
EDITORIAL NOTE

It is a great pleasure for us to dedicate this fascicle of *Bibliotheca Orientalis* to Professor Marten Stol, who for now forty years has been part of the *BiOr* editorial team, with responsibility for the sections of Assyriology and “Varia”.

Marten began his work as editor with the first issue of 1976. This issue contained an announcement on page 2 from the “Governors” of NINO stating that A. Kampman will retire as Editor-in-Chief to make place for Van Donzel (then director of NINO). The message continues dryly that he will be assisted by a number of editors among whom “Dr. M. Stol” is mentioned.

The year 1976 also saw the publication of Marten’s thesis *Studies in Old Babylonian History*. His academic work is mostly focused on the social and economic history of the Old Babylonian period, but he is also widely known as an expert of ancient (cuneiform) medical texts, and as a prolific contributor on numberless different subjects to the monumental *Reallexikon der Assyriologie und Vorderasiatischen Archäologie*. Marten is characteristically able to absorb and retain a vast amount of information, also anecdotal, without losing

track of essentials. This ability continues to be very useful in his now long and distinguished career. Marten retired from his position as Professor of Assyriology at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam in 2005, but continues to be very active.

As editor for *BiOr* he uses his broad international network to find the many books on Assyriological matters sent to the *BiOr* office the best reviewers. At the same time he also gives young scholars the possibility to review books and write their first publications. In addition to being an editor, Marten was and still is himself a frequent contributor: his first article and two reviews in *BiOr* stem from 1971. In addition to countless short announcements (Korte Aankondigingen) we count seven articles and almost one hundred book reviews up until 2015!

Scrutiny of *BiOr* records shows that Marten, in spite of his impressive 40 years of editorship is not yet the “champion”, since the late Professor H.J.A. De Meulenaere (Editor for Egyptology 1963-2007) served *BiOr* for over 43 years, a record we hope and trust Marten will want to break!

J. Eidem and R. de Boer
On behalf of the Editorial Board
of *Bibliotheca Orientalis*

