

Daniel M. Gurtner, *Introduction to Syriac: Key to Exercises & English-Syriac Vocabulary*. Bethesda: Ibex Publishers, 2006. i + 114 pages. \$20.

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Thackston's *Introduction to Syriac* remains the grammar of choice for many teachers and students.¹ Its principal strengths are clear and up-to-date grammatical explanations, and the use of unvocalized estrangelo from the beginning. This grammar is now all the more attractive as a starting point in the language, especially for students tackling the language on their own, thanks to the companion volume prepared by Daniel M. Gurtner. The volume opens with a "Key to the Exercises" (1–29), which provides a transliteration and translation of each Syriac-English exercise, and a Syriac transcription and transliteration for each English-Syriac exercises. These latter exercises can now be tackled with the additional help of Gurtner's "English-Syriac Vocabulary" (71–113). W. M. Thackston generously provided the "Key to the Readings" (30–70), which similarly includes both a transliteration and translation for each text. The volume ends with a few Corrigenda to Thackston's *Introduction* (114).

The availability of the *Key* certainly doesn't undermine the usefulness of Thackston's *Introduction* as a classroom textbook; though instructors will want to consider carefully how best to use the exercises. Students studying Syriac without a teacher may find themselves wishing for the kind of helpful notes provided in H. G. M. Williamson's *Annotated Key to Lambdin's Introduction to Biblical Hebrew* (T&T Clark, reprinted many times).

¹ Reviewed by Stephen J. Shoemaker in *Hugoye* 6.1 (2003): <http://syrcom.cua.edu/Hugoye/Vol6No1/HV6N1PRShoemaker.html>