

excellence and clarity. It is to be hoped that in a second edition technical faults of typography and reproduction, of which the author is already painfully aware, may be corrected, preferably by bringing out a printed edition. The work deserves wider circulation than usage as a college textbook in Spanish-speaking lands.

Andrews University

LEONA G. RUNNING

Johns, Alger F., *A Short Grammar of Biblical Aramaic*. "Andrews University Monographs," Vol. 1. Berrien Springs, Michigan: Andrews University Press, 1966. xii + 108 pp. \$ 5.95.

This well-constructed grammar presents Biblical Aramaic (BA) concisely to seminary students who already have some foundation in Biblical Hebrew (BH). Comparisons are frequently drawn between the two, and many topics need little elucidation because they are the same or very similar in the two languages. Until recently there was no English-language grammar of Aramaic available; the development of this book was long under way before the appearance of another Aramaic grammar in English, and the approach used here is not the same, being basically that of the "Baltimore school." The author is concerned strictly with BA; other Aramaic studies might modify what is found in the Masoretic text.

After a four-page introduction placing BA in its Semitic family setting and briefly discussing the alphabet, script, tone, and vocabulary, with a list of words identical in BH and BA, Lesson I takes up phonology from the historical and comparative-Semitic points of view. Lesson II presents nouns and adjectives; III, personal pronouns and suffixes on nouns; IV, other pronouns; V, the verbal system and specifically the perfect; VI, the imperfect, infinitive, etc.; VII, classes of nouns; VIII, the derived active conjugations; IX, the passive and reflexive conjugations; X, laryngeal verbs; XI to XV, the various classes of weak verbs; XVI and XVII, verbal suffixes with the perfect and with the imperfect, infinitive, etc.; XVIII, noun types; XIX, similar noun classes; and the last lesson, XX, numerals.

Each lesson contains the grammar presentation, followed by a vocabulary list in alphabetic order, with nouns labeled by their class as presented in Lesson VII; and then a few sentences are given for translation, made up largely from phrases drawn from Ezra and Daniel, simplified where necessary. Beginning with Lesson XII, in addition to the sentences to be translated the student is directed to translate two verses from Ezr 4 : 8 ff. From Lesson XVI on, Biblical verses constitute the only translation exercise, continuing through Ezr 6 : 18 in Lesson XX and thus completing the reading of the Aramaic part of Ezra.

Following the last lesson are six pages of paradigms. That of the regular (strong) verb is completely presented; for Hollow, Geminate,

and Lamedh He verbs the paradigms are partial, with reference to the corresponding lesson for the remaining forms. Since laryngeal verbs and Pe-weak verbs are completely exhibited in Lessons X and XI, they are not included in the paradigms but there are cross references to these lessons. A thirteen-page glossary completes the material; no index is really needed because of the logical, topical organization followed throughout, the table of contents giving clear and adequate assistance in finding any topic.

The printing, done by the Jerusalem Academic Press Ltd., is excellent. A very few corrections made on the proof were overlooked. The following corrections may be noted: on page 37, the Roman numerals IX in the heading have dropped out; on page 61, fourth line of paragraph (B), the point is lost because the hypothetical הַפֶּל * has been misprinted as הַשֶּׁל ; on page 100, after הַפֶּל , instead of "haphel" it should read "h/aph.," meaning both haphel and aphel; on page 106 under רָמָה there should be added "—peil—to be thrown"; on the same page under the ש heading three words contain ש instead of שׁ ; these should read שָׁב *, שָׁבָא *, and שָׁטַר .

When the author uses his lessons in a class, the same class is enrolled in the following term for his course in Exilic Prophets in Hebrew and Aramaic, in which the Aramaic portions of Daniel are studied as well as other parts of Daniel and selected portions of Ezekiel. This is the reason why the Biblical material used for translation in the grammar book under review is drawn exclusively from Ezra (aside from the Aramaic verse in Jeremiah 10 and the Aramaic phrase in Genesis 31). Some Aramaic in Daniel may also be read in the first term following completion of these twenty lessons.

The logical and clear presentation is highly commendable; the book should be very serviceable for use in seminaries and also for independent study by those who know something of Biblical Hebrew.

Andrews University

LEONA G. RUNNING

Kubo, Sakae, *P⁷² and the Codex Vaticanus*. "Studies and Documents," ed. by Jacob Geerlings, Vol. XXVII. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1965. 196 pages. \$ 10.00.

This is a condensation of Kubo's doctoral dissertation, done under Allen Wikgren of the University of Chicago. It represents an excellent example of the new approach to textual criticism. Once the new canons for the practice of this science (or should one say art?) are accepted, the use to which Kubo puts them can only call forth our admiration for his command of the chosen methodology. He has adopted "an eclecticism in which the internal evidence outweighs the external" (p. 5) because "there is no real alternative to this rather subjective method" (p. 6).