

Prof. Simon Hopkins - CV

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Simon Hopkins was born in 1950 in England, where he grew up and was educated. He moved to Israel in 1983. He has been a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy since 1989 and was elected to membership of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities in 2018.

BA 1968-1973: University of London (Semitic Languages)

Ph.D. 1978: University of London (Arabic papyri)

1975-1978: Research assistant at the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit, University Library, Cambridge

1978-1983: Professor of Hebrew, University of Capetown

1984-1990: Research assistant on the Historical Dictionary project, Academy of the Hebrew Language, Jerusalem

1984-1990: Senior Lecturer, Department of Arabic Language and Literature, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

1990-2016: Professor, Department of Arabic Language and Literature, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Simon Hopkins is interested in Semitic philology in general, especially Arabic and Aramaic in their various ancient, mediaeval and modern forms. He has paid particular attention to the oldest records of Muslim literary Arabic as attested in the papyri of the first centuries of Islam. From the mediaeval period, he has worked on Judaeo-Arabic, in particular the earliest extant Judaeo-Arabic texts from the first millennium (written in phonetic orthography) and the somewhat later writings of Maimonides (d. 1204), some of whose autographs he has published. In the field of Aramaic, he has studied various modern Neo-Aramaic dialects still spoken in Israel. The living speech collected *viva voce* from the speakers themselves revealed a previously unknown dialect group which shows a systematic transitive: intransitive split in the inflection of the preterite verb.

Besides the Semitic languages themselves, Simon Hopkins is interested in the history of

Semitic studies and the biographies of orientalists. He has also written on the Arabic, Jewish and oriental interests of the Victorian author George Borrow (d. 1881).