

## THE DEMOTIC DICTIONARY PROJECT

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**D**URING THE PAST YEAR the staff of the Demotic Dictionary Project has completed the background preparatory work leading up to the actual collection of vocabulary from Demotic texts published since 1954. As described in last year's Annual Report, our initial goal is a supplement to the Demotic glossary published in that year; it will include words not attested there and new meanings of words that are listed. With the completion of the annotated bibliography of Demotic text publications and discussions mentioned in last year's Report, we began to compile a catalogue, organized by text, indicating date, type of text, provenience, and publication data. This will enable us not only to find out where any given text was published or studied, but also to sort texts by type, provenience, and date in order to study possible differences in vocabulary or orthography. This catalogue is now almost complete. Eugene Cruz-Uribe has been largely responsible for the compilation of both the bibliography and the catalogue.

Mark Smith spent the summer of 1977 transliterating and translating one long, important text which was recently published in photograph only, in preparation to beginning the actual carding of its vocabulary.

Our progress and plans were presented to Demotic colleagues in Europe at the First International Congress of Demotists, in Berlin in September, 1977. We have incorporated a few minor suggestions made there about format of the dictionary pages. We also received offers of help with any specific problems which may arise as work progresses. During my absence in Egypt during the winter quarter, George R. Hughes, who from the beginning of the project has been an invaluable aid, answering questions and making sugges-

tions on the work, became even more directly involved, supervising all dictionary activities.

A transliteration system to be used when preparing dictionary cards has been adopted and tentative ways of dealing with special words and phrases, including several exceedingly common ones, have been adopted. With the background work nearing completion, we sent the first set of photographs of Demotic texts to the photographer for accentuated contrast prints, from which we will make the Xerox copies that will be cut up to form the actual dictionary cards. The summer ahead should see the actual beginning of the preparation of dictionary cards.