

**Sebastian Brock**, *An Introduction to Syriac Studies*. 2d rev. ed. Gorgias Press, Piscataway, NJ, 2006, pp. ix + 78, ISBN 1-59333-349-8. Review doi: 10.1558/arsr.v21i2.242.

I draw the attention of this journal's readers to the rapidly expanding catalogue of works published by Gorgias Press since it was founded in 2001. It covers works on the Near East, both ancient and modern, thus everything from travel narratives to ancient liturgies and rare text editions. For scholars and students of religion there are reprints of hard-to-find works on Judaica, Eastern Christianity, Mandaean studies and suchlike; but they also publish new monographs, and this is an opportunity to consider for successful dissertations in relevant fields.

In this volume we have the 'revised second edition' of *An Introduction to Syriac Studies* by Sebastian Brock. In reality, the 'first edition' was written for a volume entitled *Horizons in Semitic Studies. Articles for the Student*, edited by J.H. Eaton and published in 1980 by the Department of Theology at the University of Birmingham. Now it appears as Gorgias Handbook volume 4, and one must congratulate a publishing house that shows this sort of commitment to scholarship (and see further p. 58). Brock, of course, is a magisterial figure in Syriac studies. He covers the range of Syriac literature, the place of the language amongst the Aramaic dialects, and in the most useful section V the necessary tools (grammars, chrestomathies, dictionaries, bibliographies, periodicals, etc.). There is also a charming epilogue: 'The Delights of Manuscripts'; though one should emphasize that Brock is at pains throughout to stress that the Syriac tradition is very much alive (pp. 1, 65). An appendix casts light on the confusing mass of Syriac churches and liturgical traditions.

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