

JOHN A. BRINKMAN wrote several short articles on Neo-Assyrian topics for the forthcoming *Oxford Companion to the Bible*, edited an eighth-century Babylonian communal land-sale document for publication in the *festschrift* for Åke Sjöberg, and contributed the article on the Sealand ("Meerland") for the *Reallexikon der Assyriologie*. At the annual meeting of the American Oriental Society in New Orleans in March, he delivered a paper on the early history of the Ahlamu, a little-known tribe who were forerunners of the Arameans, c. 1800-1100 B.C. He conducted research seminars on Late Bronze Age trade, ranging from Greece and Egypt in the west to Iran in the east (particularly the commerce in lapis lazuli and the role of merchants or business agents in the transfer of goods and chattel), and on Mesopotamian chronology of the historical periods (2400 B.C. - A.D. 75). On behalf of the Royal Inscriptions of Mesopotamia project (University of Toronto), he undertook research trips to examine Middle Babylonian documents in the University Museum, Philadelphia (September 1988) and the British Museum, London (June-August 1989). He also prepared an article on an important late chronological source, the Neo-Assyrian eponym lists, including cuneiform copies of three previously unpublished texts and a series of revised readings for known sections of the corpus.

During the past year, MIGUEL CIVIL has worked on three main fronts. First, all published volumes—seventeen including the "Supplementary Series"—of Materials for the Sumerian Lexicon (MSL) are now stored in electronic form. He was ably helped in the task of data-entry by Mr. Nader Salti. The continuous revision and updating of the lexical lists, required by constantly appearing new material, is now much easier. Making these diskette editions available to interested scholars is a very attractive alternative to the usual supplements. A pilot edition of a couple of HAR-ra = *hubullu* tablets, accompanied by the necessary search programs, should be ready in a few months. Second, and still in the field of lexicography, he has been working on the earliest, but post-Warka, lexical compilations. He has been asked by Professor Archi to publish one of the major HAR-ra-like lists—restorable from Fara, Abu-Salabikh, and Ebla tablets—previously discussed by Civil in a paper published two years ago in L. Cagni, ed., *Ebla 1975-1985*. For this project, he has been given access to some still unpublished tablets. Finally, he is at present converting to electronic format his old compilation "Catalogue of Sumerian Literature." The trip to Syria planned for spring of 1989 was temporarily postponed after the Spanish archaeological expedition to Syria saw its assigned site changed at the last moment (from Tell Maled to Tell Qara Qūzāq on the Euphrates, some 14 kilometers SE of Tell Ahmar). Besides some work with this expedition, Civil's main purpose on this trip will be the verification of the uncountable joins proposed in his study, recently published in *Aula Orientalis* 7/1, of the Emar-Meskene tablets and the collation of the lexical Ebla tablets mentioned above. He expects to be able to carry out these tasks in the fall of the current

year. He has written the usual lexicographic articles and notes which will be continued next year, along with the preparation of the plates from MSL XV. As a delayed effect of his publication, twenty-five years ago, of an article on Mesopotamian brewing and drinking songs, he was asked to consult on some experiments on brewing with barley cakes (*bappir*) for the Anchor Brewing Co. of San Francisco.