

FERRER, Joan & Maria Antònia NOGUERAS, *Breve Diccionario Siríaco, Siríaco - Castellano - Catalán*, Barcelona: Universitat de Barcelona-Àrea d'Estudis Hebreus i Arameus (Estudios de Filología Semítica 1), 1999, 324 pp.

This trilingual (Syriac, Spanish and Catalan) dictionary (BDS), the first volume of a new series of Studies of Semitic philology under the direction of prof. J. Ribera-Florit (Barcelona), is conceived as a practical tool for students in Syriac at an initial level. It contains the complete tā text of the New Testament, a lexicon (including the proper names) of the Pešittā, the *Chrestomatia Syriaca* by A. Roediger (Halle, 1892, Hildesheim 1998²) and the valuable anthology added to Brockelmann's *Syrische Grammatik* (Leipzig, 1968¹¹).

This selection is a judicious one and is certainly sufficient to enable beginning students to translate their first Syriac texts.

The leading principle of the dictionary is to give students as much help as possible. Substantives are listed in alphabetical order and not according to the root or stem, following the system of the *Compendious Syriac Dictionary* of J. Payne Smith and of the recent Syriac dictionaries made by Syrians in diaspora countries such as the Dutch-Syriac-Dutch dictionary of Aziz Bulut (1993) or the *Süryanice-Türkçe sözlük* by Simon Atto (1988). Irregular or not immediately recognizable forms of verbs such as /*ayti*/, to bring, or /*'assêq*/, to lift, etc. are also given according to the alphabet. One must ask oneself however if for pedagogical reasons it would not have been better to let the students struggle themselves with finding the more difficult words and roots, thus training them to use the more scholarly dictionaries.

The BDS pays much attention to the different shades of meaning of a particular word and will certainly be a great help to students, both in theology and Semitic philology, wishing to initiate themselves into one of the most important languages for the study of Eastern Christianity.

HERMAN TEULE

FERRER, Joan & Maria Antònia NOGUERAS, *Manual de Gramática Siríaca*, Barcelona: Universitat de Barcelona-Àrea d'Estudis Hebreus i Arameus (Estudios de Fil. Semítica 2) 1999, 151 pp.

This is a traditional, systematic and practical reference grammar — no exercises are given— intended for beginning students with some