

GENE GRAGG has been chiefly preoccupied by the final stages of manuscript preparation for his Oromo dictionary, and by various spin-offs from this project. At an International Congress on Ethiopic Studies in Nice in December he delivered a paper on Semitic loan words in Cushitic Oromo. At the North American Conference on Afroasiatic Linguistics in Toronto in April he spoke on the contribution of Oromo to the reconstruction of proto-Cushitic, the Afroasiatic dialect group, related to Semitic, Egyptian, and Berber, spoken in the area of the Ethiopian plateau and the Great Rift Valley around the sixth millennium B.C. Finally, while co-hosting another International Congress on Ethiopian Studies in Chicago in April, he gave a talk at the Chicago Linguistic Society Regional Meeting on the linguistic theory of lexical structure.

Mr. Gragg's current projects include further reconstruction of proto-Cushitic and the study of the syntactic effects of language contact both in Mesopotamia and in Ethiopia.