

euphratean region of the Syrian Arab Republic, and one can look forward to more advances in our knowledge of its past.

MICHAEL C. ASTOUR

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY AT EDWARDSVILLE

Scripta Signa Vocis: Studies about Scripts, Scriptures, Scribes and Languages in the Near East, presented to J. H. Hoppers by his pupils, colleagues and friends. Edited by H. L. J. VANSTIPHOUT, K. JONGELING, F. LEEMHUIS, and G. J. REININK. Groningen: EGBERT FORSTEN, 1986. Pp. 331.

"Working With No Data": Semitic and Egyptian Studies Presented to Thomas O. Lambdin. Edited by DAVID M. GOLOMB with the assistance of Susan T. Hollis. Winona Lake, Ind.: EISENBRAUNS, 1987. Pp. xiv + 264. \$28.50.

Neither of the recipients of these impressive Festschriften has a lengthy list of publications usually associated with individuals honored with the appearance of such volumes. And yet one can think of few scholars to whom students of the Semitic languages are more indebted than T. O. Lambdin and H. Hoppers. The former's grammars of Hebrew, Ethiopic, and Coptic have become standards in the field, and the latter's *Basic Bibliography for the Study of the Semitic Languages*, 2 vols., has been an indispensable tool since its appearance in 1973. These two men have earned their reputations mainly on their abilities to convey the intricacies of the Semitic and Egyptian languages to generations of students, at major university centers on their respective shores of the Atlantic Ocean. The volumes under review are fitting tributes to these unique master teachers.

Space prevents me from listing all the articles in these two books, but I do wish to single out those contributions which I found to be the most important or the most interesting with the inclusion of a few brief remarks. The first paragraph below discusses articles from the Hoppers volume; the second paragraph treats papers from the Lambdin volume.

In "'Anat, Seth and the Seed of Pre'" (pp. 31–51), J. van Dijk presents an important text which scholars of both Egypt and Western Asia will find of great interest. The vexing question of "Languages in Contact: The Case of Akkadian and Sumerian" (pp. 77–84) is treated by G. Haayer with the conclusion that Akkadian was a SOV language from the beginning. Laborers in the field of Semitic phonology will learn much from F. Leemhuis, "An Early Witness

for a Fronted /g/ in Aramaic? The Case of the Tell Fekherye Inscription" (pp. 133–42); this article touches upon a variety of topics beyond the particular question posed in its title. In "Aus dem Sozialleben der Jeziden (Teufelsanbeter) im nördlichen 'Irāq" (pp. 177–84), W. H. Ph. Römer presents a German translation of an exceedingly interesting Arabic essay by Mumtāz Huṣṣen Ḥallu from the journal *ʿAt-turāḡ aš-šaʿbī* (Baghdad) on the life of one of the Near East's smallest and most unique minorities. J. F. A. Sawyer, "The Role of Jewish Studies in Biblical Semantics" (pp. 201–8), calls for the greater incorporation of dictionaries such as those by E. Ben-Yehuda and A. Even-Shoshan into the field of biblical studies.

Scholars capable of reading modern Hebrew have benefited greatly from the excellent work of M. Bar Asher on post-Biblical Hebrew; his clear presentation in "The Different Traditions of Mishnaic Hebrew" (pp. 1–38) is (as far as I am aware) the first large article he has written in English. R. J. Clifford, "Mot Invites Baal to a Feast: Observations on a Difficult Ugaritic Text (CTA 5.i = KTU 1.5.1)" (pp. 55–64), is a clear and concise exposition of one of the most widely discussed Ugaritic tablets. In this reviewer's opinion, the most important article in these two volumes is B. Halpern, "Dialect Distribution in Canaan and the Deir Alla Inscriptions" (pp. 119–39); the author's conclusion about the linguistic diversity in ancient Canaan is one which Hebraists will need to heed as future discoveries come to light.

The other authors represented in the Hoppers volume are K. Aartun, H. J. W. Drijvers, G. J. van Gelder, C. H. J. de Geus, J. Hoftijzer, B. Jongeling, K. Jongeling, A. Klugkist, C. J. Labuschagne, E. Lipiński, C. Molenberg, G. J. Reinink, J. Ryckmans, A. Schoors, H. L. J. Vanstiphout, K. R. Veenhof, H. te Velde, M. E. Vogelzang and W. J. van Bekkum, G. Vos, J. W. Wevers, A. S. van der Woude, and A. Zaborski. As such, this volume is not only a tribute to Prof. Hoppers; it is also an indication of the role that the small country of Holland and especially the city of Groningen continue to play in the world of Semitic studies.

The remaining contributors to the Lambdin Festschrift are W. R. Bodine, F. M. Cross, S. E. Fassberg, D. M. Golomb, A. Hamori, D. J. Harrington, C. T. Hodge, S. T. Hollis, J. Huehnergard, E. Isaac, W. L. Moran, H. L. Perkins, L. R. Shehadeh, and J. C. VanderKam. This volume includes a bibliography of the honoree (pp. 263–64).

GARY A. RENDBURG

CORNELL UNIVERSITY
