

## Rebecca Hasselbach

This academic year saw the publication of two articles by **Rebecca Hasselbach**. “External Plural Markers in Semitic: A New Assessment,” which was published in the festschrift for Gene Gragg (*Studies in Semitic and Afroasiatic Linguistics in Honor of Gene B. Gragg*, Cynthia L. Miller, editor. SAOC 60), Hasselbach’s predecessor in the department, is a detailed study of the attested external plural markers in Semitic and other Afroasiatic language families, such as Egyptian, Cushitic, Chadic, and Berber, and suggests a new Proto-Semitic reconstruction of these morphemes. Furthermore, a review of Florence Malbran-Labat’s “Pratique de la grammaire akkadienne: Exercices et corrigés” written by Hasselbach was published in *Maarav* (13.2: 261–68).

The main research done by Hasselbach this academic year focused on her book project “Case and Grammatical Roles and Relations in Semitic,” for which she investigated previously proposed reconstructions, such as an original ergative alignment as opposed to the accusative alignment found in Classical Semitic languages. The results of this preliminary investigation were presented at the annual meeting of the American Oriental Society in Chicago in March 2008. Hasselbach further gave a lecture about early Semitic writing systems at the Humanities Day of the University of Chicago (October 2007), and about her current research, entitled “Semitics and Language Typology,” at the Franke Institute for the Humanities in November 2007. In addition, Hasselbach finished an article about the application of the comparative method in Semitic linguistics that will be published in an encyclopedia for Indo-European linguistics. This article discusses the history of Comparative Semitics and the development of the methodologies used in the field.

Besides her research projects and lectures, Hasselbach co-organized the Annual Meeting of the North American Conference on Afroasiatic Linguistics that was held in Chicago in March 2008. Attended by a great variety of scholars from North America, Europe, and the Middle East who work on Semitic and other Afroasiatic languages from a linguistic perspective, the conference, co-sponsored by NELC and the Oriental Institute, provided many new insights into the work that is currently done in the field of Semitic and Afroasiatic linguistics.

Hasselbach also continued her work as book review editor for the ancient fields for the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* throughout the year.

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