



support of the tenth-century date from excavations at Hazor (A. Ben-Tor, "Tel Hazor, 1994," *IEJ* 45 [1995] 65-66; idem, "Tel Hazor, 1996," *IEJ* 46 [1996] 262-263; and most recently, A. Ben-Tor and D. Ben-Ami, "Hazor and the Archaeology of the Tenth Century B.C.E.," *IEJ* 48 [1998] 1-37). Complete references and discussion concerning a number of recent discoveries would have enhanced the persuasiveness of the volume.

This volume is richly illustrated with over two-hundred photographs, line-drawings, chronological charts, maps, and tables. Each chapter ends with a list of references for further reading. The usefulness of the volume is enhanced by a full reference list, as well as Scripture and subject indexes. Indeed, Hoerth has achieved what few have attempted, an integration of the Bible and recent archaeological discoveries in the ancient Near East, while retaining a generally high view of Scripture. This volume makes a significant contribution to the field and is essential for anyone interested in Near Eastern archaeology and the Bible. It provides a new update on older evangelical treatments (Free and Vos, Thompson, and Schoville) from a seasoned scholar who has grappled with the issues for decades. *Archaeology and the Old Testament* will undoubtedly serve as a reference source for interested students of the Bible and a textbook for introductory archaeology courses in seminaries and parochial schools for many years to come.

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Huehnergard, John, and Jo Ann Hackett, eds. *A Grammar of Akkadian*. Harvard Semitic Museum Studies, No. 45. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1997. 647 pp. Hardcover, \$44.95.

Huehnergard is a professor of Semitic languages at Columbia, Johns Hopkins and Harvard Universities. Previous works of Huehnergard in the field of Semitic languages were: *Ugaritic Vocabulary in Syllabic Transcription*, HSS 32 (Atlanta: Scholars, 1987), and *The Akkadian of Ugarit*, HSS 34 (Atlanta: Scholars, 1989). Furthermore, this author has published several articles on Akkadian: "On Verbless Clauses in Akkadian," *ZA* 76 (1986): 218-249; "'Stative,' Predicative; Pseudo-Verb," *JNES* 46 (1987a): 215-232; "Three Notes on Akkadian Morphology," in D. M. Golomb, ed., *Working with No Data: Semitic and Egyptian Studies Presented to Thomas O. Lambdin* (Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1987), 181-193; and "Northwest Semitic Vocabulary in Akkadian Texts," *JAOS* 107 (1987): 713-725.

The author says in the preface that many aspects of this textbook are modeled on Thomas O. Lambdin's introductory grammars of Hebrew, Ethiopic, and Coptic. Huehnergard has also incorporated many ideas from the three earlier textbooks of Akkadian that have appeared in English: Richard Caplice, *Introduction to Akkadian* (3d ed., 1988); David Marcus, *A Manual of Akkadian* (1978); and Kaspar K. Riemschneider, *An Akkadian Grammar* (trans. T. Caldwell et al.; 3d ed., 1977). Moreover, *A Grammar of Akkadian* has assured a secure basis for the fundamental work of Wolfram von Soden on Akkadian grammar and his many articles about the study of Akkadian.

The author's main objective in this textbook is to present the grammar of Old Babylonian. It is customary to begin the study of Akkadian with Old Babylonian. Old

Babylonian, a dialect, is the Akkadian of southern Mesopotamia during the period of the first dynasty of Babylon. The author presents several reasons to choose Old Babylonian as the entry to Akkadian language study: (1) The corpus of Old Babylonian texts presents a remarkably uniform grammar; (2) many texts were written in a clear and relatively simplified system of signs; (3) the grammar of Old Babylonian exhibits a great consistency; and (4) the Old Babylonian literary dialect was considered the classical form of Akkadian for the rest of Mesopotamian history, and was the model for the later literary dialect of Standard Babylonian (see the Epic of Gilgamesh).

The author presents a textbook with a graded introduction that covers the grammar and writing system of Old Babylonian Akkadian in 38 lessons. It is intended for use in a college class, but could also be used profitably for independent study. At the end of the lessons the student will be familiar with all the main and most of the minor points of Old Babylonian grammar and script, and will be ready to begin the study of Standard Babylonian texts.

In each lesson two or three points of grammar are covered. The grammar sections are followed by ten to fifteen vocabulary items to be learned and, beginning with Lesson 9, by about ten cuneiform signs that are also to be memorized. A key to most of the exercises is published separately as *Key to a Grammar of Akkadian* (Scholars, 1998).

Lessons 1 and 2 present the basic concepts of Akkadian grammar: the sounds of Akkadian (vowels and consonants), syllabification, stress (accent), noun declension, prepositions, pronouns, and verbless clauses. From Lesson 3 to Lesson 23, only the G basic stem or conjugation is considered. The author introduces the G stem of weak root types before the other conjugations of the sound roots, since many of the most common verbs in the language have weak roots. The presentation consists of the simple or basic root plus an inflectional pattern for each finite and nonfinite form. Finally, from Lesson 24 to Lesson 38 the derived verbs (or derived stems) are presented.

The textbook ends with a supplementary reading (OB Gilgamesh), glossaries, sign list, alphabetical cross-index of sign values, and appendices.

The sources from which the author derives his information are primary and many. Both research tools and bibliography are extensive and scholarly. The presentation of the grammar in the present textbook follows that of W. von Soden's *Grundriss der akkadischen Grammatik* (GAG) in most details. In addition to GAG, numerous other articles and monographs devoted to issues of Akkadian grammar were also consulted by the author, especially studies published after 1969. The findings of most of them are incorporated into the presentation of this grammar.

In conclusion, this is a very useful and excellent grammar for students of introductory- and intermediate-level Akkadian. It includes many exercises and texts, thus offering both instructors and students a choice of exercises and texts to work through during an academic year. These features make it a very practical and methodical textbook. Written by one of the most important American scholars in the field of Semitic languages, it is probably the best Old Babylonian Akkadian grammar available for readers in English.