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¹Names with asterisks belong to students who have received their doctorates since their STEDT stint.

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- John B. (“J.B.”) Lowe, the only researcher who has been continuously working at STEDT since its inception in 1987, designed our initial computer environment and has been fine-tuning it ever since, creating original database software adapted to the highly specialized needs of the project and breaking new conceptual ground in the use of the computer for etymological research.²
- Randy J. LaPolla, now teaching at the City University of Hongkong, has also been affiliated with STEDT since the beginning. Until receiving his doctorate in 1990, he played a vital part in our activities, including the preparation of STEDT Monographs and the processing of fieldworkers’ questionnaires. His superb knowledge of Chinese has been a prime asset to the project.
- Zev J. Handel (“Z as in *zebra*, V as in *violin*”, as he explains over the telephone), is a specialist in Chinese historical phonology, now teaching at the University of Washington. He was active at STEDT in the 1990’s, and had a major role in the formatting of our prototype “fascicle” on the *Reproductive System* for our projected

²J.B.’s work at STEDT has already spun off into several other etymological projects on which he has consulted here and abroad: M. Mazaudon and Boyd Michailovsky’s *Reconstruction Engine* (Paris) for testing putative cognate sets in Himalayan languages; L. M. Hyman’s *Comparative Bantu On-line Dictionary* (CBOLD, Berkeley); Sjors van Driem and K.B. Kepping’s *Tangut Dictionary Project* (Leiden), and Sharon Inkelaar’s *Turkish Electronic Living Lexicon*.

- Bodyparts volume, adding bells and whistles like the program to insert notes at various points in the etymologies, and transforming my hand-scrawled semantic diagrams into elegant computer graphics. I am especially grateful to him for producing the concise comparison of three of the most influential systems for reconstructing Old Chinese that appears as an Appendix to this *Handbook*.

When I went off on sabbatical to Taiwan during 1995-96, I left the day-to-day running of STEDT in the capable hands of J.B. and Zev. One day I e-mailed them from Taipei, referring to them as the “duumvirate” . Back came an aggrieved message from J.B., protesting that they really would rather be called the “smart-virate” . No argument there.

- Kenneth VanBik is a native speaker of Lai Chin and a graduate of Rangoon University. Possessing an intimate knowledge of languages from two branches of Tibeto- Burman, he was able to identify a number of new Burmese/Chin cognates that are thus reconstructible at the PTB level. His etymologies are included in this volume, marked “KVB”.
- Richard S. Cook, currently producing a mammoth dissertation on the Eastern Han “Grammaticon” *Shuō Wén Jiě Zì* , has been the chief architect of the formatting of this Handbook during 2002-3. It was his idea to transfer the whole MS from Microsoft Word 5.1a to Adobe FrameMakerTM, an arduous process that has paid off in the end, as the attractive appearance of the book testifies. Richard wrote Appendix B (in consultation with Zev Handel), and extracted the etymologies from the electronic Dictionary of Lahu files to supplement the Index of Proto-Forms . He wrote the computer programs to format the Index of Proto-Forms and to generate and format the indexes of *Proto-Glosses*, *Proto-Root-Syllables*, *Proper Names*, and *Chinese Characters*. He produced the kerned version of the STEDT PostScript font family, as well as the font for the rare Chinese characters found in this book.

- David Mortensen, a linguistics graduate student specializing in Hmong-Mien, has contributed equally to the production of this *Handbook*. An accomplished computational troubleshooter, he did much formatting work, and has carried out such vital tasks as assuring the integrity of the *Handbook's* innumerable internal cross-references.

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