



Materials for the Sumerian Lexicon

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The XVIIth volume of *Materials for the Sumerian Lexicon* (MSL) with the critical edition of the lexical series Erimḫuš = *anantu* and Antagal = *šaqû*, prepared by Antoine Cavigneaux, Hans G. Güterbock, and Martha T. Roth, should be out—after incredible and unexpected technical problems in the printing plant in Rome—by the time this report is published. The XVth volume with the series Diri = *atru* and its multiple and, to a great extent, completely new forerunners will be in press utilizing a different, much faster, and more economical printing technique. We hope to see the series of eighteen volumes completed by 1988.

With the series complete and new lexical texts continuing to appear, there is significant additional material for practically all previously published MSL volumes. Even with the imminent appearance of the “Supplementary Studies” and the update sheets announced in the previous report, years pass before the new material becomes available to interested scholars. With the increasing interest in Sumerian lexicography fostered by the publication of the first volume of a Sumerian dictionary by the University of Pennsylvania, these delays are inadmissible and a way had to be found to speed up the processing and consolidating of new data. It has thus been decided to put all of MSL in computer files that can be instantly updated as soon as new materials are received. Sample editions of three ḪAR-ra = *ḫubullu* tablets, incorporating the new texts from Warka and other fragments, indicate that it will be easy to transfer MSL to this flexible format. These computer editions will be immediately available for use in the CAD and the Sumerian Project work. Their distribution to outside users, either as printouts or directly in diskettes, is being studied.