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*Topographical Bibliography of Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic Texts,
Statues, Reliefs and Paintings*

The Editor's Report for the nine-month period

December 23, 2005 to September 30, 2006

(the previous report covered the period from January 3 to December 22, 2005)

1. Staff.

I no longer have anybody who can read Egyptian hieroglyphs working with me on a full-time basis, and this would cause serious problems with the analysis of specialized publications, the maintenance of the general hieroglyphic name index and the preparation of the hieroglyphic index for Volume 8 Part 3 (*Unprovenanced Statues*). Fortunately, this is at present at least partly alleviated because Dr Diana Magee, financed by a grant from outside the Griffith Institute, can work with us, on a part-time basis (two days a week) until the end of July 2007, and we have been able to use student volunteers.

I hope that the Committee of Management continues to be aware of this situation. I should like to stress that it cannot be solved by employing short-term clerical staff. The work on the *Topographical Bibliography* is a highly specialized task and even a trained Egyptologist would find it difficult to work independently without at least a six-month period of training in the *Bibliography's* methodology and procedures. Non-Egyptologists would take much longer and unless they were engaged on a longer-term contract the time required for their training would not be satisfactorily repaid by their contribution to the collective effort in the time which would remain of their contract. There are very few tasks in the work on the *Bibliography* which do not require either specialized knowledge or extensive experience, and I am very lucky in that both Mrs Elizabeth Fleming and Mrs Alison Hobby know the *Bibliography* procedures thoroughly.

Two Egyptology undergraduates, Miss Emily Cole and Miss Rebecca Hitchen, have been helping us, on a voluntary and unpaid basis, with the main hieroglyphic name index for one half-day a week. Their work is supervised by 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New information concerning all volumes of the *Topographical Bibliography* (new books, periodicals, the Internet, unpublished material, information received) is being processed as required and incorporated into the general *Topographical Bibliography* records (museums, private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 the members of the staff.

The task of replacing hand-written records based on index-cards by computerized files has been particularly actively pursued. Our effort has focused on our records of periodicals ('periodical lists'), some 400 titles, and Mrs Elizabeth Fleming and Alison Hobby have spent much of their time on this task. To date, some 95% of the old records have been converted to computerized files and updated and the task will be completed in the first half of 2007.

Dr Magee concentrates on the analysis of specialized Egyptological periodicals. This task is of crucial importance for the work on Part 3 of Volume 8 of the *Topographical Bibliography (Objects of Provenance Not Known: Stelae)* as well as for the maintenance of the general records (i.e. those which are not related to the Volume which is currently being worked on) and at present she is the only member of the staff, apart from myself, who can undertake this work.

3. The editing of Part 3 (*Unprovenanced Stelae*) of Volume 8 of the *Topographical Bibliography (Stelae of Provenance Not Known)* .

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 completed 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.

The methodology of the work is substantially different from that used during the work on Parts 1 and 2 of this volume. The text is prepared and input straight into the computer, including the hieroglyphs using InScribe 2004 hieroglyphic word-processing package. It is also fully indexed (the indices will be computer-generated) at this early stage. Changes have been made to the presentation of the material: each entry is self-contained so that it can be moved from one type of a general *Bibliography* record (e.g. a museum list) to another (e.g. a periodical list). Because of the computerization of library catalogues, it has become desirable to give the initials of all names and the dates of publication of all books. The indexing is now not on pages but on the codes assigned to each item; this, it is hoped, will be a permanent feature of each entry rather than volatile pagination..

All our working files are made available, as pdf files, on the Griffith Institute's web pages. I am not aware of this degree of transparency of work anywhere else in Egyptology.

The general records are being kept up to date by Mrs Fleming, Mrs Hobby and, in the case of the hieroglyphic names, Miss Emily Cole and Miss Rebecca Hitchen.

At the end of September 2006 we had more than 300 pages of the text formatted close to publication standard. It seems that when completed, the volume will around 500 pages of text and some 200 pages of computer-generated indices.

4. Accessibility of the *Topographical Bibliography* records.

Information from the *Topographical Bibliography* is supplied on request by correspondence, email, etc. Egyptologists also come in person to consult our records.

5. Online version of Parts 1 and 2 of Volume 8 of the *Topographical Bibliography* .

The updated version of the published version of Parts 1 and 2 of Volume 8 of the *Topographical Bibliography* is available on the Griffith Institute's web pages.

6. Part 4 (*Reliefs and Paintings*) of Volume 8 of the *Topographical Bibliography* .

The work on Part 4 is not actively pursued except for special cases where this is the most sensible course of action. On September 30, 2006, we had 91 pages formatted close to publication standard. Also this text is made available as a pdf file on the Griffith Institute's web pages.

Jaromir Malek

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