Book Reviews


The work under review is a concordance of Early Aramaic epigraphic materials dating from the tenth to the third century BCE, accompanied by a separate volume that contains all the texts in question. Some texts datable to this period, however, have not been incorporated, since they have not yet been published, such as the papyrus Amherst 63. Epigraphic writings on coins have also been excluded.

The lion’s share of the corpus is a major collection of Aramaic texts found in and/or originating from ancient Egypt as edited by Bezalel Porten and Ada Yardeni in their four-volume magnum opus, *Textbook of Aramaic Documents from Ancient Egypt* (Jerusalem: Hebrew University–Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1986–1999), presenting a hand-copy of each document with an English and Modern Hebrew translation. For this corpus we already have at our disposal a magnificent concordance by Bezalel Porten and Jerome A. Lund, *Aramaic Documents from Egypt: A Key-Word-in-Context Concordance* (The Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon Project, 1; Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2002).

Though we have collections or anthologies of other Early Aramaic texts such as KAI, TSSI II,¹ we have had no concordance for those texts. Furthermore, the recent years have witnessed the discovery of additional Aramaic texts

from Samaria\textsuperscript{2} and Idumaea,\textsuperscript{3} to mention only some. In addition the present work, of course, encompasses Old Aramaic epigraphic materials. Whilst all the texts included in volume 2 have been already published elsewhere, it is nonetheless most helpful to have all of them in a single volume. The greatest value of this work undoubtedly lies in volume 1, the comprehensive concordance. Even a scholar focusing on a single document out of this vast corpus would immensely benefit from this concordance, by the help of which he or she can easily investigate how a particular lexeme occurring in his or her text is used in a contemporary text or texts hailing from the same region as his or her text. Not only texts in the text volume, but also each reference quoted in the concordance has an indication of its date (century). In the text volume we are told for each text its provenance. For each text essential bibliographical information is also provided.

In the concordance each entry word has a simple glossary in both German and English attached, based on Hoftijzer’s and Jongeling’s dictionary\textsuperscript{4} and supplemented by Beyer’s glossaries.\textsuperscript{5} The concordance has not neglected such high-frequency items as prepositions, including proclitics (\textit{b-}, \textit{k-}, \textit{l-}) and conjunctions (e.g. \textit{zy}), but not the \textit{waw}.

All the texts in the corpus are referred to by means of abbreviated sigla, many of which have been taken over from Joseph A. Fitzmyer’s and Stephen A. Kaufman’s \textit{An Aramaic Bibliography}, Part I. \textit{Old, Official, and Biblical Aramaic} (Baltimore–London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992), which has, on pp. 338–345, a complete list of the sigla used. Apart from texts which were published after this \textit{Bibliography}, Schwiderski occasionally has introduced new sigla, e.g. A for TADA, which signifies the first volume of the abovementioned \textit{Textbook} of Porten and Yardeni. This is simple enough and explained on pp. i, xiii, xxi. When you want to read a complete document in

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{2} These fourth-century BCE papyri have been edited and published by Douglas Marvin Gropp in \textit{The Samaria Papyri from Wadi Dalieh} (Discoveries in the Judaean Desert, 28; Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2001), which includes a concordance.
\item \textsuperscript{3} A considerable quantity of these mostly short fourth-century BCE ostraca are still in the process of publication.
\item \textsuperscript{4} J. Hoftijzer and Karel Jongeling, \textit{Dictionary of the North-west Semitic Inscriptions} (Handbuch der Orientalistik, 21; Leiden: Brill, 1995).
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