

## Canadian Friends of the École Biblique Les amis canadiens de l'École Biblique

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November 2024

Dear friends of the CFEB,

Warm greetings to you from the Canadian Friends of the École Biblique! We are pleased to offer you the Fall 2024 newsletter of the Canadian Friends.

The Fall issue of *Les Nouvelles de Jérusalem* will be published online by the École Biblique at the beginning of December, 2024. If you need assistance to find the link please contact the CFEB Administrator, Tim Hegedus, at [cfeb.aceb@gmail.com](mailto:cfeb.aceb@gmail.com).

### News from the École Biblique

#### KICKING OFF THE ACADEMIC YEAR - 3 October 2024

At the beginning of this year, many students and researchers travelled to Jerusalem to study at the École. Coming from all around the world, their diversity testifies to the wide variety of backgrounds, cultures, statuses, origins and aspirations of those who have come to study at the school.

However, this year, for the second time running, the new academic year begins in wartime. So it was a particularly motivated and close-knit team that gathered at the Couvent Saint-Étienne for this first phase of exploring the École's resources and developing the academic projects that characterize the back-to-school session.

At a time when the outside world is marked by violence and uncertainty, the library is once again a safe and welcoming refuge for passionate researchers. Thanks to the tireless work of the École's cataloguers and librarians, they will be able to take advantage of the 5,000 new books that have been added to the 460,000 volumes already on our shelves.

Keeping the logistics of a great house like the École Biblique afloat is no mean feat in times of instability, but it is in a renewed team spirit that brothers, sisters, researchers and volunteers come together again today around a common goal.

Launched under the patronage of Saint Jérôme, the École's back-to-school seminar saw the school go from darkness to light. From the bombardments of the night to topographical outings the next day, it was the fraternity, the rigour, the perseverance and the enthusiasm that undoubtedly remain in the memories of the new arrivals. Through the acquisition of new disciplines, sciences and techniques, everyone strives to bring their project to fruition, in dialogue with the other members of the academic community.

So, circumstances notwithstanding, the École community is determined to pursue the mission entrusted to it: to contemplate and pass on what they have contemplated. As one young researcher said on the evening of his arrival, "It's a grace to come and study here."



The new researchers learn about the library, October 1st 2024 (Photo: ÉBAF, Ordo Prædicatorum)

### **News from the CFEB Board**

Two new members were elected to the Board of the Canadian Friends on September 21, 2024.

**Alicia Batten** is professor of Religious Studies and Theological Studies at Conrad Grebel University College, University of Waterloo, ON. Her research focuses on the New Testament and Christian origins, and she has particular interests in social history and the history of biblical interpretation. She spent a few weeks at the École Biblique in June 2023, where she worked on a commentary on the Letter of James. Her time at the École was very fruitful, and she had many conversations and forged new connections with community members as well as visiting scholars. She was delighted to be able to learn more about the “Bible in its Traditions” project, which is based at the École. The latter is immensely helpful for her own research.

**Jonathan (Yonatan) Bourgel** completed his PhD in Jewish Studies at Tel Aviv University in 2009. Since 2018, he has held the Maurice Pollack Chair in Jewish Studies at Laval University in Québec, QC. His research primarily focuses on the end of the Second Temple period of Jerusalem, when Judea was under Roman rule (63 BCE - 135 CE). Bourgel is particularly interested in the formation of religious identities—Jewish, Christian, and Samaritan—as well as the material culture of Judea during this time. He gave a paper on “Les Judéo-chrétiens de Judée de la Grande Révolte Juive (66-74) à la guerre de Bar-Kokhba (132-135/6)” at the École Biblique in May, 2011.

**Elaine Champagne**, professor in the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies at Laval University, resigned from the CFEB Board last April due to many other commitments. We thank Elaine for her active participation in the work of the Board!

As well, after 17 years of serving on the CFEB Board, **Sandra Demson** stepped down effective September 21, 2024. Sandra has always been especially enthusiastic about our scholarships and scholarship recipients. Thank you, Sandra, for your wonderful dedication to the Canadian Friends!

### **Scholarships**

In spite of the difficult situation in Israel and in the area, the Canadian Friends of the École Biblique continues to provide scholarships for study or research at the École Biblique in Jerusalem. We also recognize the difficulty of making long-range plans for studying or conducting research there.

To facilitate the awarding of CFEB scholarships for 2025-2026, applications will be welcome at any time up to August 31, 2025, without regard to the usual deadline. A decision will be made within approximately one month of receipt.

The CFEB has recently established the Edward Jackman Postdoctoral Fellowship offering a scholarship of up to \$25,000 to spend one or preferably two full terms during the regular academic year at the École Biblique in Jerusalem.

We also offer two named scholarships – one in honour of Fr. Philippe LeBlanc, a Dominican priest who was a founding member and long-time Secretary-Treasurer of the CFEB, and the other in honour of Fr. Guy Couturier, CSC, founder of Les Anciens et Amis de l'École Biblique in Montreal and former president of the CFEB. Fr. LeBlanc passed away on December 30, 2017, and Fr. Couturier on May 9, 2017.

Applications and inquiries are to be sent to Dr. Tim Hegedus, CFEB Administrator, at [cfeb.aceb@gmail.com](mailto:cfeb.aceb@gmail.com).

### **Your Support**

We are deeply thankful to all who contribute to the Canadian Friends of the École Biblique.

We support graduate students and academics to study and do research at the École Biblique in Jerusalem. In addition, we provide funding to the École for library acquisitions and IT upgrades.

It is your support that enables us to maintain and expand these important opportunities.

### **How you may contribute**

You may fill in the enclosed donation form and send us a cheque by mail. Or, you may donate online at: <https://www.cfebweb.ca> (in English) and <https://www.acebweb.ca> (in French). Just fill in the form 'To Make a Donation' on the "Donations" page of our website.

Our website also has a direct link to CanadaHelps. Simply click on the CanadaHelps link on the CFEB home page.

Thank you for your continuing interest and support.

With appreciation and best wishes,

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