

CHICAGO DEMOTIC DICTIONARY

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WITH ROLLAND X. LONG

Progress continued to be made on the Chicago Demotic Dictionary (CDD) from July 2021 to June 2022. This progress can be quantified as follows:

- Four new files (Y, H, days of the month, and months of the year) were completely converted to InDesign and uploaded to the server, joining fourteen files (β, B, P, F, M, N, H, H, S, Š, Q, K, T, T) previously completed and uploaded.
- Four files (I, ʿ, L, G) were completely converted but had yet to be uploaded.
- Conversion continued on four other files (W, R, D, and numbers).
- Only one file (H) awaited conversion.

This year several stalwart research assistants had to turn much of their attention to other projects, so CDD editors Jan Johnson and Brian Muhs were grateful that Rolland Long, an alumnus of the University of Chicago and now a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania, was able to join the CDD team and provide part-time assistance. Rolland has kindly contributed his view and voice to the rest of this year's report.

UPDATE BY ROLLAND X. LONG

The staff at the CDD this year continued to prepare the updated first phase of the dictionary for publication. The endeavor of converting the original Microsoft Word files to Adobe InDesign documents is virtually complete. This long process began in 2017 and aims to create a dictionary that displays images better and that benefits from a far more flexible and detailed format. The new dictionary will be both aesthetically pleasing and much easier to read and understand. The conversion of only four letter files and one supplementary file (numbers) needs to be completed. We hope that the conversion process will be completed during the coming year.

Thanks to the reopening of the OI to all students, staff, and faculty, the CDD staff (and its friends in the Egyptology graduate program) could resume frequenting the dictionary office, rendering in-person meetings between members of the project much more viable. As editors, Jan Johnson and Brian Muhs head the CDD, whose staff this year included Rolland Long and Ariel Singer. Rolland is a graduate of the College of the University of Chicago and currently a PhD candidate “on loan” from the University of Pennsylvania. He is writing his thesis on the urban development of South Abydos, where he has worked several field seasons this academic year. He has completed several CDD entries since joining the project in 2021 and is currently converting the last supplementary entry (numbers). Ariel, in addition to being a senior PhD candidate wrapping up her dissertation on Egyptian medicine, is the CDD's InDesign expert and instructor, as well as the coordinator of its many files. She spent the winter of 2021–22 working at Chicago House in Luxor, Egypt, but consistently found time in her busy schedule for the CDD despite spending most of the year outside Chicago.

After completing the conversion process in the coming year, the staff at the CDD will transition to proofreading its many entries. Johnson and Muhs already began this process in 2019–20 and will involve the rest of the staff once the conversions are finally complete. They will primarily check for transcription and formatting mistakes, insert missing images, and ensure that formatting decisions were uniform across all entries. After this step, the files will be published both online and in hard copy.
