

**Report of the Forty-Fourth General Meeting  
of the Catholic Biblical Association of America**

The forty-fourth general meeting of The Catholic Biblical Association of America was held 22-25 August, 1981, at Seattle University, Seattle, Washington. The first general session opened at 8:00 P.M. on Saturday evening. Richard Ahler, S.J., welcomed the members of the association in the name of Seattle University and its president, William J. Sullivan, S.J. The Rev. Mitchell J. Dahood, S.J., then delivered the presidential address, "Eblaite and Biblical Hebrew."

*Sessions on Sunday, August 23*

Five task forces and five continuing seminars met simultaneously each day from 9:00 to 10:45 A.M. The task forces included "Early Pentateuchal Sources" (convener: Walter R. Wifall, Jr.; core group members in attendance: John Gammie; John Grindel, C.M.; Sean E. McEvenue; John J. Schmitt); "Hebrew Poetry" (convener: Conrad E. L'Heureux; core group members in attendance: Lawrence E. Boadt, C.S.P.; Michael B. Dick; Alexander A. Di Lella, O.F.M.; Aloysius Fitzgerald, F.S.C.; Harold Forshey; Joseph Jensen, O.S.B.; John S. Kselman, S.S.; Leo Laberge, O.M.I.; Thomas P. McCreesh, O.P.; Thomas Wahl, O.S.B.); "Luke-Acts" (convener: Robert F. O'Toole, S.J.; core group members in attendance: Thomas Brodie, O.P.; Dennis Hamm, S.J.; Dennis M. Sweetland); "New Testament Ethics: Method and Content" (convener: Robert J. Daly, S.J.; core group members in attendance: Richard J. Cassidy, Cassian Corcoran, O.F.M.; James A. Fischer, C.M.; Lawrence Frizzell; Terence J. Keegan, O.P.; Neil J. McEleney, C.S.P.; Stanley M. Polan; Frederick E. Schuele; Anthony Tambasco); "The Social Sciences and New Testament Exegesis" (convener: Bruce J. Malina; core group members in attendance: David Bossmann, O.F.M.; Thomas F. Johnson; Carl Kazmierski; Daniel J. Harrington, S.J.; Jerome H. Neyrey, S.J.; John J. Pilch; Joseph Plevnik, S.J.; James M. Reese, O.S.F.S.; Francis D. Weinert).

The continuing seminars and their respective leaders studied: "Mission in Matthew: Perspectives from Matthew 10" (Karen A. Barta); "The Bilingual Vocabularies from Ebla and Hebrew Lexicography" (Mitchell J. Dahood, S.J.); "Prophets and Liberation" (Leslie J. Hoppe); "New Testament Christology: Part I, The Kingdom of God and the Gospel Tradition" (Francis Martin); "Teaching Scripture as Pastoral Ministry" (Paul P. Zilonka).

The morning concluded with two papers presented in simultaneous sessions: Adela Yarbro Collins, "The Book of Revelation: Symbol and Reality"; and John F. Craghan, C.Ss.R., "Esther, Judith, and Ruth: Paradigms for Human Liberation."

The Most Reverend Richard J. Sklba, Auxiliary Bishop of Milwaukee, was principal celebrant and homilist for the eucharistic liturgy at midday.

Four sessions of research reports during the afternoon heard the following

papers delivered: Lawrence E. Boadt, C.S.P., "The Psalms Translation Project of ICEL"; Michael B. Dick, "The Prophetic Idol Parodies: A Self-consuming Artifact"; Rita J. Burns, "Miriam's Dance (Exod 15:20)"; Hugh M. Humphrey, "The Unity of Mark 8:22-10:52"; William T. Miller, Jr., "Early Jewish and Christian Hermeneutic of Gen 18:1-16 and 32:23-33"; Pauline A. Viviano, "A Literary Study of 2 Kgs 17:7-41"; Paul G. Mosca, "The Literary Structure of Isaiah 40"; Mitchell J. Dahood, S.J., "Who is He? A Study of the Divine He in the Ebla Tablets and the Bible"; Jerome H. Neyrey, S.J., "The Thematic Use of Isa 42:1-4 in Matthew 12"; Thomas Brodie, O.P., "The Transformation of the Women: Luke 7:36-50 as a Literary Adaptation of 2 Kgs 4:1-37"; Conrad E. L'Heureux, "Report on the Syria Survey Project, 1981"; Dorothy Irvin, "Stories Missing from the Old Testament"; John J. Schmitt, "On the Origins of the Zion Tradition"; George E. Mendenhall, "The Implications of the Syllabic Inscriptions from Byblos for Biblical Studies"; Terence J. Keegan, O.P., "Introductory Formulae for Matthean Discourses"; Philip J. King, "Report on Recent Archaeological Excavations in the Near East"; Anthony Ceresko, O.S.F.S., "The Function of Ambiguity in Hebrew Poetry: *ms*<sup>2</sup>, 'to find, reach, overtake'"; Robert A. Oden, Jr., "Jacob and Genealogy"; John R. Donahue, S.J., "Critical Reflections on Rudolf Pesch's *Das Markusevangelium*"; Earl Richard, "The Sabbath: A Lucan Perspective."

The evening general session featured a paper by William G. Thompson, S.J., "The Bible and Faith Development."

#### *Sessions on Monday, August 24*

The task forces and continuing seminars resumed their work during the first part of the morning. Two simultaneous sessions then heard presentations by Sandra M. Schneiders, I.H.M., on "The Paschal Imagination: Subjectivity and Objectivity in New Testament Interpretation," and by Robert North, S.J., on "Social Dynamics from Saul to Jehu."

Philip J. King served as main celebrant and homilist for the eucharistic liturgy at midday.

The general session in the afternoon listened to a panel discussion on "The Import of Full-Scale New Testament Commentaries for Catholic Thought." The panelists were Raymond E. Brown, S.S.; Joseph A. Fitzmyer, S.J.; and John P. Meier.

CBA president Mitchell J. Dahood, S.J., called the annual business meeting to order at 4:00 P.M. In the absence of Msgr. Myles M. Bourke, the chairman of the Board of Trustees, Aloysius Fitzgerald, F.S.C., gave the chairman's report as well as the treasurer's report. Joseph Jensen, O.S.B. followed with his report as Executive Secretary. After thanking Seattle University and the local arrangements committee for their valuable help and warm hospitality, he announced the following grants voted by the Executive Board: (a) stipend and travel money for Neil J. McEleney, C.S.P., CBA visiting professor to the Biblical Institute in Rome for the 1981-82 academic year. Jensen reminded the members that the stipend consists of \$1,500 and round-trip air fare, room and board being supplied by the Institute; he pointed out that applications for this professorship and that at the Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem are accepted

until 15 January, and urged those interested to apply. (b) A grant of \$10,000 to the Syrian Consortium for Survey and Excavation contingent on a positive evaluation by the CBA archeology evaluation committee of the ASOR proposal. James Flanagan will fill the spot on this committee vacated by Patrick Skehan's death. (See further below.) (c) \$1,000 to the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum translation project. (d) \$2,500 for the *Elenchus bibliographicus biblicus*. This grant marks the first year of a three-year commitment. And (e) a tithe of membership dues (\$1,511) for famine relief. The executive board also established a continuing policy to provide an honorarium of \$200 to each of the major speakers (simultaneous and general sessions) at general meetings. Jensen reported that the refurbishing of the CBA executive offices and the computerization of mailing lists was largely complete and had already resulted in simplification of record-keeping and increased efficiency. He announced that the next annual meeting will be held at Siena College, Loudonville, New York. Consultation with the membership evidenced a desire to return to the practice of meeting from Monday to Thursday: the dates of next year's meeting will therefore be Monday, 23 August, to Thursday, 26 August.

Joseph A. Fitzmyer, S.J., spoke as general editor of the *CBQ*. Up to 18 August 1981, ninety manuscripts had been submitted; of those, eight are published in 1981, eleven will be published in 1982, forty were rejected, and thirty-one are still under consideration. Fitzmyer asked for a vote on the proposed change in By-Law 16 presented to the membership in the Executive Secretary's letter of July 9, 1981. The change was approved, and By-Law 16 now reads: "At the annual meeting at least five Associate Editors shall be elected for a term of four years. Associate Editors may not serve more than two consecutive terms."

Bruce Vawter, C.M., reported as chairman of the CBQMS editorial board and as editor of *OTA*. Three new monographs have appeared this year, two are in preparation, three are under consideration, and four were rejected in the past year. *OTA* continues to receive favorable notice.

Alexander A. Di Lella, O.F.M., in the name of the committee on credentials, recommended the following candidates for membership in the CBA:

*For Active Membership:*

Christopher Begg, Claudia V. Camp, Toni Craven, Robert Doran, Richard A. Edwards, Robert M. Fowler, Olivette Genest, Jerry Allen Gladson, Robert Gnuse, Arland Dean Jacobson, Alfred Marion Johnson, Jr., Francis Kenro Kumaki, Thomas Robert Lee, Thomas P. McCreesh, O.P., Frank J. Matera, Carol Meyers, Robert A. Oden, Jr., Susan Marie Praeder, Patrick Rogers, C.P., John James Scullion, S.J., Stanislav Segert, Gary V. Smith, Thomas Harvey Trapp, Pauline Viviano.

*For Associate Membership:*

Earl Boyea, Patrick Brennan, Gordon Paul Brubacher, Daphne L. Burt, Elaine Classen, S.S.M.O., Victor Cohea, Manuel A. Cruz, Leonard Doohan, Robert L. Hayden, Paula Margaret Hiebert, James C. Howell, Judette M. Kolasny, Robert D. LaBarbera, Luther Washburn Martin, George S. Matejka, Florence A. Morgan, Elizabeth Marie Nagel, Kathleen M. O'Connor, O.P., Francis W. Sacks, Marianne

Sawicki, Richard J. Schneck, S.J., Joseph Sievers, Harry Knox Townsend, James R. Zeigler.

These candidates were accepted by voice vote.

Bruce J. Malina reported for the committee on nominations. The following slate of candidates was recommended: *President*: Philip J. King; *Vice-President*: Richard J. Sklba; *Executive Secretary*: Joseph Jensen, O.S.B.; *Treasurer*: Aloysius Fitzgerald, F.S.C.; *Consultors, 1981-83*: Maurya P. Horgan and Leslie J. Hoppe, O.F.M.; *Committee on Nominations, 1981-85*: Rita J. Burns; *Program Committee*: John Grindel, C.M.; *Associate Editors of CBQ, 1982-85*: (for OT) Robert M. Polzin, Leo Laberge, O.M.I.; (for NT) Paul J. Achtemeier, Benedict T. Viviano, O.P. The membership elected the slate by unanimous voice vote.

Philip J. King reported on the ASOR Syrian Survey. John Lundquist of Brigham Young University has been named director of the project. Political unrest in Syria had interrupted the project in 1980, but this year analysis of materials gathered on the survey began again in Syria. Conrad E. L'Heureux is readying a computerized bibliography on Syrian archaeology for publication. Next summer's season should see the completion of the surface survey and the beginning of excavation at Tell Qarqur.

Lawrence E. Boadt, C.S.P., spoke for the program committee. He emphasized the need for new task forces, since most of those currently convened are terminating this year. He reminded the membership of the function of continuing seminars as a means of testing the interest in a particular topic and thus as the normal starting point in the process of establishing a task force. In view of the low number of research reports volunteered again this year, he urged the members to continue their efforts to share the results of their scholarship.

On behalf of the committee on resolutions, Brendan McGrath, O.S.B., proposed resolutions to thank the Rev. William J. Sullivan, S.J., the Seattle University staff, and the committee on local arrangements for the hospitality extended to the association; to commend and thank the program committee, the speakers, and all who have otherwise contributed to the success of the meeting; and to express to the Most Reverend Raymond G. Hunthausen, Archbishop of Seattle, the association's prayers for a speedy recuperation. These resolutions were accepted unanimously. A further resolution was offered: "Whereas the Bible is God's living Word guiding us to live faithfully and morally in our world today, and whereas the nuclear arms race is a moral issue of the greatest magnitude specifically condemned by the 1976 Vatican statement to the United Nations ('The armament race is to be condemned unreservedly . . . whether or not the time seems right, Christians, following the Vicar of Christ, must denounce Humanity's scientific preparations for its own demise'), and whereas the biblical tradition emphasizes that our trust must be placed in God rather than in armaments, we members of the Catholic Biblical Association commend Archbishop Raymond G. Hunthausen for his courageous witness to the urgent need for nuclear disarmament and for creative, constructive efforts to foster peace." This resolution was accepted with no nays and three abstentions.

The business meeting was adjourned at 5:40 P.M.

The evening general session heard Joseph A. Fitzmyer, S.J., deliver the paper, "Glory Reflected on the Face of Christ (2 Cor 3:7-4:6) and a Palestinian Jewish Motif."

*Sessions on Tuesday, August 25*

The task forces and continuing seminars met in the first part of the morning. Two simultaneous sessions followed: Bruce J. Malina, "The Social Sciences and Biblical Interpretation: Getting at the Implicit Meanings in Our Explicit Texts"; and Bernard F. Batto, "Exodus, Myth and Theology."

Jerome T. Walsh was principal celebrant and homilist for the eucharistic liturgy at midday.

The following CBA members and invited guests were in attendance at the meeting:

Barré, Michael L.	Fitzgerald, Aloysius, F.S.C.
Barta, Karen A.	Fitzmyer, Joseph A., S.J.
Batto, Bernard F.	Fleddermann, Harry
Benjamin, Harry S.	Fleddermann, Margaret
Bernas, Casimir, O.C.S.O.	Forshey, Harold O.
Boadt, Lawrence E., C.S.P.	Frizzell, Lawrence
Bossman, David, O.F.M.	Gammie, John G.
Bowes, Paula J.	Glazier, Michael
Boyea, Earl	Gordon, Vic
Boys, Mary C., S.N.J.M.	Grindel, John A., C.M.
Branick, Vincent	Hamm, Dennis, S.J.
Brennan, Patrick	Harrington, Daniel J., S.J.
Brodie, Thomas Louis, O.P.	Heemrood, Johannes A., O.M.I.
Brown, Raymond E., S.S.	Hensell, Eugene, O.S.B.
Bucher, Otto, O.F.M. Cap.	Hirni, Robert
Buckley, Thomas	Hoffman, Thomas A., S.J.
Burns, Rita J.	Hoppe, Leslie, O.F.M.
Bushinski, Leonard A., C.S.Sp.	Horgan, Maurya P.
Cassidy, Richard J.	Humphrey, Hugh M.
Ceresko, Anthony R., O.S.F.S.	Hutchinson, Anthony A.
Chirico, Peter, S.S.	Hutchinson, Elena
Classen, Elaine, S.S.M.O.	Irvin, Dorothy
Clifford, Richard J., S.J.	Jensen, Joseph, O.S.B.
Collins, Adela Y.	Johnson, Thomas F.
Collins, John J.	Kazmierski, Carl
Corcoran, Cassian, O.F.M.	Keegan, Terence J., O.P.
Cordano, Virgil, O.F.M.	King, Philip J.
Coughlin, Thomas G.	Kobelski, Paul J.
Craghan, John F., C.S.S.R.	Kselman, John S., S.S.
Dahood, Mitchell, S.J.	Laberge, Leo, O.M.I.
Daly, Robert J., S.J.	Lazor, Bernard, O.S.A.
Dawes, Dorothy, O.P.	Leahy, Thomas W., S.J.
Dick, Michael B.	L'Heureux, Conrad E.
Dietlein, Damian, O.S.B.	Louis, Conrad, O.S.B.
Di Lella, Alexander A., O.F.M.	Lyle, M. Wilma
Donahue, John R., S.J.	McCreesh, Thomas P., O.P.
Fischer, James A., C.M.	McEleney, Neil J., C.S.P.

McEvenue, Sean E.  
McGrath, Brendan, O.S.B.  
McHatten, Mary Timothy, O.P.  
McIlraith, Donald  
McKenzie, John L.  
Malina, Bruce J.  
Mallon, Elias, S.A.  
Malone, Richard  
Martin, Francis  
Martinez, Ernest R., S.J.  
Meier, John P.  
Mendenhall, Eathel L.  
Mendenhall, George E.  
Michel, Walter L.  
Miller, William T.  
Moriarty, Frederick L., S.J.  
Moriarty, Robert K., S.M.  
Mosca, Paul  
Muller, Earl C., S.J.  
Nagel, Elizabeth  
Nardoni, Enrique  
Neyrey, Jerome H., S.J.  
Nolan, Brian  
North, Robert, S.J.  
Oden, Robert A., Jr.  
O'Toole, Robert F., S.J.  
Peifer, Claude, O.S.B.  
Perlewitz, Miriam, M.M.  
Peters, Edward, C.S.P.  
Petru, Francis A., S.J.  
Pilch, John J.  
Piletic, William  
Plevnik, Joseph, S.J.  
Polan, Stanley M.  
Reese, James M., O.S.F.S.

Reid, David P., SS.CC.  
Reimherr, Otto  
Richard, Earl  
Rogers, Patrick V., C.P.  
Sawicki, Marianne  
Schmitt, John J.  
Schneiders, Sandra, I.H.M.  
Schuele, Frederick E.  
Sheridan, J. Mark, O.S.B.  
Sklba, Richard J.  
Smith, David W.  
Sowada, John  
Steiner, Luke, O.S.B.  
Steinhauser, Michael  
Stockhausen, Carol  
Stockhausen, Peter  
Suter, David  
Sweetland, Dennis M.  
Tambasco, Anthony, S.M.M.  
Thompson, William G., S.J.  
Turner, Wayne, A.  
Vawter, Bruce, C.M.  
Viviano, Benedict, O.P.  
Viviano, Pauline  
Wahl, Thomas Peter  
Walsh, Jerome T.  
Walsh, Michael, C.M.  
Wang, Peter  
Weinert, Frank  
Welch, John J., S.J.  
Wifall, Walter R., Jr.  
Wild, Robert A., S.J.  
Wimmer, Joseph F., O.S.A.  
Zilonka, Paul, C.P.

JEROME T. WALSH  
*St. John's Provincial Seminary*  
*Plymouth, Michigan*  
*Recording Secretary*