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PROFILE

Jack M. Sasson is currently the Werthan Professor of Judaic and Biblical Studies 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 in 1999. He moved to Vanderbilt in 1999 where, from 2002 to 2005, he was also founding Director of its Program in Jewish Studies.

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* (2005-20010). 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). He continues to comment on the Mari archives and to write on biblical topics. He is currently preparing a volume of annotated translations of documents from the Mari archives and 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>

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-Consulting Editor, *The Near East: an Encyclopedia for Students. 4 Volumes* (Ronald Wallenfels, ed.; New York: Charles Scribner's Sons).

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