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PROFILE

Jack M. Sasson is the Werthan Professor of Judaic and Biblical Studies, emeritus (2015) at Vanderbilt University (Nashville, Tennessee, USA).

Born in Aleppo, Syria, in 1941 to Iraqi and Syrian parents, Sasson immigrated to the United States in 1955 and was naturalized in 1961. After graduating from Brooklyn College (BA, 1962), Sasson studied Ancient Near Eastern as well as Islamic studies at Brandeis University, receiving a doctorate in the former subject in 1966. He taught ancient Near Eastern cultures and religion at the University of North Carolina, becoming the William R. Kenan, Jr Professor of Religious Studies, emeritus since 1999. He moved to Vanderbilt in 1999 where, from 2002 to 2005, he was also founding Director of its Program in Jewish Studies. Retiring in 2015, he now lives in Chapel Hill, NC.

Sasson has held numerous posts, elected and nominated, at universities and at professional societies, among them President of the *American Oriental Society* (1998) and of the *International Association for Assyriology* (2005-2010), where he has recently been inducted to its *Honorary Council*. He has edited the "Bible and Ancient Near East" pages of the *Journal of the American Oriental Society* (1976-1984; 1996-2000) and has joined the editorial boards of a several journals and serials. Sasson was chief editor of Scribner's *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*, a 4-volume reference set that appeared in 1995 and that has received many awards since then. (It is now issued by Hendrickson in a two-volume format.) He has lectured widely, including as a professor at the Sorbonne and the Collège de France, as a distinguished scholar at Ben-Gurion and Brigham Young universities, and at Chung Chi College (Hong Kong).

Sasson's scholarly efforts have clustered around two disciplines: Assyriology, specializing on the archives found at the Middle Euphrates town of Mari, and Hebrew Scripture, with interest on its narrative prose. In 1979, he conducted a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for college Teachers on "Folklore Studies and the Ancient Near Eastern Narrative," and held a similar forum for College teachers in 1996 on "The Hebrew Bible in Cultural Contexts."

His publications include commentaries on the Biblical books of *Ruth* (1979), *Jonah* (1991), and *Judges 1-12* (2014). His most recent monograph is *From the Mari Archives: An Anthology of Old Babylonian Letters* (Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, 2015). He is completing work on *Judges (13-21)* for the *Anchor Yale Bible* series.

Web page at <<https://my.vanderbilt.edu/jacksasson/>>

Full CV <<https://my.vanderbilt.edu/jacksasson/vita/>>

Online archives <<http://discoverarchive.vanderbilt.edu/handle/1803/3502/browse?type=title>>

Portraits <http://people.vanderbilt.edu/~jack.m.sasson/portraits.htm>

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS, MONOGRAPHS, AND ARTICLES (since 2005)

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-"Comparative Observations on the Near Eastern Epic Traditions," pp. 215-232 in John Miles Foley (editor), *A Companion to Ancient Epic* (Oxford: Blackwell's).

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-“Mari and the Holy Grail,” pp. 186-198 in Stanley W. Holloway (ed.), *Orientalism, Assyriology & the Bible* (Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press).

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2008-“Another Wrinkle on Old Adapa,” pp. 1-10 in R.J. van der Spek (et al., eds), *Studies in Ancient Near Eastern World View and Society presented to Marten Stol on the occasion of his 65th birthday* (Bethesda, MD: CDL Press).-

-“Oracle Inquiries in Judges,” pp. 149-168 in Chaim Cohen (et al. eds.), *Birkat Shalom: Studies in the Bible, Ancient Near Eastern Literature, and Postbiblical Judaism Presented to Shalom M. Paul on the Occasion of His Seventieth Birthday* (Winona lake, IN: Eisenbrauns).

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2010-“Where Angels Fearlessly Tread: Mari Insights on Genesis 19,” pp. 1163-1183 in Kogan, Leonid, N. Koslova, S. Loesov, & S. Tishenko, *Languages in the Ancient Near East*(*Proceedings of the 53rd Rencontre Internationale*; Vol. 1, 2 parts; Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns).

-“Coherence & Fragments: Reflections on the *SKL* the *Book of Judges*,” pp. 361-373 in Sarah C. Melville and Alice L. Slotsky (eds), *Opening the Tablet Box: Near Eastern Studies in Honor of Benjamin R. Foster* (Culture and History of the Ancient Near East, 42; Leiden: E.J. Brill).

- (with Alexandra Kleinerman, eds) *‘Why Should Someone Who Knows Something Conceal It?’: Cuneiform Studies in Honor of David I. Owen on His 70th Birthday* (Bethesda, MD: CDL Press).

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2011-“Mari Theomorphism: Intimation of Sacrality in the Royal Correspondence,” pp. 195-212 in Luděk Vacín (ed.), *u₄₁₁-ga-ni sá mu-ni-ib-du₁₁: Ancient Near Eastern Studies in Memory of Blahoslav Hruška* (Dresden: Islet).

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-“Casus Belli in the Mari Archives,” pp. 673-90 in Hans Neumann, Reinhard Dittmann, Susanne Paulus, Georg Neumann, and Anais Schuster-Brandis (eds), *Krieg und Frieden im Alten Vorderasien* (RAI 53, 2006; Alter Orient und Altes Testament 401; Münster: Ugarit-Verlag).

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