

Hittite Dictionary Project

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July marks the end of the second year in the second three-year grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities to the Hittite Dictionary Project. Over the past year we have been able to see the first fascicle of the dictionary appear in print and be distributed worldwide. No reviews have appeared in print yet

to our knowledge. The informal reaction has been enthusiastic. Also during the past year we have made excellent progress on the preparation of the second fascicle of the dictionary, which will contain Hittite words beginning with the letter M. All first drafts of M words and many N words have been prepared by our staff. Most of those articles on M words needed for the second fascicle have been put into semi-final form. It is estimated that by the fall of 1981 we will have final draft for the second fascicle in the hands of our printer. What has been so time-consuming about fascicles one and two is that both fascicles have contained a number of words on the order of the English conjunctions "and," "when," "if," and "as." We have decided to treat these words extensively and to explain their syntax in detail. All of this takes an enormous amount of time, much more than for the average Hittite word.

Our resident year-round staff was increased last fall with the coming of Dr. Silvin Košak from Oxford, England. Dr. Košak has assisted us greatly in the preparing of first drafts and in the criticism of first and second drafts of the articles. Again in the summer of 1981 Dr. Gary Beckman of Yale University will be joining us for two months to assist in the editing of final draft for the M volume. Dr. Beckman was also of assistance to us in April 1981, in helping to copy and photograph unpublished Hittite fragments in the Yale Babylonian Collection, which are now processed in the Hittite Dictionary lexical file. Dr. Howard Berman continues to process newly published Hittite texts for the lexical file. During the past year he added to our file (among other texts) a number of unpublished Hittite fragments from the collection of the Istanbul Archeological Museum, working from copies supplied by Mustafa Eren. Trips to Europe and Turkey funded by the NEH grant were taken by both of us in 1980-81. In Geneva Hoffner photographed a small collection of Hittite tabletts, and collated other texts in Berlin. In the summer of 1981 both of us will be traveling again, Hoffner to Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir, and Vienna, Güterbock to Berlin and various cities in Turkey.

Work on the Hittite Dictionary often leads to interesting discoveries which are not directly related to determining the meanings of words. A few months ago Hoffner, while using the CHD file for the preparation of a detailed review of a new volume of Hittite texts, discovered that one of the newly published fragments joined directly a historically important text which had been known for a long time. The newly discovered join completed many lines

on the back of the tablet. On one of these lines the new supplement revealed the name of one of the earliest known kings of the Western Anatolian kingdom of Wiluša, which many scholars think is an old form of the name Ilios, which in Homer designates the area around the Troad. This early king's name is Walmū, and the completed context tells us that he was installed in kingship by the (alas, unknown) Hittite king who wrote this letter.



*A fragment of a Hittite ritual
from the Museum of Art and
History in Geneva (photo by
Harry Hoffner)*