

THUS WROTE 'ONCHSHESHONQY

AN INTRODUCTORY GRAMMAR OF DEMOTIC

JANET H. JOHNSON

THIRD EDITION



THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
STUDIES IN ANCIENT ORIENTAL CIVILIZATION • No. 45
CHICAGO • ILLINOIS

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 91-66151

ISBN: 0-918986-76-1

ISSN: 0081-7554

The Oriental Institute, Chicago

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Published 2000. United States of America.

Second Edition Revised 1991

Third Edition 2000

Available on the World-Wide Web:

www-oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/PUB/SRC/SAOC/45/SAOC45.html

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PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

This grammar is intended solely as a teaching aid. It does not intend to be a reference grammar for Demotic as a whole or even for the text of ‘Onchsheshonqy from which the vast majority of the examples are taken. The examples are presented in as "clean" a form as possible in order to aid recognition by the beginning student.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank numerous people who have helped, directly or indirectly, in the production of this volume. It is to George Hughes that I owe my first introduction to Demotic and my burgeoning interest in this stage of the Egyptian language and the texts written in it. Without his constant encouragement, assistance and support, this volume would never have appeared. I would also like to thank several colleagues who have used earlier versions of this grammar in teaching introductory classes and who have passed along to me numerous valuable suggestions and corrections, many of which they will see have been incorporated here. These include Robert Ritner, Eugene Cruz-Uribe, Mark Smith, John Callender, and Sarah Groll. I would also like to thank the several years of Demotic students whose reactions to the earlier versions and whose suggestions and criticisms helped produce the current form of the lessons. I am especially grateful to Robert Ritner and Richard Jasnow for help in the final editing and proof-reading of this manuscript and to Donald Whitcomb for his continuing encouragement and his willingness to act as a "sounding board." To all of these people I owe a major debt of thanks; responsibility for the contents remains mine.

Chicago, Illinois
July 1986

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

This second edition has benefited from comments by many of the people who have taught from it over the past five years, including Joseph Manning, Robert Ritner, David Silverman, W. J. Tait, Karl-Theodor Zauzich, and others. One entirely new example has been added, leading to the renumbering of examples 55–65 as 56–66; very rarely the order of two examples has been switched, leading to their renumbering. A few recent studies have been added to the bibliography. Many thanks are due to Joseph Manning and John S. Nolan of the Chicago Demotic Dictionary staff and to Thomas A. Holland, Thomas Urban, and Richard Schoen of the Oriental Institute Publications Office for help in final editing and proof-reading of the manuscript. Especial thanks go to Donald Whitcomb for his continuing prodding to finish this second edition.

The text has been reset using Microsoft Word on a Macintosh IIcx. The laser hieroglyphic font was developed by Cleo Huggins and Dexter Sear; I am especially appreciative of their willingness to "flip" the entire font for right-to-left printing. The scans of ‘Onchsheshonqy were done on an Apple Scanner; the text was printed on a LaserMAX 1200.

Chicago, Illinois
July 1991

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

This third edition has once again benefited from comments and corrections provided by many individuals. I am especially grateful to Robert Ritner and Karl-Theodor Zauzich for catching typos and identifying scans that needed to be corrected. Many thanks are due Thomas Urban of the Oriental Institute Publications Office, who prepared this electronic version and expertly incorporated the many corrigenda, and to John Sanders, who created the homepage and uploaded the files on to the Institute's server.

The publication of this teaching grammar in electronic format is another step for the Oriental Institute as it explores the Internet as an alternate method to disseminate the results and tools of its research; significant in this regard is that the sum of the electronic files comprises a book in one of the Oriental Institute's series. The electronic version of the manuscript closely follows the printed version. Fourteen files were created, one for the preliminary pages (title page, table of contents, preface), one for each of the eleven lessons, one for the indices, and one for the bibliography. Aside from the one file that contains the preliminary pages, the other thirteen files recreate the printed version of the book; indeed, if the manuscript were to be printed again, these files would be used to do so. The fourteen files were converted to PDF (portable document format) files on a Macintosh using Adobe Acrobat 4.0.

When accessed on the Internet through a browser, the PDF files may not — at present — be searchable; however, when the PDF files are saved to the user's computer and opened with Adobe Acrobat Reader, the files are searchable and pages from the file can be exported as EPS files, which can be opened, and the graphics thereon manipulated with a graphics application such as Adobe Photoshop.

Chicago, Illinois
September 2000