

Preface

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Pages vii–viii of

**Fucus: A Semitic/Afrasian Gathering in Remembrance of
Albert Ehrman**

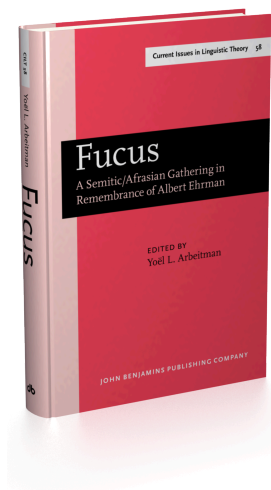
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PREFACE

After approximately four and a half years of intense labor on a work undertaken for love, labor the intensity of which is not diminished in that it perforce has been discontinuous, there is little one can say to adequately express the extreme sense of satisfaction and exultation which fills one, little other than the words of the benediction:

Who hath kept us living, filled us
with endurance, and brought us to **שהחינו וקימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה**.
this season [of our goal].

Such a benediction, regardless of theological perspective of the reciter, is a natural expression of the overwhelming joy. Another expression that comes as an obvious and spontaneous occurrence to the lips of the laborer is the pleasure of specifying his gratitude to all colleagues who have contributed to the enterprise, those without whose efforts such a work as the present one could never come to fruition. My thankfulness to all the authors in this volume is profound; as so too is my thankfulness to the publishers, Claire and John Benjamins for their confidence in this project. It would be most remiss of me not to make note of the cooperation received during this long period from the general editor of this series (*CILT*), Prof. Konrad Koerner.

My general gratitude to all of these persons is in no way to be seen as diminished by the expression of especial debts I am beholden for to several particular individuals whose participation offered assistance beyond the required or expected and, thus, sustained me in times of being overwhelmed. In one way or another, Prof. Gary A. Rendsburg was responsible for my initial introduction to a number of the scholars whose work is represented in this volume. The early major efforts made by my friends, Professors Chaim Rabin and Aron Dolgopolsky,

let me first see flesh develop on the bare bones of the idea of the book, which until then was only mental, an idea rather than a real or material book. Equally, the early efforts of my friend, Prof. Saul Levin, not only gave flesh to the idea which was but bones, but his continuing friendship — most especially in times of great personal loss — is a testimony to the fine being which he is. Near the end of the work on this book, Dr. Michael P. O'Connor proofed my own rather large article in this volume and pointed out a number of poorly written paragraphs and other errors. In almost all cases of substance I have adopted his criticisms; only in the plethora of his dislike of my punctuation did I ignore his suggestions, and this not because he was wrong, but because adopting the suggestions would have resulted in too much waste of time and labor. I am very grateful to him for his time and keen eye and the profit to my article from the same. The appearance of some of the articles has profited much from the gift of four typing elements produced by Camwil which Prof. Giorgio Buccellati made to me. And finally I cannot leave unsaid that my very abilities to cope, however inadequately, with producing the camera-ready copy are owed to years of learning from Allan R. Bomhard who, amongst many other fields of mastery, is the world's most skillful camera-ready typer, as the quality of the Kerns GS, of which he produced 9/10 of the camera-ready copy, well attests.

W It would be an extreme dereliction of my duty if I did not give way to my delectation in acknowledging the good-sensical judgment combined with the integrity of character of Dr. Alfred Wiener who convinced me at various times to accept his expertise without which very little of the work would have come to fruition.

X ---

Y ---

Z At the conclusion with "Z", let me express simply to Donald & Judith Zwyer that they were always there when it counted and to say more than these few words would only risk embarrassing them!