

Gene Gragg

The Mellon Foundation Emeritus Fellowship grant for the creation of COMA (Cushitic-Omotic Morphological Database) officially ended on March 1, 2010, and a final report was delivered on June 1. The grant's basic goal has been met. Although the archive is still being worked on, a provisional release of the whole application — data, scripts, and programs — is publicly available for downloading from our version control site <http://bitbucket.org/gar/coma/overview/>. (Click on the “get source >> zip” menu to download a compressed file, *coma.zip*, of about 30 MB, which, unzipped, expands to a directory tree of data and application files taking up about 350 MB on a hard disk.) Until a stable release is produced, we will continue to use this site, which enables uploading (for collaborators with proper access) and downloading (for any interested party) of updates, corrections, and additions to a project, so that everyone working on it (or interested in it) has access to the most current version of the project. However, potential users need to keep in mind that, even though the data format and basic display modules are fairly stable, the data-query and data-manipulation software is still in a process of development, so that the contents of certain subdirectories in *coma.zip* can differ significantly, even from one day to the next.

The archive currently contains 5,444 verbal and pronominal paradigms in forty-five languages:

- Thirty-two Cushitic languages (4537 paradigms)
- Six Omotic languages (555 paradigms)
- Five Semitic languages (305 paradigms)
- Two Egyptian languages (Coptic, Middle Egyptian: 47 paradigms)

All of the data is currently undergoing proofreading and checking against sources. Although some additions are still to be made, the Cushitic and Omotic parts of the archive cover most of the published monographic morphological data in these languages. What will need to be added next are unpublished data, and data on less well-attested, older, and sometimes no longer spoken Cushitic and Omotic varieties, scattered in a wide variety of published sources.

In the course of the year, two papers were given centering on the project and its linguistic rationale and logical structure:

- Morphosyntax, Morphosemantics, and Homology: How to Query a Morphological Database, at the 38th North American Conference on Afroasiatic Linguistics, Austin, February 13–14
- What's in a Paradigm? Lessons from the Cushitic-Omotc Morphological Archive, at the conference Linguistic Method and Theory and the Languages of the Ancient Near East, Oriental Institute, April 16, 2010

Finally, by way of a new project, which in a sense complements and extends the work of COMA, Gragg has agreed to contribute to a survey volume *The Afroasiatic Languages* being edited by Zygmunt Frajzyngier for Cambridge University Press.
