

XIV CONGRESS OF THE IOSCS, HELSINKI, 2010

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*Edited by*  
Melvin K. H. Peters

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## Introduction by the Editor

*Melvin K. H. Peters*

The fourteenth triennial Congress of the IOSCS convened on July 29–31, 2010, in conjunction with the twentieth international meeting of the IOSOT in the beautiful city of Helsinki, Finland. This volume contains the vast majority of the papers presented at that Congress. It includes papers of a concluding panel discussion and also general articles covering a wide array of subjects. Unfortunately, a few participants, despite having received gentle reminders in some cases and, in others, having offered faithful promises, simply did not submit their work. Only rarely did material received fail to qualify for inclusion. The volume is, nonetheless, quite rich with contributions from well-known, distinguished senior LXX colleagues, many of whose work appeared in prior proceedings volumes, as well as from a number of promising younger scholars. The more than fifty papers appearing here are thus truly international in scope, representing viewpoints and scholarship from major Septuagint study centers—Germany, France, Spain, Belgium, The Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Finland, South Africa, Canada, Israel and the United States. Individual contributors are even more widely distributed geographically, some working in West Africa and Korea.

The richness and accessibility of the volume is even further exemplified by the presence of several articles written in English by scholars—native speakers of Spanish, Finnish, German, Dutch, French, Hebrew, Russian, for example—for whom English is a second or third language, as well as the expected articles in English, German and French, written by native speakers. One German article is even prefaced by an English abstract, and another is written in German by a non-native speaker. It was my privilege and pleasure as volume editor to ensure that the ideas of my distinguished colleagues were represented accurately, even as, on the one hand, I sought to retain the distinctive “voice” of each contributor while, on the other hand, striving to eliminate ambiguities and infelicitous expressions as much as possible. Within the volume, thanks in large measure to the widespread use of Unicode fonts, one

finds not only the traditional (vocalized) Hebrew, Greek and Syriac, but also Coptic and Ethiopic scripts.

The fullness of the original program of the Helsinki Congress—nearly seventy papers were originally proposed—attests to the on-going vitality of Septuagint Studies. Earlier in July, 2010, a Septuagint conference was held in Wuppertal, Germany in connection with the Septuaginta Deutsch translation and commentary project to which several of the participants in the IOSCS Helsinki program were also invited to present papers. Furthermore, some of these very participants contributed major papers at the IOSOT meetings in Helsinki. Thus, within the space of a month, certain Septuagint scholars could have presented no fewer than three papers in the field. A few months later in November, the annual meetings of the SBL attracted a number of Septuagint papers. The following summer (2011) a large Septuagint conference was organized in Stellenbosch, South Africa, to which many of the Wuppertal, Helsinki, and SBL participants, including this editor, were again invited. Proceedings of each of these conferences are in press or will appear presently.

The Helsinki Congress was organized around broad biblical themes each being developed in at least two papers. These themes were: Women's Books—Kellenberger on Susannah, Spottorno on Esther, LaMontagne on Ruth; Job and Proverbs—Cook and Cuppi; History—Dov Gera, Hacham and Kugler; Books of Reigns—(two sessions) Talshir, Torijano Morales, Trebolle Barrera, Robker, Fernández Marcos, Kim, Kreuzer, Meiser; Isaiah—Cunha; the LXX Lexicon—(two sessions) Ausloos, Danove, Debel/Verbeke, Spitaler, Joosten, Moffitt and Muraoka; Jeremiah—Walser, Amphoux/Sérandour; Style—Dines, Deborah Gera; Codices—Fincati; Daughter Versions—Perttilä; The Twelve—Eidsvåg, Glenny; Hexapla—Ceulemans, van der Meer; Hexateuch—Hiebert/Dykstra, Büchner, Sipilä; Linguistics—Le Moigne; New Testament—Karrer, Schmid, Steyn; Hymnic Texts—Olofsson, Dogniez; Patristics—Gallagher, Kauhanen; Textual Criticism—Piquer Otero, Koulagna. A panel discussion on the Origins of LXX that included papers by Aejmelaeus, De Troyer and van der Kooij concluded the congress. It would of course extend the size of this introduction far too much to discuss in detail, or even summarize briefly, the content of each of the papers mentioned above. For that, the reader is directed to the abstracts.

A quick survey of the listings above reveals several interrelated results. In some instances all papers read on a theme are included; in others a single contribution represents a subject area. Thus, for example, Daughter Versions are represented only by the fine paper of Perttilä; the popular book of Isaiah by the paper of Cunha; Codices by Fincati, and Linguistics by the paper of Le Moigne. These conditions are due to a combination of the previously mentioned factors explaining the absence of submissions. Some participants elected not to submit their final paper, leaving whole subject areas virtually

denuded and, in a few cases, scheduled papers for the Congress were cancelled at the last minute. Those themes presented in two sessions produced some degree of overlap in the content of papers in the volume and an understandable clustering around identical issues. The books of Reigns are a case in point. All eight papers on those books are included, so the reader should be prepared for extensive references to and disputations about the kaige recension. Indeed, this volume could well serve as a focal point for contemporary discussions of these intriguing books, including as it does contributions by the leading scholars in this area.

If I may be permitted two points of personal privilege: I was particularly pleased to receive and present the reflections of Professor Takamitsu Muraoka now that he has completed his LXX lexicon. The simple title of his paper “What after the Lexicon?” masks the extensive contributions he has made to Septuagint and Hebrew Bible studies over a long and brilliant career. Similarly, I welcomed warmly the opportunity to present in English some thoughts of my long-standing colleague and friend Professor Natalio Fernández Marcos of Madrid. It was Professor Marcos who edited in 1985 the first complete set of proceedings from the fifth IOSCS Congress in Salamanca (1983)—a volume to which I was honored to contribute. Few subsequent congress volumes have matched or exceeded the elegance of that early one. In the intervening decades, Professor Marcos and his team have added considerably to the field of Septuagint studies.

In this my third (and final) edited volume of IOSCS Congress proceedings, I wish again to express thanks to all the contributors who submitted carefully formatted work in a timely manner. Such papers made the editorial task much easier. Special thanks and appreciation go to the editorial staff at SBL Publications, without whose support, patience and skill, this rather detailed and complicated volume would have been infinitely more onerous and challenging to produce. The editorial director, Bob Buller, assisted me in resolving many a technical problem regarding fonts and their appropriate display in this and each preceding volume. Leigh Andersen, Managing Editor, has been absolutely priceless during my entire decade-long stint as monograph series and congress volume editor. She has been a consummate professional and a patient supportive colleague and friend. Billie Jean Collins, Acquisitions Editor, and Kathie Klein, Marketing Manager, have been unfailingly generous and kind in their dealings with me over the years. Of course, having acknowledged the involvement of others in the production of this volume, I take full responsibility for any oversights and mistakes that may remain.

Durham, North Carolina  
April, 2012