

# **SCRIPTA CLASSICA ISRAELICA**

**YEARBOOK OF THE ISRAEL SOCIETY  
FOR THE PROMOTION OF CLASSICAL STUDIES**

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# SCRIPTA CLASSICA ISRAELICA

YEARBOOK OF THE ISRAEL SOCIETY  
FOR THE  
PROMOTION OF CLASSICAL STUDIES

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## Editorial Note

With the publication of the present volume Hannah Cotton, Jonathan Price and David Wasserstein will leave the editorial board of *Scripta Classica Israelica*. Hannah Cotton and Jonathan Price have served as editors for fourteen years, and David Wasserstein for eleven. This is not only the moment for us to take our leave but it is also an opportunity to set forth once more the reasons for the existence of our journal.

Is there a real need for another classical journal in European languages when the scholarly world is flooded with such journals, as a glance at *l'Année Philologique* makes abundantly clear? If the aim is, with the Psalmist, 'to exalt the glory of his people' among the nations, one could reasonably argue that first-class publications by Israeli classicists in the major international journals bring greater honour and recognition to Israeli scholarship than articles in *SCI*, with its much more limited circulation. Nonetheless, we can suggest several good justifications for *SCI*'s existence.

While *Scripta Classica Israelica* publishes articles on philological and historical subjects entirely unrelated to our particular region, we have always given pride of place to studies on local epigraphy, on local papyrology, on Hellenistic Jewish literature, on the combination of classical archaeology and Jewish history, on the history of early and late Christianity in the region, on the native cultures which absorbed the impact of Graeco-Roman civilisation over the centuries and yet retained their own multi-farious cultures and languages. This is our home territory, and these themes serve as grid-lines for both our contributors and our readers — and so it should be. It is altogether fitting and appropriate that a classical journal published in Israel should reflect classical cultures through a local prism. Given the centrality of these themes in the ancient world, there is no danger that such a slant, or, better, perspective, will turn *SCI* into a provincial journal with narrow local interests.

It was our conviction that if it was worth having a journal at all, it was so only on the condition that it match the standards of the major journals in the field. Fortunately, this conviction meshed well with an equally important desire — shared with other 'national' journals — to serve as a familiar and welcoming platform for the young classicists of our country. They are invited to publish here the first fruits of their research with the assurance of receiving ample encouragement, assistance in translation, and scholarly advice. As editors, we regarded the cultivation of budding scholars as our distinctive mission. Not least for the sake of these contributors, we were also determined not to sacrifice scholarly standards: young scholars when launching their careers need to publish their work in an internationally recognized and respected journal. It was necessary to attract renowned scholars to publish in *Scripta Classica Israelica*, and make it indispensable reading for those who want to keep abreast of the best work done in our field. Volume 12 (1993), dedicated to Ra'anana Meridor, and volumes 15, 16 and 17 (1996-1998), dedicated to the memory of Abraham Wasserstein, accomplished this for us. Many of the scholars who contributed to those volumes have continued afterwards to send articles to *Scripta Classica Israelica* and to serve as outside referees and as book reviewers.

Finally, yet importantly, as Israel's non-Hebrew classical journal, *Scripta Classica Israelica* has the important function of presenting to the larger scholarly world work in

Classics written in Hebrew which might otherwise go unnoticed. Hence the idea of adding two new sections: 'Classics in Hebrew', which surveys all relevant scholarship in Classics, ancient history and archaeology published in Hebrew, and a list of 'Dissertations in Progress in Israeli Universities'. By these means, we have been able to publicize the wide range of sophisticated and important work produced here, in Hebrew, encompassing philology, criticism and interpretation, history, archaeology, scholarly reviews, and above all translations of classical Greek and Latin texts.

The editors for the next issue of SCI will include Professor Deborah Levine Gera, Dr Daniela Dueck, and Professor David Schaps, who remains at his post, as well as Professor Margalit Finkelberg. We are confident that in their hands *Scripta Classica Israelica* will continue to justify its existence, combining the finest tradition of solid and exacting classical scholarship with original and stimulating ideas.

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