

Report on the Assyrian Dictionary Project

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The Assyrian Dictionary benefits this year from the collaboration of two visiting scholars in addition to its regular staff. Dr. Hermann Hunger, of Vienna, Austria, has been connected with the German Archaeological Institute in Baghdad, Iraq, and came to us on November 1, 1970, for a two-year stay to write the manuscript of one volume (Volume N) of the dictionary. Father Richard A. Caplice, Professor at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, is going to spend his sabbatical year, 1971/72, at the Institute and will prepare the manuscript of Volume P.

Three other volumes are at various stages of completion: K is in final page proof, L is ready for the printer, and M is more than half written by the resident staff.

The editorial board of the *CAD* continues, as mentioned in previous reports, to assume responsibility for the publication of the series "Materials for the Sumerian Lexicon," initiated by Benno Landsberger in 1947 and published by the Pontifical Biblical Institute with a subvention by UNESCO. Since the death of Professor Landsberger, two volumes have come out: Volume XII, prepared by Benno Lands-

berger and edited by M. Civil, contains the series $l \acute{u} = \acute{s}a$ and related series; Volume X, by Benno Landsberger and E. Reiner, contain $HAR-r a = \acute{h}ubullu$ Tablets XVI, XVII, and XIX and related texts. *MSL* XIII, edited by M. Civil, comprising Izi, Kagal, and Nigga, is in press and will appear in 1971.

The removal of the Oriental Institute library to the Joseph Regenstein Library created problems for the *CAD* staff, which continually needs books with cuneiform texts. Both the staff and student assistants, with the help of the Oriental Institute librarian, had to go through a good deal of reorganization to solve these problems.

Robert Biggs spent several weeks in the spring of 1970 at the Iraq Museum, Baghdad, making final collations and corrections to his copies of early Sumerian texts excavated by the Oriental Institute at Tell Abū Šalābīkh in 1963 and 1965. The volume of texts he has prepared is expected to be ready for press by the fall of 1971. In the fall of 1970 Mr. Biggs joined the Metropolitan Museum—New York University expedition to Al-Hiba, Iraq, as epigrapher. For the first time in a number of years, two University of Chicago students were able to receive field training in Mesopotamian archeology as a result of their participation in this excavation.

After delivering *MSL* XIII to the printer, M. Civil is finishing a critical evaluation of the present state of Sumerian grammatical studies for a new and ambitious project of the editor Mouton (The Hague) whose "Series Critica" will present in several hundred small volumes the current state of the art in all languages of the world. In 1971 he also expects to deliver to the editors of *Analecta Orientalia* the manuscript of a volume on "Sumerian Writing System and Phonology" and to publish a catalogue of all Sumerian literary compositions.

Gene Gragg has sent to the *Archiv für Orientforschung* an edition of "The Fable of the Heron and the Turtle" and his book on "Sumerian Verbal Infixes" will be published in the German series "Alter Orient und Altes Testament."

Hermann Hunger is preparing an edition of the tablets from Neo-Babylonian and Seleucid times found by the German excavations at Uruk in 1969. Many of the tablets are unparalleled in the literature known to us so far. Many more texts of the same kind were discovered in the 1971 season, and Mr. Hunger hopes to publish them later. He has also started work on economic texts of the Neo-Babylonian period, mostly from the time of Nebuchadnezzar, found at the same site of Uruk in 1954/55. His edition of the archive of Nabū-ušallim has just appeared in *Baghdader Mitteilungen*, Volume 5.

A. Leo Oppenheim wrote an extensive report on "Trade in the Ancient Near East" for the International Conference of Economic History that took place last August in Leningrad. His contribution on Assyria of the first millennium in the book "Communication and Propaganda in World History" (ed.: H. D. Lasswell and others), to be published by Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is in press. The Corning Museum of Glass published his "Glass and Glassmaking in Ancient Mesopotamia," in a volume which contains also R. H. Brill, "The Chemical Interpretation of the Texts," Dan Barag, "Mesopotamian Core-formed Glass Vessels (1500-500 B.C.)," and Axel van Saldern, "Other Mesopotamian Glass Vessels (1500-600 B.C.)." Mr. Oppenheim spent part of the spring quarter in London at the British Museum, and the month of April lecturing at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel, and the month of May in Paris, where he occupied the chair for foreign scholars at the Collège de France, lecturing on the topic "Mesopotamian Intellectual History."

Erica Reiner, besides editing the *CAD*, was responsible for the publication of *MSL X*. When it came out, in December, 1970, she returned to her project editing a corpus of celestial omens, and in connection with this she will spend part of the summer at the British Museum. She was one of the speakers at a panel on the Kassites at the American Oriental Society meeting in April, 1971. In addition she published three short articles of philological interest in the last year, and an article on the stela found at Haft Tepe, the publication of which was entrusted to her by Professor Ezat Negahban (a graduate of the Oriental Institute), is scheduled to appear in *Archiv für Orientalforschung*, Volume 24.

Johannes Renger spent a few weeks in the summer of 1970 at the Louvre in Paris and at the British Museum in London collating cuneiform texts for his critical edition of the inscriptions of Sargon II, king of Assyria (721-705 B.C.), and he is now preparing the final manuscript. Mr. Renger has been invited to contribute to the forthcoming "Economic History of the Ancient Orient," which will be published by E. J. Brill Publishers in Leiden, The Netherlands.