

CHICAGO HITTITE DICTIONARY (CHD)

THEO VAN DEN HOUT

Last year between August 28 and September 1, we, the OI Hittitologists, hosted the 10th International Congress of Hittitology. Over 100 scholars from literally all over the world convened here on Campus, attended the lectures at Breasted Hall and at Saieh Hall (across the street from the OI), and we took them on a boat tour on Lake Michigan. Everybody seemed very happy and agreed the conference was a big success. This was due to the work of many, and we thank Chris Woods, our director of the OI, the Development staff, Brittany Mullins and Kiran Webster, and our students and volunteers. For a full report with photos I refer the reader to the OI's *News & Notes* of winter 2018, pp. 11–14. Still on display at the lower level of our Institute is a panel exhibit about the history of Hittite and Anatolian studies at the University of Chicago. This exhibit was specially prepared for the purposes of the conference by Richard Beal, senior research associate at the CHD, and Oya Topçuoğlu, then recent graduate. Our next task is preparing the volume with printed versions of the papers presented at the conference.

Once the conference was over we returned to the CHD and worked very hard on finishing the letter Š we have been working on for many years now. We incorporated the comments and suggestions of our outside consultants and went over the material several times and finally, I am happy to report, sent it off to our Publications Office, to Thomas Urban and Charissa Johnson. They will put it in the usual two-column format of the printed CHD and we will start the proofreading process. Obviously, this is not the most exciting stage in producing our dictionary, but it is always gratifying because it really is the final stage before the actual printing. This last fascicle comprises all words starting in šm- and then jumps to all those in šu-. The Publications Office projects it at about 200 pages.

A sad moment this spring was saying goodbye to our Senior Research Associate Oğuz Soysal. Oğuz came to Chicago in 1995 and has been extraordinarily productive. First of all, he has literally written hundreds of drafts for entries in the CHD. Second, there is his “landmark” reference work on the Hattian language (*Hattischer Wortschatz in hethitischer Textüberlieferung*, Leiden-Boston, Brill 2004), that documents everything you might want to know about it. Hattian was spoken in Central Anatolia and is only transmitted through the Hittite cuneiform sources. As a language, it is completely isolated with no known relatives. Hattian civilization had a great influence on the early Hittite kingdom and the language may have been spoken for a longer time than we used to think. Third, Oğuz has been very active on the front of publishing the thousands of fragments of the first four excavation seasons at Boğazköy (between 1906 and 1912) that after a full century mostly still remain unpublished. Originally, the tablets were sent from Turkey to Berlin and eventually ended up in what became East Berlin. Our East German colleagues did a good job of churning out hand-drawn copies of the fragments in their possession, but publication of the remaining unpublished ones stalled completely when the tablets returned to Turkey more than thirty years ago (1987). Oğuz has single-handedly revived this undertaking and is responsible for two already published volumes in our CHD Supplements series, a third is currently in production, and more are to follow. What is very helpful is the fact that he is very good at finding so-called joins and duplicates. Oğuz is the ultimate philologist, meticulous and precise. With this he provides a great service to the international Hittitological scholarly community and we are proud that the OI is publishing these texts. Besides this, he has regularly contributed to our field with articles. Oğuz is now moving to Germany to concentrate on the further publication of



ABOVE, FROM LEFT: Farewell of Oğuz: Richard Beal, Oğuz Soysal, Robert Marineau, and Petra Goedegebuure. Note the chocolate cake in front.

the Boğazköy fragments, and we wish him luck in this endeavor! We had an internal CHD farewell ceremony with chocolate cake (“Death by Chocolate”) and a real reception will be held in his honor in September.

The regular reader of these Annual Reports on the progress of the CHD knows that an important part of our work consists of keeping up our lexical files. It is an essential task, the basis of all our dictionary writing. This has been an arduous task, especially since in the last ten to fifteen years a lot of new text material has been published. Students do most of this work

and we have again been very fortunate to have an excellent group of them around. This year graduate student Thalia Lysen oversaw the work of Katherine McFarlin, and MA students Antonio Cruz-Uribe and Ryan Schnell. Having graduated from our College, Katherine, who concentrated on Egyptology but also took a full year of Hittite language instruction, will now take a year off to take part-time classes in order to pursue a master’s degree in object conservation. Having completed the NELC MA program in Ancient Near Eastern studies, Antonio will now concentrate on applying to other graduate programs this fall while Ryan has been accepted into the PhD program at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World and will move to New York.



Because of the rapid publication of Hittite texts, we had built up something of a backlog in filing them, and we were contemplating whether there might be different, that is, digital ways of processing new texts. We were therefore extremely pleased when in the spring we received, through the collegial generosity of our colleagues in Mainz, a full set of digital cards of the missing volumes. This means that in one fell swoop our files are now almost complete! This does not mean that suddenly our students are out of work; on the contrary, there is still a lot to do and we are thinking of ways to give them more exciting and meaningful ways to employ them for the dictionary. Next year Robert Marineau, back from his year in Würzburg, Germany, and Thalia Lysen will be the first to profit from this new approach.

As happens every year, we had some visitors. Guglielmo Inglese, a linguist from the University of Pavia in northern Italy, stayed for three months to work on his dissertation and to consult with Petra Goedegebuure. Guglielmo also presented a wonderful lecture in a workshop organized by the University of Chicago Department of Linguistics. Another visitor was Professor Craig Melchert, one of the CHD's Outside Consultants. He came to teach a one-day workshop on Hittite paleography and text dating. Since the 1970s Hittitologists have been studying the development of the shapes of cuneiform signs and established an increasingly detailed system that enabled us to date tablets and fragments sometimes within a fifty-year period. At least that is what we thought. Although still widely used until today, since the early 2000s several scholars have raised serious doubts as to the validity of our text dating principles and it is time to critically review the system. Professor Melchert's workshop was part of this undertaking and it was a learning experience for the six students present and a wonderful opportunity for Goedegebuure and van den Hout to discuss the dating problems in our field.

Finally, it is always a pleasant task to thank our most loyal supporters: Mr. Philip Elenko, the Güterbock family, and Mr. Audrius Plioplys.



LEFT: Group photo of the 10th International Congress of Hittitology. Photo by David Turner.