias, O.S.B. | Huesman, John E., S.J. |
| Collins, John J., S.J. | Huesman, William A., S.J. |
| Collins, Thomas Aquinas, O.P. | Hunt, Ignatius, O.S.B. |
| Crowley, Edward J., C.Ss.R. | Joyce, Edward P., C.P.P.S. |
| Culhane, Alberic, O.S.B. | Kennedy, Gerald T., O.M.I. |
| Dahood, Mitchell J., S.J. | King, Philip J. |
| Denzer, George A. | Kutchera, A. |
| DeVault, Joseph J., S.J. | Lane, Sister John Mary, S.N.J.M. |
| Dicharry, Warren F., C.M. | Leahy, Thomas W., S.J. |
| Dugré, Maurice A. | Legault, André, C.S.C. |
| Ellis, Peter F., C.Ss.R. | Sister M. Leontine, S.S.N.D. |
| Fallon, Joseph E., O.P. | Lovely, Edward M., S.J. |
| Fischer, James A., C.M. | Ludwig, James L. |
| Flanagan, Neil M., O.S.M. | Lussier, Joseph E., S.S.S. |

Mahoney, John J., O.P.
Maly, Eugene H.
Mattingly, John F., S.S.
Murphy, Roland E., O.Carm.
McAlee, Eugene, C.Ss.R.
McDonnell, Kilian, O.S.B.
McEleney, Neil J., C.S.P.
McGough, Columban, O.C.D.
McGrath, Brendan, O.S.B.
McKenzie, John L., S.J.
MacRae, George W., S.J.
O'Doherty, Eamonn
O'Hanlon, D. J., S.J.
O'Kelly, Gregory, S.J.
Orlett, Raymond
Peifer, Claude, O.S.B.
Peters, Walter H.
Petru, Francis A., S.J.
Philbin, Richard G., S.J.
Redle, Sister M. J., S.C.L.
Rimes, R., S.J.
Russell, Robert L., S.S.

Schoenberg, Martin W., O.S.C.
Seper, Francis H., M.S.C.
Siebeneck, Robert T., C.P.P.S.
Siegman, Edward F., C.P.P.S.
Skehan, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Patrick W.
Sloyan, Gerard S.
Sneed, Richard, O.S.B.
Solari, James, O.S.B.
Sorensen, Howard J., O.M.I.
Stanley, David M., S.J.
Stock, Augustine, O.S.B.
Strange, Marcian, O.S.B.
Stuhmueller, Carroll, C.P.
Tkacik, Arnold J., O.S.B.
Turner, Wayne
Turro, James C.
Vawter, F. Bruce, C.M.
Weis, Earl A., S.J.
Whealon, Rt. Rev. Msgr. John F.
Wood, Geoffrey F., S.A.
Zalotay, Joseph

CLAUDE J. PEIFER, O.S.B.
Recording Secretary