

THE HITTITE DICTIONARY PROJECT

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Continuity and change — each plays a role in the on-going Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project. Since work began on the dictionary some fifteen years ago, continuity has been provided in the persons of the two project directors, Professors Güterbock and Hoffner. Barely a year after the project commenced Richard Beal arrived at the Institute to begin his graduate studies. After serving as a graduate student assistant he has been a Research Associate on the project for the past five years. As a trainer of graduate student assistants and one who often helps new Research Associates to become oriented in the workings of our project, Beal helps provide continuity. ▼ But there must be change as well. Ever since the National Endowment for the Humanities allowed us to employ two Research Associates on the project we have been able to fill one of those two slots with a scholar with training and perspectives differing from our Chicago ones. The first of these overseas scholars was Dr. Silvin Kosak. Yugoslavian by birth and early training, Kosak had finished his Hittitological studies under Prof. Heinrich Otten, then of the Philipps University at Marburg, Germany. Kosak was extremely productive, leaving behind him when he departed for Germany to assume a position in Mainz a large backlog of

finished first drafts of dictionary articles which we are only just now finishing. His successor was Dr. Ahmet Ünal. Of Turkish birth and early education, Ünal had done his Ph.D. under Prof. Annelies Kammenhuber of The University of Munich. Since Kammenhuber is the director of the only other current project for the production of a Hittite dictionary, Ünal was able to stimulate our thinking with ideas coming out of this parallel project. Today he holds the chair of Hittitology in Munich which Kammenhuber vacated when she became emerita a few years ago. From 1988 through 1990 our second Research Associate was Dr. Theo van den Hout. Van den Hout was trained in Amsterdam by Prof. Houwink ten Cate, a scholar with Oriental Institute connections dating to the 1960s. Van den Hout also spent a year of study in Bochum, Germany under Prof. Eric Neu. He brought to our project a keen linguistic sense and an intimate knowledge of historical texts from the last century of the Hittite empire. Meticulous is the word for his work in the processing of new texts for our dictionary archives. With July 1990 we have acquired our most recent staff addition, Dr. Silvia Luraghi. Her training is multi-national, some in Italy, some in Germany, and some in the U.S.A. (at Yale). Luraghi's strengths are in general linguistics, in particular the syntax of Old Hittite. Her book *Old Hittite Sentence Structure* has just been published (1990) by Routledge in London and New York. Already she is expanding her skills to include the preparation of dictionary file cards from newly published texts.

With each passing grant period our graduate students working on the project change as well. Currently we are being helped by Joseph Baruffi and Anne Porter. Baruffi is in the Committee for the Ancient Mediterranean World program, while Porter is in NELC, doing Syrian archaeology.

But new personnel are not limited to full time staff and graduate student assistants. One of the particular benefits of conducting research and teaching at The Oriental Institute is the contact one has with the Institute volunteers, men and women from outside the academic world whose talents are varied and whose creativity is refreshing. About three years ago, when Ahmet Ünal was still one of our Research Associates, Mr. Irv Diamond began taking lunch with several of us on the CHD staff. In those days Irv was helping Ray Tindel design and set up a data base for the register of artifacts in the museum collections. Because of his enthusiasm and expertise people liked to think of him as "Mr. dBase IV" (apologies to Ashton-Tate). When Irv heard me describe some of the difficult and tedious tasks which I wanted to use my computer to automate, he opined as how he thought he could arrange that. And he did! Now he occupies a permanent desk in my office (OI 218), testing and customizing software on a Macintosh SE-30. Between Irv and John Sanders I figure I have about the best computer advisory team a man could want.

The Hittite Dictionary doesn't have the budget that many projects do, but we are fortunate in being able to obtain the minimal necessary tools. When as yet the Institute-wide network is not in place, we are running our own Apple Talk Local Area Network (LAN) between my office (218), the

Research Associates' office (226B) and the laser printer in the Director's outer office. Staff members can access centrally maintained lexical and bibliographical data and the latest revised form of all dictionary articles on my computer in 218. They can send and receive files from each other and use the Institute's laser printer for especially high quality output. In addition, last year we acquired a flatbed scanner and Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software, which permits us to read into the project computers large amounts of typed or printed material. One of the first tasks for which we used this capability was the creation of a disk version of all published and not-yet-published dictionary articles. Irv Diamond designed a program which generated a printed concordance of all passages from Hittite texts which we have cited and translated in existing parts of the dictionary. A copy of this manual now sits on the desk of each staff worker. We are also reading onto disk a large body of previously prepared translations in typescript. It is our plan to create and maintain on a central file server a complete corpus of translated Hittite texts, which staff users can flag at points which may need correction or improvement. Staff members as they prepare dictionary articles can consult this corpus and save themselves from "re-inventing the wheel" each time they must treat a given passage.

The fourth fascicle of the *Chicago Hittite Dictionary* appeared in the winter of 1990. This rounded out the first complete volume of the dictionary, containing articles on words beginning with L, M, and N. Copies of the dictionary can now be purchased in a single hard-bound volume with an attractive red cover.

New staff, using new tools, have been able to try their hand at new texts. The flow of published texts from the old source, the backlog of texts and fragments from the Boghazköy excavations now stored in museums, continues but at a much slower rate. The past two years have seen two text volumes based on tablets which were housed in Berlin and one volume of texts from the Ankara museum. Van den Hout prepared dictionary cards from most of these. Luraghi is in the process of finishing the job. These are mostly fragments of festival descriptions. Their value lies in the possibility of using our exhaustive lexical files to identify them as joins or duplicates to other texts and fragments already known.

But there is now also hope of adding entirely new material to our dictionary base. A postcard from Ahmet Ünal in late September informed us that during the summer of 1990 at a site near Ortaköy, 50 kilometers south of Çorum, an archive of over 700 Hittite tablets was uncovered! This is the largest archive of Hittite tablets yet discovered outside of the capital city Hattusa. Among the lot it is reported are letters, festival descriptions, cult inventories, bird oracles and Hurrian texts. One doesn't know how long it may take for whoever is charged with their publication to release at least provisional transliterations, but we can hope that the delay will not be too long.

New discoveries like this, coupled with solid progress in the production of basic reference and research tools (dictionaries, concordances, grammatical studies, lists of geographical names), make it an especially exciting time to be involved in Hittite studies. If you see a Hittite dictionary staff member walking down the corridors of the Institute, and it looks like he is walking about a foot off the ground, now you know the reason.