

### ***Kudos on a Tenth Anniversary***

*On August 25, 1996, the eponymous Assyrian Academic Society (Chicago, Illinois) organized a banquet in honor of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this Journal. We are grateful to the Society for its continued endorsement. A number of congratulatory messages were received from several countries relative to the event, and a few of them were reproduced in a commemorative program. One in particular seemed so perceptive in describing the Journal's mission that we thought it important to share its contents with our readers.*

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July 12, 1996

Robert Paulissian, M.D.  
Editor-in-Chief  
Journal of the Assyrian Academic Society

Dear Dr. Paulissian,

The Editors and producers of the ***Journal of the Assyrian Academic Society*** have every reason to be proud of their achievement. The fact alone that volunteers from different walks of life, only few of them having academic careers, were able to get this enterprise off the ground, to improve it over the years, and to sustain the momentum for a decade, is unquestionably noteworthy. It is even more remarkable if one considers that this periodical is dedicated solely to the preservation of the heritage, and the search for roots, of a very small – by international standards – group of expatriates from the Middle East. The unifying bond between these expatriates is their minority status in their countries of origin and the fact that they have preserved – albeit in a number of dialectical variations – one of the great languages of Antiquity, Aramaic. Also, the strikingly large percentage of members of this community with intellectual interests is an important factor that has made this journal grow and flourish.

It is in the nature of this publication that the subjects treated in it cannot be *a priori* limited, as long as they bear on the life of the community and its history. Of course, historical, literary, and religious topics abound. But what would be particularly welcomed is any contribution describing the way of life back in the old homeland, personal reminiscences, and other forms of so-called oral history. It may take some effort to persuade people who have such knowledge but do not feel qualified to write for a journal with the word “*academic*” in its title, that what they know is valuable, and that it will be lost if not published. Any lack of writing skill can be made up for by the editors, and if

such materials are submitted, the editors are justified in relaxing stylistic requirements and in accommodating writers of lesser experience.

As an academic observer, I am satisfied with the degree of editorial unity in both the English and the Assyrian parts of the journal. I am not disturbed by such technical inconsistencies of form and style as footnotes in one article and endnotes in another. It is the content that counts, and one need not emulate some modern journals whose inflexible, narrow-minded editors see nothing but the style and insist on its application without exceptions, often at the expense of substance.

As someone who has contributed on a small scale to the knowledge of one particular New-Aramaic dialect, I salute all fellow workers in the field and all those who in any way contribute to the preservation of knowledge about a way of life and a language, whose carriers have become known in recent times mainly under the revived names of the ancient Chaldeans and Assyrians.

May the JAAS continue to flourish in its second decade and beyond.

Dr. George Krotkoff  
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Johns Hopkins University