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Topographical Bibliography of Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic Texts, Statues, Reliefs and Paintings
Report for the period January 3 to December 22, 2005

1. Staff.

The post of Dr Diana Magee (academic-related grade) has not been filled since her retirement in 2004, and the staff has been reduced from four persons working full-time to three (the Editor and two clerical grade Assistants; the same people also administer the Institute's Archive). Because of this, I no longer have anybody who can read hieroglyphs working with me on a permanent basis and this causes serious problems with the analysis of specialized publications, the maintenance of the general hieroglyphic name index and with the hieroglyphic index for Volume 8 Part 3 (*Unprovenanced Statues*).

To compensate for the time which Mrs Elizabeth Fleming and Mrs Alison Hobby spent running the Griffith Institute's office during Mrs Sue Hutchison's illness, Dr Magee was allowed to work with us on a part-time basis (two days a week) for the month of January 2005.

Staff shortage is so acute that we have to resort to applications for short-term grants from outside the Griffith Institute and to rely on the voluntary help of undergraduate students. From the beginning of August 2005 an RAE Incentive Grant is being used to employ Dr Magee to work as a consultant for two days a week. The grant runs out at the end of July 2006.

From August 2005, we have been fortunate to secure the help of two Egyptology undergraduates, Miss Emily Cole and Miss Rebecca Hitchen, who come to deal, on a voluntary and unpaid basis, with the main hieroglyphic name index for one half-day a week. Their work is supervised by Dr Magee and myself. I am very happy with the competence and dedication of both Miss Cole and Miss Hitchen.

2. Maintenance of the main *Topographical Bibliography* records.

New information concerning all volumes of the *Topographical Bibliography* (books, periodicals, the Internet, unpublished material, information received) is being processed as required and incorporated into the general *Topographical Bibliography* records (museums, private collections, auction house sales, names, royal, deities, manuscripts, geographical) and kept up to date. This involves combined efforts of all members of the staff.

A serious challenge which has been one of the main concerns of the *Topographical Bibliography* team for several years is the change from hand-written files based on index-cards (the traditional term used here is slips) to computerized records (this already happens in the case of Volume 8 Parts 1 and 2 where computerized files exist). Even if we disregard material in the published volumes, this involves several million items of information. There is a clear strategy of how to achieve this objective which is being vigorously pursued and periodically reviewed.

For the past several years our effort has concentrated on converting our records of periodicals (some 320 titles are monitored, with another 50 titles which have ceased being published). All members of the staff are currently involved in this task. We are confident that if we can secure the services of Dr Magee at least until the end of December the change of this section of the main *Topographical Bibliography* records will be completed by the end of this year.

3. The editing of Part 3 (*Unprovenanced Stelae*) of Volume viii of the *Topographical Bibliography* (*Stelae of Provenance Not Known*).

The text is being prepared by myself and input straight into the computer, including the hieroglyphs using InScribe 2004 hieroglyphic word-processing package. I also do myself all the indexing (the indices will be computer-generated). The general records are being kept up to date by my Assistants. The text is being formatted close to publication standard and the final editing will, therefore, be reduced to a few months work.

At the end of 2005 we had some 250 pages of the text ready which probably represents about a half of the planned volume (there will also be about 200 pages of indices). The work is planned in such a way that if the present staffing level is maintained (1+2+Dr Magee on a part-time basis) the volume will be published before the end of the year 2007. However, we have no spare capacity whatsoever left and if unexpected problems, such as illness or the loss of Dr Magee's participation, arise, we shall face serious difficulties.

Parts of the text of the new volume are being made available as pdf files on the Griffith Institute's website so that they can be commented on by other Egyptologists while the volume is still in preparation. This material is edited for the website by myself. Printouts are also prepared and distributed to several Egyptologists who specialize in ancient Egyptian stelae or Egyptian prosopography.

Scholars from all over the world frequently request information from us and this is supplied by correspondence, email, etc. Egyptologists also come in person to consult our records.

Some work has already been done on Part 4 (*Reliefs and Paintings*) of Volume viii (*Objects of Provenance Not Known*) (we have the first 88 pages of the text of this section of the *Topographical Bibliography*). Most of this goes back to the time when it was thought that stelae as well as reliefs and paintings would be included in one volume. This has proved unworkable and the material has now been divided between two volumes (3: *Stelae*, 4: *Reliefs and Paintings*). The work on Part 4 is not actively pursued except for special cases where this is the most sensible course of action.

Jaromir Malek

Editor of the *Topographical Bibliography* and Keeper of the Archive