

**George P. Carras**

## **Educational Resume**

My study, teaching and research interests have been in classical studies, Jewish Studies, Christian Origins and Biblical Studies and New Testament. My work at Manchester (degree by research thesis) was in Lukan studies, a tradition- redaction study on resurrection themes supervised by FF Bruce and Barnabas Lindars. I spent a year while each was the John Rylands Professors of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis. During that time while I was studying Luke-Acts I began noticing the Jewish Paul in a new light. While at Manchester I began directing my study to topics on background, Jewish sensibilities, Christian Origins and the relationship between ancient Judaism and the emergence of early Christianity. Phillip Alexander assisted with several of these topic areas especially on reading Jewish texts.

Prior to going to Manchester my interest in Judaica began while an undergraduate at UC Berkeley where my professors included David Daube, David Winston and Erich Gruen. I was in the Classics Dept. there and my professor for an honors, tutorial-type, interdisciplinary program was John M. Dillon, now Emeritus Prof. of Greek at Trinity College, Dublin. I wrote an undergraduate thesis under his direction on the competing religious alternatives to early Christianity. We met weekly for two years reading a variety of books relating to my studies on contextualizing early Christianity within the Greco-Roman and Jewish worlds. This was an ideal place to pursue this kind of study esp. talking classes from Daube, Winston and Gruen who taught me about the Roman world. My exposure to Gruen was before he began writing about antique Jews. One semester Dieter Georgi was a visiting professor from Harvard and that was a different kind of exposure along with the others.

When I went to Oxford I pursued the subject of Paul, Josephus and Shared Judaism between Second Temple Judaism and early Christianity. This was first under the supervision of G.B. Caird and due to his untimely death E.P. Sanders (EPS) became my supervisor when he was writing his *Judaism: Belief and Belief*. Geza Vermes too supervised me esp. on Josephus. The pursuit was to better contextualize early Christianity in relationship to its Jewish and Greco-Roman sensibilities. These areas have continued to be the focus of my research interests with articles, papers and now two books contracts on Josephus and Paul for Brill and in what sense Paul can be viewed a Second Temple Jew for OUP. My initial Josephus work was done in the 80's when Josephus studies was beginning to take a new interpretative, historical, contextual and literary turn following the work of Feldman, Vermes, Rajak, Goodman and others. In the 1990s and since a huge influx of new studies and monographs have emerged on Josephus. On the Paul side of the equation, more studies emerged to contribute and correct EPS in NPP and since to treat Paul as a Second Temple Jew (STJ) through the Enoch Seminars in Rome. I have been part of this conversation and contributed to these developments. However, there are only a small

number of articles and no extensive monographs on the two dominant Jewish figures of the first century, Josephus and Paul and to view them comparatively and in-tandem to build on our picture of STJ. This is what both of my books pursue and especially the Brill book on Josephus and Paul – Two Diaspora Jews. Therefore, my area of research and writing continues to be very rich.

I have held or attempted to hold together an academic and an administrative academic life. I spent about 20 years on the academic side of things alongside holding academic administrative roles. The downside has been that I have not done the amount of writing I had hoped to do. Everything changed in 2011 when my university roles changed in a dramatic way at my choice and I ceased to do academic administrative work any longer and refocused my efforts on the academic writing side of pursuits. Therefore, I look forward to continuing this during the next phase of my career.

GPC/8.28.2017