

reference work from Oxford University Press to know that the name of the institution in Oxford, home to 'M.J.E.', on the opposite side of the road from Pembroke is not 'Christ Church College'.

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*A Greek and Arabic Lexicon (GALex) Materials for a Dictionary of the Mediaeval Translations from Greek into Arabic. Fascicle 3. (Handbuch der Orientalistik/Handbook of Oriental Studies, Erste Abteilung: Der Nahe und Mittlere Osten/The Near and Middle East, XI. Band),* edd. G. Endress and D. Gutas, Leiden-New York-Köln: Brill, 1995, pp. [225-320] (+ 32 pp. of insert)

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These are the third and fourth fascicles of a most important project (earlier fascicles were reviewed in these pages in *Scripta* XII, 1993, pp. 221-2 and *Scripta* XIII, 1994, pp. 207-8). The third fascicle runs from the middle of the entry for the word *aṣl* to the middle of that for *ilā*; and the fourth from *ilā* to *inna*. In addition to the bound pages containing the material arranged according to the Arabic-to-Greek format of the *Dictionary* itself, we also have, with each new fascicle, a separate pamphlet-style insert containing a developing Greek-Arabic glossary, which is up-dated with each new fascicle. This functions as a reverse index to the *Dictionary* as a whole, and can in effect be discarded with the arrival of each new fascicle accompanied by its own up-dated insert. This is a boon, as the pamphlet contains not only the 'Greek-Arabic Glossary', Part B, containing, in the case of Fascicle 3, some 25 pages, but also parts D, 'Index of Variant Greek Passages' (in fasc. 3, three pages), E, 'Index of Variant Arabic Passages' (in fasc. 3, just over two pages), an index of Middle Arabic usage in manuscript readings, and F, an 'Index of Greek Quotations' (in fasc. 3, one page). In Fascicle 4, Part B, the Greek-Arabic Glossary, contains 33 pages, Part D, three and a half pages, Part E, 3 pages, the Index of Middle Arabic usage in manuscript readings one page and Part F, one page also.

We are reminded usefully also that Part C, an 'Index of Greek Proper Names and Words in Transliteration', will appear only at the end of each Arabic letter in the main part of the *Dictionary*. In addition, it is worth reminding readers and users of this work, and in particular librarians and others who might be tempted to bind the fascicles, and in doing so to throw away their paper covers, that the backs of these two fascicles, like those of their predecessors, also contain valuable addenda and corrigenda to the List of Sources, and Additional Abbreviations. Similarly, the fronts indicate who carried out the actual work of compilation and preparation of the individual fascicles. The information carried on these covers is not to be found elsewhere in the fascicles as published, and these sections should therefore by no means be discarded.

It can easily be seen from these figures alone that the development of the *Dictionary* progresses apace, for the comparison between Fascicles 3 and 4, in the indices alone,

suggests rapid expansion, amounting to some fifty per cent in the size of the indices. And it is to be noted that we are still in the first letter of the alphabet. This latter fact may be a cause for concern, given that the main body of the work, Part A, now contains some 480 pages. The production of this *Dictionary* looks set to turn into a race between printed book and electronic mode of production. In this case, unlike many others, there are, however, real problems to be solved before technology of the most modern sort can really overtake print, and it is a matter for congratulation to the editors and publishers that they are prepared not only to undertake the preparation and production of such a work but to do so moreover at a time when these problems have still not been solved. The size of the *Dictionary* when finished may be enormous, but the benefit to all those who work with these texts will be commensurate with the size of the finished work.

Something of that size can be construed from the figures just given; but something of the likely limits to it can also, perhaps, be derived from what we already have. The two fascicles under review contain, *inter alia multa*, the entries for a number of words and/or roots which by their nature are bound to be difficult and complex and, therefore, also long. These include such words/roots as *illā* (pp. 249-76), *ilā* (pp. 319-32), *amr* (pp. 356-95, with 13 divisions for the verb and 49 divisions for the noun, as well as many subdivisions for both), and a whole series of words spelled with *hamza* and *nūn*: *an* (pp. 408-16), *anna* (pp. 416-37), *in* (pp. 437-64) and *inna* (pp. 464-80, unfinished and to be continued in fascicle 5). There is a comparison to be made here with *LSJ*: in that lexicon, the letter *alpha* fills three hundred pages of the ninth edition, or one seventh of the entire work; and there too, as in Arabic, that first letter of the alphabet is very large for reasons connected with the existence of a fairly small number of words, or word-parts, which are particularly rich, beginning with that letter. In Arabic, as in Greek, we may doubt whether any other initial letter is quite so rich (Such comparisons can be deceptive: still in Arabic, Wehr's *Dictionary* has a relatively short section, only some 38 pp., for the first letter of the alphabet, while other rich initial letters take fifty, seventy, and even, in the case of the letter *nūn*, as many as 79 pages out of a total of just over 1100 pages in all. But the nature of the present work is such that the comparison with *LSJ* is the more usefully suggestive). These figures offer above all, however, an indication of the range and depth of the coverage which this remarkable work brings to the study of Arabic, in some ways for the first time. They invite comparison, to the great benefit of this work, with the great dictionaries which students of Greek and other European languages have enjoyed for many decades and remind the user on every occasion when this *Dictionary* is opened how very far the study of Arabic still is from having available a dictionary of comparable sort. This *Dictionary* (actually *Materials for a Dictionary*) deliberately confines itself to one, relatively narrow, slice of writing in this language. Apart from a very small number of extremely specialised dictionaries covering equally narrow areas of Arabic writing, we have no worthwhile lexicons which look at the language in its historical development and at the usage of words in their real contexts. Would that arabists in other areas might draw a moral from the effort invested here.