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**Color plates: 'Adjā'ib al-Makhlūqāt by Zakariyā' al-Qazwīnī (d. 682/1283), MS D 370 from the collection of St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences (see p. 56).**

**Front cover:**

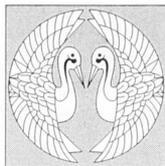
Fol. 34a. The Archangel 'Izra'īl, 160 × 124 mm.

**Back cover:**

**Plate 1.** Fol. 13b. The Planet Venus, 225 × 145 mm.

**Plate 2.** Fol. 35b. The Angels of the Second Heaven, 171 × 94 mm.

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# **Manuscripta Orientalia**

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*Me'or 'ain* ("Svetoch glaza"). Karaimskaja grammatika drevneevreiskogoazyka po rukopisi 1208 g. Faksimile. Izdanie teksta, perevod s drevneevreiskogoazyka, issledovanie i kommentarii M. N. Zislina. Moskva: Nauka, 1990 (Pamiatniki pis'mennosti Vostoka, XCVI) (*Me'or 'ayin* ("The Light of Eye")). Karaite Hebrew Grammar. The Manuscript of 1208. Facsimile, edition of text, Russian translation from Hebrew, research and commentary by M. N. Zislin. Moscow: Nauka Publishing House, 1990. — 215 pp. (Literary monuments of the Orient, XCVI).

The publication contains a philological study and the text of the Hebrew grammar-book "*Me'or 'ayin*" (Light of Eye), which forms a part of one of the unique Hebrew manuscripts from the A. Firkovich collection. At present it is preserved in the Russian National Library in St. Petersburg [Evr. II A 132/1]. The manuscript was written by scribe Jehudah ben-Jacob ben-Jehudah in the town of Gagry (GGR; apparently it can be identified with the town of Gagry on the shore of the Black Sea, Georgia).

The publication consists of the following parts: Introduction; "Light of Eye" (*i. e.*, Russian translation of the text); Commentaries; Supplements (a List of terms and a List of abbreviations); the Text; its Facsimile, and Summary.

In the introduction M. Zislin presents a brief survey of the standard of Grammar knowledge and the development of Hebrew methodology of studies, a brief paleographic description of the manuscript. Basing on the philological study of the text, M. Zislin is suggesting the date of its composition, its location, and the creed of its author. In M. Zislin's opinion, this grammar-book was composed in the Byzantine Empire in the late 11th century. It was addressed to a reader non familiar with the Arabic language (Arabic was the basic language of the Hebrew grammarians of the 10—12th centuries). The work was composed, in many aspects, under the influence of the grammatical works by Abu al-Faraj Harun ibn al-Faraj (the first half of the 11th century).

The Russian translation of the work is notable for its utmost accuracy. The commentary contains extensive bibliography, takes into account possible variants, explanation of linguistic terms, a detailed argumentation on the variants of translation chosen by the author.

The publication of the text in the modern Hebrew script is an important supplement to the facsimile. It must be interesting to the students of paleography and it will be helpful for the further study of the text.

*Sh. Iakerson*