GENE B. GRAGG has been seeing his Oromo dictionary through the final stages of camera-ready copy and preparing chapters for a forthcoming survey of the non-affiliated (i.e., non-Semitic, non-Indoeuropean) languages of ancient Western Asia. He has been working on problems of areal-typological characterization of languages, in both the ancient Near Eastern and the Ethiopian context. Some preliminary observations on the problem were made in a paper for the Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale in Paris in June 1980.