

## **A Welcome to two New Editors**

The Editorial Board is pleased to announce the addition of two scholars of Semitic languages and literature to its ranks. We have every confidence that their presence on this board will both enhance and advance the perspective of this journal.

**Rifaat Ebied, Ph.D.**, a Coptic Christian and native of Egypt, is a graduate of the American College at Assiout and Ain Shams University in Cairo, Egypt. Dr. Ebied's multifarious contributions and accomplishments are broader than the scope of this brief introduction.

Since 1979, he has served as Foundation Professor and Chairman of the Department of Semitic Studies at the University of Sydney, Australia. In March 2004, he was appointed Adjunct Professor at the Australian Catholic University.

His posts do not end there. He has also been a Lecturer of Hebrew in the Department of Oriental Languages at Ain Shams University (1960-1964).

Parkes Research Fellow, University of Southampton (1967-1969).

Lecturer in Hebrew and Semitic Languages, Department of Semitic Studies at the University of Leeds, 1969-1978.

Senior Lecturer in Semitic Studies and Acting Head of Department of Semitic Studies, University of Leeds, UK (1978-1979).

Dr. Ebied was invited as a Guest Scholar at the University of Leiden, Holland where he participated in the preparation of a new version of the Syriac Bible (The Peshitta Project). He has also been a Visiting Professor of Oriental Studies at the University of Cambridge (1993/94) and most recently, as Visiting Fellow at the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton, New Jersey.

In addition, from 1995 to 2004, he served as Chairman of the Biblical sections of the International Conference of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew (USA) and from 1984 to 1992, as Chairman of the South and Southwest Section of the International Symposium on Asian Studies. He is a member and Fellow of a number of international academic organizations and serves as chairperson in many of their related committees.

Professor Ebied's accomplishments extend well beyond his appointments and titles as he is also a prolific writer. He is the author of five books, coauthor and editor of another twelve books, and has about one hundred articles in major international academic journals.

Lastly, for his outstanding contributions, in April 2003 Dr. Ebied was awarded the Centenary Medal for “Services to Australia, the Humanities and Asian Studies.”

**Helen Younansardaroud, Ph.D.**, an Assyrian native of Urmia, Iran, emigrated to Germany after completing her secondary education. In 1996, she completed her graduate and postgraduate education at the Freie Universität Berlin. Her studies encompassed Ancient History, Ancient Semitic languages (Classical Arabic, Ethiopian, Hebrew and Syriac) and Ancient Oriental Languages (Akkadian, Ugarit, Hittite and Old Aramaic Inscriptions). In July 1999, she obtained her Doctorate degree in Semitic Studies from the Freie Universität Berlin on her dissertation titled, “Grammar of Neo-Aramaic Dialect of Sardaroud.”

In October 1999, she was appointed Assistant Professor of the Department of Seminar für Semistik und Arabistik (Semitic and Arabic Studies) at the Freie Universität Berlin. Currently, she is Lecturer of Classical Syriac and is working on a project titled, “Syriac Maqamat of Abdisho bar Brikha: Paradise of Eden.” Her research will include an in-depth observation and systematic analysis of all available manuscripts, followed by a comparative analysis of her German translation with the Maqamat al-Hariri in Arabic Language.

In addition, she has both participated and presented papers in a number of international academic symposia and has published numerous articles in international academic journals including the JAAS. She is the author of a monograph and co-author and co-editor of three other books.

Finally, on a less jubilant note, we regret to announce the resignation of our colleagues, Dr. Edward Odisho and Francis Sarguis, JD from the editorial board of the JAAS. Their faithfulness and loyalty to the journal, as well as its advancement, is irreplaceable and as a consequence, they will be greatly missed.

Editorial Board