

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Joan Goodnick Westenholz came to Chicago to study in the PhD program of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and completed her dissertation in 1971 on “Some Aspects of Old Babylonian Syntax” under the supervision of Erica Reiner. She came back to Chicago to work as a Research Associate on the Assyrian Dictionary Project in 1978, and over the next thirty years Joan returned to Chicago at least eight times to lend her expert skills to the production of the Dictionary volumes. Joan has had a hand in the preparation of CAD volumes N, Q, P, R, S, T, Š, and U/W, ranking her among the most prolific “outside collaborators” along with Hermann Hunger, Burkhart Kienast, and Johannes Renger. The scholarly imprint on the Dictionary left by each of these long-term and repeat visitors may be invisible to the larger academic community but is highly esteemed by the cognoscenti. In addition, I always have been grateful for Joan’s contribution to the daily life of the project – her smile, her unflagging enthusiasm, her diligence and perseverance, and her frequent cries of triumph when a particularly vexing lexicographic knot was untangled.

With my gratitude for Joan’s contributions to the Assyrian Dictionary and for her friendship over the decades,

Martha T. Roth

* * *

Joan Westenholz always set the highest of standards for scholarship. Serving as Chief Curator of the Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem for two full decades, she had the opportunity to expand beyond her own expertise of Assyriology and delve into later periods and a wide variety of ancient cultures. Joan joined the Museum before the building itself was completed. Together with Museum Founder, the late Dr. Elie Borowski, and a team of expert professionals including scholars, exhibition designers and various consultants, she pored over the research and wrote labels and panels for the artifacts that were to fall into the poetic rhythm of the chronological galleries of the Museum.

What today is presented as an excellent flow and connection of concept, history and Bible all in their symbiotic stance in the galleries, began as a sea of information that required thorough research and study before being able to pull together into a cohesive exhibition.

What makes the Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem different than other Museums? It tells a story: a universal story for people of all faiths. The Biblical narrative and its historical context are revealed as each gallery in the Permanent Exhibition presents yet another stage in the development of civilization.

She was a phenomenal resource of knowledge and information, with keen attention to detail. Working with Joan was a learning experience, as she imbued her work with serious content and thorough research in order to make each new exhibition an educational experience for scholar and layperson alike.

In August 2006, Dr. Joan Goodnick Westenholz was awarded the *Curators Prize* by the Israeli Ministry of Culture for her work as Chief Curator of the Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem. The prize specifically recognized her "contribution to understanding the history of the People of Israel against the background of the cultures of the ancient near east." This was first time that the Curators Prize was awarded to a curator of ancient art and archaeology. Having had the privilege of working directly with Joan for so many years, this professional recognition of her work came as no surprise.

On behalf of everyone at the Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem, I wish Joan the very best of luck in all of her future endeavors and hope that the road ahead continues to enrich both the scholarly world and inspire all the rest of us.

Amanda Weiss
Managing Director
Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem