

NIS

and WICKMANN, DIETER: 467

Date of P . . . . . 481

ufbau und zur Quellenfrage . . . . . 511

. . . . . 523

exode . . . . . 530

ly Traditions of Israel: a . . . . . 549

on of the Legal System in . . . . . 566

. . . . . 575

der jahwistischen Fluter- . . . . . 599

y in the Faith Tradition of . . . . . 615

. . . . . 635

d 9% . . . . . 637

God . . . . . 639

. . . . . 642

. . . . . 645

page of an article in this journal  
 of the article may be made for  
 use of specific clients. This com-  
 pier pay the stated percopy fee  
 x 765, Schenectady, New York  
 07 or 108 of the U.S. Copyright  
 of copying, such as copying for  
 poses, for creating new collective,  
 urnal see 'Permissions to Photo-

e, der Übersetzung, der Herstellung  
 weise, vorbehalten.  
 chen'sche Verlagshandlung -  
 rübner - Veit & Comp., Berlin -

tingen  
 rlin 36

## Genesis, Wellhausen and the Computer

By Yehuda T. Radday, Haim Shore, Moshe A. Pollatschek and Dieter Wickmann

(Technion - Israel Institute of Technology Haifa)

In the past ten years, a number of homogeneous and cognate enquiries were performed and published by us in the framework of our CASTLOTS (Computer-Assisted Statistical Linguistic Old Testament Studies) laboratory<sup>1</sup>. Dealing in the main with cases of interest to Biblical scholars only, they may be seen as preliminary studies, gradually increasing in sophistication, designed to lead, ultimately, to testing the validity of the Documentary Hypothesis in the Pentateuch. That this issue is a matter that concerns not a small coterie like the former, but millions of Jews and Christians and therefore more than another academic exercise surely needs no elaboration. Neither is it necessary to expound here the origin and subsequent history of this hypothesis nor the arguments which it rests upon. As well known, it is dominant to date in Biblical scholarship and only lately have some rumblings in opposition been heard. Dissent has of course been voiced before, but it was rejected, disregarded or even ridiculed as obscurantist. Both camps, though of rather unequal strength, are united, it is only fair to state, in their genuine pursuit of truth, but also, as inevitable when it comes to religious matters, alike in so far as they are heavily influenced by the initial subjective stances of their followers. What separates them is that they are almost not on speaking terms. A fully objective approach is therefore an urgent *desideratum*.

Such a new approach has become available with the advent of the computer, and has been tried by us. It combines four disciplines: the problem is Biblical, the angle investigated is the linguistic, the method is supplied by statistics, and computer science is instrumental. So we banded together to assess the validity of Wellhausen's theory of *Quellenscheidung* first in Genesis (Exodus is being processed). When embarking upon this project we felt encouraged by the experience gained in our previous inves-

<sup>1</sup> To name only a few of those available in English: Y. T. Radday, *The Unity of Isaiah in the Light of Statistical Linguistics with a contribution by D. Wickmann* (Hildesheim: Verlag Gerstenberg, 1973); Y. T. Radday and H. Shore, *And in Isaiah*, *Revue de l'organisation internationale pour l'étude des langues anciennes par l'ordinateur* 2 (1974), 25-41; Y. T. Radday and D. Wickmann, *The Unity of Zechariah in the Light of Statistical Linguistics*, *ZAW* 87 (1975), 30-55; Y. T. Radday, D. Wickmann and S. Talmon, *The Book of Judges Examined by Statistical Linguistics*, *Biblica* 58 (1977), 469-99; Y. T. Radday and M. A. Pollatschek, *Vocabulary Richness and Concentration in Hebrew Biblical Literature*, *Bulletin of the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing* 8 (1980), 3, 217-31.

0044-2526/82/0944-0001 \$ 2.00  
 Copyright by Walter de Gruyter & Co.