LEXICON GRAMMATICORUM
Who’s Who in the History of World Linguistics

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Nathan ben Yaḥyʾī was a renowned scholar of the Talmud and Midrashic literature. He is best known for his extensive work, the 'Arīk (Thesaurus), which was a critical resource for scholars of the period. His compilation, completed in 1101, was a comprehensive dictionary of Hebrew words, and it played a crucial role in the development of Hebrew grammar and lexicography.

Nathan's work was widely used and contributed significantly to the field of Jewish studies. His dictionary was updated and revised by later scholars, reflecting the evolution of Hebrew lexicography over the centuries. Nathan's influence extended beyond his lifetime, as his work continues to be a valuable resource for scholars and practitioners of the Hebrew language today.

Brian D. Joseph

Nebrija, Elio Antonio de (Nebrixa, Lebrixa, Nebrija; pseudonym for Antonio Martínez de Cala y Xarava), b. 1447, Lebrija, Spain (the old Roman Nebriissa Veneria), d. July 2, 1522, Alcalá de Henares, Spain; humanist, author of the first grammar of a Romance lang., the Gramática de la lengua castellana. 1460, N. went to Salamanca and studied philos. and mathematics for five years, after which he received a theol. scholarship for Italy, where he spent ten years studying theol., jurisprudence, and the class. langs. at the Collegio di San Clemente, Bologna. Back in Spain, after a three-year appointment as a private tutor in the house of Fonseca, the archbishop of Seville, 1470–3, N. held various chairs at the Univ. of Salamanca, 1476–87. Resigning from the univ., he spent the following years in the house of his former student and future cardinal and archbishop of Seville, Juan de Zúñiga, where he wrote most of his works. 1503–5, he collaborated on the polyglot Bible under the direction of D. → Cisneros, a collaboration he gave up 1503 for another chair at the Univ. of Salamanca, this time dedicating himself to jurisprudence, in addition to theol. He lost the post 1509 and became chronicler of the court, now writing hist. works. The same year he obtained yet another chair at Salamanca, this time of rhet., a chair he kept until 1513 when he left Salamanca for good and
Natan ben Yehiel b. 1035, Rome. d. ca. 1110, ib.; called Ber el he'-Iriq 'Compiler of the Iriq' ('Thesaurus'), his extensive dict. of Targumic, Talmudic and Midrashic lit. and of the writings of early Ge'onim containing etymols. and comparisons with Aram., Ar., Gr., Lat. and Persian words.

N. studied under his father who was a poet and head of the religious acad. (yiswadi) of Rome. When his father died in 1070 he succeeded him in this function together with his two brothers Daniel and Abraham. The 'Iriq was completed in 1101. As an lt. Jew, N. did not yet have access to Sp.-Jewish gramm. studies except for the Midrash of R. Ibn Sariq and from a philol. point of view not much can be gained from his work. However, its lexicographical merits cannot be overestimated; already during his own time the dict. made rabbinical lit. accessible to a large circle of people. The book was often copied and many ms. of it are extant. When it began to be printed, the 'Iriq was one of the first works to be ed., presumably between the years 1469 and 1472. Many repr. and new eds. followed, often accompanied by annotations, corrections and supplements. Moreover, abridgments were also publ. in 1511, and several times in succession. N. set a standard for Hebr. lexicography, the relevance of his dict. also being established by the preservation of ancient correct readings of rabbinal passages.


Wout Jac. van Bekkum

Nebrija, Elia Antonio de (Nebrixa, Nebrixa, Lebrixa, Lebrixa; pseudonym for Antonio Martinez de Cala y Xaraza), b. 1444, Lebrixa, Spain (the old Roman Nebris Nova Venetia), d. July 2, 1522, Alcalá de Henares, Spain; humanist, author of the first grammar of a Romance lang., the Gramatica de la lengua castellana.

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