A Phoenician-Punic Grammar

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Charles R. Krahmalkov

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For Laura and Jeff, Michelle, Ken and Joshua.
With love and respect.

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FOREWORD

The present grammar of the Phoenician-Punic has its origin in a systematic investigation and study of the language which I first undertook more than twenty years ago and have since then pursued in numerous specialized studies. From the start my purpose was to attempt a description of Phoenician and Punic based on an independent analysis of the language and its literature. Motivating my work was the perception that the description of Phoenician in existing grammars of the language was so exceedingly reliant upon the traditional descriptions of Classical Hebrew that the true character and genius of Phoenician had been seriously misrepresented and distorted. My work was also fed by the desire to seek out details of Phoenician grammar and lexicon not recorded in existing Phoenician grammars in order to "fill out the paradigm" with new, fuller and more precise information about all aspects of the language. Presented in this grammar is a comprehensive statement of the results of my work.

It will be immediately apparent to those who consult this grammar that it is fundamentally informed by my personal understanding of the individual texts of the Phoenician and Punic literary corpus and of the rich lexical treasure they contain. My understanding and translations of these texts are registered in my recent work *Phoenician and Punic Dictionary*, to be published in 2000 by Peeters in Leuven (Louvain). The reader may also wish to consult my preliminary sketches of the grammar of Phoenician presented in my reference encyclopedia articles *Phoenician*, pages 222-223 in the *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, vol. 4 K-N (Doubleday: New York, 1992), and in *Phoenician/Punic* in the forthcoming book *The Encyclopedia of the World's Languages: Past and Present* to be published in May, 2000, by the H.W. Wilson Press in New York.

The topics discussed in this work are necessarily selective. It is, needless to say, impossible within the confines of any modest work to cover in detail every feature of morphophonology and syntax. My object has been to provide good general coverage but, perhaps more important, (i) to present data and discussion not contained in other works and (ii) to present new and existing data accurately, based on my own researches in Phoenician and Punic grammar. Much of the

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new information presented in this work, invaluable for an understanding of the morphophonology of Phoenician and Punic, is drawn from the fully vocalized Latin-letter Punic and Neo-Punic preserved by Plautus in his play *Poenulus*, and from the late Neo-Punic in Latin-letters of the inscriptions of the hinterland of Roman Tripolitania. Although I have published studies in both, my larger monographs on this most important literature have not yet appeared. The reader will, however, find the substance of this work in the *Phoenician and Punic Dictionary* and in the pages of this grammar.

In one important respect this grammar differs from others. Rather than adhering to the traditional discrete bifurcation of Morphology and Syntax, this work includes the two within the same chapter, each chapter consisting of Part A Morphology and Part B Syntax and Usage. This in my considered opinion is a rather more "user-friendly" presentation of forms and usage, designed to achieve convenience of reference.

This grammar of Phoenician-Punic, as all scholarly works, has a long and noble ancestry in the rich scholarship of the past and present. For the convenience of the reader, I provide here a comprehensive bibliography of the existing major grammars and lexicons-glossaries of Phoenician-Punic.

1. GRAMMARS

Cunchillos, Jesús-Luis and Zamora, José-Ángel
1997 *Gramatica Fenicia Elemental.* Madrid.

Friedrich, Johannes
1951 *Phönizisch-punische Grammatik.* Analecta Orientalia 32. Rome: Pontificium Institutum Biblicum.

Friedrich, Johannes and Röllig, Wolfgang
1970 *Phönizisch-Punische Grammatik.* 2nd Edition. Analecta Orientalia 46. Rome: Pontificium Institutum Biblicum.

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1999 *Phönizisch-Punische Grammatik.* 3rd Edition. Revised by Maria Giulia Amadasi Guzzo, and Werner R. Mayer. Analecta Orientalia 55. Rome: Pontificio Istituto Biblico.

Harris, Zellig Shabbetai
1936 *A Grammar of the Phoenician Language.* American Oriental Series Volume 8. New Haven: American Oriental Society.

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Rosenberg, Josef
1907 *Phoenizische Grammatik.* Wien und Leipzig: Hartleben Verlag.
Schröder, Paul
1869 *Die Phönizische Sprache. Entwurf einer Grammatik nebst Sprach-und Schriftproben mit einem Anhang, enthaltend eine Erklärung der punischen Stellen im Pönulus des Plautus.* Halle: Verlag der Buchhandlung des Waisenhauses.
Segert, Stanislav
1976 *A Grammar of Phoenician and Punic.* Munich: C.H. Beck.
Shifman, Il'ya Sh.
1963 *Finikiyskiy Yazyk.* Akademiya Nauk SSSR. Institut Narodov Azii. Yazyki Zarubezhnogo Vostoka i Afriki. Moscow: Izdatel'stvo Vostochnoi Literatury.
van den Branden, Albert
196 *Grammaire Phénicienne.* Beyrouth: Librairie du Liban.

2. Dictionaries, Lexicons, Glossaries

Bloch, Armand
1890 *Phoenicisches Glossar.* Berlin: Mayer und Mueller.
Donner, Herbert. and Röllig, Wolfgang.
1964 Kanaanäische Glossar. Pp. 1-26 in *Kanaanäische und aramäische Inschriften.* Band III: Glossare. Indizes. Tafeln. Wiesbaden Harrassowitz.
Fuentes Estañol, Maria-José
1980 *Vocabulario Fenicio.* Biblioteca Fenicia. Volumen 1. Barcelona: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas.
Harris, Zellig Shabbetai
1936 Glossary of Phoenician. Pp. 71-156 in *A Grammar of the Phoenician Language.* New Haven: American Oriental Society.
Hoftijzer, Jean. and Jongeling K.
1995 *Dictionary of the North-West Semitic Inscriptions.* Two volumes. Leiden, New York, Koeln: E.J. Brill.
Jean, Charles.-F. and Hoftijzer, Jean
1965 *Dictionnaire des inscriptions semitiques de l'Ouest.* Leiden: E.J. Brill.
Krahmalkov, Charles R.
2000 *Phoenician-Punic Dictionary.* Orientalia Lovanensia Analecta 90. Studia Phoenicia XV. Leuven: Peeters.

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Levy, Mauritz Abraham
1864 *Phoenizisches Woerterbuch.*
Lidzbarski, Max
1898 (1962) Glossary. Pp. 204-388 in *Handbuch der nordsemitischen Epigraphik,* I-II. Wiesbaden. (Hildesheim).
Tomback, Richard S.
1978 *A Comparative Lexicon of the Phoenician and Punic Language.* Missoula: Scholars Press (Society of Biblical Literature).

Reference Sources

The epigraphic passages cited in this grammar are, for the purpose of convenient reference, assigned the number of their source texts given in the standard collection *Kanaanäische und aramäische Inschriften* (abbreviated as *KAI*) by Herbert Donner and Wolfgang Röllig (Harrassowitz: Wiesbaden, 1964). A numbered citation not preceded by a specified source reference is drawn from *KAI.* Other well known collections of texts are also used for convenience of reference, among them P. Magnanini's *Le iscrizioni fenicie dell'Oriente* (Rome, 1973), M.G. Guzzo Amadasi's *Le iscrizioni fenicie e puniche delle Colonie in Occidente* (Rome, 1967), G. Levi Della Vida and M.G. Amadasi Guzzo's *Iscrizioni puniche della Tripolitania* 19271967 (Rome, 1987) and J.M. Reynolds and J.B. Ward Perkins, *The Inscriptions of Roman Tripolitania* (Rome and London, 1952). Citations from other collections are preceded by the full or abbreviated name of that source. The reader need be alerted however that my readings and translations of passages drawn from these collections are not necessarily the same as those proposed by their authors or compilers. The specific linguistic origin or character of a given citation is indicated by the *sigla* preceding: Byb for Byblian Phoenician, Pu for Punic and NPu for Neo-Punic; a citation without specific designation is Phoenician.

Abbreviations

AI	*Africa Italiana*
Aistleitner	J. Aistleitner, *Wörterbuch der ugaritischen Sprache.* Berlin, 1967.
Akko	M. Dothan, "A Phoenician Inscription from Akko," *IEJ* 35 (1985), 81-94.
Asarh.	R. Borger, *Die Inschriften Asarhaddons, Königs von Assyrien.* Archiv für Orientforschung Beiheft 9. Graz, 1956.
Assurb.	Assurbanipal Annals: R. Borger, *Beiträge zum Inschriftwerk*

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	Assurbanipals. Wiesbaden, 1996.
Aug.	Augustine of Hippo: *Opera Omnia; Patrologiae Cursus Completus*, vol. 32-47. Paris, 1845-9; Pp. 532-34 in Vattioni, *infra*.
BAC	*Bulletin archéologique du Comité des travaux historiques et scientifiques*
BASOR	*Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*
Benz	F.L. Benz, *Personal Names in the Phoenician and Punic Inscriptions*. Pontifical Biblical Institute: Rome, 1972.
Betlyon	J.W. Betlyon, *The Coinage and Mints of Phoenicia*. Harvard Semitic Monographs 26. Scholars Press: Chico, 1982.
BMQ	*British Museum Quarterly*
Byb	Byblian Phoenician
Byb 13	W. Röllig, "Eine neue phönizische Inschrift aus Byblos," *Neue Ephemeris für semitische Epigraphik* II (1974), 1-15.
CID	P.G. Mosca and J. Russell, "A Phoenician Inscription from Cebel Ires Dagi in Rough Cilicia," *Epigraphica Anatolica* 9 (1987), 1-28.
CIL	*Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*
CIS	*Corpus Inscriptionum Semiticarum*
CRAI	*Comptes rendus des séances de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres*. Paris.
D	R.G. Goodchild, "La necropoli romano-libica di Bir ed-Dréder," *Quaderni di archeologia della Libia* 3 (1954), 91-107.
Diosc(urides)	Dioscurides, *De materia medica*. Pp. 516-28 in Vattioni, *infra*.
EA	El-Amarna Letters: J.A. Knudtzon, *Die El-Amarna Tafeln*. Leipzig, 1915.
Esar.	Esarhaddon Prisms. See R.C. Thompson, *The Prisms of Esarhaddon and of Ashurbanipal*.
EH	A. Berthier and R. Charlier, *Le sanctuaire punique d'El-Hofra à Constantine*. Arts et Métiers Graphiques: Paris, 1953-1955.
FK	M. Guzzo Amadasi and V. Karageorghis, *Fouilles de Kition*. III. Inscriptions phéniciennes. Department of Antiquities: Nicosia, 1977.
GEG	A. Gardiner, *Egyptian Grammar*. 3rd ed. Oxford, 1957.
Hassan-Beyli	*KAI* 23: A. Lemaire, "L'inscription phénicienne de Hassan Beyli reconsidérée," *RSF* 11 (1983), 9-19.
Head	B.V. Head, *Historia Nummorum*. London, 1963.
Hill	G.F. Hill, *Phoenicia* in *Catalogue of Greek Coins in the British Museum*. London, 1910.
IEJ	*Israel Exploration Journal*
IFO	P. Magnanini, *Le Iscrizioni fenicie dell'Oriente*. Istituto di Studi del Vicino Oriente, Universita degli Studi: Rome, 1973.
IFPCO	M.G. Guzzo Amadasi, *Le iscrizioni fenicie e puniche della colonie in Occidente*. Rome, 1967.
IG	G. Kaibel, ed., *Inscriptiones Gracae* 14: Italy and Sicily. Berlin, 1890
IRT	J.M. Reynolds and J.B. Ward Perkins, *Inscriptions of Roman Tripolitania*. Rome and London, 1952.
JA	*Journal Asiatique*

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JAOS	*Journal of the American Oriental Society*
JKAF	*Jahrbuch für kleinasiatische Forschung*
Jos. Ap.	Flavius Josephus, *Contra Apionem*. B. Niese, ed. Berlin, 1889.
KAI	H. Donner and W. Röllig, *Kanaanäische und aramäische Inschriften*. Harrassowitz: Wiesbaden, 1964.
Karthago	*Karthago. Revue d'archéologie africaine*
KI	M. Lidzbarski, *Kanaanäische Inschriften*. Giessen, 1907.
Kition	M. Yon and M. Sznycer, "Une inscription phénicienne royale de Kition (Chypre)," *Comptes rendus des séances de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres* 1991. Pp. 791-823. *Paris*.
JAOS	*Journal of the American Oriental Society*
LA	*Libya Antiqua*
Lapethos	Inscriptions of Lapethos, Cyprus: pp. 123-127 in *IFO, supra*.
Mactar B	J.G. Février and M. Fantar, *Karthago* 12 (1965), 45-59.
Manfredi, *Monete*	L.I. Manfredi, *Monete puniche: Repertorio epigrafico e numismatico delle leggende puniche*. Bolletino di Numismatica, Monografia 6. Rome, 1995 [1997].
Marathus	*RES* 234=1601; P. 40 in *IFO*.
Moran	W.L. Moran, *A Styntactical Study of the Dialect of Byblos as Reflected in the Amarna Tablets*. Unpublished Johns Hopkins doctoral dissertation, 1950.
Müller	L. Müller, *Numismatique de l'ancienne Afrique*. Copenhagen, 1860-1874.
Nabuna'id	J.N. Strassmaier, *Inschriften von Nabonidus, Koenig von Babylon*. 1889.
NP	Neo-Punic inscriptions: See nos. 1-117, p. 63f., in P. Schröder, *Die phönizische Sprache*. Halle, 1869. See also pp. 160-161 in Z.S. Harris, *Grammar of the Phoenician Language*. New Haven, 1936.
NPu	Neo-Punic
NESE	*Neue Ephemeris für semitische Epigraphik*.
NSI	G.A. Cooke, *A Text-Book of North-Semitic Inscriptions*. Oxford, 1903.
PBSR	*Publications of the British Schools at Rome*
Pliny	Pliny, *Naturalis Historia*. D. Detlefsen, ed. Berlin, 1866-82.
Poen.	T. Maccius Plautus, *Poenulus*: Edition A. Ernout, *Plaute*. Tome V. Pp. 162-257. Paris, 1938.
Pu	Punic
Punica	J.-B. Chabot, *Punica*. Paris, 1918.
Pyrgi	The Punic inscription from Pyrgi (Caere): PP. 158-169 in *IFPCO*.
RB	*Revue Biblique*
RCL	*Atti della Accademia nazionale dei Lincei. Rendiconti. Classe di scienze morali, storiche e filologiche*.
REPPAL	*Revue des études phéniciennes-puniques ete des antiquités libyques*. Tunis.
RES	*Répertoire d'Épigraphie Sémitique*
RPC	O. Masson and M. Sznycer, *Recherches sur les Phéniciens à Chypre*. Geneva and Paris, 1972.

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RSF	*Rivista di Studi Fenici*
S	J.M. Reynolds, "Inscriptions of Roman Tripolitania: a Supplement," *PBSR* 23 (1955), 124 ff.
Sanch.	Sanchuniathon, as cited by Eusebius in *Praeparatio Evangelica*, Book I, Chapter IX. Edition: E.H. Gifford, Oxford, 1903.
Sarepta	J.B. Pritchard, *Recovering Sarepta, a Phoenician City*. Princeton, 1978.
Segert	S. Segert, *Altaramäische Grammatik*. Leipzig, 1975.
Senn.	Sennacherib Annals: D.D. Luckenbill, *The Annals of Sennacherib*.
Téboursouk	F. Fantar, *Téboursouk. Stèles anégraphiques et stèles à inscriptions néopuniques*. PP. 375-431 in *Mémoires présentés par divers savants à l'Académie des Inscriiptions et Belles-Lettres*, XVI. Paris, 1974.
Tigl. III	Annals of Tiglathpileser III: H. Tadmor, *The Inscriptions of Tiglath-Pileser* III, *King of Assyria*. Jerusalem, 1994.
Trip.	G. Levi Della Vida and M.G. Amadasi Guzzo, *Iscrizioni puniche della Tripolitania* (1927-1967). Monografie di Archeologia Libica XXII. Bretschneider: Rome, 1987).
Tsevat	M. Tsevat, *A Study of the Languge of the Biblical Psalms*. Journal of Biblical Literture Monograph Series, Volume IX.
Umm el-Awamid	Inscriptions pp. 18-23 in *IFO, supra*.
Ungnad-Matouš	A. Ungnad, *Grammatik des Akkadischen*. Fully revised by Lubor Matouš. München, 1964.
Vattioni	F. Vattioni, "Glosse puniche," *Augustinianum* 16 (1976), 505-555.
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