

## CHICAGO HITTITE DICTIONARY

## Theo van den Hout

The best news of this past year for the Chicago Hittite Dictionary (CHD) was the renewed grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the period 2005–2007. We are extremely grateful for the Endowment’s ongoing show of confidence and support which is a major incentive for all of us to continue on the path towards our final goal.

Another high point was the submission of the material for the second fascicle of the Š-volume to the Publications Office after having incorporated all comments of our outside consultants Craig Melchert (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) and Gernot Wilhelm (Julius-Maximilians-Universität in Würzburg, Germany). Also, the entire team took part in reading the material before sending it off for publication. This fascicle will finish all words starting with ša- and give users the beginning of those starting in še-/ši- (we do not distinguish between *e* and *i*). Meanwhile, editors Harry Hoffner and Theo van den Hout are well under way with the rest of the še-/ši- words establishing final drafts for the next installment. There are always surprises in this process: words that apparently fell through the cracks of our file cabinets for which no draft had been written or, much more exciting, new words that have to be incorporated at the last moment. This happened to the numeral “1.” Our Dutch colleague Petra Goedegebuure who visited the dictionary project in November 2002 (see the *2002/2003 Annual Report*) was able to identify with the help of our files the Hittite word for “1.” She presented this find at a conference late in 2003 and kindly sent us her manuscript which will be published this year. Thus far Hittitologists had not recognized this word because Hittite texts almost always use the numerical symbol which, like our number 1, is a simple vertical wedge: 𐎗. This is the normal practice: 𐎗 = 2, 𐎗𐎗 = 3, 𐎗𐎗𐎗 = 4, etc. Rarely do Hittite scribes spell the numeral out letter for letter which is why we cannot count from one to ten in Hittite. Sometimes we can deduce what a numeral must have been in an indirect way. For example, there is a word *šaptamenzu* (see our first fascicle of the Š volume) which means “sevenfold” that clearly contains *šaptam* which must have been the word for “7,” reminiscent of Latin *septem* and English *seven*. Goedegebuure was now able to show that the word *šia-*, which we had always thought was a demonstrative pronoun (“this one”) actually means “one, single.”

Meanwhile, our Research Associates Richard Beal and Oğuz Soysal continued writing words for the next volume, the letter T, bringing us close to the end of the many words starting with *ta-*. Unfortunately for us — although we are also proud — Oğuz spent March through June as Visiting Assistant Professor at Bilkent University in Ankara teaching Hittite in both his and the Hittites’ homeland. Staff member Kathleen Mineck together with van den Hout worked on the upkeep of our files transliterating newly published texts and incorporating them into our files. She coordinated student work and also oversaw the expansion of our photo collection. Besides printed photos, the latter now also includes the first digital photos of Hittite (and Hurrian) fragments present in the Oriental Institute (with thanks to Geoff Emberling, Jean Grant, and Tom James). This was triggered by a request from our French colleague Marie-Claude Trémouille, working in Rome, who had found that one of the Oriental Institute fragments physically joined another small piece that was found in Boğazköy in 1967 and is presently in the Ankara Museum. Those pieces are not very likely to ever come together again, so photos are the only way to check whether the two fragments indeed match. Other photos now digitally included in our collection involve a series of cuneiform letters found in the 1970s at Maşat Höyük, a small Hittite border town dating between 1400–1200 B.C. and some fifty miles from Boğazköy. Harry

## RESEARCH

Hoffner had taken photos of these several years ago in the museum in Ankara but they had never been added to our collection. Kathleen has scanned them and they are now accessible for the CHD staff on our server.

A lot of time was invested in refining the electronic version of our P volume, the pilot letter of the eCHD. Under the spirited guidance of programmer Sandy Schloen our students Dennis Campbell and Edward Stratford have become real computer specialists! Although the eCHD has been accessible for about a year now through the Oriental Institute's Web site, there was still ample room for improvement. The most significant enhancement has been the addition of data-entry features which provide a rich set of tools in the on-line environment for entering new dictionary entries or editing existing ones. This tool set was used extensively to edit the P volume, which had earlier been imported and tagged automatically. The automated import process could not achieve complete accuracy when attempting to tag so rich a set of semi-structured data as the Chicago Hittite Dictionary. Manual editing using these new on-line tools was, therefore, performed in conjunction with proofreading to correct the inconsistencies and errors derived from the automated import. This process of importing and tagging, followed by on-line editing and proofreading, will be repeated in the coming year with material from the volume containing the letters L–N. Last year's report told how we were in the course of getting this older material scanned and corrected, made possible through a generous gift from Mr. Howard Hallengren. This has now been completed and it is ready to be processed just as P was.

Along with data entry of the core dictionary content, we also have added the ability to enter, organize, and link to supplementary or supporting data such as bibliographic details or external resources such as images. This information can be displayed together with the core content, enriching the information available to the scholar or student reading or searching the dictionary on-line. Another major step towards improving the eCHD involved upgrading the query facility to



*The Hittites Director Tolga Örnek (left) with Prof. Harry Hoffner (center) and volunteer Irv Diamond at the reception prior to the movie*

use a new query "engine" based on the latest "XML Query" (XQuery) specification promulgated by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). This will greatly enhance the possibilities, which we have already begun to explore, for performing powerful searches of the underlying eCHD data in the XML-structured database.

The guest of honor this year was Tolga Örnek (see photo) the Turkish director of the film *The Hittites* which had its Chicago premiere on November 11. With the Turkish consul Dr. Naci Koru and his wife and children present, Tolga introduced the film to a standing-room only audience in Breasted Hall, with people watching from the lobby and the projection booth. This wonderful documentary film, narrated by Jeremy Irons, was the perfect occasion to highlight Hittite culture and civilization — and to pitch the Hittite Dictionary project to a large audience.

Another guest was Dr. Ada Taggar-Cohen, an Israeli Hittitologist and assistant professor at Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan. During her visit in early November she consulted our files and did further research on her specialty of priests and priesthood in the Hittite kingdom and empire.

Finally, with a look to the near future, the Oriental Institute this year agreed to host the annual conference of the Dictionary Society of North America (DSNA) in 2007. With our track record of dictionary projects one might say that having this gathering in Chicago was long overdue. On the other hand, given the average age of our projects we could afford to wait some time!

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