

Foreword

We lead off this edition with Simo Parpola's lead article, "National and Ethnic Identity in the Neo-Assyrian Empire, and Assyrian Identity in Post-Empire Times." While Dr. Parpola hardly needs a personal introduction, it is worth mentioning that his research to date has shed considerable light on our history. We expect his present article to be of broad interest. For this reason, we have decided to offer the article simultaneously in Assyrian as well as in Arabic translation of it. Our readers will recall that JAAS 16:2 was published in honor of Dr. Parpola.

We are pleased to publish an article by Guo Honggeng of Nankai University, People's Republic of China. Guo discusses his findings on the intelligence gathering and communication methods used by the ancient Assyrians against their adversaries. As an aside, we are appreciative of the number of subscribers who support this publication in Japan and other countries in East Asia.

Professor Michael Abdalla of Poznan, Poland, has frequently contributed to this publication, beginning with some of our earlier issues. His article on the use of wild-growing plants in the cuisine of Western Assyrians in Turkey and Syria, is the latest in his series on Assyrian culinary practices. Dr. Abdalla, has attended numerous international congresses on the subject of food. He is also a member of our editorial board.

Phillip Sinistiere reviews a recent work by Richard Foltz on Iran's role in helping shape the world's religions. Mr. Sinistiere, currently working on his doctorate degree, is the author of several monographs on the subject of religion, and more than forty of his book reviews have previously been published in a number of academic publications.

With the passing of Rabi Nemrod Simono this past summer, our community has lost a tireless advocate, as noted by Francis Sarguis in his Remembrance. Following a solid traditional education in Iran, France and Italy, Rabi Simono spent untold amounts of his time in research, writing, and teaching – all in the

service of his heritage. He relentlessly continued in his mission, even when his sight failed him in his later years. It is rare to have such a dedicated talent in our midst. It is a loss to us all.

Editorial Board.