

## Introduction

Dr. Robert Paulissian, a physician by profession, has distinguished himself for the last thirty years as a skillful anesthesiologist as well as an author of several highly professional studies published in various medical journals and books. Paulissian has equally distinguished himself among his colleagues and friends as an ardent student of ancient history, with specific focus on the Assyrian history. His articles, "Medicine in Ancient Assyria and Babylon" and "Dental and Oral Care in Ancient Assyria and Babylon" published in the previous issues of JAAS were highly informative and scholarly treatises on the ancient history of Beth Nahrain. In this issue, he tackles the interesting topic of "Adoption in Ancient Assyria and Babylon" with its legal implications much reminiscent of the present practices in the realm of adoption. This contribution opens a window through which one can envision the highly civilized, advanced and well organized ancient Assyrian/Babylonian society where the rights of poor widows and young orphans were earnestly protected. Of particular interest are a few expressions used by ancient Assyrians that are still in circulation and common use by modern Assyrians.

Dr. Zomaya Solomon is well known to our readers and has been introduced in previous issues of this journal. In the past six years, he has contributed to every issue of JAAS with an informative article on different aspects of the grammar of the Assyrian language. In this issue, he dwells on the subject of Inflection of Guttural Verbs in Assyrian Aramaic. JAAS has benefited from Solomon's literary as well as editorial contributions. We are looking forward to see these articles eventually compiled in a book for the benefit of students and scholars in Semitic languages.

Stephen Andrew Missick is of Hungarian ethnic origin and a student of knowledge and scholarship. His contribution to this issue of JAAS is an enlightenment to many of our readers about the history of the Assyrians and the Church of the East especially in China and Mongolia. This is an aspect of the history of Assyrians and their traditional Church that many of us are keenly interested to know about. We very much appreciate the contribution of this young Magyar to the history of the Assyrians.

George Yana, an Assyrian native of Iran, presents a review of a book by the French scholar George Bohas titled "Les Arameens Du Bout Du Monde: La Memoire des Chretiens d'Orient". This book is an eyewitness account and observations of the Assyrian communities in the Khabur region of Syria.

Finally, a short and interesting review of Michael K. Pius' book "Assyrian Tales and Confessions" by our own colleague, Francis Sarguis JD. and Ms. Gladys Warda. The contributions of Mr. Sarguis in the past eleven years to the advancement of JAAS are well beyond expression. This journal has benefited greatly from his excellent writing and editing skills. We hope that after the

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i. This particular entry is prepared by Prof. Edward Odisho.

conclusion of his busy traveling schedule, he will take a more active and productive role in the editorial endeavors of JAAS.

*Editor.*