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Gene Gragg has been working on two fronts over the past year. On the one hand, work goes on for the Cushitic-Omotic database. The interface design is completed, and the database should be ready for serious "beta testing" by early 1992. The incorporation of several thousand Cushitic loanwords in classical Ethiopic Semitic has permitted getting a handle on the complex relations between early Cushitic and Semitic in the Horn of Africa — a spin-off has been an article on these relations in a *festschrift* for Wolf Leslau. Another preliminary result from the nearly complete initial data collection was a paper on "Cushitic Evidence for Afroasiatic Sibilants" given in an Afroasiatic meeting held conjointly with the American Oriental Society meeting in Berkeley in March. Along these lines he participated in the Johns Hopkins (Albright Centennial) symposium on "Ancient Near Eastern Studies in the Twenty-First Century" as discussant/presider in the Semitic linguistics session. In this session a recurring theme was the increasingly prominent role comparative Afroasiatic was destined to play in the future of Semitic studies.

On another front, in a reprise of activity on the "Unaffiliated (i.e., non-Semitic, non-Indo-European) Languages of the Ancient Near East," he followed up on the Hurrian/Urartian article in the Oxford International Encyclopedia of Linguistics with an article on Urartian word-order typology for *Aula Orientalis*, has done a survey chapter on the languages for a forthcoming volume, *Civilizations of the Ancient Near East*, edited by Jack Sasson, and has reviewed the new edition, expanded and translated into English, of Gernot Wilhelm's book on the Hurrians.