

MATERIALS FOR THE SUMERIAN LEXICON

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Work on this basic collection of editions of all the lexical texts compiled by the ancient Mesopotamian scribes is progressing at a good pace. Because the printing problems mentioned in last year's report turned out to be more stubborn than expected, Volume XIV, announced for 1975, has not yet appeared, but there is good reason to believe it will be distributed before the end of 1976. It includes most of the syllabaries and vocabularies that allow us to read a Sumerian text: the Proto-Ea series first published by Landsberger in 1951, in a revised and more complete edition; the eight tablets of Ea and the forty-two tablets of Aa; and several tablets of comments written by the Late Babylonian philological masters. These commentaries are of great interest for the history of linguistics. I can say, somewhat immodestly, that though the wait has been longer than expected, the volume is well worth waiting for.

We are presently working on the series Diri, Volume XV. All the sources are at hand, either the originals (most of them graciously loaned by the University Museum, University of Pennsylvania, and its curator of tablets, Professor Åke Sjöberg) or at least plaster casts or photographs.

Progress on Volume XVII was briefly interrupted when its associate editor, Antoine Cavigneaux, was called as epigrapher for the German expedition to Warka. He plans to resume work this summer.

We hope to secure the help of another young cuneiformist to start working on Volume XVI, the series Nabnitú, this fall. Thus it is likely that next year we will be able to announce that only Volume XVIII remains to be written. The task of the lexicographer is never finished, though. New texts keep turning up not only in the field but also in museums, and small fascicles will have to be prepared periodically to incorporate the new material. The first one, *Lexical Texts from Nippur: 11th-13th Seasons*, is already in preparation.