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“All in all, the [xxx] is to my mind the most difficult problem in modern Septuagint work.” This sentence was written by John Williams Wevers about 50 years ago. What thorny issue would we substitute for xxx today? Most probably, the answers would be different. – Maybe not the most difficult problem to your mind, but certainly some interesting subjects you will find in this issue of JSCS 49 that is just one short of the significant number of fifty issues.

JSCS 49 (2016) opens with “Constructions Denoting ‘To Have’ (Predicative Possession) in the Greek Genesis” by Theo van der Louw, who studies the relevant expressions using a new linguistic approach. Innocent Himbaza asks, “Quelle est la Septante du Lévitique?”, and comes to the conclusion that also for Leviticus the so-called main text tradition has undergone some hebraizing revision. Martin Meiser asks for Antiochian Readings of I–IV Reigns in Early Church Fathers, a question that is of some importance for the question of pre-Lucianic and Old Greek and kaige-readings in the early tradition. The John William Wevers-Prize paper 2015 is Θεκεμένας und סָפֶּר in 1 Könige 11,19 by Christoffer Theis who presents a new and surprising solution for that mysterious name, indicative of the sometimes mysterious relations between ancient Israel and Egypt. Claude Cox investigates “Ipsissima verba”: The translator’s “actual words” in Old Greek Job and what they tell us about the translator and the nature of the translation. The title of Joshua L. Harper’s paper Shall I Surely Translate This? The Hebrew Infinitive Absolute in the Greek Twelve Prophets plays on this locution in Biblical Hebrew, and he also discusses how these translations may have sounded in Greek. Anna Angelini in Ruins, Zion and the Animal Imagery in the Septuagint of Isaiah 34 shows how the translators did their best not only to understand but also to convey the meaning of a text that was already ancient and distant in their time. Carson Bay in A Note on Papyrus 967 and Daniel 2:1 shows how one of the chronological problems of the book of Daniel was solved in the Septuagint and how this solution was attested in ancient tradition, even though its manuscript attestation was unknown until the 20th century.

Two doctoral students have sent their dissertation abstracts. Congratulations! And: Vivant sequentes!
The book reviews once more show the wide range of interest and the manifold questions of Septuagint research.

Concerning practical matters: Thanks to Hans Ausloos and Benédicte Lemmelijn there exists now the long awaited European bank account. For name and numbers of this account, but also for paying via Paypal, see the cover pages of the Journal and the homepage of IOSOT.

There is now also a 4-page folder with information on IOSOT and JSCS available at the homepage. You are invited to download it and put it on your bulletin board or print it out double-sided and fold and distribute it.

*Siegfried Kreuzer*

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