Editor’s Note

This marks the twentieth issue of *Aramaic Studies*. Over the course of its history no one has contributed more to the journal’s success than Willem Smelik, who served as editor or co-editor of every issue from 2003 to 2021.

*Aramaic Studies*’ predecessor was the *Journal for the Aramaic Bible*, founded by Smelik’s mentor, Johannes de Moor. De Moor served as co-editor, along with William (Bill) Petersen and Abraham Tal, for issues 1–2.1 (1999–2000). For these issues, Smelik served as secretary, whose tasks included typesetting. When De Moor retired in mid-2000, Smelik succeeded him as co-editor (starting with issue 2.2 [2000]), working alongside Petersen and Tal. In 2001, Smelik became sole editor of the *Journal for the Aramaic Bible*.

In the early 2000s, discussions began about expanding the scope of the *Journal for the Aramaic Bible* to include all languages and literatures of Aramaic, including Old, Achaemenid, Hatran, Palmyrene, Nabataean, Qumranic, Mandaic, Samaritan, Christian Palestinian, Syriac, the various Jewish dialects of Aramaic, as well as Neo-Aramaic. This broader vision was realised when the first issue of *Aramaic Studies* was published in 2003 (see introduction on pp. 3–4 of 1.1). Smelik invited Bas ter Haar Romeny to join him as co-editor of the first issue, and the two would continue in this capacity for more than a decade. I succeeded Ter Haar Romeny in 2016, first as associate editor, and then as co-editor with Smelik starting in 2020. *Aramaic Studies* 19.2 (2021) marked the final issue under Smelik’s fruitful editorship.

For almost two decades now, *Aramaic Studies* has consistently been the leading journal for the study of all aspects of Aramaic language and literature. On behalf of all scholars and students of Aramaic, I would like to express profound gratitude to Willem Smelik.

*Aaron Michael Butts*