

**Gene Gragg's** activities centered around the Cushitic-Omotiic database. He is in the process of incorporating into it material pertaining to Cushitic loanwords in earliest Ethiopic Semitic. The object of this extension is to characterize the earliest contact between the Cushitic languages of Ethiopia and first Semitic-speaking settlers from Southern Arabia. This information will make it possible to fix more accurately the socio-linguistic context of the interaction of the two population groups, and hopefully to establish some chronological limits for the beginning of this interaction. Meanwhile the entire corpus is being edited, and an appropriate interface designed for use by interested groups, among the first of which will be an Afroasiatic dictionary team organized by Professor I.M. Diakonoff in Leningrad and Moscow.

