

**The Syriac Computing Institute
and
George Anton Kiraz, Ph.D.**

Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies

Dr. Kiraz explained in the first issue (January 1998) why this electronic publication was created:

The motivation behind this journal can be stated in a few words. Syriac research has always been in need of an exclusive journal featuring works of scholarship; a journal dedicated to this field is indeed an urgent desideratum...

The electronic character of the journal and its availability on the Internet is intended to make it available to a wide audience which includes not only scholars of Syriac, but also those who claim a Syriac heritage, be they Syrian Orthodox, Assyrian, Maronite, Chaldaean, Syrian Catholic, Syro-Malabar or Syro-Malankara.

A number of distinguished scholars serve on the editorial board. Listed in alphabetical order, they are: Sebastian Brock (Oxford University), Sidney Griffith (Catholic University of America), Amir Harrak (University of Toronto), Susan Harvey (Brown University), Mor Gregorios Y. Ibrahim (Mardin-Edessa Publishing House), Konrad Jenner (The Peshitta Institute of Leiden University), Hubert Kaufhold (Oriens Christianus), Kathleen McVey (Princeton Theological Seminary), William Petersen (Pennsylvania State University), Mar Bawai Soro (Angelicum Pontifical University) and Lucas Van Rompay (Leiden University).

George Anton Kiraz is the General Editor, while Thomas Joseph is the Technical Editor.

Papers published in the journal are subject to peer review by the editorial board. To ensure a high standard, each paper is normally sent to three reviewers who recommend acceptance, re-submission or rejection.

Published twice a year (in January and in July), the journal is available free of charge on the Internet (URL:

<http://www.acad.cua.edu/syrcom/Hugoye/index.html>).

To receive notification of new issues, readers may register their E-mail address at the following page:

<http://www.acad.cua.edu/syrcom/Hugoye/VolInd.html>.

The SyrCOM Conferences on Syriac Computing*

The aim of this series of forums is two-fold. First, it provides academics and professionals who work on computational projects related to Syriac studies an opportunity to meet and share their work and experience. Second, scholars

and computer users offer presentations intended to be helpful in practical applications, such as word processing, fonts and other user-related software.

These conferences are always held in conjunction with international Syriac symposia. The first in this series was held in association with Syriac Symposium II in 1995 at the Catholic University of America, Washington D.C. The second was held in association with VIIum Symposium Syriacum in 1996 at Uppsala University, Sweden. The third forum, a one-day event, will be held in association with Syriac Symposium III on June 18 or 19, 1999 at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana.

Interested parties may obtain more information about this conference on the Internet at: <http://www.acad.cua.edu/syrcom/SCForum/FSC3.html>.

Other Projects

The Syriac Computing Institute has been involved in a number of computing projects in the recent past. Completed projects include generating a concordance to the Syriac New Testament in 6 volumes (published by Brill Publishers in 1993) and a comparative edition of the Syriac Gospels in 4 volumes where the Old Syriac, Peshitta and Harklean versions are aligned under each other (also published by Brill publishers in 1996).

The institute also digitized the entire music library of the Syrian Orthodox Church, known as the Beth Gazo, in the voice of the late Patriarch Jacob III. This project was done in cooperation with the Syrian Orthodox Resources web site (<http://www.netadventure.com/~soc/>).

The most recent accomplishment of the Institute is a detailed proposal to add Syriac to Unicode, a new coding scheme for storing texts in all languages. This was done in cooperation with Sargon Hasso who spent many years on this project independently and Paul Nelson. The proposal was presented at the Unicode Technical Committee meeting by George Kiraz and Paul Nelson in Feb. 27, 1998 at Microsoft's branch in Cupertino, Ca. It was provisionally accepted as a PDAM (preliminary draft amendment) at the meeting. Provisional acceptance by WG2 (Working Group 2) of ISO (International Standard Organization) took place on Mar. 18, 1998 in Seattle at Microsoft's headquarters. The Unicode Technical Committee was impressed with the details and precisions of the proposal. It is expected that the proposal will go through the lengthy process smoothly. The proposal is available on the Internet at:

<http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/users/gk105/syrcom/unicode/>.

More information on the Syriac Computing Institute is available at:

Home Site (Catholic University of America):

<http://www.acad.cua.edu/syrcom/index.html>.

Mirror Site (University of Cambridge, U.K.):

<http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/users/gk105/syrcom/>.

