

“THE LIBRARY OF BABEL”

Durante mucho tiempo se creyó que esos libros impenetrables correspondían a lenguas pretéritas o remotas.
Jorge Luis Borges, “La Biblioteca de Babel”

INTRODUCTION

The fascination with the past and with the languages and scripts of ancient civilizations started already in Antiquity. Scripts were given a divine origin, as in the case of the Egyptians, who called their main writing system “words of god” (of which the Greek word “hieroglyph” is actually a pretty accurate translation), and ancient authors speculated about the antiquity of languages and the existence of a primeval language. At some point in their historical development, the knowledge of many of these scripts and languages was lost, but centuries later the interest in them arouse again, launching real races in which scholars and adventurers competed for the honor of bringing the ancient words back to life. The knowledge of ancient languages and their scripts is not only the key to the access to ancient documentation and literature, but also a gate to the ancient mind. Reading ancient texts in their original languages, following the words as the ancient scribes wrote them, observing their choice of signs, gives us access to how these ancient peoples organized their thoughts, and to how they understood the world.

ORIGINS OF THE COLLECTION

Since very early in my life I have been captivated by the remains from ancient civilizations. The fact that I grew up next to the ruins of an Iberian-Roman city, together with readings such as the classic *Gods, tombs, and scholars* by C. W. Ceram, made the past very present in my childhood and early teenage years. When I was 13 years old I came across a small book by the French Egyptologist Christian Jacq, *El enigma de la piedra*, in which he gives a short introduction to Egyptian hieroglyphs. This was the beginning of a passion that I have turned into my professional career, but also of a fascination for the languages and scripts of ancient cultures. Both at school when possible and in a self-taught way, I expanded progressively my interest to many different languages and scripts: ancient Egyptian, Greek, Latin, Coptic, Biblical Hebrew, Classic Mayan, Sanskrit... In a time when the Internet was not so commonly used in Spain, books were the only way of accessing many of these languages, so this was the beginning of a collection that slowly has turned my bookshelves into a small Babel.

Together with my interest for the ancient languages and scripts, I developed a special appreciation for the phenomenon of writing itself from a material perspective. I became extremely interested in the history of the written word, from the earliest evidences of writing to the history of the book. This is why I have oriented my career towards papyrology, but also why in my bibliophilic activity I

have paid special attention, within my possibilities, to particular editions and to the incorporation of specific classic titles even though nowadays they might be outdated.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION, ASSEMBLAGE, AND PURPOSE

This combination of interests has created a collection that encompasses different kinds of books, such as grammars, philological and linguistic studies, dictionaries, editions of ancient sources and anthologies of texts, devoted to the following languages: all the stages of the ancient Egyptian language, including its different writing systems, Mycenaean Greek (Linear B), ancient Greek, Latin, Hittite, Sanskrit, Sumerian, Akkadian, Ugaritic, Biblical Hebrew, Aramaic, Classical Arabic, Mayan, the Indus Valley script, and Meroitic. It also includes general studies of ancient languages, scripts, linguistic families, history of decipherment, and even volumes devoted to undeciphered scripts. I have also collected volumes on the same topic, such as dictionaries of a particular ancient language, in different modern languages (English, French, German, Spanish and Italian), since their authors belong to different scientific schools and take different approaches on the subject matter.

The collection has been growing in parallel to my interest in the different languages and scripts. Since I am an Egyptologist and papyrologist, my collection of books on the different stages of the Egyptian language and its writing systems is significantly more extensive than those devoted to other languages. When I incorporate a new language to the collection I do research on what the basic tools for its study are (for which Woodard's encyclopedia –see bibliography– is a great tool), and start a "hunt" in which I try to obtain the best editions available, and if possible in hardcover. I regularly check the Internet for particular titles that I am looking for, and when I travel, I like visiting second hand bookstores to try to find hidden treasures. I have also acquired books on book collecting in order to make more informed purchases.

The purpose of this collection is to represent the most important languages and scripts of the Ancient World, in a way that allows their study and comparative appreciation, in order to provide the necessary tools to be able to approach the ancient mind in a more comprehensive way. Many of the civilizations that used the languages that I have incorporated to my collection were in contact, and exchanged ideas, but sometimes, due to extreme specialization, some of these connections have not been perceived by modern scholars. The study of these languages and their literatures uncovers also many similarities that are not due to direct cultural contact, but which represent universals that define the human mind, across time and space.

ITEMS OF GREATEST INTEREST

Among all the books that form my collection there are some volumes that are special for different reasons. From my ancient Egyptian collection I will highlight two titles. One is Adolf Erman's *Aegyptisches Glossar*, which is a first edition from 1904 of this glossary in hieroglyphs. I obtained it for about \$20 on eBay, and apart

from its importance as one of the earliest dictionaries of Egyptian, one of the details that fascinated me concerned the history of the book itself. Among its pages I found some old pieces of paper written in black ink with hieroglyphs by someone who, many decades ago, used this book for learning ancient Egyptian. Another of the treasures of my collection is Penelope Wilson's *A Ptolemaic Lexicon*, which is currently a book almost impossible to obtain. In 2012 the personal library of the writer M. A. R. Barker was sold. Barker, like me, was fascinated by ancient languages, and the Ptolemaic lexicon was one of the volumes in his library. After saving money for months, hoping that no one would acquire the book in the meantime, I was able to incorporate it to my collection. In my ancient Greek collection I have two special treasures. One is a 1883 edition of Liddell and Scott's dictionary, and the other is the first edition of the only existing dictionary of Mycenaean Greek that Prof. Francisco Aura Jorro, my professor of Mycenaean and Linear B at the University of Alicante, compiled. Another curiosity that I found by chance in a second hand bookstore in Baltimore is a grammar of Aramaic written in Latin by a monk from the Abbey of Montserrat, in Barcelona. Apart from the intrinsic curious character of the book, another detail that makes this book interesting for me is that I have a special link to the Abbey of Montserrat, since I am currently working on the publication of part of its papyrological collection. To conclude, during one of my visits to York, in the United Kingdom, I found a first edition of G. R. Hunter's dissertation *The script of Harappa and Mohenjodaro and its connection with other scripts*. This book, published 1934, studies all the inscriptions available at the time written in the so-called Indus Valley script, which still remains undeciphered.

FUTURE OF THE COLLECTION

Mine is a collection in continuous growth. There are at least three directions in which the collection will continue expanding. First, towards the incorporation of new studies about each language, to reflect the recent research in each field. Second, to the acquisition of classic titles in each discipline, documenting the history of the development of the understanding of each language. And third, towards the incorporation of new ancient languages, the study of which I wish to start in the future. One of these languages will be Old Persian.

Marina Escolano-Poveda
Baltimore, February 17, 2015

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following bibliography includes 50 titles from my collection, classified according to the ancient language to which they are devoted. Although my collection also includes editions of texts, for this list I have focused on works directly related to the study of each language, such as grammars and dictionaries.

GENERAL AND LINGUISTIC FAMILIES (INDO-EUROPEAN, SEMITIC)

- 1. Lipiński, Edward. *Semitic Languages Outline of a Comparative Grammar*. 2nd edition. Leuven: Peeters, 2001.**

As an Egyptologist, the study of Semitic languages provides me with a very useful background against which to analyze the Egyptian language. This volume is an invaluable tool for the scholar interested in languages from the Afro-Asiatic linguistic family.

- 2. Robinson, Andrew. *Lost Languages: the enigma of the world's undeciphered scripts*. London, New York, Sydney, Toronto: BCA, 2002.**

This volume is devoted to those writing systems that still have not been deciphered, which constitute some of the most fascinating enigmas of the past. One of these is the Indus Valley script, which has its particular section in my collection. I bought this book in a rare book store in York during one of my trips to the United Kingdom.

- 3. Watkins, Calvert, ed. *The American Heritage Dictionary of Indo-European Roots*. 2nd edition. Boston, New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2000.**

This dictionary is extremely useful for the etymological study of Indo-European languages. I incorporated it to my linguistic library since it is a very useful complement for the study of languages featured in my collection, such as ancient Greek and Sanskrit.

- 4. Woodard, Roger D. *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the World's Ancient Languages*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004.**

Any collection devoted to ancient languages should include this volume, which provides comprehensive summaries of the main characteristics of the most important ancient languages from the whole world. It is an excellent volume for the comparative study of aspects of different languages, and to get a first approach to the study of new ancient languages, including an updated bibliography for each language.

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN

5. **Cauville, Sylvie. *Dendara. Le fonds hiéroglyphique au temps de Cléopâtre*. Paris: Éditions Cybèle, 2001.**

This book contains the complete sign list of all the hieroglyphs present in the inscriptions of the temple of Dendera, a temple dating to the Graeco-Roman that has particular signs that do not appear in other monuments. It is a rare book that has to be ordered directly from the editor, and it is an important aid for the study of Ptolemaic Egyptian.

6. **Černý, Jaroslav, and Sarah Israelit Groll. *A Late Egyptian Grammar*, Rome: Biblical Institute Press, 1975.**

This is the first edition of the main reference grammar of Late Egyptian in English. Sarah I. Groll compiled this volume as a tribute to the late Prof. Černý from his research on the grammar of Late Egyptian. She used the notes of his students and Černý's own notebooks. It is therefore not only a useful grammar for this stage of the Egyptian language, but an important volume for the history of Egyptian philology.

7. **Černý, Jaroslav. *Coptic Etymological Dictionary*. Cambridge, London, New York, Melbourne: Cambridge University Press, 1976.**

First edition, hardcover, of one of the main etymological dictionaries of the Coptic language in English. I acquired this second hand copy of the dictionary, which is currently quite rare, through eBay after looking for it for many years.

8. **Crum, Walter E. *A Coptic Dictionary*. Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1939. Reprint, Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2005.**

Reprint of the best Coptic dictionary available in English. This is a basic tool in the study of the Coptic language, and each entry features dialectal variations, Greek and Arabic equivalents, and references to the uses of the word in different texts.

9. **El-Aguizy, Ola. *A Palaeographical Study of Demotic Papyri in the Cairo Museum from the Reign of King Taharka to the End of the Ptolemaic Period (684-30 B. C.)*. Cairo: Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale, 1998.**

This big volume studies the evolution and variation of Demotic from its early stages to the end of the Ptolemaic period. It presents a series of tables with facsimile drawings of the signs, including their equivalents in abnormal hieratic. It constitutes an important part of my Demotic library, necessary for the study of early Demotic papyri.

10. **Erman, Adolf. *Aegyptisches Glossar. Die häufigeren Worte der aegyptischen Sprache*. Berlin: Verlag von Reuther & Reichard, 1904.**

First edition of one of the first glossaries of the Egyptian language, compiled by Adolf Erman, one of the main figures in the history of Egyptian philology

and author with Grapow of the main dictionary of Egyptian, the *Wörterbuch der ägyptische Sprache*. I bought this book on eBay for a very cheap price (around \$20), and among its pages I found little pieces of scrap paper, with hieroglyphs written with a fountain pen, belonging to a previous owner.

- 11. Erman, Adolf. *Neuägyptische Grammatik*. 2nd edition. Leipzig: W. Engelmann, 1933. Reprint, Hildesheim: Georg Olms Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1968.**

This is a classic of the history of the study of the Egyptian language. Erman was the scholar who identified the existence of Late Egyptian, the stage of the Egyptian language to which this grammar is devoted. This book was handwritten by another important Egyptologist, W. Erichsen, author of the *Demotisches Glossar*. Although it is a reprint, it is already a rare book in the field.

- 12. Faulkner, Raymond O. *A Concise Dictionary of Middle Egyptian*. Oxford: Griffith Institute, 1962. Reprint, 2006.**

This is the classic dictionary of Middle Egyptian for those beginning the study of the language. It is handwritten and contains the vocabulary of the main Middle Egyptian texts. After years of using photocopies of this dictionary when I started learning Middle Egyptian as a teenager, I acquired this hardcover volume, an essential title in the library of any Egyptologist.

- 13. Gardiner, Alan Henderson. *Egyptian Grammar. Being an introduction to the study of hieroglyphs*. 3rd edition. Oxford: Griffith Institute, 1957.**

This is the classic grammar of the Egyptian language in English. It is nowadays outdated in many aspects, especially in its presentation of the verbal system, but it is still the most complete grammar of Egyptian in English. I acquired this volume in Oxford when I was 16 years old and I was starting to learn Egyptian on my own.

- 14. Grandet, Pierre, and Bernard Mathieu. *Cours d'égyptien hiéroglyphique*. Paris: éditions Khéops, 2003.**

This is the most common teaching grammar for Middle Egyptian in French. I acquired it in order to contrast its approach to the grammar to that of other grammars in other languages.

- 15. Hannig, Rainer, and Petra Vomberg. *Kulturhandbuch Ägyptens. Wortschatz der Pharaonen in Sachgruppen*. Mainz: Philipp von Zabern, 1999.**

First edition of this glossary that classifies the ancient Egyptian vocabulary according to semantic groups, providing an extremely useful aid to the study of the language in a logical way. When I obtained this first edition of the book on eBay, it had been out of print for years, and it was not easy to find. Since then it has been reprinted.

16. Hannig, Rainer. *Ägyptisches Wörterbuch I. Altes Reich und Erste Zwischenzeit*. Mainz: Philipp von Zabern, 2003.

First edition of the first volume of the series of dictionaries devoted to a specific stage of the Egyptian language, compiled by Hannig as an extension of his *Großes Handwörterbuch* (which is also part of my collection). This particular volume compiles the vocabulary corresponding to the Old Kingdom and First Intermediate Period (ca. 2700-2000 BCE), and it is the only existing dictionary devoted exclusively to this period. Each entry includes the attestations for the word in the texts of the period, indicating the support (wall, stela, papyrus, etc.), with references to the edition of each text.

17. Kurth, Dieter. *Einführung ins Ptolemäische. Eine Grammatik mit Zeichenliste und Übungsstücken*. 2 vols. Hützel: Backe-Verlag, 2009.

This two-volume grammar is the only available study of the grammar of Ptolemaic Egyptian. The first volume is mainly devoted to the particularities of the hieroglyphic script in the Graeco-Roman period, including a detailed sign list. At the end there is a section on the phonetics of the language in the Graeco-Roman period and its graphic representation. The second volume analyzes the morphology and syntax of the hieroglyphic texts of the Graeco-Roman period.

18. Lambdin, Thomas Oden. *Introduction to Sahidic Coptic*, Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1983. Reprint, 2000.

This is the classic teaching grammar of Sahidic Coptic. Although it is a bit outdated now, I keep this volume as part of the core of my Coptic library, since I learned this stage of the Egyptian language with it.

19. Layton, Bentley. *A Coptic Grammar with Chrestomathy and Glossary. Sahidic Dialect*. 2nd edition. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2004.

This is currently the most complete and updated reference grammar for Sahidic Coptic in English, and therefore a necessary volume in a Coptological library.

20. Lesko, Leonard H., ed. *A Dictionary of Late Egyptian*. 2 vols. 2nd edition. Providence: B. C. Scribe Publications, 2002-04.

This two-volume dictionary is devoted to the stage of the Egyptian language called Late Egyptian. It contains succinct entries for each word, with useful references to their occurrence in particular texts, and orthographic variations. Nowadays it is the most complete dictionary for this stage of the language.

21. Schenkel, Wolfgang. *Einführung in die altägyptische Sprachwissenschaft*. Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1990.

This is a classic study of the ancient Egyptian language from a linguistic point of view. It is a volume that nowadays is quite rare, and which I acquired from a second hand bookstore on a trip to Germany.

22. Schenkel, Wolfgang. *Tübinger Einführung in die klassisch-ägyptische Sprache und Schrift*. Tübingen: pagina GmbH Tübingen, 2005.

This teaching grammar of Middle Egyptian is one of the most used textbooks in Germany. It was a gift from a friend Egyptologist, Dr. José Lull, during my first years of study of Egyptian. This friend was a student of the author in Tübingen.

23. Shisha-Halevy, Ariel. *Coptic Grammatical Categories. Structural Studies in the Syntax of Shenoutean Sahidic*. Roma: Pontificium Institutum Biblicum, 1986.

First edition of this volume, which contains different studies by one of the foremost Coptic scholars. It focuses on a particular version of the Sahidic dialect, the one written by the monk Shenoute. This volume is now a classic in Coptic studies, and I was able to acquire a second hand copy of it.

24. Simpson, Robert S. *Demotic Grammar in the Ptolemaic Sacerdotal Decrees*. Oxford: Griffith Institute, 1996.

This volume studies the specific grammar of the Ptolemaic decrees such as the Rosetta Stone. It is a very interesting complement for the study of Demotic grammar, especially because of the possibilities that this kind of documents offer for the philologist, since the demotic texts are accompanied by versions in hieroglyphs and/or Greek, or Latin.

25. Spiegelberg, Wilhelm. *Demotische Grammatik*. 2nd edition. Heidelberg: Carl Winter Universitätsverlag, 1975.

This is the classic grammar of Demotic, written by one of the foremost figures in the study of this stage of the Egyptian language. Although it was written in 1924 it is still very useful and it has not been surpassed yet. This volume was handwritten by the author himself.

26. Till, Walter. *Koptische Dialektgrammatik mit Lesestücken und Wörterbuch*, München: Verlag C. H. Beck, 1961.

First edition of this little book, which is one of the few books that study all the Coptic dialects together. Although now it is a bit out of date, it is still a classic and a necessary volume in any Coptological library.

27. Torallas Tovar, Sofía. *Gramática de Copto Sahídico*. Madrid: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, 2001.

This little book is one of the few existing publications on Coptic grammar in Spanish, and it was a present of the author, who signed it for me. It is a very good summary of the Sahidic dialect, with useful tables, exercises and a short chrestomathy.

- 28. Westendorf, Wolfhart. *Koptisches Handwörterbuch. Bearbeitet auf der Grundlage des Koptischen Handwörterbuchs von Wilhelm Spiegelberg.* 2nd edition. Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2000.**

This etymological dictionary is fundamental for the study of the diachronic evolution of the Egyptian language, and was compiled from the notes of one of the most important philologists in the history of the study of the Egyptian language, Wilhelm Spiegelberg.

- 29. Wilson, Penelope. *A Ptolemaic Lexikon.* Leuven: Peeters, 1997.**

This is the first and only edition of this dictionary devoted of the Egyptian vocabulary of the Graeco-Roman period, a moment in which the hieroglyphic script evolved incorporating new orthographies and creating new signs. This dictionary has been out of print since its first edition, and I had been looking for a copy of it for more than ten years. I finally found this copy on eBay, which had belonged to the personal library of the writer M. A. R. Barker (1929-2012). It has an annotation by Barker and a rubber stamp.

ANCIENT GREEK AND LATIN

- 30. Liddell, Henry George, and Robert Scott. *A Greek-English Lexicon.* 7th ed. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1883.**

This is an 1883 edition of the best dictionary of ancient Greek in English, bound in cloth with leather spine cover and the title in gold. Although I own another more modern edition of this dictionary, I keep this volume as one of the treasures of my Greek collection.

- 31. Sihler, Andrew L. *New Comparative Grammar of Greek and Latin.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.**

This is a fascinating volume for the student of Indo-European languages and of Greek and Latin in particular, illuminating many aspects of the grammar of these two languages and connecting them with their Indo-European antecedents and with cognates in other languages.

- 32. Smyth, Herbert Weir, and Gordon M. Messing. *Greek Grammar.* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1956.**

This is a central volume in the library of any Hellenist. It is the most complete reference grammar of ancient Greek in English.

- 33. Thompson, Edward Maunde. *An Introduction to Greek and Latin Palaeography.* Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1912. Facsimile edition, New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.**

This facsimile edition of the classic work of Thompson is an important addition to any papyrological library, both as part of the history of the discipline, and because it is still a very useful tool. It contains a wealth of images of different manuscripts, documenting the palaeographical history of Greek and Latin.

MYCENAEAN GREEK

34. **Aura Jorro, Francisco, and Francisco Rodríguez Adrados. *Diccionario Micénico (DMic.)*. 2 vols. Madrid: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Instituto de Filología, 1985-93.**

This is nowadays the only existing dictionary of Mycenaean Greek. It was published as an annex to the big *Diccionario Griego-Español*. Its main author, Prof. Aura Jorro, was my professor of Mycenaean and Linear B at the University of Alicante.

HITTITE

35. **Van den Hout, Theo. *The Elements of Hittite*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.**

This small book is an introduction to the Hittite language, the oldest attested Indo-European language in written form. I acquired this copy in Chicago, and it is signed by the author, who is a professor of Hittite at the University of Chicago.

SANSKRIT

36. **Monier-Williams, Monier. *A Sanskrit-English Dictionary, etymologically and philologically arranged with special reference to cognate Indo-European Languages*. Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1899. Reprint, Springfield, VA: Nataraj Books, 2014.**

This is the classic dictionary of Sanskrit in English. It is very complete and includes etymological information and cognates in other Indo-European languages. Although it is quite old, it still has not been surpassed, and it is a central piece of my Sanskrit library.

37. **Whitney, William Dwight. *Sanskrit Grammar. Including both the Classical Language, and the older Dialects, of Veda and Brahmana*. 2nd edition. London and Cambridge, MA: Oxford University Press and Harvard University Press, 1964.**

Whitney's grammar is the classic reference book for Sanskrit in English. Although there is a paperback reprint, I decided to acquire this second edition in hardcover.

SUMERIAN

38. **Jiménez Zamudio, Rafael. *Gramática de la lengua sumeria: gramática con ejercicios transliterados y en cuneiforme: signario y glosario*. Madrid: Ediciones Clásicas, 1998.**

This is the only existing grammar of Sumerian in Spanish. It was written by one of the professors at the Autonomous University of Madrid, where I finished my degree in History. This copy is signed by the author.

AKKADIAN

- 39. Caplice, Richard. *Introduction to Akkadian*. 4th edition. Roma: Editrice Pontificio Istituto Biblico, 2002.**

This small book is a good introduction to Akkadian grammar and to the cuneiform script.

UGARITIC

- 40. Gordon, Cyrus Herzl. *Ugaritic Manual: Newly Revised Grammar, Texts In Transliteration, Cuneiform Selections, Paradigms, Glossary, Indices*. 3 vols. Roma: Pontificium Institutum Biblicum, 1955.**

This is the first edition of this publication, which consists of three volumes that cover from the grammar of Ugaritic to its vocabulary and a chrestomathy of texts both in transliteration and in cuneiform. I acquired it in a second-hand bookstore, and it is a very good addition to my library of Semitic languages and cuneiform script.

BIBLICAL HEBREW

- 41. Davidson, Benjamin: *The Analytical Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon*, New York: Harper and Brothers, 1956.**

First hardcover edition of a very useful dictionary for the study of Biblical Hebrew, containing all the words and inflected verbal forms present in the Old Testament.

- 42. Weingreen, Jacob. *A practical grammar for Classical Hebrew*. 2nd edition. Oxford and New York: Clarendon Press, Oxford University Press, 1959.**

This is a very good teaching grammar for the study of Biblical Hebrew, which can also be used as reference grammar. It was the book I used for learning this language.

ARAMAIC

- 43. Palacios, Ludovicus. *Grammatica Aramaico-Biblica ad usum scholarum. Exercitiis, textibus et vocabulario ornata*. Rome, Tournai, Paris: Desclee et socii, 1953.**

This small book is a very curious teaching grammar of Aramaic, written in Latin by a monk from the Abbey of Montserrat, Barcelona. I acquired from a second-hand bookstore as a curiosity for my library of Semitic languages.

ARABIC

- 44. Busquets Mulet, Jaime. *Gramática Elemental de la Lengua Árabe*. 5th edition. Palma de Mallorca: Imprenta SS. Corazones, 1970.**

This small book is a classic teaching grammar of Arabic in Spanish. It has special sentimental value because it was the first grammar of Arabic that I ever read. It is a very old school grammar, and contains some sections devoted to Hispanic Arabic and a very interesting section devoted to the so called "Aljamia", the use of the Arabic script for writing Spanish during the Middle Ages.

- 45. Wright, W. *A Grammar of the Arabic Language*. 2 vols. 3rd edition. Translated by Karl Paul Caspari. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1896-1898. Reprint, New York: Dover, 2005.**

This is a reprint of one of the classic reference grammars of Arabic in English. I incorporated it to my Arabic library as an addition to other learning grammars such as Thackston's *An Introduction to Koranic & Classical Arabic* (Bethesda, MA: IBEX Publishers, 1994).

MAYAN

- 46. Coe, Michael D., and Mark Van Stone. *Reading the Maya Glyphs*. 2nd edition. London: Thames & Hudson, 2005.**

This book is a very accessible introduction to the study of Maya inscriptions, covering the most important glyphs and glyph-parts. It is not a grammar of Mayan, but it introduces the basic principles of the language. This is the book I used to initiate myself in this fascinating script.

- 47. Harris, John F., and Stephen K. Stearns. *Understanding Maya Inscriptions. A Hieroglyph Handbook*. 2nd revised edition. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, 1997.**

This book is a good review of the principles of the Maya script, very similar in its structure to Coe and Van Stone's book. It has a very useful bibliography, thorough appendices on the calendar, and a good chrestomathy of inscriptions.

- 48. Morley, Sylvanus Griswold, *An Introduction to the Study of the Maya Hieroglyphs*. Washington: Govt. print. off., 1915. Reprint, New York: Dover Publications, 1975.**

This book was written before the decipherment of Maya glyphs, and therefore it is a very curious text to read in comparison with our current knowledge of this script.

INDUS VALLEY SCRIPT

49. Hunter, G. R. *The script of Harappa and Mohenjodaro and its connection with other scripts*. London: Kegan Paul, Trench Trubner & Co, 1934.

First edition of this book, today outdated, that was the first analysis of the seals found in the excavations of the sites of Harappa and Mohenjodaro, in the Indus Valley. This script has not been deciphered yet. I found this book by chance in a visit to a second hand bookstore in York.

MEROITIC

50. Rilly, Claude. *Le méroïtique et sa famille linguistique*. Leuven, Paris: Peeters, 2010.

This book studies what is known of the Meroitic language, which has not been completely deciphered, trying to relate it to other African linguistic families. It is written by the scholar considered to be the foremost specialist in this language.

"THE LIBRARY OF BABEL"

WISH LIST

1. **Daumas, François.** *Valeurs Phonétiques Des Signes Hiéroglyphiques D'époque Gréco-Romaine.* 4 vols. Montpellier: Université de Montpellier, 1988.

These four volumes list the hieroglyphic signs of the Graeco-Roman period with their different phonetic values. Although new works have appeared since their publication, such as those by Kurth and Cauville listed in my main bibliography, these are still useful volumes, which I would also like to acquire as important bibliography in the history of the study of Ptolemaic Egyptian.

2. **Edel, Elmar.** *Altägyptische Grammatik.* 2 vols. Rome: Pontificum Institutum Biblicum, 1955.

This is the classic grammar of Old Egyptian, which has not been surpassed yet. It is currently a very rare book that I have been trying to acquire for many years.

3. **Erichsen, Wolja.** *Demotisches Glossar.* Copenhagen: E. Munksgaard, 1954.

This is the fundamental dictionary of Demotic. The new *Chicago Demotic Dictionary* has been published as a (very extensive, multivolume) supplement to it, but Erichsen's dictionary is still necessary tool in the library of every demotist.

4. **Erman, Adolf, and Hermann Grapow, eds.** *Wörterbuch der Aegyptischen Sprache.* 6 vols. Berlin: Akademie-Verlag, 1926-61.

This dictionary is the most extensive work in the lexicographic study of ancient Egyptian, including vocabulary from all the stages of the Egyptian language. It has not been surpassed yet in its thorough character.

5. **Huehnergard, John.** *A Grammar of Akkadian.* Atlanta, GA: Scholars Press, 1997.

This is the teaching grammar of Akkadian used in Akkadian courses in the main universities, including Hopkins. I would like to acquire it as a continuation from Caplice's introduction.

6. **Kent, Roland G.** *Old Persian: Grammar, Texts, Lexicon.* 2nd edition. New Haven: American Oriental Society, 1953.

This is the recommended grammar of Old Persian in English, which I would like to acquire in order to start learning this language.

7. Montevicchi, Orsolina. *La Papirologia*. Milano: Vita e pensiero, 1988.

This volume is one of the fundamental works on Greek and Latin papyrology.

8. Parpola, Asko. *Deciphering the Indus Script*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 1994.

This volume collects Prof. Parpola's ideas on the still undeciphered Indus Valley script, and would be an interesting and updated addition to my collection, to complement the older book by Hunter.

9. Pestman, Pieter Willem. *The New Papyrological Primer*. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1990.

This papyrological primer contains examples of Greek and Latin papyri from different periods, documenting the evolution and variation in the script.

10. Scharf, Peter. *Ramopakhyana - The Story of Rama in the Mahabharata: A Sanskrit Independent-Study Reader*. Routledge, 2003.

This edition of the story of Rama is specially intended for the student of Sanskrit, and would be a very useful addition to my Sanskrit library.