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only usable grammar of the language (1939). Even this second edition is now a collector's item: the copy in the library of Memorial University is kept in the storage vault for rare books. It differs from the first edition only in that the headings and titles have been changed from German to French and English. Hieroglyphics are, literally, "sacred carving." A colourful and informative brochure containing a piece of fibre optic disc available free from Maritime Tel & Tel. For your copy, please call toll free 1-800-561-1111: Nova Scotia 1-421-4720.

ing," from the Greek adjective hiero- "sacred" and the root glyph- "carve, engrave." Since all the Micmac works written in hieroglyphics were missionary texts, prayers, creeds, catechisms, and so forth, the term is particularly suitable. But it does not really tell us what kind of writing is involved: does it, for example, represent the sounds of words, like our European alphabets which are phonographic, or does it represent the meanings of words, like the primitives in Chinese characters, which are ideographic? (There are, in the world, hieroglyphic systems of both kinds.) The Micmac system is of the second kind: ideographic. Each ideogram represents a word, and may be either simple or composite: that is, either made of a single element, or made of more than one element. The Micmac word wa'so'k "heaven," for example, was simply represented by a five pointed star, but verb forms, whose meanings are composite by nature, required composite ideograms, as is shown by the following different forms of the verb to be in a place, to exist: eymin thou art eyk- he is eykik they are '!' '!' Q K3 eymek we r r- (exclusive) are Q-' • -- =a As can be easily deduced, the pronominal notions explicit in the verbal morphology are also made explicit in the ideograms by means of prefixed elements. These latter are also used independently as personal pronouns, so that Micmac ki'1 "thou" is found as 'p in the hieroglyphics (see Illustration B, line 5). ' Obviously, this form of writing is not very profitable, since it would take a long time to master, and one needs to know the text first, so that the hieroglyphics are only a reminder of a text that is already known: it would be difficult to read a text that had not been

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