

THE HITTITE DICTIONARY

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The Hittite language, which was spoken all over what is today the Republic of Turkey 4,000 years ago, was written on clay tablets in the familiar cuneiform script used for the languages of Syria and Mesopotamia. When Hattusha, the ancient capital of the Hittites, was first excavated in the second decade of the 20th century and an international team of scholars had succeeded in deciphering the language, work began on the publication and interpretation of the thousands of tablets recovered. Word lists for individual bodies of texts were published very soon. But it was not until the 1930s that an American scholar, Edgar H. Sturtevant of Yale University, published the first glossary for all the texts. A much larger and improved glossary was published in 1952 by the German scholar Johannes Friedrich. For the past 12 years work has been progressing here in Chicago on a project to produce the first true dictionary of Hittite. The Chicago Hittite Dictionary under the co-directorship of H. G. Güterbock and Harry A. Hoffner, Jr. has enjoyed since its inception financial support from grants by the National Endowment for the Humanities. But a sizeable portion of the funding from these grants is generated by federal matching of private gifts to the Oriental Institute designated for the Hittite Dictionary. With each successive grant period a larger percentage of the total project costs must be met by this gifts and matching segment of the grant. Members are invited to be a part of the work of the Hittite Dictionary through designating gifts for this project. Members who thus join in the support of the dictionary will receive regular newsletters, keeping them abreast of all aspects of the on-going work.

1986–87 was the second of a two-year grant period from the NEH. The senior staff members, Professors Hoffner and Güterbock, continued their work on the production of final copy for the fourth fascicle of the dictionary. This involved intensive study and revisions to large articles in the N section of the alphabet. In particular, much effort was devoted to certain conjunctions (Hittite *namma*) and negatives (Hittite *natta*). The junior staff consisted of Drs. Ahmet Ünal and Richard Beal. Dr. Ünal, a Turkish scholar

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who received his Hittitological training at Munich under Prof. Annelies Kammenhuber, is a prolific researcher and writer. Dr. Beal, who has recently received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago with a dissertation on the Organization of the Hittite Army, is a young scholar of considerable promise. Their dictionary tasks involve the preparation of first drafts of articles on words beginning with the letters P and S. The third level of personnel is made up of graduate student assistants. Gregory McMahon, currently writing his dissertation on the Cult of the Tutelary Deities, is responsible for the processing of newly published Hittite texts and putting them on dictionary card masters. Margaret Schröder assists in this task and serves as an office manager. James Spinti, still fulfilling his course requirements, assists in the parsing and filing of dictionary cards and advises Prof. Hoffner on matters relating to the project's computers.

The Hittite Dictionary welcomes volunteers from the membership who wish to perform non-technical tasks in the main dictionary office. Assistance is always welcome in entering text on the project's computers, making photocopies, proofreading of manuscript, compiling bibliographies, and filing. A reading knowledge of German, French, or Italian is helpful, but not necessary. Interested members are invited to inquire at the Dictionary Office, Oriental Institute Room 218 (directly opposite the Museum Office).

The Hittite Dictionary received a visit last year from the Italian Hittitologist and Ebla epigrapher, Prof. Alphonso Archi. Prof. Archi was very supportive and encouraging to the dictionary personnel and donated to the project a copy of his newly published volume of Hittite texts from the Berlin Museum's collection.

Published reviews of the CHD continue to affirm its high quality and usefulness. It is our hope to be able to submit manuscript to our photocompositor, James Eisenbraun by the beginning of 1988 for the fourth fascicle.