

JOURNAL OF NORTHWEST SEMITIC LANGUAGES

*Annual of the Association for the Study
of Northwest Semitic Languages
in South Africa*

VOLUME 6

1978

VOLUME EDITOR:

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Published by the Department of Semitic Languages,
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NO ABSTRACTS

BOOK REVIEWS

NEAL D. WILLIAMS, *A Lexicon for the Poetical Books*, Williams and Watrons Publishing Co., Irving, Texas, 1977, 135.

Here we have a useful tool for use in lectures with students. At the same time students can make use of it to build up their vocabulary of certain more or less rare words in the more difficult poetical parts of the Old Testament. The author has used especially the lexicon of Brown-Driver-Briggs as a starting point by listing words with a frequency less than 70 times in the Old Testament. More or less one meaning is supplied for every word. It is thus obvious that difference of opinion about the semantic field is not considered. But in spite of this, the student can immediately see one of the probable meanings of a word.

F.C.F.

THEODOR SEIDL, *Texte und Einheiten in Jeremia 27–29* Eos Verlag, St. Ottilien, Münchener Universitätsschriften, Arbeiten zu Text und Sprache im Alten Testament, 2 Band, Literaturwissenschaftliche Studie, 1. Teil, 1977, 160, D.M. 28.

This is a very careful and important study of Theodor Seidl, a student of Wolfgang Richter. He has used the "Literarkritik" for the first time on a prophetic work which was worked out and developed by Richter on certain narrative parts of the Old Testament. It is a kind of own approach to structural analysis in which grammatical construction and stylistic devices are fully considered. Although a second part of this study on "Formkritik" is still outstanding, certain very important conclusions are made. E.g. Jer. 27 and 28 are independent structural entities. Certain expressions in Jer. 28 which could show a relationship with Jer. 27 are later inserted by a final editor. Jer. 29 is not a unity, but are composed of smaller literary units. Traces of the work of the editor are also visible here. We have to wait for the second volume of this study to evaluate the results, but it seems as if quite a new approach might develop. It should also be profitable to Seidl to consider the hypothesis of Van Selms on this whole issue as it is worked out in his commentary in the series "De Prediking van het Oude Testament" in Dutch.

This study with its exhaustive discussion of scholarly opinion and fresh insights can be strongly recommended.

F.C.F.

R. E. CLEMENTS, *A Century of Old Testament Study*, Lutterworth Press, London, 1976, 152.

Here we have a useful survey of scholarly work on the Old Testament during the past hundred years. It is a concise and accurate description of certain trends of Old Testament studies. It is always intriguing to read a book like this to discover which results of long ago are still to a certain extent accepted today, but also to see the changes in scholarly approach to certain problems. It is obvious that certain important scholars have changed the scene by their almost genial insights in problems of the Old Testament. And every time these scholars could by writing a persuasive style bring their results over to scholars and even laymen (e.g. Wellhausen, Gunkel, Alt, Noth, Von Rad). One point of criticism can be brought forward, viz. the understandable evading of the studies

of the Albright-school. There is one minor reference to Albright, no reference to the history of John Bright and no reference to G. E. Wright or D. N. Freedman or F. M. Cross. The author refers to the work of G. E. Mendenhall, but his studies are to be understood in the broad approach of the Albright-school. It is also interesting to note that the studies of certain important Israeli-scholars are not mentioned, e.g. Y. Kaufmann, B. Mazar, A. Malamat. Is the author in disagreement with the bearing of archaeological results on Old Testament research?

In spite of this, this study can be recommended for further study on especially the German approach to the Old Testament and its influence on scholarship elsewhere.

F.C.F.

LORENZO VIGANÒ, *Nomi e titoli di YHWH alla luce del semitico del Nord-ovest*, Biblical Institute Press, Rome, 1976, xix + 247.

The author has studied those names and titles of the Lord on which fresh light can be thrown from Northwest Semitic. This is a very thorough work with valuable discussions. All the scholarly work on certain Biblical passages is also considered. The author accepts with the Dahood-school that the Massoretic consonants are very important, but not the later interpretation of vowels. In most of the discussed parts the vowels are altered according to the new insight of the author. In light of this he discovers a whole cluster of "new" names and titles of the Lord which were not earlier known. In other cases certain adjectives are regarded by him as nouns, e.g. *ʾôb*, *qārôb*, *hākām* etc. It is interesting to go through all his examples. It is clear that scholars will not agree with some of his proposals.

Normal Hebrew is sometimes changed to fit into the conception of the author. We will suffice with one example, Ps. 6:4 where *mē'ôd* is changed to *mā'ed* (p. 65). I am not convinced by all the examples of *lē*, *'em,kēn* etc. It is, however, valuable to have fresh suggestions on certain difficult passages in the Old Testament, especially on Job and Psalms. The connection between the Northwest Semitic (mainly Ugaritic) examples and the Old Testament is also not always clear. One should expect in some instances more clearcut examples from Ugaritic to show that a given word is used as a divine name or title.

This is, however, an important study for further research and could be recommended.

F.C.F.

W. GROSS, *Verbform + Funktion. Wayyiqtol für die Gegenwart*. Münchener Universitätschriften. Arbeiten zu Text und Sprache im Alten Testament, 1. Band, Eos Verlag, St. Ottilien, 1976, 189. DM 28.

This is a very careful and intriguing study. Its scope is to study *wayyiqtol* in poetry where scholars in the past held the position that it is to be regarded as a present perfect. Gross has given careful attention to the various solutions of a variety of scholars to this difficult problem. It is a question of translation. In his introductory remarks he has shown how scholars almost willfully worked their own preconceived ideas into their interpretation. Sometimes one can even notice a helpless search to a possible solution for this difficult grammatical phenomenon. Gross has started his investigation from the firm linguistic premise that a difference in form must also to a certain extent show a difference in function. Another premise is that one cannot study the grammar of poetic passages without taking notice of the function of the verb in prose passages

(p. 11). It is, however, important to note that a different function might have occurred in the early poetic parts and that it is probable that the Massoretes have changed *wěyiqṭōl* into *wayyiqṭol*, as I have argued elsewhere in this volume.

The outcome of the study of Gross is that there is an equivalence between the function of *wayyiqṭol* and the perfect. *Wayyiqṭol* expresses also, according to him, individual past actions which are in the most cases progressive.

In his rather exhaustive bibliography we miss the important work of J. Hoftijzer, *Verbalen vragen*, 1974, but this might be because it is written in Dutch.

We want to congratulate dr. W. Gross and Prof. Wolfgang Richter, his professor, with a very important piece of research.

F.C.F.