

Materials for the Sumerian Lexicon

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The often announced XVIIIth volume of *Materials for the Sumerian Lexicon* (MSL) appeared at long last in December after a delay of three years at the press. It gives the critical edition of the lexical series Erimḥuṣ = *anantu* and Antagal = *šaḡu* prepared by Antoine Cavigneaux, Hans G. Güterbock, and Martha T. Roth. The format of the volume is the usual one, but following the trend initiated with the XIIth volume, we have paid special attention to introductions to each particular series to make them more accessible to the users. Contrasting with the long printing of the XVIIth volume, the first volume of the *MSL Supplementary Series* appeared in June after six short weeks with the printers. We had provided camera-ready copy, while the XVIIth volume was printed with the archaic hot type process. Let us hope that this speed can be maintained. The *Supplementary Series* will include editions of

new texts which appeared after the publication of the regular MSL volumes to which they logically belong, revisions of previous editions now decades old, and tablet catalogues and detailed lexicographic studies which do not follow the traditional format of regular MSL. The first volume includes the series Sag = *awīlu* in its various forms, prepared by M. Civil, a complete catalogue of the lexical tablets in the Ashmolean Museum by Oliver R. Gurney, Middle Babylonian Grammatical Texts by Douglas A. Kennedy and M. Civil, and miscellaneous materials.

The preparation of the two remaining MSL volumes, the new *Supplementary Series*, the updating of the whole MSL, and the processing of the new sources which continue to appear, sometimes providing pleasant surprises, will keep the MSL project busy for a long time.