

LE RADICI DELL'ANTICA LINGUA LIBICA

Barry Fell

Con questa pagina desideriamo riprendere un "dizionarietto" dell'antico libico, offerto da Barry Fell sulla sua rivista ESOP – The Epigraphic Society Occasional Publications, vol. 3, n. 63, settembre 1976. Il noto studioso afferma quanto segue, prima di presentare il proprio modello di dizionarietto libico-inglese.

La scrittura alfabetica libica, o numidica, è diffusa in tutto il Nord Africa, dal Marocco ad ovest, attraverso Algeria, Tunisia e Libia, sino a toccare il deserto ai confini con l'Egitto e raggiungere l'antica terra di Kush o Nubia, nell'Alto Nilo. Tra i berberi, solo i Tuareg sono noti per avere usato la scrittura in tempi moderni (alfabeto tifinagh). Anticamente invece gli alfabeti libici erano ben più diffusi ed erano portati oltremare dai marinai libici, che lasciarono iscrizioni dipinte o incise sulle rocce delle grotte, dalle isole Canarie, attraverso l'Atlantico, verso le Americhe del Nord, del Centro e del Sud, e attraverso gli Oceani Indiano e Pacifico verso l'Indonesia e le altre isole dell'Oriente.

In questo vocabolario indico le radici che ritengo facessero parte del vocabolario dei marinai libici. Le fonti note sono così indicate: C Copto, M Maghrebino, N Nubiano (Alto Nilo), K Kabylo, E Egiziano, Ptol. Tolomaico alessandrino.

Seguono le pagine di "vocabolario" fornite da Fell, per le quali abbiamo lasciato la corrispondenza dei termini paleo-libici con la lingua inglese.

Aas	blow with the hand	C	an	no, not	C
ef-assen	arm	K	anai	beauty	C
athad	finger	K	anah	weave	C
-a	of	N	-ange	my	N
-abifu	torn	N	agayago	medical treatment	N
aga	chief	M	arsen	male	Ptol.
aftw	four		as	grow old	C
ago	and, together with	C	asa	chop, strike	N
ago	moreover	C	asai	to be light	C
ahwal	years	M	asik	fever	C
ska	to burn	N	asofpa	bitter nut	C
echal	to light a fire	K	aspe	language	C
ala	prepare a bed	N	assen	arm	K
ale	move, go	C	asqa	continent	M
ale	bronze utensil	C	at	fluid	C
alkoni	sycamore-fig	C	ate	rape a virgin	N
alou	pupil of eye, stone	C	athad	finger	K
alou	valet, squire	C	au	imperative particle	C
alou	youth, be young	C	avula	crawl	N
amalich	act of embracing	C	awayao	clamor	N

-aye taken, pillaged N
ayi exclam. of pain N

Baalaala hot N
bala'a tasting hot, gulp down
with distaste M
baba father M
baba older brother N
baluladde flog N
balama edge, boundary N
banda jump down N
bari ship M
boi (foi) hair C
batt decide M
bayada wilderness M
bola to rot N

CHasfe manipulate, repair C
chatfe reptile C
chena quench, stop C
chillei shield C
chme sow seed C
ch-maaui testicles C
cho head C
chooke prick C
chokm wash C
chokr wet C
chokr to season C
chol honeycomb C
cholk-ebol rope dancer C
choeit (1) olive C
(2) testicle C
chok hair of head C
chto lie down C

Day, di occupy land E
dduro dining place N
ddudumo thunder N
duduma rumble N
dagadu loose belted N
daqa accurate M
dama to last M
danadinya low-caste people M
dsrw holy place E
dsrw ceremony E

Echal set fire K
ei come, go C
eini buy E
atn, itn sun E
eishe tied to, hung from C
eiort-ka abode of god E
io ascend E
ioh moon E

Ehe yes C
e yes K
ebaga gird loins N
ellyt promise, vow C
eradde exclam. of greeting N
echo pair of tongs C
ipt make payments C
ereega erection of penis C
ekhtsar choose K
erolera watch with pleasure C
ere speak plainly N
ere conceal nothing N
ereere walk naked N
esh flying creature C
eri go towards N
eleu companion C

Faniya to end M
faqd try, seek M
foi (boi) hair C
fukula to blow N
pu- to blow Ptol.
fota buttocks C
fuka pour out N
fukula to burrow N
ffumbe cat N
funda be humbled N

Gaba assemble company N
gata immerse, dip M
grapple with load N
garr cutting edge of sword M

Habouei wasp C
hada grant peace M
han run swiftly E
hadd border, coast M
haka to plunder E
haga chief M
hako wizard C
hak carry away captives E
hal deceive C
hala depart M
hata go down M
hanna be filled with compassion M
haw plants E
halaka total ruin M
holi moth C
halil beetle C
halni slime C
hami to heat C
hayah eye witness M
hap judgment C
hash be in distress C

- hat forehead E
 he exclam. of surprise
 lebs lamp C
 hep go out of sight C
 haps that which is needful C
 hik practise magic C
 hik make potions C
 hik charms, prayers C
 himma inspired with zeal M
 hine remove oneself C
 hise in trouble C
 hit take to heart C
 hit tip, extremity C
 hlich diarrhoea C
 hmoos dwell C
 hmoos, nhmoos anus C
 hmhm roar E, C
 hmoch go sour C
 hne to desire C
 hne covet C
 honch exhort C
 hon-ti betroth C
 hooke shear C
 horsh disintegrate C
 horsh run aground C
 hortif phantasm C
 hroti child E
 hote fear C
 hrw pleasing E
 hro furnace C
 huwa they M
- Ka as good as M
 ka in the shape of M
 kya water vessel C
 kachi pail, pitcher
 kaf trunk of tree C
 kafachi stump C
 kah earth C
 kalele call to worship C
 kam make a sound repeatedly C
 kam beat a drum C
 kapsho sandy ground C
 kase shoemaker C
 kas bones, skeleton C
 (er)kas bones that stick out C
 kash stem, reed C
 kasho fish C
 kashosh cedar tree C
 kashouli desert fruit C
 kato boat C
 kete shipwreck C
 kob double C; kab double E.
- kabt breast E
 kaw high ground E
 ke other, another C
 keke child C
 kelebin axe, pick C
 kelol water jar C
 kalopou lap dog C
 kerou wax C
 keron wax Ptol.
 kehe porch C
 keti to be knowing C
 khdem hasten C
 ki cry out E
 ki form, shape E
 kiririri to be in excess N
 kite sleep C
 klom crown, make a circle C
 kmkm beat a drum C
 kolh strike, hit C
 koh smooth C
 koht fire C
 koihe rival woman C
 komsh contemptible C
 kons funeral preparations
 kolch bent, twisted C
 kooshe be broken C
 koosi shroud C
 korf destroy C
 korh bald C
 korsh flatter with sweet words C
 korechk to be cut down C
 kot building C, E
 kote go hither and thither C
 kote to build C
 koufat weaving C
 ko, koe place C
 koui a little C
 koui not more than a little C
 koulhot catfish C
 kouk a raptorial bird C
 ksn wretched, in pain E
 koukle cloth, mantle C
 kur dog Nuer
 slughi hound E
 asloughi dog K
- Qahafa engulf M
 qahiya fast, restrain appetite M
 qamin suitable M
 qanas measurement M
 qara to be struck M
 qara continent M
 qawad helmsman M
 qan contented M

Lais not to be, is not M
 laksi skip C
 lac flax C
 lapsi to bite C
 laqab name M
 laqiya to be endured M
 ke-las foreign-tongued C
 laza united company M
 lat parsley
 layy turn back M
 libe to be mad C
 lok to be soft C
 lok gently C
 loksh to be weak C
 lol bed C
 lote hard skinned C
 loulai shout aloud C

Maha obliterate, destroy M
 mahal trouble M
 mahe forearm C
 makh to oppress C
 manu affliction M
 mauta death M, E
 mawa surging waves M
 me excrement C
 mese woman with child C, E
 mchal onion C
 melkh eye C
 meshkol buttocks C
 mesrol file C
 meshtnt breast C
 neste hated person C
 mhtw offal E
 mlh a certain star C
 milla fraternity M
 mlr, moulr salt C
 ma together E
 moulah owl C
 moki jar C
 mou, emou cat C, E
 emshes cat K
 msar crocodile C
 mswk kind of bread E

N, -n sign of past tense C, E
 na belonging to C, E
 namr number, to number M
 nhby lotus bud E
 nar catfish E
 nsy, nhsy Nubian E
 nmm go to and fro E
 nmm swing the bull-roarer E

ntb scorch E
 ntry cord E
 nd thread E
 nur fire M
 nw feeble E

Ob flour, meal E
 oo conceive a child C
 oowy sleep E
 oon egg Ptol.
 obha tooth C
 oeik bread C
 oeish cry C
 off fly, insect E
 opshay beetle E
 oh exclam. of woe C
 ohs to reap C
 ok to set (of sun) C
 okhr be wrecked E
 okye cause to be destroyed C
 okye (stat.) to perish
 oka-soky wife who heads family E
 omm brain E
 one stony place C
 onom chin E
 ont claw E
 ont gold ring E
 osha men, crew E
 sha men Libyan form of same
 oshti crawl C
 ouamo rodent C

Palos cover C
 papoi bird, chicken C
 pe mat E
 phr enclosed E
 pelkye torn cloth C
 pirk bunch E
 ponk empty out, pour C
 pneuma breath Ptol, C
 pokf thin plate C
 pooa be unwell N
 polh a wound C
 pri rise up E
 pere quail C
 pors wretched object C
 psst carpet E
 poh tear, break C
 pshn slice E
 pwtv vault of heaven E
 poutu vault of sky var.
 pukula to steam, boil N

- Ra sun E, M
 ra-hata sunset M
 ra-sata sunrise M
 rabbani divine M
 raga pray, ask M
 rahala voyage M
 rhw man E
 rajul man M
 ranin lamented M
 ras chief E, M
 rashe to rejoice C
 rassid followers of the true
 faith M
 razaqa seek one's fortune M
 roht strike down C
 ruhla reach a destination M
 rz be careful, beware E
- Sa men, crew E
 n-sa afterwards C
 sanada rest, lie M
 sabat asleep M
 sahou curse C
 sahra evening M
 salb plunder M
 salith strong M
 sambehl testicles C
 sara purity M
 sarawa trousers M
 sat stores of all kinds M
 soumani sexual organs C
 sooka roast meat N
 sata rise, rise again M
 sike grind, mill meal C
 skhat marriage gift C
 sns n resound C
 snte foundation C
 sohe to weave C
 sohm pull, draw C
 sohm retreat from C
 soh p swallow C
 sucking C
 sokhy head of family E
 sokhw foolish C
 to be paralysed C
 sokh to stiffen C
 solk adhere C
 som subdue C
 solp break C
 soure needle C
- SHa to rise C
 shaare hide, skin C
 shai new, young C
 shaire cohabitation C
- shai-sha to write C
 shamal north M
 she go, move C
 shant nose C
 shatta dispersed abroad M
 sheou straight, long C
 zih straight line M
 sheei wander, rove C
 shere child, son, youth C
 sheri food, bread C
 shai suckle young E
 shewe altar C
 shoowe drought C
 shibe change, become sour C
 shilba heat, scorch C
 shine ask, seek C
 shire child, little C
 shim- joint C
 shits tortoise C
 shobt become different C
 shbin intestine C
 shbot rod C
 shoeish dust, sand C
 shoi rise up C
 shoi erection, phallus C
 shonch to unite C
 shoks dig C
 shol flow, bleed C
 sholmes gnat C
 shmno stranger C
 short demented C
 shortf falcon C
 shot trade C
 shar flame, fire C
 shoure brazier C
 shouo flow, pour C
 shoushitz whistling C
 srkt scorpion E
 shw men, crew E
 shosh hartebeeste C
- t thou E
 ta by (God etc) M
 ta years M
 ta land C
 tagr harbor, sea port M
 tataba adhering M
 taty lord E
 tahta prepare M
 tark depart M
 tak be strong C
 tani second M
 tamo tell, declare C
 tawij crowned M
 tayda trackless waste M
 tben beast C

tosh again C
 tifednin toes M
 thm perforate E
 tissist spider K
 tkk violate E
 toks to goad C
 tks pierce, stick in E
 tkn neighborhood E
 tom sharp C
 tom-(ein) to cut Ptol.
 tni grow old E
 toobay repay C
 tby pay C
 toobf to pray C
 toile rise up, be erect C
 tolon penetrate N
 tosh grain C
 ts sit, stay put E
 ts a support E
 tugra void, gap M
 tuletule fornicate Yoruba
 totola drip, be wet N
 teshwa deserter E
 twm rise, sunrise E
 thakb shine M
 thaya take flight into exile M

wa also, and M
 wa how much, how many M
 -w sign of passive or reflexive E
 waa seif, alone C
 who fisherman E
 whyt family, kindred E
 wdi depart E
 wali comrade M
 wni hasten E
 wo one and only E
 woow rear a child E
 oo conceive a child C
 oowy sleep E
 wr great E
 wsr strong man E
 wasa testimony M
 watani native land M

yadahu steal property M
 yafta plaque M
 yamisha dried fruit M
 yata time M
 ya-thalama a long tone M
 yama venture into M
 yar^C cowardly, timid M
 jetig sun K

 zalith strong, powerful M
 zaih anchorite M
 zawiya hermitage M
 zara vist M
 zariy contemptible M
 zih straight line M
 zmt desert E