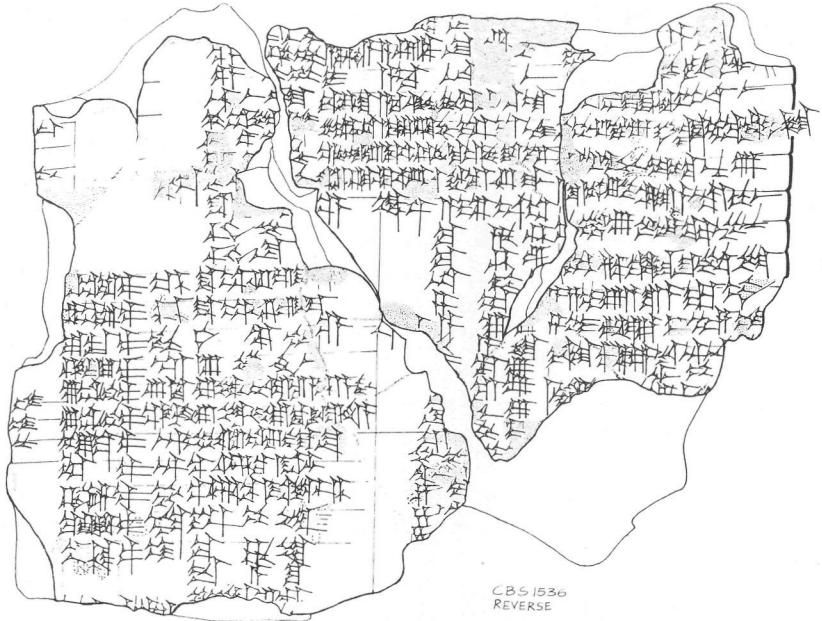


# Materials for the Sumerian Lexicon

*Miguel Civil* The ancient Sumerian dictionaries, which find their modern publication in the series MSL, are not dissimilar from modern bilingual dictionaries: they include a guide to pronunciation and a translation into a familiar language, Akkadian, and in some cases into other languages as well, including Hittite, Hurrian, and Ugaritic.

Volume XIV (*Ea A = nâqu*, *Aa A = nâqu* with their Forerunners and Related Texts) was finally published in late spring. The printing of Volume XVI (*Alan = nab-nîtu*), prepared mostly by Irving L. Finkel (who this fall will leave the project to become Assistant Keeper of Western Asiatic Antiquities in the British Museum), will hopefully be under way when this report appears. The basic manuscript of Volume XV is finished. It was a much easier task than the preparation of Volume XIV because of the nature and more limited extent of the materials, and also because the preliminary edition by Benno Landsberger of the lexical series *Diri = watru* to be published in it was much more complete than his preparatory work on the Ea materials. With new collaborators joining the project this fall, among them Douglas Kennedy, from the French Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, who is in charge of the publication of the valuable lexical texts from Ugarit, I can



*Photograph and copy, by Irving L. Finkel, of a tablet from the collection of the University Museum, University of Pennsylvania, bearing a portion of the lexical series Diri=watru; to be published in MSL XV.*



confidently predict that the manuscripts for the rest of MSL up to the eighteenth and last volume will be finished by summer 1980.

I thus hope that by this time next year I will be writing the last report on the progress of this collection of lexical materials started in 1937 by Landsberger, interrupted by World War II, and continued in the Oriental Institute since 1951.

Not all will be finished, however. A Supplementary Series, whose first fascicle—described in last year's Annual Report—will appear before the end of 1979, will complete the published volumes and add any new lexical materials that may be discovered.

MSL is published by the Pontifical Biblical Institute in 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.