

Journal of Septuagint and Cognate Studies

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Editorial

Before Sydney Jellicoe, together with others, had initiated in 1968 the “International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies” (IOSCS) and its “Bulletin” he had written in the preface to his introduction that, “With the passage of the years ... the study of the Septuagint has gone steadily forward”; and second that “Much of the work, however, has been done in comparative isolation, with the result that its fruits, widely scattered and in some cases difficult of access, can all too easily be overlooked by, or remain unknown indefinitely to, fellow laborers in the field.”

50 years later, we are at a different level, but the goal remains the same, to bring together Septuagint scholars from all over the world for a fruitful exchange; and the second aspect also remains important, as there still may be some work on the Septuagint that is not so known (or even used!) as much as it should be.

This anniversary volume of the “Bulletin of the International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies” (BIOSCS), now “Journal of Septuagint and Cognate Studies” (JSCS), comprises the regular part with research papers (because of the many other papers this year only a few), announcements, and book reviews, and a special part with a reflection on the *history of the Bulletin / Journal* itself (by its former editor Bernard Taylor), a history of the *Göttingen Septuaginta-Unternehmen* (by Reinhard Gregor Kratz and Felix Albrecht), and a number of reports on the Septuagint and Septuagint research in different countries: *Belgium* (Johan Lust), *Canada* (Rob Hiebert and Cameron Bod Taylor), *Finland* (Raija Sollamo and Ville Mäkipelto), *France* (Cécile Dogniez), *Germany* (Siegfried Kreuzer), *(South) Korea* (Jong-Hoon Kim), *Russia* (Mikhail Seleznev), *Spain* (Natalio Fernández Marcos), and *United States of America* (Leonard Greenspoon). – Reports on other countries are in preparation and will follow in the next issue of the Journal.

There is also another special contribution in this volume: Marcus Sigismund has collected an index on all the papers (including short notes etc.) and all the book reviews published in the 50 issues of BIOSCS and JSCS. – A big thank you to him and to all the authors of the special reports!

As abstracts have taken an important role in the evaluation of a Journal, I present my usual introduction to the articles of this issue as *abstracts*: The regular part of JSCS 50 (2017) begins with Larry Perkins, *The Greek*

Translator's Portrayal of Aaron in Exodus 32 – A Study in Septuagintal Characterization. He demonstrates the subtle accentuation of the role of Mose's brother by the Septuagint translator at that crucial point in Exodus.

John R. Gilhooly, *Angels: Reconsidering the Septuagint Reading of Deuteronomy 33:2*, takes up an older suggestion, and favors an angelic understanding of a word that was evidently already difficult for the Masoretes.

Nesina Grütter, *A Tale of One City (Nah 3: 8–9). A Text-critical Solution for an Often Discussed Problem Provided by a Reading Preserved in the Septuagint.* Instead of the usual 'tale of two cities' Grütter presents the 'tale of one city' only, i.e. Ninive and not also No in Egypt. This paper won the *John-William-Wevers-Prize 2016*. – Congratulations!

Romina Vergari, *Interaction between Lexical Innovation and Morphemic Analysis in the Septuagint? Evaluative Study on Hebrew Nominal Derivatives Related to Cultic Realia*, treats the question of etymological thinking for the interpretation of the Hebrew and for the choice of Greek words, exemplified by terms for cultic realia. She comes to a differentiated picture: For some words, etymology was relevant for their being chosen, for some this was not so, and for some etymology may have been an additional influence.

Robert Hiebert in his *Obituary for Peter Flint* remembers a friend and colleague who was important for Qumran and for Septuagint studies as well.

Friedbert Weber announces his doctoral dissertation on Gregory of Nyssa's treatise *In inscriptiones Psalmorum*.

The book review section comprises reviews on a wide variety of Septuagint and also some Cognate studies.

After 10 years of service, *Alison Salvesen* will now leave the editorial board for new duties at her university. I want to express my gratitude for her scholarly contributions, for her wisdom, and also for her role as native speaker, having checked many manuscripts.

We welcome *James Aitken* from Cambridge, GB, as a new member to the editorial board. I want to thank him for taking on this responsibility. We are looking forward to a fruitful cooperation.

The most important change became known to us just before this issue of the Journal was going to be printed: Eisenbrauns became part of an other publishing house. Considering different aspects of this change and also some other factors, the exec committee of the IOSCS decided to accept the offer of Peeters Publishers to become the new home of JSCS.

We thankfully look back on 20 years of fruitful cooperation with Jim Eisenbraun and his staff. During these two decades, the Bulletin developed its format into a full-fledged journal, as it finally was also expressed from 2011 onwards by its new name as “Journal of Septuagint and Cognate Studies”. As the present editor and together with the members of the editorial board and in the name of our predecessors I want to express our gratitude to “Eisenbrauns”. – And we are looking forward to the cooperation with Peeters Publishers.

Finally, in the name of the editorial board of the Journal and of the executive committee of IOSCS, we invite readers to become members of the “International Organization of Septuagint and Cognate Studies”. For becoming a member or for paying the membership fee, please consult the information on the homepage of IOSCS (and, please, do not forget to send an email with your postal address so that the Journal can be delivered to you). Libraries and other institutions will be served by Peeters directly.

Siegfried Kreuzer

November 2017/January 2018