

3 Philology

Ancient Society and Economy

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Extended by three months, the generous financial support granted for six years by the National Endowment for the Humanities and for two years by the National Science Foundation to the project on ancient society and economy will come to an end on June 30, 1981. The project has suffered an additional loss in Dr. Piotr Steinkeller, the last of the remaining assistants, who has accepted an academic appointment at Harvard.

As stated in my previous report, the priority number one of the project for the next year or two is the preparation of the final manuscripts of two rather gigantic publications, each containing a volume of texts and interpretations (philological, legal, social-economic) and a volume of plates. The first of these projects, *Earliest Systems of Land Tenure in the Near East*, will appear as volume 104 of the Oriental Institute Publications; the second, "Source Book for the Social and Economic History of the Ancient Near East," has been accepted for publication by Undena Publications in Malibu, California.

I have described the two publications as rather gigantic since I have never been faced in my past experience with anything comparable to them in size. In addition, we are faced at every step with the complexity of presentation, as each statement involves detailed cross-references not only to the documentation and/or previous philological discussions, but also to the primary and secondary treatments of legal and social-economic matters in other parts of the publication and in other volumes and numerous articles.

As a by-product of the work on the projects, a number of articles in the field of social-economic and legal history of ancient times have been produced. The listing of at least the important titles may be of some interest to persons concerned with these matters:

Gelb, I. J., "The Ancient Mesopotamian Ration System," *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 24 (1965) 230-43.

¶ "Approaches to the Study of Ancient Society," *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 87 (1967) 1-8.

¶ "Growth of a Herd of Cattle in Ten Years," *Journal of Cuneiform Studies* 21 (1967, pub. 1969) 64-9.

¶ "On the Alleged Temple and State Economies in Ancient Mesopotamia." *Studi in Onore di Edoardo Volterra*, Vol. 6 (1969) 137-54.

¶ "The Arua Institution," *Revue d'assyriologie* 66 (1972) 1-32.

¶ "From Freedom to Slavery." *Gesellschaftsklassen im Alten Zweistromland und in die angrenzenden Gebieten*, ed. D. O. Edzard = *Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Philos.-hist. Kl., Abhandlungen N.F.* 75 (1972) 81-92.

¶ "Prisoners of War in Early Mesopotamia," *JNES* 32 (1973) 70-98.

¶ "Homo Ludens in Early Mesopotamia." *Festschrift A. Salonen = Studia Orientalia* 46 (Helsinki 1975) 43-76.

¶ "Quantitative Evaluation of Slavery and Serfdom." *Kramer Anniversary Volume* (Neukirchen-Vluyn 1976) 195-207.

¶ "Household and Family in Early Mesopotamia." *State and Temple Economy in the Ancient Near East*, Vol. 1, ed. E. Lipiński = *Orientalia Louvaniensia Analecta* 5 (Leuven 1979) 1-97.

¶ "Definition and Discussion of Slavery and Serfdom." *Schaeffer Festschrift*, ed. K. Bergerhof, M. Dietrich, O. Loretz = *Ugarit-Forschungen* 11 (Neukirchen-Vluyn 1979) 283-97.

¶ "Comparative Method in the Study of the Society and Economy of the Ancient Near East." *Festschrift Radoszek = Rocznik Orientalistyczny* 41 (1980) 29-36.

¶ "Terms for Slaves in Ancient Mesopotamia." *Festschrift Diakonoff* (in press).

P. Steinkeller, "The Renting of Fields in Early Mesopotamia and the Development of the Concept of 'Interest' in Sumerian," *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 24 (1981) 113-45.

Until such time as we are able to secure financial support from foundations or other benefactors, the project will continue on a much reduced scale with the help of a part-time assistant.