

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

Richard Beal

Richard Beal spent most of the past year reference checking and copy editing the early entries for the second fascicle of the S volume of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary. He also found some time to work on the word *da-* “to take.”

Last year, Beal’s article “The Hurrian Dynasty and the Double Names of Hittite Kings,” appeared in *Anatolia Antica: Studia in Memoria di Fiorella Imparati* (Eothen 11; Florence, 2002), pp. 55–71. Beal argues that the kings of the Hittite New Kingdom did not form a new Hurrian dynasty but were actually direct descendants of the kings of the Old Kingdom. Thus the long noticed phenomenon of kings having both a “Hittite” and a Hurrian name cannot be accounted for as a Hurrian personal name and a Hittite throne name. Rather, as kings of Hittites and Hurrians, Hatti and Kizzuwatna/Syria, the kings had, perhaps from time of birth, perhaps from the time of accession, both an Anatolian and a Hurrian name.

Another article published is “Gleanings from Hittite Oracle Questions on Religion, Society, Psychology and Decision Making,” in *Silva Anatolica: Anatolian Studies Presented to Maciej Popko on the Occasion of His 65th Birthday*, edited by P. Taracha (Warsaw, 2002). This article studies a considerable number of texts in which the Hittites asked the gods a series of yes or no questions on such topics as the reasons for plagues, whether dreams and unsolicited omens really were messages, where the king should spend the winter, the leadership of campaigns, the routes of campaigns, etc. The questions reveal Hittite preoccupations and worries. The Hittites could now discover and categorize new gods. New or foreign cult practices could be established. The Hittites did not live in abject fear of the gods but were often like employees everywhere, sometimes quite negligent, hoping their divine bosses would never notice or care, only fixing things, apologizing, and perhaps paying a fine when the boss grew angry. “Fertility” was not the major obsession for the Hittites that it is for modern scholars. Finally, the gods did not choose one campaign route or leader, but instead ruled out certain options while leaving other options from which the king could choose.

The articles “Le strutture militari ittite i attacco e di difesa” and “I reparti e le armi dell’esercito ittita,” appeared in the exhibition catalogue *La Battaglia di Qadesh*, edited by M. C. Guidotti and F. Pecchioli Daddi (Florence).

Beal spent his vacation in the Louvre in Paris and the British Museum in London helping his wife, JoAnn Scurlock, collate Neo-Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian medical texts for her books on Mesopotamian medicine. Most evenings and weekends were dedicated to aiding in proofreading and reference checking her book on ancient Mesopotamian medical diagnostics and prognostics, written with medical professor Burton Andersen.
