

## Recenzje

*Arabic and Semitic Linguistics Contextualised. A Festschrift for Jan Retsö*, ed. by Lutz Edzard, Harrasowitz Verlag, Wiesbaden 2015, 576 pp.

The tradition of editing a Festschrift by the students and friends for eminent scholars is a very valuable one. Such books have two important functions. First, they concentrate a group of scholars, who dedicate their papers to a Professor, and secondly, they have an important role for the history of science. Here we find the biographical notes of eminent scholars and their bibliographies. And even in the era of Internet the arrangement of such volumes makes a sense as a part of tradition and as a document of the development of particular field of knowledge.

The book *Arabic and Semitic Linguistics Contextualised* being a Festschrift for Professor Jan Retsö, an eminent Norwegian scholar in the field of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Semitic and Slavic Studies, opens with a *Dedication* (pp. 9–10) prepared by Lutz Edzard. It is followed by *A tribute to Professor Jan Retsö by his pupils* (pp. 11–12) written by Sven-Olof Dahlgren, Rosmari Lillas-Schuil, Helene Kammensjö, Pernilla Myrne, Lina Petersson, Antonius Van Reisen and Sina Tezel. In this *Tribute* we can find some important information on Jan Retsö as a man and as a researcher. This presentation is unfortunately very short. It has quite a “private” character and tells us some interesting things about J. Retsö and lists nearly all fields of his scientific interests, but this is in no way a comprehensive portrait of this eminent scholar. What a pity! A deeper insight into the scientific career of J. Retsö and important changes in his scientific interests can only be reconstructed from the *Bibliography of Jan Retsö* (pp. 13–18) compiled by Lutz Edzard. The bibliography is divided into 3 parts: 1. Monographs and edited books; 2. Articles and book chapters and 3. Reviews. All parts are chronologically arranged.

The second part of the book consists of 29 articles which reflect the main above-mentioned fields of interest of Professor Retsö. The Editor divided the texts (only in the Table of Contents!) into 5 groups as follows:

**1. Slavic linguistics:** Silje Susanne Alvestad, *Canonical and non-canonical uses of the imperative in Slavic* (pp. 19–39); Antoaneta Granberg, *New manuscript fragment of a Prolog, discovered in the University Library in Uppsala* (pp. 40–53).

**2. Arabic linguistics and philology:** Werner Arnold, *Living together with the Jews: A Palestinian Arabic text from Jaffa* (pp. 54–60); Rudolf De Jong, *Texts in the Bedouin*

*dialects of the Awlād Sa'īd and the Tayāha of Sinai* (pp. 61–83); Werner Diem, *Ein Begleitbrief von 904 H zu Erlassen aus dem mamlūkischen Ägypten* (pp. 84–101); Melanie Hanitsch, “Doppelte” *Tempus- und Aspektmarkierung im Neuarabischen. Versuch einer Typisierung* (pp. 102–156); Barry Heselwood and Janet Watson, *The Arabic definite article: A synchronic and historical perspective* (pp. 157–176); Otto Jastrow, *The position of Mardin Arabic in the Mesopotamian-Levantine dialect continuum* (pp. 177–189); Ablahad Lahdo, Tillo. *Two texts reflecting daily life and cultural aspects of the Arabs of Tillo, South-eastern Turkey* (pp. 190–187); Pierre Larcher, *Une occurrence ancienne de la structure kāna sa-yaf' alu en arabe écrit* (pp. 198–213); Gunvor Mejdell, *Luġat al-'umm and al-luġa al-'umm – the 'mother tongue' in the Arabic context* (pp. 214–226); Maria Persson, *Verb form switch as a marker of clausal hierarchies in urban Gulf Arabic* (pp. 227–259); Ori Shachmon, *Agglutinated verb forms in the Northern province of Yemen* (pp. 260–273).

**3. Arabic literature, science, and history of ideas:** Lena Ambjörn, *Qustā b. Lūqā. On protection against rheum and catarrhs that occur in the winter. English translation of the Arabic text preserved in the manuscript Ayasofya 372* (pp. 274–298); Stephan Guth, *Aesthetics of generosity – generous aesthetics. On the cultural encoding of an Arab 'national virtue'* (pp. 299–327); Pernilla Myrne, *Who was Ḥubbā al-Madīniyya?* (pp. 328–344); Georges Tamer, *Überlegungen zur Erinnerung und Identitätsbildung im Koran* (pp. 345–360).

**4. Hebrew linguistics:** Silje Susanne Alvestad and Lutz Edzard, *Aspect in the Slavic and the Biblical Hebrew imperative* (pp. 361–390); Mats Eskhult, *Thoughts on Biblical Hebrew 'ašær* (pp. 391–396); Steven E. Fassberg, *Linguistic variation and textual emendation: The case of Judges 4:20* (pp. 397–404); Bo Isaksson, ‘Subordination’: *Some reflections on Matthiessen and Thompson’s article “The structure of discourse and ‘subordination’” and its bearing on the idea of circumstantial clause in Arabic and Hebrew* (pp. 405–425); Na‘Ama Pat-El, *A note on segholate adjectives in Biblical Hebrew* (pp. 426–429); Ofra Tirosh-Becker, *Eli'ezer Ben-Yehuda and Algerian Jews: Relationship and language* (pp. 430–447).

**5. Aramaic, Ethiopic and comparative Semitic linguistics:** Rebecca Hasselbach-Andee, *Explicit performative utterances in Semitic* (pp. 448–485); Janne Bondi Johannessen and Lutz Edzard, *Coordinated clause structures in Scandinavian and Semitic involving a finite verb form and an infinitive* (pp. 486–505); Geoffrey Khan, *Causative constructions in Neo-Aramaic (Christian Urmi dialect)* (pp. 506–530); Fekede Menuta, and Ronny Meyer, *Sonorant alternations in Muher* (pp. 531–553); Sina Tezel, *Arabic or Šūrayt/Tūrōyo* (pp. 554–568); Kjell Magne Yri, *Amharic and NSM (Natural Semantic Metalanguage)* (pp. 569–576).

As seen from above list of contributions, the volume is fully interdisciplinary and covers Arabic and Islamic Studies, Semitic Studies, Slavic Studies, linguistic, literary studies, history, history of science and cultural studies.

It is to say, that all studies included in the volume have very high scientific value and the book will be useful for many specialists, but first of all for linguists. The majority of texts is based on linguistic methodology of research. As for Arabic and Islamic studies,

which interest me the most, very important are the studies in the dialectology, especially these presenting the transcription, translation and commentary of the texts recorded during the field research (here the papers by W. Arnold, R. de Jong, A. Lahdo). Such texts have not only linguistic, but also cultural and sometimes historical value, because they mark some situations or transmit texts impossible to acquire in other ways (e.g. Israeli-Arab social relations, some stories or fairy tales and so on). The text by W. Diem and O. Tirosh-Becker shows how linguistics is associated with history, while the study of G. Mejdell presents the bounds between linguistic and social phenomena having also a political meaning. In this context it is interesting to add, that in Polish language there exists no “mother language”, but “język ojczysty”, which should be rather translated as “father language”.

From the point of view of my scientific interests the most important is of course, part 3. Here, a deep and many-sided analysis of ‘generosity’ as cultural phenomenon presents the study by S. Guth, showing one of the most important old Arabic virtues in the perspective of its development from the time of Ġāhiliyya up to nearly present day. No less interesting is a study on Ḥubbā al-Madīniyya, a quite obscure personality from 7<sup>th</sup> century Medina, occurring in many books of adab and history in the Middle Ages. The author analyses the stories dealing with Ḥubbā according to their literary genre and shows their intercourses.

Summing up I would like to stress, that the reviewed volume brings a couple of valuable contributions in various fields of Oriental and Slavic studies. It would be very useful for every scholar who wants to deepen his knowledge in aforementioned domains of philology, history and culture.

Marek M. Dziekan

Magdalena Lewicka, *Świat islamu, Europa i reformy. Prolegomena Ḥayr ad-Dīna at-Tūnusīego*, Wydawnictwo Naukowe UMK, Toruń 2017, 230 pp.

*Świat islamu, Europa i reformy. Prolegomena Ḥayr ad-Dīna at-Tūnusīego* (The World of Islam, Europe and Reforms. The Ḥayr ad-Dīn at-Tūnusī’s Prolegomena) by Magdalena Lewicka is a part of the Polish discourse on the socio-political thought in the Arab-Muslim world. In recent years, the publishing market has seen a number of positions concerning the world of Islam, both by Arabic and Western researchers. The reasons for this interest lie in the strategic importance of this area for geopolitical stability in today’s world. Certainly, an important part of the available works focuses on the turbulent history of the relations between the Western and the Islamic world, which in the most recent times have been greatly influenced by the global terrorism and its implications. Many publications authored by European and American political scientists and historians are, however, based on Western sources and represent a Eurocentric point of view and *raison d’état*. Fortunately, there is also a number of works concerning the ideas of Arab thinkers