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## The Demotic Dictionary Project

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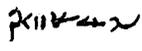
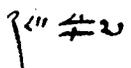
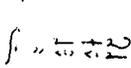
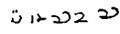
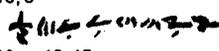
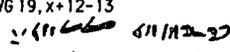
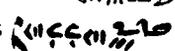
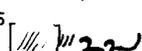
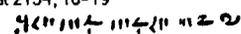
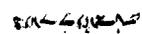
During the past year, the staff of the Demotic Dictionary Project has finished collecting examples and discussions of vocabulary in Demotic texts published between 1955 and 1979 and begun actually writing up entries for our supplement to W. Erichsen's 1954 *Demotisches Glossar*. When we began this project some years ago, we had planned to print the supplement from a typescript to which the demotic examples had been added and we had prepared sample pages to work out the optimum manner of presentation of the information on the page. We wanted copy that would be clear, readable, and easy to produce and to print. For some time we have been making a list on the University's "main frame" computer of all the "new" words which we had discovered in our corpus of Demotic texts published between 1955 and 1979 ("new" in that they were not in Erichsen's *Demotisches Glossar*, the only diction-

ary of Demotic Egyptian available at present). This spring, as we reached the stage of beginning to write entries, we realized that composing the supplement on the computer (used as a word processor) would have several distinct advantages for us. Such a method would allow insertions, corrections, and modifications within the text with a minimum of effort on the part of the dictionary staff. This has moved us full steam into the computer age.

We tried putting the first ten pages of the supplement on various computers to see which would be easiest to use while at the same time producing the clear and legible copy needed for printing. One of the problems we faced is that we need to be able to use various diacritics in citing the Demotic words in transliteration but many of these diacritics are not available on a standard typewriter, or computer. In addition, we need to be able to insert references in Greek, Hebrew, and

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- 3b1** DN(?)  
in PN *P3-sr-3b1*  
see Pestman & Boswinkel, *Archives privées*, p. 132, n. 41, & *Namen*, p. 222
- 3bh** v.t. & ft. 'to forget'  
= EG 4  
= CD 518b, *KHWB* 290 (WBQ), & see *ĈED* 227 for suggested dem. < *3b0* 'to mix'  
*WB* 1, 8/8-19
- 3bd** n. a type of fish (?)  
in phrase *3bd n ym* 'fishes of the sea'  
= EG 4  
= CD 3a Δ, BEQ, & see *ĈED* 2 for suggested trans. 'crowd, mixture' < *3bd* *WB* 1, 8/8-19 'to mix' ~ *3bd.1* *WB* 1, 8/21 medical 'mixture' 'school of fish' ??
- ∞3bgs** n.m. 'plate'  
= ᾠβοῦ, ᾠβακος LSJ 1b 'slab, board'  
HT 778  
misread as \* *gs* in  
⇒ P T Zurich inv 1894, 11   
? O Turin 12672, 2
- ⇒ P O Bod 241, 9 
- ∞3p-Ĉ3-psy**  
MN  
glossed Δ, ΠΩΥ  
=? *Ĉpp* *WB* 1, 167/14-15  
= ἄτομος, see Plutarch, *De Iside*, S36  
⇒ P Leiden I 384, 4/17 
- ∞3p3d(?)**  
n.f. meaning unknown  
MSWB 1, 9  
⇒ P P Vienna 3873, 17 a/11 
- ∞3pystts**  
n.m. administrative title: Epistates  
= ἐπιστάτης LSJ 659b  
see Sp., *Erbstreit*, p. 52  
⇒ P O Strass WG 18, 6   
⇒ P O Strass WG 19, x+12-13   
⇒ P O BM 12594, x+5   
⇒ P O Berlin P 14824, 5 
- var.  
**3pystytys**  
see Pestman, *Archivio di Amenotes*,  
p. 101, n. h  
⇒ P P Turin Cat 2134, 18-19 
- 3pstts**  
see Klasens, *BIOr* 13 (1956) 222  
P P BM 10591, vo 4/4   
& vo 2/10

Coptic (the language and script of Christian Egypt). The University's "mainframe" computer was clearly able to provide a sophisticated word processing program which would allow us to arrange the dictionary pages exactly as we wished and would provide the high quality printout we need. In addition, they could handle most of the diacritics we needed and had a Greek font available. However, we found a "micro" ("personal" or "home" computer) which was, in many ways, easier for the computer neophyte to use (because there was less need to rely on, and therefore to memorize, series of coded commands to tell the machine how to arrange the material on the page, when to use italics or one of the diacritics or non-English fonts, etc.). This machine not only possessed many of the same capabilities as the "mainframe" but a few extra as well. A whole range of type styles and type sizes is available at the push of a button, and, unlike the "mainframe," all the diacritics, italics, changes in type size, arrangement of paragraphs, etc., are clearly visible on the screen so one knows immediately what the resulting page will look like. In addition, it was possible to design and add both the diacritics which we need for transliterating the Demotic and the Greek, Hebrew, and Coptic scripts for citing related words. Thanks to the generosity of Professor George Walsh of the Department of Classics, we now have a very nice Greek type font and we have been able to design our own Coptic font which is clearly legible and available at the push of a button. Thus we can now compose the pages of the dictionary completely from the computer keyboard and the resultant printout will, with the simple addition of the copy of the actual example lifted from the original text in which the word occurred, serve as the basis for

the printing of the supplement volume (see the sample page, fig. 42).

The development of our system for writing entries and composing pages, and the purchase of one of these "micro" computers, has allowed us to move rapidly into the actual work of the dictionary—the writing of the entries which will appear in the supplement to Erichsen's *Glossar*. We have now completed the first draft of the entries for the first and last letters of the alphabet (Ⲛ [aleph] and ⲉ) and are continuing our progress toward the middle.

The actual work of writing the entries is slow and painstaking—we must not only re-evaluate all the information which has been collected on the cards in our card file, we must also double-check reference works for all the stages of the Egyptian language. While the senior staff members write entries, another staff member is preparing an index which will list every text cited in the supplement, provide full bibliographic data, and indicate its provenience and date (so that scholars interested in regional and chronological studies may begin to assess the data accurately). It is only this kind of careful, methodical work which will ensure that the final product will be an accurate, useful volume.

During the past year, the regular staff of the Demotic Dictionary (Robert Ritner, Senior Research Assistant and Associate Editor; Richard Jasnou, Research Assistant and Assistant Editor; Lisa Moore, Adrian Esselström, Edward Walker, all Research Assistants and, for a short time at the beginning of the year, Eugene Cruz-Uribe, Research Assistant and Assistant Editor) has benefitted greatly from the constant assistance of Professor George R. Hughes (who is regularly called upon to read the illegible, to remember references to obscure texts and articles,

to identify the meaning of rare or difficult words, and to keep us all on an even keel). In addition, we have been able to bring to Chicago several renowned Demotists who have worked as consultants for the Dictionary. Professor Ronald J. Williams, University of Toronto, Professor John D. Ray, Cambridge University, and Dr. Mark Smith, Oxford University, all spent

time trying to identify the problem words which had been noted by the regular staff. In addition, each of them looked over the full range of "new" vocabulary from his own special area of interest: literary texts, oracular materials, and religious texts. Each has made a major contribution to the Dictionary.