

CHICAGO HITTITE DICTIONARY

Theo van den Hout

Work on the second part, or fascicle as we call it, of the letter Š of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary (CHD) continued and it is well under way. Harry Hoffner, emeritus and coeditor, and Theo van den Hout, executive editor, met regularly to establish the definitive text of pre-final drafts. The drafts led us from nouns for wild members of the goat family, lamps, and a disreputable category of women to booty, beds, and shoes. Verbs ranged from sleeping, pushing, and sipping to putting on one's shoes and trussing up animals to be roasted. Our outside consultants Gary Beckman, Craig Melchert, and Gernot Wilhelm are in the process of reading those drafts and once we have their comments, all words starting with *ša-* are ready to go to press. Currently we are working on the first part of words beginning with *še-/ši-* and by the time you read this we should be ready to send all material for Š/2 off to our Publications Office.

Meanwhile our staff, Drs. Richard Beal and Oğuz Soysal, continued writing drafts for what will be the next volume, the letter T. Beal also implemented all the changes Hoffner and van den Hout made to the drafts of the Š material. We were particularly fortunate that for the first part of the academic year we still enjoyed the services of Dr. Alice Mouton from Paris. She had joined the dictionary project in January of 2003 with a prestigious scholarship of the Programme Lavoisier of the French Foreign Ministry. During her stay she worked very hard and wrote many first drafts of words starting in *ta-*, assisted in filing and parsing new texts, and in general helped out wherever needed. We miss her enthusiastic presence and hope she will return for regular visits!

Thanks to our staff member Kathleen Mineck, our files keep growing. She and van den Hout together transliterate newly published texts; Mineck then puts them on our server, and ensures they are ready for parsing and filing. The latter work was mostly done by our trusty students Natasha Bershinsky, Dennis Campbell, and Ed Stratford. Mineck also answers smaller and larger queries for van den Hout on the basis of our lexical files for his work on final drafts.

During the summer of 2003, Julia van den Hout put all our photographs of Hittite clay tablets and fragments of tablets in a database accessible through our server so that, for the first time, we have a clear overview of what we actually have. We have exchanged this database with our colleagues of the *Hethitisches Wörterbuch* in Munich, Germany, led by Prof. Inge Hoffmann. Earlier she had sent us a list of photographs in their possession. We hope this is the beginning of a more extensive cooperation between the two Hittite dictionary projects!

Significant progress has been made on the electronic version of the dictionary. All of Volume P has been digitized in XML-format and is stored in a searchable database. Sandy Schloen, our programmer, created project management tools for organizing the project content online and for establishing and controlling users with different levels of access. She also developed tools for assigning characteristic properties to specific components of the dictionary. For example, words can be identified as geographical or divine names. The user decides which properties to include and creates them directly in the database. A basic query facility for searching and retrieving the data based on these characteristics is also available. A completely new feature is the creation of a Turkish-Hittite form of the e-CHD. The Turkish translations were provided by Oğuz Soysal and will ultimately create a shorter Hittite/English/Turkish dictionary. Other views of the dictionary are also possible; for example, a "quick-reference" view provides a high-level summary by suppressing the lower-level details. Finally, a mechanism for managing supplementary digital re-

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sources, that is, images, notes, bibliographic references, etc., has also been added. The user can enter information about these resources and link them to appropriate dictionary entries.

The e-CHD P volume can now be accessed through the Oriental Institute's Web site. It is the first in what will be a two-track dictionary: an electronic and fully searchable version and a classic paper one. In the near future we hope to offer all these same features for our older material covering the letters L, M, and N. These letters were not yet available in an electronic form that can be subjected to the transformations needed to make them into what P is now. Thanks to a generous gift of Mr. Howard Hallengren, however, we were able to have this material scanned and corrected by a group from Moscow University supervised by Dr. Alexei Kassian. The first results are in and look very promising. As soon as this work has been done, Sandy Schloen will start the transformation process.

Several scholars visited us in the past year and consulted our files for their research: Profs. Ian Rutherford (Florida State University) and Gary Beckman (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor), Dr. Jeanette Fincke (University of Heidelberg), and Yiğit Erbil (Hanfmann-fellow from Ankara).

This past year we were supported by a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities as we have been since the project started in 1976. In the coming year, however, we will be on our own. It is therefore with immense gratitude that we can report that we received a gift of \$100,000 from the Salus Mundi Foundation of Prof. A. Richard Diebold Jr. in Tucson, Arizona. This gift is the beginning of what we hope will expand into an endowment to see the CHD project through to the very end! In the course of fund-raising activities van den Hout and Mineck also traveled to Washington, D.C., for a screening of the movie "The Hittites" by Tolga Örnek. They manned a table with a computer display of the e-CHD, a hard copy of the dictionary and brochures, as well as general information material on our Oriental Institute. During that visit van den Hout and our then Director of Development had the privilege of meeting with the honorable Dr. O. Faruk Loğoğlu, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey.

Finally, we received a letter from Carl Thunem who as a student worked for the CHD in the year 2001/2002. After Carl graduated with a BA honors paper on a Hittite topic he joined the National Reserve and just last fall he successfully completed Basic Combat Training in Fort Knox, Kentucky before going to Law School: "You'll be pleased to know that I remembered enough Hittite to scrawl out a curious drill sergeant's name for him at BCT in cuneiform." Who says Hittite is useless?
