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Egyptian Root Lexicon

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# Preface

The idea of an Egyptian root lexicon goes back to a conversation between me and the Soviet scholar Alexandr Militarev (Милитарёв), at the Fifth International Hamito-Semitic Congress held in Vienna in 1987 (convenor Hans Mukarovsky). When I complained, that Semitists, when doing comparative work, committed many mistakes in respect to Egyptian roots and historical phonology, Militarev answered: “Why don’t you write an Egyptian root lexicon?”

Since then I was always aware of this idea, but my obligations as a head of the Egyptian and Near Eastern Department in the Vienna art museum, not to mention the University, kept me from really pursuing such a project; I merely managed to make several trial runs in direction of an Egyptian root lexicon. It was clear that I could not achieve it in this way, and the closer the date of my retirement from the museum work came (2003), the more my hopes developed for a realisation in the following period. But even then, when I was retired, work would not proceed, and I saw clearly that I needed help. That means, I had to launch a project.

The project “Egyptian Root Lexicon” was funded by Austrian Science Fund (FWF Der Wissenschaftsfonds) in 2016, and launched in 2017. The major collaborators were Kristina Hutter (University of Vienna, 2017 – initial databank entries) and Danijela Stefanović (University of Belgrade / University of Vienna, 2020-2021 – work on the databank entries and on the structure of the lexicon), and partially also Alfred Hutter (University of Vienna, 2018).

The project team is grateful to the Institute of Egyptology, University of Vienna, and Prof. Dr. Christiana Köhler for hosting the Root Lexicon. Due to cooperation with the project *Strukturen und Transformationen des Wortschatzes der Ägyptischen Sprache. Text- und Wissenskultur im Alten Ägypten*, and especially with Dr. Simon D. Schweitzer, many technical issues were easily solved as well as accession to relevant *Thesaurus Linguae Aegyptiae* (TLA) data.

Helmut Satzinger