

This edition of *Scriptura* is dedicated to



YEHOSHUA GITAY

**TO COMMEMORATE AN
EXCELLENT SCHOLAR
AND A WONDERFUL FRIEND:**

YEHOSHUA GITAY

What should a *Festschrift* amount to – more in particular: what will constitute an appropriate *Festschrift* for Yehoshua Gitay?

One could consider a hagiography establishing a scholarly “halo”, or a critical analysis of every Gitay publication (8 books and 77 academic articles and chapters in books). The first option would be offensive to Yehoshua’s understanding of scholarship, whilst the second might have elicited at most a few characteristic dry laconic comments from him.

It seemed much more appropriate to invite Yehoshua’s many friends and colleagues from numerous countries to contribute articles that fall into three areas of interest: rhetorical criticism, as well as the prophetic and wisdom literature of the Hebrew Bible. The positive response from four continents is indicative of Yehoshua’s stature as academic scholar and colleague. If time allowed it another *Festschrift* could have been compiled!

With this *Festschrift* we celebrate an academic career that incorporates pioneering research on a rhetorical critical understanding of the Hebrew Bible and innovative discussions of prophetic, poetic and wisdom literature. In an age riddled with superficial “readings” of the Hebrew Bible, Yehoshua is a meticulous “close reader” with an amazing ability to communicate in diverging contexts – from Atlanta (USA), to Beersheba (Israel) to Cape Town (South Africa).

Yehoshua Gitay was awarded his PhD by Emory University (Atlanta) and continued with Post-Doctoral Studies in Classical Rhetoric under the direction of George Kennedy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Besides numerous visiting professorships to the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Columbia and Duke Universities; he lectured at the Wesleyan University, Memphis University and the Ben Gurion University of the Negev (Beersheba). He moved to South Africa in 1992 when he was appointed to the Isidore and Theresa Cohen Chair of Hebrew Language and Literatures at the University of Cape Town where he stayed till his recent retirement. During this time he has also been appointed a University of Cape Town Fellow for Life for his distinguished academic work.

We celebrate a colleague and friend that can engage in constructive critical dialogue in a clear but non-abrasive way. Biblical criticism laced with literary sensitivity and humor, based on solid scholarship that incorporate a rich tapestry of different intellectual traditions.

To conclude on a more personal note: Yehoshua, may you and Tzfira enjoy a productive and exciting retirement –free from the laborious administrative chores that are choking “post-computer” academia. May you continue to be the rare example of a husband and wife that constitute a team in more ways than one.

בְּרַכְּךָ יְהוָה וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ

A final editorial comment: A word of appreciation to each contributor who despite tight schedules managed to make this *Festschrift* possible.

Hendrik Bosman

Co-editor: *Scriptura*

YEHOSHUA GITAY (GITAI)

PUBLICATIONS

A: Books

- *Religion and Rhetoric* (ed. Journal for the Study of Religion. Vol. 15/1. 2002).
- *Religion Rhetoric and Politics* (ed. Journal for the Study of Religion. Vol. 14/1. 2001).
- *Literary Responses to the Holocaust 1945-1995* (ed. San Francisco: International Scholars Publications, 1998).
- *Prophecy and Prophets* (ed. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1997).
- *Future and Communication* (co-editor. San Francisco: International Scholars Publications, 1997).
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- *War and Peace in Hebrew Literature: Past and Present*. The Fifth Jacob Gitlin Memorial Lecture, Cape Town: Jacob Gitlin Library (1993).
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B: Articles in Scientific Journals and Chapters in Scholarly Books

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C: Further Published Material

- *Teaching the Bible: How? Haaretz* 23 Feb 2003 (Hebrew)
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D. Translation

- *Yehudah Vehagalut – Judah and the Exile*, by B Oded. In: *Israelite and Judaeen History*, JH Hayes & JM Miller (editors). Philadelphia: Westminster Press (1977) 435-488.