INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ARAMEANS, ARAMAIC AND THE ARAMAIC LITERARY TRADITION AT RAMAT-GAN
January 7-8, 1980

This international conference, sponsored by the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities and by the Bar-Ilan University, dealt in four sessions with Aramean history and Old Aramaic, with the Official Aramaic of the Achaemenian period and with its offshoots, with Targumic studies, as well as with Middle and Modern Aramaic. Twenty papers have been presented. The first one, on January 7, was read by prof. E. LIPINSKI (K.U. Leuven) :

The God 'Arqû-Rašap in the Samallian Hadad Inscription

"The name of the god 'Arqû-Rašap, who is mentioned in the inscription of the colossal statue of Hadad, erected by Panamuwa I, king of Sam'al, reveals a syncretistic cult of two important Westsemitic deities : viz. the North-Arabian god Ruḍa and the North-Syrian god Rašap. In fact, *ʾrq-* is the expected Old-Aramaic spelling for *ʾrḍ(w/y)*, one of the forms of Ruḍa's name. This oldest known attestation of the god Ruḍa, which seems to have remained unrecognized until now, opens new perspectives in the study not only of the religious history of Northern and Central Syria in the first millennium B.C., but also in the analysis of the Samallian Aramaic, which has some features not known elsewhere in Aramaic".