

Dr. Richard E. Oster, Jr.

Professor of New Testament • Harding University Graduate School of Religion
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Academic Employment

1978 to present	Professor of New Testament	Harding University Graduate School of Religion Memphis, Tennessee
2003 [Summer]; 2004 [Summer]	Adjunct Faculty	Pepperdine University Division of Religion Malibu, California
1985 [Fall]; 1987 [Spring] 1988 [Spring and Fall] 1995 [Spring]	Adjunct Faculty	Department of Religion Rhodes College Memphis, Tennessee
1977-78	Adjunct Faculty	Department of Humanities University of Houston Houston, Texas
1971-74	Teaching Fellow	Biblical Department Princeton Theological Seminary Princeton, New Jersey

Education

Post-doctoral

1985	Independent study at the Österreichisches Archäologisches Institut (Vienna, Austria)
1974-75	Independent research at the Franz J. Dölger-Institut an der Universität Bonn

Ph. D.

1971-1974	1974 (magna cum laude) Princeton Theological Seminary Major: New Testament Minors: 1.) Old Testament and 2.) Graeco-Roman Background to the New Testament Dissertation: "A Historical Commentary on the Missionary Success Stories in Acts 19:11-40"
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Special Studies

1970-71 Princeton Theological Seminary

M. A.

1971 Rice University
Major: Religious Studies
Thesis: "Julius Firmicus Maternus: De errore profanarum religionum,
Introduction, Translation and Commentary."

B. A.

1969 Texas Tech University
Major: Latin
Minor: Greek

Summary of Teaching Experience

Harding University Graduate School of Religion (1978-2004)

My required teaching load at Harding University Graduate School of Religion was thirty graduate hours per calendar year (ten courses, three hours each; four in fall; four in spring; two each summer) from 1978-1990. The required teaching load since 1991 has been eight graduate courses (four in fall; four in spring) annually, with additional summer courses on demand. I have teaching responsibilities in the Pauline Corpus, Acts of the Apostles, Book of Revelation, Greek grammar and reading courses, topical courses, survey courses in Old Testament and New Testament, and New Testament backgrounds.

In addition to teaching at the Masters level and serving on thesis committees, I occasionally teach courses in the Doctor of Ministry program and serve on select Doctor of Ministry dissertation committees.

Pepperdine University (Graduate and Undergraduate, summer 2003; summer 2004)

Rhodes College (Undergraduate, 1985-89; 1995):

Abilene Christian University (Graduate and Undergraduate, summer 1978; summer 1996, summer 1998):

University of Houston (Undergraduate, 1976-78):

Service as Committee Chairperson

Professional Societies

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| 1991-96 | Co-chairperson of the Seminar on Archaeology and the New Testament in the Society of New Testament Studies |
| 1989-94 | National co-chairperson of the Group on the Archaeology of the New Testament World in the Society of Biblical Literature |
| 1986-88 | National co-chairperson of the Consultation on the Archaeology of the New Testament World in the Society of Biblical Literature |

Harding University Graduate School of Religion

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| 1994— | Member of Graduate School Executive Committee |
| 1988-89 | Chairperson of committee for revision of curriculum of M.A.; M.A.R., M.Div. |
| 1986-89 | Chairperson of Faculty Computer Committee |
| 1985-86 | Chairperson of Student Life and Services Committee for Accreditation, Self-Study Committee (SACS) |
| 1984-91; 1995— | Chairperson of Academic Affairs Committee |

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 1995 First Corinthians. The College Press NIV Commentary. Joplin, Mo.: College Press, 1995.
- 1987 A Bibliography on Ancient Ephesus; With Introduction and Index. ATLA Bibliography Series, 19. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1987.
- 1979 The Acts of the Apostles Pt. II, chaps 13:1-28:31. The Living Word Commentary. Austin, Texas: Sweet Publishing Co., 1979.

Articles

- 2000 "Cenchrae." In Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible. Editor in Chief David N. Freedman. Grand Rapids: W. B. Eerdmans Pub., 2000, p. 305.
- 2000 "Cyrene." In Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible. Editor in Chief David N. Freedman. Grand Rapids: W. B. Eerdmans Pub., 2000, p. 227.
- 2000 "Gymnasium." In Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible. Editor in Chief David N. Freedman. Grand Rapids: W. B. Eerdmans Pub., 2000, p. 534.
- 2000 "Inscriptions, Greek." In Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible. Editor in Chief David N. Freedman. Grand Rapids: W. B. Eerdmans Pub., 2000, pp. 638-39.
- 2000 "Philadelphia." In Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible. Editor in Chief David N. Freedman. Grand Rapids: W. B. Eerdmans Pub., 2000, p. 1045.
- 1998 "'Congregations of the Gentiles' (Rom. 16:4): A Culture-based Ecclesiology in the Letters of Paul." Restoration Quarterly 40 (1998): 39-52.
- 1998 "Going to Worship in Ancient Corinth." Leaven 6 (1998): 15-18.
- 1995 "Women, Diaspora Synagogues (proseuche) and Acts 16:13 (Philippi)." In Faith in Practice: Studies in the Book of Acts. A Festschrift in Honor of Earl and Ottie Stuckenbruck. Eds. D. A. Fiensy and W. D. Howden. Atlanta, GA.: European Evangelistic Society, 1995, pp. 260-99.
- 1993 "Artemis of Ephesus." In The Oxford Companion to the Bible. Ed. by Bruce M. Metzger and M. D. Coogan. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993, p. 60.
- 1993 "Athens." In The Oxford Companion to the Bible. Ed. by Bruce M. Metzger and M. D. Coogan. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993, p. 65.
- 1993 "Corinth." In The Oxford Companion to the Bible. Ed. by Bruce M. Metzger and M. D. Coogan. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993, pp. 134-35.
- 1993 "Ephesus." In The Oxford Companion to the Bible. Ed. by Bruce M. Metzger and M. D. Coogan. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993, p. 189.
- 1993 "Supposed Anachronism in Luke-Acts's Use of sunagwghv. A Rejoinder to Prof. H. C. Kee." New Testament Studies 39 (1993): 178-208.
- 1992 "Christianity in Asia Minor." In Anchor Bible Dictionary. I: 938-954. Ed. by D. N. Freedman. Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Co., 1992.
- 1992 "Demetrius the Silversmith." In Anchor Bible Dictionary. II: 137. Ed. by D. N. Freedman. Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Co., 1992.
- 1992 "Ephesus." In Anchor Bible Dictionary. II: 542-49. Ed. by D. N. Freedman. Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Co., 1992.

- 1992 "Use, Misuse and Neglect of Archaeological Evidence in Some Modern Works on 1 Corinthians." Zeitschrift für die Neutestamentliche Wissenschaft 83 (1992): 52-73.
- 1990 "Ephesians, Ephesus." In Encyclopedia of Early Christianity. Garland Reference Library of the Humanities. Ed. by E. Ferguson. New York: Garland Publishing, 1990, pp. 300-04.
- 1990 "Ephesus as a Religious Center Under the Principate I. Paganism Before Constantine." Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt II 18.3:1661-1728. New York: W. de Gruyter, 1990.
- 1990 "Numismatics." In Encyclopedia of Early Christianity. Garland Reference Library of the Humanities. Ed. by E. Ferguson. New York: Garland Publishing, 1990, pp. 655-56.
- 1988 "When Men Wore Veils to Worship: Historical Context of I Cor. 11:4." New Testament Studies 34 (1988):481-505.
- 1987 "Holy Days in honor of Artemis." In New Documents Illustrating Early Christianity. A Review of the Greek Inscriptions and Papyri Published in 1979 vol. 4:74-82. Ed. by G. R. Horsley. North Ryde, New South Wales: The Ancient History Documentary Research Centre, Macquarie University, (1987).
- 1986 "'Show Me a Denarius': Symbolism of Roman Coinage and Christian Beliefs." Restoration Quarterly 28 (1985-86):107-15.
- 1984 "Notes on Acts 19:23-41 and an Ephesian Inscription." Harvard Theological Review 77 (1984):233-37.
- 1982 "Christianity and Emperor Veneration in Ephesus: Iconography of a Conflict." Restoration Quarterly 25 (1982):143-49.
- 1982 "Numismatic Windows into the Social World of Early Christianity: A Methodological Inquiry." Journal of Biblical Literature 101 (1982):195-223.
- 1976 "The Ephesian Artemis as an Opponent of Early Christianity." Jahrbuch für Antike und Christentum 19 (1976):24-44.

Reviews

- 2003 Review of Grant R. Osborne, Revelation (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2002) in Stone-Campbell Journal 6.2 (2003):318-20.
- 1994 Review of John McRay, Archaeology and the New Testament. (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1991) in Critical Review of Books in Religion 1993 6 (1994):144-46
- 1994 Review of Richard A. Batey, Jesus and the Forgotten City: New Light on Sepphoris and the Urban World of Jesus. (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1991) in Critical Review of Books in Religion 1993 6 (1994):201-04.
- 1993 Review of Richard Clark Kroeger and Catherine Clark Kroeger, I Suffer Not a Woman. Rethinking 1 Timothy 2:11-15 in Light of Ancient Evidence. (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1992) in Biblical Archaeologist 56 (1993):225-27.
- 1983 Review of Jack Finegan, Archaeological History of the Ancient Middle East (1979) and idem., The Archaeology of the New Testament: The Mediterranean World of the Early Christian Apostles (Boulder: Westview Press, 1981) in Interpretation 37 (1983):99-100.
- 1982 Review of J. Christiaan Beker, Paul the Apostle: The Triumph of God in Life and Thought (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1980) in Restoration Quarterly 25 (1982):190-91.

- 1981** Review of Edwin Yamauchi, *The Archaeology of New Testament Cities in Western Asia Minor* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1980) in *The Second Century, A Journal of Early Christian Studies* 1 (1981):117-21.

Publications in Progress

“Galatians.” *Restoration Bible Commentary*, Eds. Mark Hamilton et al.

Essay on some facet of Ephesus and New Testament studies to be published in the Carroll Osburn Festschrift.

I have a 200+ page manuscript in rough form for a commentary on the Book of Revelation; no publisher at this time.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- November 2003** “Ephesian Epigraphy and New Testament Studies.” Papyrology and Early Christian Backgrounds Group, Society of Biblical Literature, National Meeting.
- April 2003** “Contingent Prophecy and the Openness of God in Interpreting the Book of Revelation.” Bible Section, Society of Biblical Literature, Central States Regional Meeting.
- November 2001** “Greek Inscriptions from Roman Oinoanda and the World of Early Christianity.” Papyrology and Early Christian Backgrounds Consultation, Society of Biblical Literature, National Meeting.
- August 1995** “Epigraphic Attestation to the Ephesian Artemis and Acts 19.” New Testament Archaeology Seminar. Society of New Testament Studies. Prague, Czech Republic.
- November 1994** “Religion and Philosophy in Ephesian Epigraphy.” New Testament Archaeology Group, Society of Biblical Literature, National Meeting.
- August 1994** “Religion and Philosophy in Ephesian Epigraphy.” New Testament Archaeology Seminar. Society of New Testament Studies. Edinburgh, Scotland.
- October 1991** “Recent Attacks on Luke’s Depiction of the Second Temple Synagogue in Light of Archaeological Evidence.” Charmichael-Walling Lectures, Abilene Christian University.
- April 1990** “Use, Misuse and Neglect of Archaeological Information in Recent Works on 1 Corinthians.” Faculty and Ph.D. Student Colloquium at Princeton Theological Seminary.
- November 1989** “Use, Misuse and Neglect of Archaeological Information in Recent Works on 1 Corinthians.” Society of Biblical Literature, Archaeology Group, National Meeting.
- October 1988** “Archaeology and the Interpretation of the New Testament.” Slide lecture, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, Missouri.
- December 1987** “Research and Reference Tools for New Testament Archaeology.” Society of Biblical Literature, Archaeology Consultation, National Meeting.
- March 1987** “Archaeological and Cultural Background on 1 Corinthians 11:4.” American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature, Archaeology Section, Southeastern Region.
- August 1986** “Men Wearing Veils during Worship (1 Cor. 11:4),” 41st General Meeting, Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas, Atlanta, Georgia.
- April 1986** “When Men Wore Veils to Worship: Archaeological and Philological Observations on 1 Corinthians 11:4.” American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature, New Testament Letters and Background Section, Central States Region.
- April 1986** “Ancient Ephesus: Christian Conflict with Urban Culture.” Slide lecture, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, Missouri.
- March 1986** “The Dirt on New Testament Archaeology.” American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature, Archaeology Section, Southeastern Region.
- April 1985** “Reframing the Pentecost Narrative in the Light of the Structure of Acts.” Das Kolloquium für Graduierte (Ausländer und Doktoranden), Tübingen University, Germany.
- October 1984** Served as a moderator, “Conference on Ancient Stoicism.” Philosophy Department of Memphis State University.

- July 1984** "Archaeology Assists Exegesis." 4th Annual Christian Scholars Conference, Abilene Christian University, Abilene, Texas.
- March 1984** "'Show me a Coin': Numismatic Iconography and New Testament Images." American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature, Archaeology Section, Southeastern Region.
- February 1983** "Urban Christianity in Imperial Ephesus: A Study in Archaeology, Faith and Life." 15th Annual University Christian Student Center Lectureship, Oxford, Mississippi.
- July 1982** "The Law from a New Testament Perspective." 2nd Annual Christian Scholars Conference, Abilene Christian University, Abilene, Texas.
- March 1979** "Pagan Religions in Ephesus during the Empire." American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Meeting, Archaeology Section, Southeastern Region.
- November 1979** "Numismatic Windows into the Social World of Early Christianity: A Methodological Inquiry." American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Meeting, Social World of Early Christianity Group, National Meeting.
- March 1977** "Culture and Counter-Culture: Early Christian Hostilities Against the Civil Religion of *Artemis Ephesia*." American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature, New Testament Section, Southwestern Region.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 1992 (Feb.)** Travel grant from American School of Oriental Research to attend New Testament Archaeology Conference at Pepperdine University (Malibu, California).
- 1989 (Summer)** Travel grant to attend Symposium on Macedonia sponsored by Columbia University (New York).
- 1986-87** Who's Who in Biblical Studies and Archaeology.
- 1984-85** Grant from the American Theological Library Association toward the completion of A Bibliography on Ancient Ephesus; With Introduction and Index. ATLA Bibliography Series, 19. Metuchen, New Jersey: Scarecrow Press, 1987.
- 1974-75** Recipient of a twelve month stipend from the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) for study at the University of Bonn.

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

1. Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas
2. Society of Biblical Literature
3. Institut zur Erforschung des Urchristentums (Tübingen)
4. F. J. Dölger-Institut zur Erforschung der Spätantike (Bonn)
5. Gesellschaft der Freunde von Ephesos (Vienna)