for economy reasons was omitted before (indicating the first two vowel points in each word sufficed to distinguish between most of the homographic words in the language); setting standard pointing to those entries, which for various reasons had different spelling from the Hebrew standard today; attributing the Dictionary entries to their roots. If the word's root was not determined, it is attributed to another selected form – the "*neta*".

The form of the Historical Dictionary:
The Root 'RB – Specimen Pamphlet and a thought about the future

We have so far dealt with describing the work of the HDP, with its source books and its databases. But what will be the form of the Dictionary itself?

The editorial board tried to answer this question in 1982 and published – on the pages of the journal *Leshonenu* – a specimen pamphlet, containing the complete lexicographic treatment of one root of the Hebrew language – the root *'RB* (*Leshonenu* 46.3-4.165-267). The root *'RB* was chosen as a sample because of the many difficulties it poses to the lexicographer in determining its branches of meanings, whether because of homonomy or because of polysemy. As Ben-Hayyim, who edited the pamphlet, wanted to present in it the continuity of use of the words derived from the root *'RB*, he included references not only from the Dictionary's databases – the ancient literature database and the modern literature database – but also from sources from historical layers of the language not yet processed in the HDP.

However, this pamphlet was written and printed when the personal computer and information networks such as the Internet were still in their infancy. The enormous development that has occurred in information technology in recent years requires the Project to adapt continuously, and it will naturally have an influence on the design of the Dictionary. Nevertheless, the infrastructure work that has been done, is being done and will be done on the Project, offers a solid base for the compilation of the Historical Dictionary of the Hebrew Language, whatever end form it may have.

GLOSSARY

Historical terms

Amora *pl.* **Amora'im** אמוראים a sage of the Talmudic period (3rd-5th centuries CE); hence **Amoraic**.

barayta (more commonly **baraita**) *pl.* **baraytot** ברייתא a Talmudic quotation from a Tannaitic source outside the Mishnah; in a wider sense: any piece of Tannaitic material not incoporated in the Mishnah.

Barayta di-Melekhet ha-Mishkan ברייתא דמלאכת המשכן (**barayta**) "on the Building of the Tabernacle".

Book of Ben Sira (The) ספר בן סירא a book of the Apocrypha; composed by Shim'on ben Jeshua ben 'El'azar ben Sira (2nd century BCE); a.k.a. The Wisdom of Ben Sirach, Ecclesiasticus, etc.

Gaon pl. **Geonim** גאונים a post-Talmudic sage, mainly in Babylonia (6th-11th centuries CE); hence **Geonic**.

Haskalah השכלה the Jewish 'Enlightenment' movement in Europe (c. 1770s-1880s) that promoted the adoption of secular European culture.

Megillat 'Ahima'az מגילת אחימעץ The Scroll of 'Ahima'az; originally: ספר יוחסין **Sefer Yuhasin** (The Book of Genealogy); composed in Italy by 'Ahima'az ben Palti'el (11th century CE).

Midrash מדרש a legal and legendary commentary on the Bible often characterized by non-literal interpretation; also: an anthology of pieces of this; hence **Midrashic**.

Mishnah משנה the collection of oral law compiled by Rabbi Judah ha-Nasi (beginning of the 3rd century CE); also: a single paragraph of this; hence **Mishnaic**.

Talmud תלמוד a compilation of the Mishnah and its Amoraic commentary (**Gemara** גמרא); there are the Jerusalem (or Palestinian) Talmud (beginning of the 5th century CE) and the more authoritative Babylonian Talmud (end of the 5th century CE); hence **Talmudic**.

Tanna pl. **Tanna'im** תנאים a sage of the Mishnaic period (1st-2nd centuries CE); hence **Tannaitic**.

Tosefta תוספתא a compilation of baraytot, arranged according to the order of the Mishnah (end of the 3rd century CE).

Linguistic terms

millon מילון a dictionary; derived from **milla** מילה a word; said to be the first new word introduced into Modern Hebrew by Eliezer Ben-Yehuda (1880).

neta נטע a stem.

niqqud ניקוד (diacritical) vowel points, vowel marks.

shoresh שורש a root; a morpheme that consists of a sequence of (usually) three consonants and carries the basic meaning of a word.

teva pl. **tevot** תיבות a word token.