
This book contains the papers of a conference organized in 2006 in Oegstgeest by Prof. Holger Gzella and Dr. Margaretha Folmer. The vast majority of the authors are experienced and well-known scholars, and all wrote papers which are thought-provoking and rich in insights. Each one of the papers invites reaction, and the synergy of the conference is visible in numerous places. Minor quibbles cannot, of course, be avoided. I would, for example, put a question mark by the Akkadian origin of the word *peša*, ‘governor’ (p. 82), and by the reading *tyhšyn*, ‘you shall (not) cause pain’ (p. 146, Hirbet Kanaf no. 2:5, perhaps *tyhtyn*, ‘you will (not) sin’).


In agreement with trends in Aramaic scholarship a relatively large part of the book is taken by articles on Modern Aramaic (five), Syriac (four), and Targum (three), and many contributions are largely or wholly of a linguistic nature. One small point is that the method of quotation (author + year with a bibliography at the end of the article) takes up a lot of extra space, especially when the same works are mentioned again and again. I am aware of the numerous problems involved in making a cumulative bibliography, but in the case of articles of such varied nature I would advocate a return to the traditional system of author + full description first time, and author + abbreviated title on all the following occasions, which also makes for easier reading. Otherwise the book looks attractive and I saw very few typos. The editors are to be congratulated with this book, and we all stand in their debt.

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