and certainly in Canaanitic in all its aspects. It was the Phoenician who brought the papyrus to other countries, among them to Greece where the name *papyrus* is first documented, particularly from Byblos, the centre for the import of papyrus from Egypt and the birthplace of the name *Biblia* for the book written on papyrus. There is therefore the possibility that such a name as papyrus originally *pp-yeor*, meaning the *reed* of the river, or of the Nile, may have originated rather in Canaanitic than in ancient Egyptian.

This possibility seems now to become most probable by the study of the last words in the inscription on the sarcophagus of Aḥiram, king of Byblos. After re-examination and in accordance with most of the scholars who attempted an explanation of it, the last sentence of this inscription can only be read in the following manner :

והא ימחו ספרהו לפפו שבל

These, hitherto unintelligible words, can mean nothing but : "*And he* (who lays bare this sarcophagus) *himself, shall be blotted out into* . . . . . (*pp shbl*)."

Now, such a sentence, whatever the meaning of *pp shbl*, is certainly connected with the idea, frequently mentioned in the Bible[1], of a Book of the Living in which everybody alive is registered, written down for life (*Isaiah* IV, 3), and if he is blotted out there, he must die immediately : Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin—; and if not, blot me out (מחני) I pray thee, of the book which thou hast written. And the Lord said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me him will I blot out (אמחנו) of my book (*Exodus*, XXXII, 32 f.). Let them be blotted out (ימחו) of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous (*Psalms*, LXIX, 29), etc. Now, as one could say in Biblical Hebrew with the same verb about the wine : "and (the wine) hath not been emptied (ולא הורק) *from vessel* to vessel" (*Jeremia* XLVIII, 11), and also : "And shall empty (וריקו) *his vessels*" (v. 12), thus one could say not only : "he shall be blotted out (ימח) from the book" but also "his book shall be blotted out" (ימח ספרה), *i. e.* on this particular page the book of life shall be erased,

[1] As in other countries and particularly in ancient Egypt.