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Found in Translation: Essays on Biblical Jewish Translation in Honor of Leonard J. Greenspoon

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“In *Found in Translation*, prominent scholars offer timely and instructive discussions of two related and endlessly fascinating subjects—the variant texts of the Bible and the perennial challenges of translating it. The charming interview with the honoree, Professor Leonard Greenspoon, offers valuable insights of its own into the profession of biblical scholarship today and the reasons that these subjects remain important and fruitful.”

–Jon D. Levenson, Albert A. List Professor of Jewish Studies
at Harvard University

“This remarkable volume is no ordinary *Festschrift*. It shines brightly through the immediate, profound, and multidimensional impact Leonard Greenspoon has had on many in both the academy and in the public sphere. The contributions in the book, written by preeminent scholars as they engage with technical, religious, and broader cultural issues, are fresh and make for riveting reading. Surely I will not be alone in being unable to put the book down until reaching the last page!”

–Loren T. Stuckenbruck, Faculty of Protestant Theology
at Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich

“The wonderful essays by the leading scholars of biblical translation collected in *Found in Translation* honor Leonard Greenspoon by illustrating the problems and importance of translation. Most of us think of the translation of the Bible as only a diminishment of the original; the chapters of this book illustrate just the opposite—how significant and complex translation is, and how crucial it has been for keeping the Bible alive and vibrant.”

–Marc Brettler, Dora Golding Professor of Biblical Literature Emeritus
at Brandeis University and Elaine and Morton Lerner
Professor of Jewish Studies at Duke University

“Translation is crucial to understanding the Bible itself, and to assessing how the Bible has been understood. Leonard Greenspoon’s career has exemplified both cutting edges of this sharp linguistic sword. *Found in Translation* honors his work by explaining and appropriating his insights. At the same time, the volume extends analysis to illuminate the production of ancient texts in Hebrew and Greek, to assess modern attempts to render Scripture, and to fathom how the translation of ancient texts factors into

the construction of contemporary culture. Some of the articles are highly detailed and some expository; the volume as a whole is a contribution to learning that honors the act of learning.”

–Bruce Chilton, Bernard Iddings Bell
Professor of Religion at Bard College

“An impressive collection of essays by leading scholars, centering on Leonard Greenspoon’s interest in ancient (especially Greek) and modern (primarily Jewish) translations of the Bible. A delightful interview with the honoree reflects his personal background, wide-ranging interests, and exuberant personality. Scholars working on the textual history of the Hebrew Bible, translation theory, and modern Jewish views of the Bible will find much of value.”

–Frederick E. Greenspahn, Gimmelstob Eminent Scholar
of Judaic Studies at Florida Atlantic University

Found in Translation

**Found in Translation:
Essays on Jewish Biblical
Translation in Honor of
Leonard J. Greenspoon**

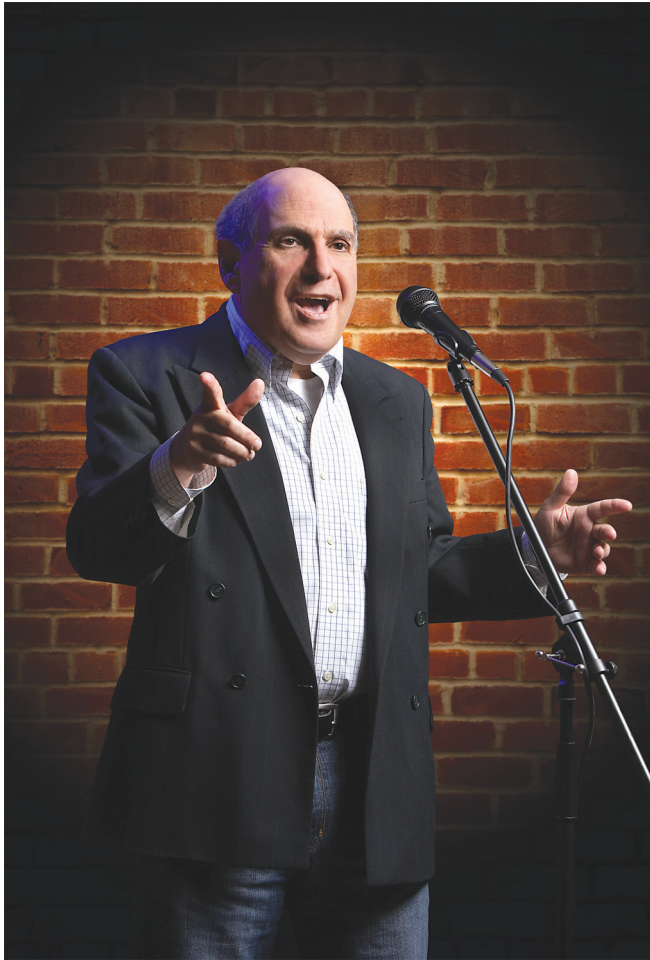
Edited by

*James W. Barker,
Anthony Le Donne,
and
Joel N. Lohr*

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Leonard J. Greenspoon
Courtesy of Michael Kleveter, Michael K. Photography.

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As expected, we dedicate this book to Leonard Greenspoon. We have learned a great deal from you, Leonard, as scholars, teachers, appreciators of humor, and human beings. Your regular conversations and correspondence with us have enriched our lives. We hope this volume rightly honors you as the kind, humorous, and erudite person you are.

James W. Barker
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Abbreviations

AB	Anchor Bible (Commentary Series)
ABD	David N. Freedman, ed., <i>The Anchor Bible Dictionary</i> (6 vols.; New York: Doubleday, 1992)
AJSL	<i>The American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures</i>
ANE	Ancient Near East(ern)
AOS	American Oriental Series
ATANT	Abhandlungen zur Theologie des Alten und Neuen Testaments
A[Y]B	Anchor [Yale] Bible (Commentary Series)
BA	<i>Biblical Archaeologist</i>
BCE	Before the Common Era
BDB	F. Brown, S. R. Driver, and C. A. Briggs, <i>A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> (Oxford: Clarendon, 1907)
BETL	Bibliotheca ephemeridum theologiarum lovaniensium
BHK	<i>Biblia Hebraica</i> , ed. R. Kittel
BHQ	Biblia Hebraica Quinta
<i>Bib</i>	<i>Biblica</i>
BibInt	Biblical Interpretation Series
BIOSCS	Bulletin of the International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies
BJRL	<i>Bulletin of the John Rylands Library Manchester</i>
BJS	Brown Judaic Studies
<i>BRev</i>	<i>Bible Review</i>
BSNA	Biblical Scholarship in North America
BWANT	Beiträge zur Wissenschaft vom Alten und Neuen Testament
BZAW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft
CBET	Contributions to Biblical Exegesis and Theology
<i>CBR</i>	<i>Currents in Biblical Research</i>

<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CE	Common Era
CEB	Common English Bible
CEV	Contemporary English Version
<i>ClQ</i>	<i>Classical Quarterly</i>
<i>CurBR</i>	<i>Currents in Biblical Research (formerly Currents in Research: Biblical Studies)</i>
<i>CurBS</i>	<i>Currents in Research: Biblical Studies</i>
DJD	Discoveries in the Judaean Desert
<i>DSD</i>	<i>Dead Sea Discoveries</i>
EBib	Études bibliques
ECL	Early Christianity and Its Literature
<i>ErIsr</i>	<i>Eretz-Israel</i>
FAT	Forschungen zum Alten Testament
FOTL	Forms of the Old Testament Literature
FRLANT	Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testaments
GCS	Die griechischen christlichen Schriftsteller der ersten Jahrhunderte
GNB	Good News Bible
GNV	Geneva Bible, 1599 Edition
<i>HALOT</i>	L. Koehler, W. Baumgartner, and J. J. Stamm, eds., <i>The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> , ed. and trans. under the supervision of M. E. J. Richardson (4 vols.; Leiden: Brill, 1994-1999)
<i>HR</i>	<i>History of Religions</i>
<i>HS</i>	<i>Hebrew Studies</i>
HSM	Harvard Semitic Monographs
<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
<i>HUB</i>	<i>The Hebrew University Bible</i>
<i>HUCA</i>	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
ICC	International Critical Commentary
<i>IEJ</i>	<i>Israel Exploration Journal</i>
IOSCS	<i>International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies</i>
<i>JAJSup</i>	<i>Journal of Ancient Judaism Supplemental Series</i>
<i>JAOS</i>	<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>

<i>JDS</i>	<i>Judean Desert Studies</i>
<i>JESOT</i>	<i>Journal for the Evangelical Study of the Old Testament</i>
<i>JHebS</i>	<i>Journal of Hebrew Scriptures</i>
JPS	Jewish Publication Society
<i>JQR</i>	<i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i>
<i>JSCS</i>	<i>Journal of Septuagint and Cognate Studies</i>
<i>JSJ</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic and Roman Period</i>
JSJSup	Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic and Roman Period Supplement Series
<i>JSOT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
JSOTSup	Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series
<i>JSS</i>	<i>Journal of Semitic Studies</i>
KJV	King James Version
LEC	Library of Early Christianity
LEH	Lust, Johan, Erik Eynikel, and Katrin Hauspie, eds. <i>Greek-English Lexicon of the Septuagint</i> . Rev. ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 2003
LHBOTS	Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies
LNTS	The Library of New Testament Studies
LSJ	Liddell, Scott, Jones, <i>Greek-English Lexicon</i>
LSTS	The Library of Second Temple Studies
MBE	Monumenta Biblica et Ecclesiastica
MS(S)	Manuscript(s)
MT	Masoretic Text
NABR	New American Bible, Revised Edition
NASB	New American Standard Bible
<i>NBf</i>	<i>New Blackfrairs</i>
<i>NedTT</i>	<i>Nederlands Theologisch Tijdschrift</i>
NETS	Albert Pietersma and Benjamin G. Wright, eds., <i>A New English Translation of the Septuagint and the Other Greek Translations Traditionally Included under That Title</i> (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007)
NICOT	New International Commentary on the Old Testament
NIV	New International Version
NJPS	<i>Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures: The New JPS Translation according to the Traditional Hebrew Text</i>

NLT	New Living Translation
<i>NovT</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
NovTSup	Novum Testamentum Supplements
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
OBO	Orbis biblicus et orientalis
OG	Old Greek
OTL	Old Testament Library
<i>PG</i>	J. Migne, ed., <i>Patrologia graeca</i>
<i>Proof</i>	<i>Prooftexts: A Journal of Jewish Literary History</i>
PTA	Papyrologische Texte und Abhandlungen
<i>RB</i>	<i>Revue biblique</i>
RCL	Revised Common Lectionary
RSV	Revised Standard Version
SBLSCS	Society of Biblical Literature Septuagint and Cognate Studies
SBLWAW	Society of Biblical Literature Writings from the Ancient World Series
SCS	Septuagint and Cognate Studies
SemeiaSt	Semeia Studies
SJC	Studies in Jewish Civilization
STDJ	Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah
SWBA	Social World of Biblical Antiquity
<i>Text</i>	<i>Textus</i>
<i>TLNT</i>	Ceslas Spicq, ed.; James D. Ernest, trans., <i>Theological Lexicon of the New Testament</i> (3 vols.; Peabody, MA: Hendricksen, 1995)
TSAJ	Texte und Studien zum antiken Judentum
<i>TSK</i>	<i>Theologische Studien und Kritiken</i>
<i>TZ</i>	<i>Theologische Zeitschrift</i>
VTGSup	Vetus Testamentum Graecum Supplementum
VTSup	Vetus Testamentum Supplements
WUNT	Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament
YJS	Yale Judaica Series
<i>ZAW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>

Foreword

Jonathan Rosenbaum

Leonard J. Greenspoon personifies the ideals of the academy and of society. As a scholar, teacher, mentor, and community leader, his career and personal deeds are worthy of a *Festschrift* and, even more, of study and emulation by future scholars who seek to reap success.

I first met Leonard in 1972 when we were both graduate students at Harvard studying Hebrew Bible and the ancient Near East. In a cohort that included a number of classmates who would go on to particularly distinguished careers (e.g., Jon D. Levenson, P. Kyle McCarter, James C. Vanderkam, Richard E. Friedman, Baruch Halpern, Robert A. Oden, and Eugene Ulrich, to name a few), Leonard held a prominent place. His encompassing control of Classical languages and his deep knowledge of the Septuagint and the intricacies of Koine Greek earned him the respect of both faculty and classmates.

The faculty consisted of eminent biblical scholars, Assyriologists, linguists, and archaeologists of the ancient Near East. For us, as for most of our fellow students, central among them was the person who would become our *Doktorvater*, Frank Moore Cross. Cross's meticulous scholarship has had a wide-ranging impact on biblical studies and Northwest Semitic epigraphy and paleography. It continues to be frequently cited and to advance research through the work of the roughly one hundred scholars whose dissertations Professor Cross supervised. Leonard's exacting research in the various versions of the Septuagint complemented Cross's own seminal contributions to text criticism. Yet Leonard's qualities—like Cross's—extended beyond academic rigor. He possessed a wit and warmth that would make him a cherished colleague, teacher, and companion.

A *Festschrift* represents a crowning accolade for a scholar, reflecting that person's impact on his/her field and on colleagues and their own research. It builds on the honoree's lifetime of work. It

should also incorporate and acknowledge the honoree's particular contribution to scholarship.

This volume exemplifies that ideal. It begins with an unconventional but ingenious introduction. Joel N. Lohr, one of its three editors, draws out Leonard's scholarly achievements, pedagogic philosophy, and personal background with an interview framed by a series of strategic questions. Through this structure, Leonard's prolific scholarly output and his influential contributions to translating both the texts and the fruits of scholarship into language and concepts accessible to the popular reader come into focus.

The volume itself features articles by eminent scholars in two sections that mirror Leonard's sizable contributions: 1) ancient Hebrew Scriptures and Greek translations and 2) Jewish and Christian scriptures in modern translation. The first section opens with a terminological analysis by Emanuel Tov that refines text criticism. Justly regarded by many as the dean of text critical scholars, Tov, like Leonard, was a student of Frank Moore Cross. Michaël van der Meer follows with an examination of the Greek translation of the Book of Joshua by the second-century scholar Symmachus. Leonard's dissertation, later published, was a text critical analysis of the Book of Joshua. Studies of individual biblical passages that have perplexed scholars follow: Kristin De Troyer provides new understandings of King David's war against the Ammonites and of their central city, Rabbah; Eugene Ulrich utilizes Isaiah 40 to compare the Old Greek, the Masoretic Text, and pertinent material from the Dead Sea Scrolls (1QIsa^a) to uncover the methods of translation used in the Septuagint generally; and James W. Barker vindicates a pivotal position, first proposed by Dominique Barthélemy, regarding the Greek Minor Prophets Scroll from Naḥal Ḥever (8ḤevXIIgr), which Barthélemy designated *Kaige* and the *Quinta*, the "fifth" translation occasionally preserved in the Hexapla, Origen's third-century critical edition comparing the Hebrew Bible and Greek translations. Each of these studies acknowledges inspiration from Leonard's own research.

The detailed text criticism with which Leonard began his scholarly research led him to look more broadly at the function and goals of translations in modernity. The second section of this *Festschrift* mirrors this defining feature of Leonard's work. Ronald Hendel begins with a wide-ranging analysis of various roles of the Exodus in

American culture from the Pilgrims' view of their journey as a new Exodus to its role in African-American slavery and later civil rights to its place in recent popular culture as seen through Hollywood's lenses. Edward L. Greenstein provides a penetrating description of the challenges of translation exemplified by the Hebrew Bible's most linguistically challenging book, Job. Adele Berlin regards the Book of Proverbs as an instructional manual for upper-class adolescent males and contributes a deep analysis of the book's most famous verse, the opening to "A Woman of Valor" (Prov. 31:10). Basing his conclusion on biblical sources, Zev Garber follows with a careful proposal to utilize the term Shoah rather than Holocaust to describe the unique, cataclysmic destruction of European Jewry by the Nazis. Alan T. Levenson employs the German biblical translation of Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch (1808–1888) to note the effect that translation can have on education. Building on Leonard's essay, "Translating Jesus and the Jews," Anthony Le Donne confronts the ethnographic (and often anti-Jewish) context of the Greek term *hoi Ioudaioi*, which is especially apparent in the Gospel of John, and proposes a new means of understanding that term.

In an apt conclusion to the volume, Amy-Jill Levine analyzes the breadth of Leonard's approach to translation ranging from Hebrew to Greek, Jew to Christian, and ancient text to popular culture. She then applies these points to perhaps the thorniest issue in post-Shoah New Testament translation, the embedded charge of deicide. She addresses this difficult topic with an unflinching eye and reaches a conclusion about Christian anti-Semitism that is both realistic and rigorous. But she does not end there. She notes that for all Leonard's penetrating analysis of "harmful texts," his approach remains replete with "playfulness and joy."

Professor Levine's final point homes in on the essence of Leonard's multifaceted contributions to both scholarship and society. In the contemporary academy, scholars are typically rewarded for advancing the frontiers of their disciplines through critical, substantive, original research. However, the greatest of scholars do more. They are avid teachers and mentors.

This *Festschrift* differs from the norm in that its editors were not students of the honoree. Leonard influenced them all through his publications and as a mentor. When they needed advice that could

advance their own research and careers, he was there. This says a great deal, I think, about Leonard's influence but also his ability to make deep connections, especially with those who might have otherwise been strangers.

Beyond his commitment to colleagues, Leonard's long and distinguished teaching career has shaped an untold number of undergraduate and graduate students. His lasting impact on many may owe a debt to the pedagogic method of Frank Moore Cross. From their first class meeting, Professor Cross treated his graduate students as colleagues. He thus emboldened them to strive to earn the accolade he had so charitably bestowed. Leonard has done much the same thing, not only for his students, but for thousands of others, whom he will never know by name: those who read his popular but learned articles. In writings like his ongoing series, "Bible in the News," published in *Biblical Archaeology Review*, he addresses his readers as partners in scholarly investigation.

Leonard's commitment to the larger society goes further still. A little more than twenty years ago, he called me with a question about Omaha. After twenty years of distinguished teaching and research at Clemson University, he had been offered the Philip M. and Ethel Klutznick Chair in Jewish Civilization at Creighton University in Omaha. Since I had been privileged to spend a decade on the faculty of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, he felt I could provide him with information about the community. Omaha is an academic, cultural, commercial, and social jewel, and Leonard and his beloved Ellie quickly decided to bring their family to Nebraska. Since then, Leonard has contributed mightily to an already vibrant community. A Jewish scholar teaching at a Jesuit university, his empathy, humor, and learning have allowed him to take a central role in both the Christian and Jewish communities. His prolific popular publications can regularly be found in the Omaha *Jewish Press*. Under his guidance, the Klutznick Symposium on Jewish civilization annually brings Judaic scholars to Creighton to present learned but lucid papers under a unifying theme in a forum that is open to all. Together with colleagues, Leonard has then edited those papers and produced numerous scholarly volumes.

Leonard has thus developed an academic exemplar worthy of emulation, that of public scholar. His research has documented

the complexity and import of translation from ancient to contemporary times. He has applied its conclusions to achieve a broader goal: translating the products of culturally vital, yet highly complex scholarship into a format accessible to members of the public who lack the specialist's training. The program at Harvard from which Leonard received his Ph.D. required doctoral students to pass non-credit exams in French, German, Latin, and Greek in addition to the Semitic languages that were the primary foci of their training. Conveying the essence of groundbreaking discoveries in so technical a field facilitates society's awareness of the value of original research. The historic power of the humanities to preserve and understand humankind's cultures represents a path to the future of civilization that has never been more crucial. As a translator *par excellence*, a renowned scholar simultaneously dedicated to sharing scholarship's treasures with the public, Leonard J. Greenspoon has earned the admiration of his colleagues and the gratitude of society.

