Editorial

We publish the current 17th volume of *Scrinium*, when the normal course of scholarly life became broken by the pandemic. The conference of APECSS scheduled for 2020 in Singapore was, at first, postponed to 2021, and is now further postponed to 2022. Nevertheless, research are not stopped, and *Scrinium* continues to publish their fruits.

The pandemic took from us a member of our Editorial Board Nikolai Seleznyov (1971–2021), a distinguished specialist in Syriac and Arabic Christian literatures and a friend of many colleagues throughout the world. He died one week before his fiftieth birthday, when his scholarly achievements were becoming more and more impressive and even more and more promising. An outline of his work with the full bibliography is published in the present volume with his obituary.

Since the publication of previous volume, we have lost also two senior members of our Advisory Board, Francis Andersen (1925–2020) and Getatchew Haile (1931–2021). Francis Andersen, besides being a renowned Old Testament scholar and a specialist in Biblical Hebrew, was especially close to *Scrinium* as a scholar of Slavonic Pseudepigrapha, who opened a new epoch in this field by his studies of 2 *Enoch*. Getatchew Haile was a patriarch of Ethiopian studies, in the way that his contributions are “must read” for almost any topic related to Ethiopia. Both Francis and Getatchew will be greatly missed by us – their colleagues, friends, and disciples.

The present volume of *Scrinium* is the last one published in Open Access with the support of Knowledge Unlatched. We are grateful to Knowledge Unlatched for its four-year support allowing making easily accessible all previously published and current volumes of our journal. From 2022, however, *Scrinium* has to return to the former modes of paid access, but the volumes published from 2005 to 2021 will remain in Open Access even then. We will return to Open Access at the first opportunity.

We wish to all colleagues, readers and contributors, to go through these times of testing in good health and enriched with new scholarly ideas.

Basil Lourié

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