

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr. Richard Earl Oster, Jr.

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Professor of New Testament Emeritus • Harding School of Theology

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EDUCATION

Post-doctoral

1985

Independent study at the Österreichisches Archäologisches Institut (Vienna, Austria); primary excavators at Ephesus since 1895.

1974-75

Independent research at the Franz J. Dölger-Institut an der Universität Bonn; major German research institute for study of Christianity and its Graeco-Roman environment from beginnings until sixth century.

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"

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: Classical Latin

Minor: Classical Greek

SUMMARY OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Harding School of Theology/ formerly Harding University Graduate School of Religion

(1978 to 2024)

I have teaching responsibilities in the Pauline Corpus, Acts of the Apostles, Book of Revelation, New

Testament World, Greek grammar and reading courses, survey courses in New Testament. 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. I also occasionally teach one hour "Special Topics" courses that have included "Dead Sea Scrolls (English text)," "Greek Readings in the LXX," "Greek Readings in Plato," "Apostolic Fathers," and "Greek Inscriptions."

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2013** Seven Congregations in a Roman Crucible. A Commentary on Revelation Chapters 1-3. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2013.
- 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

- 2009** "Galatians." In The Transforming Word: A One-Volume Commentary on the Bible. Ed. Mark Hamilton. Abilene, TX: ACU Press, 2009.
- 2006** "The Ephesian Artemis 'whom all Asia and the world worship' (Acts 19:27): Representative Epigraphical testimony to Ἄρτεμις Ἐφεσσία outside Ephesos." In Transmission and Reception: New Testament Text-Critical and Exegetical Studies. Festschrift for Carroll D. Osburn. Series: Texts and Studies 4. Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2006.
- 2000** "Cenchrea." In Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible. Ed. in chief David Noel Freedman. Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Eerdmans, 2000, p. 305.
- 2000** "Cyrene." In Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible. Ed. in chief David Noel Freedman. Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Eerdmans, 2000, p. 227.
- 2000** "Greek Inscriptions." In Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible. Ed. in chief David Noel Freedman. Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Eerdmans, 2000, pp. 638-639.
- 2000** "Gymnasiums." In Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible. Ed. in chief David Noel Freedman. Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Eerdmans, 2000, p. 534.
- 2000** "Philadelphia [Lydia]." In Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible. Ed. in chief David Noel Freedman. Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Eerdmans, 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 συναγωγή. 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.

Online Publications

Quest for the Gospel, Contemporary Proposals from the Churches of Christ (Copyright, 2009). <http://www.scribd.com/doc/31218139/Quest-for-the-Gospel-Contemporary-Proposals-from-the-Churches-of-Christ>.

7 Subversive Letters, Blogposts Letters to 7 Congregations. richardoster.com

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- November 2013** “Archaeology and Ephesus,” *Ekklesia* and *Polis* Consultation, Society of Biblical Literature, National Meeting.
- June 2012** “Trust and Obey, for There’s No Other Way: Obedience and Works in Paul,” Christian Scholars’ Conference, 2012. Lipscomb University. Nashville, TN.
- 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.
- November 1996** “Thoughts on Archaeological Resources for New Testament Studies in the Classroom.” Archaeology of the New Testament World Group, 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.