

# MATERIALS FOR THE SUMERIAN LEXICON

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**S**CHOLARS in ancient Mesopotamia compiled dictionaries of the Sumerian language that listed, like modern dictionaries, pronunciations and translations into Akkadian and sometimes other languages. The series MSL presents reconstructions and editions of those dictionaries; it will include eighteen large volumes.

The series is approaching completion, and despite the continued labor and technical problems, we hope to have it finished by our target date of 1980. We are still reading the final proofs of Volume XIV, *Ea A = nâqu*, *Aa A = nâqu* with their Forerunners and Related Texts, so far the biggest volume of the series (520 pages and 11 plates). The printing of Volume XVI, *Alan = nabnitû*, prepared mostly by Irving L. Finkel, will start as soon as Volume XIV is off the press, hopefully in fall 1978. The final manuscript of Volume XVII, established by Antoine Cavigneaux, formerly Research Associate at the Institute and now with the French Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, will be ready at the same time. I have continued my work on Volume XV, *Diri = watru*, and have done some preparatory work for Volume XVIII.

With the main volumes out of the way, we have started to plan a series of supplementary fascicles to bring the earlier volumes up to date and to make available the materials that have appeared in recent years. The first of these fascicles has been started; it will include the tablet KA-SAG, an acrographic series of which only isolated fragments were known at the time of publication of MSL XIII in 1971, but which now is completely known thanks to recent discoveries by W. G. Lambert. The supplementary fascicles will also include word indices to make the perusal of the series easier.

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Rome, with a small contribution toward printing expenses from UNESCO; the financing of the long work of collecting the original materials and the preparation and editing of the volumes is provided by the Oriental Institute.



A German picnic in the '30s: the tent over the car perhaps kept the hot sun off it; the garb and determined demeanor of the revelers are inexplicable (from *A Photographer's World*)