CHICAGO HITTITE AND ELECTRONIC HITTITE DICTIONARY (CHD AND eCHD)

Theo van den Hout

Last year's Annual Report on the Chicago Hittite Dictionary told of the final batch of words starting in *ši-* that had been sent of to our outside consultants Gary Beckman (Ann Arbor), Craig Melchert (UCLA), and Gernot Wilhelm (Würzburg, Germany). Their remarks have now all been incorporated. Originally, senior editors Harry Hoffner and Theo van den Hout planned on adding the *šu*-words to that material and publishing one big fascicle to finish the letter Š. However, the material for the *ši*-entries now looks so large that it may be advisable to devote a single fascicle to them. Important words such as "to libate, offer," "god," and "day" are partly responsible for this but, as so often, it's the shortest words that take up most space: page-wise the biggest entry will be *šer* "up, above, over" written by junior editor Petra Goedegebuure.

Our two other junior editors, Richard Beal and Oğuz Soysal, have done important work on the *šu*-words that will make up the fourth and last installment of the letter Š. The second half of this is ready to go to our outside consultants and work on the first half will start this summer. Apart from this, Beal and especially Soysal have continued writing words starting in T, ensuring a smooth transition once the Š is completely done.

The electronic version of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary (*e*CHD) has recently benefited from a major upgrade by our digital specialists Sandra Schloen, Dennis Campbell, and Seunghee Yie. The upgrade concerns both the underlying server hardware, which powers the *e*CHD, as well as the software that provides its functionality. Faster processing, better internal indexing, and a simplified interface combine to allow for a more productive online experience for the users of the electronic version.

The new query facility presents a standard list of ready-made queries for the casual user. An advanced option allows for the creation of more complex queries by allowing the user to combine query results (using Boolean AND, OR, and NOT logic) as well as to nest queries (using the result of one query to define the scope of the next query). New output formats, including a tabular view of relevant results and an outline view (for example, of subordinate forms or meanings), provide useful means of viewing query results. Additionally, the search engine can now ignore many kinds of punctuation so that a search for *memai* "he/she speaks" will result in matches on *mema*[*i*], [*memai*], [*me*]*mai*, etc., thereby greatly reducing the number of near misses. The square brackets here indicate what is actually preserved on the tablet and what is not. Given the almost always broken and fragmentary state of clay tablets you can imagine how often we use these in print! A new user's guide to the intricacies of the query facility is forthcoming.

An important personnel change took place among the students working for us. Kathleen Mineck, who has been working for the Dictionary for many years and who took over from Hripsime Haroutunian in 2002 the important job of keeping up our files and coordinating student work, gave up her position this past May in order to concentrate on her job as managing editor of the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* as well as on her dissertation. In this place we all

thank her for years of dedicated service to the CHD! Oya Topçuoğlu, a PhD student working on Old Assyrian seals found in Anatolia, is Kathy's successor and she is now responsible for adding new texts to our files and thus ever-expanding the basis of the CHD. Oya is assisted since the beginning of the past academic year by Joanna Derman, a third-year student in the College. The two make a formidable team and we welcome Joanna to the Dictionary staff!

Finally, we had two visitors. Gordon Johnston, associate professor in Old Testament studies at the Dallas Theological Seminary, spent his sabbatical year in Chicago to deepen his knowledge of the Hittite language and familiarize himself with the files and other collections of the CHD in Room 323. In June we had Professor Piotr Taracha of Warsaw University, Poland, here working on his new book and using our files and photo collection to put in the final touches.

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