

Rebecca Hasselbach

This academic year has seen the publication of two books by **Rebecca Hasselbach**: *Case in Semitic: Roles, Relations, and Reconstruction* (Oxford Studies in Diachronic and Historical Linguistics 3. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013), which investigates the case system attested in various Semitic languages. In this book, which uses the methodologies of historical linguistics and typology, Hasselbach suggests a new reconstruction of the case system and original alignment from which the attested case systems derived. Instead of the commonly assumed accusative system, which faces several problems, she proposes an original marked-nominative system. The book further investigates phenomena related to case systems, such as word order and head- and dependent-marking structures. The second book, *Language and Nature: Papers Presented to John Huehnergard on the Occasion of his 60th Birthday* (Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization 67. Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2012) is an edited Festschrift in honor of Hasselbach's dissertation advisor John Huehnergard, which she edited together with another of Huehnergard's former students, Na'ama Pat-El from the University of Texas at Austin. This volume contains twenty-nine scholarly articles on a variety of topics relating to ancient Near Eastern languages and cultures, and art contributions by a friend of the honoree.

The Festschrift for John Huehnergard includes an article by Hasselbach, "The Verbal Endings -u and -a: A Note on Their Functional Derivation" (pp. 119-36), which investigates the origin of various modal and subordinate markers used on verbs in Semitic. Hasselbach suggests that these verbal markers are derived from original case endings that were grammaticalized into subordinate and modal markers based on cross-linguistically well-known grammaticalization paths.

Hasselbach further gave several scholarly presentations, including a talk on "Agreement and the Development of Gender in Semitic," presented at the Workshop on Semitic and Historical Linguistics (University of Texas at Austin) in October 2012, and "The Reconstruction of the Semitic Case System and the 'Absolute State' of Akkadian: A Historical and Typological Perspective," which she presented in March 2013 at Harvard University.

During the academic year, Hasselbach has further worked on a new book project: the translation and revision of Josef Tropper's *Grammar of Classical Ethiopic* (*Altäthiopisch: Grammatik des Ge'ez mit Übungstexten und Glossar*, Münster: Ugarit-Verlag, 2002), which was originally published in German.
