

# THE CHICAGO ASSYRIAN DICTIONARY

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PHILOLOGY

The good news is that the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary Project was again funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities for another two years, from July 1, 1990 to June 30, 1992. The not-so-good news is that, as has been increasingly the practice of the NEH, part of the funds have been awarded on a matching basis, so that again we will have to appeal to our friends for help in raising the funds to be matched by the NEH. ▼ More good news is that the first part of the Š Volume (the 17th in the CAD series) appeared in early 1990. While we in our hemisphere had to wait for the shipment of the volume, our European colleagues have long ago received theirs from our German printer and some have already written glowing letters of congratulations and thanks. Not-so-good news is the delay in publication of Parts II and III, but since both are now in page proofs, or at least second galleys, we can expect their coming out in quick succession. (Part I, which runs from *ša* through *šap*, has 492 pages; Parts II and III will each be about 450 pages long.) ▼ As usual, we have three volumes in what we affectionately call — recalling the old Chicago days of the stockyards — the “*Wurstmaschine*” (sausage machine); that is, while the sausage (Š) emerges at the end, the next volume — T — is being churned inside the

machine, and the one to follow — T̄ — is being fed into it bit by bit. While the editor-in-charge had time off to do research at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, Martha Roth, Associate Editor, saw to it that Volume T was checked for references and brought up to date, so that in 1990 the final reading of the volume by the editorial board could be finished and the manuscript sent to the printer.

On Volumes T and T̄ we had the indispensable help of our friends and colleagues: during the summer of 1989 we profited from the assistance of Hermann Hunger, and during the winter and spring terms of 1990 we were aided by Burkhard Kienast and Johannes Renger. Kienast's help was sought with the checking of the Old Assyrian references, a period on which he is an expert, but he was also helpful in many other ways. As for Renger, who has a special knack for putting order in the chaos of thousands of cards containing citations of a very common word, he undertook to write drafts of the verb *rasû*, which is as difficult to define and appears in as many idioms as its English translation "get." (In the Oxford English Dictionary the word "get" occupies over seven pages.) He also wrote draft manuscript for the noun which means both "head," "top," and "slave," and for various derivatives of these words. What we find gratifying is the return of many former faculty members to help us with our task, and the interest expressed by junior scholars in using a visiting appointment as a means of enhancing their own expertise. We have invited a young Georgian Assyriologist from Tbilisi for the academic year 1990-91, so now the reach of the CAD has extended to the Caucasus.

