Shemuel

שםUEL

'Name of God'

ש"ע

šin
The name Shemuel was bestowed on the Old Testament prophet by his mother Hannah, as the birth of a son was the fulfilment of her prayer; according to her derivation 'because I have asked him of the LORD' (I Samuel 1. 20). However, the more widely accepted popular etymology is from the Hebrew elements *shem* and *El*, whence 'name of God', a meaning to his given name that Beckett encodes throughout his work. The initial letter, šin, is also of enormous importance, being the source of the authorial siglum - the three-pronged device that appears as Σ (S), M, W or E in the names of nearly all Beckett's protagonists.