

## **A Welcome to Five New Editors**

With the publication of this issue, JAAS is entering a new phase in its short life span. The editorial board is pleased to announce the addition of five Assyrian scholars to its ranks. All have an extensive knowledge both in the academic and literary fields, and have published prolifically. They have supported this journal with their valuable contributions. Brief biographies of all of them have been published in previous issues of JAAS, which we reproduce for the benefit of the subscribers.

We would like to welcome **Mr. Youel A. Baaba** as a new editor in the Assyrian section of JAAS. Mr. Baaba is a native of Baghdad, Iraq and has obtained graduate degrees in geology, engineering, and business administration. His contribution to the Assyrian language and literature is not limited to his voluminous writings in JAAS and other Assyrian publications. As founder of Youel A. Baaba Library, he has published a number of valuable books to preserve and maintain the Assyrian language and literature.

We are fortunate to have four new editors in the English section of this journal, all are accomplished educators:

**Arian Ishaya, Ph.D.**, a native of Tehran, Iran, is a well known cultural anthropologist and sociologist. She obtained her Ph.D. degree from UCLA in 1985. Her doctoral dissertation entitled “Class and Ethnicity in Rural California” was based on a study of Assyrians in Modesto and Turlock area. She is currently a professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of California, Santa Cruz and at De Anza Community College. In spite of the busy schedule of graduate teaching she still finds time for teaching the Assyrian language in Assyrian Churches. Since the inception of JAAS, she has been a supporter and frequent contributor to the journal.

**Edward Y. Odisho, Ph.D.**, was the founding editor of JAAS in 1985. He earned his Ph.D. degree from Leeds University, England in phonetics and linguistics. He is a professor in the Department of Teacher Education at Northeastern University and an adjunct professor at Loyola University, Chicago. Since he started this journal, he has maintained his support of JAAS on every level. He has authored his well-known book “The Sound System of Modern Assyrian (Neo-Aramaic)” in 1988. He has published extensively in language and culture in American and international academic journals.

**Francis X. Paz, Ph.D.**, is a native of Chicago, whose family is one of the earliest Assyrian pioneers, settled in Chicago. He obtained his BA and MA degrees in history from the University of Chicago. He received his Ph.D. degree from Columbia University. As a distinguished scholar, he was the recipient of

Fulbright scholarship and studied in Egypt. He is a polyglot with an extensive knowledge in Semitic and European languages. He also has published extensively in the American Journal of Oriental Society and the Journal of Arabic Literature. Presently, he is a professor of comparative literature at the State University of New York, New Paltz.

**Efrem Yildiz, Ph.D.**, born in Silopi, Turkey, earned his primary and secondary education in Germany. He obtained a license in philosophy and theology as well as a Doctorate in Biblical Theology from the University of Pontificia Urbaniana in Rome. Presently he is professor of Biblical Studies, Hebrew, and Aramaic languages at the Universidad de Salamanca, Facultad de Filologia, in Salamanca, Spain.

**Francis Sarguis, J.D.**, our English language editor, who has contributed significantly to the advancement of this journal for the past ten years, due to an extensive around the world travel schedule and other personal projects has taken a less demanding and time consuming position as book review editor.

**Dr. Eden Naby**, due to other commitments will continue her support as a member of the advisory board.

**Mr. Ninos Isaac**, contributing editor, presently has a heavy schedule of teaching responsibilities, and will be on leave of absence.

We express our appreciation to the readers of this publication for their loyalty, and continued support; we would like to assure them that we will use every possible resource to improve the quality of the material presented in this journal. The addition of the new editors who will bring their knowledge and expertise to the pages of JAAS gives us hope and confidence that we would be able to accomplish this goal.

In the past issues of JAAS, we have published a number of controversial articles, which aroused some degree of concern about the direction and goals of this journal. In commitment to the freedom of expression, and scholarly excellence, we will not exclude the future publication of scholarly works that are worthy of being presented to our readers regardless of their controversial nature. At this point, as the title of this journal indicates, we would like to clarify our position in that our commitment to the Assyrian cause, name, and identity is not in question.