

## Nota

*The Dawn of Hebrew Linguistics - The Book of Elegance  
of the Language of the Hebrews by Saadia Gaon*

*Introduction and Critical Edition by Aron Dotan, Volume I:  
Introduction, Volume II: Text and Translation, World Union  
of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem 1997. 668 pages.*

NASIR BASAL  
*Universidad de Tel Aviv*

## A

For more than a thousand years the composition of Rabbi Saadia Gaon (882-942), אֶלְעִבְרָאֲנִיךְ פְּצִיחַ לְגֹהּ (=The Book of Elegance of the Language of the Hebrews)<sup>1</sup> lay undisturbed. Then Harkavy discovered the main manuscript of the work in the Russian National Library in St. Petersburg (RNL),<sup>2</sup> and in 1898 he announced his discovery, mentioning the names of the

1 Below: Elegance.

2 Formerly known as the Saltykov-Ščedrin Public Library in Leningrad, Ms. II Firk., Evr.-arab. I., 3073.