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Preface

Conditions of Use

Editors

Friedrich Junge
(Göttingen)

Frank Kammerzell
(Berlin)

Antonio Loprieno
(Basel)

Addresses

Seminar für
  Ägyptologie und Koptologie
Georg-August-Universität
  Göttingen
Weender Landstraße 2
37073 Göttingen
Germany

Seminar für Archäologie und
  Kulturgeschichte Nordostafrikas
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Unter den Linden 6
10099 Berlin
Germany

Ägyptologisches Seminar

Universität Basel

Bernoullistraße 32
4056 Basel
Switzerland

PREFACE

It is somewhat unusual that editors turn to their readers only in the second issue of a new journal, but this practice shows definite advantages: after the uncertainties of a first experiment, the second time around they can be more assertive in sharing their optimism about the reception and the future of the new organ.

LingAeg is alive and well: after the publication of the proceedings of the "Crossroads II" conference in *LingAeg* 1 (1991), this second volume represents the beginning of "routine" of the scholarly endeavor we aimed at when we decided to found a journal devoted to the study of Egyptian language and literature. We would like to become the main forum for contributions dealing with these two major areas of Egyptology. Our purpose is twofold: on the one hand, *LingAeg* should help our colleagues gain a more immediate insight into the work produced in these areas of our field, which are often felt to be exotic or unnecessarily technical; on the other hand, it should provide linguists and students of literature with the possibility of an easier, more compact access to relevant contributions coming from our discipline. This last group of scholars represents a large, but hitherto wholly neglected potential audience for Egyptological productions.

"Egyptian language and literature": this definition evokes a broad variety of scholarly issues and approaches, including philological and linguistic topics of any nature, beyond the boundaries of specific areas or methodologies. But it also conveys our wish to see the terms "language" and especially "literature" understood in their more technical sense: our aspiration is to provide a locus for the ongoing debate on Egyptian grammar and by the same token to create one for the discussion on the nature of Egyptian literary discourse in the narrower sense, i.e., as opposed to the more referential textual types. We are aware that this programmatic aim itself may arouse controversies, and in the interest of the journal we are explicitly seeking them. We are led by the conviction that a methodologically oriented treatment of Egyptological topics does not jeopardize the unity of our field; on the contrary, it may enhance its general intellectual awareness.

As far as the publication rhythm is concerned, we would like *LingAeg* to appear in yearly issues, provided we receive enough contributions to justify this pace. As you know, *LingAeg* is a refereed journal, which adds to our scholarly credibility but makes early editorial projections more difficult. Because of financial and organizational needs, we must rely primarily on a distribution on the basis of subscriptions.

We wish you – our readers – and us – your editors – that the journal may find many authors willing to submit their contributions ... and many readers and subscribers interested in supporting it!

<div align="right">The Editors</div>