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EDITORIAL

WE think that the articles published in this review and previous numbers show the interest of Maltese and foreign scholars in Maltese linguistics, either as a separate subject for its own sake or as a branch of comparative Semitics. We are grateful for the appreciation that some of our Readers expressed to us in writing or verbally. Though we know that this review has made a good impression on Maltese and foreign linguists, we are not less unaware of their disappointment at the infrequent and irregular appearance of this review which is the only one of the kind in the field of Semitic Studies. Unfortunately, while the University of Malta is expanding by enlarging the scope of its faculties, it has not yet considered the further expansion of the Printing Department to meet the publication needs of the University. The printing is done on what one might describe as a primitive printing machine called Composomatic, which may be good for printing work of a limited nature, but is quite inadequate for large-scale publications and regular printing of University reviews, especially when so much administrative printing has to be done at this mini-University printing department. We know that even so, as a member of the teaching staff of an ancient and better endowed British University told us personally, in spite of these irregular intervals we are publishing much more than some departments of much larger Universities abroad, yet we ourselves are greatly disappointed because we have in hand and still receive so much useful material from Maltese and foreign scholars which has got to wait for a very long time before it sees the light of day.

This is by way of explanation and apology to our readers, especially those abroad. They will be pleased to know that the editor of this review who edits two other University reviews in a purely honorary capacity (neither editor nor contributors receive monetary remuneration!) has brought the matter to the attention of the authorities concerned in the

hope that they will make it possible to publish this and other reviews less infrequently and with at least some sense of regularity. We owe this improvement to the editors and academic institutions that send us their publications in exchange for ours.

We now end this brief editorial on a hopeful note with the Maltese proverb which says: *Min jistenna jithenna* – 'everything comes in time to him who waits.'