

DEDICATED TO
LEONA GLIDDEN RUNNING

A NOTE ABOUT THIS ISSUE OF *AUSS*

The present issue of *AUSS* is dedicated to, and presented in honor of, our esteemed colleague Leona Glidden Running. Although perhaps not in every respect a *Festschrift*, it probably comes as close to such as we will ever publish. The articles—about twice the number in a regular issue—have all been solicited and prepared with the *specific* intent of honoring Leona, and they therefore represent various areas of her special interest and expertise: biblical studies, biblical and cognate languages, Near Eastern antiquity, and archaeology in the Bible lands. The "Book Notices" (an enlarged section in this issue of *AUSS* to compensate for the omission of "Book Reviews") constitutes the one part of this publication that does not relate fully or specifically to the areas of Leona's special interests.

Unfortunately, all persons who would have liked to contribute articles for this issue of *AUSS* were not able to do so—either because of their own time constraints or because of our publication schedule. Our endeavor, nonetheless, has been to provide a selection of studies that would both reflect Leona's scholarly interests and include as authors a fair representation of biblical scholars with whom she has had contact. Some of the authors are, or have been, colleagues on the Seminary faculty; and several of these are also former students of hers. Others, while neither her students nor Seminary colleagues, are long-time acquaintances in the field of biblical and Near Eastern studies. In the last group, David Noel Freedman of the University of Michigan may be especially mentioned for his having collaborated with her in the publication of a definitive biography of William Foxwell Albright (see p. 5 below).

The original suggestion to honor Leona with a special issue of *AUSS* came from Associate Editor Lawrence T. Geraty, at the time when he was a colleague on the Seminary faculty. It was my intent to leave this project largely in his hands, until such was made impossible by his acceptance of the heavy responsibilities of the presidency of Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Massachusetts. For his continuing interest and support, including his own article published herein, I am grateful. And special thanks must go, as well, to William H. Shea, not only for his essay, but for contacts he made with some of the other authors and for help in the editorial procedures; and to George R. Knight, who took the oversight of the editorial process when some of the manuscripts were arriving during my absence from campus last summer. To the other *AUSS* staff members who worked so faithfully to make this issue possible, and especially to all the contributors of essays, I wish, too, to express my deepest appreciation.

Initially, several of the authors included dedications to Leona in their manuscripts. For the sake of style consistency, these dedications have been omitted—especially since the intent of this issue is that *all of the articles* are dedicated to her. However, as a fitting close to this introductory note, the tribute from Lawrence Geraty in his manuscript on "Hezekiah's Lachish" may be quoted here as representing the sentiment of us all. After indicating that it was in Leona Running's Hebrew courses that he "first gained access to the linguistic tools so essential to scholarly research," Geraty added: "It is therefore a privilege for me to provide this review of an important archaeological site in Professor Running's beloved Israel for a collection of essays in honor of a remarkable teacher, colleague, and friend."

—Kenneth A. Strand
Editor



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