

MATERIALS FOR THE SUMERIAN LEXICON

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Previous *Reports* have at times mentioned the apparition, year after year, of new lexical texts which need to be processed and incorporated into the body of the already known texts published in the seventeen MSL volumes. The past year has been unusually productive in new materials. The texts found by the French in Emar (Meskéné) became available before the end of 1986 in two volumes of copies prepared by D. Arnaud.¹ Out of about 1880 copied fragments (some of which are parts of the same tablet), close to 500 are lexical. They have been transliterated and studied by M. Civil, with the assistance of Gertrud Farber, and some of them were discussed in weekly sessions of the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary staff. These texts represent a branch of a poorly attested stage in the evolution of the Mesopotamian lexicographic tradition, namely the Middle Babylonian period, immediately preceding the textual stabilization (canonization) of the series. The Emar texts are one of the most significant discoveries of recent years. Important as they are, the discovery of a tablet archive at Sippar, with the tablets still in their original location in niches and shelves, promises to be still more significant. Most of the Sippar tablets are still in situ. They are being slowly extracted from the ground to ensure their proper recovery and preservation. Among the few tablets published in photo, one of these is a perfectly preserved copy of the VIth tablet of the series *Diri = watru*.² More lexical tablets will undoubtedly be found in Sippar. Even with MSL practically finished, the new lexical tablets will keep us busy for years to come.

¹Daniel Arnaud, *Recherches au pays d'Aštata. Emar VI/1-2*. Éditions Recherches sur les Civilisations. Paris, 1985.

²*Archeologia* 224 (May 1987).