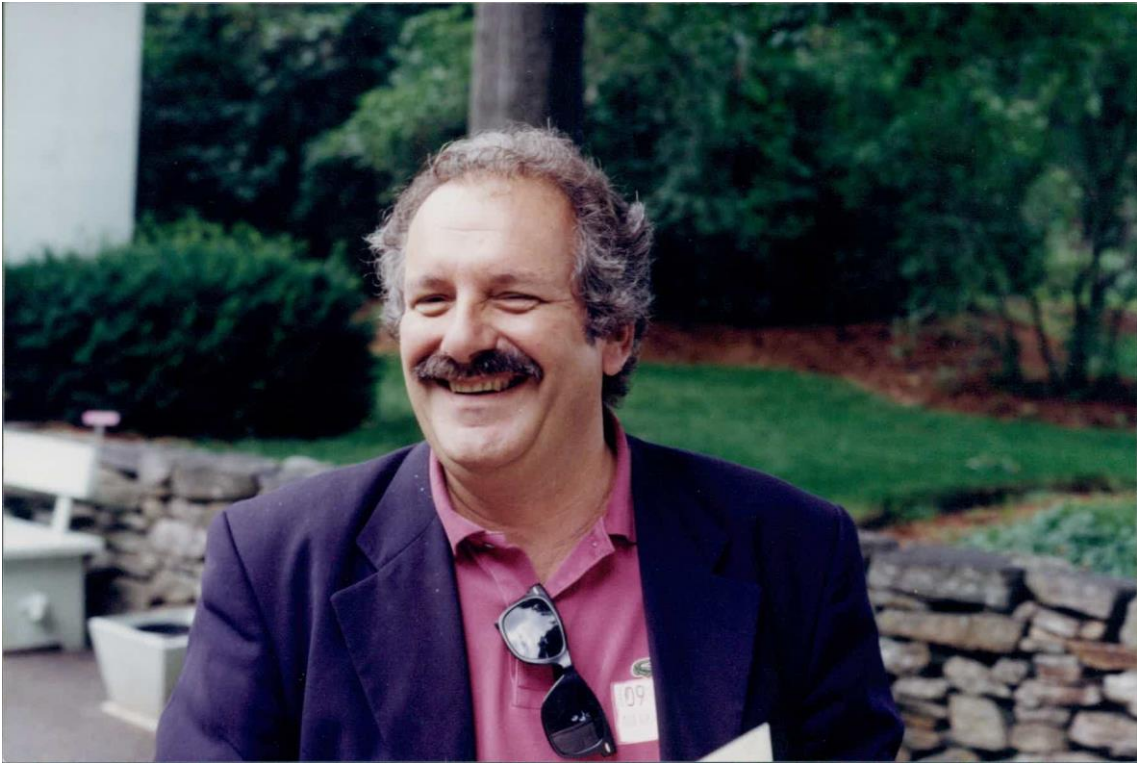


## FREDERICK MARIO FALES

*Baltimore, May 23rd 1946 — Rome, April 15th, 2024*



The 37th anniversary of SAAB is grieved by the death of its founder F. M. Fales.

When the first issue appeared in 1987, the field of Neo-Assyrian studies was undergoing a dramatic development thanks to the projects of a systematic, scientifically updated edition of all Neo-Assyrian sources, both administrative, in the *Neo Assyrian Text Corpus Project* directed by Simo Parpola (with the series *State Archives of Assyria*, SAA), and historiographic, in the *Royal Inscriptions from Mesopotamia*, directed by A. Kirk Grayson (with the volumes *The Royal Inscriptions of Mesopotamia. Assyrian Periods*, nos. 2 and 3, and the series *Royal Inscriptions of the Neo-Assyrian Period*). These undertakings would fuel a huge number of studies in few years.

Mario conceived SAAB as tightly connected with the SAA project, or, more specifically, as representing “the necessary *complément* of the project”, principally targeted “to act as forum for further comments and notations on the same materials”, and to provide an apt seat for the scientific publication, study, and comment of the Neo-Assyrian texts.

Mario personally contributed to this target over the years, publishing a large number of articles in SAAB. Soon he also widened the journal’s horizon including various topics and perspectives concerning Neo-Assyrian texts, history, and archaeology, and transcending the chronological and geographical limits of the Neo-Assyrian period, considering contiguous periods and areas, and often including methodological discussions.

Thanks to his cooperative attitude, besides his scientific reputation, Mario created a journal which gained a renowned reputation already from its start. The journal initially benefited from the support of an exceptionally qualified editorial committee, formed of K. H. Deller, S. Parpola, and J. N. Postgate. Cooperation soon increased, and contributors included younger scholars whom Mario was particularly glad to encourage, as well as many colleagues with wide-ranging competencies.

Following the auspices and the invitation to collaboration and suggestions which concluded the introduction to the first volume — and the parallel implementation, and nowadays almost completion of the SAA and RIMA editorial projects — Mario constantly, directly, and through his editorial policy, contributed to enhance the role of SAAB as a forum of discussion on various topics, with a special attention to textual publication and philological analysis, but also adopting varied and varying methodological approaches and perspectives.

Mario's merits in the Assyriological field have been variously recalled and aptly described in dedicated memories. Therefore, here there is barely the need to repeat the expression of our admiration for his qualities and achievements, and to express our deep sorrow for the loss of a very dear friend, of a wonderful teacher and colleague, and of a scholar naturally endowed with a fervid imagination and an astonishing capacity to transform ideas and plans into concrete enterprises, of which SAAB is an example. Rather, we limit our appreciation here to collecting Mario's articles published in SAAB over the years and making them available to whoever would wish to download them in electronic form (pdf).

