CHICAGO HITTITE DICTIONARY (CHD)

Theo van den Hout

As already announced in last year's report Theo van den Hout and Harry Hoffner, assisted by Petra Goedegebuure and Senior Research Associates Richard Beal as well as Oğuz Soysal, continued editing first drafts of words, venturing well into entries starting in *šu-*. This is the final batch of the fascicle that will conclude the Š-volume. Meanwhile, Beal and Soysal have continued writing first drafts of words in T.

Kathleen Mineck and former undergraduate student Anna Maccourt were again responsible for the upkeep of the CHD photo and lexical files. This included finishing the transliteration and filing of new cuneiform volumes KBo 41 and 53 and also some major file rearranging due to new discoveries regarding the Hittite pronouns. Kathleen continued checking collations from old material found after the move to the new CHD office, and Anna began a project for updating the photograph files with the help of the German online Konkordanz. Because of his stay in the Ankara museum, van den Hout (see *Individual Research*) was able to add many photos of especially …/z-fragments, that is, pieces found in the excavations of 1967 in Boğazköy, as well as of numerous letters from Maşat Höyük. Anna has worked for us now since 2005. She graduated from our college in 2008 but stayed on for another year. In all her years working for the CHD Anna must have parsed and filed thousands of cards and probably knows our collection inside-out. She is now ready to move on: she has been accepted as an Anthropology graduate student at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. We will miss you, Anna, and wish you a wonderful time in Michigan!

Farewell party for Anna Maccourt. From left, Richard Beal, Dennis Campbell, Kathleen Mineck, Seunghee Yie, Harry Hoffner, Theo van den Hout, and Anna Maccourt

In the electronic CHD (or *e*CHD), the realm of programmer Sandy Schloen, Dennis Campbell, and Seunghee Yie, we find ourselves once again working to improve the query facility for the online version of the CHD. Our previous approach proved to be somewhat mysterious, as it assumed

too much technical familiarity on the part of our end-users, and functionally limited, restricting the query to one aspect of the data or another. The new model that we are currently exploring uses a query-by-example format. A sample query is provided — "Find all occurrences of a given word in texts written in a selected script" — and the user supplies the "given word" and the "selected script." A wide range of typical queries are presented with fill-in-the-blank options for the user. Additionally, the individual sample queries are presented in a checklist format. By selecting more than one query in the checklist, the user, in effect, creates a compound query, thus dramatically expanding the power and complexity of the analysis without overly complicating the process of expressing the syntax or structure of the query. We anticipate that this new approach will greatly enhance the usability of the online dictionary.

This year has also seen the continued maintenance and modification of dictionary material in the *e*CHD. One of the issues that we have had to deal with is that over the almost thirty years of publication history, many passages have been treated multiple times. As a result, a passage may receive a number of slightly (or less slightly!) different translations. Before the *e*CHD there had been no way of pulling together all of the translations of a particular passage, but we can now use the database to perform this essential task. Having multiple variant translations of a passage in the online dictionary is counterproductive. We have been able to query the material and standardize these translations. This typically involves updating them in order to reflect current scholarship.

We have also been working to standardize our system of text dating. The print versions of the dictionary cannot retroactively modify the dates of original composition and of inscription whenever scholarly opinions on the matter change. The CHD has strived to give its users information as to when a particular text was originally composed, or as to when a particular version of a text was inscribed onto a tablet. As with multiple translations of a passage, for the *e*CHD we need to ensure that the data are internally consistent. Using the available query system the process of standardizing this material is currently underway.

Another important issue is that of general text material. In the printed CHD, all grammatical forms of a particular word are given. It is our standard procedure to give only a few representative samples of a particular spelling. If a user searches for a particular form (for example, all third-person present forms of conjugation II verbs), they will only get these representative forms. By entering more texts into OCHRE and by linking the words in the texts to the appropriate grammatical entries, we can provide the user with a much larger sample. This information will not affect the way that the *e*CHD looks, where only the representative sample will be visible, and yet the user will ultimately be provided with a much richer data set.

During the first five weeks of the Spring Quarter Professor Andreas Schachner stayed with us. He is the director of the excavations at Boğazköy, the site of the former Hittite capital. He taught a class on Hittite archaeology in our Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and gave a lecture on recent developments in the excavations. Among other guests visiting us was again Willemijn Waal from Leiden, the Netherlands, staying for the entire Spring Quarter to consult the CHD files and to work in our Research Archives.

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