

## Report on the Assyrian Dictionary Project

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Work on a Dictionary volume, from the first draft to the finished book, takes, on the average, more than two years. For this reason, this year's report cannot present, on the surface, much change from last year's. Volume K is being made ready for the printer; the draft of Volume L is in its final stages, and the work on Volume M is progressing slowly.

But the drafting and writing of articles for the Dictionary, the checking of references, and the endless reading of proofs are not the only tasks of the staff of the Project. Every month new texts are published which have to be read and digested, and quite often it becomes necessary to prepare new editions of long-known texts on the basis of new material and new insights. Such work occasionally prompts the members of the staff to undertake research of their own in various directions often not directly related to their work on the Dictionary Project. In order to show the scale and the reach of some of this additional work, we are listing here the research undertakings now being planned, initiated, and executed by members of the Assyrian Dictionary Project.

Robert D. Biggs spent the autumn and early winter in Iraq as epigrapher for the joint Metropolitan Museum—New York University expedition to Al-Hiba, a Sumerian site. He also worked in the Iraq Museum in Baghdad on the Tell Abū Ṣalābīkh tablets. These tablets, which have been mentioned in previous Annual Reports in connection with the Oriental Institute's excavations at Tell Abū Ṣalābīkh, are thus a significant further step nearer publication.

In early 1969 the cuneiform inscriptions from the eighth and ninth seasons of the Oriental Institute's excavations at Nippur were published, in collaboration with Dr. Giorgio Buccellati, now of the University of California, Los Angeles. Mr. Biggs is preparing for publication a catalogue of the several thousand tablets found during the

first three seasons, so that, in the tradition of the Oriental Institute, the material may be made accessible to scholars.

Mr. Biggs has also been preparing an edition of all the Akkadian literary material from Boghazköy.

Miguel Civil has edited the twelfth volume of *Materials for the Sumerian Lexicon*, which is scheduled to appear in late May. It is based on materials collected by the late Professor Benno Landsberger, with a considerable number of additional texts including archaic Uruk texts provided by H. J. Nissen, Abū Ṣalābīkh texts prepared by R. D. Biggs, and new sources from the Philadelphia and Yale collections identified by Mr. Civil. H. G. Güterbock and Erica Reiner have also collaborated on the preparation of the volume. Mr. Civil is presently working on Sumerian writing and phonology for a volume entitled "Sumerian Graphemics," scheduled to be published in the series "Analecta Orientalia," and he is continuing his researches on Sumerian lexicography. He spent some time last winter as visiting Directeur d'Études in the École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris and gave a paper on Sumerian agriculture at the French Académie des Inscriptions.

A. Leo Oppenheim is engaged in a large-scale investigation of the internal organization and bookkeeping procedures of the temple of the sun-god Šamaš in Sippar in the 6th–3rd centuries B.C. This work is based on three thousand unpublished tablets, copies of which have been put at Mr. Oppenheim's disposal by the Department of Western Asiatic Antiquities of the British Museum, London, for cataloguing.

The Corning Museum of Glass will soon publish his *Glass and Glassmaking in Ancient Mesopotamia: An Edition of the Cuneiform Texts Which Contain Instructions for Glassmakers and a Catalogue of Surviving Objects*.

His detailed study of Babylonia during the Persian rule will be published by the Cambridge University Press in the series *The Cambridge History of Iran*.

Johannes Renger is giving his attention to social institutions, especially marriage and the family, including the very complex kinship system. His study on large landholdings and manorialism is in press. The second part of a 200-page investigation on the priests in the Old Babylonian period was published recently.

Mr. Renger has been collecting and copying all the seal inscriptions on Old Babylonian legal and economic texts in the British Mu-

seum in London. The data thus provided will help clarify procedures of administrative as well as legal acts.

Another of Mr. Renger's projects is the preparation of a new critical edition of the inscription of Sargon, King of Assyria (721-705 B.C.). This edition will include all of this king's inscriptions, including those found in the Oriental Institute's excavations.

Erica Reiner spent a month at the British Museum in London for the purpose of identifying and checking texts belonging to the astrological series. The publication of this series, in which she is currently engaged, will consist of several volumes, and will be accompanied by an analysis of the relevant astronomical data, made in collaboration with Mr. David Pingree of the Oriental Institute.

Miss Reiner is also working on problems of Akkadian linguistics and is assisting Mr. Civil on the publication of lexical texts of the series *MSL*. She is the author of a survey of studies in Akkadian linguistics which is to appear in Volume VI of *Current Trends in Linguistics*, and of a grammar of Elamite which has just appeared in *Handbuch der Orientalistik*.

Aage Westenholz is working on the publication of the Old Sumerian and Old Akkadian tablets housed in the University Museum, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. This collection, which comprises about 900 tablets and fragments, consists mainly of economic documents, chiefly from Nippur, with some from Fara and Ur. The publication will be provided with comprehensive indexes which will appear as a result of extensive collaboration between Mr. Gelb and Mr. Westenholz.